

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Bumper Christmas issue!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy Christmas, to thank everyone for their support in 2013 and to send our best wishes for 2014.

Anne Bull, LACA Chair



URGENT PLEA FROM THE SCHOOL FOOD PLAN – Take just 5 minutes to share your views on school food

Worried about infant free school meals? Concerned about cooking in the curriculum? Help is at hand!

As part of the School Food Plan, a new support website is being created to share what works well when it comes to providing great food and food education in schools, including practical advice and case studies.

But first they need to know what you need – they recognise the winter break is soon, but if you could take just 5 minutes to complete the survey using the link below, this will ensure the website has the support you need for school food:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/76SSBPQ>

AN UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL FOOD PLAN TEAM

1. Capital Funding Update

The Department for Education has today confirmed the capital allocations for the universal infants free school meal policy. You can read about it and access the formal documents in these links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/funding-allocations>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations-for-infant-free-school-meals>

2. What Works Well Website

Our first major task for the What Works Well website will be to publish a 'Toolkit'. This will offer practical ideas and examples of how schools and caterers can work together to prepare for infant universal free school meals.

We have appointed a project manager (an agency called Behaviour Change) and have

also asked Emma Noble, (ex Director of the Food for Life Partnership), to work with as many people as possible to collate appropriate content, stories and case studies. I hope you don't mind if Rob or Emma contact you, but do please contact them too! Rob is

rob@behaviourchange.org.uk
and Emma is
emma@schoolfoodplan.com

3. Small Schools Taskforce

Brad Pearce, the Small Schools Taskforce Project manager, has been really busy and yesterday did a brilliant presentation to the DfE Reference Group on universal infant free school meals. There is strong agreement across the whole sector that small schools and schools with in-house catering are those that will need the most support. And we want to make sure the Small Schools Taskforce can support where it can.

If you would like to contact Brad, you can do so on brad@schoolfoodplan.com



4. Updates on the School Food Plan website

As you know, we put up regular updates on the different actions in the Plan. We've put ones up recently on the Workforce (<http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/spotlight-on-workforce-development-actions-1314/>) and DfE information on the £17.4m funding tenders (<http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/department-for-education-opens-tenders-for-school-food-plan-funding/>)

We also have a mailing list that we want as many people to sign up to as possible. Again, do please feel free to include this out to your networks. The link to sign up is <http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/contact/>

5. Communications

All of you have fed back how important good and effective communications is going to be in the delivery of the Plan. Many of you have kindly given time and resource to help us set up our School Food Plan Communications Group. We had our first meeting, attended by about 15 organisations, last Monday.

We are going to produce a Press and PR toolkit that we hope all organisations, including schools, will be able to use at a national and a local level. We will be sending out lots more information on this early in the New Year.

Standards Panel

Henry chaired this Monday's meeting which went through the results from schools and caterers on the revised food based standards. The Group

signed off on the final draft, and this is now with the DfE who are putting it for Ministerial approval before it goes for public consultation. This is planned for late Jan/early Feb.

Expert Panel Get together

Henry and John would like to get all the Expert Panel together in March, where we will focus on the final plans for the What Works Well website and take stock of the first eight months of the Plan's implementation phase! More details (with a date) to follow first week in the New Year!

DfE Research on eligible pupils not claiming free school meals

The Department has published some updated research on the numbers of eligible children currently not claiming free school meals. Please see the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupils-not-claiming-free-school-meals-2013>



ADVANCE NOTICE that LACA has formally requested a meeting to take place with the School Food Plan team and our food and drink manufacturer members.

This will be held during the consultation period in the New Year and once the plans and arrangements are in place LACA will of course advise everyone where and when it will be held.

DFE STATEMENT ON PUPIL PREMIUM – 12.12.13

The Minister of State for Schools (Rt Hon. David Laws): Today I am confirming the pupil premium final allocations for the 2013 to 2014 financial year and pupil premium allocations for the 2014 to 2015 financial year. The figures for 2014 to 2015 use early pupil data and will be updated when final pupil numbers are confirmed.

Final pupil premium allocations for the 2013 to 2014 financial year

We now have the final figures for the number of pupils eligible for the premium, which means we are able to provide primary schools with an extra £53 to the end of the financial year for every primary pupil who is currently eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) or has been eligible for FSM in the past six years (FSM 'Ever 6'). This is on top of the £900 primary schools currently receive for each of their FSM 'Ever 6' pupils. Primary schools will be able to use this additional funding to further raise pupil attainment. Secondary FSM 'Ever 6' and looked after children will continue to attract a premium of £900 and service children attract a premium of £300.

Final pupil premium allocation tables for the 2013 to 2014 financial year based on these rates are available on the Department's website for each local authority, Parliamentary constituency and school.

Pupil premium allocations for the 2014 to 2015 financial year

In the 2014 to 2015 financial year, the total pupil premium budget will increase from £1.875 billion to £2.5 billion. I am pleased to confirm that this rise in funding will enable us to increase substantially the funding per pupil for primary school pupils, allowing schools to intervene early, where the impact is greatest. From next year, primary FSM 'Ever 6' pupils will attract £1300 which will help primary schools raise attainment and ensure that every child is ready for the move to secondary school. Meanwhile, we will allocate £935 for secondary FSM 'Ever 6' pupils.

In the 2014 to 2015 financial year, the pupil premium plus for looked after children will have more than doubled, from £900 in 2013-14 to £1900 per pupil. We are also extending eligibility to include those who have been looked after for one day or more, as compared with the six months in care currently required. The role of the Virtual School Head will be enhanced to ensure that, as the 'corporate parent' of looked after children, the Virtual School Head works closely with schools to ensure the funding is used to maximum effect.

We will, for the first time, include children who have been adopted from care or leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. This change recognises that the needs of those children who leave care do not change overnight. Schools will receive £1900 for each eligible pupil adopted from care who has been registered on the school census and the additional funding will enable

schools to offer pastoral care as well as raising pupil attainment.

We are continuing to support children with parents in the Armed Forces through the service child premium. In the 2014 to 2015 financial year, the service child premium will be set at £300 per pupil and we are continuing to expand the protection for pupils previously attracting the service child premium since its introduction in April 2011 whose parents are no longer in the Armed Forces or where parents have divorced. We will also continue to fund schools in respect of children of parents who were killed in action. These changes will mean an increase in the number of children eligible for the service premium from around 45,000 in 2011 to over 60,000 in 2014.

Illustrative 2014 to 2015 financial year allocations for each local authority, Parliamentary constituency and school are available on the Department's website. These will be updated when data from the January 2014 school census becomes available.

PRESENTATION TO TY GOBAITH CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



LACA Chair, Anne Bull was able to present a cheque amounting to £6818.90 to her chosen

charity this year - Ty Gobaith - the children's hospice in Conwy, North Wales. Beverley Bradley the Area Fundraiser received the cheque on behalf of the hospice.

Anne would like to sincerely thank all who contributed at the Awards evening in July. In addition the LACA Welsh region had previously sent £2000 following the Welsh Awards evening in February 2013.

She adds that following a very interesting, albeit humbling visit to see the dedicated work of the team, the money raised this year by LACA will be well used and so important for both the care of the children and the respite period and support provided to their families at such a critical time.

PS 20 EVENT AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Top 20 most influential people in public sector catering met at the House of Commons on 17.12.13. There was a lively debate relating to common issues that affect schools, care homes, meals on wheels delivery services, hospitals catering, prisons, university catering and the military. This preceded an excellent lunch courtesy of Mark Hill who was host for this prestigious event.

