

# MONEY TALK

Your monthly financial wellbeing news, tips and updates, brought to you by Lifetime

## Getting Ahead on Your Mortgage

Insight into mortgage overpayments, which are becoming increasingly common

## AUTUMN BUDGET

and What It Means for Your Money

## What Really Matters: Our Christmas Campaign

This Christmas, we're choosing to focus on the smaller moments that make this time of year feel special.

## Festive support – Volunteering (YCC)

Some of our team members spent a day Wetherby, Leeds, volunteering for the Yorkshire children's charity as part of their Winter Support Campaign.



# The AUTUMN BUDGET

## & What It Means for Your Money

On the 26th of November, Rachel Reeves presented the Autumn Budget to Parliament. There was a lot of information, so we've broken it down by the groups most affected to help you understand what it means for you.

### What's Staying the Same

- **Pensions:** Tax-free cash, annual allowance, and tax relief remain unchanged.
- **State Pension:** Increases by **4.8%** to **£241.30** per week.
- **ISAs:** **£20,000** annual limit stays until 2031. From April 2027, the maximum amount allowed into Cash ISAs will lower to £12,000 but this can be topped up to £20,000 using a Stocks and Shares ISA. Over 65s will retain £20,000 Cash ISA allowance.
- **Income Tax & Allowances:** Main rates, personal savings allowance, dividend allowance, and child benefit rules stay the same.



### Changes To Be Aware Of

#### Working People



**Tax Changes:** The freeze on personal tax thresholds has been extended, which means more of your income may fall into higher tax bands as pay rises. Fuel duty will also start to rise again from late 2026 and increase with inflation from April 2027, so driving is likely to become more expensive over time.

**Student Loan Repayments:** From April 2027, the repayment threshold for Plan 2 student loans will be frozen for three years. This means some graduates will start repaying sooner and may pay a bit more each month.

**Energy Bills:** Households can expect their energy bills to fall by around £150 a year from April 2026, thanks to changes to the Renewables Obligation and the Energy Company Obligation. Low-income and vulnerable households will benefit further from the expanded Warm Home Discount.

#### Parents



**Benefits:** From April 2026, the two-child limit in Universal Credit will be removed. Families with more than two children will once again receive the additional child payment of around £3,500 per child for third and subsequent children.

**Student Loan Repayments:** Parents supporting students with Plan 2 loans may see higher monthly repayments due to the frozen repayment threshold from April 2027.

# The AUTUMN BUDGET

& What It Means for Your Money



## Employers

**Business Rates:** From April 2026, smaller retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses with properties valued under £500,000 will benefit from lower business rates, while larger properties will see slightly higher rates. A transitional relief scheme will cap annual increases between 2026 and 2029. Businesses installing or running electric vehicle charging points will get 100% business rates relief.

**Tax Changes:** Employers will face higher costs from April 2029 if employees contribute more than £2,000 through pension salary sacrifice, as employer National Insurance will apply to amounts above this threshold.



## Savers

**Lifetime ISA Changes:** The Lifetime ISA scheme will be scrapped for new savers, with a replacement scheme to be consulted on in early 2026. Existing LISA holders may see changes, including a possible increase to the property price limit.

**Tax Changes:** From April 2029, the tax advantages of pension salary sacrifice will be reduced. Only the first £2,000 of contributions will be exempt from National Insurance, which may reduce the tax efficiency of higher contributions. Tax relief will continue unchanged on Salary Sacrifice.



## Homebuyers

**Lifetime ISA Changes:** First-time buyers should note that new LISAs will no longer be available, although a replacement scheme is planned. Existing savers may benefit from changes to the property price limit.

**Tax Changes:** High-value homebuyers with properties worth over £2 million will pay a new Council Tax charge from 2028, ranging from £2,500 to £7,500 per year.



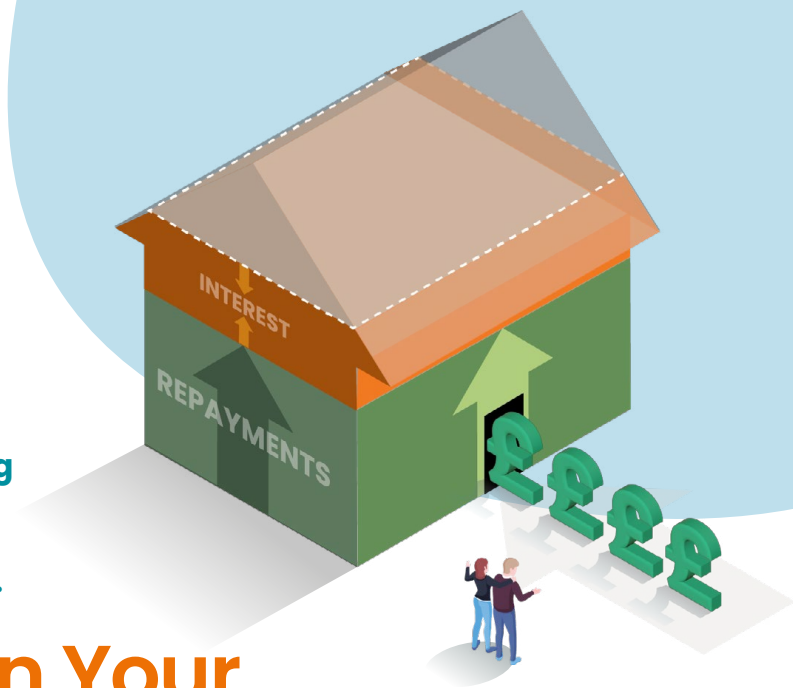
## Pre-Retirement Workforce

**Tax Changes:** Those nearing retirement who typically earn more and contribute more to pensions may feel the biggest impact from frozen tax thresholds and the new pension salary sacrifice cap. Rising fuel duty from 2027 will also increase living costs. Electric car users will see a pay per mile tax being introduced from April 2028. 3p per mile for electric and 1.5p per mile for plug in hybrids.

**State Pension Increase:** From next April, the State Pension will rise by 4.8%, with the New State Pension increasing to £241.30 and the Old State Pension to £184.90. Low-income pensioners receiving Pension Credit will also see payments rise, helping incomes keep pace with living costs. If the State Pension is the only source of retirement income there was a pledge that it will not be taxed even if it exceeds the tax threshold.

**Need help understanding what this means for you? If you'd like to discuss how these changes could affect your finances, reach out to one of our coaches today. [Book a chat now!](#)**

**Mortgage overpayments** are becoming increasingly common, especially as homeowners look to offset the impact of today's higher interest rates. Overpaying can be a great option if you have the money, as many homeowners save thousands in interest over the long term.



# Getting Ahead on Your MORTGAGE

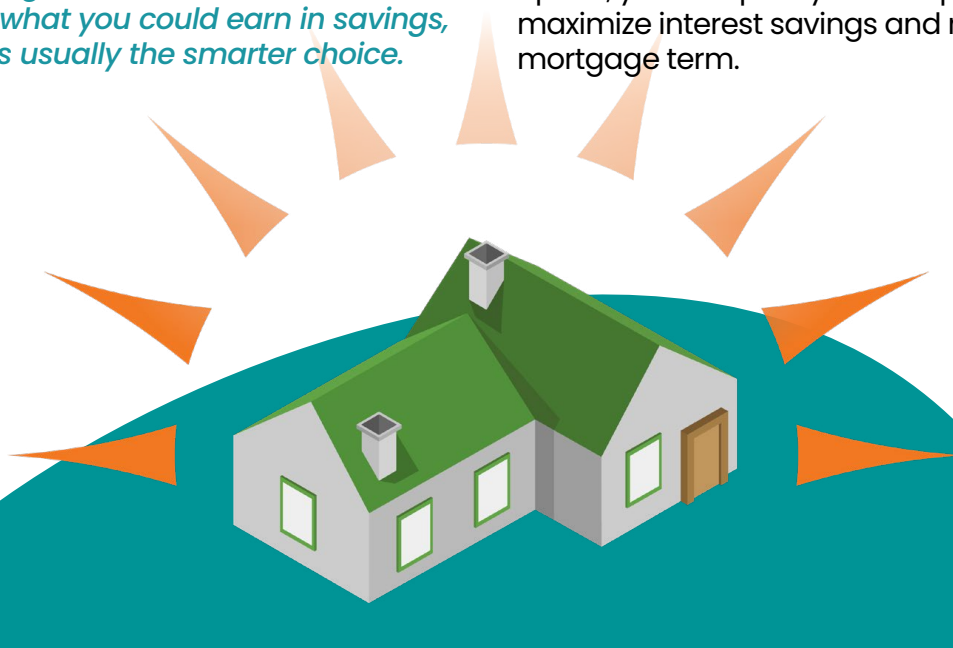
Even relatively small overpayments can make a noticeable difference. For example, adding just £10 a month to a £150,000 mortgage at 4% could reduce your mortgage term by six months and save around £2,470 in interest. These savings don't just reduce debt, they can ease long-term financial pressure and support overall wellbeing.

But before making overpayments, it's important to consider whether it's better to overpay your mortgage or put the money elsewhere. A simple rule of thumb is:

*If your mortgage interest rate is similar to, or higher than, what you could earn in savings, overpaying is usually the smarter choice.*

It's not always straightforward, though. Factors like the size of your mortgage, how many years remain on your term, whether you're making a one-off or regular overpayments, and whether your savings are taxed can all affect the outcome. For some homeowners, especially those on older, lower-rate mortgages, saving in a high-interest account could make more sense.

A good option is to use a mortgage overpayment calculator, which can show whether saving or overpaying is likely to benefit you more. If overpaying looks like the better option, you can plan your overpayments to maximize interest savings and reduce your mortgage term.





## MORTGAGE

### *The benefits of overpaying can be significant.*

- Reduce the total debt on your home and potentially become mortgage-free sooner.
- Cut down the interest you pay over the lifetime of your mortgage.
- Potentially save thousands of pounds, depending on your mortgage size and term.

Understanding mortgage overpayments is a simple, high-value way to take control of your finances and prepare for the future.



“ Couldn't recommend Scott Kershaw enough with helping us with getting our mortgage for our first home. He helped us in every way possible and answered any and every question we had. Scott made everything clear and understandable and supported us throughout the whole process. He really listened to what we wanted and found us the best mortgage that worked within our budget. We really appreciate all his help and guidance. Thank you so much Scott! ”



Scott Kershaw

India Folker

Want help figuring out what's right for you? [Reach out to one of our mortgage advisers](#) to explore your options and see how overpayments could work for your situation.

## Festive support – Volunteering (Ycc)

**Last month, some of our team members spent a day at a warehouse in Wetherby, Leeds, volunteering for the Yorkshire children's charity as part of their Winter Support Campaign.**

It was a truly rewarding experience. From sorting toys and packing gift bundles to stacking boxes ready for delivery, they worked alongside other volunteers and charity staff to help bring a little extra joy to children in need this festive season.

We feel privileged to play even a small part in making Christmas brighter for young people across Yorkshire, and the day was a wonderful reminder of the difference we can make when we come together to support our community.





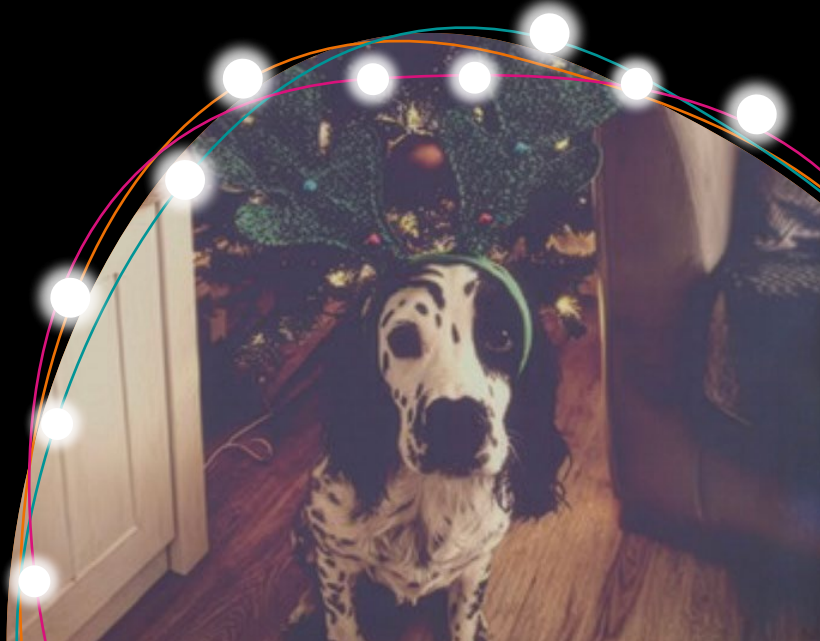
# What *really* matters: Our Christmas Campaign

**At Lifetime, we've always known what really matters. This Christmas, we're choosing to step back from the rush and pressure of the season and focus on the smaller moments that make this time of year feel special.**

Our What Really Matters campaign is all about rediscovering the magic we felt as children, the simple memories, the smiles around the table, and the people who make Christmas meaningful. The photos we've used might be old, but the message is timeless: it's never just been about what's under the tree, but who's around it.

For many employees, December is one of the most financially pressured months of the year, and that strain doesn't disappear when people arrive at work. Money worries can follow us everywhere, affecting focus, wellbeing and peace of mind. That's why this campaign goes deeper than nostalgia. It's a reminder that supporting financial wellbeing, especially at this time of year, helps people enjoy the moments that truly matter.

Christmas offers employers a chance to make things feel a little lighter for their teams, to ease some of the pressure, and to give people more room to enjoy the season for what it should be. And if the season feels a little heavy, remember you're not on your own, we're always here when you need us.





# What's coming in the New Year?

We have a series of insightful webinars coming up in the new year to help you feel more confident and informed about your finances. These sessions are designed to support you in planning ahead, managing challenges, and making the most of your money.

Keep an eye out for the following topics:

***"Getting Back on Track:  
How a Financial Plan Can Support You"***

***"Understanding Debt"***

***"All Things Money:  
How to Maximise Funds Ready for Tax Year End"***



*If you'd like to join any of these webinars, please contact your Engagement Manager or HR representative to request the access link.*

## CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

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GIFTING  
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PENSIONS  
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TREATS  
FUNDING  
CHARITY  
GIVING  
BLACKFRIDAY  
WINTER  
WISHLIST  
JOY

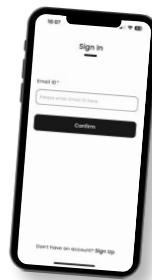
# The Lifetime Wellbeing App has had an upgrade

We've refreshed the app to make it even easier for your people to understand and improve their financial wellbeing. With a cleaner design and a range of new tools, the experience is now more intuitive and more supportive than ever. Here's what's new:



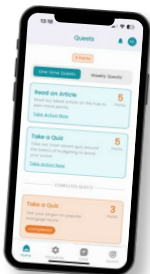
## Financial Wellbeing Score:

A simple snapshot of overall financial health. As employees use the app's resources, their score updates in real time, showing the positive impact of their actions over time.



## Quick Sign-Up:

Getting started takes just a few minutes, so users can begin improving their score from the moment they log in.



## Quizzes and Quests:

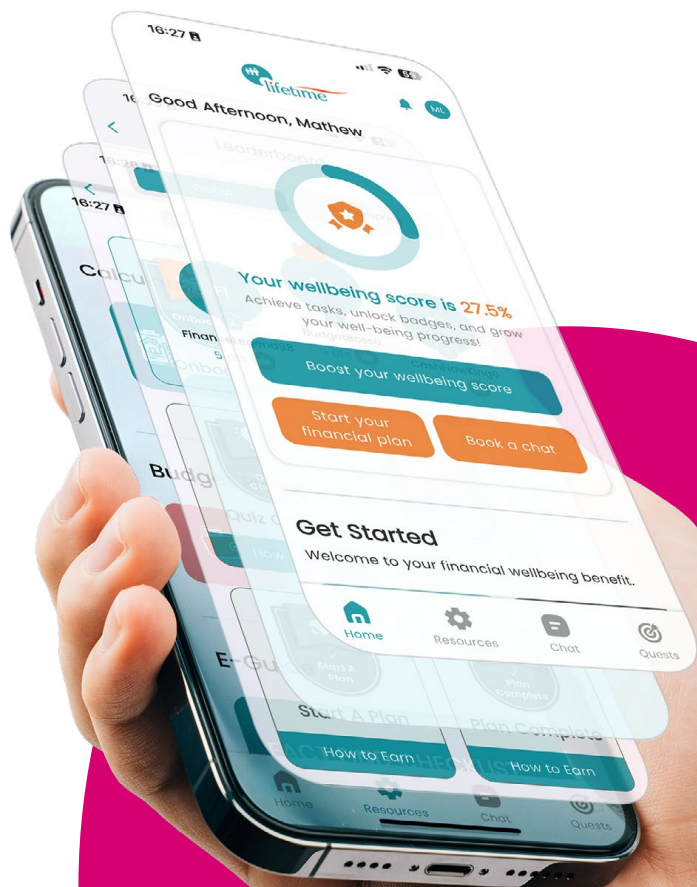
New interactive activities designed to help users learn, build positive habits, and boost their financial wellbeing score.



## Ask a Coach:

Employees can now message a financial wellbeing coach directly, no forms, no waiting, just quick access to personalised guidance.

**If you haven't already, download the updated app and explore the new features yourself.**



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