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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a good week.

With increasing screen time in education, it's essential to ensure students' well-being. [Health Professionals for Safer Screens](#) provides valuable research, resources, and practical guidance to help schools create healthier screen environments. From managing digital exposure to promoting student focus and well-being, their expert insights are a must-read for schools.

The Education Secretary confirmed last week that compulsory checks and assessments that ensure children leave primary school with solid foundations in reading, writing and maths will remain a core part of the curriculum and assessment system. This announcement coincides with the publication of the [Curriculum and Assessment Review Interim Report](#), which emphasizes the importance of these assessments in monitoring national curriculum learning and supporting children's transition from primary to secondary. The review sets out its next steps to develop a curriculum and assessment system that will set young people up with the essential knowledge they need for life and work.

Plans were also announced plans for young people to have greater access to high-quality arts education, wider creative and sporting activities as well as opportunities to gain in-demand skills in AI and tech. [Read more on how young people are to benefit from creative education boost.](#)

And finally, the Department for Education are seeking your views on proposals for narrowing the digital divide in schools and colleges and help refine their approach and ensure that all students benefit from the opportunities that technology offers. [Have your say on narrowing the digital divide in schools and colleges.](#)

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest education news and updates

Important message regarding Wonde Data Management

Schools are being contacted by Wonde:

“Based on input from schools using Wonde, we are continually developing new tools and features designed specifically to improve schools’ control and management of their data. These tools come with a significant amount of support and cost, therefore we are introducing a subscription for the continued use of the Wonde Platform at SCHOOL NAME HERE. The subscription for Wonde Data Management licence is £180.00 + VAT per annum. An invoice for this amount will be issued within the next 30 days.

If the additional tools and features do not benefit your school, you may wish to downgrade to the new Wonde Basic solution. This solution enables SCHOOL NAME HERE School to securely share MIS Data with approved applications, however it does not include continued access to the additional tools and features listed above. Wonde Basic is available free of charge, providing security and control over the management of your data.”

While this is the same supplier we use for transfer of pupil data between the School and the LA, there is no need for the school to purchase the enhanced data management licence from Wonde to facilitate the transfer data between the school and Worcestershire County Council, the pupil data transfer we have in place will work with the just basic package.

Lumi Nova - Feedback Request

The Lumi Nova team would love to hear from you!

Please spare a few minutes to **share your experience** of using Lumi Nova with the families you work with. Your feedback matters and can help them to improve their service.



<https://bit.ly/ln-prof-feedback>

Help gather feedback from families too!

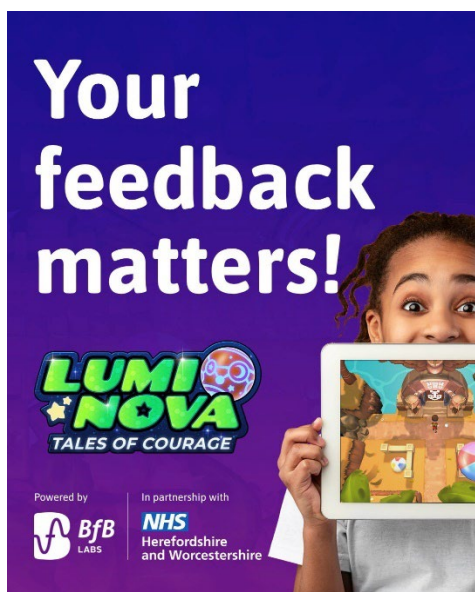
They often speak to families who have benefited from Lumi Nova but didn't know how or who to provide feedback to. Please use the email template or Facebook post linked below to encourage the families you work with to share their feedback on using Lumi Nova with us too.

[Download Feedback Templates](#)

What is 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.

- **Signpost:** Lumi Nova is instantly accessible to families by signing up at luminova.app/handw
- **Spread the Word:** Register to receive your digital Lumi Nova Resource Kit [here](#) to support you to share Lumi Nova with other professionals and families



Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) status

Strictly Education, as part of the HLTA national assessment partnership (www.hlta.org.uk), are the regional provider of Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) status in Worcestershire.

A reminder that they would like to offer teaching assistants / LSA the opportunity to gain HLTA status during the summer term 2024/25.

They have a suite of online HLTA preparation courses available in the spring term. All courses are delivered online with options for AM / PM or Twilight cohorts. Leading to a half-day (3 hour) remote assessment. The total cost per candidate is £780.

An application pack and course dates can be found on their website: [HLTA Status | Strictly Education](#).

Alternatively, please contact the HLTA department at Strictly Education for further details: HLTA@strictlyeducation.co.uk

Teaching Assistant Level 3 apprenticeship

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

Within the Aspiration Group they 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 they offer a free recruitment service. Their next cohort starts in March 2025.

They 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: [Teaching Assistant Level 3 - Aspiration Training](#) or contact Tina Booth via email for more details on their overall offer: tbooth@aspirationtraining.com

Latest attendance news and guidance

Study Leave: Register Coding for Year 11 Pupils

FAO: School Attendance Leads and attendance staff

This year public examinations start from 5th May 2025 – 25th June 2025.

Each schools' examination board usage will dictate the exact dates of public examinations within this period. The [Working together to improve school attendance guidance](#) stipulates:

- Study leave can be granted for public examinations, as agreed in advance with a parent the pupil normally resides with. Please note this does not include any internal examinations such as mocks as study leave should not be granted in such cases (page 17)
- Study leave should not be granted by default once tuition of the exam syllabus is complete and should be used sparingly. If schools do decide to grant study leave, provision must still be made available for those pupils who want to continue to come into school to revise (page 82)
- Code S can be used for study leave.
- Statistically study leave must be classed as an authorised absence (page 82)

As good practice, as well as offering on site study leave provision for any pupils who may not wish to study at home, it is advised schools also continue to offer appropriate support for any Year 11 pupils as required, especially those with any vulnerabilities who may be best supported in school.

For any Year 11 pupils not regularly seen by the school there must be an agreed mechanism of staying in touch, for safe and well purposes.

Year 11 pupils remain of compulsory school age until the last Friday in June. For 2025 this is Friday 27th June. After this date Year 11's will no longer be classed as compulsory school age so will not need to be recorded as such.

Should you have any further Year 11/study leave or attendance enquiries please contact the attendance helpline on 01905 844440, open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9am - 12.30 and 1-4.30pm.

Notifications Reminder for all schools – Using the Local Authority Portal

FAO: Headteachers/Attendance Leads

All Worcestershire schools, (including Independents), are required to make the Local Authority aware of any pupils joining or leaving your school and provide notifications regarding absence and part-time timetables through the CHS Portal.

Joiners and leavers should be reported for all 'in year' changes but should also include students who are not transitioning to an expected school, for example, they are leaving to be Electively Home Educated, attend an Independent School, or are leaving the Country/Area.

With regards to absence notifications, schools should advise the LA of 10-day continuous absences, irregular attendance, failed Part-Time Timetables, or students accessing school but not a classroom due to anxiety or behaviour (further examples are available within the CHS portal). If you require access to the portal please contact: chs.system.support@worcestershire.gov.uk

For any non-Worcestershire schools, they can advise the LA of children who are resident in Worcestershire and attending their setting by emailing: cme@worcestershire.gov.uk.

The absence monitoring team are happy to attend meetings with groups of schools to provide further clarity and discuss the above requirements in more detail.

Please email cme@worcestershire.gov.uk

Latest SEND News and Updates

SEND Improvement Updates

The local area partnership is working through the Priority Action Plan and SEND Improvement Plan following the outcome of the 2024 Ofsted and CQC inspection. The local area partnership includes Worcestershire County Council and NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Please use the following link to the SEND Local Offer website where you will find our March update about the SEND improvement programme: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDimprovements

Updates for March include:

- **'Stock Take' review session** – As part of our improvement journey, the DfE and NHS England have carried out a 'Stock Take' review session with the local area partnership to monitor our progress.
- **PINS** – Worcestershire will be part of the next wave of the national programme Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)
- **Melo** – New 0-25 years early intervention and preventative wellbeing and mental health service
- **Preparing for Independence event** – A free event for parent carers on Wednesday 14th May to connect with local services that will support young people as they move into adulthood.
- **Free training for parent carers and professionals** – SENDIASS provide free training workshops and webinars, including a new workshop 'supporting young people with SEND: preparing for adulthood'.
- **Award nomination** – National Star and HOW College partnership has been shortlisted for an award for innovated specialist/mainstream partnership working

Latest Public Health news and updates

Changes to the Starting Well Partnership

The way 0-19 Public Health services are commissioned in Worcestershire is changing. As a result, Family Hub services will be contracted separately to health, and the Starting Well Partnership brand and website will be retired.

From 1st April 2025, Worcestershire County Council will commission Family Hubs to provide help, support and signposting to families including expectant parents and those with children aged 0-19 years. WCC will also host information, advice and services to support families in pregnancy and through the early years on the [Best Start Worcestershire website](#), as well as the [Virtual Family Hub](#) for families with older children.

For information on NHS services, including Public Health nursing, health visiting, school health nursing, breastfeeding support and Smoke-Free Homes, visit the [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust website](#).

Webinar: Prevention of mental ill health in children & young people

The Centre for Mental Health invite you to join their webinar to launch a major new report on evidence-based actions to prevent mental health difficulties among children and young people.

Date: Tuesday 8th April 2025

Time: 11:00-12:00

Delivered: Virtually via Zoom (joining details to follow)

Chaired by **Kadra Abdinasir**, Associate Director of Policy at Centre for Mental Health, they will be presenting their findings and setting out recommendations for government.

The webinar will be valuable for anyone working in national or local government, early years, education, and youth services, health and social care for children and young people, and the voluntary sector. It will set out a case for action and provide valuable insights to inform strategies, policies and spending decisions.

Register your free place via the following link:

[Webinar: Prevention of mental ill health in children & young people - Centre for Mental Health](#)

Do you Work with Neurodivergent Young People (16+)?

Base UK are delivering two strands of training aimed at the following groups:

- **Support staff** – for those working with young people (16+) to support them with career pathways and into employment
- **Employers** – for those who want to adopt more inclusive practices and learn how to support young people into work

The training includes:

- The language of neurodiversity
- Employment pathways and how we support individuals
- Working with employers and understanding the business case for supported employment

There are a range of free training dates up to 11th April 2025.

[Please download the training flyer for more information](#)

Free Trauma Kits for Educational Settings

A reminder that free trauma kits for educational settings are currently available. There has been a good response from primary schools, but we are also encouraging applications from secondary and further education establishments in Worcestershire.

Please ensure the kit is under £100 pounds.

[Apply for a trauma kit for your premises](#)

A trauma kit is a first aid pack that anyone can use without training. It comes with instructions to help stabilise someone with serious injuries, like heavy bleeding, until professional help arrives. **These kits are important in emergencies and can save lives.**

Worcestershire County Council, Public Health, has made available funding for schools and colleges in Worcestershire to get these trauma kits, so that in the event of an emergency or terrorist incident (in line with the new proposed Protect legislation) action can be taken quickly!

Here's what to do to get a FREE trauma kit in your setting:

- ✓ Find a supplier and identify the price of your chosen trauma kit (keep the cost under £100)
- ✓ Ensure the kit has a location in your setting where it is available during opening hours and is easily accessible
- ✓ Complete the application form letting us know what you wish to purchase
- ✓ We'll send you the grant money, then you buy the kit!
- ✓ You must share the details with the West Midlands Ambulance Service

Primary, Secondary, and Further Education institutions in Worcestershire can apply.

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- ✓ Ensure the kit has a location in your setting where it is available during opening hours and is easily accessible
- ✓ Complete the application form letting us know what you wish to purchase: [WCC Trauma Kit Application Form](#)
- ✓ We'll send you the grant money, then you buy the kit!
- ✓ You must share the details with the West Midlands Ambulance Service

Latest Government news and updates

Resources for VE Day and VJ Day

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May 2025 and VJ Day on Friday 15th August 2025, the government has launched a national effort to connect children and young people directly with the lived experiences of the Second World War generation, deepening their understanding of how our shared history shapes the present and future.

Our Shared Story is a collection of educational resources and you can download the [education starter pack](#), which includes a range of opportunities for schools to participate in. Whether you are planning an assembly, classroom discussion, street party or creative project, you'll have access to adaptable resources to create a meaningful and educational commemoration of VE and VJ Day.

More details, resources and activity announcements will be released in the lead up to VE and VJ Day. Stay connected by [registering](#) for updates.

Revised DfE guidance on managing asbestos in schools

The Department for Education has updated its guidance on managing asbestos in school and college buildings. The guidance provides clear information on duties for managing asbestos and resources for those responsible for maintaining school and college buildings.

While the guidance is aimed at schools in England, it contains useful information for schools and colleges across Great Britain.

Further information can be found on GOV.UK: [Managing asbestos in your school or college](#)

The impact of school absence on lifetime earnings

The Department for Education has published a new report that estimates the monetary impact of one day of school absence in state-funded secondary schools.

[Read report on the impact of school absence on lifetime earnings](#)

Link between attendance and attainment

The Department for Education have published a new report which shows that school attendance is associated with higher average academic performance in an assessment year across all pupils from all backgrounds.

[Read report on link between attendance and attainment](#)

Latest training news and conferences

Conferences 2025

Don't miss out on our upcoming conferences designed to inspire and support schools. From the **Playwork Conference: The Power of Play** to **Leaders of Learning** there's something for everyone.

[Download our latest conference programme for more information.](#)

Applying the Mental Health Policy template to your school

This webinar will explain the policy content and how to amend the policy, so it reflects your school's ethos and approach to mental health. All schools who do not currently have a mental health and wellbeing policy are encouraged to join this webinar. Schools with a policy in place may like to join to gather ideas for their policies when they are reviewed.

The webinar will include the mental health policy audit tool. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and understand the flexibility of the template in preparation for your policy review and development.

The webinar will be delivered by Public Health Practitioners in the Children and Young People and Mental Wellbeing Teams at WCC Public Health.

Cost: Free

Date: 1st July 2025, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10551 / 91414

Webinar on including breastfeeding learning in your PSHE curriculum

A webinar to share teaching resources designed to raise awareness and normalise breastfeeding for use in secondary school. The webinar will also include why teaching about breastfeeding is important for young people and the health of future generations. Learning outcomes:

- Understand the data about breastfeeding nationally and locally
- Why teach breastfeeding?
- Understand where breastfeeding learning fits into the curriculum
- Feel confident to deliver breastfeeding sessions as part of PSHE lessons in safe and non-judgemental environments
- Deliver breastfeeding teaching sessions

Cost: Free

Date: 18th June 2025, 3.45pm to 4.35pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10572 / 91415

What is the SCERTS Approach for EYFS / Reception?

SCERTS: Social Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional and Support

SCERTS is an evidence-based framework for assessing children who need support with their social communication and emotional regulation skills, including autistic children. Transactional support is the support given to children to reach their goals and achieve their potential.

The SCERTS approach is not a prescriptive curriculum, and it works alongside practice in settings and home. Designed to be collaborative and to value the contributions made by settings and families to a child's development, setting goals to reflect what the child can do with the right support. A strengths-based approach, so it starts with what a child can do instead of what they can't do.

To find out more about SCERTS access Stage 1 of the programme **a free webcast**. Once your setting / school has watched Stage 1 you can progress onto Stage 2.

This is specifically for those working with EYFS children in Settings / Reception Classes and School ran nurseries can access this webcast.

When booking via CPD <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx> search course code: 10462. Only one member of staff needs to be booked to get all the Stage 1 information, as once you have the webcast it can be shared amongst your EYFS team.

When your school / setting is ready to access Stage 2 of SCERTS please contact the training team by emailing 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

Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Spring 2025 Cohort - Closing Date for Applications: 6th April 2025

As a reminder, the closing date for applications for NPQs is **6th April 2025**, and a limited number of funded places remain. This will be the last cohort until April 2026.

You can find out more about NPQs on the [Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub website](#).

Please register on the [DfE's NPQ portal](#) to secure any relevant funding and [apply for an NPQ](#).

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](#)



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and Stratford-on-Avon**
Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

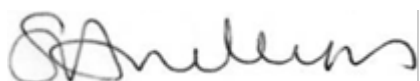
Latest Funding and Grants News

Local School Nature Grants

This opportunity is open to all primary and secondary schools and nurseries. If successful schools/nurseries receive:

- £500 outdoor equipment
- Climate curriculum kit
- 2 hours onsite training for staff across a selection of outdoor themes.

For more information and details how to apply, please visit: [Local School Nature Grants: How can outdoor learning training benefit you?](#)



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