

### Financial Accounts Direction

The YPLA have released their accounts direction for the year end accounts.

See: [http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/ypla-Academies\\_Accounts\\_Direction\\_2010-11-gn-Aug11-v1.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/ypla-Academies_Accounts_Direction_2010-11-gn-Aug11-v1.pdf)

The document released contains the new model accounts “Coketown Academy Trust Limited” along with some extensive guidance on the contents of the governors report and the other contents of the accounts. Chapter 4 contains the Abbreviated Accounts Return information, however this is currently still being completed and is therefore not included at this time. We expect this to be released in the next few months. Unfortunately our preferred order would have been to do the AAR first as it would help with the accounts, but delays from the YPLA mean that this is not possible. At present the accounts are not in an excel format as expected, and we are currently in contact with the YPLA to see if they will be released in this format.

### VAT Guidance for Academies now released

VAT Information sheet 09/11 for academies has now been released.

See: [http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE\\_PROD1\\_031401](http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_PROD1_031401)

VAT can now be recovered through the new VAT scheme for Academies granting them special provisions under the Finance Act 2011. The notice offers some basic guidance but will certainly not answer the majority of the questions that we are receiving.

If all that the academy trust does is run a school then VAT will be very straightforward and in most cases, VAT can be recovered monthly without registering for VAT. Operation of a school funded purely through grant income is non-business for VAT purposes and falls fully within these regulations.

If the academy has any “Business Activities” as loosely defined by paragraph 3.5 in the notice then VAT registration may be necessary if the registration thresholds are breached.

HMRC have already been seen threatening penalties for errors in VAT returns. This goes to prove that there is no “soft-landing” approach for academies that are new to filing VAT returns, and as such care needs to be taken when submitting returns and checking the amounts declared are correct.

Randall & Payne LLP has produced an extensive VAT guidance pamphlet that answers many of the common VAT queries and should be very useful for academies. If you are interested in this then please contact James Barker or Ian Selwood on 01242 548600, or email James at [jpb@randall-payne.co.uk](mailto:jpb@randall-payne.co.uk)

### OFSTED

Academies can gain access to their predecessor school Self Evaluation forms.

See: <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/LSCGOVUK/Scripts/PublicationDownload.aspx?id=a7e6a8b6-3947-4c89-b45f-35b4eb7ba5c8>

### 16-19 Bursary Fund

See: <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary>

This is replacing the Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme, and is a £180m fund to assist 16-19 year olds. It will be distributed by the local authority, and will provide a fund of at least £1200 to disadvantaged teenagers that meet the criteria to support their studies.

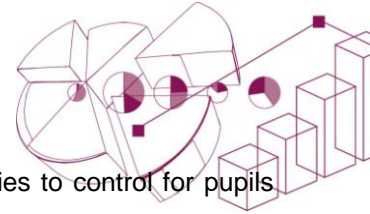
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**Rodborough Court, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 3LR 01453 763471**

**10 Wheatstone Court, Waterwells, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AQ 01452 723377**

**79 Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1PJ 01242 548600**

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The funds will be distributed by the YPLA to the Local authorities and then onto the academies to control for pupils involved.

See: [http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/ypla\\_16-19\\_Bursary\\_Fund\\_Guide\\_for\\_2011-12-gn-Jun11-v1.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/ypla_16-19_Bursary_Fund_Guide_for_2011-12-gn-Jun11-v1.pdf)

There are also transitional arrangements in place between EMA and Bursary schemes:

See: <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/LSCGOVUK/Scripts/PublicationDownload.aspx?id=e44d9f13-3158-4c71-8486-c65b4101067a>

The latest EMA take-up report (July 2011) has been published and details the total number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the current academic year.

See: <http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup>

### GAG Returns given new lease of life

Those of you who attended our May Seminar may remember that we were predicting the death of GAG returns in favour of new style returns. The GAG2 was supposed to have been replaced by the new "Financial Plan". The YPLA has not however released the new Financial Plan and is therefore requesting completion of GAG2. If you have not yet received your funding letter for 2011/12 then the deadline is 6 weeks after receiving that funding letter. Otherwise they wanted completion of the GAG2 by 31 July 2011. They are still anticipating requesting the new Financial Plan once development of this is complete.

The GAG2 form can be found at: <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/LSCGOVUK/Scripts/PublicationDownload.aspx?id=e9fc36e8-2f6f-470c-906b-91481a71af57>

### Academy Payment Dates

Funding payment dates have been amended by the YPLA to ease cash flow. From September 2011, all regular payments will be brought forward from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> working day of each month. As a result the YPLA grants will be paid in 12 instalments for the 2011/12 academic year. This change will not affect the total funding for each academy.

### Responsible Officer (RO)

In April 2011 the YPLA Academies forum was discussing the Responsible Officer (RO) and potential changes to the role. The role has not been revised at present, the responsibilities and guidance as laid down in the Financial Handbook remain the same. This may however be an area for review in the future.

### YPLA 16-19 Funding Allocation

The Funding allocation for 16-19 education providers has now been published by the YPLA on the link below. Academies are included on the "Sixth Forms" sheet.

See: [http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/YPLA-Funding\\_Allocations\\_201112-li-Aug11-v1.xls](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/YPLA-Funding_Allocations_201112-li-Aug11-v1.xls)

For further details, please contact Ian Selwood on E: [is@randall-payne.co.uk](mailto:is@randall-payne.co.uk) T: 01242 548600

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