



WEEKLY BULLETIN

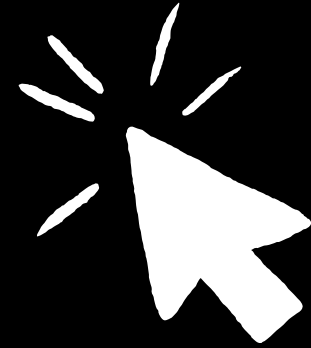
25 November 2025

BDSIP

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BDSIP UPDATES

SPOTLIGHTED EVENTS

TRUST LEADERSHIP TODAY WITH PAUL CLAYDON

CONFIRMING HEADS CONFERENCE DATE

CPD

B&D RE AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

B&D EDUCATIONAL VISITS GUIDANCE

CONTACT US

Spotlighted Events

Arbor Assessment – Analysis Tools

3 December, 10am
[Click Here](#)

Primary Technicians Network Meeting

9 December, 10am
[Click Here](#)

Trust Leadership Today with Paul Claydon

Paul Claydon seeks inspiration from football managers as he looks at how MATs can capitalise on their relationships with local authority partners.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the article

To hear more from Paul, sign up for our **Inclusive Leadership: Leading for Equity, Belonging, and Achievement** CPD session, [click here](#) to sign up.

MANAGEMENT



WORKING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT

WHAT MAT LEADERS CAN LEARN FROM FOOTBALL MANAGERS

Paul Claydon believes that MATs should look towards leading football managers for inspiration on how to manage and capitalise on their relationships with Local Authority partners.

Some executive leaders in Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) may find their roles feel strikingly similar to managing a football team. You're juggling leadership, strategy and culture-building while responding to unpredictable challenges and keeping your team performing at its best. In this high-stakes environment, external support isn't a luxury – it's part of the game plan. And for MATs, one of the most underused and undervalued sources of that support is the Local Authority (LA). It can be helpful to think of your LA not as a distant governing body but as a potential coaching bench – filled with assistant managers, performance analysts, and well-being specialists. These are professionals who know the local context, have a long-term stake in community outcomes and can offer targeted support – if the relationship is managed well. As the 2024-25 football season draws to a close, it's worth re-examining how MATs can build a winning partnership with their LA support, drawing lessons from the world of elite football management.

BUILDING THE CULTURE: SHARED VALUES AND LONG-TERM VISION

No successful football club does well without a strong culture – and neither does a MAT. Culture is more than slogans; it's the shared beliefs and behaviours

that shape everything from staff development to pupil expectations. When working with LA support, culture alignment is key. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has shown that interventions work best when they fit within a school's existing ethos – not when they're bolted on as one-size-fits-all solutions (EEF, 2020).

LAs often share core values with MATs: inclusion, equity, and long-term community investment. The best partnerships begin with an honest conversation about vision and culture. A strong MAT doesn't just tolerate external voices – it invites them to amplify its mission. Jurgen Klopp is attributed with saying that: "The important thing is what people think when you leave." Your culture should be strong enough to integrate local expertise without being diluted by it; strong relationships with the LA can keep your organisation match-ready for all seasons.

SELECTING THE STARTING XI: MATCHING NEEDS TO LOCAL EXPERTISE

Top managers don't just pick their biggest stars: they pick the right team for the moment. Likewise, MATs must be deliberate in selecting which external support to use and where to deploy it. LAs are uniquely positioned

to offer high-impact, targeted services – whether in safeguarding, SEND inclusion, behaviour support, or early intervention. Rather than duplicating internal provision, LA support should complement your in-house strengths. Carlo Ancelotti famously said: "Great teams must learn to lose without complaining." That spirit of maturity applies to MATs too: you can't fix everything at once. Prioritise, be selective, and use your LA's deep local knowledge to address the most pressing needs.

TACTICS AND FORMATIONS: ALIGNING STRATEGY ACROSS THE SYSTEM

Elite teams shift formations depending on the opposition. Whether you're stabilising

underperforming schools or scaling a successful model, strategy matters. Effective MATs align their support strategy not just within their own structure, but across the wider local system. This is where LAs can offer real value. They bring a full-pitch view of regional trends, early years transition pipelines and vulnerable groups across boroughs. Working collaboratively allows for system-wide thinking, shared data, joint training, and aligned outcomes. As Pep Guardiola states: "Preparation is everything." LAs can be key players in that preparation, helping you align school improvement plans to the local education landscape.

MAKING SUBSTITUTIONS: STAYING FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE

Even the best game plans need adjusting. If something isn't working – whether it's a curriculum intervention or an outreach strategy – leaders need the confidence to change things. LAs are used to working across multiple contexts and can often ►

22 | Trust Leadership Today | Summer 2025

MANAGEMENT



"Preparation is everything."
Pep Guardiola



"Great teams must learn to lose without complaining."
Carlo Ancelotti

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LA CAN KEEP YOUR ORGANISATION MATCH-READY FOR ALL SEASONS.

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UPCOMING CPD

Click on the course titles to learn more and register

CPD

Mon

Tues

Weds

Thurs

Fri

w/c 24 November	Developing Reading for Pleasure in Primary	Developing Reading for Pleasure in Secondary ----- Primary Maths Professional Learning Network		Physics Required Practicals	
w/c 1 December			Arbor Assessment – Analysis Tools		
w/c 8 December			Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 3: Safeguarding – ‘Understanding and promoting a culture of vigilance’		
w/c 15 December	Secondary Economics Network				
w/c 5 January		EDM Spring Census Workshop	Arbor Admin – Spring Census Support Workshop		
w/c 26 January				Primary English Subject Leader Briefing	
w/c 2 February		Secondary Religious Education Network Meeting ----- Training to Assess Writing in Year 6			Inspire and Develop the Vulnerable Writer
w/c 23 February		Primary Religious Education Network Meeting	Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 5		

This calendar shows the upcoming CPD for the term ahead, further dates can be found via [our website](#)

B&D RE Autumn Term Newsletter

 **B&D Dates for Your Diaries**

Junior RE Conference

A unique leadership and dialogue experience for Y4/5 pupils and teachers.

Dates: 20th Mar 2026 & 7th May 2026

Book: nnadeem@bdcs.org.uk

New to Leading in RE

Support, training, and best practice for new RE leaders.

Dates: 26th Nov 2025

Details: nnadeem@bdcs.org.uk | [Book here](#)

Please click [here](#) for the Autumn Newsletter.

B&D Educational Visits Guidance

All maintained and voluntary controlled schools must follow OEAP national guidance, have a trained Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC), and gain Local Authority approval for higher-risk trips.

Schools should ensure robust risk assessments, use licensed providers, and record all visits on EVOLVE. EVC training is renewed every 3 years, and audits are carried out every 3–4 years.

For advice or training, contact educationcoreteam@lbbd.gov.uk.

Click [here](#) to read the full guidance.

CONTACT US

All feedback and questions are welcome. If you have any queries about any aspects of this briefing or any wider issues, please use the contacts below:

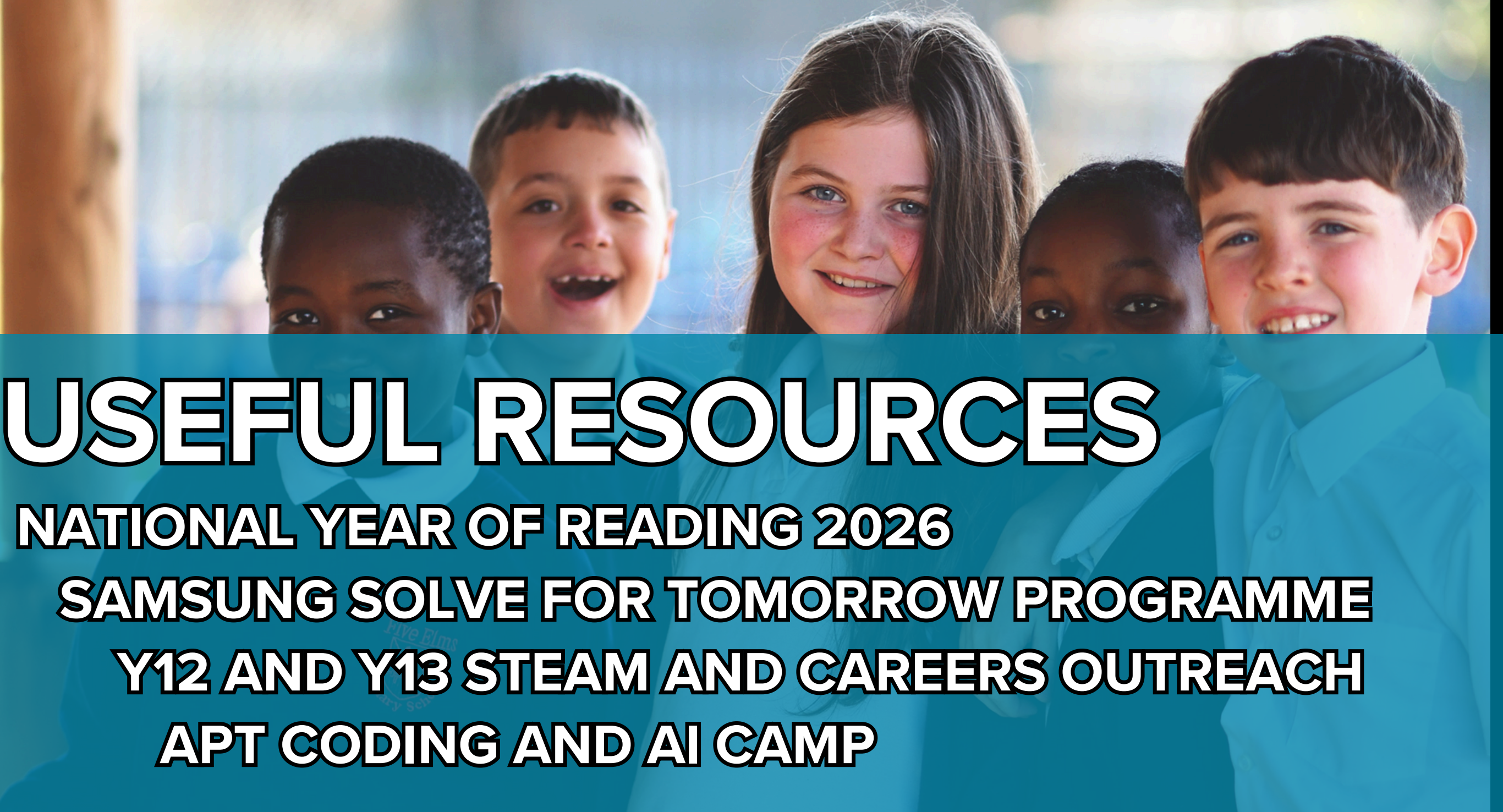
Lee Boyce, Chief Executive – Lee.Boyce@bdsip.co.uk

Paul Claydon, Deputy Chief Executive – Paul.Claydon@bdsip.co.uk

Nicole Leah, Director of Learning – Nicole.Leah@bdsip.co.uk

General enquiries – info@bdsip.co.uk

CPD enquiries – cpdevents@bdsip.co.uk



USEFUL RESOURCES

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

SAMSUNG SOLVE FOR TOMORROW PROGRAMME

Y12 AND Y13 STEAM AND CAREERS OUTREACH

APT CODING AND AI CAMP

National Year of Reading 2026

Register Your Interest – “Go All In”

A UK-wide National Year of Reading launches in 2026 with the theme “Go All In” — encouraging everyone to discover that whatever they’re passionate about, there’s a book for it.

Working with the National Literacy Trust, the programme will offer a year of:

- 🎉 Engaging events and author broadcasts
- 📦 Practical classroom resources
- 👤 Expert-led webinars
- 🧒📖 Support tailored for early years, primary and secondary

Every half-term, schools can join “Go All In Together” live events with renowned authors and celebrities, plus access resources designed to enrich reading without adding to workload.

👉 Register your interest [here](#).



▶ Watch the National Literacy Trust video for your phase to learn more.

- [Early Years](#)
- [Primary](#)
- [Secondary](#)

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Programme

Inspiring Young Innovators Through Technology

The Solve for Tomorrow Programme invites young people to design tech solutions to real-world problems. It's free, curriculum-linked, and supports D&T, PSHE, careers, and enrichment priorities.

 Designed with teachers to support:

-  Design & Technology and vocational pathways
-  Personal development (e.g. PSHE)
-  Careers education & Gatsby benchmarks
-  Enrichment, extra-curricular and project-based learning

 Competition Stages:

-  Imagine it – create an idea (Deadline: 1 Feb 2026)
-  Make it – 24 semi-finalists develop it (Deadline: 20 Mar 2026)
-  Pitch it – 9 finalists present to experts (30 Apr 2026)

 First 500 teachers to register get a free Imagination Toolbox.

Click here to find out more: solvefortomorrowuk.com

Y12 and Y13 STEAM and Careers Outreach Event

Celebrating Ada Lovelace

TechGirls are excited to invite Y12 girls, Y13 girls and non-binary students to the University of East London, to celebrate Ada Lovelace.

This inspiring (free) event is designed to spark curiosity, confidence, and ambition in the next generation of tech leaders.

Event Goals:

-  Inspire students to explore careers in technology
-  Build confidence in a professional networking environment
-  Raise awareness of emerging tech roles and employer expectations
-  Engage in hands-on tech workshops
-  Empower the next generation of tech leaders

Event Details:

- Date: Wed 3 December 2025
- Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm
- Location: University of East London, Docklands Campus
- Audience: Y12 girls, Y13 girls & non-binary students (with staff)
- Note: Please bring a packed lunch

Registration:

Complete the [Registration Form](#) to secure your place, spaces are limited.

APT Coding and AI Camp

Empowering B&D Youth with Coding Skills

The Alisar Prospect Training Coding and AI Camp, supported by LBBD Council, gives young people the chance to explore coding and AI at the Future Youth Zone, Dagenham.

🌟 What they'll learn:

- 🐍 Develop coding skills (including Python and web apps)
- 🤖 Explore AI tools and concepts
- 🛠️ Build projects for a personal portfolio
- 💡 Boost creativity and confidence
- 🚀 Gain skills for future study and careers

🌟 Beginners welcome — no experience needed.

🕒 Sessions: Weekdays after school & weekends

💻 Taught by: A senior software engineer

Contact Alisar Prospects Training for more information:

Email - info@alisapropects.training

Phone: 020 3026 6258



NATIONAL GUIDANCE

MORE FREE BREAKFAST CLUBS

SCHOOLS TO CUT BILLS WITH GBE SOLAR PANELS

SCHOOL FOOD STANDARDS: RESOURCES

MEETING DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

DFE: More Free Breakfast Clubs to Tackle Cost of Living Head-on

Press Release - Updated 19 November 2025

From April, 500,000 more children will benefit from free Best Start breakfast clubs, supporting families with rising living costs and helping children start the day ready to learn.

Key points:

-  Applications now open for 500 additional schools with 40%+ FSM pupils
-  Government investing £80 million to expand provision
-  Families can save up to £450 a year and gain 95 hours of time back
-  Funding increased to £1 per child, plus £25 daily for staffing and admin
-  Average school funding uplift: 28%

This expansion builds on wider support such as free school meal extension, school uniform cost caps, and funded childcare hours.

 **[Click here to read the full press release](#)**

DFE: Schools to Cut Bills with Great British Energy Solar Panels

Press Release - 17 November 2025

 Schools across England are set to benefit from more funding for teaching and resources as Great British Energy expands its national solar rollout.

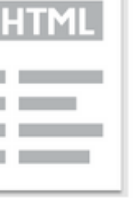
Key updates:

-  Over 250 schools have signed up to receive a share of £100 million for solar panels and energy-efficiency upgrades
-  23 schools have already installed panels, reinvesting savings back into education
-  Schools will save millions by generating their own electricity
-  Part of the government's mission to build net-zero, climate-resilient public buildings
-  New schools are being built to net-zero operational standards under the School Rebuilding Programme

This initiative supports schools hit by rising energy costs, helping budgets stretch further while delivering clean, homegrown power.

 [Click here to read the full guidance](#)

DFE: School Food Standards: Resources for Schools Guidance - 17 November 2025

 School food standards practical guide HTML	 Preparing varied and tasty menus HTML	 Creating a culture and ethos of healthy eating HTML
 School food: guidance for governors HTML	 Portion sizes and food groups HTML	 School food standards poster PDF, 1.37 MB, 1 page

Details

Resources and advice for all schools and caterers. They offer practical guidance on how to apply the school food standards and make sure healthy options are always available for pupils.

The resources include:

- guidance for schools
- a school food standards poster
- guidance for governors
- advice on creating a culture of healthy eating
- guidance on food portion sizes
- headteacher and school lunch checklists
- guidance on food allergies

DFE: Meeting Digital and Technology Standards in Schools and Colleges

Press Release - 17 November 2025

- Broadband internet standards for schools and colleges
- Cloud solution standards for schools and colleges
- Cyber security standards for schools and colleges
- Digital accessibility standards
- Digital leadership and governance standards
- Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges
- IT support standards for schools and colleges
- Laptop, desktop and tablet standards
- Network cabling standards for schools and colleges
- Network switching standards for schools and colleges
- Servers and storage standards for schools and colleges
- Wireless network standards for schools and colleges



Click [here](#) to read more



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