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## Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have been having a great week.

We held our fifth and final Annual General Meeting (AGM) this week (Tuesday 24 September). The AGM provided an opportunity to review the progress of the past year ahead of Children's Services moving back to Worcestershire County Council on 1 October 2024. You can watch the AGM on demand via [YouTube](#).

On Thursday 12 September 2024, Dame Rachel de Souza [wrote](#) to all schools and colleges in England asking them to respond to her new statutory data collection. The [survey](#) aims to capture up to date information about children's experiences of their education settings, by asking about support offers to pupils and their families, staff roles and responsibilities, and the characteristics and vulnerabilities of pupils. The Children's Commissioner's powers under section 2F of the Children Act 2004 mean it is compulsory for all schools and colleges to provide the information requested. Please ensure that you complete the survey by Friday 20 December 2024.

In March 2024, our Educational Psychology Service and Public Health launched new [Guidance for Educational Settings following the Suspected or Known Attempted Suicide of a Child or Young Person](#). This guidance is being reviewed and we welcome any feedback or comments that settings have to share. If you've used the guidance, you can share your feedback on the use of Suicide Attempts Guidance via a [short survey](#). If you haven't used the guidance, we really welcome your input too via email at [rts@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rts@worcestershire.gov.uk).

This month we were proud to launch our new Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) for all local authority maintained schools. Delivered by Health Assured - the UK and Ireland's leading wellbeing provider, EAP is a confidential employee benefit designed to help deal with personal and professional problems that could be affecting home or work life, health and general wellbeing through a comprehensive support network that offers expert advice and compassionate guidance 24/7, covering a wide range of issues. If any local authority maintained school staff have any questions about our EAP, please email [wellbeing@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeing@worcestershire.gov.uk).

Wishing you all the best.

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## Latest attendance news and updates

### Monitor your school attendance webinar

It is now a statutory requirement for schools across England to [share attendance data with the Department for Education \(DfE\)](#).

Join DfE from 2pm to 3pm on Tuesday 2 October to learn more about how reports can help manage attendance, latest policy developments and new features.

If you have any questions that are related to this event, please email: [dailyattendance.data@education.gov.uk](mailto:dailyattendance.data@education.gov.uk).

[The webinar will be uploaded to YouTube for those unable to attend on this occasion.](#)

[Download guidance on how to access your school attendance data](#)

## Latest education news and updates

### Role of Virtual Schools with Kinship Care Arrangements

Ahead of Kinship Care Week (7 to 13 October 2024) we wanted to remind settings that the strategic role of Virtual Schools was extended from September 2024 to include all children and young people in kinship care arrangements. We know that children who grow up in kinship care have better outcomes than children who grow up in other types of non-parental care. However, their outcomes fall behind those children with no social worker involvement.

The remit of virtual school heads already included kinship children who are looked-after; who meet the definition of previously looked-after; with a social worker.

The kinship strategy adapted the role of virtual school heads to specifically include championing the attendance, attainment and progress of children in kinship care. Virtual school heads should bring greater focus and visibility to the distinct needs of children in kinship care within their existing non-statutory responsibilities.

The strategic role adaptation does not require direct intervention with kinship children and their carers, but this system-wide approach has the potential to benefit children in all types of kinship placements, including those in informal arrangements. There are activities that the adapted virtual school head strategic role should include:

- raising awareness of the needs and disadvantage of children in different types of kinship care arrangements

This could include ensuring that the unique experiences and different kinds of kinship arrangements are visible in existing training for schools, including for the roles of designated teacher and DSL, and other learning support services such as those for children with SEND. It could also include influencing the education system to have a kinship friendly culture, as well as working with education settings to identify the distinct needs of children in kinship arrangements.

- promoting practice that supports attendance and engagement of kinship children in education

This could include facilitating partnerships between, and within, education settings, local authority children's social care including any designated kinship teams, and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations that work with kinship families.

- promoting practice that improves the educational attainment of children in kinship care

This could include working with education settings to strengthen how they address barriers to educational progress for kinship children.

[Promoting the education of children with a social worker and children in kinship care arrangements: virtual school head role extension \(GOV.UK\)](#)

## Good Practice in Pastoral Care in Education

The Good Practice in Pastoral Care in Education conference is taking place on Friday, 11 October from 10am to 4pm at Worcestershire County Cricket Club, New Road, Worcester WR2 4QQ.

The conference will explore current thinking and ideas about how to deliver effective support for learners. Hear from expert speakers and schools sharing their good practice and prepare for the inclusion revolution with ideas on how effective pastoral care and support can meet the needs of learners.

### Programme

10am	Registration Opens – refreshments
10:00am	Welcome and introduction to the Conference Phil Jones National Chair NAPCE
10:20am	Keynote Speaker 1 Victoria Raynor - <b>Opening Windows to Opportunities. The Purpose of Pastoral Care in Education</b>
10:50am	Keynote Speaker 2 Dr Caron Carter - <b>Children’s Friendships Matter</b>
11:20 am	Break – networking
11:35 am	Keynote Speaker 3 Liz Bates - <b>The Role of the Trusted Adult</b>
12:05 pm	Sharing Good Practice Presentation 1, Raymond Heron, Senior Teacher, St Mary’s Christian Brothers Grammar School - <b>Restorative justice approach to behaviour management</b>
12:35pm	Lunch break – Networking – Lunch provided for delegates
1:05pm	Good Practice Presentation 2, Oribi Davies - <b>Alternative provision to enable young people to remain in mainstream provision</b>
1:35pm	Guest Interview - Charlie Walker NAPCE NEC - <b>Learning about pastoral care and support in schools in Asia and Africa</b>
2:05pm	Good Practice Presentation 3, Jill Robson NAPCE National Secretary - <b>Interactive Pastoral Care</b>
2:35pm	Guest Interview Nic Ponsford, Founder and CEO of Global Equality Collective - <b>Helping Schools Build Positive Inclusive Cultures</b>
3:10pm	Good Practice Presentation 4, Ellie Costello - <b>Working with families to promote good attendance and to support young people in their education</b>
3:40 pm	Close by Phil Jones, NAPCE National Chair

For more information please visit: [www.NAPCE.org.uk](http://www.NAPCE.org.uk). If you have any questions about the event, please contact NAPCE at [admin@napce.org.uk](mailto:admin@napce.org.uk).

Tickets available until 11am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September and can be booked directly via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Special Offers:

- Half-price tickets for students on Eventbrite with the voucher code **studentNAPCE2024**.
- Afternoon tickets at half price.
- ‘Two for one’ ticket so you can bring a colleague at no extra cost

## Chawson 1st School receive Centre of Excellence award for Oracy

A huge congratulation to Chawson 1st School who have received the prestigious Oracy Centre of Excellence award from the national oracy charity, Voice 21, for its work developing students' speaking and listening skills.

Voice 21 work with more than 1,000 schools nationally, and Chawson 1st School was one of only eleven to have their oracy achievements recognised in the most recent round of applications.

The Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence award certifies and celebrates schools who are changing the way they educate by supporting students to find their voice - and as a result are transforming their learning and life chances. To secure its recognition, Chawson 1st School had to demonstrate the quality of oracy education being provided across five areas of school life: their school's vision, culture, curriculum, learning and impact on students.

As a Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence, Chawson 1st School will support other schools in the community and across the country, showcasing how oracy teaching can impact their students' future education and employment opportunities.

In its 2021 report '[Speak for Change](#)', the Oracy All-Party Parliamentary Group highlighted the importance of oracy education to improve academic performance, underpin literacy and vocabulary, support wellbeing and confidence, and enable young people to access employment and thrive in life beyond school.

## Latest SEND news and updates

### CHOICES - Transition into Higher Education (SEND)

The Skills and Investment Team have created an informative magazine for those learners with EHC Plans who aspire to go to University. The magazine explains what steps to take, and how to access support. There is also a case study from one young person who explains their journey. Please take a look and distribute to young people and their families as appropriate.

#### [CHOICES - Transition into Higher Education \(SEND\)](#)

It sits with our other CHOICES magazines on our website, which cover a range of information to support young people in planning for their next steps:

[Choices careers and advice magazines and booklets | Worcestershire County Council](#)

### Access SEND CPD resources from the Universal SEND Services programme

The Department for Education's [Universal SEND Services programme](#) can help you to identify and meet the needs of children with SEND in your school or further education setting earlier and more effectively, helping you to deliver an even more inclusive mainstream system and improved preparation for adulthood.

A number of exciting SEND CPD opportunities are available, including a series of 19 [online SEND CPD units](#) exploring some of the most commonly observed barriers to learning regardless of age, label or area of need.

Unit topics include behaviour, speech, language and communication needs, and sensory differences. Each unit takes under an hour to complete and provides clear guidance on adaptations to help meet the needs of all learners. There is no need to study the units in order, and each can be completed across a number of sessions.

## Latest health and wellbeing news and updates

### WCC Employee Flu Vaccination Programme

**We are pleased to confirm our WCC Employee Flu Vaccination Programme is now accessible to all school employees including those working in maintained schools and academies.**

We want to ensure you have access to a free flu vaccine to support your health and wellbeing.

#### **NHS – Free Flu Vaccination**

If you are eligible for a [free flu vaccination](#) via the NHS, please contact your GP or a pharmacy offering the service and ensure you receive your vaccination.

If you are not eligible for a flu vaccination via the NHS, please use our employee route and book a slot. We want to ensure you have had a vaccination.

#### **Access to local community pharmacies from an approved list**

You can [call one of our participating local community pharmacies](#) and book an appointment directly with them.

You will need your: Date of birth, Personal Reference (Payroll) Number (if a WCC/WCF employee) and GP Details. You will need identification when you attend which shows who you work for, this could be an ID Badge or a Payslip (electronic).

If you have any questions, please speak to your line manager who can assist in the first instance. If you still have a problem, please email [HRAdvice&Guidance@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:HRAdvice&Guidance@worcestershire.gov.uk)



## Lumi Nova: New free App to support children (7-12) with anxiety, fears and worries

Please share with SENCOs, DSLs, pastoral leads and classroom teachers.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS have partnered with BFB Labs to offer children and young people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire free access to Lumi Nova **from 1 October 2024**.

**Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage** is a digital therapeutic mobile game supporting children with fears, worries and anxiety. Designed for children aged 7-12 years, Lumi Nova helps children to reflect on their feelings, build resilience, and learn lifelong skills to self-manage their worries in a fun intergalactic adventure. Key features:

- Recommended by NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)
- Lumi Nova offers a Gold Standard of Care by facilitating graded exposures (the active ingredient of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) with psychoeducation
- Parent/guardian supported intervention
- Built in safeguarding & accessibility features

Watch this short-animated video to learn more: [Lumi Nova Introduction Video](#)

Please join a live Lumi Nova Discovery (45 minute webinar) for professionals to learn more about Lumi Nova: [Lumi Nova Discovery Registration](#) - multiple dates available (1, 9, 17, 22 October).

For instant access, please signpost parents who wish to support their child to use Lumi Nova. Sign up from 1 October via: [luminova.app/handw](https://luminova.app/handw).

For more information, please visit the [Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage](#) website or email [luminova@bfb-labs.com](mailto:luminova@bfb-labs.com).

## Public Health Grants Boost Young People's Wellbeing

Public Health Innovation Grants for schools and youth organisations have made a real difference to the health and wellbeing of young people since the launch of the programme in Summer 2023.

Supported by Worcestershire Public Health and West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, small grants allow schools, colleges, and youth groups to make their ideas for health improvement a reality, focusing on young people's mental health and crime prevention.

With just over 170 awards to date, grants have enabled everything from improved outdoor play areas, gardening projects, cycling initiatives, first aid training, yoga sessions, and wellbeing through arts participation. Importantly, engaging young people in positive activity outside of the classroom.

To receive a grant, applicants are asked to demonstrate how their project or initiative will benefit young people's health and wellbeing and how the impact will last beyond the grant.

Feedback has been positive from both staff and parents. Many have said that they appreciate the approach to supporting local 'home grown' ideas from within the school community and how they value the simplicity of the application and whole process.

Watch this [short video](#) to hear how these grants have supported young people's wellbeing in schools to date. To find out more, please visit the [Public Health Innovation Grants for Educational Settings web page](#).

## Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

### Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

#### **Appropriate Body - Reminder**

It is a statutory requirement that ECTs are registered with an Appropriate Body for their induction and with the DfE to access their Early Career Framework. [Find out more here](#).

This registration process needs to be completed as soon as possible. The deadline is 16 October 2024. After this date, ECTs will not be able to be registered for a September start date, regardless of their employment start date.

#### **Early Career Framework - Reminder**

Remember that you will need to register ECTs for both Early Career Framework and Appropriate Body and there are two separate points of registration. For more details regarding this process, please look at their website [here](#).

#### **NPQs**

They have places available on the [School Leader Programme Level 5 Apprenticeship with NPQSL](#) as well as the [NPQ for Executive Leadership](#) – apply by the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024!

They are also offering schools a [Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship Level 3 with SEND](#) – apply by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

#### **TA Apprenticeship Level 3 with SEND**

This is funded by the apprenticeship levy (Best Practice Network have a team of people who can help schools access this funding if you are not set up already).

With a focus on SEND, this programme includes content on speech and language communication needs, SEMH and ASD.

The cohort will start in February 2025 and the deadline for applications is **22 December 2024**.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/Teaching-Assistant-Apprenticeship-Level-3-send>

Apply here (select Tudor Grange TSH): <https://web.bestpracticenet.co.uk/ta-l3-partnerships>

## 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.

Applications for the 25-26 cohort will open on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for next academic year. Please use the link below to book onto these.

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh)

### Year 1 ECT Events:

Conference 1 – October 2024  
Conference 2 – January 2025  
Clinic 1 – 14th November 2024  
Clinic 2 – 6th March 2025  
Clinic 3 – 12th June 2025

### Year 2 ECT Events:

Conference 3 – November 2024  
Clinic 4 – 17th October 2024  
Clinic 5 – 20th March 2025  
Clinic 6 – 19th June 2025

### ECT Mentor Events:

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors – June / July 2025  
Clinic 1 for Year 1 Mentors – 6th February 2025  
Clinic 2 for Year 2 Mentors – 7th November 2024

### AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2024-25 cohort are now open. Please follow the link below for guidance on how to register your ECTs with Prince Henry's TSH.

<https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/registering-your-ect/>

If schools are unsure then please contact Andy Duffy, the Teaching School Hub Director, at [ad@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:ad@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk).

## Haybridge Teaching School Hub

The Haybridge Teaching School Hub works with a number of specialist provisions to bring a wide range of CPD sessions to our colleagues. All of the sessions below are free to attend, simply click the links for more information and to sign up.

### CPD events coming up this term

#### SEND online events – 4pm to 5pm

October 7<sup>th</sup> - Moderate Learning Difficulties in the classroom

October 21<sup>st</sup> – Using AI to support Adaptive Practice

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Support Surgery – Developing a Relational Policy

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Using child development stages for Early Identification of Needs

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Approaches to De-escalation

November 28<sup>th</sup> – An introduction to Phonics for SEN

[View a collection of their SEND events on Eventbrite](#)

### Subject Network Events – Secondary Maths Network

The Secondary Maths Subject Network community events this year will all be based around the theme of Problem Solving and gives maths leads the chance to come together to explore and exchange new ideas.

#### Problem Solving: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 2.30pm to 4.30pm

A face-to-face event at Ridgewood High School looking at Problem Solving within the subject.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1023402192507?aff=oddtcreator>

#### Problem Solving with guest speaker: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025, 3.30pm to 5pm

Online Teams event with a guest speaker from Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1023731958847?aff=oddtcreator>

### Inclusive Attendance – with Wayne Harris

Since September 2023, Wayne Harris has spearheaded a ground-breaking Professional Development programme designed to empower schools to foster a culture of shared responsibility for attendance. The Inclusive Attendance programme is the only accredited attendance initiative in the United Kingdom, with over 800 schools and thousands of staff benefiting from its innovative approach.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - Empowering Schools to Build an Inclusive Attendance Culture

This full-day event is for those colleagues who have not yet attended one of Wayne's fantastic conferences and look after whole school attendance in both Primary and Secondary schools.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1028784541257?aff=oddtcreator>

#### 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Empowering Schools to Build an Inclusive Attendance Culture (follow-up session, half-day)

This session will give important updates regarding previous Inclusive Attendance events and is aimed at colleagues who have already been to one of Wayne's conferences. All previous participants are invited to attend.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/htsh-cpd-building-an-inclusive-attendance-culture-follow-up-session-tickets-1028784541257>

## Rivers Teaching Alliance

### ECT Programme

Rivers Teaching Alliance are delighted to let you know that they are now going into their 2<sup>nd</sup> year as an Associate College for the National Institute of Teaching. [Home – The National Institute of Teaching \(niot.org.uk\)](https://www.niot.org.uk)

- This means that 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 some of what they see as the advantages of registering your ECT with Rivers and then the process to follow should you wish to do this.
- Please do contact them if you have any questions or would like a phone conversation to discuss. ([teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk](mailto:teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk)) 01905 950700

### Why should I choose to use Rivers?

For last year's ECT programme they have 100% satisfaction rates from their Mentors and ECTs and much of the feedback highlighted their clear communication and coming out to schools to support with any issues. Your ECTs will be part of a community who support each other at sessions and in between. They will provide full support for signing up via the DfE. The materials used for the sessions are constantly refined according to feedback and there is flexibility for them to adapt to the individual ECTs in the room and their contexts.

Go to [Manage training for early career teachers \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.education.gov.uk)

You will need the following information:

- ECT name, TRN and email address
- ECF mentor name, TRN and email address
- ECF Induction tutor name, TRN and email address

Choose the following:

- **Option 1:** Provider led programme
- **Appropriate Body:** Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub
- **Lead Provider:** National Institute of Teaching
- **Delivery Partner:** Rivers Teaching Alliance

They will then pass on your details to Prince Henry's so that you don't need to register with them separately.

### **NPQ update**

They have partnered with The National Institute of Teaching to offer the new fully funded SENCO qualification from Autumn 2024. They feel very privileged to have been involved in writing the materials for this qualification alongside local and national SEN specialists.

As with all of their NPOs at Rivers, the face to face sessions will be led by current, specialist practitioners with relevant classroom and leadership experience. There are a limited of number of funded places available nationally. Please apply via: [NPQ For SENCOs \(niot.org.uk\)](https://niot.org.uk)

### **NPQ SENCO (applications close on 13th October)**

- *The NPQ for SENCOs is mandatory for all practising and aspiring SENCOs\*. They will need to complete this qualification within their first three years in the role.*
- *\*Please note that SENCOs who have already obtained the NASENCO qualification do not need to complete the NPQ for SENCOs, as well as SENCOs appointed before 1 September 2009.*

### **NPQ Leading Primary Mathematics (applications close on 13<sup>th</sup> October)**

This is a brand new NPQ focused on leading maths in primary schools which has been designed to complement the work of the maths hubs and teaching for mastery.

At Rivers, they are proud to have been part of the development of the materials and design of the programme. Their first cohort are well into their studies and have reported how useful it is and how they are able to implement the materials in their schools. They have a limited number of fully funded places left on this course. Please apply via: [NPQ in Leading Primary Maths \(niot.org.uk\)](https://niot.org.uk)

Other NPQs will be open for applications for a Spring start soon.

### **NATRE Local Primary RE Leaders' network**

They are proud to host the NATRE RE leaders' network for Worcestershire. This is open to all types of schools and colleagues interested in developing their leadership skills as well as keeping up to date with current developments in RE.

The meetings are held between 4pm and 5pm at Rivers Teaching Alliance, based at St Clement's Primary School, Henwick Rd, WR2 5NS.

They look forward to welcoming you, whether you have been before or not. Please email [teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk](mailto:teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk) if you would like further information or just turn up on the day.

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Other upcoming courses:

- EYFS The Power of Play- skills for life- 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- \* **NEW**\* Engaging in, Supporting and Extending Learning through Play- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024- Most suitable for teaching assistants and support staff in EYFS
- SEND in EYFS- 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024
  
- First Aid at Work
- Safer Recruitment
- Paediatric First Aid
- Positive Handling
- Fire Marshal

Further details: [Professional Development Opportunities | The Rivers CofE Multi Academy Trust \(secure-primariesite.net\)](https://secure-primariesite.net)



## Latest government news and updates

### Get support to take climate and nature action

By the end of 2025, all education settings will be expected to have nominated a [sustainability lead and developed a climate action plan](#). As part of [Climate and Nature Action in Education](#), get free help to develop your plan by:

- [getting to know your outdoor space](#) with the [National Education Nature Park](#)
- setting yourself up for climate action planning success with [Sustainability Support for Education](#)
- inviting a volunteer [Climate Ambassador](#) to inspire your action planning
- booking an appointment with a [Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisor](#) to audit school sustainability and develop a climate action plan

Help us inspire others by sharing your action with your communities and colleagues using our free [Climate and Nature Action in Education graphics](#).

### Ofsted publishes updates to school inspection handbooks

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) has today (16 September) published [updates to its state-funded school inspection handbooks as well as its deferral, pausing and gathering additional evidence policy](#), ahead of routine school inspections returning on 23 September.

From this term, state-funded schools will not receive an overall effectiveness grade during graded inspections, following the [decision by the Department for Education](#). This change has been reflected in the handbooks. The handbooks have also been updated to reflect the previously announced changes to ungraded inspections, designed to reduce the burden on school leaders and allow more time and flexibility for inspectors to get to know the school, including its context and priorities.

Further changes include an update to how Ofsted notify schools of inspections. Notifications for graded and ungraded inspections will now be carried out only on the Monday mornings of the week Ofsted will inspect the school. Other updates include a change to allow schools which have issues with safeguarding, but there are no other concerns, to remedy the issues before the report is published.

[Download Ofsted guidance on inspecting maintained schools and academies in England under the education inspection framework](#)

### Plan technology for your school

Find out how your school can plan and use digital technology better to improve pupils' outcomes, save money and reduce workload.

[Download plan technology for your school guidance \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Latest funding and grants news

### Funding to Help UK Schools Run CREST Awards

Grants are available for UK schools in challenging circumstances to run CREST Awards with students (aged 3 to 19 years) who are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

CREST Awards aim to inspire children and young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers. It is the British Science Association's (BSA) flagship education programme for student-led project work in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Once students complete CREST projects, they are recognised with a CREST Award certificate from the BSA.

A grant of £350 is available for schools to run CREST awards which can be spent on materials, equipment, a field trip, teacher CPD, etc. In addition, awardees will also receive up to £350 CREST Awards for free.

The deadline for applications is 15 October 2024.

[Engage Funding — CREST Awards](#)

### Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund Opens for Applications

This annual funding programme offers grants for projects that focus on how arts-based approaches can build equity in schools so that pupils who experience systemic inequity can access and make progress in their learning. Grants of up to £165,000 per application are available for projects that last for two academic years.

The deadline for stage one applications is 13 November 2024.

[Teacher Development Fund | Paul Hamlyn Foundation \(phf.org.uk\)](#)

### Funding for UK Schools to Organise Events During British Science Week 2025

British Science Week (BSW) is an annual programme of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) events and activities. British Science Week is entering its third decade in 2025, taking place 7-16 March, and the theme to mark the start of this new era is 'Change and adapt'!

This year the grants have been increased from £300 to £400. The funding is intended for schools in challenging circumstances to take part in British Science Week, widening access to events and activities and therefore helping the learning and development of children through science and engineering-based activities.

The deadline for applications is 5 November 2024.

[Applications for British Science Week 2025 grants are open! - British Science Week](#)

## Latest training news and conferences

### Leaders of Learning SLA - Don't Miss out!

The Leaders of Learning is a bespoke package that is available for each Head / Deputy Head or Senior Lead of each school to purchase and entitles them to access three "Leaders of Learning" workshops per year.

Each workshop will be focused around a topic that the School Improvement team know is key in education, a 'quick win' to help reduce workload, updates on inspection patterns, a focus on a piece of research or project that might be of interest and that all important time to speak to other leaders in schools across the county to share experiences.

In addition, attendees will receive a newsletter from each Leaders of Learning workshop which will feature updates, advice and guidance on the latest research and projects being worked on in Worcestershire and across the country, receiving a total of three for the academic year.

To access Leaders of Learning you will need to purchase the following SLA (Leaders of Learning) via eStore: <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/TradedServices/>.

Once logged onto your account, click on Services & Products, select purchasing year 24/25, click on Quality of Education & Improvements, you will now see the Leaders of Learning SLA listed.

**Cost of SLA: £120.00pp +VAT for all 3 sessions.**

#### **Additional Information:**

The School Improvement Team are also planning several masterclasses for the year, by purchasing the Leaders of Learning SLA, the delegate linked to the purchased SLA, will receive a discount for one of these Masterclasses . Further details will be provided once organised.

## Other local news and events

### Free Girls Rugby Taster Sessions

Bromsgrove RFC are calling all girls aged 10-12 years old to come along and give rugby a try at their free girls rugby taster sessions.

The sessions take place every Sunday at Bromsgrove RFC, B60 3DH.

For more information please download their [Girls Rugby Taster Sessions Flyer](#) or contact Phil Cotton on 07855 448583 or email [Philc\\_72@hotmail.com](mailto:Philc_72@hotmail.com).

### Worcestershire Music Education Hub

Severn Arts is the lead for Worcestershire's Music Education Hub (WMEH), providing music tuition and music education in formal education settings, offering music opportunities for all children and young people in the county. Their work supports schools and teachers to work to the objectives outlined in the [National Plan for Music Education](#) and the principles outlined in the [Durham Commission's report](#) on Creativity in Education.

[Worcestershire Music Education Hub](#) is funded by the Department for Education, administered by [Arts Council England](#).

Find out more below about Severn Arts different music offers for schools, designed to encourage more children to play instruments and have fun with music.

[Music in school | Severn Arts](#)

Severn Arts are still offering Free instrument hire for Children Looked After or Previously Looked After

[Free instrument hire | Severn Arts](#)

## Kick off the new academic year with Study Happy!

Libraries in Worcestershire are the perfect place for school, college, and university students to meet, collaborate, and study as well as look after their wellbeing.

Study Happy, in partnership with the University of Worcester provides free access to study spaces, computers, Wi-Fi, and valuable academic resources across libraries in the county and offers research, referencing, and information gathering help from the University of Worcester.

Extra emphasis has been put on student wellbeing and making study time enjoyable. Worcestershire Libraries host regular events designed to de-stress and support healthy studying. These include PAT therapy dog sessions, Mindful Colouring, Lego building, and fruit snacks.

Study Happy is open to anyone studying for exams across the county and is completely free of charge. For more information visit the dedicated [Study Happy pages](#) on the Worcestershire County Council website.

## Save the Date: The Power of Libraries Conference 2024 for Primary Schools

**7 Nov 2024, 9.30am to 3.30pm at The Hive, Worcester**

Worcestershire County Council Library Service are excited to invite you to their inaugural Power of Libraries Conference, showcasing how libraries play a vital role in supporting children's literacy in primary schools.

This event will feature nationally renowned keynote speakers and respected experts, who will expand on the importance of reading for pleasure and providing the right resources at the right time, highlighting the vital role public and school libraries hold in supporting children's education. You'll gain practical tools and essential knowledge to bring back to your school or setting.

Early Bird tickets are available to book now via:

[e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/LibraryEvents/EventDetails.aspx?id=6209](https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/LibraryEvents/EventDetails.aspx?id=6209)



**Sarah Wilkins**

Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

