Dear Colleagues,

And just like that- the Spring Term is upon us – although I’m sure like me, you are all looking forward to the true signs of Spring including longer daylight hours at least.

The Spring Term also plays host to the Cambridgeshire Governors Conference, which is being held on Saturday 14th March 2020 at Swavesey Village College. I would encourage as many of you as possible to come along and join the conversation with a variety of interesting speakers – pertinent to some of the challenges and changes we recognise governors and their schools are facing.

You can book your ticket [here](#). You will note that the Governors’ Conference has taken the place of Termly Briefings across the county this term – so these updates will form a part of the conference agenda, with the Opening Address from Jonathan Lewis.

Key highlights from The Department for Education January Updates are summarised below for your information and action;

- **Consultation on removing the Outstanding exemption**: as many of you will already be aware, the DfE announced proposals to lift the routine exemption for inspection of Outstanding schools. The consultation is live until 24th February and can be accessed by following this [link](#).

- **Compare how much your school is spending on agency supply teachers**: schools using the DfE supply teacher and agency workers deal are achieving substantial savings – avoiding costly temp-to-perm fees for making temporary staff permanent after 12 weeks of working for you, provided you give four weeks notice. The DfE’s [financial benchmarking tools](#) can also help you to compare how much your school is spending on agency supply compare with other similar schools.

As Rosemarie mentioned in last week’s newsletter – I am delighted to welcome Holly Crofts to the Governance Team. Holly’s work will be primarily focussed on the Fenland area of Cambridgeshire as well as Peterborough. Holly joins Anna-Marie Cooper (South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City) and Tina Hubbard (East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire) who are all on hand to contact for any governance related support or queries.

I look forward to seeing you at Swavesey Village College on 14th March.

Kind regards,

George Hayes