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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

You may have seen the recent [Cabinet report](#) and the decision for Worcestershire Children First to return to Worcestershire County Council at the end of its five year contract. You may have also seen the [Cabinet report](#) seeking agreement for consultation on the senior management redesign for the future of the County Council. The keen-eyed people might spot within that latter paper a proposal that the Director for Education and Early Years and the Director for All Age Disability posts are combined into one.

I just wanted to assure you at this stage that this is a report seeking agreement to go into consultation. During that consultation we will be outlining the detail with regards to the roles and responsibilities of the two individual posts and any future proposal will have a commitment to maintaining the positive high levels of support, guidance and communication we have with our colleagues across early years, education and specialist disability services.

We will update you at the end of the consultation on any proposed changes to the current structure.

Kind regards

Tina

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have all had a good week.

In the Schools White Paper (published in March 2022), the government announced that in order to give every pupil the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential, all mainstream, state-funded schools would be expected to deliver a minimum school week of 32.5 hours. The Department for Education are reminding schools that the deadline to implement the minimum school week is September 2024. Guidance and case studies are available to support schools that are not yet meeting the minimum expectation.

My Voice Matters is the theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week (5 to 11 February 2024) and is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. Children's mental health charity Place2Be have created free resources for primary schools, secondary and high schools and families, parents and carers to take part in the week.

Safer Internet Day on 6 February 2024 is centred around the theme 'Inspiring Change: Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online.' The Department for Education are encouraging schools to join the celebration alongside thousands of other organisations to advocate for the safe, responsible, and positive use of digital technology among children and young people. A variety of complimentary educational resources are available, specifically designed to assist educators in conveying messages about the campaign theme of navigating change online.

Time is running out for state-funded schools and education providers (including nurseries and specialised schools) to request a free portrait of His Majesty King Charles III. Settings should request their portrait by 2 February 2024. For questions about the portrait and the scheme itself please refer to the FAQs or email hmkportraitscheme@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

And finally you've still got time to submit your nominations for this year's Worcestershire Education Awards 2024. There are 12 awards categories to choose from and the entries are free - no limit on the number of categories you enter, nominations can be via parents, family, friends or colleagues. Submit your nominations before the deadline on 11 February 2024 via the [Worcestershire Education Awards website](#).

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest education news and updates

Buying for Schools

[Buying for Schools](#) is a free and impartial procurement service for people who buy goods and services for schools and multi-academy trusts.

Their dedicated team of procurement specialists can offer:

- offer advice and guidance to make sure you're buying compliantly at any point, even if your procurement process is already in progress.
- review your documents to make sure they're complete and compliant. This includes advice on specification documents, tender documents and evaluation criteria
- support you on choosing or using a framework agreement for your procurement
- advise when you need to seek legal advice.

Their specialists may also offer to help run more complex or high value procurements. Use [this service](#) if you're a state-funded school in England and need free help with your school procurement. Please pass this on to colleagues at schools involved in the procurement process, however big or small.

Edenred Portal access will be available for the Spring Mid-Term break

During the Spring Mid Term, 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 the order. Schools are instructed to issue vouchers only for the corresponding holiday period.

Schools will have access to the Edenred portal from **Monday 29th January 2024** until **Friday 23rd February 2024**. This will allow a window for placing orders for the holiday.

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

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 23), 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.

No voucher which has previously been ordered and expired can be re-issued by schools. For any queries regarding the re-issuing of vouchers contact: FSMHolidayVouchers@worcschildrenfirst.org.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@worcschildrenfirst.org.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.
- 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.
- Once a voucher has been redeemed by a parent/carer, we are unable to assist with errors with the eCode itself. Queries will need to be directed either to the supermarket or Edenred. Please advise the parent/carer to check all the supporting information on their voucher email before raising a query.
- Parent/carer FAQ’s can be found here: [Parent Carer FAQs](#)

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@worcschildrenfirst.org.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 Worcestershire County Council is available to signpost families to other local sources of support. For support around the cost of living, please signpost parents and carers to our [Cost of living support](#) webpage.

Cyber Prevent: Referral support for young people at risk of committing cyber crime

FAO: ICT Leads, Technicians, Pastoral Leads, Business Managers, PSHE Leads.

The regional Cyber Crime Unit typically accept referrals for and engage with young people from 11 to 25 years old (the average age of a Cyber offender being just 16 years old) who are at risk of committing cyber dependent crime. Please download the [Cyber Choice Referral Criteria](#) and [Request for assistance form](#) from Google Drive.

Please don't hesitate to reach out for support if you identify any students involved in illegal / unauthorised activities.

Their goal is to NOT criminalise young people but to educate and guide those with Cyber skills into more appropriate pathways.

There are two detectives on the Regional Cyber Crime Unit for the West Midlands with responsibility for Cyber Prevent.

The Cyber Choices programme was created to help people make informed choices and to use their cyber skills in a legal way.

Specific leaflets are available here direct from their site.

- [Under 12 years old \(1.57 MB\)](#)
- [12 to 17 years old \(4.25 MB\)](#)
- [Over 18 years old \(1.44 MB\)](#)
- [Introduction to the Computer Misuse Act 1990 \(426 KB\)](#)
- [Developmental Resources \(338 KB\)](#)
- [Cyber Protect - Education Sector - Professionals \(padlet.com\)](#)
- [Cyber Choices \(padlet.com\)](#)
- [Cyber Careers and Education \(padlet.com\)](#)

The team can also deliver a presentation that covers all aspects of the Computer Misuse Act and share examples of how people fall foul of it and get into trouble with the Police. They also support your staff to help them identify young people who may be vulnerable to being groomed into Cybercrime through their online activities. They can explain how the referral system works and the support and guidance that can be provided directly through their interventions.

The training session can cover:

- The makeup of the Regional Cyber Crime Unit / Policing UK and the various staff roles.
- All sections of the Computer Misuse Act with examples of how this sits within the Law.
- Explain the difference between legal and illegal cyber activity.
- The referral mechanism and how adults can refer into the team for one-to-one support of a young person.
- The red flags around cyber to listen out for.
- How they promote legal and ethical cyber opportunities.

Unfortunately, they don't have the resources to present to whole school assemblies or discuss generic e-safety / online safety topics.

Unless you are having specific issues with a student(s) who has/have been identified as being involved in illegal / unauthorised access or hacking activities, their target audience is usually, computer science classes, tech students within schools, colleges, universities or youth groups.

Please download the [Cyber Choices Brochure for Teachers](#) that's packed full of guidance, resources and information about the Cyber Choices program.

The Regional Cyber Crime Unit website is – www.wmcyber.org

The Cyber Choices website is – www.cyberchoices.uk

This website contains a wealth of free media from the Cyber Choices program and invaluable Teacher resources from the National Crime Agency including PSHE lesson plans that can be downloaded and delivered by school staff.

Latest attendance news and updates

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

Following the launch of the government 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts' campaign, Damian Hinds, Minister for Schools has [written to governors and trustees](#) thanking them for their dedication to making schools and trusts a great place for children to learn and ensuring they attend school. The letter asks governing boards to support the department's new [attendance campaign](#) and sets out practical steps governors can take to encourage good attendance.

Please do share this with your governors and trustees.

ImpactEd Evaluation Research: Understanding Attendance - Insights from young people

Recently released research from ImpactEd has explored some of the reasons behind pupil absence and by talking to thousands of young people has found:

- A sense of belonging, linked to feeling safe at school are key drivers impacting attendance.
- A second transition stage, from year 7 to year 8 is a key opportunity to give greater attention to transition and support to pupils that could make significant positive impacts.
- Looking across all pupil demographic factors for individuals (such as pupil premium, gender, SEND etc.) rather than viewing these demographic factors in isolation is required to better understand barriers and support pupil attendance.
- Ensuring pupil awareness of sanctions and consequences of absence are not strongly linked to making improvements in attendance.

[Download the full report on ImpactEd Evaluation](#)

DfE Webinar - Daily Attendance Data Monitoring Tool

On Wednesday 28 February the DfE are [hosting a webinar on the Monitor Your School Attendance tool](#) for schools and local authorities to book onto.

They will be providing updates on the data tool and upcoming features.

Empowering Schools To Build An Attendance Culture Conference

After the excellent feedback received following the programme last year, Haybridge Teaching School Hub are again delighted to offer you and a colleague, the chance to join their free "Empowering Schools To Build An Attendance Culture" conference in February, with distinguished Attendance Leader Wayne Harris.

Wayne has a remarkable track record in enhancing attendance rates in both Primary and Secondary school settings. He has spearheaded this ground-breaking programme and, with over a decade of experience, his expertise has propelled him to the forefront of attendance improvement strategies.

For this programme, they are inviting colleagues (e.g. SLT, whole school attendance leads etc.) to their exclusive conference, taking place on **Wednesday 28th February 2024**. This will be at **King Charles I School in Kidderminster and will run as an all-day event (9am - 4pm)**.

The following key sessions will be covered:

Part 1: The Post Pandemic World

Part 2: Exploring the Attendance Professional Development Model

Part 3: Creating a New Culture

To book onto this unmissable event, please use the button below, which will take you to our Eventbrite page, where you will also find more information on what is covered in each of the above sessions.

[Book your place now](#)

The deadline for booking places is 5pm on Friday 9 February 2024

Latest finance and funding news

Additional Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty in 2023 to 2024

On Wednesday 24 January we published a [letter](#) and [template](#) to the headteachers of all maintained schools.

Worcestershire received £1.56m to support schools in financial difficulty, we have been working with colleagues on the Worcestershire School Forum, on the best way to distribute this money to support as many schools as possible. Schools will need to submit a business case on how they would use the money to support the school's financial sustainability ongoing, it is one off funding so should be used on a one off revenue project.

We are open to request from all maintained schools and must be linked to making savings long-term and not short-term. We are leaving it as open as possible, and each case will be looked at individually. The main principles we are trying to use is, if we support schools now, will this create schools in the future that are financially sustainable.

Some suggestions raised by the Worcestershire school forum were:

- carryout a staffing restructure,
- one-off maintenance,
- support to convert to an academy,
- Health and Safety issues.

We are trying to allow you to be as imaginative as possible, so, we are not ruling anything in or out at present. The conditions of grant are which specify it is a revenue grant and cannot be used for capital works.

We are not setting an upper or lower amount to be allocated, we have a very finite resource and wish to make the most use of this for Worcestershire maintained schools.

The **deadline for all submissions is 1 March 2024**, these need to be sent to SFT@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk, this will also require that governors are involved with the process.

If you have any queries, please email the SFT on the email address above.

Latest news and updates from Teaching Hubs

Rivers Teaching Alliance

Rivers Teaching Alliance want to remind you of some qualification that we are delivering at Rivers from February, these NPQs are designed with a mixture of in person and online elements.

At present, funding for NPQs is only guaranteed for this round.

NPQs are National Professional Qualifications and the new suite have been written to support teachers develop in different ways.

- Specialist NPQs (1 year)
 - NPQ in Leading Literacy
 - NPQ in Leading Primary Maths
- Leadership NPQs (18 months)
 - NPQ in Senior Leadership
 - NPQ in Headship

Sign up is via the National Institute of Teaching by **4th February 2024** and choose Rivers from the drop down menu: [Programmes – The National Institute of Teaching \(niot.org.uk\)](https://www.niot.org.uk/programmes)

Here are a few reasons why they think studying an NPQ with Rivers is an excellent choice:

- They have a strong track record of designing and delivering high quality professional development with a focus on primary specifically
- They have received excellent feedback from the NPQs that they started in October 2023- 100% of participants feel supported and appreciate the balance between in-person and online parts of the course.
- They are excellent communicators and will support teachers throughout their NPQs.
- They are based in schools and understand the day-to-day pressures of school environments
- They have a purpose-built adult learning space with ample parking.
- Their partnership with the NIOT means that the programmes are informed by research and designed in schools.

They look forward to working with you and please do get in touch if you have any questions via email at: catkinson@riverscofe.co.uk

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training

As part of the ITT Market Review, all Teaching School Hubs have an increased role in supporting ITT providers within our region to offer ITT placements, Intensive Training and Practice Placements and map school engagement. The link to the ITT survey commissioned by the West Midlands Teaching School Hub is below, and they are asking if someone from every school across WM1 could complete it.

Responses will remain confidential and will only be shared with the DfE. Results will be used solely for the purpose of improving teacher training in our area.

[Initial Teacher Training School engagement National Survey](#)

ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for Twilight Clinics in the Spring term for Year 1 and 2 ECTs and Mentors. Details for these will be sent closer to the time.

- Thursday 1st February 2024 – Year 1 ECT Mentor Clinic 1 – 3:30-4:30pm
- Thursday 7th March 2024 – Year 1 ECT Clinic 2 – 3:30-4:30pm
- Thursday 21st March 2024 – Year 2 ECT Clinic 5

The next face-to-face conferences are due to take place in the Summer term. You can book onto these now using the following link: www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh

NPQ Update

Applications for the Spring 2024 cohort are still open and will close on 5th February. These programmes are fully funded by the DfE for academic year 2023-24. Please see the Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub website below for further details: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/npq/>

For colleagues interested in the NPQ leading Primary Maths please contact Catherine Atkinson at Rivers MAT, catkinson@riverscofe.co.uk.

The Autumn 2023 cohorts are now underway, and participants have begun their national webinars and local sessions.

AB Update

Schools can still register ECTs for the Appropriate Body using the link below. Where ECTs are starting their induction midway through a term or are on short term supply contract, they must complete one full term in order for this to count towards their induction. Anything less than one full term does not count.

[Register Early Career Teacher for the Appropriate Body](#)

If schools are unsure then please contact Andy Duffy, the Teaching School Hub Director, at ad@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

NPQ in Leading Primary Mathematics (NPQLPM)

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub are excited to announce that, in partnership with Teach First, they are offering the [National Professional Qualification for Leading Primary Maths](#). Applications are open until 2nd February 2024. [Find out more information on the NPQ for Leading Primary Mathematics](#)

[Register for a national professional qualification \(NPQ\)](#)

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) - Spring 2024 Cohort

Registration for our Spring 2024 cohort is now open, with the deadline for applications being 5 February 2024. We are delighted to offer the following courses: NPQ for Executive Leadership, NPQ for Headship, NPQ for Senior Leadership. They will also be offering the following courses through their Shires Partner Hub: NPQ for Leading Teaching, NPQ for Leading Behaviour and Culture and NPQ for Leading Teacher Development. **Places are limited for these NPQs, so please apply soon to avoid disappointment.** [Apply for an NPQ](#)

Funding

Funding for NPQs is only confirmed for the 2023-24 cohorts. The DfE are yet to share funding models from Autumn 2024 onwards. You may be eligible for additional targeted support funding to release staff for NPQ sessions for the 2023-24 cohorts. [Find out if you are eligible for NPQ funding.](#)

Maximising the Impact of CPD

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub and Tudor Grange Research School are collaborating to deliver a workshop for you to support with maximising the impact of your staff professional development.

What is covered?

- How to implement lasting change
- How to utilise NPQ -trained staff to support with trust/school improvement plans
- How CPD can support progression/ talent mapping
- How to plan for and measure impact successfully

Who is it for?

- Trust Leaders
- Head teachers/School Leaders
- Teaching and Learning Leads

How will it run?

- They plan to offer online and face to face options – please indicate your preference when you express interest.

When will it run?

- They will run multiple sessions throughout the year.
- Please indicate when you would prefer to attend, and they will be in touch with dates.

[Express an interest in attending the Maximising the Impact of CPD workshop](#)

Latest health news and updates

School Screener - Health screening in schools

On behalf of Julie Lunn, School Screener Clinical Project Manager for the Starting Well Partnership please find below the latest update on health screening in schools.

Year 9 Health Screening Update

The School Health Nurses commenced Year 9 Health Screening in High/Secondary schools across Worcestershire in September 2023 and so far, have successfully completed Screening within 15 settings. A total of 1719 students have been offered Public Health advice and support to meet emerging health needs by being issued with Public Health messages and 'clickable links' to local and national support networks. Additionally, School Health Nurse have attended 'FLAG' meetings with staff in schools to discuss any concerns of a high category nature. Students have also been offered one-to-one appointments to address any unmet health needs and contacted a School Health Nurse via our CHAT HEALTH messaging service to access further advice and support.

We have some way to go to complete Health Screening for the remaining year 9 students in this academic year, and your support in making this happen will be greatly appreciated.

Health Screening can be set as homework where schools are struggling to accommodate the initiative this year due to late notice. However, evidence suggests that uptake is significantly reduced by this means, therefore it is an approach we would like to avoid in future years.

Health Screening Data Reports

The School Screener platform enables us to produce anonymised data reports that can be shared with services. Report sharing supports a good practice framework to meet the health needs of the population and address health inequalities.

Having access to accurate real time information can transform how we plan, manage, and sustain services, enabling us to make more informed and effective decisions. The anonymised reports provide evidence to implement preventative intervention to achieve high impact to support children, young people, and their families.

We plan to share data reports with all schools who have undertaken the Health Screening Programme. The reports will highlight emerging health 'themes' for students within your school, and a School Health Nurse will arrange to meet with you or a delegate to discuss how the data can be used effectively.

The Public Health Nursing service also works collaboratively with many other agencies who will also be offered data reports so that we can work together to meet the needs of the population.

Reception Health Screening

Reception Health Screening is set to commence after February half term. The focus of the screening is on general health, lifestyles, family health and wellbeing, emotional health, safety, and child development.

All primary and first schools across Worcestershire will receive information about the Screening Programme via their school office email address. This will include letters for the Head Teacher and for parents/carers of children in Reception. We ask that parent/carer letters are forwarded via email where possible.

Parents/carers will be provided a link within their letter to register for a Parent Portal account with School Screener to complete the questionnaire.

The Parent Portal is also where results from the Hearing Screening Programme and the National Childhood Development Programme can be accessed.

We ask that you get in touch for any families who may have accessibility issues.

If you would like to know more about School Screener or contact our service for more information:

- Access: [SchoolScreener | Child Health In-School | Used by School Nursing Teams](#)
- Access your School Health Nurse via our One Number 01905 520032.
- Access: [Starting Well Partnership | Worcestershire | Starting Well \(startingwellworcs.nhs.uk\)](#)

If you would like more information to add to your school website please contact: [Laura Gregory](#), Marketing and Service Improvement Officer, Starting Well Partnership.

The Solihull Approach - Understanding your teenager's brain

For parents or carers of teenager, who find themselves confused or overwhelmed by recent changes in their child's behaviour, the FREE ['Understanding your teenager's brain' online workshop](#) can help.

This short online workshop is specifically designed to help know more about how the teenager's brain works, which in turn helps parents/ carers to understand teenage behaviour better – why they can be impulsive, need to sleep a lot, be emotional, rebellious, take risks, be disorganised or distracted.

Parents in Worcestershire can access this course for FREE by visiting [In Our Place website](#) and using the access code PARENTSROCK

Do your pupils know about ChatHealth?

ChatHealth is a secure and confidential text messaging service for young people aged 11-19 to get in touch with a school health nurse for advice and support on a range of issues including:

- Bullying
- Exam stress
- Relationships
- Drugs and alcohol
- Healthy eating
- Sexual health

ChatHealth offers pupils a different line of communication, as well as the anonymity of getting in touch and still accessing the support they need. ChatHealth can be accessed between 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday by texting: **07507 331750**

Can the following ChatHealth resources also be shared:

[Watch ChatHealth video on YouTube](#)

[Download ChatHealth posters and business cards](#)

Latest government news

Home Office Consultation - Defining child to parent abuse

The Home Office has opened a new consultation looking into defining child to parent abuse. There is no agreed definition for children displaying harmful behaviours towards parents/caregivers, making it difficult to identify and talk about. In the absence of an agreed definition, various terms and descriptions are used. The [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#) is committed to developing an agreed definition and updating guidance for frontline professionals.

The statutory definition of domestic abuse, as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, concerns abuse between those who are personally connected and over the age of 16, with children being recognised as victims in their own right where they see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse and they are related to either the abuser or the abused. For this reason, the definition of CPA will apply to those under 16. The key aims of an agreed definition are:

- to establish a common language around CPA
- to support identification by frontline professionals and parents and caregivers of this type of abuse, to make it easier to seek and offer support

This consultation seeks views on both the headline terminology for, and descriptors of, CPA which will together make up the definition. The guidance will provide an opportunity to provide further detail on the definition and consider some of the complex issues surrounding this type of abuse, for example the challenges faced by a child or their special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

This consultation closes on 7th February 2024.

[Access full consultation document on defining child to parent abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Respond to the consultation on defining child to parent abuse](#)

Latest training news and conferences

Managing School Attendance - Supporting Senior Leaders and Attendance Leads

This course is designed to support attendance leaders to embed the requirements of the DfE 'Working together to Improve School Attendance' practices and drive the requirement of attendance becoming everyone's business as part of school culture.

The course will be delivered as two virtual sessions, via teams and will:

- Consider DfE guidance expectations and the requirements upon attendance managers.
- Explore how Ofsted consider attendance.
- Explore how data can be strategically used to assist attendance management.
- Explore self-assessment and measuring Impact.
- Provide good practice examples.
- Consider DfE guidance expectations within the Worcestershire context.

Audience: School based Attendance Leads/Senior leaders with attendance responsibility

Cost: £60 +VAT per delegate

- 8 and 15 March 2024, 10am to 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10434 / 84006
- 18 and 25 June 2024, 10am to 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10434 / 84007

New to Attendance/Attendance Refresher - for School Attendance Officers/staff

This course is designed to support attendance officers new to the role, or experienced officers seeking a refresher to ensure good practice and compliance with the updated DfE 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' expectations.

The course will be delivered as 2 virtual sessions, via teams and will:

- Outline current guidance, responsibilities, and legislation relative to school attendance.
- Enable delegates to understand the role and responsibilities of an attendance officer.
- Explore the importance of accurate pupil register coding and record keeping.
- Support officers to be able to identify and action attendance patterns of concern.
- Explore good practice models of addressing persistent and severe absence.
- Enable delegates to explore the important links between attendance and safeguarding.

This course, booked in conjunction with 'Attendance Themes and Effective Casework' would enhance new Attendance Officers CPD opportunities during their first 12 months.

Audience: School attendance officers/school-based attendance staff

Cost: £60 + VAT per delegate

- 6 and 13 March 2024, 10am to 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10435 / 84009
- 20 and 27 June 2024, 10am to 11:30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10435 / 84010

Moderation and Assessment Training - Refresher to Year 6

This is an ideal opportunity to refresh your knowledge and skills around KS2 Teacher Assessment in writing. The session will explore assessing writing at the 3 standards (WTS, EXS, GDS) and give delegates the opportunity to look at new materials produced by the Standards and Testing Agency.

Course leaders will outline expectations, share planning ideas to support the gathering and generating of evidence in readiness for making an end of year judgement and will provide a brief overview of the LA moderation process.

The training will highlight what went well in the moderation cycle 2023 and common challenges schools experienced to further enhance your provision and assessment. The maximum number of places available per course is 40.

Cost: £70 + VAT

- 23 February 2024, 09:30 to 12:30, Worcester, course code: SCH 10308 / 84585
- 27 February 2024, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10308 / 84586
- 5 March 2024, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10308 / 84587

Book your place on any of the above training and programme via [WCF: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@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Other local news and events

Museums Worcestershire School Trips, Outreach and Loans Boxes

Museums Worcestershire brings history and art to life for your learners through inspiring school trips tailored to all ages and abilities.

From fossils to Florence Nightingale, the Civil War to Victorians, and the power of art. Across their three sites they offer a variety of engaging sessions, with hands on activities designed to enrich your curriculum. They have a friendly team of experts who are happy to discuss your groups individual needs at any stage during your enquiry.

Sessions are suitable from EYFS to KS4, with cross-curricular links and a chance to build self-confidence, independence, and soft skills.

County Museum at Hartlebury

Whether it's a lesson with the school teacher in the Victorian Schoolroom, or meeting the servants in the Scullery, children will find out first-hand what life was really like in historic Worcestershire. From costume to caravans, travel to toys there is something for all ages to explore.

"Hartlebury is really great. There's so much to see and do" KS1 teacher

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

In this world-class gallery and museum, pupils can immerse themselves in contemporary and historic works of art, natural history, military history, geology and archaeology. Alongside outstanding works of art, objects on display include dinosaur footprints, historic military uniforms and a 2.5 metre sturgeon.

"It's great for the kids to see such works of art. And the staff are amazing" KS2 teacher

The Commandery

The Commandery is the perfect place to bring local and national history to life. It is the very place where, in 1651, the decisive battle at the end of the civil war took place, ending the rule of the monarchy in England. Discover what life was like during Stuart times and find out what it would take to be ready for battle during the Civil War.

"Great experience for the children. Educational, exciting and brilliant value for money." KS2 teacher

To find out more, visit their website: [Learning - Museums Worcestershire](#)

To get in touch, you can use one of their online forms below or follow the contact details on their website.

[Submit an enquiry for The Commandery](#)

[Submit an enquiry for Worcestershire County Museum](#)

[Submit an enquiry for Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum](#)

Applications are open to find Worcestershire's next Young Poet Laureate!

Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate competition has opened, inviting young people in school years 6–8, 9–11 and 12–13 from across the county to take part. The competition is jointly run by Worcester Libraries, Severn Arts and Public Health Worcestershire, celebrating the talented voices of young local poets by inviting them to submit their written poetry for the opportunity to perform at the Young Poet Laureate final.

As Young Poet Laureate you could...

- Have your work published
- Receive mentoring from professional poets
- Gain opportunities to perform and share your work.

How to apply

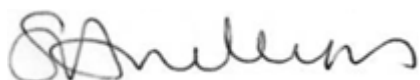
To enter the competition, submit one poem on the theme of Change. Individuals can apply directly, or schoolteachers can submit poems created by students during a classroom session.

Application deadline: 5pm on Monday 1 April 2024.

To find out more information and apply, visit www.severnarts.org.uk/ypl24

[Download Young Poet Laureate 2024 Poster and Plasma Display](#)

Best wishes,



Sarah Wilkins

Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

