

Sarah Wilkins

Assistant Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Pupil Place Planning

Email: swilkins@worcestershire.gov.uk

Tel: 01905 846082

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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we fast approach the end of the spring term, I hope you're having a good week.

With the Easter holidays nearly here, please see the important update on page 3 about free school meal vouchers for the 2025/2026 financial year and changes to holiday allocations for the rest of this academic year. The Edenred Portal is now open for schools to order Easter vouchers for eligible students, with a deadline of Friday 2nd May.

Schools are being encouraged to sign up to find out more about what your local family hubs can do to support the families you work with. A series of Worcestershire Family Hub webinars are taking place this month and will provide you with a full update on What a Family Hub is, how to access support for families and what services are provided by them. [Book your place now!](#)

We're pleased to share [new guidance to support schools and trusts in navigating recent changes to procurement law](#) following the introduction of the Procurement Act 2023. The guidance highlights key requirements and best practices to ensure compliance, value for money, and robust financial control in purchasing decisions.

From 1st April, Onside, with partners such as MIND, are delivering a new Children and Young People's (0-25 years) Early Intervention and Preventative Well-Being and Mental Health Service across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. For more information on this new service, please download their [briefing note](#) or visit the [Onside website](#).

We're excited to share the latest *Parent Wellbeing Newsletter* from inourplace.co.uk — a free, NHS-backed learning hub full of expert advice and support for parents and carers. This month's highlights include resources on helping children move up in school, teen mental health, anxiety support, and guidance for parents of children with SEND or preterm babies. All courses are free in our area! Check your access and explore what's available on the [inourplace website](https://inourplace.co.uk).

And finally, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the nominees and winners at last week's Worcestershire Education Awards. Your passion, dedication, and tireless work continue to inspire and make a lasting difference in the lives of children and young people across the county.

Wishing you all a relaxing Easter break.

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Latest education news and updates

Important update: Changes to Free School Meals holiday voucher allocation

We would like to inform you of an important update regarding the **Free School Meals holiday vouchers** for the financial year (2025/2026).

On 19th March 2025, the Government confirmed the details of the Household Support Fund for 2025/2026 financial year. This included a budget reduction of around £1million for Worcestershire and a change in the guidance to give two clear areas that the fund should support:

- a) Crisis support
- b) Preventative activity

The requirement for councils to report on the money spent on free school meal vouchers in school holidays has also been removed and replaced with more reporting requirements on preventative activity.

All previously funded Household Support Fund activity has been reviewed, with budgets having to decrease across all key programmes. **Therefore, the previous allocation of £3 per day per FSM eligible child (Reception to Year 11) will no longer be in place.**

The holiday allocations for the remainder of this academic year are as follows:

Easter Holidays	£15
May Half term	£10
Summer holidays	£60

Holiday FSM voucher allocations for the remainder of the academic year have been based on the availability of the HAF programme, which is available at Easter and not available in half term, hence the different amounts and reflecting the overall budget reduction and guidance changes to the Household Support Fund, which can be viewed on the government website.

Schools will be consulted before the end of the summer term to shape the plans for September through to March 2026.

We understand that this reduction may impact some families, and we appreciate your understanding and co-operation as these changes come into effect. We encourage schools to ensure that families are made aware of the revised voucher value in advance to manage expectations.

In addition, we would like to highlight that other local support is available to families including:

- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)
- Additional support schemes funded through the Household Support Fund (HSF) which will open during April. Information will be on the council [HSF webpage](#).
- For broader support regarding the cost of living, please encourage parents and carers to visit the council [Cost of Living Support webpage](#)

It is important for schools to adhere to this revised voucher allocation. As with all previous schemes, schools will be recharged for any overspend above the expected spend, in line with the number of children receiving FSM.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that these provisions are delivered effectively to families in need, and we are here to assist should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact at FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Edenred Portal access will be available for the Easter holiday 2025

During the Easter holiday period, eligible students will receive free school meal holiday vouchers. 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.

As outlined in the previous article, there are changes to the value of vouchers for the remainder of the academic year.

The voucher allocation for the two-week Easter Holidays is a **total** of **£15** per FSM eligible child.

Schools will be invoiced for any overspend above the expected amount per school.

Schools are instructed to issue vouchers only for the corresponding holiday period.

All vouchers issued during this period will have a validity period of one-month from the date of delivery. Please advise parents/carers to redeem vouchers as soon as possible, the supermarket eGift card will have a longer expiry date in accordance with their chosen supermarket T&Cs, see page 6 of [Parent Carer FAQs](#)

Schools will have access to the Edenred portal to place orders from **Friday 4th April 2025** until **Friday 2nd May 2025**.

You must use the WCC ordering site with your existing **WCC account (22463)**, the login page can be accessed here: [Edenred Online Ordering](#)

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 31st Aug 24), and vouchers must not be ordered to replace term time meals.

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.

We are seeing an increasing number of requests to reissue for vouchers that haven't been redeemed over a number of months after the original issue date. There has also been an increase in the number of fraudulent attempts to get vouchers reissued which is unfortunately why a more robust process needs to be followed.

School accounts to place Easter holiday orders will close on **Friday 2nd May 2025** and the council will allow up until **Friday 9th May 2025** for any outstanding expired voucher queries to be resolved.

Therefore, those requests received after this date will not be reissued. Exceptions to this **may** be considered if there are any extenuating family circumstances during the original voucher redemption window that may be taken into account for the delay in reporting any issues with vouchers, which the school will be asked to verify.

If a voucher has expired, the voucher cannot be re-issued by the school, for any queries regarding the re-issuing of vouchers please contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk

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.

It is important to remind schools that as eligibility is linked to FSM status, there may be families who although have FSM status, their circumstances have changed. This is a finite pot of government funding which has reduced for this financial year 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.

Links and guides

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@worcestershire.gov.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.
- Parent/carers FAQ's can be found here: [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- 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.
- eGift card queries – have not received ordered eGift card. Please advise parent/carers to seek assistance in parent/carers guide [Parent Carer FAQs](#) on page 6.

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@worcestershire.gov.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.

Please continue to signpost families to other local support including:

- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)
- Additional Household Support Fund schemes which will launch shortly - details will be available on the council's [HSF webpage](#)
- [Cost of living support](#) information available on the council's website

HAF Easter activities

Can you kindly share the following with your parents through your normal communication channels.

Haven't booked any HAF activities yet? Take a look at our what's on guide to see what's on offer!

[Worcestershire Easter 2025 What's on Guide.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[HAF & Short Breaks Booking Service](#)

*Information in brochure correct at time of publishing. Brochure does not reflect if activities have been fully booked. If an activity is currently fully booked, places may free up due to cancellations.

Governor Services - reminder to all maintained schools

It is that time of year for Maintained schools to rejoin our Governor Services and renew your SLA.

The Governor Services offer has been enhanced this year to support you in your roles. Through the Governor Services subscription, we offer support, advice and guidance for maintained schools and academies but will now be publishing termly newsletters to share important updates and access to termly podcasts/webcasts, which can be listened to at a time that is convenient to you. Where information needs to be shared urgently, we will continue to send alerts to the Clerks of Governors. There is also 50% off FGB governor training sessions, for boards with a Governor Services SLA

Further information on the Governor Services subscription offer can be found [Education Services Directory edition 1](#). The new SLA can be purchased through the [Education eStore](#).

If you would like any further information or you would like to speak to someone about your setting's specific needs, please contact: governorservices@worcestershire.gov.uk

Latest attendance news and updates

Resources for Schools – Updated DfE Attendance Toolkit

The DfE updated [attendance toolkit](#) for schools recognises there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to attendance.

Schools making the most impact identify and remove barriers to attendance through strong practice to meet the seven expectations of the statutory [Working together to Improve School Attendance](#) guidance. Examples are shared throughout this toolkit.

DfE View Your School Attendance Data Webinar

If you were unable to join the latest DfE attendance webinar (25th March 2025) the recording is now available to view on [YouTube](#). The webinar shares good practice data monitoring tips and gives an overview of the new data banded reports available for schools.

The next DfE data webinar is planned for 4th June and is open to reserve your place: [DfE attendance data webinar - Wednesday 4th June](#).

DfE Regional Conference Insights

Following a series of regional attendance conference events key insights useful for school attendance leaders to disseminate were shared:

- [The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year research report](#) investigates the link between 5 different percentage point bandings of attendance and attainment.
- [The pupil absence distribution dashboard](#) provides data on the distribution of overall absence for pupils in English schools at national, regional and local authority geographic levels.
- [The impact of school absence on lifetime earnings report](#) estimates the monetary impact of one day of school absence in state-funded secondary schools.

School Attendance Virtual Drop-in Surgery: Penalty notices and prosecution

We are offering informal virtual drop-in sessions via teams for any school attendance officers/attendance leaders who may have penalty notice or prosecution related questions or enquiries.

This informal session will begin with a 10-minute briefing and will then be open to any questions.

As an open invitation confirmation of attendance or apologies are not required.

Joining details to add to your calendar to access this MS Teams event are as below:

7th May 2025 10-11am

Virtual drop-in surgery – school attendance penalty notices and prosecution

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 387 527 363 947

Passcode: 6zs2Xd7C

Latest SEND news and updates

Supporting families of children who feel anxious about transition

Educational Psychologist Dr Amy Sweet will lead a free half-day workshop from 9am to 12pm on Friday 2nd May 2025 (venue to be confirmed). Aimed at SENCOs and pastoral staff in middle and secondary schools, the course will train them to run a 2-hour parent workshop to support families of children feeling anxious about the move from Year 6 to Year 7.

Year 6 to 7 transition can be an exciting time for children and families however it can also create high levels of anxiety, particularly for children who experience social, emotional and mental health needs, learning difficulties and / or neurodiversity. Identifying children who may be anxious about transition early and engaging with parents has been shown to build resilience and create a positive start to secondary school life.

The course will cover:

- Instruction on anxiety, anxiety management techniques and how anxiety can impact Year 6 to 7 transition.
- Training in the delivery of a workshop that school staff can lead with parents.
- Pre-delivery video call support.

All training materials required to deliver the parent workshop are provided.

This course is open to secondary and middle schools who are able to commit to delivering a 2-hour workshop to a group of parents from their feeder primary schools during the summer term of 2025. School staff attending the course need to have a basic knowledge in the following concepts to support session delivery:

- Fight / flight system and survival responses.
- Supporting children with emotional regulation approaches such as regulated breathing.
- Naming and validating feelings (including approaches such as emotion coaching, PACE and 'naming and taming')

Places are limited – email LBradbury@worcestershire.gov.uk to book your spot.

Expert Advisory Group for Inclusion

The Expert Advisory Group for Inclusion was established to support efforts to improve inclusion in mainstream education. The group, which includes a Principal Educational Psychologist brings together experts to provide evidence-informed recommendations. The AEP are now a partner of the group and actively support the work to increase inclusion in schools. The group is looking for submissions on [Inclusion in Practice](#) from teachers, leaders and anyone involved in providing inclusive education in mainstream schools. AEP members are encouraged to provide submissions; this window will close at midnight on Thursday 1st May 2025.

Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

[HW SENDIASS](#) is the Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

SENDIASS have a dedicated team of trained advisors offering legally based information, advice and support on all matters relating to children and young people **(0-25)** who have or may have SEND. The service is **FREE, impartial, and confidential**.

If you identify children in your setting with SEND, you can signpost them and their families to SENDIASS for free information and support.

SENDIASS can also provide general information, advice and support to professionals working with families of children/young people with SEND. You can contact them using the details below.

SENDIASS Training at your setting

SENDIASS provide **FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars** for parents/carers and professionals. SENDIASS training workshops can help build knowledge and skills for families with a child or young person with SEND and any professionals that support them.

They are now able to offer their workshops for free in your settings. This could be as part of a SEND coffee morning or drop in for your families or part of staff training.

Further information about the workshops that they provide can be found on their webpage: [SENDIASS Training delivered at your venue](#)

If you would like them to deliver one of their workshops at your setting for free, please complete their [SENDIASS Training Request Form](#)

Contact SENDIASS

Call: 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm (24hr answerphone service)

Email: sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their [SENDIASS Contact page](#) or follow them on social media: [Facebook-HWSENDIASS](#)

HW SENDIASS also have lots of useful information on their website www.hwsendiass.co.uk

SEND and AP Change Programme

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned to understand the experiences and views of education settings in local areas participating in the SEND and AP Change Programme. This evaluation is being carried out by three organisations: ICF, BMG and RSM.

The evaluators want to better understand how different educational settings currently provide support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those in Alternative Provision (AP). They would like education settings to complete a short survey.

If you, or the staff member in charge of SEND support (e.g. the SENCO), have not already taken part in this survey, there is still time to participate. You can access the survey by using this link:

www.changeprogrammesurvey.co.uk

The survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete and will close on 18th of April 2025.

If you do not have responsibility for, SEND and AP related decisions, we would be grateful if you could pass this invitation on to the staff member in charge of SEND support (e.g. the SENCO) within your school.

Innovative Worcestershire SEN provision wins prestigious national innovation award

Heart of Worcestershire College and disability charity National Star have won a prestigious education award for their work with young people with special educational needs and disabilities. They were named winner in the innovative specialist/mainstream partnership working category at the Natspec Innovation Awards. The two organisations were praised for their innovative collaboration to launch a specialist provision based at The Heart of Worcestershire College campus in Worcester.

The category judge said: "This is a genuinely innovative three-way partnership between a local authority, a specialist FE college, and a general FE college. It brings students both the benefits of highly specialised provision and the benefits of manageable commutes and learning skills for adulthood in the area round their homes. The involvement of a local authority to help facilitate partnership between, a general and a specialist college is hugely innovative and goes beyond one year's place planning to multi-year planning for future need. This partnership is beneficial to its own students, and it also represents a proof of concept that should be learned from nationally."

Launched in September 2024, National Star delivers specialist education and therapy to five students with complex needs in the College's St Wulstan's Building, Deansway, Worcester.

The new teaching and therapeutic space were made possible thanks to grant from Worcestershire County Council. The space includes three classrooms, an accessible kitchen to learn life skills, a dedicated therapy space, an outdoor courtyard and access to two realistic independent flats for learners to prepare for life after college. Its central location will enable students to access and learn in the college community and the community of Worcestershire. There has been much interest in the provision, and it is expected to increase its numbers in September 2025.

Latest Public Health news and updates

Changes to the Starting Well Partnership

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

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

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

Latest Government news and updates

Encourage young people to help develop National Youth Strategy

On 5th March, the government launched [a survey for young people aged 10-21 years old, which those up to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) can also respond to, to hear what support services, facilities and opportunities they need.](#)

Young people will be able to submit their views on a range of topics including what issues matter to them in their local area, what services they think should be available to young people, and how money should be spent in their area.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has produced [a communications toolkit which contains key messaging, social media resources and a session plan for organisations to run engagements with young people to help councils share this information.](#)

The survey closes on 16th April.

National Youth Strategy: [NYS - Deliver You - iwill](#)

Quick thoughts form: [What one thing should the government do to improve things for young people?](#)

Simpler Recycling webinar for schools

An online session will be held on Thursday 24th April at 3:30pm to 4:45pm to raise awareness of the new Simpler Recycling regulations and how they will impact education settings. The session will be led by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) followed by a presentation from the Environment Agency. There will be an opportunity for Q&A.

Attendees are encouraged to read the [guidance](#) ahead of the webinar.

[Register for Simpler Recycling webinar](#)

Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2025 to 2026

On Tuesday 25th March the [conditions of grant for the new financial year 2025 to 2026](#) were published. The Department for Education are encouraging all settings to review these conditions along with the following recently updated and published guidance and reports:

- The updated pupil premium [overview page](#) which includes the new per pupil rates for financial year 2025 to 2026.
- The updated [guidance to using pupil premium for school leaders](#) with added information in the 'Purpose of pupil premium' section about how it supports the government's commitment to breaking down barriers to opportunity, and updated links to relevant resources.
- A recently published [research report](#) evaluating pupil premium processes in schools. The findings were positive about schools' approach to planning being driven by high-quality data and evidence, and schools felt the funding had a positive impact on pupils' outcomes.

Explore new resources added to the Improve Workload and Wellbeing service

School leaders have shared new resources in the latest update to the [Improve workload and wellbeing for school staff service](#).

The new resources include:

- [A case study on improving school attendance](#)
- [A case study on reducing complaints](#)
- [Tips for using senior leadership meeting time more effectively](#)
- [A guide for planning a yearly safeguarding calendar](#)
- [Advice on setting expectations with parents and carers](#)

The service contains strategies shared by senior leaders to improve workload and wellbeing in their schools. If you have an approach that has worked in your school, you can [share your ideas](#) with us through the service.

Plan for Change

On 27th March, the Department for Education announced that 10,000 new school places will be funded for children with SEND, delivering on Plan for Change.

£740 million is being invested by the government to deliver adaptations, expand specialist units in mainstream as well as create new places in special schools – enabling more children to succeed at a school close to their homes and families.

[£740 million allocated for 10,000 new places for pupils with SEND - GOV.UK](#)

Latest training news and conferences

Play Matters: The 8 Principles of Playwork

During the course delegates will explore what Wrap Around Care is and understand the value of play, unpick and dissect the 8 Principles of Playwork, and how to implement them into their setting to ensure play matters.

During the course delegates will be able to:

- List the 8 Principles of Playwork.
- Describe & explain why the 8 Principles of Playwork are important in Play
- Participate in activities that empower your own understanding of why play matters
- Identify & explain how the Playwork Principles will be used in your setting.

Audience: Specifically for practitioners working with primary school age children in wraparound provision. Open to both schools / settings who offer wrap around provision (before / after school or holiday clubs)

Cost: The training is fully funded via the National Wraparound Programme, part of the DfE.

Specific non-attendance charge: When delegates do not attend, do not cancel in line with terms & conditions, and / or contact the training team on the day to explain their non-attendance then a charge of £30 + VAT per delegate will be applied.

Cohort 4:

- 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 21 May and 4 June
- All sessions 7pm to 9pm
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 91599

Cohort 5:

- 1, 8, 15, 22 May and 5 June
- All sessions 9.30am to 11.30am
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 91600

Cohort 6:

- 11, 18, 25 June and 2, 9 July
- All sessions 7pm to 9pm
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 91601

Cohort 7:

- 11, 18, 25 June and 2, 9 July
- All sessions 12.45pm to 2.45pm
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 91602

Moderation - progress and assessment in Reception

This session supports the quality assurance of teacher assessment judgements and provides a valuable opportunity for professional discussion and development through collaboration with colleagues. "It is important for teachers to build a shared understanding of the ELG's and the EYFS statutory framework."

These sessions for teachers will enable Head teachers to meet their duty for ensuring their teachers attend training courses and moderation meetings within schools and with other schools and to use quality assurance processes to ensure that the data accurately reflects the attainment of the current cohort of children.

The sessions will provide an opportunity to discuss and gain a shared view of the consistency and accuracy of judgements being made. They are also an opportunity to discuss different ways to share information with Year 1 colleagues of the children's strengths and areas of development so that colleagues can meet their needs and carry on their learning.

Cost: £45 + VAT per delegate

- 4 June 2025, 9am to 11.30am, Worcester, course code: 10581 / 91559
- 4 June 2025, 1pm to 3.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10581 / 91560
- 5 June 2025, 9am to 11.30am, Worcester, course code: 10581 / 91561
- 5 June 2025, 1pm to 3.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10581 / 91562

Book your place on our training and conferences via [CPD](#) using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided.

If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on **01905 844 420** or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk

Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Haybridge Teaching School Hub

As the DfE designated Teaching School Hub for Sandwell and Dudley, Haybridge Teaching School Hub aims to be the focal point of an outstanding educational community and the single point of contact for support, for all schools in the area and surrounding regions.

They have a number of programmes on offer this term, please find further details below. For more information you can visit their website at: www.haybridgeteachingschoolhub.co.uk

Foundations of SEND Support, Teaching Assistant Programme

Wednesday 14th May & Wednesday 18th June ~ 8.30am – 2.30pm

Following the success of our previous programme, Haybridge Teaching School Hub, the Albright Education Centre and The Orchard School have come together once again to offer this two-day ***Foundations of SEND Support programme***, which is designed specifically for Teaching Assistants in the UK and will provide essential knowledge and practical skills to support every child's unique learning journey.

From understanding child development to conducting meaningful assessments, this course equips you with the foundations needed to enhance your SEND support role and create inclusive, nurturing, learning environments.

The programme will cost £299 per participant. For more information and to book your place please click the link: [Foundations of SEND Support booking link](#)

CPD Programmes 2025

The Haybridge Teaching School Hub works with a number of specialist provisions to bring a wide range of CPD sessions to our colleagues. All of the sessions below are fully-funded, simply click the link below for more information and to sign up.

SEND online events – 4-5pm

Mon 12th May – Supporting Transition – Autistic Girls

Wed 21st May – Supporting Students with Visual Impairment

Wed 11th June – Exploring Challenging Behaviour

Thurs 19th June – Supporting Speech, Language & Communication Needs

Wed 25th June – An Introduction to Emotional Based School Avoidance

SEND Experience Day

Tues 17th June – Exploring an Alternative Provision – Pens Meadow School

Please follow this link to view the collection of our SEND events:

[Eventbrite Link - HTSH Summer SEND CPD Programme](#)

Subject Network Events – Secondary Maths Network

The Secondary Maths Subject Network community events this year have all been based around the theme of Problem Solving and has given maths leads the chance to come together to explore and exchange new ideas.

Thursday 12th June – 2.30-4.30pm – Ridgewood High School, DY8 3NQ

Discussions will include:

- Exploring what Problem Solving looks like in maths?
- Is it possible to teach problem solving in maths?
- What classroom discussion and oracy-based activities can support Problem Solving
- Using research informed evidence to develop pedagogical approaches
- Exploring specific Problem-Solving strategies/activities

To book your space please follow the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1023477497747?aff=oddtcreator>

MTPT HR Information Event

Haybridge Teaching School Hub is pleased to announce that they are working alongside an organisation called the MTPT Project, a charity which offers support to teachers on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, and they'd like to invite all of their HR colleagues to a special information meeting on Friday 2nd May.

The MTPT Project's main aim is to improve the health of our parent-teacher workforce and provide training and consultancy services for schools and MATs.

Haybridge Teaching School Hub is excited to offer their HR colleagues the chance to join this short online presentation, led by the founder of the MTPT Project, at **9am on Friday 2nd May**.

This meeting will take no more than 20-30 minutes and will provide you with all the information you will need to be able to advise and sign-post your colleagues on the fully funded support that is available to them, plus learn what is also available to schools.

Please click the Zoom registration link below to sign up to the presentation:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6GuV6G4dRyyKtMDJHoEMiw>

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Early Career Teacher Entitlement - ECTE Guidance

September 2025 will see the implementation of the ECTE, which sees the ECF and AB framework aligned, and is called the 'Early Career Teacher Entitlement'.

Full details of the changes can be found on their [website](#). Please also sign up for one of their upcoming support webinars, where they will discuss the upcoming changes to ECT Provision, for both AB and ECF.

Appropriate Body

Please ensure any outstanding assessments are completed and sent in as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with a member of the team: tsh@tgacademy.org.uk

NPQs

Applications are now closed for the Spring 2025 NPQs.

If you missed out on an NPQ this time, you can register interest for the next round of NPQs [here](#) and they will contact you when registration opens.

Tudor Grange Research School

Tudor Grange Research School are running two twilight webinars series this summer.

Both are focused on supporting middle leaders, senior leaders, and aspiring leaders in addressing two relevant, and timely, issues as you start to prepare and plan for the next academic year:

[Let's Talk About It: Unlocking Reading and Writing Through Oral Language and Vocabulary](#)

3.30-5pm on 30 April, 4 June, 2 July

[Making School Programmes Stick: Using the New EEF Implementation Guidance Report Effectively](#) 3.30-5pm on 7 May, 11 June, 9 July

This training is offered to you at no cost. For further details or to sign up, [visit the website](#), or contact info.tudorgrange@researchschool.org.uk

Rivers Teaching Alliance

ECT updates

Please do get in touch if you have any new ECTs this term and would like to register them to work with them and the National Institute of Teaching for their ECT programme. They specialise in primary ECTs and would be happy to have a chat about what they can offer.

New for September 2025

Following feedback and research, their programme is undergoing some changes for next year. These include:

- The choice to tailor the sequence of modules to fit with whole school priorities
- Diagnostics that enable personalised learning pathways for each ECT to meet their needs.
- Context-specific materials for EYFS, primary, secondary (all subjects), post-16, SEND schools and alternative provision.
- Mentor-specific support to contextualise and model the content for their ECT as part of their training and study throughout.

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more or sign up here: [Early Career Framework Programme | For Early Career Teachers – The National Institute of Teaching](#)

NPQ updates

NPQ applications for April 2025 cohort are now open and DfE registration is also open. They have limited scholarship places on the following NPQs and the deadline for applying is **27th April**.

Leadership NPQs

- NPQ for SENCOs [NPQ For SENCOs | Train With The National Institute Of Teaching – The National Institute of Teaching](#) **Scholarships available for all**
- NPQ for Headship- [NPQ in Headship – The National Institute of Teaching \(niot.org.uk\)](#) **Scholarships available for all**

Our other local delivery providers also have places on other NPQs - do get in touch to find out more.

Recent delegate comment from NPQ participants:

- Great delivery and location.
- Facilitator is personable and helpful. They made everyone feel comfortable.
- Lots of opportunities to chat, good mix of tasks and all linked to real life situations.
- An excellent opportunity to network with others from across the county.
- Lots of opportunities to reflect and discuss and link to our own context.
- Realistic about workload in schools and how the programme fits in with this.

CPD updates

Upcoming CPD include:

- Paediatric First Aid - 3rd and 10th June 2025 @ £100 per delegate
- Paediatric First Aid - 24th June and 8th July 2025 @ £100 per delegate
- EYFS - Assessing the Profile - Making it Count: Wednesday 21st May 2025, 3:30-5:30pm
- EYFS - EYFS in the Autumn Term - Are You Ready? Tuesday 10th June 2025, 3:30-5:30pm

Reserve your place via teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk or email ahaynes@riverscofe.co.uk

For details of all professional development opportunities visit [The Rivers CofE Multi Academy Trust website](#).

Latest local news and updates

Write, record and produce your own songs with Severn Arts

Severn Arts' popular Studio Sessions are back again with a brand-new theme: 'songwriting'!

Students aged 11-16 are invited to sign up to the sessions where they will get the chance to write, record and produce their own songs to an industry standard. Experiment with DJ decks, learn all about mic techniques and have a go at using synths to make your very own song!

Studio Sessions aim to give young people the chance to learn how to record and produce their own music, using state-of-the-art drum machines, synthesizers, midi instruments and Logic Pro software. Students work alongside Severn Arts teachers, who specialise in production and development as well as industry professionals.

Studio Sessions: songwriting will take place across five weeks **every Saturday 9.30-11.30am starting 10th May.**

Sessions are split between time on their Music Box bus and using instruments in their offices in Worcester. Places are already filling up fast, so be sure to book soon! The cost is £60 for all five sessions, however there are a limited number of free places for those on lower incomes.

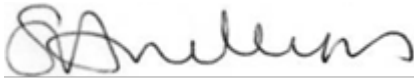
Visit their website to book: <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/studio-sessions-songwriting>

Poverty Postcard Campaign

Worcestershire Youth Cabinet are asking schools to help raise awareness of the *Poverty Postcard Campaign*, which invites young people to share their experiences and thoughts on how poverty affects them or their peers. This is a valuable opportunity for pupils to have their voices heard on important issues like period dignity, economic hardship, and access to opportunities. Please encouraging participation with your pupils – either by sharing the following link or QR code provided. Thank you.

[Poverty POSTCARD - Have your say](#)





Sarah Wilkins

Assistant Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Pupil Place Planning

