
Education newsletter

Be connect**ed**

September 2018

Welcome to **be connected**, the first edition of our bi-termly education newsletter.

In each edition we will connect you with a comprehensive selection of the very latest in legal updates, news and insight from the sector.

In this first issue we explore key updates and decisions from recent legislation and guidance. We hear from you about the challenges ahead for this academic year and how you plan to juggle priorities to achieve your goals. Get to know our team as we spend 60 seconds with HR consultant Marie Ashton, and lastly we need your help to shape our approach to policies - take part in our short survey.

be connected is your space - it is important that the mix of content offers you real value and relevant, useful information. Please help us to help you by providing feedback and comments. What would you like to see featured in the newsletter - and would you like to be part of a future edition - click here to let us know!

Have your say on policies

More and more, our schools are asking us to review or redraft model policies which got us thinking about the best and most cost-effective way of providing you with access to a suite of required policies. Our current plan is to offer a bundle of all required policies for a fixed fee for one year which will always be kept up to date. We will update them in response to changes in practice, law and guidance and when making the changes will explain exactly why we have made them.

Is this the sort of thing you need? If so, perhaps you could answer a couple of questions for us.

[Complete the survey >](#)



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HR Conference 2018

 **Birmingham Conference and Events Centre**

The return of our HR conference this year brings together a combination of leading national education lawyers, HR consultants and leaders within the education sector.

[Find out more >](#)

Let's talk about you

Top challenges for The Bishop Fraser Trust

Chief Executive Officer, Tania Lewyckyj, shares the trust's top three priorities for the academic year ahead.

[Read more >](#)



Top challenges for St Michael's Catholic School

Headteacher, Garret Fay, discusses the school's top priorities for the academic year ahead.

[Read more >](#)



Meet our team

60 seconds with Marie Ashton

I'm Marie Ashton, one of the HR Consultants and have been with Browne Jacobson for two years this week. The fact that I had to be reminded of my anniversary and that it feels like I've been here forever is testament to how much I enjoy my role here. A large part of my role consists of assisting clients with their day to day HR queries and I really enjoy the client contact, getting out and meeting the SLTs in the schools I work with and seeing how the team here are able to help schools with all manner of queries. I specialise in employee relations and change management with a particular interest in how MATs can work smarter by engaging their staff in their growth and manage relations between existing and new schools to everyone's advantage.

Outside of work I am a mum to two children under five, and with the eldest having just started school this week, I am now seeing the education sector from the other side! Outside of work you can generally find us either at the beach or park or making use of our National Trust membership visiting the various wonderful sites that there are down here in the South West.

Talk to me if you need any help with any staffing matter from drafting an offer to a new employee to how you can ensure that you get the best out of all your staff post conversion and transfer.



Marie Ashton

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 **Email Marie**

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Legal updates

Recent court case confirms charitable duties of members of a charity

The judgment raises interesting questions about whether, if they have fiduciary duties, members could be considered to be in breach of them and whether academy trust should have policies about avoiding potential breaches of duty by members.

[Read more >](#)

‘Tendency to Physical Abuse’ should no longer be considered an automatic defence to disability discrimination claims arising out of the exclusion of school pupils

Since the Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2028) and *X v The Governing Body of a School*, schools have been able to rely on Regulation 4(1)(c) Equality Act 2010 as a defence to any alleged discrimination towards pupils arising out of a decision to exclude.

[Read more](#)

Information on the EU Settlement Scheme

We summarise the key points in the Government's EU Settlement Scheme employer toolkit, which may be useful to share with any EU citizen employees, line managers and leaders in your organisation.

[Read more >](#)

Update on sponsored schools and transfer of surpluses

Sponsors should be aware of the recent guidance released by the Department for Education (DfE) in connection to the transfer of surplus on sponsored academy conversions.

[Read more >](#)



DPO in focus

DPO helpline for schools and MATs

Our dedicated DPO helpline is an instant access, year round service, providing you with a direct line to our expert education GDPR lawyers.

[Find out more >](#)

Receiving a freedom of information request

As public authorities, maintained schools and academies (and trusts) are required to respond to requests for information they hold under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This article is a step by step guide to the process.

[Read more >](#)

DPO in focus - coming soon

In the next edition of be connected we will be launching a dedicated area for DPOs where you will find a round-up of the latest GDPR developments, top tips and Q&As. You can be part of this space - please send your questions, suggestions and ideas to us here. We will publish and share a selection in each edition of the newsletter.

Supporting the sector

Looking at the future of the self-improving school system

Browne Jacobson has been delighted to support The Teaching Schools Council, in partnership with FASNA on the development of a think piece setting out a vision for system governance of the English education system.

[Read the report >](#)

Our school system - the way ahead

We hope that the publication of this report will contribute to the discussion about the way ahead for the self-improving school system and stimulate further serious debate about how to support our schools to deliver both the knowledge and skills our children and young people will need to thrive in 2030 and beyond.

[Read the report >](#)

What we're up to

FASNA Autumn Conference - Joined Up Leadership

11 October - London

Hear from Emma Hughes and Nick Mackenzie and visit our exhibition stand at this engaging and high profile event.

[Find out more >](#)

ISBL National Conference - Projecting Professionalism

15 and 16 November - Birmingham

Join us at this two day event dedicated to the school business leadership and management professional. Great networking and top quality speakers.

[Find out more >](#)

MATs Summit

11 and 12 October - Brighton

Our Head of Education, Mark Blois will be taking part in the panel discussion and presenting a workshop session. Join us at this flagship event for multi academy trusts.

[Find out more >](#)

LASBM Conference West

8 November - Charnock Richard

Join Dai Durbridge at this popular school business manager event. Dai will be presenting workshops focusing on safeguarding and GDPR.

[Find out more >](#)

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