



Sarah Wilkins

Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

Email: swilkins@worcchildrenfirst.org.uk

Tel: 01905 846082

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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter the final week of this term, I hope that any festive celebrations you have planned are going smoothly.

As you're aware we're seeing an increase in measles activity in certain parts of the West Midlands. With the holiday period around the corner and schools will be closing, UKHSA are conscious that in the past they've had need to try and contact schools urgently, for example a measles case or other serious infection has been confirmed. Therefore, before you break for Christmas, can I please request that you check your out of hours contact details are correct and up to date on the [Children's Services Portal](#).

Last week, a [consultation](#) was launched to seek views of teachers, parents, young people and employers on the development of the government's revolutionary new Advanced British Standard (ABS). The new baccalaureate style qualification is part of the Prime Minister's pledge to provide every child with a world-class education and ensure all young people have the skills they need to get good jobs that will help grow the economy. [Read announcement in full on the first steps towards introducing the new ABS](#). The consultation is open for 14 weeks, closing on 20th March 2024.

A reminder that during the Christmas holiday, eligible students will receive free school meals through the voucher system provided by Edenred. All vouchers issued during the Christmas period will have a validity period of one month from the date of the order and schools are instructed to issue vouchers only for the corresponding holiday period. Schools will have access to the Edenred portal until Friday 12th January 2024 to allow for placing orders for the Christmas holiday. For more information on ordering vouchers please refer to [Education Bulletin 173](#) published on 8th December 2023.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful break over the Christmas period and a very Happy New Year.

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Latest education news and updates

Developing Effective Learning Behaviours

EEF Billesley Research School have an exciting CPD opportunity aimed at Senior leaders in Primary & Secondary Schools.

Course delegates will be able to:

- Develop a deep understanding of the best evidence available around learning behaviours
- Be provided with the tools and processes to explore their school culture and practices long-term protective factors for deeper learning
- Be provided with guidance on effective implementation and opportunities to plan for positive and sustained change
- Explore real life case studies, supporting tools and share practical advice and good practice
- Consider the dynamic process and reciprocal influences needed to change a learning

Day 1: SEL - 29th January 2024

Day 2: Behaviour - 15th March 2024

Day 3: Metacognition - 18th June 2024

Venue to be confirmed.

For more information including details how to book, please download the [Developing Effective Learning Behaviours Flyer](#).

Finding my Voice

We will be hosting a webinar on Monday 29th January 2024 4pm to 5pm to showcase **Finding My Voice** - a new, high impact personal development and oracy approach for children and young people supporting their ability to self-advocate - in person and on-line.

It provides a whole school approach with powerful curriculum resources and teaching strategies that support young people to be fully invested in their education.

Finding My Voice, developed and tested by Rachel Higginson, has been of particular benefit for children and young people at transition points and those on the margins.

To book on the webinar, please contact Lisa Bradbury at: LBradbury@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

New Leadership Opportunity Exploring Capacity, Culture and Conditions for Change

The **New Capabilities for a New World programme**, in partnership with the University of Worcester, is designed to support school leaders develop and become more conscious of their leadership capacity, create conditions to lead change in the area of inclusion in their schools, and to work collaboratively across the wider school system. It emerged from a 12 month programme supported by GMCA, the Careers and Enterprise Company, Ashoka and Edge Foundation that asked: how do I develop the capabilities to lead through complexity and change?

This is a 10 month leadership development programme commencing in March 2024. The programme is open to Headteachers or teams of 2 comprising a Principal and Senior Leader. It is open to all sectors. Places are limited.

- Your commitment is to attend 6 x 3-hour sessions (face-to-face) with additional time to review and evolve your whole school strategy for inclusion

The Programme will:

- Establish a collaborative innovation group that shares existing practice and explores new strategy for inclusion in participants' settings
- Intentionally develop your own leadership in this area through reflection and collaboration
- Use emerging learning and practice to support WCF and external partners leverage change at a system level

Intended Audience: Headteachers and SLT who can leverage change within their organisation.

Interested in finding out more?

We will be holding an on-line briefing on: **Wednesday 17th January 2024 4-5pm** to provide an overview of the programme. Please email Lisa Bradbury at: lbradbury@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk if you wish to sign up or have any questions.

Latest SEND news and updates

Update regarding RETA funding

Most children with SEND should have their needs met within the Schools Notional SEN funding and within SEN Support. Children with SEND will need a carefully planned transition in liaison with parent carers, early years provider and school setting to ensure that all information is shared including: needs identified, provision required and what is working well. Some children with SEND may require an enhanced transition package to ensure the next setting is fully aware of needs and is supported in planning on how to meet these.

The new Early Years Inclusion Process has been designed to support the enhanced transition process in several ways:

- Supporting early identification of needs so that targeted provision can be put in place and closely monitored and reviewed over time.
- Additional support from Inclusion Support Services to provide specialist support through the graduated response. If these professionals are involved at point of transition, they will be involved in the transition process.
- Ensuring that children who require an EHC needs assessment have this requested prior to transition.

With the above in place, all children's needs should have been identified prior to transition and therefore will have their needs met either within ordinarily available resources, or with additional provision outlined in an EHCP. Therefore, from Summer Term 2024 RETA funding is no longer available to settings as it is not required to support the transition process.

There will be low incident occasions where children have not been known to services prior to starting school, and who present with complex needs. In these cases schools should follow the graduated response utilising their notional SEN budget.

Latest health news and updates

HANDi App - Don't let bugs play on your mind

On behalf of our colleagues at NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire please find below information to promote the usage of the HANDi app to your parents and carers. Your support in displaying the poster, sending the information out in your communications to parents and carers and putting the information on your websites would be most appreciated.

They are requesting that settings help the local health systems to promote the paediatric HANDi App which gives parents and carers local advice on what to do when their child is unwell whether that's looking after them at home, taking them to see a GP, using NHS 111, or visiting an urgent care service.

[Download HANDi campaign poster and social static](#)

HANDi App - Don't let bugs play on your mind

If your child is unwell, use the HANDi App to check their symptoms and get instant, NHS-approved medical advice.

Developed and approved by local Paediatric Consultants, the HANDi App provides expert advice on how best to manage the most common childhood illnesses, including:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- High temperature
- 'Chesty baby' illnesses, such as bronchiolitis, asthma and croup
- 'Chesty child' illnesses such as wheezing and asthma
- Abdominal pain
- Common newborn problems.

The app is free, and can be downloaded to any Apple or Android smartphone or tablet.

Why use HANDi?

HANDi is designed to help you know what to do when your child is unwell - whether that's looking after them at home, taking them to see a GP, using the NHS 111 service, or visiting an urgent care service.

If your child is unwell, HANDi will ask you questions about your child's condition to help you decide the best course of action - and with all the advice on HANDi developed and approved by local NHS paediatricians and other healthcare professionals, you can rest assured that you're getting the best possible advice.

For more information, to download the app and to hear from our Clinical Lead for Children and Young People, Dr Louise Bramble, please visit the website <https://www.hwics.org.uk/our-services/handi-app>

[Download HANDi campaign poster and social static](#)

Other local news and events

New Simply Careers Digital Careers Platform

The INSPIRING WORCESTERSHIRE CAREERS HUB delivery team are delighted to offer their network of careers leader their first sight of the new Simply Careers Digital Careers Platform.

The “Simply Careers” digital platform is a unique careers platform which has been developed to focus on providing localised careers information to young people. The platform will take your students on a journey through Worcestershire while exploring key careers information which will support them in their preparation to enter the world of work. As your students travel through the county, they will explore a wide variety of information which will help them understand the full range of post 16 pathways and qualifications available to them as they move through education and beyond.

There is a wealth of informative content within the platform which can support you to tailor a wide range of careers related lessons and activities. This information is shared in multiple formats which include downloadable PDFs, video clips, useful web links and SEND resources using the specialist In-Print software. Students will also be required to undertake short quizzes as they move through the platform to ensure they have fully understood the careers information being shared with them.

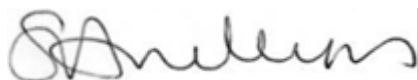
Simply Careers also includes a wide range of information relating to local employers within Worcestershire’s key growth sectors. Additional content includes local LMI information, job profiles and employer top tips. This platform can also help you as careers leaders meet the requirements linked to Gatsby Benchmarks 2 and 7 and can be used as a mechanism to help students prepare for the encounters you are organising to meet your “Provider Access Legislation (PAL)” requirements.

Simply Careers is also a great way to evidence your careers delivery to Ofsted as part of their inspection process.

To enter the SIMPLY CAREERS platform please click the following link: [Simply Careers](#)

They have also provided you with a [teacher’s guide](#) which will help you navigate the platform and give you the opportunity to explore the content in more detail before they undertake their full platform launch to students early in the new year.

Best wishes,



Sarah Wilkins
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