



IRIS Textbook Newsletter

February 2022



Updates to put a spring in your step this Term

This Spring Term is the perfect time to grow with IRIS Education, and January was packed with activities to support the education sector in its growth. Last month, we hosted our very own [Time to Build a Smarter School Virtual Conference](#); the first conference of its kind that welcomed school and trust leaders to join discussions on becoming a smarter school. There were some great conversations in this series, and you can watch all of the recordings by [clicking here](#).

January also welcomed the Masters of Time to IRIS Software Group; our newest recruits, here to gift schools and trusts with the Time to Grow. Have you met Eddie Education yet? Find out all you need to know [here](#).

As we look forward, we are excited to share all the latest news with you. Read on to find out what's going on in the world of education this month, how we're supporting Children's Mental Health Week, which webinars we are hosting, and the upcoming events that you will find us at!

We hope you enjoy, or have enjoyed, a well-deserved break over the February half term. In the meantime, IRIS Education is on hand to support you in making every day a smarter school day.

All the best,

Simon Freeman | Managing Director
IRIS Education

Growing Together for Children's Mental Health Week



After two years of disrupted education that has heightened awareness of mental health issues, it's never been more important to prioritise children's mental wellbeing both inside and outside of the classroom. As schools try to get as close to normal teaching as possible, and ensure that their students feel safe, happy, and supported, schools should be aware of the many influences on a child's mental wellbeing and the impact this can have on their school life.

IRIS Education is pleased to invite you to an online webinar addressing some of the big mental health challenges faced by students and how educators can support their mental health and wellbeing, making students feel safe and comfortable whilst at school.

Join us on **Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 12:30PM** to take part in the

discussion:

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Did you attend our virtual conference?

Over three sessions, our panel of education experts delved into topical education themes, including staff wellbeing, hybrid learning, effective financial management and smarter school software. Featuring specialists from IRIS Education and partners School Business Services (SBS), Every, Kofax and Dataplan Education, our conference explored the necessary building blocks required for creating a smarter school.

If you missed it, don't panic! All of our sessions are now available to view on-demand. Catch up with our conference below.

[CATCH UP HERE](#)



A cloud-based MIS: What's the attraction?

70% of school management systems are still hosted on desktop, and while these tools may be considered worth working around by some, their dependence on valuable resources, storage space, regular updates, and manual intervention, means that schools and trusts' accessibility to connected, real time data is restricted. Desktop MIS solutions come with many limitations, keeping data out of the hands of the people who need it most, and creating significant admin burdens for teaching staff.

Time is precious, so how can a cloud-based MIS protect yours? Simon Freeman, Managing Director at IRIS Education, explores how transitioning to a cloud-based MIS



Which EdTech trends can we expect in 2022?

The past couple of years have seen educators have to navigate long-term lockdowns and remote learning at an overwhelming pace. To combat the impact on students, education technology (EdTech) became a lifeline as it provided the only means to facilitate blended learning. Now, more than ever, we need enhanced teaching to eliminate any further risk of lost learning for children. This starts with adopting the right EdTech to meaningfully improve the life chances of students.

So, what does this look like? Winston Poyton, from IRIS Education, explores three key trends we can expect to see this year in his new article.

solution may benefit your school in his new blog.

[Find out more](#)

[Read on](#)



What have our Developers been working on this Term?

Spring Term product updates at IRIS Education

BioStore for primaries moves to the cloud

Primary schools can now enjoy all of the fantastic functionality that our cloud-based [BioStore Portal](#) offers, making the platform accessible anywhere, at any time. With no cap on user numbers and no need for onsite installation, its fully-scalable model offers everything from online payments to menu scheduling, allergen management and registration. What's more, the BioStore interface has been redesigned to give a fresh new look and make it easier for schools to use than ever before.

[SEE MORE](#)

Exams are back, and Ed:gen will support you through exams season

For the first time in two years, exams have returned to their pre-pandemic state. Available within [IRIS Ed:gen](#), Exams Manager has been developed to simplify the management of exams. From timetabling to publishing results, this cloud-based software will streamline your exam management for staff, students and parents. Allocate exams to your students and ensure results are accessible to students and parents with ease via a pupil portal.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

New video functionality to host your virtual Parents' Evening

It is evident that virtual parents' evenings are here to stay, and schools require the software to migrate this busy school event into a virtual space. [IRIS Parents Evening Manager](#) now enables schools to schedule and conduct video appointments, empowering you to drive attendance, enhance your parental engagement and build a stronger parent and teacher dynamic to support improved pupil outcomes across your school or trust. Plus, for a limited time only, your first use of our video component will be completely free to use at your next Parents' Evening!

[SEE MORE](#)

Dates for your diary

Thursday 24th February, 3:30PM | Time for Smarter Parental Engagement



Do you find it challenging to engage with your hard-to-reach parents? Join IRIS Education on our webinar to discover how to improve engagement efficiencies and improve the dynamic between your staff and pupils' parents.

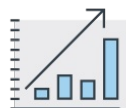
[SAVE YOUR SEAT](#)



Wednesday 2nd March, 12:30PM | Time to Prioritise Children's Mental Health

How can you ensure that your students feel safe, happy, and supported whilst at school? IRIS Education and expert guest speaker, Ian Gargan, will be discussing the importance of mental health in schools and how you can prioritise and promote student wellbeing in our upcoming webinar.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Wednesday 9th March, 12:30PM | The Power of Building a Data-Driven 2022 Strategy

Are you looking for the key to your 2022 strategy planning? Join Nic Clark and Tom Kershaw on our webinar to discover how a more strategic digital approach will empower your staff to work smarter, allow your students to excel, promote wellbeing and improve online security.

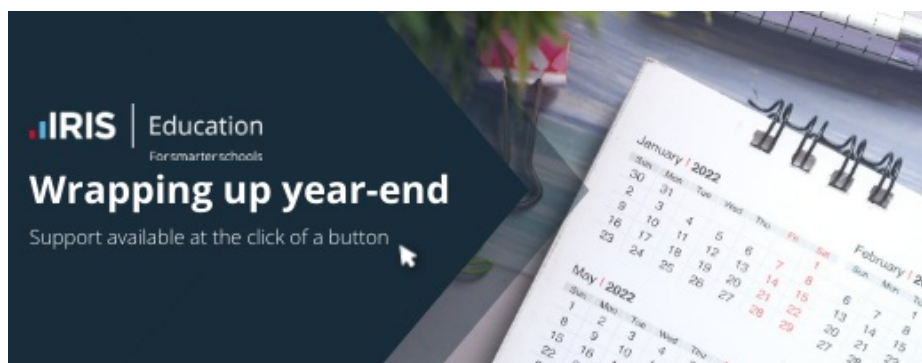
[SECURE YOUR SPOT](#)



Thursday 17th March | The National MAT Conference 2022

Meet Nicholas Clark and Tom Kershaw from IRIS Education as we proudly headline this free to attend conference and discover five ways to drive success across your trust.

[BOOK YOUR PLACE](#)



Support for wrapping up year-end

As we head into year-end, we'd like to remind our IRIS Education customers about our Help Centre, containing lots of rich, self-help content available at your fingertips. Below are several knowledge articles to support with some of your most common questions at this time of year:

- [Processing Year End](#) in IRIS Financials

- [Management Accounts](#): Trial balance, location data, bank reconciliation reports, outstanding orders and GRNs
- [Accruals/Prepayments](#): Accruals, prepayments, and deferred income
- [Managing Approvers/Budget Holders](#): Tasks for managing approvers and budget holders
- [Cloud Access](#), including [Downloading a new RDP Shortcut](#)

[VISIT HELP CENTRE](#)



Do you have parental engagement challenges to solve?

School improvement and effectiveness research has consistently shown that parental engagement is one of the key factors in securing higher academic achievement. However, we know that communication with parents has become increasingly challenging, with face-to-face contact almost completely replaced by online parents' evenings and socially distanced school pick-ups.

So, how can you become better engaged with your pupils' parents? We share five ways that you can improve parental and staff engagement in 2022.

[FIVE WAYS](#)



Are you ready for Parents Evening?

Parents Evenings give your school the opportunity to reassure parents and caregivers and provide those all-important updates on their child's progress. Since the start of the pandemic, Parents Evenings have been modified to accommodate the varied needs of those who are expected to attend. So how can you manage, administrate, and streamline one of the busiest events in your school calendar?

Find out how your school or trust can do this with smarter software below.

[FIND OUT HOW](#)



Can you easily [cover staff absence](#) at short notice?
Build your own dedicated pool of supply teachers and support staff

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

We will be keeping you up to date with the IRIS Textbook monthly. If you think that your colleagues might benefit from receiving our newsletter, they can opt in to receive our updates via the form at the footer of [this page](#). Alternatively, if you would like to opt out of receiving our newsletter, [please do so here](#).

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