

Your monthly Textbook



Welcome to your final IRIS Textbook newsletter of the year!

You'll shortly be closing your doors for the Winter holidays. And as we look back at the year of 2022, the education sector should be immensely proud of the resilience they have shown in challenging times.

We want to help you hit the ground running in January. So, read on to find out more about how you can do just that.

I hope you enjoy the festive period and get to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

We'll be back with our next update in the New Year.

All the best,

Simon Freeman, Managing Director, IRIS Education

In the News



A nationwide fall in Ofsted ratings

Ofsted's [recent commentary](#) on inspection outcomes for previously exempt outstanding schools has shown that over 80% of those schools did not retain their grade.

It comes following recent changes to the grading process, from a 'best fit' model to one where a school must meet all the good and outstanding criteria 'securely and consistently' to achieve an outstanding grade.

Clearly, measuring the impact of your curriculum is more important than ever, and our Unlock the Power of your MIS episodes demonstrate exactly how this

can be done effectively.

Watch episodes

Monthly Roundup



Student absence levels on the rise amid cost-of-living crisis

The DfE's [October attendance figures](#) reveal that persistent absence has increased by more than 10% when compared with 2018/19.

And in addition to this, the University of Exeter has revealed worrying attendance gaps, noting that free school meal recipients are increasingly likely to miss school post-pandemic.

To combat persistent absence, parental engagement is more important than ever.

Watch our all-new videos to access all areas of our engagement suite to discover how to tailor your communications to the needs of your parent community.

Watch now



Auditors encourage adoption of the Academies Chart of Accounts

The academies Chart of Accounts (CoA) is the DfE's standard for financial data that underpins the academies accounts return and budget forecast returns.

Using the academies CoA, the department has developed automation technology to help reduce the burden of submitting your financial information.

This naturally reduces time spent inputting data.

If you want to find out more about how IRIS Financials can help you with automated financial returns, watch our recent workshop.

Watch workshop



The financial crisis' impact on families

A recent Children's Society blog, [Children in a cost of living crisis](#), highlighted the impact of the current financial crisis on families with children across the UK.

It is imperative that schools and their staff are given practical help to minimise the impact on children.

Our recent School of Thought webinars help to do exactly that, and we've summarised three key points in our recent blog.

[Read blog](#)

Mental health issues threaten staff retention

A study from NASUWT found almost 80% of school staff report mental health issues at work.

To improve retention, schools need to ensure their teachers are well looked after in and out of the classroom.

As you look to the new year, there are three areas of focus which should come top of the list to support their staff. And integrating the right tools and technology in schools is key to help education staff unlock their power.

[Read more](#)

Education Leaders' Survey



Your chance to win £250

To ensure that we can best support you through the pressures that the education sector is currently facing, please share your thoughts in our survey.

When entering, you can opt in to enter our prize draw and be in with the chance to receive one of two £250 Amazon vouchers.

[Take survey](#)

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