

I hope your academic year is off to a strong start, and I am sure you're looking forward to a well-deserved break.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to put pressure on the sector, with the recent mini-budget adding to uncertainty and concern.

To help you mitigate the impact on the health and wellbeing of staff and students, this month we continue our School of Thought initiative. Working with Children in Need, Bookmark Reading Charity and Imagine Health, we have developed a programme of events to encourage discussion and provide guidance.

Read on to find out more and discover:

- Recommendations for improving mental health support at your school
- What to consider when switching MIS
- BBC Children in Need fundraising opportunities
- How to harness data to improve outcomes
- Our brand-new IRIS podcast
- Simplified financial management for LA maintained schools
- Parent's evening management tools
- Our upcoming webinars

All the best,  
Simon Freeman, Managing Director, IRIS Education



The banner features a teal background with a white folder icon and the text 'FREE GUIDE' in a white rounded rectangle. Below this, the main title 'Your Guide to Becoming a Mental Health Advocate' is displayed in white. A 'DOWNLOAD GUIDE' button is also present. On the right, there is a book cover titled 'It's time to act on mental health' by IRIS Education, featuring a woman in a white lab coat and a stethoscope, with the text 'Your guide to becoming a mental health advocate' and 'MENTAL HEALTH GUIDE'.

### Your guide to becoming a mental health advocate

The UK is currently facing a perfect storm of increasing prices, soaring bills and tax rises. And mental health issues have never been more pressing.

With Dr Ian Gargan, we have explored the ways in which you can improve the mental health support at your school or trust in [Your Guide to Becoming a Mental Health Advocate](#).

Download your free guide to discover how you can transform your approach to student wellbeing, and ensure no child is left behind.

[Download Guide](#)

## Switching MIS?

[READ BLOG](#)

### Considering a new MIS? Here's what to consider

A Management Information System (MIS) sits at the heart of any school or Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

And with more choice than ever before, many schools are currently in the throes of changing systems.

Every school or MAT requires a system that responds to the needs of [their SLT](#), [central teams](#), [teaching staff](#), and [support staff](#).

So what should be considered in your switching process? Our very own Nic Clark shares his view in our new blog.

[Read blog](#)

# SPOTACULAR

IN AID OF  
BBC  
CHILDREN  
IN NEED

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

### The Great SPOTacular

This year, BBC Children in Need is getting pretty SPOTacular.

And we're proud to be working with them.

They have fundraising ideas per phase of education, with curriculum-linked resources available. Register to receive a fundraising kit and you'll be entered into a prize draw to win some fantastic prizes!

Don't miss out – start your fundraising today!

[Find out more](#)



### Harnessing data to build a stronger trust

41% of teachers have stated that their school is collecting more data than they are regularly able to make use of.

But what is the purpose of having so much data if schools and trusts can't make proper use of it?

In [How to Harness your Data to Build a Stronger Trust](#), we explore how schools and trusts can harness their data to make trust-wide improvements, save money and time, and produce better educational outcomes for pupils.

Download your free guide to discover the power of better-connected data in your growth journey.

[Download Guide](#)



### Introducing UncomplicatED

Our IRIS Interviews podcast channel has arrived!

In our latest episode, our very own Tom Kershaw and Nicholas Clark discuss the concept of strong trusts – how to build them, and the vital role that data plays in this.

Take just 21 minutes to [catch up with their discussion](#), or find alternative episodes below.

[Take me to UncomplicatED](#)

### New - IRIS Financials for LA maintained schools

We're delighted to announce that IRIS Financials is now available for LA maintained schools. We've adapted our market-leading FMS to meet the needs of schools no matter their size.

Schools can now enjoy the same unified ledger approach that more than half of all MATs trust. With a user-friendly take on financial and budget management, it will help schools mitigate the impact of the current budget squeeze and prepare for the future.

[Learn more](#)



### 30-minutes to transform your parents' evenings

Parents' evening season is fast approaching.

It's one of the busiest events in the academic diary and is often, let's face it, an administrative nightmare to coordinate.

But it doesn't have to be, and this video will show you how.

[Watch now](#)

## Dates for your diary

### Supporting Vulnerable Children in the Cost-of-Living Crisis | Thursday 13th October, 4pm

Expert guidance from Imagine Health and Children in Need to empower staff to implement effective support in schools, make a positive difference to disadvantaged



pupils, and ensure no child gets left behind.

[Register](#)

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### **IRIS Financials: Why you Should be Moving to the Cloud | Thursday 20th October, 10am**



Cyber-attacks on trusts are on the rise. With costs increasing and budgets stretched, a ransom demand is the last thing a trust needs. Join this session to learn how to protect your system, and in the process save money and time. We'll also show how moving Financials to the cloud can help your team be more effective.

[Register](#)

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### **Minding the Attainment Gap During the Cost-of-Living Crisis | Thursday 20th October, 4pm**



Hear from Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust & Bookmark Reading Charity on how to effectively allocate Pupil Premium funding and engage in activities to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis' impact on disadvantaged children.

[Register](#)

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### **Multi Academy Trust Partnership Network | 22nd - 23rd November**



Multi Academy Trust Partnership Network is a unique networking and shared learning event, bringing together MAT senior leaders and the sector's most transformational suppliers to connect, collaborate and learn around transformation and innovation. Register your spot below!

[Register](#)

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### **IMPORTANT – Remote Desktop Connectivity for some Windows 11 Users**

Remote Desktop connectivity for some Windows 11 users is currently unavailable. We can confirm that this is related to a Microsoft update that affects all Windows 11 users that have carried out the latest update (22H2).

Whilst Microsoft develop a long-term fix, please use the following workarounds: Rollback the update from 22H2 to 21H2; replace the executable file; or carry out the registry change as advised in the article linked below. Here, you can also find further information that relates to the issue.

[ACCESS ARTICLE](#)

**We have a wide range of information that we hope will be useful when using IRIS Financials, IRIS ParentMail, IRIS BioStore, IRIS Reach and IRIS Assets. This information can be found via [our Help Centre](#).**

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The IRIS Textbook is a monthly resource. 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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