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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope the second half of this summer term has started well for you all.

Last week the Government announced that [over half a million more children will benefit from a free nutritious meal every school day](#). From the start of the 2026 school year, every pupil whose household is on Universal Credit will have a new entitlement to free school meals. This will make life easier and more affordable for parents who struggle the most, delivering on the government's Plan for Change to break down barriers to opportunity and give children the best start in life.

The Department for Education have launched a [Creating Inclusive Provision \(CIP\) toolkit for providers of wraparound childcare, breakfast clubs and holiday activities and food programmes](#). Developed in partnership with Mott MacDonald and Nasen, it is an interactive digital toolkit designed to support schools in creating inclusive wraparound provision that is accessible to families of primary aged children with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes breakfast clubs, after school childcare and holiday provision.

Following on from last year's successful and well attended Worcestershire Governor Conference, we will be running a further evening conference this year on 8th October from 5pm to 7pm. Last year's focus was on understanding and supporting for disadvantaged children, this year the main theme will be on Inclusion and SEND. We really look forward to you joining us and keep an eye out for more details and agenda to follow.

And finally, next Wednesday (18th June) is Thank a Teacher Day – an opportunity to celebrate the incredible work of educators across all roles - from TAs and nursery staff to school leaders and FE lecturers. Join the nationwide appreciation by sending a [free, personalised e-card](#) and encouraging your school community to get involved. Access your [Thank a Teacher Day toolkit](#) with lesson plans, assembly guides, thank you card templates, and fun pupil activities.

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest Education News and Updates

Alternative Provision Provider Update

Please be aware that the provider, B Brilliant, an Alternative Provision Provider based in Malvern is currently suspended from the Alternative Provision Dynamic Purchasing System (AP DPS) due to safeguarding concerns; Worcestershire County Council are not currently placing young people with this provider.

We are working with the provider to improve their safeguarding practises and hope to reinstate B Brilliant on the AP DPS by September 2025.

Please see the [SEND and Alternative Provision Directories](#) for other Alternative Provision providers.

Launching the revised Worcestershire and Herefordshire RE Agreed Syllabuses

Secondary Conference on Wednesday 25th June 2025 at University of Worcester

The 2020-2025 Worcestershire and Herefordshire syllabuses have been updated and upgraded for 2025-2030. The revision takes account of national developments in RE since 2020, including the RE Council's religion and worldviews approach, Ofsted's three types of knowledge, including 'ways of knowing', and demographic changes. This conference gives an opportunity to see the revisions, consider ways of developing your curriculum in the light of changes, and share ideas with colleagues.

For more information including details how to book your place please download the [conference flyer](#).

Life Beyond School Show 2025

We are excited to share the school booking form for the 2025 Life Beyond School Show at Sixways Stadium. This year's event will be held on 7th October - daytime only.

Please complete the [school booking form](#) and return to Hannah Strong via email at hstrong@worcestershire.gov.uk by Friday 27th June 2025.

Can you also please share the [Life Beyond School Show 2025 Flyer](#) with parent carers. As previously parent carers need to book through the online booking form using the QR code found in the flyer. Alternatively, they can use the following link: [Worcestershire Life Beyond School Inclusive Show 2025](#).

An [asset](#) has also been created for you to use on our your social media channels so your assistance in helping to promote the show would be most appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming you all on 7th October.

New Student-Created Cybersecurity Training Resource Available

A new cybersecurity training resource — designed *by students, for students* — has been launched by the University of St Andrews IT Services and Computer Science Department, in collaboration with the Scottish Government.

The training is freely available at: <https://student.cyberscotland.com>

Schools are encouraged to explore and share the resource within their communities. It offers an engaging, student-focused approach to cybersecurity awareness. The Scottish Government has already circulated it across all HE/FE institutions in Scotland, and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is considering expanding it as a UK-wide resource.

The Digital Switchover

A reminder that the UK's telephone network is changing with all analogue lines being replaced by digital services in the next few years. [Moving landlines to digital technologies - GOV.UK](#)

If your school still uses analogue phone line services, they may be at risk if you don't act soon. Telephone providers are advising local businesses to complete any switch to digital by the end of 2025.

Your telephone provider should contact you about switching to digital, if not, please contact them to discuss the digital switchover and what that means for you.

Schools are responsible for managing their own telephone services as the Council no longer support any school telephone services, so please make sure you are aware of the planned changes and working with your providers to complete the switch to digital if you have not already.

Introduction to EVOLVE for New School Staff

Some schools may have recruited new staff during the course of this academic year or are now facing a period of change.

eduFOCUS don't want EVOLVE to be something you have to worry about, so they're hosting an intro to EVOLVE for new or reassigned staff on Tuesday 17 June, which will be repeated on 17 September. A recording will be provided too.

This 30-minute session will help with basics such as logging in, where to find things, using the Help Centre, etc., saving time and building confidence in preparation for the new academic year.

Please share this opportunity within your school and encourage relevant staff to book using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2ubn8utd>.

STEPS (Support Through Exploitation and Prevention Service)

The CLIMB service from The Children's Society and Purple Leaf education from WMRSASC have now combined to form STEPS (Support Through Exploitation Prevention Service). STEPS is a new service, delivered by Catch22. It is available across all of West Mercia and is focused on supporting young people aged 8–18 to prevent and reduce the risk of exploitation.

The STEPS service is comprised of three core strands:

1. Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Support

- 1:1 early intervention and prevention support for young people at risk of child criminal exploitation, covering topics such as personal safety, exploitation, healthy relationships, and anti-social behaviour.
- Diversionary activities based on the young person's interests, such as sports or arts.

Please note: Unlike the former CLIMB service, they are **unable to accept referrals for young people currently open to statutory services**, including Early Help or Social Care.

2. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Support

- Operates similarly to the CCE support, with the key difference being that we can work with young people at any level of risk, including those already open to statutory services.
- For prevention and lower-risk cases, support is delivered across 12 sessions. For higher-risk or live cases, intervention can extend to around six months.
- Diversionary activities are also available.

3. Awareness and Prevention

It offers a universal, whole-school approach designed to build awareness and strengthen prevention efforts across communities. They'll be working closely with schools to design

bespoke packages that respond to the specific needs and themes they see emerging. They want the support to be purposeful and effective, so they're looking at a number of aspects:

- 6–8 week group programmes for young people (topics include consent, healthy relationships, and safety planning)
- Staff training workshops
- Parent engagement sessions
- Policy reviews and development

For more information, please visit: [STEPS \(Support Through Exploitation and Prevention Service\) | Catch22](#).

At the bottom of the page, in the 'Contact Us' section, are the referral forms for 1:1 work and Awareness and Prevention.

If you have any questions regarding the service, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Libby Banner, Awareness and Prevention Practitioner for STEPS – West Mercia via email at Libby.Banner@catch-22.org.uk or call 07570 721837.

Alternatively, you can contact them via the service email address: Steps@catch-22.org.uk

Teaching Assistant Level 3 apprenticeship

Aspiration Training have expanded their Teaching Assistant Level 3 apprenticeship into the Worcestershire region.

Within the Aspiration Group they have delivered the programme for several years under an Ofsted Good rating. The programme is open to any new employees and any existing staff, and they offer a free recruitment service. From September, they are also looking to launch the Level 5 Teaching Assistant – further details can be found in the [Specialist Teaching Assistant overview document](#).

They continue to deliver Early Years and Adult Care apprenticeships from Level 2 through to Level 5.

To learn more about the Teaching Assistant standard please visit: [Teaching Assistant Level 3 - Aspiration Training](#) or contact Tina Booth via email for more details on their overall offer: tbooth@aspirationtraining.com.

Latest Attendance News and Guidance

Save the Date: Worcestershire Attendance Conference - Tuesday 30 September

We are excited to share that we will be hosting an attendance conference for all Worcestershire schools on Tuesday 30th September.

Further details and booking information will be available in due course. For now, please save the date in your diaries, we look forward to seeing you there!

Attendance Information and Resources for Schools

Our LA website continues to be updated to provide lots of available resources for schools to support attendance.

If you are refreshing your school or trust attendance approach for 2025-2026 and are updating your policy, remodelling letter templates, or wanting to use more formal attendance contract models our web resources are freely available with these, and many more resources for you to utilise and save you time: [Attendance and Children Missing Education \(CME\) Web resources](#)

Worcestershire Attendance Delivery Feedback

Thank you to all Worcestershire schools that have already taken time to feedback on the attendance support and resources currently provided by the LA attendance team so far this year.

As we refresh our LA delivery plans in line with DfE 'Working together to Improve School attendance' expectations for 2025-2026, we are keen to ensure all schools have the opportunity, through your SLT attendance leads, to share your experiences and feedback and to enable us to respond directly to any schools who request us to.

The survey takes approximately 4 minutes to complete: <https://forms.office.com/e/36UE7fsxve>. Thank you in advance for your time if you are able to complete this. Schools feedback will be key in modelling our 2025-2026 delivery plan.

DfE Attendance Reminders for all schools: Accurate Recording in Registers

For action by Senior Leaders and all School Attendance Leads

Schools are reminded of the law on accurately coding absences due to study leave and religious observance in the school register.

Schools are responsible for year 11 pupils until Friday 27th June. Attendance and absence must be marked using the appropriate code until this date.

Study leave for public examinations should not be granted by default after the exam syllabus is complete, and code S cannot be used after public exams have concluded.

Absences for religious observance must be recorded using Code R. If a religious body sets apart a single day for observance, only one day can be recorded with this code. Any additional days of absence would require families to apply for a leave of absence, which can be granted in exceptional circumstances at a school's discretion.

For more detail, including approaches to minimise impact of religious observances on attendance and attainment, refer to Chapter 8 of the [Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance](#)

Year 6 Transition Data

For action by Senior Leaders and all School Attendance Leads

Mainstream secondary schools can now download absence data for incoming year 6 pupils by accessing the 'Year 6 transition data download' via [View your education data](#).

The data is intended to guide early intervention to tackle the sharp drop-off in attendance rates from primary to secondary school, particularly for children eligible for free school meals. [New DfE analysis](#) shows that, once above 15% absence, few children in secondary return to low absence levels the following year, so acting fast is key.

Secondary schools should use it to:

- identify pupils with concerning absence rates who may need support
- work with feeder schools, local authorities, and families - before September
- offer tailored interventions for individual children

To help implement effective transition strategies, schools can engage with best practice, including the DfE [webinar](#), using case studies in the [attendance toolkit](#) and DfE attendance [guidance](#).

Latest SEND News and Updates

SEND Services Restructure

We are making some changes to the structure of our SEND Services team. These changes are aimed at improving the way we manage the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process.

Families and professionals have told us that they can't get in contact with workers when they need to; assessments, plans and reviews are not always completed quickly enough (including within the statutory timescales); and the quality of EHCPs is not good enough.

Key changes that will help us to make improvements are:

- We have an additional 4 EHCP Co-ordinators, 1 Team Manager, 1 Senior EHCP Co-ordinator, 2 Initial Screening and Contact Officers (ISCOs) and a second Complaints Officer.
- We have split the teams into 'Pre-14' and 'Post-14' in different areas of the county - so children and young people will be allocated to a team and EHCP Co-ordinator based on how old they are and where they live.
- Each team will have its own email address and phone number, so if an EHCP Co-ordinator changes or is hard to reach, you can still contact the team for support.
- Casework Officers are now going to be called 'EHCP Co-ordinators' as families reported back to us that they didn't like children being referred to as a 'case'.

We will be moving children and young people to their new teams during June and July. Families can continue to contact their current EHCP Co-ordinator and the SEND Services Team via the usual channels and will be updated as and when things change. The new team structure will be fully in place from 1st September 2025.

You can download more information in our [SEND Services Restructure Briefing Sheet](#).

If you would like a paragraph to share on to families via school newsletters, please see the below:

SEND services new structure

Worcestershire County Council is making some changes to the structure of the SEND Services team. These changes are aimed at improving the way they manage the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Families have shared that they can't get in contact with workers when they need to; assessments, plans and reviews are not always completed quickly enough (including within the statutory timescales); and the quality of EHCPs is not good enough.

Key changes to help make improvements include:

- *There are an additional 4 EHCP Co-ordinators, 1 Team Manager, 1 Senior EHCP Co-ordinator, 2 Initial Screening and Contact Officers (ISCOs) and a second Complaints Officer.*

- *The teams have been split into 'Pre-14' and 'Post-14' in different areas of the county - so children and young people will be allocated to a team and EHCP Co-ordinator based on how old they are and where they live.*
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- *Casework Officers are now going to be called 'EHCP Co-ordinators' as families reported that they didn't like children being referred to as a 'case'.*

The County Council will be moving children and young people to their new teams during June and July. Families can continue to contact their current EHCP Co-ordinator and the SEND Services Team via the usual channels and will be updated as and when things change. The new team structure will be fully in place from 1st September 2025.

Read more about the changes here: [SEND Services Team Restructure | Worcestershire County Council](#)

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.

If you would like some free copies of SENDIASS leaflets and posters to display in your setting, distribute to your families, or include in your new starters packs, please email SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Digital copies of the leaflets and posters can be downloaded from our [Google Drive](#).

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.

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

Latest Public Health News and Updates

Family Fun and Support Worcestershire

FAO: school communications teams

Action: please share widely with your parents in advance of the summer holidays

Family Fun and Support Worcestershire is an amazing what's on family directory which includes a website and Facebook page. There are loads of activities for children and young people of all ages. When it's raining loads of indoor activities are posted, plus seasonal and holiday activities. There are family friendly places to visit, and it is tailored and up to date. Lots of free sessions, events and activities are promoted and pulled together in one place on the Facebook page so families can see where they can go. Information is categorised under pregnancy, under 5's, kids and teens.

Website link: [Family-Friendly Events in Worcestershire | Activities for Kids & Teens](#)

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/16cjgyVr6e/>

First & Primary Schools: for pupils with worries and anxieties

Lumi Nova transition and summer assets available now!

The summer holidays are a great opportunity for parents/carers to use Lumi Nova to support their children with common worries during this time.

Whether it's the start of a new school year, transitioning to a new school / class or making new friends, Lumi Nova offers a wide range of goals to support children build confidence.

Use the transition and summer themed assets to remind parents that Lumi Nova can be used over the summer holidays. We have included:

- **Posters** for newsletters or display
- **Social media images** for your school or organisation's page
- **Parent letter / newsletter content**

Why not schedule some **Back to School Assets** to be shared with families as the new school year starts!

Access a range of assets [here](#).

In need of printed resources?

Order free leaflets and posters by emailing the Lumi Nova team on Luminova@bfb-labs.com

Opportunity for young people with lived experience of low mood and depression

BfB Labs are developing a new product specifically for teenagers and young adults aged 13 to 25 who are experiencing low mood and have an exciting opportunity to involve young people with lived experience of low mood to become part of their Innovation Board. The Innovation Board will help them to ensure that the intervention addresses their actual needs, preferences, and challenges in real life.

What they are looking for:

They are looking to partner with schools/organisations to help organise user testing sessions with young people aged 13-25 who are interested in taking part.

- **Engage young people in the user testing process:** To involve young people aged 13-25 with lived experience of low mood and depression (they don't need to be clinically diagnosed) in testing wireframes, mock ups and early versions of the new mental health digital intervention and provide their feedback via 1-2-1 and group calls via Google Meet.
- They are happy to explore focus groups and/or a workshop, depending on what works best for the service provider and the young people.

These sessions take place between June and August 2025, and they can offer young people:

- A small incentive to participants to say thank you for their time (for some sessions)
- Certificate of participation to add to their CV
- Opportunity to have their voice heard and shape a new digital intervention that will help support young people

Apply to be part of the Innovation Board

Please share the following [invite to join the BfB Lab's Innovation Board](#) with young people. They will need to complete a registration form and parental consent if aged 13-16. A member of BfB Labs will then reach out if they have been accepted.

For more information, please contact: Nabeena Mali (Intervention Lead) at nabeena@bfb-labs.com

Supporting Conversations Around Eating Disorders

Join experienced eating disorder clinician Kim on Wednesday 25th June, 4:00–5:00pm for a practical webinar designed to help school professionals develop and enhance supportive communication with children and young people.

This session will introduce key tools and approaches for having effective, compassionate conversations around eating disorders in an educational setting.

Can't make it live? The session will be recorded and made available on the [Beating Eating Disorders webinar recordings webpage](#).

[Book your place on the webinar](#).

LGBTQ+ support

We wanted to remind you that if you, your family, friends or work and community networks need some support, help is available in a number of places, some of which are listed below:

- [LGBT Foundation](#) – national helpline and email support service providing brief interventions, advice, emotional support and signposting
- [Switchboard LGBTQ+ Helpline](#) national LGBTQIA+ phone, email and online chat support for anyone at any point in their journey.
- [Mermaids](#) phone, online chat and email support to trans, non-binary, gender diverse and gender questioning young people under 20, their loved ones, and allies of trans children and young people
- [Spectra](#) peer-led trans services accessible to all trans and gender-diverse people, including 1-2-1 health advocacy support and counselling, peer mentoring and monthly online and in-person social groups.
- [MindOut](#) online support live chat for people 18+ run by LGBTQ affirmative mental health trained volunteers
- [Shout](#) the UK's free, confidential and 24/7 mental health text service for crisis support
- [Samaritans](#) 24/7 phone support and email support for all ages, and for anyone who needs someone to listen and talk to
- [HOPELINE247](#) national online chat and phone service for under 35s or anyone concerned about an under 35 year old experiencing suicidal thoughts, run by PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide
- [Out2gether](#) a friendly, community driven group for LGBTQ+ adults living in and around Worcestershire providing opportunities to meet and socialise in a safe environment

Anyone struggling to cope can also visit [I'm struggling to cope | Worcestershire County Council](#) to find other support and resources for all ages.

Please feel free to share this information within your contacts and networks.

Helping Young People Stay Safe on Smartphones and Online

Free Webinars for Parents and Carers

This July, Kooth is delivering a series of free webinars aimed at supporting parents and carers in keeping their children safe online - particularly when using smartphones.

With smartphones being a central part of young people's lives, these sessions will offer practical advice and guidance on how to manage risks, start open conversations, and encourage healthy online behaviour.

These webinars are an excellent opportunity for families to feel more confident about digital safety and understand the tools available to help protect their children online.

Find out more at: [Helping young people stay safe on smartphones and online](#)

Latest Government News and Updates

New Chair of Ofsted Announced

On Wednesday 11 June, the Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson announced the appointment of Dame Christine Gilbert as the next Chair of Ofsted. As a former Chief Inspector and the author of the Independent Learning Review for Ofsted, Dame Christine brings with her a wealth of knowledge of the organisation and the areas which it inspects and regulates. She will replace Sir Hamid Patel, who is currently interim Chair, and will take up her new role at Ofsted from 1 September 2025.

[Dame Christine Gilbert announced as Chair of Ofsted - GOV.UK](#)

Free School Meals: Guidance for Schools

On 5 June, the Department for Education updated guidance for schools and local authorities about providing school meals including information on free school meal eligibility. Guidance has been updated to confirm that all households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive free school meals from the start of the 2026 to 2027 school year. They have also extended transitional protections until the end of the 2025 to 2026 school year.

[Free school meals: guidance for schools and local authorities - GOV.UK](#)

AI Revolution to Give Teachers More Time with Pupils

Pupils across England will benefit from more face-to-face time with teachers as the government forges ahead with plans to harness the power of AI to deliver educational excellence.

The Department for Education has launched this week (10th June) a package of measures to transform how schools use AI - including the first ever [AI guidance](#) for schools and colleges setting out how schools can safely and effectively use AI to transform the classroom experience for students.

[AI revolution to give teachers more time with pupils - GOV.UK](#)

Latest Training News and Conferences

SENCo Leadership Development Programme

Our SENCo leadership programme has been designed and developed around the SEN Code of Practice, Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and evidence-based research to ensure schools are well informed about their statutory duties and how best to provide highly effective support for children and young people with SEND.

The programme will equip participants with skills to develop a strategic approach to leading SEND/Inclusion. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on current practices and consider how approaches can be adapted to greater influence the quality of provision, pupil outcomes and develop a wholly inclusive culture.

This programme has been designed to provide practical support to SENCos/Inclusion Leaders in their role, to gain:

- a secure understanding of their leadership role and influence in developing whole school policy, practice and culture
- leadership knowledge, skills and confidence to engage purposefully with school leaders and wider partners, providing support within an accountability framework
- access to a range of practical tools, approaches and resources to implement the Graduated Response and monitor and evaluate the impact of provision on pupil outcomes
- an understanding of how the SENCo can drive improvement to address the local and national agenda to ensure high quality education for all

The Leadership Programme is designed to cater for all levels of experience, whether you are a member of your school's Inclusion Team, an aspiring SENCo, newly appointed SENCo or more experienced SENCo looking for a refresher course.

The Programme is focussed on the practical and dynamic nature of the role and compliments the National Award for SEN Coordination qualification and NPQ SENCo. Time is allocated within each session for professional discussion and sharing practice with colleagues.

Cost: £362 + VAT per delegate

Dates / Times:

- 6 sessions: 23 September, 6 and 21 October, 11 and 25 November and 9 December 2025
- All sessions are 9am to 12pm
- Worcester
- CPD Code: 10287

Asthma Management in Schools Webinar

This new webinar will support schools in implementing the recent ICB Guidance on the Management of Asthma in Schools.

It will allow schools to understand the actions needed to safely manage asthma in school including what steps to take in the event of an asthma attack, management of inhalers and spacers, prevention and monitoring.

Once received the new ICB Guidance on the Management of Asthma in Schools will be shared with delegates via CPD.

Cost: Free

- 22 September 2025, 3.40pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10605 / 91927
- 3 October 2025, 9.15am to 10.15am, virtual delivery, course code: 10605 / 91928

School Improvement Training

We are pleased to confirm the forthcoming offer from our School Improvement Team, search the course code on CPD for further information.

September

- English Subject Leaders Network Meeting (Search CPD code 10226)
- SENCo Leadership Development Programme (Search CPD code 10287)
- Key Stage 1 Assessment of Writing (Years 1 & 2) (Search CPD code 10509)

October

- Strategies to support spelling (search CPD code 10555)
- How do we know they are learning? Checking for understanding ((Search CPD code 10598)
- New to Year 6 (search CPD code 10213)
- Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) Assessment of Writing (Search CPD Code 10590)
- Worcestershire Pupil Premium Leads Network Meeting (search CP code 10518)

November

- Strategies to support handwriting (search CPD code 10556)
- Dictation and Transcription in the Primary Classroom (search CPD code 10557)
- Adaptive Teaching – revisiting “Purpose, Plans and Provision” to meet learners needs. (Search CPD code 10599)
- An Introduction to Coaching for Improving Teaching and Learning (Search CPD code 10601)
- The art of modelling – creating a learning narrative (Search CPD code 10505)
- Building a robust reading curriculum (Search CPD cod 10602)
- New to Year 6 (search CPD code 10213)

December

- Editing and Revising Writing (search CPD code 10559)
- Feeding back to feed forward – revisiting effective feedback for learning (Search CPD code 10600)

January 2026

- Assessing Reading at the End of KS1: using the non-statutory teacher assessment framework (Search CPD code 10389)
- Assessing Reading in KS2 (Search CPD code 10603)
- Assessing Maths at the End of KS1: using the non-statutory teacher assessment framework (search CPD Code 10391)
- Year 6 Greater Depth in Standard Writing (Search CPD Code 10222)

February 2026

- Year 6 Refresher training: Assessment of Writing (search CPD code 10511)

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

First Aid and Health and Safety Training

Our programme of First Aid and Health and Safety training has been updated to include sessions available for the autumn term. Courses include Emergency First Aid, Paediatric First Aid, Fire Warden Training, and Managing Safely courses. Whether you are leading visits, supporting day-to-day school operations, or acting as a designated first aider, there is training to suit your role. Full course details and booking instructions can be found in our [First Aid and Health and Safety Training Flyer](#).

Latest News from School Teaching Hubs

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training

Applications for the 25-26 cohort are still open.

An update from Suzanne Lawson (Head of Strategic Partnerships (Secondary) University of Worcester):

Will you be looking for a Science, Modern Language or PE ECT in September? Could you grow your own? We are desperately looking for ITT placements in these three subjects for the spring/summer term. If you have any capacity, please contact c.rowlands@worc.ac.uk. Happy to talk about other subjects as well!

ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for this academic year. Please use the following link to book onto these: www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh. For clinics, you will be sent the details to join via email.

Year 1 ECT Events:

Clinic 3 – 12th June 2025

Year 2 ECT Events:

Clinic 6 – 19th June 2025

ECT Mentor Events:

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors – June / July 2025

The dates for 2025-26 will be sent out and added to Ticket Source shortly.

AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2024-25 cohort remain open. Please follow the link for guidance on how to register your ECTs with Prince Henry's TSH: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/registering-your-ect/>. If you have already registered your ECT/s with us, please be sure to complete the Service Level Agreement. If you have not received this via email, please contact cemms@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk. DfE registrations for the 2025-26 cohort will be opening later on in the Summer term. They will let schools know when this has happened.

NPQ Update

Participants on the Spring 2025 cohorts should have received all information and a schedule of dates. Information on future NPQ cohorts will follow later this term.

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: [Early Career Teacher Entitlement – Teaching School Hub](#).

Please also sign up for one of our upcoming support webinars, where they will discuss the upcoming changes to ECT Provision, for both AB and ECF. The dates and times of these webinars are:

Tuesday 24th June: 12.30pm - 1.15pm

Thursday 10th July: 12.45pm - 1.30pm

The links for these webinars can be found on their [Teaching School Hub](#) website.

Latest Funding and Grants News

Bupa Foundation Green Community Grants – Now Open for Applications

Now in its third year, the Bupa Foundation Green Community Grants scheme is offering grants of £500–£2,000 to support practical environmental projects that benefit both people and planet.

This year, priority will be given to projects that improve or create green spaces in or near cities, especially in disadvantaged areas, and that involve the local community.

Examples include:

- Outdoor classrooms or forest school areas
- Natural playgrounds
- Community gardens or food growing spaces
- Tree or flower planting projects

Non-fee paying schools across the UK are eligible to apply and all projects must be completed by April 2026.

For full details and how to apply, visit: [Bupa Foundation Green Community Grants](#)

The deadline for applications is 5pm on 30th June 2025

One Stop Community Partnership Programme – Grants & Local Support for Schools

Schools within two miles of a participating One Stop store can apply for up to **£1,000 in grant funding**, plus tailored long-term support from their local One Stop Store Team. This programme, run by Groundwork and One Stop Stores Ltd, aims to support projects that:

- Tackle food poverty
- Support vulnerable or elderly people
- Help low-income families
- Run youth sports activities
- Reduce/recycle waste
- Improve the environment

Eligible applicants include schools, charities, voluntary groups, local authorities, and more.

Before applying, use the **Store Locator** on the Groundwork website to check if your local One Stop store is participating. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2025, however, please note that applications may close early.

For full details and how to apply, visit: [One Stop Community Partnership - Groundwork](#)

Latest Local News and Updates

Severn Arts Summer Festival

The Severn Arts Summer Festival is returning to Worcester city centre on Saturday 28 June from 10am-4pm for a celebration of music, art and creativity. Entry is free and everyone is welcome!

Schedule:

Worcester Guildhall, 10am-4pm

- Musical performances from Severn Arts' youth bands and orchestras
- Solo and small group performances
- Soundabout Choir

St Andrew's Church, 11am

- Severn Arts Music Centre String Orchestras

Arch 27, 10:30am-4pm

- Creating a Sustainable Tomorrow: a youth-led creative event combining crafting, upcycling fashion workshop, live music and interactive art exhibition
- Music Box bus

Worcester Cathedral, 10am-1pm

- Young Voices New Visions art exhibition

For the full schedule, please visit the Severn Arts website: [Severn Arts Summer Festival | Severn Arts](#)

Windrush Day 2025

Worcester will mark Windrush Day later this month with a family-friendly Caribbean Party in the Park, free for all to attend.

The Cripplegate Park event - including entertainment, food and drink – will take place between midday and 4pm on Sunday 22 June.

This year Windrush Day commemorations will take place over two days in Worcester – with a flag raising and Reflections Exhibition taking place a day earlier on Saturday 21 June at the Guildhall.

Windrush Day is commemorated annually to mark the anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush arriving in Britain from the Caribbean in 1948, following the Second World War.

The Windrush Generation played key roles in the production of steel, coal, iron, and food as the country's economy recovered.

They also helped to keep public transport running, along with helping towards the National Health Service (NHS) and armed forces.

For more information please download the [event flyer](#).



Sarah Wilkins

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