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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you've had a great week! It's hard to believe how quickly this term is flying by – with half-term just around the corner.

It was good to see many over 100 school leaders this week join our virtual head teacher briefing. It was a great opportunity to look forward and confirm once again our collective priority around supporting disadvantaged children and how we are progressing this work. Earlier this week Ann Pritchard (HMI) also shared the latest updates from Ofsted to a large audience of school leaders.

On Thursday (17 October), the Secretary of State for Education announced the launch of the first round of funding for up to 300 school-based nurseries - part of government's opportunity mission to give every child the best start in life and enable thousands of families to be one step closer to accessible, affordable and high-quality early years provision in their local area. For more details including how to apply for funding, please read page 5 of this bulletin.

A reminder that our WCC Employee Flu Vaccination Programme is still accessible to all school employees including those working in maintained schools and academies. 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 directly with one of our participating local community pharmacies. To book an appointment 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).

In this edition of the Education Bulletin, you'll find a variety of funding and grant opportunities, as well as numerous training sessions to support your work. There's also an exciting chance to apply for free trees to plant in schools—helping to support biodiversity, enhance the natural landscape, and contribute to offsetting the carbon emissions.

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest attendance news and updates

Preventing School Exclusions: What Works

On Wednesday 9th October, the RSA held an event on what works in preventing school exclusions.

If you were unable to attend the session or would like to watch it again, a video recording of the livestream can be found on their Vimeo page.

To support you in progressing multi-agency partnerships to reduce preventable exclusions, please visit their Preventing School Exclusions page, where you can find the new *Lessons From The Front Line* and *An external evaluation of Preventing School Exclusions* reports.

Lessons From The Front Line gives a clear summary of the Preventing School Exclusions project, and recommends key, foundational elements of collaborative working that their diverse participants across the country have found transformational in supporting children at risk of exclusion. Their *Evaluation* is authored by external evaluation partner Vivien Niblett, who has explored the process of change across the three years of the project in detail and in context.

As we know, school exclusion disproportionately impacts children from low-income backgrounds, students from some minority ethnic backgrounds, children known to social services, pupils with special educational needs (SEN), and students with mental health issues. The RSA is grateful to and inspired by the charity partners who joined them in person on the day: Action for Race Equality, IPSEA, The Alliance for Inclusive Education, and The Staff College. You can read about and get involved with their brilliant work via their respective websites, linked here:

- Action For Race Equality
- Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (IPSEA)
- The Alliance for Inclusive Education
- The Staff College

You can find more information about RSA Spark here, and if you're an organisation working in inclusive education they'd love to hear from you via partnerships@rsa.org.uk.

Latest education news and updates

Free Trees for Schools

Carbon Footprint runs a highly popular UK Tree Planting Project where commercial partners sponsor trees to be planted in schools around the UK to support biodiversity, enhance the UK's natural landscape and to offset the sponsor's carbon emissions.

Planting trees is easy and a perfect opportunity to get the kids involved and to teach them about biodiversity and the importance of trees. The planting itself is also great fun for the kids, as they get stuck in with an interactive activity outside the classroom.

All trees are 1 year old 'whips' (between 40-80cm high dependent on species) and very easy for children to handle and plant.

If your school is interested in planting trees or hedgerows on your grounds and promoting environmental education, then please apply to receive donated trees **at no cost to you**.

Carbon Footprint Ltd - Management System (knack.com)

Further information can be found here: carbonfootprint.com - School Tree Application

Early Years Capital Funding

As previously communicated, Worcestershire has approximately £850,000 of capital funding to support the expansion of funded Early Years provision.

Capital funding encompasses building work and the installation of fixed assets and equipment with a shelf life of more than one year and costing more than £500. It cannot fund running costs, routine maintenance or refurbishment of premises. Further information about the use of capital funding for the Childcare Expansion can be found here.

Criteria

To be considered for capital funding, projects must:

- Create additional funded early years places
- Be in areas of Worcestershire where WCC have identified a sufficiency risk/issue **or** provide places for families from an area with a sufficiency risk/issue, demonstrated through previous take-up of places
- Evidence high quality Early Years provision
- Evidence ongoing viability/sustainability
- Evidence good value for money

District maps outlining areas of the County that have an identified sufficiency risk/issue can be found here.

Applications

Applications can now be submitted, up until **Friday 29th November**. All applications will be assessed before any decisions are made; cost per place, total cost of the project and the local sufficiency risk/issue will all be considered during the assessment process.

Early Years Capital Funding Application Form

As part of the application, the following information must be supplied:

- Minimum of 3 quotes for projects under £20,000 or 4 quotes for projects over £20,000
- Cash-Flow Forecast for the next 3 years (2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27)

All successful applications will be subject to a clawback agreement, the length of which will depend on the total funding awarded.

Capital Funding for School Based Nurseries

On Thursday 17th October, the DfE announced that state-funded primary-phase schools will be able to apply for up to £150,000 of capital funding to upgrade spare space to create or expand on-site early years provision. The new or expanded provision can be school-run or delivered by early years settings (PVI providers including childminders), offering places for any early years age-group in areas where there is local demand. Guidance on the scheme is available here.

To apply for the funding, schools must have LA support. If you are intending to apply for the School-Based Nurseries Capital Grant 2024 to 2025, please complete this Expression of Interest form to enable the local authority to assess:

- If there is a sufficiency need for additional early years provision in your location
- If there are any accommodation or lease considerations

Applications from schools will be open from Thursday 17th October until Thursday 19th December.

Schools that are interested in opening provision in the future but are not intending to apply yet, may register their interest with the DfE here.

Out of School Update Meeting – Don't miss out book now, it's FREE!

Don't forget to book a place on the Autumn Term Out of School Update meeting, taking place on **Tuesday 12th November 7:00-8:30pm**. This meeting is suitable for leaders and practitioners working in out of school settings, both PVI and School run, including before and/or after school settings and holiday clubs.

You will not want to miss this session! We are lucky to welcome our special guest **Thérèse Hoyle** who will be sharing her Top tips for "playful" practice when working with school age children, highlighting how playworkers are the real "**Superheroes" of play!**

A Little bit about Thérèse Hoyle

Founder of Thérèse Hoyle Consultancies Ltd and lives in Malvern Worcestershire, however you'll find her travelling all over the country and internationally with her work in creating Positive Playtimes. Thérèse's passion is to support primary schools to dramatically improve the quality of day-to-day play times and lunchtimes, with a consequent beneficial impact on lunchtime behaviour, engagement, learning, social, emotional, mental and physical health and wellbeing.

She is recognised as one of the world's leading training providers of playtime and lunchtime programmes with her 'How to Be a Lunchtime Supervisor Superhero' workshop, Positive Playtime Essentials and Award Programme, and Positive Playtime Online Academy.

Thérèse has over 25 years' experience in education and has worked as a teacher, education consultant, coach, wellbeing adviser and trainer with over 1,500 schools and organisations. She is author of 101 Playground Games 2nd edition, 101 Wet Playtime Games, How to be a Peaceful School (Contributing author) and The Big Book of Whole School Wellbeing, (co-editor and contributing author) and regularly writes for education magazines and journals.

Also on the agenda

- Update on the National Wraparound Programme, opportunities for funding and the Breakfast Club Early Adopters Scheme.
- Safeguarding update: including launch of the Safeguarding audit for out of school clubs as well as national and local updates
- Ofsted updates, including local trends from out of school inspections

Out of School Providers (November date ONLY)

- 12 November 2024, 7pm to 8:30pm, virtual delivery, course code: EY 10274 / 85145

Cost: Free

To book: via CPD using your setting CPD leader login details and course code.
Confirmations will go to the delegate email provided and include the relevant MS teams joining information.

Latest SEND news and updates

What we're doing to improve SEND services: October update

Worcestershire's services for children and young people with SEND were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in April 2024. The whole local area partnership was part of the inspection which includes NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board and Worcestershire County Council.

The local area partnership is working through the Priority Action Plan and SEND Improvement Plan following the outcome of the inspection. Key progress includes:

- Recruitment of new SEND Casework Officers to increase capacity in the teams who support the coordination and management of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Recruitment of an Epilepsy Nurse and a procurement process underway to reduce Community Paediatrics waiting times.
- Starting the transfer of up to 250 young people aged 16+ to an independent accredited autism assessment provider with the aim of improving their waiting time.
- Co-production sessions with parent carers around a new care pathway for autism and ADHD diagnostic assessments for children and young people aged 0-18 years, which will eventually replace the Umbrella Pathway.
- Commissioning Dingley's Promise to provide two Early Years Enhanced Provisions in Droitwich and Worcester which will be accompanied by extensive outreach support services, including support to local nursery settings and family support.
- Co-production with parent carers to discuss areas of improvement, particularly on the topics of data/attendance, specialist placements, EHCP timeliness and quality, and CAMHS waiting times.

The full information can be found on the SEND Local Offer website.

New Early Years Enhanced Provisions in South Worcestershire

Worcestershire County Council has commissioned Dingley's Promise to provide two Early Years Enhanced Provisions in Droitwich and Worcester which will be accompanied by extensive outreach support services, including support to local nursery settings and family support. The aims of these provisions are to:

- Provide the best early support for young children
- Help more children join mainstream schools and settings
- Assist families get the right support for their child's needs
- Ensure each child moves to the right school or setting for them

The Family Support Offer is available to all families in south Worcestershire with children aged 0-5 who have SEND or a developmental delay and will include stay and plays, home visits, information sessions as well as 1:1 support. These provisions will be open from January 2025 although some aspects of the service, e.g. Family Support Offer will be available before. For further information visit Dingley's Promise webpage.

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub

Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub is a networking and peer support session for early years leaders, childminders, practitioners, and EY teacher's working with children within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It's a collaboration between University Worcester colleagues enhancing practice for UW students, WCC early years team and **YOU** our setting providers.

Meetings are held termly, and we ensure providers drive the agenda, covering topics that you want to talk about. We aim to create a collaborative, supportive and inclusive space for our early years community to come together to network. We draw on the wealth of expertise across our community allowing colleagues to share knowledge and effective practice which will benefit us all.

So, if you are missing social contact and fed up with virtual meetings, this is the space for you! If you have an interest in learning from other settings and becoming part of a network to share knowledge and effective practice with a range of early years educators, then we would love you to join our tribe!

By popular request, our discussion topic for the evening will focus on **"What is it like for a child with SEND in your setting?** The session will take a strength based, solution focused approach, utilising the shared expertise in the room to recognise what's working well and gain support to overcome challenges in an empowering and supportive way

- Cost: Free
- 21 November 2024, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10529
- Joining instructions will provide further information on free parking and location of the session.

How to book:

- Book via CPD https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx using your school / setting CPD Leader login details
- Confirmations will go direct to the delegate email provided and they will include details around parking / how to claim free parking and which room the meeting is taking place.
- Please ensure that junk / spam folders are checked for confirmation emails.
- If your school / setting CPD leader encounters issues when booking please contact the training & conference team on 01905 844 420 / workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk for support.

worcestershire county council

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Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

HW SENDIASS is the Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

HW SENDIASS have a dedicated team of trained advisors offering legally based and easily accessible information, advice and support on all matters relating to children and young people (0-25) who have or may have SEND.

The service is **FREE, impartial, and confidential**.

They can help families if:

- They would like to know more about the local support available for children with SEND and their families
- They would like to know more about Worcestershire's SEND policies and procedures
- They need information and guidance on the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process (including Needs Assessments and Annual Reviews)
- They need help understanding SEND law
- They need help to gather, understand and interpret information and apply it to their own situation

If you identify children in your setting with SEND, you can signpost them and their families to SENDIASS for free information and support. **Please download their latest flyer to distribute to families or share in your newsletters.** If you would like hard copies of these please contact SENDIASS using the details below.

SENDIASS can also provide general information, advice and support to professionals working with families of children/young people with SEND.

Contact SENDIASS

Call: 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm (24hr answerphone service)
Email: sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their SENDIASS Contact page or follow them on social media: Facebook-HWSENDIASS

HW SENDIASS also have lots of useful information on their website www.hwsendiass.co.uk and provide **FREE training** for families and professionals with dates still available for the Autum Term.

SENDIASS Training for Parents/Carers
SENDIASS Training for Professionals

Latest health and wellbeing news and updates

Cycle parking - grant initiative for schools – closing date 15th November 2024

FAO: Headteacher, School Business Manager, Facilities Manager, Lead for Climate Change, PE Lead, Wellbeing Lead.

For schools that have identified cycling to school as an opportunity to increase health and wellbeing of pupils via day to day physical activity, reduce traffic congestion close to school, carbon emissions and local air pollution this grant opportunity maybe of interest.

The grant is to part or fully fund school cycle parking.

For more information please click on the link below:

Boost active travel at your school with the Cyclehoop Education Fund

Latest training news and conferences

Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware Settings (TIAAS) training programme

Worcestershire Virtual School is dedicated to ensuring that all education settings within Worcestershire are Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware Settings (TIAAS). TIAAS improves academic outcomes, attendance, and wellbeing.

We recognise that the TIAAS path takes time, is rightly tailored to each setting and that different settings are at different stages in their journey. In recognition of this, Worcestershire Virtual School have expanded our TIAAS training menu to offer something suitable for everyone. This menu consists not only of TIAAS training but also support with implementation and support for accreditation through the Attachment Research Community. You will also be supported as part of a growing TIAAS network in Worcestershire and beyond.

All of the training below is fully funded by Worcestershire Virtual School and so is completely free to you!

Introduction to the TIAAS Pathway: If you are interested in understanding more about the TiAAS (Trauma Informed Attachment Aware settings) within Worcestershire, then watch our Introduction to TIAAS Pathway available on Worcestershire Children First (youtube.com)

TIAAS Network Meeting: An opportunity to come together, share what's working well and co-construct the Worcestershire TIAAS (Trauma Informed Attachment Aware settings) Pathway. Open to all schools / settings regardless of whether they attended the Introduction to Worcestershire TIAAS Pathway or not**.**

Cost: Free and a maximum of two delegates per school / setting

- 12 November 2024, 3.45pm to 5.15pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10444 / 90365 ** change of date to previously advertised

Level 1 training: How do we engage families through trauma informed practices?

In this interactive online training, we will explore meaningful family engagement through the lens of trauma-informed practices. Participants will learn how to effectively engage families and foster investment in their child's success using a trauma-sensitive approach. The session will also include exploration of frameworks created to provide a trauma-informed approach, practical real-world strategies to support and discussions around our own biases as practitioners. A blend of taught content, discussions and collaborative breakout groups will be used to equip educators with the tools needed to support families.

Cost: Free

- 14 November 2024, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10522/ 90643 ** change of date to previously advertised

Level 1: Language Matters and Words have power – from a trauma perspective

Transforming Lives, One Word at a Time: Trauma-Informed Language for Practitioners Working with Children and Young People. How we speak about young people and their lives and experiences matters. In this insightful online program, you'll delve deep into the psychology of language and its formative role in shaping children and young people's realities. This is an opportunity to think about how you communicate with children and about the young lives you impact daily; a chance to equip yourself with the tools to inspire resilience, healing, and post-traumatic growth through the power of conscientious language.

Cost: Free

- 26 February 2025, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10512 / 90376

Level 1: Emotion Coaching and Pace: webcast.

This webcast delivered by our Education Psychology team will allow participants to consider how to use emotion coaching and PACE in their settings. PACE stands for Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy, which is a flexible approach developed by Dan Hughes to help adults to form safe, trusting and meaningful relationships with young people who have experienced trauma. The course is aimed at anyone who lives, works, or cares for young people, as the application of both emotion coaching and PACE are applicable across the age range and across settings. The training is an introduction to these principles, and an opportunity to practice these skills, as well as share practice. It will allow time to share good practice with other participants, and practice the approaches shared.

- To request the Webcast on CPD search "course code 10489"

Level 1: The Neuroscience that underpins Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's): webcast.

This engaging webcast course aims to equip professionals with an understanding of what is meant by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and how they can affect a child or young person. We will look at what is going on in the brain when children have experienced toxic stress and we will consider how this can affect ongoing development and challenges associated with a school/learning environment. The session is interactive and practical, offering opportunities to consider how we can adapt our practice to support those who have experienced ACE's, based on evidence and case studies about what has been shown to work as part of a Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware approach.

- To request the webcast on CPD search "course code 10490"

Did you know: Worcestershire Governor Conference

14th November | 15:00 -17:00 | Worcester
Suitable for: LA Maintained Schools ,Governors. Chairs and Headteachers

Course Code: 10519

Download Worcestershire Governor Conference Flyer

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). 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.

Course Code: 10516

Creating an Open and Positive Safeguarding Culture in Schools

Effective safeguarding is essential across all educational settings. Contributing towards establishing an effective culture of safeguarding means that you can help to successfully safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people you work with, this applies to ALL staff working at all levels across your school. We look forward to welcoming Stuart Gallagher (Senior Lecturer and Course Leader in Children and Families & Education & Inclusion - Worcester University).

Course Code : 10525

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.

Audience: 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.

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

If your school books a delegate onto both courses then the following discount will apply: 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) then pay only £51 +VAT for both sessions in total, 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@worcestershire.gov.uk**

Other local news and events

Fostering is… Everything

Fostering can mean everything to those involved. That is the message of a powerful new fostering film launched today (17 October) from over 100 councils. 'Everything' is the seventh film produced by a growing partnership of councils and children's trusts to promote local authority fostering. The 'Everything' project is the largest collaboration yet, with participants from Doncaster to Devon and Wigan to Worcestershire.

'Everything' follows foster carer Mike and his family on a journey through time with two of the children they have looked after, who are now adults. A surprise 60th birthday party for Mike gives Will and Zara a chance to reflect on how being fostered made a difference to their lives, thanking him for everything.

Thanks to footage shot on a genuine old camcorder, we are taken to the 1990s, to see how Will settles into the family. We also jump back to the 2010s, when a young Zara is being taught to play the guitar by Mike, something that comes full circle when she performs a song at the party. Mike's son Chris is involved throughout, showing the important role the children of foster carers play. The concluding message of the film is that what you do with your life could forever change someone else's – encouraging people to foster in order to make that change.

'Everything' is the latest in a series of film collaborations that started in 2017 with 'Giants', which was supported by a small number of local authorities in the midlands and has now grown into a national project across England, reflecting the need to recruit more foster carers.

Watch the 'Everything' film on YouTube

We would be grateful for your support in promoting and sharing this video within your communities.

For more information about fostering, please visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering

Supporting learners with the transition to the world of work

The Social Value team at Matrix are seeking opportunities to support your learners with the transition to the world of work! They can support with mock interview days, providing workshops on everything from how to write a stand-out CV and succeed at interviews, to how to build resilience, set goals and communicate with content.

They have a brochure of around 30 workshops and can tailor their content for different years, as well as accommodating for SEN and ESOL learners. Workshops can be delivered in person and virtually.

For more information please download their workshop brochure or contact them via email at: SocialValue@TeamMatrix.com.

Maths Workshops for Parents

There is an exciting opportunity for parents in our community to enhance their confidence in mathematics, specifically designed to help them support their children with their math homework.

Kidderminster College are pleased to offer a series of six hours of math workshops aimed at parents. These workshops will provide practical strategies and tools to empower parents in their understanding of math concepts. The content can be tailored to meet the specific needs and interests of the parents in your school community and can deliver these workshops directly on your premises for added convenience as well as being able to hold sessions at the college.

They believe that when parents feel more confident in their math skills, it positively impacts their children's learning experience. The workshops are suitable for parents of all skill levels.

If you would like to consider this valuable opportunity for parents and collaborate with Kidderminster College to enhance the educational experience of your students, please get in touch with Liam on liam.carroll@kidderminster.ac.uk.

White Ribbon 2024

White Ribbon Conference 2024, Friday 22nd November 2024, 9.30am – 3.00pm, hosted on MS Teams.

This year's event theme is #ItStartsWithMen.

Violence against women and girls is rooted in harmful masculine norms. Starting with men, we need to address the attitudes and behaviours that contribute to a fear of violence for women in their day-to-day lives.

This year's White Ribbon event, we're encouraging men to hold themselves accountable to women, and to each other, so we can affect positive behaviour change to transform harmful cultures. Gender equality is key to making this culture change happen.

Sign up for Herefordshire & Worcestershire White Ribbon Conference 2024

Sarah Wilkins
Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

worcestershire county council