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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all had a nice half-term break and a good first week back.

This week is [Loneliness Awareness Week 2024 \(10th to 16th June\)](#). This year's theme, Random Acts of Connection, encourages everyone to increase those simple, everyday moments of connection which help us feel happier and less lonely. To encourage schools to get involved, The Marmalade Trust have created [free resources, including lesson plans, assemblies and expert toolkits](#) for both young people and educators.

The current international events have led to an increased concern that radicalisation may increase. Our colleagues working locally and regionally on Prevent have pulled together an [update on Prevent for education settings](#) on the local referral process and current issues for Worcestershire.

Guidance for schools and post-16 education organisations on [providing free period products for pupils and students](#) has been recently updated to reflect that, in April 2024, the scheme was extended and will continue to operate for the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

And finally, the Department for Education has updated [guidance for maintained schools](#), and [guidance for academies and FE colleges](#), on what information must or should be published on their websites. Please familiarise yourself with this update guidance and ensure that your school complies with these requirements.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of the Summer term.

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Latest education news and updates

Redditch First School Free School Presumption

A reminder that the Academy Sponsor Free School Presumption Competition for the new first school in Foxlydiate, Redditch closes on Friday 14th June 2024. The competition will ensure that applicants are fully informed in the expectations and requirements for a new school and ensure children and young people receive the best education possible.

The competition will be tendered in accordance with the Council's procurement procedures and follow the Department for Education (DfE) Free School Presumption Process. Following this, interviews will be held with the academies in early September and subject to DfE timelines, a candidate will be determined in November 2024.

Please note you must be an approved Academy Sponsor by the close of the competition to be considered. Below is a link to the website with all the latest information and a link to the tendering portal, reference WCC 00003913.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/firstschoolredditch
[Worcestershire County Council Electronic Tendering Site](#)

Refugee Week (17th to 23rd June 2024) - resources for schools

Across Worcestershire we have welcomed and resettled over 2,000 individuals from countries including Ukraine, Afghanistan and Sudan to name a few. Please take time to look at the links below to see if you can incorporate Refugee Week into your school diary. This year's theme is Our Home.

[Refugee Week 2024: Our Home – Refugee Week](#)

Useful websites

- [Secondary school teaching resources | Christian Aid](#)
- [Primary school teaching resources | Christian Aid](#)
- [Assemblies - Schools of Sanctuary \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](http://cityofsanctuary.org)
- [Refugee Week 2024 - Event Information and Teaching Resources \(twinkl.co.uk\)](http://twinkl.co.uk)
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/amp/t2-t-294-refugee-week-assembly-pack-assembly-pack>
- <https://www.phoenixprimaryliverpool.co.uk/refugee-week/>
- <https://www.rescue.org/uk/page/healing-classrooms-online-training>

Useful video links

- [Help them feel at home \(Vimeo\)](#)
- [Kids, refugees, questions: 'What is it like to have no home?' \(YouTube\)](#)

CPD for Transition Leads

We are delighted to offer some bespoke CPD to support you in this key role and improve the experience of your next intake of students. These opportunities are free of charge, and you are welcome to sign up for one, two or all three! These workshops are suitable for both Secondary Y7 and High School Y9 intakes. You may also wish to offer them to colleagues that have a complementary role.

CPD for teachers involved with Transition in Middle/Secondary Schools

Promoting a positive and consistent behaviour culture: How to support students navigating the change of expectations around behaviours for learning when moving schools

A half day workshop, led by Pete Hines and Sarah Vaughn from the Perryfields Behaviour Hub will explore the, often tacit, expectations around managing behaviour in a new setting.

Who: Middle/Secondary Transition Leads/ SENCO /Year Heads/ Pastoral/Behaviour Leads

When: Wednesday 10th July 12.30- 3.30pm

Where: Perryfields Primary PRU, Glebe Cl, Worcester WR2 5AX

Talking about School Transition: The Quest (University of Manchester Research programme)

A half day workshop led by Transition expert Liz Stevenson, which provides RHSE resources teaching skills to support induction including: making friends, collaboration, working with new staff, developing relationships and navigating around the school site.

Who: Y7/9 Transition Leads/RHSE leads/Year Heads

When: Wednesday 10th July 9am – 12 midday

Where: Perryfields Primary PRU, Glebe Cl, Worcester WR2 5AX

Parental Engagement at Transition

A half day workshop led by Maree Munn, Participation and Engagement Officer for the Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum, that will encourage reflection on current practice and identify ways to improve parent carer engagement. Using the seven standard values in the 'Engaging with Parent Carer Toolkit' this is an opportunity to gain the confidence to create distinctive fully inclusive practices that benefit the child, smooth transition, and enhance often complex relationships.

When: Monday 1st July pm

Who: Middle/Secondary Transition Leads/Year Heads/ SENCO/Pastoral/Behaviour Leads

Where: tbc

If you wish to book place(s) at the workshops or if you have any queries, please email Lisa Bradbury at: LBradbury@worcchildrenfirst.org.uk

Tuition Provision Contract

Following a review of the Tuition Provision contract held by Randstad, it has been agreed that WCF will end this contract on 31 August 2024. Please be aware that from 19 July all referrals for tuition will be sent on Lot 2 Home Tuition on the Alternative Provision Dynamic Purchasing System.

Randstad are one of our providers on the Alternative Provision Dynamic Purchasing System and we will continue to work with them for Worcestershire young people. It is intended that where it is appropriate for the young people who are currently receiving tuition provision via Randstad, this will continue after the end of the contract, and we will be working with Randstad to ensure there is no disruption to the education support currently in place for these young children.

Please continue to liaise with the Education Engagement Team regarding referrals for this provision.

Latest health and wellbeing news and updates

Underage Sales of Vapes and THC Vapes

As a result of local community intelligence about underage sales of vapes and young people becoming unwell after purchasing vapes, [Trading Standards and Police discovered professionally packaged THC/cannabis vapes for sale in a shop in Evesham alongside illegal vapes and knives](#).

This is a reminder that young people continue to gain access to vapes underage and illegal vapes. Your support to protect young people is vital.

You can:

- [Order the Illegal vapes poster for your school](#). If you need more than 5 copies, please place more than one order. Many schools have already ordered copies but not all.
- Ask parents and carers to report underage sales of vapes and illegal vape sales to [Tip us off at Trading Standards \(Worcestershire County Council\)](#).
- Arrange for the parents and carers information leaflet on vapes to be shared within your school community and as a download on your website. The leaflet is available for schools to download from our [Google Drive](#).
- Remind pupils of the risks associated with illegal vapes and purchasing underage plus the impact of nicotine on their developing brains and mental health (concentration, emotional regulation, memory, lower wellbeing). In addition remind them that young people can very quickly become addicted to nicotine which can have a lifelong impact including on their future wealth.
- Purposefully ask pupils where they purchase/acquire their vapes and report this anonymously to: [Tip us off at Trading Standards \(Worcestershire County Council\)](#). Professionals can also email Bob.Charnley@WorcestershireTS.gov.uk with any information they have. Please do not share Bob's email with parents as this is for professionals only and parents should use the [Tip us off webpage](#).

Smoking Prevention and Cessation

Later this year there will be a free stop smoking service available for young people aged 12 to 18 (plus their household members) who smoke. Further details will be shared in a future bulletin.

For young people who do smoke, please start to have open unpressurised conversation about how they feel about being a smoker and about quitting smoking, prompting “I’m going to”, “I will” and “I would like to” replies via open “What/How” questions such as:

- What do you think it would be like to stop smoking?
- What are your concerns about quitting?
- What would prompt you to try and stop smoking?
- What would be the best way for you to quit smoking?
- Most smokers want to quit, what support would you need to quit?

You can access the [evidence based smoking prevention teaching package \(INTENT\)](#) and online training by [registering for smoking prevention programme](#) requesting a ‘school’ account.

Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Rivers Teaching Alliance

ECT update

Rivers Teaching Alliance are going into their 2nd year as an Associate College for the [National Institute of Teaching \(niot.org.uk\)](http://National Institute of Teaching (niot.org.uk)).

This means they are able to offer the ECF fully funded programme and support your ECTs to continue their journey from their teaching qualifications. Below they have outlined the process to follow should you wish to do this.

Please contact them if you have any questions or would like a phone conversation to discuss via teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk or 01905 950700.

How can I register my ECT(s)?

When?	What	notes
From now	Go to: Early Career Framework (ECF) – The National Institute of Teaching (niot.org.uk) and click 'Register here' Choose 'Rivers Teaching Alliance (S&W)' from the drop down menu. This step has to be completed before you register your ECT with the DfE (below)	You will need the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Your school details (URN -You can find it here and name of school)ECF Induction Lead/Tutor details (the person in your school who holds the DfE Early Career Portal login)- name and email address
From 24 th June (they open to a 500 schools each day so might not be on this day)	Department for Education open for registrations, you will receive a link to their platform, so that you can add further details of your ECTs.	You will need the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">ECT name, TRN and email addressECF mentor name and email address Choose the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Option 1: Provider led programmeLead Provider: National Institute of TeachingDelivery Partner: Rivers Teaching Alliance As part of this you will need to choose an Appropriate Body. We would recommend that you choose Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub. We will then pass on your details to Prince Henry's so that you don't need to register with them separately.

NPQ update

Applications are now open on the NIoT for October 2024 NPQs.

[Training Courses For Teachers – The National Institute of Teaching \(niot.org.uk\)](https://www.niot.org.uk)

The following NPQs are fully funded for all participants:

- NPQ Leading Primary Mathematics
- NPQ in Headship
- NPQ for SENCOs - further info below

The following NPQs will be fully funded for the 50% of schools with the highest proportion of students who attract pupil premium funding (please get in touch if you would like to check if your school is on this list).

- NPQLT, NPQLTD, NPQLL, NPQSL, NPQLBC

These are the costs if your school is not entitled to funding:

- NPQLT, NPQLTD, NPQLBB, NPQLL - £850
- NPQSL - £950
- NPQEYL - £1050

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Early Career Framework and Appropriate Body

Briefings for Headteachers

They will continue to hold briefing events for Headteachers, to provide clarity on registration for AB and ECF, together with providing information on costings, statutory guidance and roles and responsibilities of school stakeholders. These are taking place on the following dates:

- Wednesday 12th June 15:30-16:30
- Tuesday 18th June 13:00-14:00
- Tuesday 25th June 08:30-09:30
- Monday 1st July 15:30-16:30
- Tuesday 9th July 12:00-13:00

Training for Induction Tutors

They will be delivering essential training to induction tutors over the next academic year. If you know who your induction tutor will be, feel free to sign up for one of our first sessions this summer:

- Monday 1st July 14:00-15:00
- Friday 12th July 12:00-13:00

There will be further sessions throughout the Autumn term. You can sign up for these sessions [here](#).

Assessments

ECT assessments and progress reviews will need to be submitted by the due date on ECT Manager. Failure to submit your ECT's assessment by this date may result in a delay to their induction process. To support you with these assessments, we are holding training sessions on writing assessments – you can sign up [here](#).

Updating ECT Manager Details

Please ensure where possible that the details of your ECTs, mentors, Induction Tutors and Headteachers are all up to date on ECT Manager by the end of the school year, ready for September.

NPQs

Funding

The DfE have now released the list of schools that are eligible for scholarships covering the full cost of NPQs. If you have any questions about this, or wish to confirm if you are eligible for these scholarships, please contact them at TSH@tgacademy.org.uk

NPQECHO

They are now taking expressions of interest for the NPQ Early Headship Coaching Offer. This is a 12 month, bespoke programme of support for new headteachers. Please [download NPQECHO flyer](#) for more information regarding this NPQ.

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training

Please be reminded that all ITT mentors are expected to complete the 7-hour tier one training before September. Dates for this training are available on the websites of the University of Worcester, Stourport SCITT, Tudor Grange SCITT and Prince Henry's and South Worcestershire ITT.

ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for Year 1 ECT Mentors. You can book onto these now using the links below.

- Wednesday 19th June – Prince Henry's High School, Evesham
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh/t-pgyvjmm>
- Wednesday 26th June – University of Worcester
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh/t-rpaymja>
- Tuesday 2nd July – Stourport High School
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh/t-yapvoyv>
- Thursday 4th July – Rivers Teaching Alliance, Worcester
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh/t-noveavk>
- Thursday 4th July – Marlbrook Primary School, Hereford
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh/t-avlmjle>

AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2024-25 cohort will open on 24th June 2024. Further information from the DfE and Teaching School Hub will be sent out in due course.

Please complete the initial registration form below as soon as possible.

<https://forms.office.com/e/w03v4eORVc>

If schools are unsure then please contact Andy Duffy, the Teaching School Hub Director, at ad@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

Latest training news and conferences

Key Stage 1 Writing Surgery: Supporting your teacher assessment of writing at end of KS1

This session will give you the opportunity to bring the work of 3 pupils for our team of moderators to look at. They will be able to guide you as to whether you are presenting enough evidence, the right sort of evidence and what more might be needed. Whilst this is not formal moderation, the team will be able to consider judgements and offer support and guidance.

Cost: £42 + VAT per delegate

- 18th June 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, Wyre Forest, course code: SCH 10488 / 85180
- 26th June 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10488 / 85181

ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

The ELSA programme has been widely adopted as an evidence-based early intervention for children and young people in over 100 local authorities in the UK. ELSAs attend training days and group supervision sessions led by EP's. They will be trained to plan and deliver individualised programmes of support for children to develop their emotional literacy, including; Awareness of own and other people's emotions, Management of stress, grief, anger and conflict, Development of social interaction skills and Promotion of a realistic self-concept and self-esteem.

The initial training is a mix of psychological theory and application of theory to support children and young people. The training involves discussion, activities and sharing of helpful resources. The initial training covers the following areas of emotional literacy:

- Day 1 – An Introduction to ELSA and emotional literacy:
- Day 2 – Security and affiliation (sense of belonging)
- Day 3 – Self-esteem, motivation and developing feelings of competency and self-efficacy.
- Day 4 – Loss and bereavement
- Day 5 – Managing emotions and social/friendship skills.
- Day 6 – Active listening, therapeutic stories and measuring outcomes.

Cost: £630 + VAT per person - this includes two supervision sessions (which are planned at the end of the course). Lunch is provided please ensure any dietary needs are included at the point of booking.

- Dates: 18 September, 02 October, 16 October, 06 November, 20 November, and 04 December 2024
- Each session runs 09:30am to 3:30pm and takes place in Worcester.
- CPD Course code: 10351

Book your place on the above training via [WCF:CPD](#) using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided. If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Latest Conference Programme

Check out our latest range of conferences available which includes:

- Headteacher Briefing
- Attendance Forum
- Mastering Formative Assessment
- School Finance Conference
- Tackling Online Harm

For more information please download our latest [Conference Programme](#) or visit [Courses Search \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#) where you can also book your place.

For further information, please email our Conference Team: Conferences@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Latest funding news

Grants for Senior Mental Health Lead Training in Schools and Colleges

The Department for Education (DfE) is offering grants for eligible state-funded schools and colleges in England to train a senior mental health lead to develop and implement a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing.

This training is not compulsory, but it is part of the government's commitment to offer this training to all eligible schools and colleges by 2025.

Grants of £1,200 will be provided to cover (or contribute to) the cost of attending a quality assured course and may also be used to hire supply staff whilst leads are engaged in training.

All state-funded education settings that are in receipt of ESFA pre-16 revenue, high needs block, or 16 to 19 programme funding are eligible for the grant, including:

- Mainstream academies and local-authority maintained schools
- Special academies and local authority maintained schools special schools (including alternative provision)
- Independent special schools whose pupils' education is funded by their local authority
- Further education colleges attended by under 18-year-olds (one claim per campus ID)
- Sixth form colleges
- Special post-16 institutions
- Non-maintained special schools
- Local authorities
- Independent training providers.

Applicants can now apply for a senior mental health lead training grant to commence training within the 2024 to 2025 financial year. The training course must be a DfE assured senior mental health lead training course and the training must start by 31st March 2025.

As of 24th May 2024, DfE has updated the list of DfE assured senior mental health lead training courses.

Applicants must complete two forms:

- Form 1 - the initial application form to check eligibility and reserve a grant.
- Form 2 - the second stage of the application process, where applicants upload evidence of having booked a DfE quality assured training course so they can pay the grant.

The deadline to submit:

- Form 1 for training to commence on 31st March 2025 is 31st December 2024.
- Form 2 is 31st January 2025

For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/senior-mental-health-lead-training>

Other local news and events

Young Volunteers Needed for Worcestershire Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge

Worcestershire Libraries are on the lookout for enthusiastic young volunteers, aged 13-24, to embark on an exciting journey this summer.

This will be a fabulous opportunity for your students to gain valuable skills and experience, make new connections, and most importantly, have fun! All volunteers will receive comprehensive training and ongoing support from our dedicated library staff.

Worcestershire Libraries are seeking dedicated volunteers to contribute a minimum of 5 hours of their time over the summer, assisting library and learning staff in delivering this year's Challenge. Last year 116 young volunteers completed an impressive 1,600 cumulative hours. Among them, six volunteers contributed their hours from SRC activities towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award accreditation.

For more information and to sign up visit: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-libraries/read-and-discover/summer-reading-challenge>

[Download Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers Poster 2024](#)

West Mercia OPCC Survey with young adults

Please see below link to a survey from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to disseminate to young people aged 16-24. This survey intends to explore young people's risk and/or involvement of criminal exploitation, specifically young people who have SEND or are NEET.

West Mercia Police are currently conducting a CCE needs assessment, and the results of this survey will be used to shape delivery of local support going forward.

The survey can be accessed at: [Serious Violence Survey \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com)

They have a very tight deadline for this report so would greatly appreciate your support in sharing the survey with the appropriate young people as soon as possible please. **The survey will be closing on Friday 14th June 2024.**


Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Musical Opportunities for Young People in Worcestershire!

Do you know a young person looking to explore musical opportunities?

Connect with Rachel, Furthering Talent Connector for Worcestershire. She is there to help young people (under 18 years old) find musical opportunities and advice in Worcestershire. This free service will assist young people whether they are seeking lessons, workshops, or performance opportunities.

You can get in touch with Rachel via an [online form \(Severn Arts\)](#) or visit their [Furthering Talent website \(Severn Arts\)](#) for more details.



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