

GBA News - 28th February 2023



GBA AGM Registration and Nominations Now Open



We are delighted to confirm that the GBA AGM will take place on **Wednesday 22nd March 2023** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast. A light lunch will be served on arrival from 1pm-2pm with conference proceedings running from 2pm-4pm.

We recently issued a formal invitation and agenda to schools - if you have missed this and wish to attend, please [contact us](#) to register for the event.

GBA Executive Committee Nominations

*****We are currently seeking nominations to our Executive Committee*****

Members are formally elected to the Executive at the AGM and play a crucial role on behalf of voluntary grammar schools, including:

- Contributing to educational policy development
- Representing the sector on a variety of key stakeholder groups
- Raising emerging issues
- Contributing to the strategic direction of the Association

If you wish to submit a nomination, please [contact us](#) for a nomination form or for further information.



*****Please note that the closing date for nominations is Friday 10th March at 5pm*****

Consultations Update - February 2023

Education Welfare Service - Transformation Project Report

The Education Authority's Education Welfare Service (EWS) is consulting on its transformation project report to enable the views of all stakeholders to be considered and to inform the implementation of the recommendations.

The report covers a number of areas including:

- A new service delivery model based on prevention and early intervention based on research and stakeholder engagement.

- An Outcome Based Accountability framework to allow the service to monitor and improve performance.
- An Implementation Plan to help deliver on the recommendations from the Transformation Project.

A copy of the report and a link to the consultation survey can be found [here](#).
The survey will close at 6pm on Monday 10th April 2023.

CCEA survey for students, parents, and teachers on the Summer 2023 support arrangements

CCEA has developed a short [survey](#) to gauge audiences understanding and knowledge of the support arrangements for students sitting CCEA examinations this summer.

The survey also aims to find out if students, parents, and teachers are receiving information in a way which is accessible to them, using their preferred channels of communication.

This information will help gauge current understanding of the support arrangements such as the [provision of Advance Information](#) and help shape the future communications on Summer 2023.

The survey will close on 7th March 2023.

Area Planning Update

The Education Authority (EA), in partnership with sectoral bodies, is currently working to meet demand for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools (SPiMs) for September 2023 and beyond. Work is also being undertaken to look at how specialist provision works in practice in a voluntary grammar school. This includes consideration of various factors including curriculum, staffing and accommodation.

If you wish to have an initial conversation regarding SPiMs, or any other aspect of Area Planning, please [contact us](#). An overview document on SPiMs is also available [here](#).

Shared Education News

Blended learning in Shared Education

Twenty teachers from 8 shared education partnerships, including three voluntary grammar schools, recently took part in a two-day online course as part of Ulster University's REBEL project, led by Professor Roger Austin, to learn how to extend their face-to-face contacts by using online communication tools.

Teachers created 6-week projects to use a range of online tools, put the projects into action with their pupils and came back together to share insights on teaching, learning and shared education with the group. Read more about the projects [here](#).

Further information on Shared Education Teacher Professional Learning modules can be found [here](#).



APG Holds First Inquiry Session

The [All Party Group \(APG\) on Reducing Harm Related to Gambling](#) met on the 13th of February for the first oral evidence session of its [inquiry into public health approaches to tackling gambling-related harms](#). The group heard evidence from Dr Joanna Purdy and Dr Helen McAvoy of the Institute of Public Health (IPH) and Matt Zarb-Cousin of Gamban and Clean Up Gambling.

Dr Purdy and Dr McAvoy emphasised the importance of a population level public health approach that protects the health and wellbeing of the entire population, including children and young people.

Matt Zarb-Cousin emphasised that younger age groups tend to engage in higher risk and more frequent gambling. This is compounded by the prevalence of online gambling, and easy access via smartphones. Young people are also particularly vulnerable to addiction and addictive behaviours in general.

CCEA Gambling and Gaming Awareness Resource

Gambling related harm can be financial, relational, emotional, psychological, and/or physical and it impacts on the wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities, regardless of wealth, education, or gender.

While research is limited by the newness and reach of online gaming in today's world, concern is also rising that similar harms may also be linked to in-game spending on items such as loot boxes and skins.

In relation to this, CCEA has produced a resource to support teachers delivering the statutory curriculum for Learning for Life and Work (LLW): Personal Development to Key Stage 3 pupils, with a focus on gaming and gambling awareness. More information is available [here](#).

TikTok Safety Guides Launched

TikTok safety guidance documents were recently launched on Safer Internet Day (7th February) by Safer Schools NI, The Department of Education, and the Education Authority. The guides are designed to enhance support in relation to social media, providing advice to schools, parents and carers on the basics of how TikTok works, the potential risks associated with it and helpful tips on how to best support children and young people on the use of such platforms.

More information on the latest changes, challenges and risks on TikTok, and other apps and platforms, can be accessed on the Safer Schools NI App, 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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