



Chairperson's Message

Dear member school,

I trust and hope that you are keeping well and managed to enjoy some relaxation time over the summer months.

As we embark on the new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Principals and offer our continuing support to all of our school leaders.

One of the great challenges of the coming year will undoubtedly be education funding and, in particular, the impact of rising costs in our schools. The GBA will continue to advocate for additional funding for the education system and represent your views on various educational matters through our engagement with the Department of Education, politicians, media and other education stakeholders.

The GBA's plans for the coming year will include: –

- prioritising education funding
- engagement with schools to identify the issues which matter most to you
- developing responses on behalf of voluntary grammar schools to key consultations
- Representation – Management Side, Workforce Reviews, Area Planning, Shared Education, Governance and various other groups.

We have also developed voluntary grammar school specific training materials for new school governors which is available via the [EA's training portal](#). Please also see the article below for information on Principal and Vice Principal training.

If you would like to discuss any particular issue or want to know more about the work of the GBA, [please get in touch](#).

If your Governors wish to sign up to our monthly updates, they can do so [here](#). Our newsletter includes information on current educational affairs and announcements, Area Planning, Shared Education, political and consultation updates, and opportunities for external funding. It also details how to avail of our free advertising service for teaching and non-teaching vacancies.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and continued engagement with us as we look forward to this new term.

With best wishes,

Jacqueline Weir, GBA Chairperson.

Training for New Principals and Vice Principals

The Education Authority's School Development Service will be providing training for new school Principals and Vice Principals in the coming weeks. Training for Principals will be on 29th and 30th of September 2022 and Vice

Principal training commences in October 2022 (dates to be confirmed).

Please [contact us](#) to register your interest for the training. More details will follow.



Live Consultations - August 2022

[The Department of Education Consultation on Period Products \(Free Provision\) Regulations](#) (Closes 17th October 2022)

This Consultation relates to proposals for Regulations (secondary legislation) that DE has to have in place by 11 May 2023, under the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

DE is not consulting on whether or not free period products should be widely available to the public - that is already provided for under the Act. The Regulations will be the first step in putting the law into place in DE's areas of responsibility, including schools, Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) settings, pupil referral units, statutory youth settings and office accommodation of specified 'Public Service Bodies'.

Please click on the link above to access the full consultation document and to respond.

Political Update

- [Civil servant Neil Gibson takes control of Stormont finances](#) (BBC News). Neil Gibson has done so because of the failure to pass a budget before the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) collapsed the executive in February. The

senior official at the Department of Finance will use emergency powers to release cash to departments until a new budget is in place. The move means departments can continue to operate but Mr Gibson cannot start funding new policies. He will not have the power to distribute more than £400m of unallocated funds which Stormont has received from the Treasury since the draft budget was published.

- Although there is no functioning assembly or executive at Stormont, questions for written answer continue to be published on the NI Assembly website and are available [here](#). The purpose of Assembly Questions is to ask for information or to press for action. The latest education questions include topics such as:

- Industrial Action
- Integrated Education Legislation
- Relationship and Sexuality Education
- Special Educational Needs

- [Education Minister announces £6.1million for special educational needs and disabilities transformation programme](#). The £6.1m of earmarked funding has been made available by the Department of Education to support the Education Authority's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Transformation Programme during 2022/2023. The Programme seeks to address the majority of recommendations (150+) made in numerous reviews and scrutiny reports in relation to SEN.

NISTR Update

The new Northern Ireland Supply Teacher Register (NISTR) is now live for supply teachers and will be accessible to schools on Monday 29th August 2022. A NISTR Familiarisation PowerPoint presentation and video for schools is available [here](#).

Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies

The GBA provides a free advertising service for our member schools. Job vacancies are posted on our website and Twitter page.

If you would like us to host a vacancy for your school, please [contact us](#), using our [job template](#) and allow one working day for posts to be uploaded. This does not include bank holidays and weekends.

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