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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you are having a good week.

In today's bulletin you will find an important update and clarification for settings who have received a notification from our Free School Meals Team to cease the FSM being given to one or more Ukrainian pupils on roll and whose award was originally made in advance of their income-based FSM status being established. Please take the time to read this article on page 3 and take action as appropriate.

An important reminder from our colleagues in Worcestershire County Council regarding school HSE asbestos compliance inspections. If you receive notification of a visit from HSE, can you please email details to premisesrisk@worcestershire.gov.uk at the earliest opportunity so that they can support and assist you appropriately with the inspection.

Did you know the Department for Education has an official YouTube channel covering all sector-based communications in England? The channel includes a number of training webinars, live events (such as broadcasts on key policy announcements), resources, case studies and sector updates. The channel also has a helpful playlist of webinars specifically focussed on attendance. You can access the channel at https://www.youtube.com/@DfESectorComms.

The annual GCHQ Christmas Challenge for 11-18-year-olds is now open for settings to register their interest ahead of the 14 December launch date. Students can put their STEM skills to the test in a series of puzzles. Register now to get early access to the puzzles at GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2023.

And finally, the 2024 Teaching Awards are now open for nominations. Don't miss the opportunity to nominate a special teacher, colleague or friend for an award. The nominations are free and there are 16 categories to choose from, including individual, team and support staff awards. This is a great way to show your appreciation for a colleague's outstanding work and commitment. Nominate someone for a National Teaching Award.

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest education news and updates

Ukrainian FSM Claims

The following update is only applicable to settings who have received a notification from our Free School Meals Team to cease the FSM being given to one or more Ukrainian pupils on roll and whose award was originally made in advance of their income-based FSM status being established.

Settings were originally requested to put an end date of 31 August 2023 against Ukrainian pupils. This has been picked up by the DfE via the Autumn School Census and is triggering a validation query (1767Q) due to valid FSM claims are not ordinarily expected to be ended (apart from in some specific circumstances) due to Universal Credit Transitional Protection.

Apologies for any confusion and conflicting advice but the DfE have now clarified that **where a Ukrainian FSM claim has been awarded, but the claim has not subsequently been supported by a valid claim via the normal income-based route, the correct action is to remove both the start and the end date of the claim.**

Before taking action, it is important to note that the DfE now require full details of the pupil concerned to be forwarded to them so that they can reclaim from the school funding which has been incorrectly allocated as a result. This will principally be Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) for the 2023-2024 financial year which was calculated from data collected in the October 2022 School Census. DfE have indicated that they will reclaim the funds by a reduction in the 2024-25 PPG which will be based on the October 2023 Census which is still currently open to amendment.

We want the best outcome for all pupils in Worcestershire and by extension the schools that they attend. This means minimising the funding that DfE claim back and where possible minimising the burden on your settings in receipt of our SLA.

We have agreed with the DfE, that since this problem originated from the LA, the burden of identifying the 309 Ukrainian pupils affected to the DfE should fall on us rather than settings.

The Autumn School Census closes to amendment on 29 November, and we are aware that at least some of the pupils on the list have now become properly FSM eligible since the census date of 5 October. Our view is that these pupils should be kept on your MIS and on the Autumn 2023 School Census with their original FSM start date. This will qualify them for PPG 2024-25 and obviate the DfE claiming back PPG allocated for 2023-24.

With regards Ukrainian pupils who are now properly eligible please remove the 31 August 2023 FSM end date entered onto your MIS.

We also advise that you do not respond to the request made to some academies by the DfE to send details of the pupils concerned via the DfE School to School.

There have been two tranches of approach from DfE. The first tranche before half term, a second tranche this week. We have put a stop on further approaches by the DfE however **if any school or academy is contacted by the DfE about FSM end dates between now and Friday 1 December, please let us know immediately.**

At the close of the Autumn School Census, we will forward a list of the Ukrainian pupils whose FSM status should be completely removed from the census directly to the DfE, who will then decide about claiming back and will do that direct to the schools affected.
LA Maintained Schools - there is no further action for you to take as the School Census Team will do all of the above for you.

EBI Supported Academies - there is no further action for you to take as the School Census Team will do all of the above for you. However if you have already done anything independently, either to your census or by sending details of pupils to DfE, please let us know as there may be alternative steps we can take on your behalf.

Non EBI Academies - please note the advice above. Unfortunately because you don't have an EBI Support Contract with us, we are unable to do the work on your behalf. We will however include in the list we send to the DfE after the census closes, any pupils who our FSM Team identifies who still does not have an income-based FSM claim.

If you need to check the FSM status of a pupil, please contact our FSM Team via email at FreeSchoolMeals@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 845280.

If you wish to discuss any other aspect of the above, please contact Mike Parkin via email at mparkin@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905 844908.

Primary STEMWORKS challenge for 2023/24

Last year, 80 schools from across Worcestershire took part in the Worcestershire Primary STEM Challenge which is run in partnership with Worcestershire LEP, County and District Councils.

The program is also supported by many local engineering businesses. If you haven't yet seen it, here is the video from our most recent Worcestershire Primary STEM Challenge Final which was held on Thursday 15th June at Yamazaki Mazak, Worcester.

Registration is now open for the 2023/24 Challenge, and we do hope that you would like to get involved, please complete the registration form.

Each participating school will receive **£200 subsidy** towards the cost of one **1/2 day workshop**. The remaining cost to school will be just **£50** for up to **36 children**.

Spaces are limited per district and are allocated on a **first come, first served basis.** Once registered we will contact you regarding a workshop date and time so please make sure you include any days which are not convenient in the comments section.

The 2024 final will take place in **June** and **2 students from each participating school will be invited to attend.** More details to follow.

If you would like more information about the Challenge, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Sarah Lalor sarah.lalor@stemworks.co.uk

Health & Safety Schools Conference - Reminder

As reported in the last bulletin, our colleagues in the Health & Safety Team at Worcestershire County Council are proposing to run an inaugural Health & Safety Conference specific to schools. This will be online and free for schools/academies with an SLA or contract with the Team.

For the day to be as useful as possible please take 5 mins to share your opinions of how you would like the day to be structured via this short H&S Conference survey.

Make Your Mark 2024

We are encouraging schools to register to take part in Make Your Mark before the deadline on Friday 8 December 2023. Make Your Mark gives all young people aged 11-18 in the UK the chance to have a say on the biggest issues facing young people. This project is powered by the British Youth Council with support from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

Voting will take place between 29 January and 8 March 2024.

Find out more information about Make Your Mark 2024

Register your Schools, College or Youth Group for Make Your Mark 2024

If you require any help or support, please email: youthvoiceteam@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Griffiths' Bridge to Schools

Our contractor Griffiths have offered us a really great STEM offer as part of their social value commitments.

During a 2-hour session held at your school, pupils will construct a 15-metre-long model cable-stayed bridge (the same design as the Second Severn Crossing), made from plywood and aluminium sections, and then walk across the bridge they have just built. The following video shows what it looks like: ICE Bridges for Schools (YouTube).

Griffiths have 16 slots available on a first come first served basis for groups of up to thirty Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

Ideally, they would like to target schools in the following areas that they are currently working in: Droitwich, Kidderminster, Evesham and Bromsgrove.

Download further information on Griffiths' Bridge to School

To express an interest in arranging a session, please contact Sam Pogson, Public Liaison Officer at Griffiths via email at sam.pogson@alungriffiths.co.uk or call on 01873 857 211.

EEF Worcestershire Evidence Exploration

Through the EEF's Regional Strategy, Worcestershire Children First has successfully secured commitment and funding to enter into an Evidence Exploration Partnership with the EEF and Billesley Research School.

The aim of the Evidence Exploration Partnership is to explore outcomes for all pupils in Worcestershire, but particularly those from a socioeconomically disadvantaged background, and work collaboratively with schools to identify a shared challenge, and co-develop evidence-based solutions to address it.

As part of this Evidence Exploration Partnership, we would like to capture the perspectives of all school leaders to drive discussions around identifying high-leverage priorities that are amenable to change by completing the survey below:

Complete Partnership Foundations Survey

To ensure input at the next Partnership meeting we would appreciate responses by Monday 27 November.

Latest attendance news and updates

Inclusion in Education Settings Website - Attendance Resources and Information:

We are pleased to share Worcestershire's refreshed Inclusion in Educational Settings website.

This features lots of information to promote and support inclusion and inclusive practice in educational settings, as well as resources for schools. The website will continue to be regularly updated.

A new Attendance and CME section has now been added with lots of useful resources and good practice information for schools to support attendance.

On 30 November at 10.30am we are offering a 45 minute virtual website walkthrough session in order to support schools to navigate the website and readily find the attendance resources and materials you may need.

If you would like to join this Teams Meeting the link to do is below. As an open invitation to all schools, apologies/acceptance confirmations are not required.

Click here to join the meeting
Meeting ID: 320 824 915 713
Passcode: rD5RnE
Download Teams | Join on the web

New evidence that it is never too late to Improve attendance

Released on 2 November 2023 the Children's Commissioner report detailed the links between attendance and attainment whilst recognising that the benefits of school go beyond academic results as places of social and emotional development.

New data suggests that it is never too late to improve attendance as persistent absentees in Year 10 whose attendance was supported to improve in Year 11 were still able to achieve in GCSE's: Children's Commissioner Report.

NHS Guidance to Support Parents

As the time of year where mild illnesses may become more prevalent, the NHS guidance can aid parents in making judgements about whether their child is well enough to go to school or otherwise. If you haven't recently shared this on your school website/newsletter it may be helpful to do so to support your attendance initiatives and identify any families that may require your additional support or reassurance: NHS guidance- Is my child too ill for school?

Attendance Data

The majority of Worcestershire Schools are now using the WONDE 'Monitor your school attendance' service - a free tool that helps visualise data and monitor pupil attendance. The DfE teaching blog has recently featured 2 schools making use of their data to tackle attendance.

Read how DfE are working together to tackle attendance in rural communities on their Teaching Blog

If you are not yet signed up to use the 'Monitor your school attendance' service you can find out more information via the following link.

DfE guidance on how to access your school attendance data

The DfE are also hosting a 'Monitor your school attendance' webinar on 29 November 2023 at 11am.

Sign up to the DfE Attendance Webinar

Please be aware that we are currently also changing the way we are collecting pupil information (including attendance data) by altering the existing pupil data feed from schools to the Local Authority.

This project is still ongoing but once a school is migrated, it will mean data will automatically be transferred to us using the same WONDE technology the DfE is using. For schools/provision who do not have an MIS capable of this functionality, we also offer an Attendance Collection Tool where schools can login and enter attendance data for their students. For both projects, our Support Desk is contacting schools to arrange the most appropriate way to share data.

If you, as a school/provision, have not heard anything regarding either project please contact the Support Desk for further information via email at support@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Portal Absence Notifications Update

The Absence and Irregular Attendance Notification form on the Children's Services Portal has been updated with a tick box to allow schools to flag to us that a new notification (or an update to an existing notification) should be considered as a case to be brought for discussion at the CCAS panel.

We have also included clear guidance on our expectations of how and when schools should be using this flag (including providing supporting information e.g. IHP/EHA and evidence that has exhausted a graduated response to the barrier(s) affecting access to education).

Where a case that has originated from an Absence Notification is to be discussed at CCAS panel, a school representative will also be requested to take part as well. Please note the CCAS panel responds to cases which might meet the criteria for Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, which states: *'Each local authority in England shall make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them.'*

Latest news from Teaching School Hubs

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

NPQs

Applications for the Spring cohorts are open until 5th February 2024. This is the last set of NPQs with confirmed funding, so apply soon to avoid disappointment!

For those doing an NPQ as part of the Autumn 2023 cohort, information about events can now be found on our website.

FREE CPD from Teacher Development Trust:

We work with TDT to deliver the National Professional Qualifications, which means schools we work with have access to the following CPD opportunities.

- **Expert Schools Webinar Series** - for school leaders covering the seven domains of school improvement. The first is on 'Culture and Wellbeing' on Thursday 23rd November 2023 4-5pm. Sign up here.

- **NPQ Graduate Seminar Series** – for all NPQ alumni, to connect with peers and re-engage with evidence to support putting theory into practice. Leadership Graduate Seminar is on Tuesday 28th November 2023 4-5pm and the Specialist Graduate Seminar is on Tuesday 5th December 2023 4-5pm. Sign up here.

West Midlands Teaching School Hub Network

The DfE has commissioned all Teaching School Hubs to conduct a national survey to gain insights into teacher training provision and gaining a clear picture for Worcestershire school provision is essential.

The survey is the same for all West Midlands TS Hubs and requires just 8-10 minutes of your time.

You may wish to delegate this to the person in your school who manages teacher training provision.

Responses will remain confidential and not shared with any providers (only the DfE) and will be used solely for the purpose of improving teacher training in our area.

Thank you in advance for your time and support.

Initial Teacher Training School Engagement National Survey

Latest news and updates from settings

Tudor Grange Academy Redditch awarded IQM Flagship Status

Congratulations to Tudor Grange Academy Redditch who have received a glowing report as part of their ongoing assessment to become an Inclusion Quality Mark school.

Inclusion Quality Mark provides schools with a nationally recognised framework to guide their inclusion journey. The IQM team help schools evaluate and measure how they are performing; empowering them to improve and grow.

IQM Flagship status recognises those unique schools who have held IQM Centre of Excellence status for at least 3 years; and played a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools.

This year Tudor Grange Redditch has looked to support schools with ASD and inclusion. Significant support has been provided to Robert Smythe Academy in Leicester who are in the process of setting up their own Autism Base. Treetops has been used as a template for their SEND unit and staff from Robert Smythe have visited Tudor Grange to see Treetops in action and to discuss and share documentation.

Tudor Grange Redditch attended the SEND Early Careers Teacher (ECT) Conference in Solihull this year and were asked to facilitate the specialist SEND group. During the conference they were able to demonstrate the QFT strategies that are used within Tudor Grange with the ASD students. Following the conference, the teachers formed a support network which meets regularly.

Tudor Grange Redditch continues to support local schools struggling to meet the needs of their students with ASD. Treetops successfully transitioned 4 students into their setting during June and July 2023 whose school places had broken down completely, ensuring these pupils were maintained within the education system, rather than needing to wait for the new academic year.

As part of the Tudor Grange Trust, Tudor Grange Redditch in Autumn 2022, hosted all the new ECT staff within their Teaching School for SEND Specialist Settings. ECTs spent a day in Tudor Grange Redditch, looking at planning, working with students in The Hive, visiting Treetops and observing the techniques and strategies employed within the school to support and manage meltdowns. Tudor Grange Redditch have also delivered sessions across the Trust about IQM and will offer to support any schools wishing to apply for the IQM Award to get the paperwork ready.

Latest SEND news and updates

SEND Local Offer website

The new look SEND Local Offer website launched early November and contains information and advice for families with children with SEN and/or disabilities.

The new site contains all the information from the old one, along with lots of new content, which families have told us they would find useful. New content includes amongst others:

- Information to help with transitions
- Specific information to support parents with Year 9 Reviews
- Where to go if you have concerns about your child's development
- How things might change as a child gets older, so families can be prepared
- More information about the choices available for young people 16 and above
- Where to go if you're not happy about something
- Information about EHCP annual reviews, particularly the year nine review
- Preparing for Adulthood outcomes, what they are and tools to help with planning
- Post 16 options for pathways from education, to employment, housing, independent living and socialising
- Information and support about staying safe

It has been split into age ranges to make this easier to navigate and more useful to parents and professionals. Each age related section has a "What's Next" page so parents can help prepare for the next stage in their young person's life.

Work on developing the site is continuing and we want it to be a useful space for families to help them and answer their questions. If you would like a walk-through of the new website, or have any feedback about the new website, please contact localoffer@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

NPQ for SENCOs

As announced in the SEND and AP improvement plan, published in March 2023, the National Professional Qualification (NPQ) for SENCOs will replace the national award for SEN coordination (NASENCO) as the mandatory SENCO qualification from September 2024.

Teaching of the NPQ will commence in Autumn 2024. The Department for Education have published further information on the qualification SENCOs should take to meet the mandatory requirements for the role. They will continue to update this page as more information becomes available.

Latest health news and updates

ADHD medication update – Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

As you may be aware there is currently a national shortage of some ADHD medications. This is a result of manufacturing issues and increased global demand. Current national guidance advises clinicians not to switch patients to alternative medications, which may be frustrating for many young people, their families and adults within Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We want to give assurance that steps are being taken at a national level to resolve this situation as quickly as possible and it is anticipated that stocks of most ADHD medications will return to normal by early 2024.

During this time, some young people who are without their medication may find it harder to concentrate at school. It must be remembered that medication is not the only way to treatment/manage ADHD, and children should not be excluded from accessing education on the basis of not being able to source medication. There are lots of resources available online detailing supportive behavioural techniques that can be used to help, and we kindly ask that you direct families to these resources.

- Mind Mate
- nhs.uk - ADHD
- Choice and Medication – guidance on conditions and medication for people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire
- Young Minds
- Young Minds - ADHD guidance
- ADHD UK

Unfortunately Herefordshire and Worcestershire CAMHS, and the Worcestershire Community Paediatric Service are also unable to source medication, therefore we kindly ask that families are not directed to our teams when seeking support in obtaining medication. Should this position change, we endeavour to provide a further update.

Substance Misuse: Potential for increase in butane misuse

Please share the following information with all staff plus PSHE and pastoral support teams.

Now that nitrous oxide has become a class C drug and may be more difficult to obtain, the Public Health Community Safety Team want to raise your awareness of the **POTENTIAL** for an increase in the use of more dangerous substances such as butane.

It is known that young people in Worcestershire are using nitrous oxide (aka Noz / hippy crack) for its euphoric effects, however there are pockets of butane use. Butane is much more dangerous and potentially fatal.

The team therefore feel it is prudent to raise this issue as an alert but not in an alarmed manner.

Key issues to be aware of include :

- The change in law around nitrous oxide use may lead young people to experiment with other gases
- Butane gas in cigarette lighter refills and aerosols can be deadly, there have been 426 deaths associated with the inhalation of 'gas fuels' in England and Wales since 2001
- Young person deaths associated with the misuse of these products have fallen substantially. In 2001 and 2002 there were 50 deaths in young people aged under 20. In 2019 and 2020 there were 3 deaths
- The main aerosol products misused are deodorants, although any butane-powered aerosol is open to misuse and there have been deaths associated with products like air freshener and hairspray too
- It is illegal to sell cigarette lighter refills to young people under the age of 18. Aerosol products can be sold to young people, although many of the larger supermarkets use their discretion to restrict sales of this product to under 18s
- The England-wide survey (2021) on young people and substance misuse indicated that 2.4% of young people aged 11-15 said they had inhaled gases/solvents in the previous 12 months
- Don't argue with, chase or excite someone who is high on gases/solvents. Raising their adrenaline levels may increase their risk of death.

Be aware of:

- Excessive use of aerosols
- Empty cans hidden in bedrooms/toilet blocks and changing rooms plus outside areas
- T-shirts/towels with odd stains on, used to filter out the perfume from aerosol products
- Although not widespread, there have been pockets of petrol inhalation in the UK, generally amongst young people who are using motor bikes.

The primary danger is sudden death.

The Resolve charity provides support and useful information and resources on the subject of solvent abuse is available on the Re-Solv website.

Public Health will be continuing to work with health representatives to monitor butane/substance admissions.

Please feel free to share this information with professionals.

The following information has been specifically written for parents and carers and we would appreciate your support in sharing it through your usual communication channels.

Nitrous Oxide / Solvent Abuse: Information for Parents and Carers

In early November nitrous oxide became a class C drugs and legal restrictions were placed on its sale, supply and use. Some young people who were/are abusing nitrous oxide gas may move to other solvents such as butane found in aerosols.

Although butane deaths amongst young people have reduced significantly over the previous 10 years, butane abuse can result in sudden death. Over half of all deaths associated with solvent abuse are due to butane.

- Don't argue with, chase or excite someone who is high on gases/solvents. Raising their adrenaline levels may increase their risk of death.

As a precaution please be aware that:

- The change in law around nitrous oxide use may lead young people to experiment with other gases
- The main aerosol products misused are deodorants, although any butane-powered aerosol is open to misuse and there have been deaths associated with products like air freshener and hairspray too
- It is illegal to sell cigarette lighter refills to young people under the age of 18. Aerosol products can be sold to young people, although many of the larger supermarkets use their discretion to restrict sales of this product to under 18s. Please report any underage sales of cigarette lighters and refills to Trading Standards
- In 2021 an England wide survey indicated that 2.4% of young people aged 11-15 had inhaled gases/solvents in the previous 12 months

Look out for:

- Short lived effects such as depression and a range of highs, including euphoria and hallucinations.
- Psychological addiction can occur, butane it is not physically addictive.
- Burns or explosions, particularly if users are smokers.
- Slurred speech and slower reactions while using butane.
- Death can occur from choking, suffocation, asphyxiation or a form of heart failure known as 'sudden sniffing death syndrome' (SSDS).
- Excessive use of aerosols/aerosol cans in the waste
- Empty aerosol cans/lighter fuel refills cans hidden in bedrooms etc.
- T-shirts/towels with odd stains on, used to filter out the perfume from aerosol products.
- Although not widespread, there have been pockets of petrol inhalation in the UK, generally amongst young people who are using motor bikes.

The Resolve charity provides support and useful information and resources on the subject of solvent abuse is available on the Re-Solv website.

Antibullying Webinar

A recording of our recent antibullying webinar is available to view via YouTube. A copy of the presentation slides from the webinar are also available to download from our Google Drive. The slides provide you with the data, impacts of and evidence-based actions that are effective at preventing bullying.

Download Government guidance on preventing and responding to bullying

A smokefree generation: national consultation

Smoking is the single most entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability, and death in the UK. It is responsible for around 80,000 deaths a year. The government is consulting on new legislation about creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping and specifically want to hear from the public, including young people, parents, carers and teachers. This is your school's opportunity to influence this proposed legislation.

Your support in helping to share this consultation widely with your staff, families, parents and young people through your PSHE lessons, tutor groups, assemblies, social media, newsletters and websites would be most appreciated.

Where possible please support young people to answer the questions either individually or as a group. The consultation closes on 6 December 2023 at 11:59pm and you can respond via this online survey.

Latest Government updates

Request a free portrait of His Majesty the King Charles III

In April 2023, the Government announced a new scheme to allow public authorities across the UK to apply for a free portrait of His Majesty the King to celebrate the new reign. The scheme has launched and portraits are available to order below.

Maintained nurseries, primary & secondary schools, pupil referral units (including Alternative Provision and Free schools), state funded special schools, non-maintained special schools and colleges are eligible. Eligible settings can request their free portrait by the deadline of 2 February 2024.

Please refer to the FAQs for questions about the portrait and the scheme itself.

Queries relating to this scheme should be directed to hmkportraitscheme@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Update on the Online Safety Act

The Online Safety Act has received Royal Assent. The Act imposes obligations on those services within its remit to deliver additional protections for children accessing these services.

Education and childcare providers subject to existing legal duties and statutory guidance (such as Keeping Children Safe in Education) to safeguard and protect children are not within the Act's remit. The exception is Ed-tech user-to-user services which provide services direct to learners without a regulated educational provider in the middle. If these services are likely to be accessed by children, even if these services are accessed from school devices, they will be subject to the Act. Services potentially within the Act's remit may wish to take independent advice.

All schools should continue to adopt a whole school approach to online safety and safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

Respond to consultation on formulae and equation sheets for GCSE exams in 2024

The Department for Education has confirmed students taking exams in 2024 will not need to memorise the usual formulae and equations for GCSE maths, physics and combined science, as they must in a normal . These proposed arrangements recognise the disruption this cohort of students experienced during their secondary education due to national school closures during the pandemic.

Ofqual is now consulting on a proposal to provide formulae and revised equation sheets in the exams for GCSE mathematics, physics and combined science in 2024.

The consultation closes on 30 November 2023.

Please respond to the consultation with your views.

Latest training news and conferences

Leaders of Learning

The School Improvement Team are launching a new Service Level Agreement (SLA) called Leaders of Learning.

The 3 face-to-face sessions a year will include a time to talk and share experiences, a 'quick win' to help reduce workload, updates on inspection patterns and a focus on a piece of research or project that might be of interest.

In addition to the 3 face-to-face sessions a year, there will be 3 newsletters which will feature updates, advice and guidance on the latest research and projects being worked on in Worcestershire and across the country.

Subscription to this SLA is £50 and renewable annually. We have deliberately kept the cost low to allow everyone to attend.

Sign up to the SLA via the Education eStore

Once you have logged into your account, click on Services & Products, select Quality of Education and Improvements and you will see the Leaders of Learning SLA listed.

TIAAS Network Meeting

Our first Trauma Informed Attachment Aware Settings (TIAAS) network meeting is an opportunity to come together, share what's working well and co-construct the Worcestershire TIAAS Pathway.

The meeting is open to all schools and settings regardless of whether you attended the Introduction to Worcestershire TIAAS Pathway.

This online network meeting is free to attend with a maximum of two delegates per setting.

When: Wednesday 28 February 2024, 3.45pm to 5pm
Course Code: 10444 / 84199

Book now via WCF:CPD using your school CPD Leader login details.

Other local news and events

Young Adult Learning Worcestershire Open Evening

Worcestershire County Council's Young Adult Learning (YAL) service are holding their next Open Evening on Thursday 7th December (5-8pm) at the Fairfield Learning Centre in Warndon, Worcester.

Young Adult Learning provides courses, traineeships, and skills programmes to 16-18 year-olds (up to 24 with an ECHP). YAL courses are ideal for anyone looking for an alternative to school or college and traineeships can be tailored to suit young adults career aspirations. Pop in and meet the team, have a look around and discover the options open to anyone who thinks that sixth form/college may not be the right path for them. For more information email youngadultlearning@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905 728537. Download Open Evening Flyer and Poster

Home Upgrade Grants (HUG2)

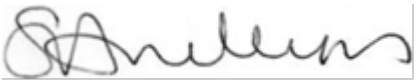
The Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUG2) is designed to help improve the comfort and energy efficiency of lower income homes in Worcestershire that are not heated by mains gas central heating. The scheme offers several other benefits, including reducing a home's carbon footprint and energy bills, with no cost to the resident.

Worcestershire County Council is working with Redditch Borough Council, Bromsgrove, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils to deliver this programme. Residents in Worcester City or Wyre Forest District can visit their council's website for information on the schemes operating in their area.

Further information about the scheme including eligibility and how to apply is available online at Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUG2) and in their Home Upgrade Grants leaflet.

Your support in sharing the scheme with parents and carers via your newsletters and other communication channels would be most appreciated.

Best wishes,



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