Welcome to issue 9 of our e-bulletin.

Contents – click on any of the links to go to the article:

Articles for everyone
- Article 1 - Guidance for local authorities: Funding 16-19 education and training
- Article 2 - Supported internship programme for young people with special needs
- Article 3 - 16-19 Bursary Fund – advice for young people

Articles about 16-19 provision
- Article 1 - Guidance for local authorities: Funding 16-19 education and training
- Article 2 - Supported internship programme for young people with special needs
- Article 3 - 16-19 Bursary Fund – advice for young people
- Article 4 - Dance and Drama Awards in 2013/14
- Article 5 - Sixth-form colleges internal audit
- Article 6 - Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block and High Needs Student numbers
- Article 7 - Access to support for sixth-form colleges in significant failure

Articles about academies
- Article 8 - Whole Government Accounts update
- Article 9 - Procedure for dealing with complaints about academies
- Article 10 - Collection of academy self-reported key stage 4 results
- Article 2 - Supported internship programme for young people with special needs
- Article 3 - 16-19 Bursary Fund – advice for young people
- Article 4 - Dance and Drama Awards in 2013/14

If you would like to give feedback or add recipients to this distribution list please contact us at efa.bulletin@efa.education.gov.uk. Please tell us the name, email address, organisation, type of organisation and role of any new recipients.

All statutory guidance and legislation linked from this site reflects the current legal position unless indicated otherwise, but it may not reflect current government policy.

Please click here to see copies of the Skills Funding Agency’s updates
Article 1 – Guidance for local authorities: Funding 16-19 education and training

We have published new guidance for local authorities to describe and outline the system for funding 16-19 education and training provision for the 2013/14 academic year.

We have issued this guidance on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education.

The new document describes the funding system and sets out the role of local authorities. This covers work with partners to shape provision in their area by identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market.

We have highlighted the key policy changes to the funding formula, the system for high needs students, study programmes and raising the participation age. These key changes are set out in paragraph 4 of the document.

Information for everyone

Article 2 – Supported internship programme for young people with special needs

This autumn, a trial of supported internships is launching at 15 colleges around England. These are for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 who have complex learning difficulties or disabilities.

The trials will test a study programme that could be adopted by all further education colleges from September 2013.

The internship will be based at an employer and provide a structured study programme. This will be tailored to the young person’s individual needs and equip them with the skills they need for the workplace.

This will include on-the-job training, backed by expert job coaches to support interns and employers, and the chance to study for relevant qualifications – where appropriate.

Further information on this trial can be found on the Department for Education's website.

Information for all 16-19 providers

Article 3 – 16-19 Bursary Fund – advice for young people

We have published a new document giving advice for young people about the 16-19 Bursary Fund. This replaces the 2011/12 16-19 Bursary Fund Q&A for young people and parents.

Providers, local authorities and other stakeholders working with young people can use this document to help answer their questions about the funding.

If you have any questions about this document or the 16-19 Bursary Fund you can email
We will continue to support access to the performing arts sector through the Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA) scheme from 2013/14. The national levels of support for 16-19 year olds will remain the same from 2013/14.

The administration of the scheme is to change. Schools will now be responsible for their own budget management and for undertaking income assessments for new learners.

The Department for Education has written to those schools administering the Dance and Drama Awards to inform them of these changes in more detail.

In June we announced changes to the audit arrangements for sixth-form colleges (SFCs). From 1 August 2012, SFCs will no longer have to appoint a separate internal auditor. They also won’t need to submit an internal audit report and an annual self-assessment of financial management and control environment to the EFA.

A report detailing the outcome of the consultation and next steps is now available on the Sixth Form Colleges’ Forum website.

In March and June the Department for Education published documents setting out a new approach to funding provision for pupils and students with high needs up to the age of 25.

On 12 July the EFA wrote to local authorities to check the baseline data for their high needs pupils under the age of 16 funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). We are now writing to local authorities to check the baseline data for their high needs students (HNS) post 16.

We are also requesting local authorities provide forecasts for 2013/14. They will do this by working with us and the institutions their students attend. This will allow us to make accurate allocations to institutions delivering post-16 education.

We are also providing local authorities with their indicative baseline budget, for planning purposes, for their post 16 element of the High Needs Block. This will provide them with the information they need to develop their systems for the top-up support (element 3 of the high needs block) required for existing and new students to enable them to participate,
achieve and progress.

You can access the following documents for background information:

- School funding reform - Arrangements for 2013-14
- Operational guidance for local authorities - 2013-14 revenue funding arrangements
- School funding reform - Next steps towards a fairer system
- Funding reform FAQs - Supplementary Issue - 3 July 2012
- Funding reform FAQs - 21 June 2012

Information for sixth-form colleges

Article 7 – Access to support for sixth-form colleges in significant failure

The Department for Education has asked us to support sixth-form colleges that have been identified as significantly failing in their education performance.

The Department has acted on feedback from colleges, and will no longer commission Education Advisers.

Instead, we will act on the Department’s behalf to co-ordinate, and be present at, case conferences. We will help colleges to negotiate, monitor and evaluate the appropriate support.

We have amended the process note describing the support arrangements accordingly. This replaces the note published by YPLA on 20 March 2012.

Information for academies

Article 8 – Whole Government Accounts update

After receiving feedback from academies we will be making a small number of technical changes to the following Whole Government Accounts (WGA) spreadsheets and guidance documents that will help academies complete the WGA exercise.

List of amended returns:

- Large Academy WGA Return
- Small Academy WGA Return
- Academy Budget Forecast
- Counter Party Balance Statement
- LGPS FRS17 Valuation Statement
- Addendum to the Small Academy guidance
- Addendum to the Large Academy guidance note

We will also be making different versions of Excel spreadsheets available to help
academies that are having compatibility issues. If possible, we would appreciate it if academies used Excel 2010. All other returns and documents are unaltered.

A message will be sent directly to academies to inform them that these updated documents are available to use.

BDO LLP (an audit and advisory firm) has been appointed as the contractor to the EFA to deliver the consolidation of both the WGA returns and the budget forecasts. BDO will provide support through further seminars and workshops and will follow up a number of returns directly with academies by telephone, email or visits. Their role is to assist in the overall integrity and validation of the consolidations.

**WGA surgeries**

To follow up our completed programme of seminars, we have planned some WGA surgeries for academies, which will be held in early September. These surgeries are geared up to problem solving on WGA returns with academies invited to bring along questions and issues for us to help resolve. The surgeries are a supplement to the professional financial advice that academies making complete returns on time can claim grant for.

We will also be holding two events around that time for academies’ professional financial advisors. These will be available for advisors who are helping academies prepare returns.

Further information on these events will be communicated directly to academies. Academies can then forward these details on to any professional advisors that are working for them on this exercise.

**Land and property valuation statement**

Many academies and local authorities helpfully co-operated with the request for a [land and property valuation statement](#) by 5 July. Land and property valuations are now underway prioritising those academies that have sent us information. We will be writing requesting this information from those academies that have either not sent us a statement or have made a statement including no usable information.

**WGA return**

We will shortly be communicating the procedure to return the WGA counterparty balance statement and LGPS FRS17 statement spreadsheets to the EFA. In the meantime, please neither email nor post us these returns. If you have any queries please email academyquestions@efa.education.gov.uk. We cannot offer general advice on accountancy and financial reporting or on how to use the academy’s financial systems to produce the return.

Further information on WGA and all of the returns and associated documents can be found on the [WGA section](#) of our website.

Back up
Information for academies

Article 9 – Procedure for dealing with complaints about academies

We have updated our complaints about academies procedure.

We have a separate procedure that people can use if they wish to complain about the administration of independent appeal panels for admission to academies. Both are available on our website.

Back up

Action for academies

Article 10 – Collection of academy self-reported key stage 4 results

In issue 5 of this e-bulletin, we asked for your help in providing Ministers with information on your academy’s exam results as soon as they are available.

We would be grateful if you can complete this spreadsheet and send it to GCSE2012.RETURNS@education.gsi.gov.uk by 11am on Thursday 23 August 2012 at the latest.

Back up