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Our Ref: CV188

Date: 11th October 2024

Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have been having a good week.

Following the recent announcement from the Government regarding the extension of the Household Support Fund to March 2025, we can now confirm that supermarket vouchers will be available to issue to eligible families for all school holidays up until the end of the financial year. Therefore, the Edenred Portal will be available to issue vouchers for the October Half Term Holiday 2024. Please read the article on page 5 for details regarding portal opening and closing dates.

The Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, is hosting a live online event on Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 4pm. The session will be a chance to hear about their reflections on the government's first 100 days in office and discuss upcoming priorities. The Secretary of State also wants to hear from you and will answer questions from the live chat. [Register for the session](#).

Last month the Chancellor [announced](#) a breakfast club pilot from April 2025. The [scheme](#) will invite up to 750 state funded schools with primary aged-pupils to become early adopters and begin the roll out. Schools that wish to find out more about becoming an early adopter can [sign up](#) to be notified as further information becomes available. If you can let me if you are going to do this, we would appreciate this.

Yesterday (10 October) was World Mental Health Awareness Day and the theme was 'It is time to prioritise mental health in the workplace'. [Mental Health UK](#) have provided a [selection of resources](#) - from posters on prioritising your mental health, to guides for having conversations about burnout at work, and more. A reminder that schools and colleges can still apply for a [grant to train a senior mental health lead](#). This training helps school and college leaders promote and support the mental health and wellbeing of their pupils, learners and staff. Reserve your grant before 31 December 2024. There are also a [range of courses](#) available for your mental health lead, with start dates up to the end of spring term.

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest attendance news and updates

Y7 Attendance Code Recommendations

Following the Attendance Forum with schools in September and queries received directly by Education Engagement, we have put together the following questions to ask around when to use the Y7 code as we have found that the guidance and examples provided by the DFE has meant that Y7 can overlap with other attendance and absence codes. Ultimately the decision on which attendance or absence code to use for a session is a school's but we hope the below questions will mean schools can make a decision on the most appropriate code to support or describe a child's situation.

- Are the circumstances unavoidable (there is nothing a child or family can do to prevent it)?
- Are these unique or exceptionally rare circumstances?
- Is this a temporary issue?
- Have you made sure there is not another code that is more appropriate?

If you can answer yes to all (or the majority of) the above then it is likely that Y7 is the most appropriate code to use and you as a school can justify its use to the LA, DFE or Ofsted.

If you have any specific cases you wish to discuss please ring the attendance helpline - 01905 844440

Flexi-Schooling Guidance

Flexi-Schooling is an arrangement between parent and school where children of compulsory school age are on roll at a school but where the provision is split between attendance at school and home education arranged by the parents or carers. The [pupil attendance and welfare guidance](#) provides some more detail and recommendations for schools, parents and carers.

Latest education news and updates

Edenred Portal access will be available for the October half term

During the October Half Term Holiday, eligible students will receive free school meals through the voucher system provided by Edenred. Edenred is the council's contracted provider to issue free school meal vouchers for the school holidays, and no other platforms are authorised to issue them.

All vouchers issued during this period will have a validity period of one month from the date of delivery. Please advise parents/carers to redeem vouchers as soon as possible, the supermarket eGift card will have a longer expiry date in accordance with their chosen supermarket T&Cs, see page 6 of [Parent Carer FAQs](#)

Schools are instructed to issue vouchers only for the corresponding holiday period.

Schools will have access to the Edenred portal from **Monday 14 October 2024** until **Friday 8 November 2024**. This will allow a window for placing orders for the holiday.

Vouchers cannot exceed **£15** per eligible FSM pupil for the whole period (£15 per week).

Vouchers are **not available** for nursery age children or 6th form students (vouchers to be issued to years reception to year 11, providing the child is aged 4 and above after 31 Aug 24), and vouchers must not be ordered to replace term time meals.

You must use the WCC ordering site with your existing WCC account (22463), the login page can be accessed here: [Edenred Online Ordering](#)

Please ensure you have the correct recipient email address and that parent/carers are notified they will be in receipt of a voucher to ensure they are expecting it and do not leave vouchers to expire.

To help monitor the vouchers issued under this scheme please can you ensure you include the URN or UKPRN for the school when placing the order.

If a voucher has expired, the voucher cannot be re-issued by the school, for any queries regarding the re-issuing of vouchers please contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk

It is important to remind schools that as eligibility is linked to FSM status there maybe families who although have FSM status their circumstances have changed. This is a finite pot of government funding and with the government protection on FSM status, regardless of circumstance change, there are families that may no longer require the vouchers. Please ensure that vouchers are issued to those children and families who require the support and who are receiving FSM.

Below are lots of helpful links and guides to answer common questions and issues:

- Forgotten password – please reset your password using [password reset](#)
- Forgotten email address – contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk and we will advise of the email address your account is set up with.

- Edenred [user guide](#) – including supermarket details and how to order.
- Parent/carer FAQ's can be found here: [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- Order “pending” – you will need to agree to the terms and conditions and confirm your order for it to be processed.
- Order “held” – we will ensure any held orders are released.
- “Ordering window is closed” – please check you are logged into the correct portal. The DfE portal is closed, but the WCC portal is open.
- Redeem eCodes – Visit the Edenred [redeem eCodes](#) webpage. Please note, we are unable to control which supermarkets you can redeem vouchers at.
- eGift card queries – have not received ordered e-gift card. Please advise parent/carer to seek assistance in parent/carer guide [Parent Carer FAQs](#) on page 6.

The [user guide](#) will answer many of your common questions and should be your first point of call for any queries. If after reading the user guide and links, you still need assistance then please contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk where we will be happy to help you. Please be aware however that you will not receive an instant response as this inbox is one of many that are manned by our team. The fastest way therefore to resolve your issues will always be to read the guides and links in the majority of cases.

[Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#) at the County Council is available to signpost families to other local sources of support.

For support around the cost of living please signpost parents/carers to our [Cost of living support](#) webpage.

Social Media Experience Measure

Would your school like to test a new Social Media Experience Measure? The [#So.Me team](#) at the University of Manchester are looking for up to 30 schools to working with them in January – March 2025 to test a new measure of social media experience. This will involve pupils in Y7-Y10 completing the self-report questionnaire during lesson time (e.g. RSHE), and is a great opportunity to bring the topic of social media into scheduled activities around Safer Internet day (11 Feb) or Children’s Mental Health Week (3-9 Feb).

Schools who take part will receive:

- Supply teacher pay for half-day to cover staff time
- Amazon voucher for lead teacher
- Activity pack on social media and mental health to use with pupils during Safer Internet day or Mental Health Week
- A report detailing what we have learnt overall including a bespoke section detailing learning from pupils in your own school (assuming at least 10 participate).
- Follow-up webinar on most salient social media experiences, based on the data, and how to support these in your school

If you think your school would be interested in taking part, please [complete the EOI here](#).

Free Ofsted Briefing with Senior HMI Ann Pritchard

We are delighted to offer a free briefing session with Ann Pritchard Senior HMI. Ann has offered to spend some time with us outlining the changes to inspection and answering any questions we might have. The session will be virtual from 3:30pm to 5pm on Tuesday 15th October.

Please book your place via [CPD](#) online using course code 10524 and 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@worcestershire.gov.uk.

The risks and rewards of AI within schools Seminar

The School Improvement Team are releasing a collection of three Seminars over this academic year.

The First Seminar is 'The risks and rewards of AI within schools'- Steve Taylor (CEO of Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust) taking place on 22 October 2024, 3pm to 4.30pm, virtually delivered

Providing leaders within schools the opportunity to gain an insight into the current developments of AI in schools focusing on:

- The positives of AI
- The risks of AI
- Strategies for engaging with staff

Steve is the CEO of Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust in Birmingham and has been in post since January 2016. Steve has a strong leadership background in education and, as well as being an NLE, has worked at a national level on a number of initiatives as well as at an international level. Steve and the Robin Hood MAT team are interested in open, transparent leadership and collaboration within the education sector and have committed to sharing EVERYTHING the MAT does for others to use as a base to build from.

Cost: £40pp +VAT

If your school has purchased the Leaders of Learning SLA for 2024/25 then your school can attend all 3 seminars for £100 +VAT (this does not need to be the same delegate for each seminar and the other two are in the process of being planned).

Date: 22 October 2024, 3pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery course code: 10516

Please book your place via [CPD](#) online 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@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Level 6 Qualifications in Early Years

The DfE policy states that only those with Qualified Teacher Status, Early Years Teacher Status and Early Years Professional Status can operate in Level 6 staff: child ratio as set out in the EYFS and in paragraph 1.16 of the [Early years qualification requirements and standards \(January 2024\)](#) document.

The policy on Level 6 qualifications (e.g. bachelor's degrees) which unlock the Level 3 staff: child ratios is set out in paragraph 1.15 of the [Early years qualification requirements and standards \(January 2024\)](#) document, which states that "For level 6 qualifications started on or after 1 September 2014 to be full and relevant, therefore allowing holders to be included in the staff: child ratios at level 3, they must:

- be fully consistent with the QAA subject benchmark statement for Early Childhood Studies;
- include an element of assessed practice in an early years setting.

Due to the variety of qualifications offered, the DfE does not currently list all individual degrees and honours degrees on [the Early Years Qualifications List \(EYQL\)](#). Qualifications which meet the above mentioned two requirements are considered full and relevant for working within the staff: child ratios at Level 3.

The Department recently consulted on providing clarity on the qualifications needed to operate in Level 6 staff: child ratios. The majority of respondents were in favour of this change, however the department is taking some time to consider the routes available to gain early years teacher status and how these requirements can be communicated more clearly to the sector.

Further information

If you would like to check whether a specific qualification is full and relevant for working within an early years setting in England, please contact [UK ECCTIS](#), who from September 2022, carry out on behalf of the Department for Education all assessments of domestic and overseas early years qualifications. ECCTIS will assess whether a qualification is full and relevant to count towards the staff: child ratios in England.

Please may we have your help and support in getting this free training filled with Worcestershire-based Early Childhood Practitioners and reception and year 1 teachers? This training has been funded by Inclusive Communities, Redditch and we're keen to support as many educators as possible.

Nurturing the Developing Nervous System

Advanced Training for Early Childhood Educators

Empower your practice with insights from the latest neuroscience and child development research! Join us for a transformative training that bridges theory and practice, offering valuable strategies for supporting young minds and bodies.

Date: Choose from 12 October, 9, 16 November or 7 December

Time: 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Bradley Green Village Hall, Redditch

What You'll Gain:

- Understand early nervous system development
- Discover new ways to support children's emotional well-being
- Practice simple yoga and mindfulness techniques for co-regulation

Key Features:

- Led by a clinical psychologist and certified yoga instructor
- Evidence-based interventions
- Practical, hands-on learning that you can use right away
- Food and refreshments provided

Cost: FREE (Funded by Inclusive Communities and Nurture Families)

Limited places available. [Book your place today!](#)

Book your place via: <https://nurturefamilies.org.uk/resources-for-professionals/events-for-professionals/nurturing-the-developing-nervous-system>

Latest SEND news and updates

Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association Tutor Vacancies

Are you passionate about teaching children with dyslexia?

Would you like to support and tutor at a wonderful, child-friendly teaching workshop?

If you are an experienced teacher or have a background in education and an interest in training as a dyslexia specialist, Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association would like to hear from you. They have vacancies for [Primary and Secondary Specialist Tutors for their Worcester Workshop](#) which takes place in the Woodland Room at Worcester Woods Country Park on term-time Saturday mornings from 9am to 12:30pm.

There is also a vacancy for a [Senior Tutor at Bromsgrove Workshop](#) which takes place Fridays after school during term-time between 4:30pm to 6:45pm. As Senior Tutor you would oversee a specialist team of tutors and work alongside them to provide high quality and professional tuition for pupils of school-age who are experiencing difficulties with literacy or numeracy and to support study skills.

For more information or to apply contact Katrina Kear-Wood: president@hwda.org.uk

AWM Autism Workshops

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire kindly request you share the following details about two new programmes of workshops from Autism West Midlands with colleagues, parents/carers and young people as appropriate.

Autism Parent/Carer Webinars will start on 23rd October, be delivered in the day 10am to 12pm, then run weekly until 11th December. These will be delivered via webinar Ninja rather than MS Teams as this allows people to access a recorded version of the webinar for 2 weeks after delivery, so this helps parents/carers who may be working or undertaking caring roles to access it at a more convenient time for them.

Teens Autism Confident Online Workshops will start 4th November and will be delivered in the evenings. This programme is open to young people without a diagnosis who identify as autistic, as well as those who have a diagnosis.

Please note places need to be booked in advance. They will also be re-running the courses in Spring. They are also in the process of planning workshops around ADHD.

[Download Autism Parent/Carer Webinars Flyer](#)

[Download Teen Autism Confident Online Workshops Flyer](#)

Latest health and wellbeing news and updates

Lumi Nova App now live

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

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.

Lumi Nova is now accessible to families by visiting <https://luminova.app/handw>

Spread the Word: Check out the [Lumi Nova Resource Kit](#) for resources to support you to share Lumi Nova with other professionals and families. Resources include:

- Intro emails and information sheet for parents
- Intro emails for your team and colleagues (incl. an invitation to a Lumi Nova Discovery Webinar)
- Social media and website assets
- Workshop for young people

Stay connected: Subscribe to the Lumi Nova Newsletter and follow them on social media for new resources and updates that you can share with your community.

- [Lumi Nova Newsletter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

If you would like to order posters/leaflets or have any questions, please reach out to the Lumi Nova team at luminova@bfb-labs.com

Winter infections in children

Colds, sickness bugs and other infections are common in winter, especially in children and young people. Children are particularly vulnerable, as their hygiene habits may not always be ideal, and they are often with lots of other children at school. Ensuring good infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and preventative measures are important to reduce the risk of infections spreading.

With this in mind, Worcestershire County Council Public Health Team have developed an information pack which has been produced to provide education and early years settings advice, information and resources about infectious diseases and actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of transmission.

[Download Winter Infections in Children Information Pack 2024/25](#)

Norovirus

Norovirus which causes diarrhoea and vomiting is often more common in winter months and cases in schools are now starting to be reported.

When someone experiences diarrhoea and/or vomiting they should stay off school or work until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped and they are well enough to return. More information is available in the following link: [Diarrhoea and vomiting](#)

Other steps to follow include:

- Reinforcing good hygiene practices such as regular hand washing and cleaning. Alcohol gels are not always effective against Norovirus.
- Ensuring occupied spaces are well-ventilated and let fresh air in.
- Cleaning hard / plastic toys with water and washing up liquid and store them when dry.
- Maintaining robust cleaning practices.
- Considering communications to raise awareness among parents and carers of circulating winter infections and reinforce key messages around symptoms and hand hygiene measures.

When a child who falls ill with diarrhoea and/or vomiting during the day, ensure they are isolated with appropriate supervision until their parent/guardian can collect them. A suitable room with hand washing facilities, PPE if needed (link to PPE guidance [here](#)) should be used. Appropriately trained staff and plans should also be in place for transporting children home who would usually use school bus or public transport. The isolation room and any area where the child has been unwell should be thoroughly cleaned after use.

Please refer to the [Winter Infectious Diseases Information Pack for Education Settings 2024/25](#) for full details of what to do if there are cases of diarrhoea and vomiting within your setting.

School Aged Immunisations during 2024/25

Vaccinations are the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves and children against ill health. They reduce the likelihood of outbreaks in schools and protect children, which in turn reduces pupil and staff absenteeism rates.

The UK's childhood vaccination programme prevents around 5,000 deaths, and more than 100,000 hospital admissions, each year in England. Vaccinations have ensured the UK has been declared free of diseases such as polio, with others, like diphtheria, almost fully controlled. However, in recent years we have seen a trend of lower vaccine uptake, and this has been exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Schools have a vital role to play to support the routine immunisation programme.

Delivering the influenza and adolescent immunisation programmes through schools makes it more accessible to pupils, ensures timely protection against vaccine preventable diseases, reduces inequality and results in higher uptake levels.

'Vaccinations UK' deliver immunisations across schools in Worcestershire. Success of immunisation programmes are driven by a close working relationship between the school, School Nurses and Vaccination UK. The offer of vaccinations in school also provides an opportunity to check that children are up to date with all their routine immunisations.

If you have any queries regarding immunisations offered in schools Vaccination UK can be contacted on 01527 390030 or via the website www.schoolvaccination.uk.

Vaccination campaign for Higher Education and University Students

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is reminding all higher education and university students – freshers and returning students – to make sure they are up to date with their free NHS childhood and adolescent vaccines against meningitis, measles and HPV ahead of starting the new academic year.

With lots of people newly coming together in confined environments and close mixing, universities and higher education can be hot spots for COVID-19, flu, measles, mumps and meningococcal disease as they present the perfect opportunity for infection to spread.

Meningitis and septicaemia can both be fatal or cause life-changing disabilities. Although rare, it is very serious and requires urgent hospital treatment. It can lead to life-changing disabilities such as amputations, hearing loss, brain damage and scars.

In England, all students are offered the MenACWY vaccine in school year 9 or 10, protecting them against 4 different types of meningococcal bacteria that can cause meningitis and septicaemia. Those who missed the MenACWY vaccine in year 9 or 10, can still receive it up to their 25th birthday.

Further resources: [Vaccination toolkit for higher education and universities](#)

Flu vaccination

UKHSA and NHS England have produced a range of useful resources to support the delivery of the annual children's flu vaccination programme this autumn/winter. This includes posters, leaflets, briefings and stickers. Further details of the resources available, and how people can order, can be found in [this slide set](#).

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination

From 1 September 2024, pregnant women can have a free vaccine in each pregnancy, to protect their babies against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

RSV is a common virus which can cause a lung infection called bronchiolitis. In small babies this condition can make it hard to breathe and to feed. Most cases can be managed at home but around 20,000 infants are admitted to hospital with bronchiolitis each year in England. Infants with severe bronchiolitis may need intensive care and the infection can be fatal. RSV is more likely to be serious in very young babies, those born prematurely, and those with conditions that affect their heart, breathing or immune system.

Further information [A guide to RSV vaccination for pregnant women - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Pertussis (whooping cough)

Cases of whooping cough are continuing to rise, therefore there is the potential for outbreaks in nurseries, schools and childcare settings.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a respiratory disease which is spread by coughing and sneezing. The symptoms often start like a cold, progressing to outbursts of coughing which can sometimes cause vomiting or choking. The cough sometimes has a characteristic 'whoop' sound and can last for up to 3 months or more in some people.

Whooping cough is caused by the *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria and can cause serious and life-threatening complications such as pneumonia, difficulty in breathing and seizures. It can affect people at all ages; however, severe complications and deaths occur mostly in infants under 6 months of age. Immunisation is the most effective way to protect against whooping cough.

It is vital that:

- Pregnant women get vaccinated to protect their babies from birth. Women can be vaccinated against whooping cough at any time in pregnancy from 16 weeks gestation until when they give birth. However, ideally pregnant women should receive the vaccine between 20-32 weeks gestation. This ensures the mother has enough time to respond to the vaccine and for antibodies to be transferred to the baby across the placenta. If the vaccine is given after the 18-20-week congenital anomaly scan this means that, even if a baby is born prematurely, they are likely to have some protection.

- Infants receive their vaccines at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age or as soon as possible after that if their vaccines are delayed. This will offer them protection against Pertussis until their booster at age 3.

Further information can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/>
- [Information for individuals who have whooping cough - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/information-for-individuals-who-have-whooping-cough)
- [Confirmed cases of pertussis in England by month - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/confirmed-cases-of-pertussis-in-england-by-month)

Measles

Since autumn 2023 there have been a number of major measles outbreaks in the West Midlands, North West and London with sporadic cases across the country. This has resulted in the highest number of cases in England since 2012.

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth. The rash usually starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body. The spots of the measles rash are sometimes raised and join together to form blotchy patches. They're not usually itchy and look brown or red on white skin. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin.

Measles is one of the easiest diseases to catch through coughing or sneezing. It can spread quickly from person to person, especially in schools and a child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with.

The most effective way to control measles is by having 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Outbreaks can occur in schools when not enough children have been vaccinated. Whilst MMR vaccines are usually delivered as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme, this may have been missed due to a number of reasons. It is never too late to catch up and parents should be encouraged to speak to their GP if they are unsure if their child has received the vaccination or to arrange for it to be given.

Guidance and resources for educational settings:

- [Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres.](#)
- [Measles awareness posters](#)
- [Measles warn and inform letters](#)

Publications including posters and leaflets on measles and other infectious diseases can be ordered, in bulk free of charge [here](#). Publications are available in different languages and are Delivered within 3-5 working days.

Further Health Information and Support

The [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education](#) is a practical guide produced by UKHSA for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in education and childcare settings. Updated 12/09/24

The [e-bug](#) resources includes information, games and lesson plans to teach children about infections. Withing Worcestershire the handwashing 'Clean Hands Safe Hands' campaign developed by Public Health has been in place since 2022.

Several resources are available which aim to encourage children to regularly wash their hands as part of their everyday routine. The resources, include toolkits and activity packs and are available via the following website link: [Clean hands, safe hands | Worcestershire County Council](#)

KoothTalks webinars for Families & Professionals

FAO: Pastoral Leads, Welfare staff, PSHE Leads, Designated Safeguarding Leads, Parents/ Carers, Teachers

Meeting the needs of neurodivergent and Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) young people Children and young people waiting for an assessment or navigating a diagnosis may need additional emotional support. Kooth are offering a webinar this month exploring how the platform meets the needs of neurodiverse and SEND young people.

- KoothTalks for **families**: please share [this link](#) with parents and carers (**11th + 14th November**)

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

The October webinars focus on helping you understand a little more about Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), hear from a young person's perspective, and explore support strategies with Kooth's Senior Clinical Psychologist.

Parents and carers may also be seeking support for their anxious child avoiding school. They're often juggling work and caregiving, feeling deeply worried while their child remains at home. So we're also offering a webinar for families.

- KoothTalks training for **professionals**: [book your place here](#) (**21st + 23rd October**)
- KoothTalks for **families**: please share [this link](#) with affected families (**3rd + 4th December**)

Latest news from schools

Evesham pupils turn civil engineers for the day

Pupils from The De Montfort School (TDMS) in Evesham had the unique opportunity to step into the shoes of civil engineers, thanks to a hands-on session organised by Worcestershire County Council's key contractors, Griffiths and Jacobs. On Friday, October 4, the students constructed an impressive 15-metre-long model of a cable-stayed bridge, similar in design to the iconic Second Severn Crossing (the Prince of Wales Bridge).

Using plywood and aluminium sections, the pupils not only built the bridge but also put it to the ultimate test – walking across the structure themselves to prove its strength and durability.

The interactive session allowed students to develop key skills, including constructing a substantial structure, learning about Health & Safety practices and building teamwork and collaboration skills.

To learn more about the major projects Worcestershire County Council is currently undertaking, visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/majorprojects.



Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

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. 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 8th October 2024.

ECF Update

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

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 remain open. Please use the following link for guidance on how to register your ECTs with Prince Henry's TSH.

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

If you have already registered your ECT/s with us, please be sure to complete the Service Level Agreement. If you have not received this via email, please contact cemms@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

NPQ Update

Applications for the Autumn 2024 programmes are now closed. Applications for Spring 2025 will open later this term, so please look out for details on our half termly newsletter or on our website using the link: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/apply/>.

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training Survey

Teaching School Hubs are required to report periodically to the DfE on engagement with its workstreams. Initial Teacher Training is one of these. They would be grateful if you would complete this VERY short survey to indicate if you are supporting any trainees this year. **The survey has a maximum of 4 questions and will take less than two minutes to complete.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/sFqm4ERbuC>

They are also receiving requests from ITT providers to support with identifying placements for trainees. To avoid sending you an email, each time they have a request, please would you indicate on the survey if you may have capacity to support a trainee this academic year should a provider contact us. This does not mean you will be asked to support a trainee, but they may approach you if they have a request from another ITT provider. Many thanks in advance for your help with this and thank you to those who have already completed this survey.

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.](#)

Rivers Teaching Alliance

ECT Programme

They are delighted to let you know that they are now going into their 2nd year as an Associate College for the [National Institute of Teaching](#).

- This means that we are able to offer the ECF fully funded programme and support your ECTs to continue their journey from their teaching qualifications
- Below we have outlined some of what we see as the advantages of registering your ECT with us at Rivers and then the process to follow should you wish to do this.
- Please do contact us if you have any questions or would like a phone conversation to discuss. (teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk) 01905 950700

Why should I choose to use Rivers?

For last year's ECT programme we have 100% satisfaction rates from our Mentors and ECTs and much of the feedback highlighted our 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. We 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 us to adapt to the individual ECTs in the room and their contexts.

Go to [Manage training for early career teachers \(education.gov.uk\)](#).

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

NPQ SENCO (applications close on 13th October)

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 NPQs 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 \(niot.org.uk\)](#)

- 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 13th 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, we are proud to have been part of the development of the materials and design of the programme. Our 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. We 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 if you would like further information or just turn up on the day.

- Thursday 23rd January 2025
- Thursday 26th June 2025

Latest government news and updates

Talk Money Week

The Money and Pensions Service's [Talk Money week](#) runs from 4 to 8 November. The theme this year is 'Do One Thing' and schools and colleges are being encouraged to share the 'one thing' they are talking to students about to help them learn more about money. The Money and Pensions Service has published [a toolkit with lots of ideas and resources to help schools get involved and talk money in the classroom](#).

PE and sport premium for primary schools

On 9 October, the Department for Education [updated the PE and sport premium for primary schools guidance](#), to reflect the funding for the 2024 to 2025 academic year and also added 'Examples of effective PE and sport premium spending' to the 'Effective ways to spend the premium' section. For the year 2024 to 2025, the amounts payable will be:

- schools with 16 or fewer eligible pupils will receive £1,000 per pupil
- schools with 17 or more eligible pupils will receive £16,000 and an additional payment of £10 per pupil

Schools should use the PE and sport premium funding to support children to meet 60 active minutes and achieve the above aims. This funding must not be used for core-type school activities.

Additional support materials for GCSE exams

On 3 October, the Secretary of State's letter to Ofqual was published outlining DfE's decision on [arrangements for GCSE maths, physics and combined science in 2025, 2026 and 2027](#).

£7 million to tackle antisemitism in education confirmed

On 7 October, the Education Secretary announced [resumption of procurement for Tackling Antisemitism in Education](#). The commitment comes after the number of incidents of antisemitic abuse nationwide more than doubled in the first five months of 2024, compared to the same period a year earlier.

Latest training news and conferences

How to make scripts to help in social situations

A 60-minute opportunity which covers:

- Overview of autism and its impact on a young person's social skills
- A look at strategies to support social understanding.
- How to use scripts to prepare for a new situation
- When to use a script
- How to write a script
- How to make scripts effective

Cost: £20 + Vat per delegate

21 October 2024, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10083 / 90206

Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom

Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom is a 2-hour course delivered over two parts and will cover:

- Key sensory processing differences in autistic children and young people and how this may present in a school setting.
- The importance of sensory differences in the DSM V Criteria.
- Strategies and tools to gather information and make reasonable adjustments.

Cost: FREE to Worcestershire Local Authority / Academy and Free – Schools max: 2 places per school

Cost: Independent Schools and other settings: £35 +VAT per delegate

4 and 18 November 2024, 4pm to 5pm, virtually delivery, course code: SCH 10426 / 90175

Revising Rosenshine's principles of structure

This webinar will revisit Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and how they can help to support pupils' learning. Colleagues will consider the principles in detail, how they support learning and HOW to ensure they are embedded in sequences of learning. Colleagues will consider each of these principles in relation to their own subject, year group, context and how they can embed these practices further.

Cost: £28 + VAT per delegate

4 November 2024, 3.30pm to 4.45pm, virtual delivery, course code SCH 10264 / 90338

Taking control of the Deep Dive - creating your subject narrative

Subject leaders - are you ready? This webinar is intended for subject leaders who wish to revisit the Education Inspection Framework in readiness for their inspection. The session will support subject leaders to reflect upon the impact of their subject leadership and to be confident in articulating their curriculum intent and how they support pupils to achieve well. This session is designed to engage colleagues in professional dialogue and personal reflection and to help prepare the narrative around their subject.

Cost: £28 + VAT per delegate

11 November 2024, 3.30pm to 4.45pm, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10506 / 90337

Diving Deep into Reading - what's your story

The more you read the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. **Dr Seuss.** Reading is central to all children's learning and yet many children do not achieve age related expectations at the end of KS2. This webinar is designed to support you in reviewing and reflecting upon the effectiveness of your early reading provision and phonics programmes whilst also preparing you for the mandatory reading deep dive as part of any Ofsted Inspection. Colleagues will revisit the EIF and consider their approach to reading and its effectiveness in supporting children's reading and improving pupil outcomes. Colleagues will take away a toolkit to help them prepare for a 'deep dive' but also to reflect upon their school's toolkit to help them prepare for a 'deep dive' but also to reflect upon their school's strengths and areas for development.

Cost: £28 + VAT per delegate

25 November 2024, 3.30pm to 4.45pm, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10259 / 90336

Using legal action to address pupil absence: Guidance for schools

This training session is intended for Worcestershire school-based staff who may need to instigate a request for legal proceedings as part of their school attendance escalation process. The training will explore when a request for legal proceedings maybe appropriate and the requirements upon schools in making such requests. The session will focus on unauthorised pupil absence (including unauthorised leave in term time) and will provide delegates with the latest information and appropriate resources to demonstrate what is required in order for the Local Authority to consider the issuing of a penalty notice or undertake a prosecution.

Cost: £38 + VAT per delegate

13 November 2024, 9.30am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: 10283 / 90443

5 February 2025, 9.30am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: 10283 / 90444

Further dates are available in April and June 2025

Court Process & Writing Effective Witness Statements: Guidance for schools

This training session will inform school staff regarding court processes and equip them with sufficient knowledge and resources to complete witness statements effectively for prosecution of cases under s444(1)/ (1)A of the Education Act 1996 for unauthorised absences. School Attendance Leads, Head teachers, School Attendance Officers, or any other school based associated staff with a key role in addressing pupil attendance, absence and welfare would be most welcome. Candidates are advised to have a good working knowledge of or, completed the Using Legal Action to Address Pupil absence: Guidance for schools training, for a better understanding of this session.

Cost: £28 + VAT per delegate


13 November 2024, 1pm to 3pm, Worcester, course code: 10284/ 90439

5 February 2025, 1pm to 3pm, Worcester, course code: 10284 / 90440

Further dates are available in April and June 2025

Book a delegate to attend both Using Legal & Witness Statements on the same day (does not need to be the same delegate per session but must be the same school) for the discounted price of £51 +VAT for both sessions, a saving of £15 (full price for both sessions prior to discount is £66 + VAT)

Book your place on the above training via [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@worcestershires.gov.uk



Sarah Wilkins

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