### SCHOOLS FINANCIAL SERVICES

TRAINING BROCHURE



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### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

	Maintained Schools	Academies	Finance Staff	Headteachers	Governors	School Leadership Team
Strategic Financial Management in Difficult Times						
Embedding Finance in the School Improvement Planning						
Improving the Quality of School's Monitoring						
Financial Management & Controls (Including FMS6 Updates)						
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Governing Body Training						
Schools onecards						
Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)						
Financial Controls and the Scheme for Financing Schools						
Financial Controls—Compliance						
Schools VAT						
Capital Funding for Schools						
Financial Controls—Fraud Prevention						
Income Generation						

# Schools Financial Services

# Schools Financial Services

### INTRODUCTION

Schools Financial Services (SFS) offer a wide range of training solutions to meet your financial management needs with the main aim of ensuring that schools are financially well managed.

Training is available for school staff and governors in Kent and Medway schools as well as academies covering areas such as Introduction to Finance, Budget Monitoring, FMS6, Senior Leaders and many more.

Training on the Budget Planning Software (BPS) is included as part of the Core Financial Support Package.

A selection of regular training courses are provided free of charge for Kent Maintained schools. Many of these courses are also available for academies at an additional charge.

Bespoke training, face to face or remote, for schools or academies can be tailored to provide expert knowledge and guidance on either a one to one or small group basis. Please contact SFS for further information.

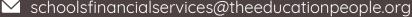
Also available is our e-learning programme that may provide training at a convenient time to suit you.

Administration fees, cancellation fees and terms do apply to all schools. Charges may apply for some training courses for non-KCC schools and academies.

All of our training courses can be booked via CPD Online.

Please visit the website www.theeducationpeople.org for full details, terms and conditions and price list.







### STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Suitable for maintained schools

### Who should attend

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

Face to Face: Half Day

• Webinar: Half Day

### Description

This course looks at the processes and decision making strategies that may be required by a school when facing financial difficulties.

Delegates will work through a case study, using a number of financial management tools, to find ways to address a particular challenging financial position.

Those attending will be provided with strategies for gathering information, taking the necessary steps and balancing this with the costed School Improvement Plan and the school's staffing policy.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org P

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### EMBEDDING FINANCE IN THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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### Who should attend

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

• Face to Face: Half Day • Webinar: Half Day

### Description

Learn skills and techniques using practical and theory based exercises to create and develop a School Improvement Plan clearly in cost terms.

Delegates will understand the need to create strong links between the School Improvement Plan and a Three Year Budget Plan, including the importance of finance in the delivery of the school's objectives.

Those attending will be provided with strategies for identifying, prioritising and costing improvement priorities and the importance of value for money when making decisions on spending.

### IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL MONITORING

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### Who should attend

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

• Face to Face: Half Day

• Webinar: Half Day

### Description

A theory based course on the activities required to improve the communication and effectiveness of budget monitoring in schools and academies.

Practical activities will cover the roles and responsibilities of monitoring as well as when and where information needs to be reviewed to provide an accurate forecast of income and expenditure.

Delegates will be able to recognise the links between the budget and ongoing delivery plans including changes to staffing structure and challenging the information presented on monitoring reports.

Note: This is a theory based course and does not provide training on the Budget Planning Software (BPS).

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

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### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTROLS (INCLUDING FMS6 UPDATES)

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### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

Webinar only: 3 x 1 hour 30 minute sessions

### Description

These sessions will enable delegates to update their knowledge of financial management and controls in accordance with the Scheme for Financing Schools and KCC's Financial Controls.

These sessions will include presentations by guest speakers covering the following areas:

- Fraud
- Compliance
- Financial Controls

### SENIOR LEADERS: UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL FINANCE

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### Who should attend

• Current or aspiring Headteachers

### Duration

• Face to Face only: Three x Half Days

### Description

Develop strategic financial leadership skills using practical and theory based exercises using real school situations on the following topics:

- Financial leadership, management and accountability
- Budget planning and procurement
- Budget monitoring, benchmarking and fraud prevention

Delegates will be given guidance on how to interpret financial information and appreciate the links to self-evaluation to ensure that a school is financially well managed.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org (1)

### INTRODUCTION TO FINANCE FOR HEADTEACHERS

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### Who should attend

Headteachers

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical application
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

This course is for Kent Maintained schools only.

The course is aimed at newly appointed headteachers or for those requiring a refresher on the processes and procedures that schools must follow.

This session will include practical exercises to demonstrate the importance of following the correct procedures and processes including:

- Financial Controls and School Finance Policy
- Separation of Duties
- Salary Payments
- School Bank Accounts and onecards
- Financial Reports
- Budgetary Controls
- Payment of Goods and Services
- Headteacher Authorisation of Financial Documents

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org



✓ schoolsfinancialservices@theeducationpeople.org



### SCHOOLS FINANCIAL VALUE STANDARD

Suitable for maintained schools

### Who should attend

• Governors, Finance Staff and Headteachers

### Duration

• Webinar only: Half Day

### Description

The Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) is a self-assessment tool that must be completed on an annual basis.

The SFVS helps to provide schools with assurance that they are meeting the basic standards necessary to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management.

The tool can be used to identify possible areas for change to ensure that resources are being used to support high-quality teaching and the best educational outcomes for pupils.

All Local Authority Schools in Kent must submit the SFVS self-assessment by 31st March on an annual basis.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org D

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE BUDGET PLANNING SOFTWARE (BPS)

### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Full Day including practical application
- Webinar: 2 x Half Days demonstration only

### Description

An introduction to Budget Planning Software (BPS) for Kent and Medway schools as well as academies.

This course is designed for new users who have not previously used the BPS system.

- Delegates will be able to understand how **BPS** works
- Delegates will be aware of how to amend information in BPS and run reports
- Delegates will be aware of how to use BPS to create a Three Year Budget Plan and how to monitor against this

Those attending will have the opportunity to work on a number of exercises on various sections within the BPS.

### BUDGET SETTING

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Full Day including workshop
- Webinar: Full Day demonstration only

### Description

A Budget Planning Software (BPS) course for Kent and Medwau schools as well as academies, covering:

- Updating employee information and inputting all other Income & Expenditure required
- How to create and submit a Budget Forecast in BPS as well as generate reports
- How to obtain the relevant report required to input the budget onto the school's accounting package

### **Additional Information**

Available for beginners and experienced users as well as offered as a separate course for academies.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org S

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### BUDGET MONITORING

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### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Full Day including workshop
- Webinar: Full Day demonstration only

### Description

A Budget Planning Software (BPS) course for Kent and Medway schools and academies covering:

- Discussion regarding the function of the Payroll Reconciliation within BPS
- How to import data from an accounting package to create and amend monitoring reports
- Producing Budget Monitoring reports including those for the Governing Body and for submission to the Kent Local Authority.

### BUDGET MONITORING FOR HEADTEACHERS

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### Who should attend

Headteachers

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical application
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

This half day session is for newly appointed Headteachers or for those Headteachers who would like to refresh their understanding of why schools need to monitor budgets and what information is required to complete monitoring.

The sessions will cover:

- Roles and responsibilities when monitoring
- How budget monitoring is affected by decisions made in the school and how outside factors need to be included in the monitoring.
- Using monitoring as a live document. There will be an opportunity to share good practice during feedback to the group.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org SO

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### KENT SCHOOLS PAYROLL RECONCILIATION - USING THE BUDGET PLANNING SOFTWARE (BPS)

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### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

Webinar only: Half Day - demonstration only

### Description

This half day session is for school finance staff who wish to understand how the school's payroll can be checked using the payroll reconciliation feature on the Budget Planning Software (BPS).

The session will also cover the various reports that the system can produce.

The assumption will be that those attending are finance staff who use FMS6 and have purchased the core finance package which includes the Budget Planning Software.

### INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL FINANCE **DAYS 1-3**

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: 3 x Full Days including practical application
- Webinar: 5 x Half Days demonstration only

### Description

This course is aimed at new or inexperienced finance staff and includes an introduction to the financial regulations and guidance that must be adhered to by schools.

The course will enable delegates to gain a good understanding of all aspects of school finance as well as learning how to use FMS6.

Topics covered will include daily routines such as processing purchase orders and invoices as well as making payments to suppliers. Month end routines will also be part of the course such as bank reconciliations and VAT returns as well as the generation of reports from FMS6.

### Suitable for maintained schools and acadmies

### HOW TO INPUT YOUR BUDGET ON TO FMS6

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### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

• Webinar: 1 hour 30 minutes - demonstration onlu

### Description

Delegates who attend this course will see a demonstration of how to input the first year of a three year budget plan on to FMS6.

Delegates will be learning to:

- Ensure the budget is input to the correct cost centre/ledger code combinations
- Check to ensure that the budget is balanced
- Ensure that the rollovers are appearing on the correct ledger codes

Please note that this course is for schools who are using the Budget Planning Software (BPS) to plan your budget.

### FMS6 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Full Day including practical
- Webinar: Full Day demonstration only

### Description

Delegates who attend this course will see demonstrations and be able to practice various elements using the FMS6 Accounts Payable module. All processes will be linked to the KCC Financial Controls and the School Model Finance Policy.

Key areas covered include navigating FMS6 and the set-up routine as well as the accounting structure and ordering. The course will also demonstrate how to process invoices and payments to suppliers by both cheque or online payment and the use of system generated reports.

Delegates will also learn the correct procedures for processing onecard transactions.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

Please be aware this training course is available on request Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### FMS6 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Full Day including practical application
- Webinar: Full Day demonstration only

### Description

Delegates who attend this course will see demonstrations and be able to practice various elements using the FMS6 Accounts Receivable module. All processes will be linked to the KCC Financial Controls and the School Model Finance Policy.

Key areas covered include setting up the Accounts Receivable module including debtor, products and books as well as navigating FMS6 Accounts Receivable menus.

Delegates will be able to produce invoices and match receipts. They will also be able to produce credit notes, account for write-offs and print various system generated reports e.g. debtor statements for outstanding balances.



### FMS6 USER DEFINED REPORTS

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

Delegates will learn how to design and modify user defined reports using FMS6. This will include demonstrations and the practical application of updating the KCC Income and Expenditure and Reconciliation Reports.

Delegates will appreciate the difference between system generated reports and user defined reports and use in accordance with the school's own Finance Policy with regard to financial reporting.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

Please be aware this training course is available on request Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### FMS6 HEALTHCHECK

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### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical application
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

This course will demonstrate the importance of undertaking a healthcheck on FMS6. This will be completed by way of demonstrations and practical exercises.

Delegates will be able to check that the school's FMS6 system is up to date and reflects accurate financial information.

Those attending will be aware of how to validate balances on income and expenditure codes, reconcile control codes, identify errors and make necessary corrections to FMS6.

### FMS6 CLOSEDOWN

Suitable for maintained schools

### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

Delegates will discuss the principles and reasons for completing year-end accounts.

The course will include demonstrations and practical experience (using examples from the Closedown Pack) for the closure of accounts on FMS6 and opening the next year. This will include how the preliminary closure works, how to correct any system errors if necessary and process year-end adjustments as required.

Delegates, using example data will also be able to cross reference final accounts to the outturn report which is provided to schools by Schools Financial Services.

### SCHOOLS CLOSEDOWN RETURNS NON FMS6 FORMS

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### Who should attend

Finance Staff

### Duration

• Webinar: 1 hour 30 minutes - demonstration onlu

### Description

This webingr will cover non-FMS6 returns required from schools.

Includes a demonstration and step by step guidance on the completion of the Non-FMS6 Closedown Forms.

- Additional Supporting Information for Closedown
- Analysis of Year End Revenue Balances
- Capital Matrix

### UNDERSTANDING ACADEMY FINANCE

### Who should attend

• Finance Staff & Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical application
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

This course is aimed at providing fundamental information to enable members of the finance staff to undertake their role after a school converts to academy.

During the course we will provide an overview of the current Financial Controls that apply to academies, discuss areas including funding streams and financial returns as well as the roles of the Department for Education, Education Skills and Funding Agency and the Local Authority.

The course will cover a demonstration of a standard chart of accounts structure designed to meet the needs of an academy. We will also discuss the necessary month end transactions and give consideration to the balance sheet codes.

For further information and to book your place visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

# Academy Financ

Please be aware this training course is only available on request

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This course is offered on behalf of Governor Services as part of their training programme.

### SCHOOL FINANCE THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR

### Who should attend

Governors

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical application
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

This course is aimed at providing governors who have strategic responsibility for finance in their school with an understanding of their responsibilities and how they are accountable for public money.

The session will cover, via practical exercises, analysing, discussing and challenging a school's Three Year Budget Plan as well as the importance of monitoring to ensure sound financial management.

Those attending will understand the links between management of financial resources and the School Improvement Plan and the need to work in line with the Governance Handbook and the importance of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) self-assessment.





### ACADEMY FINANCE THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNOR

Suitable for maintained schools

### Who should attend

Governors

### Duration

- Face to Face: Half Day including practical application
- Webinar: Half Day demonstration only

### Description

This course is aimed at providing governors who have strategic responsibility for finance in their academy with an understanding of their responsibilities and how they are accountable for public money.

The session will cover, via practical exercises, analysing, discussing and challenging an academy budget as well as the importance of monitoring to ensure sound financial management.

Those attending will understand the links between management of financial resources and the School Improvement Plan and the need to work in line with the Governance Handbook. The importance of the Financial Management and Governance Self-assessment (FMGS) for new academies will also be covered.

For further information and to access the course visit: www.theeducationpeople.org

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This course is offered on behalf of Governor Services as part of their training programme.

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Please be aware this training course is only available on request

### GOVERNING BODY TRAINING

### Who should attend

Governors

### Duration

• Face to Face/Webinar: 1 Hour/Half Day/Full Day

### Description

Schools Financial Services can provide bespoke finance training for governing bodies, tailored to meet your needs.

This can include the following:

- Understanding financial data such as 3 year budgets, budget monitoring and benchmarkina
- The Governors responsibility concerning finances and the link between the Scheme for Financing Schools, the Schools Finance Policy and how these relate to the Financial Controls schools must adhere to
- A session on the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

Please contact Schools Financial Services to discuss your school's needs.

For further information and to access the course visit: www.theeducationpeople.org

schoolsfinancialservices@theeducationpeople.org



### ONECARDS

Suitable for maintained schools

### Target Audience

All Kent Maintained school staff

### Duration

45 minutes

### Description

E-learning module providing an overview of using onecards in Kent maintained schools.

Subjects include the following:

- What onecards are
- How to obtain and make changes to onecards
- Financial Controls surrounding the use of onecards
- The accounting processes on FMS6 when purchases are made using a onecard

### Additional Information

Please note the course is best viewed in Google Chrome.

This course is free to schools who buy into the SFS Core Package.

For further information and to access the course visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

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### SCHOOLS FINANCIAL VALUE STANDARD (SFVS)

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### Target Audience

Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

30 minutes

### Description

E-learning module explaining how to complete the mandatory Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) using questions and practical exercises.

Users will understand the requirements and supporting evidence required to complete the self-evaluation form document accurately and with confidence.

Each area of the document will be covered using model answers including the need to provide an evidenced and targeted action plan when a school is not able to answer an SFVS question in full.

### FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND THE SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

Suitable for maintained schools

### Target Audience

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

45 minutes

### Description

E-learning module explaining how to adhere to/apply the Financial Controls and the Scheme for Financing Schools using questions and practical exercises.

Users will understand how these two sets of regulations have an impact on financial matters, as well as the roles and responsibilities of staff in a school.

Each section will cover important considerations for finance staff and headteachers as well as the governing body to ensure that schools are effectively and efficiently financially well managed.



### FINANCIAL CONTROLS COMPLIANCE

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### Target Audience

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

• 1 hour

### Description

E-learning module showing schools what to expect when they have a compliance visit.

Using explanatory videos and sample documentation as well as questions and answers the course covers a number of areas that a Compliance Officer would check as part of their visit.

Users will understand what they need to consider in terms of income and assets, payroll, procurement and onecards as well as the School Improvement Plan and financial planning.

### SCHOOLS VAT

Suitable for maintained schools

### Target Audience

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

• 30 minutes

### Description

E-learning module explaining what Value Added Tax (VAT) is, which supplies come under which categories, as well as the risks to schools using questions and practical exercises.

Users will understand the need for correct invoices to be provided from both direct suppliers and when making internet purchases.

The E-learning course will also provide example documents to help illustrate the points raised and knowledge tests to check users understanding of the areas surrounding VAT administration for schools.

This course is available for £50 per user plus 20% VAT to all customers who do not purchase the Core Financial Package through Schools Financial Services.

For further information and to access the course visit: cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

# D

### CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

### Target Audience

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

45 minutes

### Description

E-learning module will providing an overview of capital funding for schools including key words to identify capital expenditure, managing capital projects and examples of capital expenditure.

This course is for Kent Maintained Schools and is free to those who buy into the SFS Core Package.

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### FINANCIAL CONTROLS FRAUD PREVENTION

Suitable for maintained schools

### Target Audience

• Finance staff, Headteachers and Governors

### Duration

• 30 minutes

### Description

E-learning module giving an insight into how fraud can occur in schools.

Using explanatory videos and case studies, as well as questions and answers, to explain what schools should do if they suspect fraud, and what action can be taken to prevent it.

Users will understand the potential warning signs for fraud, how to protect against it and who to contact if they suspect this is occurring in their workplace.

E-learning

Suitable for maintained schools and academies

### INCOME GENERATION

## Course

### Target Audience

• Headteachers, Finance Staff and Governors

### Duration

• Face to Face only: Full Day

### Description

This course looks at both internal and external ways for releasing funds. The understanding of where savings can be made can also free funds.

There are grants being offered by different organisations and schools can apply for grants to cover different projects which will enhance either the school premises or other areas of school provision such as breakfast and after school clubs. The grants have criteria attached to the application, so care has to be taken when applying.

The course hopes to help schools with looking at how to successfully look for funding or completing a grant application. Although there will not be time to go through an application, the golden rules for applying for a grant will be covered as well as information about grants schools may wish to apply for.

### WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Established in 1999, Schools Financial Services (SFS) are an experienced and established team who provide traded services to schools and academies delivered by 45+ highly experienced staff.

SFS provide traded services and a robust compliance programme to schools, academies and multi academy trusts in Kent and neighbouring authorities.

Advice and support is provided to customers who purchase the Core Financial Support Package (CFSP) which includes access to guidance documents, a remote access facility and a Help Desk manned by expert finance staff.

Please find below a short list of some of the support we can provide your school or academy.

- Core Financial Support Package with Budget Planning Software (BPS)
- Financial Returns and Monitoring
- Short Term Support
- Consultancy
- Voluntary Fund Audit
- Finance Interview Tests

SFS offer a wide range of solutions to meet your financial management needs with the main aim of ensuring that schools and academies are financially well managed.

For further information please contact Schools Financial Services using the details below.

### TESTIMONIALS

At SFS, we believe our training is second to none and an invaluable resource for you and your school or academy.

Don't just take our word for it though here is some feedback from those who have attended our training courses:

"Presenter was super; very professional, knowledgeable, understanding and pitched this at just the right level for me."

"The course has given me a great insight into school finance."

"The information was invaluable. I am new to post, and I found out so much about the document and deadlines and in depth info about the questions."

"The course leaders explained it clearly, at a good pace and were happy to answer all questions. It was a lot to take in, but the guidance notes provided are really useful."

"The presenters were brilliant. Really informative, clear, and patient. The resource pack was very helpful as you could follow step by step easily."

To book your place or take the e-learning courses available visit:

https://cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

### TESTIMONIALS

At SFS, we believe our training is second to none and an invaluable resource for you and your school or academy.

Don't just take our word for it though here is some feedback from those who have attended our training courses:

"The Course helped to alleviate some of my worries and concerns over the whole closedown process"

"Clear, patient, knowledgeable and professional trainers who had an answer for each question they were asked"

"Strong knowledgeable team able to identify and rectify issues within the training session"

"Everything was explained very well and catered for all levels of experience"

To book your place or take the e-learning courses available visit:

https://cpdonline.theeducationpeople.org

### Schools Financial Services schoolsfinancialservices@theeducationpeople.org 03301 651 001

