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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you've been having a good week.

As many of you will know we held our Head Teacher briefing this week where we saw over 90 colleagues join us for the termly system leadership updates. Whilst we are all working in challenging times it is energising and so positive to see and hear about the system collaboration for children in Worcestershire.

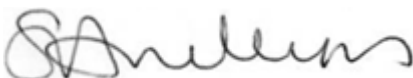
The Department for Education is seeking feedback on the revised '[Use of Reasonable Force and Other Restrictive Interventions in Schools](#)' guidance. The guidance aims to help schools meet new statutory requirements, including recording and reporting significant incidents of force from September 2025. It also focuses on minimising the need for restrictive interventions, supporting staff in using force safely and lawfully, and ensuring safeguarding responsibilities are met - particularly for pupils with SEND. Share your views and help shape this important policy on the [Department for Education website](#).

From 31st March 2025, all schools in England must separate and recycle food waste, glass, metal, plastic, paper, and cardboard. Food waste must be collected separately to reduce landfill waste. Schools should prepare by setting up dedicated recycling bins. For more information please read the following government blog on [getting your school or trust ready for new recycling regulations](#).

The COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025 will take place on Sunday 9th March 2025. This is an opportunity for communities across the country to come together in reflection and commemoration for lives lost and for everyone impacted by the pandemic. There is a welcome pack and ideas from previous Days of Reflection on the [Covid Day of Reflection website](#) alongside a range of [educational resources](#).

And finally, we are holding a Worcestershire Schools Marketplace on 2nd and 3rd June 2025. The free event is an ideal opportunity to find out more about our services and the support you could access from HR, Schools Finance, Safeguarding and more! [Download our marketplace flyer for more information including details how to reserve your place](#).

Wishing you all a relaxing half-term break.



Sarah Wilkins

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Latest education news and updates

Apply to the Turing Scheme

Through the [Turing Scheme](#), the government provides education providers with funding to support their students to do study and work placements around the world.

Funding is open to UK organisations from across the education and training sector, including:

- schools (applying on behalf of primary and secondary pupils)
- further education provider (applying on behalf of sixth form students)
- higher education providers

[Applications](#) for the academic year 2025 to 2026 are now open and close at 4:00pm on 14th March.

The Department for Education is hosting webinars for schools and further education providers taking place over the next two weeks for further information:

- [Sign up to an introduction to the Turing Scheme on 17 February for all education sectors.](#)
- [Sign up to a webinar on how to apply for Turing Scheme funding for further education, including sixth forms, on 18 February.](#)
- [Sign up to a webinar on how to apply for the Turing Scheme funding for schools on 19 February. An alternative session is available on 25 February.](#)

Latest attendance news and guidance

School Attendance virtual drop-in surgeries: Penalty notices and prosecution

WCC are offering informal virtual drop-in sessions via teams for any school attendance officers/attendance leaders who may have penalty notice or prosecution related questions or enquiries.

This informal session will begin with a 10-minute briefing and will then be open to any questions.

As an open invitation confirmation of attendance or apologies are not required.

If you wish to join either one, or both dates, joining details to add to your calendar are as below:

26th February 2025, 10-11am

Virtual drop-in surgery – school attendance penalty notices and prosecution

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 361 835 322 278

Passcode: Uz6S224H

7th May 2025, 10-11am

Virtual drop-in surgery – school attendance penalty notices and prosecution

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 387 527 363 947

Passcode: 6zs2Xd7C

Attendance Training – NEW DATES for April and June

To ensure compliance with 'Working together to Improve School attendance' statutory guidance updates (August 2024), we are offering two further training courses to support schools when considering escalation procedures to secure regular attendance:

[Using Legal Action to Address Pupil Absence: Guidance for Schools](#)

[Court Process and Writing Effective Witness Statements: Guidance for Schools](#)

Senior attendance leads and school attendance staff who have not completed these courses within the last six months are recommended to join.

Recent delegates unanimously reported an improved understanding of the legal requirements for schools, further identifying practical opportunities within their own settings to enhance good practice. For further course details and to book your place please use the links above.

Free DfE Attendance Conference for Worcestershire Secondary schools.

Secondary schools in Worcestershire have received an invitation to a free, in person conference on *Breaking Down Barriers to Opportunity: Transforming Attendance*, hosted by the Department for Education. These conferences will take place in each of the 9 regions in England from March.

The West Midlands conference date for secondary schools in Worcestershire to attend is **Friday 7th March 2025**.

As school leaders or senior attendance champions in secondary schools please do sign up for your local conference, which is intended to make a real difference to school-level practice, drawing on the [latest insight, including the sector-led attendance toolkit](#) and the principles in the [Working Together guidance](#). Schools can **find out more about the event and secure their free place using the link at the bottom of this article**.

By way of background, these conferences are the first of a series of planned events on school level practice. The first regional conferences are targeted at [school leaders or senior attendance champions in secondary schools](#) - reflecting that that is where the challenge is currently greatest – so for phase one of recruitment the conferences are only open to secondary school attendance leaders.

We completely recognise the importance of ensuring LA teams and primary schools benefit from the same messages around attendance and will be in touch about plans for LAs and/or primaries at a later date. We are also developing a conference specifically for responsible bodies in the Summer term targeted at LAs and trusts. In the meantime, DfE's [attendance youtube channel](#) includes links to our library of best practice.

Follow the West Midlands link as below to book your place:

Regional link	LAs
West Midlands	Birmingham; Coventry; Dudley; Herefordshire; Sandwell; Shropshire; Solihull; Staffordshire; Stoke-on-Trent; Telford and Wrekin; Walsall; Warwickshire; Wolverhampton; Worcestershire

Latest SEND news and updates

Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

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

SENDIASS have a dedicated team of trained advisors offering legally based 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. If you identify children in your setting with SEND, you can signpost them and their families to SENDIASS for free information and support.

SENDIASS can also provide general information, advice and support to professionals working with families of children/young people with SEND. You can contact them using the details below.

SEND Training

HW SENDIASS also provide FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars for parent carers and professionals. If you would like SENDIASS to host a FREE session at your setting, please complete the [SENDIASS Training Request Form](#) or contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk for more information.

Workshops currently available for **Parent Carers:**

- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [How to check a draft Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)-HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [Who are SENDIASS and how can they support me? - HW SENDIASS Online Information Session](#)

Workshops currently available for **Professionals:**

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS Online Information Session for Professionals](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Response in Schools Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What Does a Good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)

All sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions. SENDIASS would appreciate your help in informing the families that you support about these opportunities.

[Please download training flyers for use in your newsletters or on social media](#)

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

Latest grants and funding news

Education Endowment Fund Launches Spring 2025 Funding Round

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is accepting applications to its Spring 2025 round which is focused on improving outcomes for Post-16 learners, particularly those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, in England.

EEF is seeking programmes that are developed and ready to be evaluated.

Applications may cover multiple priority areas and sub-themes (full details are within the guidance notes) but must address at least one of the following priority areas:

- Attendance
- EdTech and AI
- GCSE results
- Transition from school to college

Programmes can be general or subject specific, across academic and technical qualifications, with the exception of apprenticeships, which sit outside of the EEF's remit.

This funding round is open to developers of programmes that seek to improve outcomes for post-16 learners and align with one or more of the Spring 2025 priority areas and sub-themes. Any legally constituted organisation working with children and young people between the ages of two to 19 can apply.

The Spring 2025 application window is open from 29th January 2025 to 14th March 2025 (11am).

[Find out more information on post-16 funding including details how to apply](#)

Latest training news and conferences

Training information

Do you know where you can find the latest training directories, our terms and conditions and access the CPD FAQ/support guide?

Our main [Training & CPD website \(opens in new window\)](#) provides our schools and settings with an easy way to see what training we have available from various teams that support the workforce. Our training directories are updated regularly to reflect changes to our offer including new training added in.

The training directories are split into five versions:

- Early years: training for those primarily working with 0- to 5-year-olds
- Safeguarding training 2024 to 2025: specifically details the Safeguarding training for schools / academies / colleges available until July 2025.
- Schools: training for those working with reception upwards and in all roles across a school
- Worcestershire Virtual School: specifically promotes the TIAAS (Trauma Information and Attachment Aware Settings) training
- Governors: specific training for those who are part of the governing board

Our main [Training & CPD website \(opens in new window\)](#) is also a fantastic resource to support those who make bookings via CPD on behalf of their school / setting. You will find the latest terms & conditions (updated due to our move back into WCC on 01.10.2024) along with a continually reviewed and updated FAQ / support guide.

The training & conference team are available to provide support they can be contacted on 01905 844 420 / 844 030 or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Book your place on our training and conferences 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

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)

Applications for NPQs are now open, and funded places are being allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please register on the [DfE's NPQ portal](#) to secure any relevant funding.

Want to improve staff retention?

Identify staff that need support in their current role or development for a future role - which NPQs would meet their development needs and support your school's improvement plan?

For those who already have an NPQ, consider how to keep the progression going by setting targets which build on NPQ skills and link to your SIP.

Want to improve inclusion?

The [NPQ SENCO](#) is a fully-funded leadership qualification open to current or aspirant senior leaders, **not just SENCOs**.

By having more than one member of your school leaders trained on the NPQ SENCO, your school can develop a distributed leadership model that allows for succession planning as well as tackling bigger SEND and inclusion issues.

Find out more about NPQs [here](#) on the Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub website.

Apply for an NPQ [here](#)



Teaching Assistant Level 3 Apprenticeship

Aspiration Training are delighted to announce our expansion of the Teaching Assistant Level 3 apprenticeship into the Worcestershire region.

Within the Aspiration Group we have delivered the programme for several years under an Ofsted Good rating. The programme is open to any new employees and any existing staff, and we offer a free recruitment service. Our next cohort starts in March 2025.

We continue to deliver Early Years and Adult Care apprenticeships from Level 2 through to Level 5.

To learn more about the Teaching Assistant standard please visit here: [Teaching Assistant Level 3 - Aspiration Training](#) or contact Tina Booth via email for more details on our overall offer: tbooth@aspirationtraining.com.

Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training

Please note that the 20 hours of training for all ITT mentors has now been removed from every provider with immediate effect. However, we will still be offering the tier one training due to positive feedback. 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 are open.

An update from Suzanne Lawson (Head of Strategic Partnerships (Secondary) University of Worcester): Will you be looking for a Science, Modern Language or PE ECT in September? Could you grow your own? We are desperately looking for ITT placements in these three subjects for the spring/summer term. If you have any capacity please contact c.rowlands@worc.ac.uk. Happy to talk about other subjects as well!

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 link below to book onto these. www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh. For clinics, you will be sent the details to join via email.

Year 1 ECT Events:

Clinic 2 – 6th March 2025

Clinic 3 – 12th June 2025

Year 2 ECT Events:

Clinic 5 – 20th March 2025

Clinic 6 – 19th June 2025

ECT Mentor Events:

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors – June / July 2025

AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2024-25 cohort remain open. Please follow the 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 Spring 2025 NPQ programme are now open. Limited scholarship funded places are available for eligible schools. You can check your school's eligibility using the following link:

<https://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/npq-scholarship-checker>

Full scholarship funding remains available for all school staff undertaking and NPQH, NPQLPM (Primary Maths) or NPQ for SENCO. Please note that limited places are available so early application is recommended.

To find out more please visit our website, or to apply for an NPQ, please use the links provided below:

- [NPQLT \(Leading Teaching\)](#)
- [NPQLL \(Leading Literacy\)](#)
- [NPQLBC \(Leading Behaviour and Culture\)](#)
- [NPQSL \(Senior Leadership\)](#)
- [NPQLTD \(Leading Teacher Development\)](#)
- [NPQH \(Headship\)](#)
- [NPQ for SENCO](#)
- [Early Headship Coaching Offer](#)
- [NPQ EYL \(Early Years Leadership\)](#)

****NEW** Leader Apprenticeship (NPQSL, NPQH, NPQEL)**

For those wishing to undertake NPQSL or NPQH and are not eligible for funding, we are pleased to be supporting recruitment to [Leader Apprenticeships](#) with NPQ. These courses are 18 months in length and offer a dual qualification. Schools can access the Apprenticeship Levy funding to cover the cost of the programme.

The initial deadline for applications to Leader Apprenticeship with NPQSL, NPQH or NPQEL is 16th February.

If you have any questions about NPQs or you would like more information, please contact Andrea Taylor on art@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk

Other local news and events

Young Voices New Visions Open for Entries

Severn Arts are excited to announce that Young Voices New Visions is back for 2025! Young Voices New Visions is an annual exhibition at Worcester Cathedral, showcasing visual artworks created by children and young people. The exhibition is open to all schools and community groups in Worcestershire who work with children and young people between the ages of 5 - 18. Work can be made collaboratively or by individuals in any visual art medium but must be submitted by the group leader or teacher. Large-scale and 3D work is particularly welcome.

The theme for the 2025 exhibition is **Courage**. The exhibition will be open to the public from **Sunday 8th June until Monday 30th June 2025**.

How to enter:

Register to take part in the 2025 exhibition on their website: <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/yv-nv-2025>

Entry closes at 5pm on **Friday 2nd May**.

All work will need to be dropped off at Worcester Cathedral between the following times:

Sunday 1st June, 12.30-3pm

Monday 2nd June, 9am-5pm

If you are unable to drop off your work during these times, please email Jen at j.loffman@severnarts.org.uk to discuss alternative arrangements. They will ensure that all schools/groups are represented in the exhibition, but they cannot guarantee that every piece of work submitted will be displayed, due to limited space. Please make sure that each piece of artwork is labelled with the name of the school/group clearly marked and secured on the back.

Exciting Job Opportunities at West Midlands Safari Park!

West Midlands Safari Park is looking for passionate and enthusiastic individuals to join their team! On **Saturday 1st March**, they're hosting a **Recruitment Event**, offering exciting roles across various departments, including **Theme Park, Retail, Admissions, Food & Beverage, Safari Lodges, Venues, and Facilities**. This is a fantastic opportunity for students looking to work in a dynamic and rewarding environment. Find out more: wmssp.co.uk/events/recruitment-day.

[Download West Midlands Safari Park Recruitment Day poster](#)