



IRIS Textbook Newsletter

May 2022



We hope you enjoyed a well-deserved break over the recent Easter holidays. With the Summer Term comes the return of exams, end-of-year report writing and wrapping up the end of the academic year. Whether you're refining your tried and tested methods or looking to implement new processes, IRIS Education and our [Masters of Time](#) are on hand.

Through April, our teams worked on some exciting new resources, and made changes to improve our IRIS Education telephone system. Be sure to download our new guides on developing a [smarter strategy](#), becoming a more [strategic budgeter](#), and the answers to your questions on [switching MIS](#).

So, what's going on this month? Discover what's happening in the world of education, how we are supporting the education sector in the upcoming Mental Health Awareness Week, how you can take part in NSPCC's Childhood Day, and tips on transforming parental engagement across your school or trust.

It's not long until the next half term; enjoy making every day a smarter school day.

All the best,

Simon Freeman | Managing Director
IRIS Education

Mental health in education: Welcoming a new school of thought



Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week, and it's time to invite a new school of thought to the conversation. After a difficult few years, the importance of mental health and wellbeing has been accelerated across the education sector, with one in six children now suffering from a probable mental health condition – up from one in nine in 2017. Not only this, but 44% of teachers have reported that they do not feel equipped to successfully manage this decline.

So how can we change this? IRIS Education is hosting a series of webinars, offering lessons in dealing with mental health and wellbeing issues in both staff and students. With guest speakers from Imagine Health, Children in Need, and Place2Be, the conversations are not to be missed. We will be

kicking off with 'Promoting positive student wellbeing during exam season' on Wednesday 11th May, 3:30pm.

Register to save your seat our first session with Dr Ian Gargan now, because when you think well and teach well, they learn well.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Introducing IRIS Central

Using data to supercharge the growth of your trust

[JOIN OUR WEBINAR](#)



A spotlight on IRIS Central

Does your trust plan to grow within the next 12 months? Research finds that 78% of trusts do.

When used well, data has the power to inform decision making, improve operational efficiencies, empower your staff to do a great job and improve pupil outcomes. However, as trusts grow, maintaining a collective view of data and what is happening across the group becomes increasingly difficult.

The newly launched [IRIS Central](#) gives trusts a centralised view of data across their schools, whichever MIS they use. Powerful, up-to-date analytics allow trusts to spot trends more easily, make timely interventions, and support growth initiatives.

Join us on **Tuesday 24th May, at 9:00am** with Tom Kershaw (Education Market Specialist) and Nicholas Clark (Senior Product Manager), as they explore how IRIS Central can fundamentally change and improve the way trust leaders run their business.

[JOIN US](#)

Simplify your school lunchtimes

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School lunches: How should students pay?

Lunchtime; an undoubtedly crucial part of a student's day. Can it be made simpler?

While using cash as payment for school lunches has been the norm for quite some time, it may be

The impact of tech in the education sector

[READ ARTICLE](#)

EdTech capabilities set to continue disrupting the education sector

Like most industries, education was rocked by lockdowns brought about by the global pandemic, and institutions of all kinds became dependent on digital solutions to maintain operations remotely. Now,

facilitating multiple issues for both staff and students in our schools and trusts today. From losing money around the school grounds, to subjecting recipients of free school meals (FSM) to bullying, schools that rely on cash payments may be putting needless difficulties on the lunchtime period.

So how exactly can you streamline your lunchtimes? Our very own Tom Kershaw explores the benefits of introducing a cashless payment solution to your school or trust.

[READ ON](#)

as we continue to come out of the other side of the pandemic, these approaches look set to continue evolving to stay relevant and valuable.

With this in mind, Simon Freeman helps to explore how the power of EdTech is making an impact in the education sector today.

[READ ON](#)



NSPCC Childhood Day – Friday 10th June

IRIS Education is working in proud partnership with the NSPCC to engage schools in Childhood Day. This year, the NSPCC is asking schools like yours to join in with The Big Breaktime – a big and exciting break filled with play to help children make the most of childhood, and to remind staff of its importance.

It is simple to set up. All it takes is an hour-long breaktime, at a time that suits your timetable, and a small donation from staff and parents. You will be raising money to help keep children safe and generating awareness of a hugely worthy cause.

Help children make the most of childhood. Find out more and register your school or trust for The Big Breaktime on Friday 10th June 2022!

[THE BIG BREAKTIME](#)

Dates for your diary

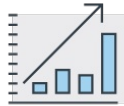


11th May 2022, 3:30pm | Promoting positive student wellbeing during exam season

Exams are back, and with it comes the inevitable anxieties felt by both students and staff. The pandemic influenced a further decline in mental wellbeing that now needs to be addressed across the education sector... but how? IRIS and Imagine Health are welcoming a new school of thought to protect our student's wellbeing during the upcoming exam season. Join us by saving your seat below.

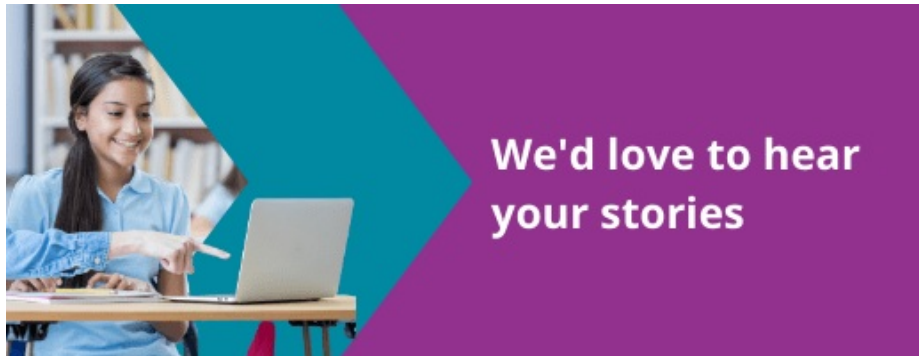
[REGISTER NOW](#)

24th May 2022, 9am | Using data to supercharge the growth of your trust



Looking for a solution to collating your data, trust-wide? Save your seat at our upcoming webinar to explore the latest addition to our school management suite, IRIS Central. Discover how data will help you in your growth journey, and how IRIS Central will help you to overcome barriers and bridge any gaps as new schools join your trust.

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Tell your IRIS customer story

Are you an existing IRIS customer? We'd like to hear about your school's success and how your partnership with IRIS Education has generated any fantastic results for your staff, students, and parents! Whether you are an A* ParentMail user, an IRIS Financials expert, or your parents love that they can make online payments, we would love to hear your story and share it with our education community of schools and trusts just like yours.

If you'd like to share your experience as a valued IRIS Education customer, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us today!

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)



Improving the telephony system for IRIS customers

At IRIS, we are determined to deliver services that meet or exceed our valued customers' expectations. That is why we have been working on simplifying the way in which our customers can contact us. Our new telephony system, Genesys, will introduce new methods for you to communicate with us, create a more visible customer journey and reduce call transfers and wait times.



Giving every parent a voice

Following two years of disrupted education, schools, MATs, and colleges are now faced with new challenges such as restoring confidence and reducing anxiety. To manage this effectively, parents and carers must be fully engaged and involved in student learning.

Research consistently shows that parental engagement is one of the key factors in securing higher

The new system will go live on **23rd May 2022**, at which point our contact number will change to 0344 815 5555. Please save this number and continue to use our existing mainline until Genesys goes live. Should you wish to discuss this with our team, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[CONTACT US](#)

academic achievement, and forward-thinking schools are looking at ways they can help teachers and leaders communicate with parents in a more accessible, efficient, and convenient way in order to forge stronger relationships with one another.

So how can you better engage with parents? Tom Kershaw explores the barriers and potential solutions to giving your students' parents a voice in his recent blog.

[READ 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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