



HFL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 2024

HFL was pleased to welcome 80+ governors to Robertson House Conference Centre on Saturday 16th November for our first “face to face” conference since 2019 with the theme of ‘**Moving Forward Together – working collaboratively to build resilience and strengthen practice**’.

Carole Bennett the CEO of HFL Education started the ball rolling with an engaging and interactive presentation on “**When the going gets tough..... great Governors get going!**” in which she reminded us of the value we can add in our roles of Governors, both individually and as a team and shared key lessons from her time as a leader in education around raising standards and enabling students and staff to flourish.



Governors then had the opportunity to network and meet up with a variety of HFL colleagues followed by brunch in the Hub with more time to catch up with each other.

The closing keynote speaker Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, a recognised expert in refugee resettlement, child welfare reform, educational innovation and civil society mobilisation inspired the audience with an enthusiastic and captivating presentation, sharing his many experiences both as a regular advisor to government and as a foster carer and adoptive parent. He has helped to inspire and train thousands to care for vulnerable adults and children and he certainly inspired governors who left the event motivated and enthused to continue their essential work.

The day also featured a Governance Quiz and the lucky winners have received £50 each in book vouchers for their schools:

- **1st place** with nine correct answers was Juliet Whitehead from Ashtree Primary School and Nursery and Sauncey Wood Primary School;
- **2nd place** with eight correct answers and closest to the tie breaker was Chandra Green from Lonsdale School;
- **3rd place** also with eight correct answers but further away on the tie breaker was Hilary Thomas from Morgans Primary School & Nursery.

To see the quiz questions with answers [click here](#).

To access the slides from the presentations, please [click here](#).

What governors said about the event:

*“The two keynote addresses were exceptional and the networking time was useful and allowed connections to be made and renewed. This annual face-to-face event provides a vital opportunity for governors across Hertfordshire to come together, access valuable CPD and share their experience, whatever the setting they come from.”*

*“It was a good day, well organised and the keynote speakers were great. It was good to have the opportunity to talk with other governors and the speakers face to face. An enjoyable and very worthwhile use of my time.”*

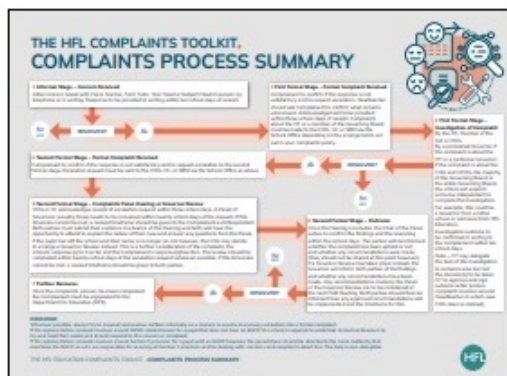
*“I am new to this, I had no idea HFL did so much I was very impressed with the quality of the material and the guest speaker.”*

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An annual Toolkit subscription gives schools access to all of the following:

- A Step-By Step Guide to the key actions in dealing with a complaint, who should complete the task and the associated timescales for this.
- A set of Suggested Response Letters for each key step of the complaints process.
- A Summary of the Complaints Process in flowchart format.
- A List of Essential Do's and Don'ts to help avoid potential difficulties when dealing with complaints.



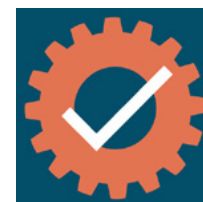
- Access to a termly Webinar on a complaints-related topic.
- The option of submitting feedback on the Toolkit throughout the year for inclusion in the Annual Toolkit Review.
- Complaints Manager-led Helpdesk Support throughout the year by email and phone for all Toolkit and complaints-related enquiries.

For more information, you can contact Paul Davies, Complaints Manager at: [paul.davies@hfleducation.org](mailto:paul.davies@hfleducation.org)



## The Chairs Service becomes..... THE GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP SERVICE

**A new name but the same great service! Why have we changed the name?**



To better reflect, not only the amazing contribution that Chairs make to their schools, but also the vital role that Vice Chairs and Committee Chairs also play in governance leadership on their boards.

Also to recognise the role that training and support plays in succession planning, creating a pipeline of talent to replace today's governance leaders with tomorrows.

## New Governance Leadership Service name changes:

**Being an Effective Governance Leader training (BEGL)** (formerly Being an Effective Chair training)

**Governance Leadership Briefings** (formerly Chairs Strategic briefings)

**Governance Leadership Bulletin** (formerly Chairs Bulletin)

**Governance Leadership Networks** (formerly Chairs Networks)

**Governance Leadership Portal** (formerly Chairs Portal)



## New benefits of 2024/25 Governance Leadership Service:

**Being an Effective Governance Leader training** has been completely rewritten to reflect the new governance guides and changes to the educational landscape.

**Governance Leadership Briefings** – there are now our free places for every board subscribing to the Governance Leadership Service and we have removed cancellation and non-attendance charges.

**The Governance Leadership Portal** has been completely refreshed with new and updated contents.



## Next Governance Leadership Briefing

- Tuesday 18th March 2025 - Online 6-8pm
- Tuesday 17th June 2025

For more information and to book [click here](#).

**New:** No cancellation fees

**New:** Four free places per setting

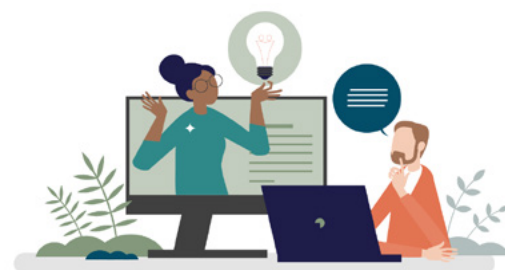


## Being an Effective Governance Leader Training (BEGL)

Upcoming dates for the summer term 2025.

BEGL remote, three evening sessions, 6.30-8.30pm:

- BEGL1 Tuesday 14th January & Wednesday 30th April
- BEGL2 Tuesday 28th January & Tuesday 13th May
- BEGL3 Wednesday 12th February & Monday 2nd June



**Find out more and book**

## Governance Leadership Networks

Next round of network meetings: Monday 31st March 2025 Online - 6:00-7:30pm

Look out for announcements on the Governance Leadership Portal.

**Find out more and book**

## Governance Leadership Bulletin and Portal

- Half-termly publication available on the Governance Leadership Portal. Please feel free to share it with your fellow governors.
- Full of updates from the DfE, Ofsted, ESFA & other organisations in the education sector.
- Reminders of upcoming dates for training and events.
- Content completely refreshed for this academic year (24/25).

## WHAT IS MODERN GOVERNOR?



Modern Governor is an online professional development tool for governors and trustees. It provides access to over 75 e-learning modules on a range of topics to support your role. This is provided as part of your training package purchased from HFL Education governance service and compliments the face to face or real time training available within the package of support. Modern Governor enables access to training at any time and is a useful tool to support you when you need quick or short notice access to top up your skills for your role. The modules have been carefully curated to support all learning styles, vary in length from 10-90 mins and save progress as you go to support interruptions or if you need to come back and complete the module at a later date.

All school boards can nominate a Designated administrator who has oversight of users set up and training undertaken on the school board.

In addition, there are four GREAT training pathways which are available. These can support governors who are new into their role and would benefit from a pre-selected pathway of modules to introduce them to their role and undertake the Emerging route. Alternatively, it might be a more experienced governor who would like to extend their knowledge and undertake either the Experienced or Expert pathways.

With personalised CPD certificates available upon completion of every module, constantly updated module content and our technical helpdesk open 24/7, Modern Governor enables governors to support the best outcomes for children within their setting.

Contact the team to make sure you have the right governors set up and click here to download the current catalogue.

[support@moderngovernor.com](mailto:support@moderngovernor.com).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

We are active on X (formerly Twitter) where we post news, alert you to upcoming events and re-tweet items of interest from other organisations. This activity does not replace our usual Governor Hub communications. Search [@HFLGovernance](#)



## GOVERNANCE BLOGS

Our latest blog discusses the importance of self-evaluation and review.  
**Strengthening governance – the importance of self-evaluation | HFL Education**  
[Explore our other blogs](#)

## HFL NATIONAL DISADVANTAGE CONFERENCE 2025: 'SCHOOL: A PLACE WHERE I BELONG'

**It's not too late to book your place on the annual HFL National Disadvantage Conference.**

The event is on Tuesday 28th January 2025.

The themes of the conference are inclusion, belonging, better serving underserved learners, closing the PP attainment gap, making school unmissable.



The conference objectives are to equip delegates with strategies to:

- create a climate of inclusion
- ensure that all disadvantaged learners feel a sense of belonging
- make school unmissable for underserved learners
- close attainment gaps

We have secured four expert keynote speakers:

**Fatima Whitbread MBE:** Olympic medallist and world record holder for javelin. Voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 1987 and received the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Helen Rollason Award in 2023 in recognition of her triumph over the adversity of her childhood, and her work on behalf of other children in care environments.

**Lee Elliot Major OBE:** Britain's first professor of social mobility and based at The University of Exeter. Lee is the co-author of 'Equity In Education'. His keynote will address class, poverty and how to achieve equity in education.

**Catherine Gladwell:** CEO of Refugee Education UK, an organisation which supports schools to tackle the educational and wellbeing challenges faced by young asylum seekers and refugees.

**Tier Blundell:** Educational Consultant and Coach. Featured on Radio 4 'Life Changing'. Tier was excluded from mainstream school and attended Alternative Provision. He will speak about growing up as a mixed-race boy with ADHD and his journey to Oxford University and founding 'Excluded From School.'

In addition, there will be phase-specific (EY, Primary, Secondary, Special) spotlight workshops which will share inspiring and practical strategies for Making School Unmissable.

All session will be recorded and available to delegates to access for a month after the event.

The event is relevant for all governors, but we would particularly encourage Chairs, PP Lead Governors/Trustees and SEND Lead Governors/Trustees to attend.

**Find out more and book**

**THE HFL EDUCATION  
DISADVANTAGE CONFERENCE.**

*School: A place where I belong*  
*Keynote speakers*

*Fatima Whitbread, MBE* *Catherine Gladwell* *Lee Elliot Major, OBE* *Tier Blundell*

**£154 +vat**  
Discounts available

**Tuesday 28th January 2025**  
**8:45am – 4:30pm**

<https://hfl.mobi/Disadvantaged-conference>

## OTHER HFL SPRING CONFERENCES

We invite teachers, leaders and practitioners in all educational phases to join us at our spring conferences and be inspired by renowned education experts as well as highly experienced HFL advisers. Find out more below and [join our mailing list](#) to be sent details of future national conferences and events.

### NATIONAL PRIMARY ENGLISH CONFERENCE 2025

POWERFUL PEDAGOGY: SAY IT, READ IT, WRITE IT

Thursday 6th February, online. [Find out more](#)



### SEND CONFERENCE 2025

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Thursday 13th February, In-person, The Fielder Centre, Hatfield [Find out more](#)



### THE 2025 NATIONAL EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE

LEADING THE FUTURE IN EARLY YEARS: ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Thursday 6th March, online [Find out more](#)



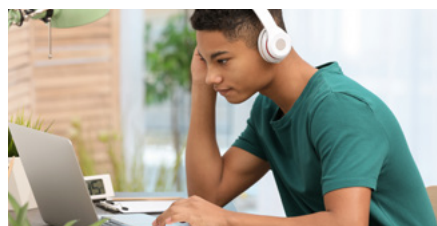
### TERM TIMES

**Issue 3** is available now. [Sign up](#) to receive the next issue straight to your inbox.



### GCSE AND A LEVEL REVISION WORKSHOPS

In order to support students with their revision for GCSEs and A levels HFL's secondary English, maths and science specialist advisers offer parents and schools a series of remote revision workshops and masterclasses in the spring to help ensure that students realise their potential in the summer exams. [Find out more](#)



# DfE, HCC AND OTHER NATIONAL UPDATES

## HCC SEND UPDATE

Following the approval of Hertfordshire's SEND Priority Action and Improvement Plan, the monthly newsletter from Hero Slinn, Director of Inclusion & Skills at Hertfordshire County Council has been shared on GovernorHub with the aim of keeping governors up to date.



### Access the full documents

We were also pleased welcome Hero and her colleague Sam Roston (Head of Improvement and Transformation at HCC) to the Governance Leadership briefing (previously called Chairs briefing) on 15th October 2024 where they updated 200+ governance leaders on:

- National Context
- Progress against the Priority Action Plan and Improvement Areas
- Key challenges
- SEND sufficiency and specialist provision
- Supporting inclusion agenda
- High Needs Funding
- Role of Governors around Inclusion
- Further updates and resources

If your school subscribes to the Governance Leadership Service (previously Chairs Service) then your chair of governors will have access to the slides and resources from Hero and Sam's presentation and they are welcome to download and share these with your board.

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## SFVS REMINDER

### SFVS return

The SFVS return is a mandatory annual requirement from the Department for Education (DfE). The deadline for the submission of this to the Local Authority is Monday 31st March 2025.

To ensure that you comply with the DfE requirements please ensure that you submit your completed SFVS return to SIAS ([sias@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sias@hertfordshire.gov.uk)) in word format, by the above date. SIAS will continue to post any further updates on the Grid and via Bulletins should any further changes be announced.

Remember that there is an online course on Modern Governor which gives governors an understanding of why the SFVS is now, not only important from a compliance perspective, but also because using the tool can develop and evidence your board's practice and approach to financial security. **Access the course in GovernorHub** if your board subscribes to Governor Training.

### SFVS requirements

The SFVS process is outlined across the three pages below:

**SFVS returns process**

**SFVS timetable**

**Extra information**

Please contact [sias@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sias@hertfordshire.gov.uk) if you have any questions regarding the SFVS return.

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## OTHER NEWS...

### BEEZEE JANUARY 2025 PROGRAMMES

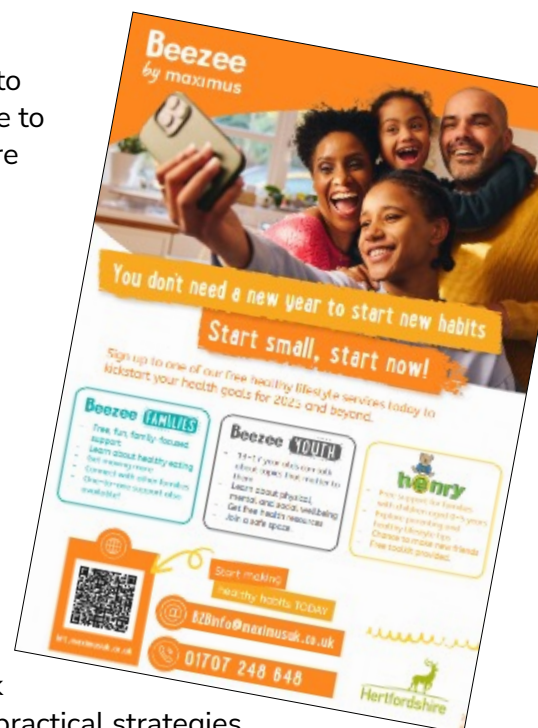
Previously known as BeeZee Bodies, Beezee is now the name given to healthy lifestyle programmes delivered by Maximus, and we continue to partner with HENRY. All our programmes are funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team.

- HENRY programmes support babies and young children to have a healthy start for a brighter future. Parents and carers of children under 5 years gain the confidence and skills to adopt healthier lifestyles, long-term. A free creche is available throughout the eight-week programme!
- Beezee Families is an award-winning 12-week programme for 5 – 15 year olds and their families. Our team of nutritionists focus on making small, sustainable changes around food and physical activity – and have fun while doing so! Families can also learn at their own pace for six months over on our Academy. Alternatively, they can access our 1:1 support throughout the year.
- Beezee Youth is aimed at young people aged 13-17. This ten-week programme is co-produced by participants and helps them discover practical strategies to improve their physical, mental and social wellbeing in a non-judgemental setting. Young people can learn at their own pace over on the Academy for six months, accessing content specially designed for them.

SIGN UPS for our New Year 2025 programmes are now OPEN!

Support is available in-person and online. Professionals can refer families and young people to these programmes, or families and young people can sign up directly.

Please see below our Beezee Families Timetable for programmes starting the week commencing 20th January 2025 which offer FREE support for 12 weeks!



**FREE Healthy Lifestyle support for families in Hertfordshire**

Our 12-week in-person and online programmes start on week commencing 20th January 2025

| Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>BOREHAMWOOD</b><br>Aberford Park Community Centre, WD6 1PN<br>4:30 - 6:30pm | <b>HEMEL HEMPSTEAD</b><br>Hobletts Manor Junior School HP2 5JS<br>5:30 - 7:30pm | <b>STEVENAGE</b><br>Oval Community Centre SG1 5RD<br>5:00 - 7:00pm         | <b>HATFIELD</b><br>Birchwood Avenue Primary School, AL10 0PS<br>5:00 - 7:00pm |
| <b>CHESHUNT</b><br>Andrews Lane Primary School, EN7 6LB<br>4:30 - 6:30pm       | <b>** NO SESSION **</b>   | <b>WATFORD</b><br>Leavesden Green Community Hub, WD25 0BW<br>5:30 - 7:30pm | <b>** NO SESSION **</b>   |

Refer a family today

@maximusuk.co.uk

01707 248 648

Hertfordshire

Our programmes are for children above their ideal weight, see our website for more information. 24-0871

## Parent/carers workshops, masterclasses and professionals training

In addition to our healthy lifestyle programmes, we run free workshops (face-to-face) and masterclasses (online) to help parents and carers tackle family lifestyle concerns. These include body image, healthy eating on a budget, emotional eating and fussy eating, plus how to encourage healthy eating habits. We also offer free professionals training. Our team can train professionals to talk about:

- Raising the issue of obesity
- Strategies to improve fussy eating
- Overview of our services

To find out more about free healthy lifestyle support, training or workshops available in Hertfordshire, you can:

- Call: 01707 248648
  - Email: [BZBinfo@maximusuk.co.uk](mailto:BZBinfo@maximusuk.co.uk)
  - [Visit our website](#)
- .....