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## Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had a good week and your pupils are continuing to settle into this autumn term.

This week, the Secretary of State for Education expressed her thanks to headteachers and teachers who are going the extra mile to encourage students back to the classroom. As mentioned in my previous bulletin, attendance is a main focus for us this year as we all know how important attendance at school is and the impact regular absence has on children's education, development and wellbeing.

To support this the Department for Education have published an [attendance toolkit](#) to support your conversations with parents and carers, offering evidenced-based messages to help improve attendance this term. Schools and subscribers to the DfE Teacher Bulletin will receive a dedicated edition pulling together all the support available to tackle absence – [sign up to receive this email](#). There will also be similar roundups on workload reduction, flexible working and other key issues later in the autumn term.

Last week, the Department for Education (DfE) published an [update to the management of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete \(RAAC\) in education settings](#). This updated included information on additional help with revenue costs in the 'Guidance for responsible bodies and education settings' and a reminder for responsible bodies to fill out the [RAAC questionnaire](#).

And finally, please note that our next Headteacher Briefing is scheduled to take place at 9am to 12pm on Tuesday 24 October. This autumn briefing will be held online and will include updates from across our education service. For more information please download our latest [flyer](#) and book your place now via our [CPD portal](#).

Wishing you all the best.

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## Latest education news and updates

### School attendance

#### Lead contact details - Important Reminder

If your school's attendance lead contact details have changed over the last 12 months, either due to staff changes or email address/IT system updates, please advise us as soon as possible in order for our records to be updated by emailing [JKearney@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:JKearney@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

Over the next few weeks we will be sharing important attendance support and training information that will be on offer for all schools. Please make sure your school attendance lead details have been updated to ensure your school does not miss out.

#### Attendance Helpline Support

Due to the success of the back-to-school helpline, the Education Engagement Team will be operating a permanent telephone helpdesk service to assist with any attendance or CME enquiries. The helpline will open on Monday 18 September and will be open daily, during term time, between 9am - 12.30pm and 1pm - 4.30pm.

The new helpline number is **01905 844 440**.

#### Attendance Poster Design Competition closing soon – Friday 22 September

Thank you to all schools who have already supported the attendance poster design competition and have promoted this within your schools. If you haven't done so yet it's not too late!

A promotional poster that can be displayed on notice boards or electronically shared, alongside terms and conditions can be found using the following link. We would encourage all schools sharing this to reiterate your own 'attending as regularly as possible' messaging to recognise that pupils who may have medical, health, illness, or other exceptional and authorised circumstances maybe unable to achieve 100% attendance. Attending school as regularly as practicable for such pupils will need to be sensitively supported as part of any attendance conversations.

[School Attendance Poster Competition \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](http://worcestershire.gov.uk)

All poster entries will need to be A4 in size. They could include attendance slogans, drawn images or fun facts. They will need to be visually appealing, clear and concise. Designs can be uploaded to: [Mfowler2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:Mfowler2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk). The competition closes on **Friday 22 September**.

The winning designs, alongside other entries will be used by WCF in future school attendance promotions. There are also prizes, including safari park tickets for the best posters designed in two age categories (aged 9 and under and aged 10 and above). Winners will be announced on Monday 2 October and the winning posters revealed. For any competition enquiries please contact [Mfowler2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:Mfowler2@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

We look forward to seeing your pupils' fantastic designs!

## DfE request feedback on WONDE/Attendance Monitoring reports

As part of our ongoing user research, the Department for Education 'Monitor your school attendance' data team would like to speak to schools and Local Authorities about the experience of using the daily attendance reports.

We want to understand more about any challenges or difficulties experienced relating to attendance and/or when using attendance reports and what support, information and guidance is needed to make it easier to use them.

Taking part in this research will involve a 45-minute conversation with a researcher which will take place online, via MS Teams or completing a task online without the researcher.

If you are interested in taking part in our research, please sign up using this [research sign up form](#) and we will be in contact with further information.

## Enhanced Early Years Provision – commissioning opportunity available now

Worcestershire Children First (WCF) are looking to broker Enhanced Early Years Provision (EEYP) for children whose identified complex needs make it difficult to attend an early years' provision. The intention is to deliver EEYP within South Worcestershire as a pilot.

WCF are looking for provision within Worcester City or Malvern and have assessed the current sufficiency need could be up to 35 children a year.

WCF are also looking for a provision in Wychavon and have assessed the current sufficiency need could be up to 25 children a year.

The contract will be for 3 years starting 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2026, with an option to extend for a further year, plus a further year (maximum 5 years) dependent upon the success of the pilot.

This tender is open to all providers. You may be a childminder, private, voluntary or independent (PVI) early years setting, an academy or maintained school or a charity organisation.

Information is available on the [Nursery Assessment Unit Review](#) website.

If you would further information of the tender, please follow the link to the [Tender on Intend](#) The Project is titled EDU23024 Enhanced Early Years Nursery Provision Reference WCC 00003444.

The closing date for submission of completed tenders has been extended to **4pm on 20 October 2023**.

## Rivers Teaching Alliance









Rivers Teaching Alliance have recently been approved as a Founding Associate Collage for the National Institute of Teaching and are offering the following NPQs. Sign up and more info is via this link:

[Programmes – The National Institute of Teaching \(niot.org.uk\)](#) (Choose Rivers from the drop down)

NPQ in Leading Teaching  
NPQ in Leading Teacher Development  
NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture  
NPQ in Leading Literacy  
NPQ in Early Years Leadership

**Here are a few reasons why we think studying an NPQ with us at Rivers is an excellent choice:**

- We have a strong track record of designing and delivering high quality professional development.
- We are excellent communicators and will support teachers throughout their NPQs.
- We are based in schools and understand the day-to-day pressures of school environments
- We have a purpose-built adult learning space with ample parking.
- Our partnership with the NIOT means that the programmes are informed by research and designed in schools.
- As well as the course being funding fully by the DfE there is additional funding to help support schools:
  - State-funded primary schools with 1 to 150 pupils
  - Your school will receive a grant payment of £800 for each teacher or leader you employ who starts an NPQ in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.
  - State-funded primary schools with more than 150 pupils
  - Your school will receive a grant payment of £200 for each teacher or leader you employ who starts an NPQ in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

 <p><b>NPQ in Leading Teaching</b></p> <p>Our NPQLT is designed for ambitious classroom teachers and middle leaders, who are looking to become head of subject, year group, key stage or phase.</p>	 <p><b>NPQ in Leading Teacher Development</b></p> <p>Our NPQLTD is designed for any teacher who has - or wants to have - responsibility for leading the development of other teachers in their school. This includes anyone interested in mentoring trainees or Early Career Teachers.</p>	 <p><b>NPQ in Leading Literacy</b></p> <p>Our NPQLL is designed for ambitious teachers and middle leaders, who want to - or already - have responsibility for leading literacy across a school, year group, key stage or phase.</p>	 <p><b>NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture</b></p> <p>Our NPQLBC is designed for ambitious teachers and leaders, including behaviour-management leads and SENDCOs who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibility for leading behaviour and/or supporting pupil wellbeing in their schools.</p>	 <p><b>NPQ in Early Years Leadership</b></p> <p>Our NPQEYL is designed for ambitious early-years leaders qualified to at least Level 3 with a full and relevant qualification, who want to be - or already are - nursery managers (private, voluntary or independent), headteachers of school-based or maintained nurseries, or childminders with leadership responsibilities.</p>		
						

## Latest SEND news and updates

### SENDIASS Training Workshops

The [SEND Information, Advice and Support Service](#) have released new dates for their FREE Training Workshops for parent carers and professionals across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Please find links to more information and booking details for each workshop below.

They would appreciate your help in informing the families that you support about the following opportunities, and we have attached a flyer for you to display or distribute through your networks (including social media, newsletters and mailing lists). If you have any questions about any of the workshops, or would like to book a session at your setting, please email [SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk)

#### Workshops for Parent Carers:

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Parent Carers](#)
- [Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS Online Information Session \(parents and carers\)](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? \(parents and carers\)](#)
- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability](#)

#### Workshops for professionals:

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) workshop for professionals](#)
- [Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS Online Information Session \(professionals\)](#)
- [Parent Carer Engagement in Schools \(Worcestershire\)](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Approach/ Response in schools \(professionals\)](#)
- [What does a good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? \(professionals\)](#)

For more information please visit <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendiaass> or download their training flyer from [Google Drive](#).

## Latest health news and updates

### Order Illegal Vapes Posters for your School/College

Worcestershire Trading Standards are still cracking down on the selling of illegal and under age vapes. They have produced a free poster for your settings, explaining how to recognise and report an illegal vape.

Please order these A4 posters using this very short [order form](#).

### Women's Reproductive Health Survey - ages 16 to 55

**Action: Please share with your female staff, families and young women aged over 16 years**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [announced the launch](#) of a women's reproductive health survey, which is open until 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The survey is open to all women in England aged 16 to 55 years. The views of younger women are sometimes missed in surveys such as these, this is an opportunity for their voices to be heard as the outcomes may impact their future reproductive health care.

The survey includes questions about; sexual in/activity, contraception, fertility and pregnancy plans, menopause, experiences of using various organisations for services and advice.

#### [Women's Reproductive Health Survey](#)

We appreciate this may feel like a delicate topic for some schools, however, hearing a wide range of voices and their experiences and plans is important.

### BREATHE - Digital Theatre Zine

Mobilise Arts in partnership with Severn Arts have created BREATHE a Digital Theatre Zine for schools (suitable for Key Stages 3 and 4) for World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10 October 2023.

The FREE digital theatre resource is a ten-minute video containing digital drawings, animation, spoken word and music with interactive content by a diverse collective of emerging artists around themes such as wellbeing, creativity and self-care. The content has been made through lived experience and supported by a Mental Health Counsellor. The video will be accompanied by a 30-minute creative PSHE / Arts lesson plan.

To register interest in being sent BREATHE video and lesson plan to deliver on World Mental Health Day / Week please email Dr Hannah Phillips: [hannahphillipsmobilise@gmail.com](mailto:hannahphillipsmobilise@gmail.com)

BREATHE is supported by Worcestershire County Council Public Health.

## School defibrillators

All schools that did not have a defibrillator should now have received their DfE defibrillator.

Please ensure that the defibrillator is registered on [The Circuit](#) website so the ambulance service is aware of its availability (hours and whether access is restricted in some way) and exact location.

For schools that already had a defibrillator it is equally as important to ensure that the availability of the defib on The Circuit website is accurate. If there have been any changes in the hours it is available or if access is restricted, for example a member of the public has to ask office staff to fetch the defib please update the website so in an emergency the ambulance service doesn't direct a member of the public to the defib unnecessarily.

Please also ensure that the description of the defibrillator's location is clearly described.

In a 999 situation, if the ambulance service direct a member of the public to the defibrillator the ambulance service will not direct anyone to the defib until your school has responded to the ambulance service confirming that the defibrillator is ready for future use, eg disposables replaced etc. The ambulance service will make this contact.

Please include maintenance of the defib in your planned preventative maintenance schedules.

Please note that CPR is crucial in the event of a cardiac arrest and should be commenced and continued whilst someone has gone to collect a defib. You are encouraged to ensure that staff and children are taught basic CPR. A 15 minute online training course is available from the following link:

[Learn CPR in 15 minutes for free with RevivR](#)



## Latest Government updates

### Period products in schools and colleges

The Department for Education has updated guidance for schools and post-16 education organisations in England on providing free period products for pupils and students. The 'Period product scheme for schools and colleges' has been updated with information on the scheme for the 2023 to 2024 academic year. The eligibility for the scheme remains unchanged.

[Read guidance of period products in schools and colleges](#)

### Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff this academic year

Good mental health and wellbeing supports improved learning, behaviour, and attendance. This academic year, prioritise mental health and wellbeing by joining 14,000 settings that have benefitted from DfE-funded [senior mental health lead training](#).

The training develops your mental health lead's [knowledge and practical skills](#) on their journey to introduce an effective whole school/college approach to mental health/wellbeing.

Training will help you:

- identify need, and monitor impact, of mental health/wellbeing support
- develop approaches aligned with your DSL/SENCO's work
- develop your universal and targeted support offer
- engage students/pupils and develop positive relationships with parents/carers

They offer flexibility to [choose the right course for you](#), tailored to your needs/experience. If you haven't already applied for a £1,200 grant, [apply now](#).

## Other local news and events

### Careers and Apprenticeships Roadshows October 2023 - NEW VENUE

Please note there has been a change of venue for the Worcester Careers & Apprenticeships Roadshow on 5 October 2023. The roadshow will now be held at **Sixways Stadium**.

The Redditch roadshow remains at Heart of Worcestershire College on 17 October 2023.

At both of these events, young adults aged 15-24 can explore their career, education, and training options. Attendees can connect with local employers for valuable advice, live job openings, and apprenticeship opportunities. Both events are run from 4pm to 8pm.

This is an unmissable opportunity to shape their Worcestershire career future!

**WORCESTERSHIRE  
CAREERS AND  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
ROADSHOW**

**WORCESTER | OCTOBER 5TH  
REDDITCH | OCTOBER 17TH**

**AGED 15-24?**

**COME AND EXPLORE YOUR CAREER,  
EDUCATION & TRAINING OPTIONS**

**WORCESTER | OCT 5TH | 4-8PM**  
SIXWAYS STADIUM, WARRIORS WAY,  
WORCESTER WR3 8ZE

**REDDITCH | OCT 17TH | 4-8PM**  
HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE,  
PEAKMAN STREET, REDDITCH, B98 8DW

European Union  
European Social Fund

worcestershire  
county council

Worcestershire  
Local Enterprise Partnership

WA  
WORCESTERSHIRE  
APPRENTICESHIPS

**CAREERS  
WORCS**

**INSPIRING  
WORCESTERSHIRE**

## Young Adult Learning Worcestershire

If you have a child aged 16-19 (19-24 with EHCP) and you are looking for an alternative to sixth form or college for them, **Young Adult Learning Worcestershire (YAL)** offer study programmes and traineeships in a more relaxed, supportive environment.

Programmes available include Level 1 Working in the Hair and Beauty Industry, Level 1/2 in Caring for Children, Level 1/2 Employability Study Programme, Level 2 Women's Hairdressing plus bespoke traineeships. Bespoke traineeships can be tailored specifically to what the Young Adult learner is interested in and includes work placement, plus YAL also offer English and Maths qualifications/skills too.

YAL is designed to be an alternative to a school experience, with smaller, friendly groups that allow more 1:1 teaching and direct delivery at Fairfield Learning Centre in Warndon, Worcester and Willow Trees Centre in Redditch.

For more information call 01905 728537 or visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/youngadultlearning](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/youngadultlearning)

## Severn Arts Music Outside School

As part of their national remit to provide access to music for every young person, Severn Arts would love to see more young people taking part, enjoying and seeing the benefits that learning an instrument and playing with others can bring.

### From the week beginning 18 September they will:

- Re-start their FREE Lift Off! Groups in Worcester, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Malvern and start a **NEW Lift Off! group in Evesham**. Lift Off! is open to all school aged children from beginner up to grade 1 level. No musical experience is needed to take part.
- Continue with their FREE music centre groups in Worcester, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Malvern. These groups are open to all children aged 5 years and above who are competent beginners up to grade 3 level.
- Start a new membership year for Worcestershire Intermediate Orchestra and their youth bands and orchestras. Worcestershire Intermediate Orchestras is for young musicians playing at grade 3 and above and the youth bands and orchestras are for those playing at grade 5 and above. The fee for joining their bands and orchestras is £50.00 a term or £150.00 a year and members can join as many bands as they like for one fee.

Please help Severn Arts to get more children and young people loving music and engaging with musical experiences together by sharing the information above and their '[Understanding our music groups](#)' video with your parents/carers and pupils.

## Learn to Play '23 - FREE Severn Arts music event

Severn Arts are holding a Learn to Play drop-in music event in Worcester on Saturday 7 October from 11am – 3pm.

Join them inside Arch 27 (opposite The Hive) where they will have lots of different instruments from the brass, woodwind and string families for everyone to have a go at holding, blowing and playing! Severn Arts Music Box will also be on site, packed with digital music-making kit for everyone to try.

Come and see them and have a go - everyone welcome and it's FREE to take part!

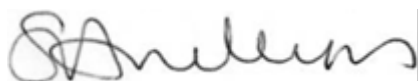
## Furthering Talent Connect

Thanks to Awards for Young Musicians (AYM) funding, Severn Arts is now able to offer more support for families and young people (up to 18 years) looking for musical opportunities and information in Worcestershire, via a new Connector role.

Rachel Davies is Worcestershire's newly appointed Furthering Talent Connector. Rachel has extensive knowledge of our local musical landscape and the national picture too, and she's available to connect young musicians with opportunities, from music groups to funding.

Schools and families can get in touch with Rachel via their [online form](#).

Best wishes,



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

