

Highlights of the SIMS 2013 Autumn Release for secondary schools

This year's Autumn Release sees some exciting innovations for secondary schools. Here is an outline of how these changes can support you and make an impact on your school.

Pupil Premium made easier

We have made it easier for you to identify your Pupil Premium pupils by importing the relevant files directly from the *Key to Success* website.

With accurate data on eligible pupils, your funding applications can be made more quickly, enabling you to meet pupil needs and fulfil Ofsted requirements.

Latest Fischer Family Trust data

The Fischer Family Trust (FFT) calculations have been updated to cover this year's data for Key Stage 4 so you can generate your students' targets based on the latest estimates within SIMS, saving you time.

Safer payments through SIMS Agora

We have made changes to our SIMS Agora online payment system to help schools that want to move towards simpler payment transactions:

- You can now also enter manual cash or cheque payments onto the system so that you can manage all payments from within SIMS Agora.
- Your school can enter stock control information on SIMS Agora to help you manage orders, and parents can check if goods or school trip places are available.

Monitoring homework in SIMS Learning Gateway

We have made significant improvements to our homework module for SIMS Learning Gateway, our online portal, which helps teachers to set and monitor homework through SIMS.

Parents and students can see which assignments are due and teachers can enter grades for homework, add comments and spot if a whole class is struggling with a topic.

Staff Performance Management

We thought it would be a good opportunity to mention some important changes we made in the Summer Release that you may not be aware of:

- The new Staff Performance enhancements in SIMS Personnel will help you manage and report on lesson observations, objectives, reviews and the overall development of all school staff.
- The enhancements also provide you with the tools you need to make performance related pay decisions.

Contact us

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Nicholas.Finnemore@capita.co.uk, Head of Product Management.

Alternatively you can download the full SIMS Autumn 2013 Release notes on [SupportNet](#).

