

Welcome to the second North West Regional Delivery Partner (RDP) update from the Great Heights Academy Trust team as part of our contracted work to match and monitor system leaders for the current Trust and School Improvement Offer (TSIO) for 2022/23.

This and future newsletters plus other TSIO information/guidance can be found on [our webpages](#).

This TSI offer is a core aspect of a sector-led School Improvement strategy and the Department of Education's work with schools and trusts through the RSC regional teams. As the contracted body supporting the matching of System Leaders in the NW, we will be your first point of contact during matching and when matched - a.bennett@greatheightstrust.org.uk

Kindest regards

Amanda Bennett OBE

In this TSIO newsletter:

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| 1. Update on reforms to the NLE Programme | 4. Feature – Research Schools |
| 2. Behaviour Hubs Webinar, 17/10/2022 | 5. Meet the National Leaders of Governance |
| 3. Feature – English Hubs | 6. Regular Updates on the TSIO and Claim Form Reminders |

Update on reforms to the NLE Programme

The DfE Governance and Trust Development Division, [wrote to NLEs earlier this year](#) explaining the direction of the significant reforms being made to the NLE programme. The communication in February thanked NLEs for their ongoing commitment to supporting others, acknowledging the real difference NLEs have made especially during recent challenging times. It also notified NLEs that all accreditation would finish as of the end of the academic year (August 2022.)

A new application round has been underway for Head teachers who met the criteria, and an update that 'MAT CEOs do not need to have NLE status to provide support through the DfE offers' Communication from the DfE indicates that '*alongside our CEOs, we intend to recruit a new smaller cadre of NLEs.*'

The outcome of the new NLE application is imminent.

Behaviour Hubs Webinar, 17/10/2022

For system leaders a series of webinars are planned, the first of which was focussed on Behaviour Hubs. Please find the recording here: [Behaviour Hub Webinar - YouTube](#).

The application form to join the Behaviour Hubs programme is quick and simple. The Behaviour Hubs programme is currently accepting applications for January 2023 and beyond. For any schools or trusts who are interested in joining the programme please complete the application form: [How to Apply - Behaviour Hubs](#).

The next webinar will be at the beginning of November, the DfE School Improvement Team will be sending invites shortly.



English Hubs Update

The 34 English Hubs were selected for their expertise in teaching reading and to support local schools, academies and free schools in their surrounding area. A Hub's prime focus is to promote a love of reading and help schools provide excellent teaching in phonics and early language. They have a strong focus on supporting the slowest progress children in Reception and Year 1 and ensuring every child is successful, regardless of background, needs or abilities. English Hubs offer support to improve the teaching of phonics, early language and reading in Reception and Year 1. Each English Hub has a Hub lead and a team of Literacy Specialists and may offer:

- Showcase events in teaching phonics, language and a love of reading
- Support to develop an action plan
- A reading audit in eligible schools
- Funding for training and resources
- Six days of support from a Literacy Specialist (intensive support offer)

English Hubs



NLEs can refer schools directly to their local hub to access an audit and potential further support. Priority is given to schools that meet any of the following criteria:

- Lower than the national average percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in the Phonics Screening Check in their most recent results.
- A higher-than-average proportion of pupils reading below age-related expectations.
- A higher-than-average proportion of children eligible for pupil premium.
- Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement or Inadequate
- A high proportion of groups considered hard to reach, such as EAL, FSM, travellers, etc.
- Schools referred by local partners (e.g., NLEs, RSCs, LADs, EIA teams/boards)

You can find your local hub here: <http://www.englishhubs.org/> where a useful map identifies your local English Hub and provides a link to their webpages and contact points.

This year, hubs are also able to offer support to a wider remit of schools through the new Accelerator Fund. The following state-funded schools are eligible for Accelerator Fund intervention in 2022/2023:

- Infant schools
- Primary schools
- Junior schools
- Special schools
- Pupil Referral Units with primary school aged children.

Priority shall be given to schools who match the English Hubs' programme funding criteria but schools that meet the criteria listed below, are also eligible for funding:

- Have Ofsted ratings "good" or "outstanding", but whose English practice indicates a risk of declining standards.
- Have a Pupil Premium percentage equal to or below the national average.
- Schools with children at KS1/KS2 but do not complete the Phonics Screening Check.

Hubs also have their own medium level support offer which will vary but all hubs provide the national programme entitled 'Reading for Pleasure: Transforming Your School's Reading Culture (TSRC)' which is about to enter into its second year of implementation and is a series of 5 sessions aimed at primary English Leads. Participants will engage deeply with reading for pleasure pedagogy and leadership theory to transform their school's reading culture. Later this year, Hubs will also provide a similar package to support the development of early language. Information on how to book on to such courses will be on each individual hub's website.

Research School 'Spotlight on Secondary Literacy'

Literacy is a key barrier to many pupils' progress in the 11-16 phase and the publication of the latest [Ofsted guidance on 31st October](#) emphasised the need for all schools to prioritise reading as part of their curriculum offer. The main findings were:

Effective schools have senior leaders who prioritise reading, they use a range of diagnostic data to identify gaps in pupils' knowledge, have staff with the expertise to teach weaker readers, share information about weak readers with all staff and have clear procedures for monitoring the impact of teaching on readers.

The [EEF guidance report on secondary literacy](#) and the training programme that goes alongside it can be provided by your [local Research School](#) to support schools where reading is a priority but there is a need for further support.

In addition, the EEF is currently recruiting schools to be part of a scaling-up trial of an intervention for pupils in years 7 and 8 who are significantly behind their peers in reading. Switch on Reading had an initial trial impact of +3 months with this age group and the scaling-up hopes to test that across the country. There is a cost of £800 for the school and interested schools can apply [here](#).

Meet the National Leaders of Governance



National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) deliver external reviews of governance and support for schools and academy trusts through the National Leaders of Governance programme, funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and managed by the National Governance Association (NGA). Boards can also self-fund NLG support.

Do please note that NLG external reviews can only be officially commissioned directly via the NGA. This process is in place to provide quality assurance to those receiving this national support.

NLGs recently underwent reaccreditation and currently designated NLGs are experienced governors, trustees, governance professionals, advisers and consultants from across England. Each NLG has demonstrated the substantial governance experience and expertise needed to carry out the role to a high standard through a rigorous and externally moderated assessment process. The team includes experts in all types of school and trust structures.

Pen portraits of all currently commissioned NLGs can be read [here](#).

As a part of the 22-23 TSIO an NLG review for MATs can be an additional funded element for matched system leaders to consider ...

Available for MATs only, those with at least 1 2RI schools will be prioritised

At the outset of your 10-day deployment with a MAT and review of its structure (using the [MAT Assurance Framework](#)), you should consider whether specific governance support is required from a [National Leader of Governance](#) (NLG). It is important that this is considered at the beginning of your deployment so that governance improvements can be embedded into the whole review process. The department **may** fund up to 5 days support from an NLG. In those 5 days, the NLG will undertake a review of the governance of the trust in line with expectations laid out in the [NLG Standards](#). The purpose of the review is to identify and analyse causes of weak governance and provide targeted and prioritised plans for improvement. All reviews will include a Board observation, in addition to evidence gathered from interactions with Board members and relevant documentation. 2-3 months following completion of the initial review, the NLG will undertake a progress review to evaluate progress and provide any further guidance as necessary. This is included within their 5-day deployment.

Regular Updates on the TSIO and Claim Form Reminders

Thank you for taking time to read our updates within this newsletter, we hope you, your colleagues and those you work in partnership with find its information, features and links supportive of your work. We have designed this newsletter to support system leaders in the delivery of the TSI sector-led DfE school improvement strategy for 2022-23, you can find copies of this newsletter and future editions on our [RDP pages on the Great Heights website](#). If you wish to subscribe and receive copies directly, please do forward your contact details to j.pascall@greatheightstrust.org.uk.

Thanking you for your continuing support,

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TSIO 21-22 Submitting end of commission notifications with claim forms

For those system leaders who are due to conclude their 21-22 TSIO deployment (all due by December 2022) our communication team member Nicola Foulkes will be in contact to support you in submitting your claim form for us to forward to the regional team for processing. This will conclude the 21-22 TSIO offer. For previous reminders and tips please see our [21-22 newsletter 7](#).

To support busy system leaders, we have ensured that the 21-22 blank claim forms are still available on our [TSIO 21-22 guidance pages](#).

Thank you all in anticipation of your returned claim forms. If further clarification is required on submitting forms, please contact our communication and admin team - n.foulkes@greatheightstrust.org.uk



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