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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this bulletin finds you well.

I'd like to remind colleagues that our previously used Worcestershire Children First email addresses are not in use and are no longer being auto forwarded. To ensure your emails get to us, please make sure you update your contact lists and replace the end of email addresses as follows:

name@worschildrenfirst.org.uk has changed to name@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Schools are still welcome to apply for our *Public Health Wellbeing Grants*. If you have a project or initiative to support pupils' mental wellbeing outside of the curriculum, a small grant can make your ideas a reality! For further information, please download the [Education Settings Wellbeing Grant Flyer](#) or visit the [Healthy Worcestershire Community Wellbeing Grant Programme website](#).

Our Worcestershire Youth Cabinet is hosting a *Youth Parliament Event* on Friday 21st November at The Hive, Worcester, offering young people the chance to explore politics, meet others, and discover how they can make a real difference locally. We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this opportunity with pupils aged 11–18 by downloading and promoting their [Youth Parliament Event 2025 flyer](#).

The Department for Education's Schools Digital team is researching how schools and governing bodies identify and evaluate support and strategies that drive school improvement. This research will inform the development of their *Regional Improvement in Standards and Excellence* (RISE) universal support offer for all schools. They would like to hear from anyone working in a school, trust or diocese involved in school improvement. [Please complete the short sign-up form to take part](#).

And finally, a reminder that [schools can now book free places on DfE's webinars](#). The schedule of free online events is designed to support business and finance managers and leaders across all aspects of resource management in schools and trusts. Topics covered include buying energy for schools, the Sustainability Support Programme, Estates Management Standards, integrated finance and curriculum planning and more.

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest Council News and Updates

How would you spend the Worcestershire County Council budget?

Our 2026 budget consultation is now live, and we want to hear from you. From now until 1 November 2025, you have the opportunity to tell us how you'd prioritise spending across key services like adult social care, children's services, and transport.

We'd also like to hear your views on council tax options, where you feel funding could be reduced and ideas for saving money or generating income.

If you live or work in Worcestershire, this is your opportunity to shape how vital services are funded and delivered.

Take part now: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/budget26/27

New fostering film, 'The Run'

Worcestershire Fostering has released its new short film, 'The Run'. The film following Tom's story of how his foster carers helped him stop running away from danger and start running for joy, knowing someone was there for him. Sometimes in fostering, it's the everyday things that make the biggest difference: a stable home, a new pair of trainers, or someone supporting him from the sidelines.

This film is created with the voices of young people who have lived in care. Though the actors tell the story, the experiences are real. We urgently need more foster carers in Worcestershire so please take some time to have a watch and share on social media.

You can watch the full video here: [Worcestershire Fostering The Run](#).



Image from the new fostering film 'The Run'

Latest Education News and Updates

Edenred Portal Access for October half term 2025 FSM Vouchers

As confirmed by email to all schools on 1st April 2025, FSM eligible pupils will receive £15 per child in vouchers for the upcoming half term holiday.

Edenred Portal access will be available from Monday 13th October 2025 and close on Friday 7th November 2025. Schools will have access to issue a £15 voucher per child to cover the holiday period. They will expire one-month after they have been issued.

After the portal access closes on Friday 7th November 2025, schools and parents will have until Friday 14th November 2025 for any outstanding voucher queries to be resolved, by emailing FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Key points:

- **Accessing the portal:** You must use the WCC ordering site with your existing **WCC account (22463)**, the login page can be accessed here: [Edenred Online Ordering](#)
- **Eligibility:** Vouchers are for FSM eligible children aged 4 – 16 and in years Reception to Year 11 (**not including nursery or 6th form students**).
- **Voucher expiry:** Advise parents to redeem vouchers promptly to avoid expiry. **All vouchers issued during this period will expire after one-month from the date of issue.** Once redeemed, 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](#)
- Make sure you have the **correct recipient email address** and that parent/carers are notified they will be in receipt of a voucher.
- **Ensure there's no space before the email address.**
Even a small space at the beginning can prevent vouchers from being delivered properly.
 - If copying and pasting, double-check that no space was added.
 - If typing manually, start directly with the first letter of the email.
 - Use the "Sort A to Z" filter to check for formatting issues. In spreadsheet tools like Excel, sorting the email column A to Z will bring any entries with special characters, including leading spaces, to the top. This is a quick way to spot and correct errors before uploading.
 - If you would like advice on how to use a formula (in Excel) to quickly remove any email addresses with a space contact: FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk
- **Invoicing for overspend:** Schools will be invoiced for any overspend above the expected amount per school.

- Historic expired vouchers will not be paid due to budget monitoring and programme claiming requirements. Exceptions **may** be considered if there are extenuating family circumstances which the school will need to verify.
- Eligibility for vouchers is linked to FSM status. There may be families who have FSM status, but their circumstances have changed during the Universal Credit switch over protection of status. Please consider that vouchers are issued to those children and families who require the support.
- 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.

For further help, see these useful links:

- **Edenred User Guide** - for ordering and supermarket details: [user guide](#)
- **Parent/Carer FAQs** - [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- **Forgotten Password** – [Password reset](#)
- **Redeem eCodes** - [Redeem eCodes](#)
- For any queries, refer to the guides first, contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk

Please continue to signpost families to local support and information:

- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)
- [Household Support Fund Worcestershire webpage](#)
- [Cost of living support](#) information is available on the council's website

Service Level Agreements

For those schools who need to access our School Admissions Distance Measuring Service SLA, please log on to our Education eStore portal to purchase your SLA, using your schools DfE number as your username.

The link for the Education eStore is <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/TradedServices> you will locate the SLA within Services and Products, Other Support Services.

School Admissions Distance Measuring Service

For academy, foundation, free or voluntary-aided schools that are their own admission authorities, we offer a distance measuring service to provide accurate and consistent distance measurements of all children applying for your school. This enables your school to rank every application in line with your admission arrangements.

We calculate the distance using a computerised system based on ordnance survey coordinates. These are calculated as a straight-line measurement between the geo-code of the pupil's home address and the geo-code of the school. Distance measuring does not consider walking, cycling or driving routes.

Please note the SLA is based on number of applications not your schools NOR.

If you would like further information, please contact Tracey Wilson, twilson@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 844284.

If you need assistance logging onto your eStore account, please email our Traded Services Team at schoolservices@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 844300.

WorkWell – Support for people with health conditions and/or disabilities

WorkWell is a joint scheme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC).

The aim of WorkWell is to connect people with health conditions and/or disabilities to local support services so they can get the tailored help they need to stay in or return to work.

WorkWell is an early-intervention work and health assessment and provision of light touch, low-intensity support service. It will provide tailored support helping individuals to address their work and health needs, and to overcome barriers to work. People will be able to access general help, support, information, guidance and connections to services via the telephone and can receive additional face to face work and health coaching if required.

It is a prevention service aimed to support those most recently out of work due to sickness to return to work, or those in work who are at risk of being signed off sick.

[Download WorkWell Employers Guide Leaflet](#)

[Download WorkWell Patient Poster](#)

For more information, please visit: <https://www.hwics.org.uk/our-services/workwell>

Promoting Inclusive Workplaces - Neurodiversity Event

Schools are invited to attend a practical and thought-provoking event designed to help organisations understand, support, and celebrate neurodiversity in the workplace.

Taking place on **Thursday 6th November, 9:30am–1:30pm at The Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern**, this session offers expert insights and real-world strategies for building inclusive, high-performing teams.

[Download event flyer for more information including details how to book your place](#)

GLOW Maths Hub

Are you a Primary Early Career Teacher keen to build confidence in teaching maths? The GLOW Maths Hub Primary ECT Work Group offers four full-day sessions across the spring and summer terms - designed to deepen understanding and develop effective classroom practice.

[Download the GLOW Maths Hub Flyer to find out more!](#)

Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November, with the theme: Power for Good. The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

The theme of Power for Good has come about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

As usual, schools are able to download [free teaching resources](#) and themed assemblies. These focus on how we can actively use our Power for Good, and what we can do to stop bullying. We will also develop a media, social media and community-based campaign to help bring Anti-Bullying Week to life whether you're at home, work or in school. Watch this space!

For more information, please visit: [Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good](#)

[Download resources for Anti-Bullying Week 2025](#)

Final Spaces Available! The Write to Inspire Conference 2025

Empowering Ambitious, Knowledgeable, and Accurate Writers
Tuesday 5th November 2025 | Bromsgrove | 09:00 – 16:00

Worcestershire colleagues are warmly invited to attend the **Write to Inspire Conference**, a bespoke event designed specifically for our schools, with a unique focus on **upper KS2 and KS3 (Years 5–9)**. With writing a key priority for many schools this year, especially in light of the updated writing framework, this conference offers timely and practical support. Expect a day full of inspiration, pedagogy, and best practice tailored to the needs you've shared with us.

- Hear from national keynote speakers:
 - Debra Myhill – on empowering young writers to take control of their craft.
 - Bob Cox – on transforming quality texts into quality writing, with oracy at the heart.
- Learn from local primary, middle, and secondary colleagues sharing effective strategies and classroom impact.
- Gain innovative teaching approaches to support all learners in becoming confident, fluent, and accurate writers.

Course Code: 10578

Book now via [CPD](#) – **limited spaces remaining!** Let's ensure every Worcestershire school has the opportunity to be part of this inspiring day.

Latest SEND News and Updates

Alternative Provision Provider Update

B Brilliant an Alternative Provision Provider based in Malvern have been reinstated on the Alternative Provision Dynamic Purchasing System (AP DPS) following their period of suspension earlier in the year. B Brilliant have worked closely with the Education Safeguarding Lead and have now completed their action plan. B Brilliant currently have capacity within their provision to support young people age 5 - 16yrs.

Please see the [SEND and Alternative Provision Directories](#) for the complete list of unregistered Alternative provision providers on the AP DPS.

New networks for SEN units & resourced provisions with an autism specialism

Please see below information about new networks delivered by DfE. We are supporting these and working with those schools who have a commissioned MAB to ensure they attend. We would also encourage any schools with non-commissioned SEND provision that has an autism focus to join as well.

DfE is pleased to be launching national peer-to-peer SEN unit & resourced provision networks, starting with a primary school network and a secondary school network for SEN units & resourced provisions with an autism specialism. These networks will be coordinated by DfE and form part of the department's RISE universal service offer on inclusive mainstream, along with the recently-published signposting webpage on [inclusive mainstream](#).

These networks will be led by sector experts. The aim of the networks is to provide a forum for peer learning and support through half-termly meetings in which schools share challenges and best practice in order to drive high-quality provision across the country. The networks are open to all schools with a SEN unit/resourced provision or with their own provision (i.e. not LA commissioned) with an autism specialism. They are also open to schools interested in setting one up, or in the process of setting one up, so that they can learn from the experience of others. The networks are specifically aimed at provision leads who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the provision.

Benefits of signing up include:

- Collaborative problem-solving and action learning with experienced peers
- Access to high-quality resources and sessions led by sector experts
- Focused discussions on a range of relevant topics, shaped by your priorities and key areas of interest
- Opportunity to connect with peers and build lasting professional relationships

[Sign up for SEN unit/resourced provision for autism network here.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Support.SURPNETWORK@education.gov.uk

Supporting children with Down Syndrome

Down Syndrome UK are a nationwide charity dedicated to supporting children with Down syndrome.

They provide expert-led, online programmes for pre-school and primary school professionals supporting children with Down syndrome to give staff the tools, knowledge and confidence to help the children to thrive.

[Watch webcast for primary schools on supporting schools educating pupils with Down Syndrome](#)

For more information about Down Syndrome UK please visit: www.downsyndromeuk.co.uk

Teen Autism Confident Course

FAO: SENCOs, Pastoral Leads in Middle/Secondary schools

Action: Please share with relevant families and young people

Autism West Midlands are delivering a series of workshops for young people aged 13 to 19, diagnosed or not with autism. The workshops are face to face at County House in Worcester and cover a different topic each week during November and December. You can download the flier *here*.

The service is funded by the NHS locally and as such, young people can be given time off school to attend. Because the YP is learning about their autism the course is part of the educational aspect of an EHCP, so attendance is considered part of their education. Autism West Midlands can provide a letter to confirm a place has been offered.

To enrol on the Teen Autism Confident Course, please email the address on the flyer – herefandworcs@autismwestmidlands.org.uk and they will send out a form to complete to enrol.

Please share with relevant families and young people and authorise time for young people to attend.

[Download Teen Autism Confident Course Flyer](#)

Free Autism & Wellbeing Training - schools training programme

FAO: Pastoral Leads, SENCos

A two-day Anna Freud course developed by world leaders in the field of autism.

Aim: to increase your understanding of neurodivergence and how to support the mental health of your autistic students

Learning Outcomes:

- The impact of autism myths and stereotypes.
- Communication and sensory differences between autistic and non-autistic children and young people.
- The causes and impacts of masking, meltdown and shutdown, and autistic burnout.
- Promoting wellbeing for autistic students and staff.

Course:

- Fully funded for mainstream primary, middle and secondary school working at KS2, 3, and 4.
- Two days (one face to face, one online)
- Three 1 to 1 mentoring sessions to embed learning and adapt approaches in school settings
- Each school that completes the programme receives £150 to support participation

Birmingham dates: 23rd October (face to face) and 6th November (online)

Email autism.schools@annafreud.org for more information

[Book your place via the Anna Freud website](#)

Additional courses in London and online only.

Latest Public Health News and Updates

Kooth: Suicide prevention and awareness webinar

On 21st October, Kooth is holding a free webinar: [Suicide prevention and awareness for professionals](#).

This 1-hour webinar will explore suicide prevention and awareness for professionals and how Kooth can support this. Kooth is an online platform to help young people with their mental health and wellbeing. It is free for children aged 11-18 across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

For secondary and higher aged students Kooth is offering 30-minute KoothKlass webinars on: **Anxiety & Self-Care** in October, **Friendships & Boundaries** in November and **Building Resilience** in December.

You are welcome to book groups or classes on to all three by signing up via the [Kooth website](#).

2025 White Ribbon Conference

Join us for the 2025 White Ribbon Conference, hosted by Worcestershire and Herefordshire County Councils, as we unite to speak up against violence towards women and girls.

9:30am - 2.45pm Friday, 21st November 2025 Online (MS Teams)

This year's theme, "We Speak Up", highlights the power of collective voices in challenging harmful behaviours and promoting safety and respect. Expect inspiring speakers, practical insights, and a shared commitment to change.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/joint-herefordshire-worcestershire-white-ribbon-conference-2025-tickets-1737596841929?aff=oddtcreator>

School Zone website has officially moved to the Campaign Resource Centre

FAO: PSHE Leads, Class Teachers, Subject Leads (Food, PE, Biology, PHSE, Psychology)

Action: Register for an account with the Campaign Resource Centre

[School Zone](#) is a source of free flexible health and wellbeing teaching resources for primary and secondary schools. The resources cover a range of topics including nutrition, physical activity and mental well-being. School Zone has now moved to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Campaign Resource Centre.

To ensure you continue to receive timely updates on the latest campaigns, free educational resources, lesson plans, posters, fliers and partnership opportunities, please register using your work email address as a School Zone user on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#). Completing your registration will ensure you remain informed about all upcoming campaigns and resources. It's quick and easy so please don't miss out!

Let's help people quit smoking together this Stoptober

Stoptober is back.

This year's Stoptober campaign is encouraging smokers to quitting this October by exploring the FREE support available in Worcestershire and nationally.

We want aspiring quitters to know that we have their back and by taking part in Stoptober, they are more likely to succeed.

We'd appreciate your help to spread the word about our FREE stop smoking services.

To help, we have created a [Google drive](#) with lots of Stoptober assets adapted for Worcestershire including:

- Stoptober digital screens
- Stoptober A4 posters
- Stoptober email signature
- Stoptober social media images and messages with links to local and national support

You can find the Google drive at: <https://bit.ly/StopSmokingWorcs>.

If you need these designs in a specific size, please email phcomms@worcestershire.gov.uk.

We will also post the social media messages twice a week on our Healthy Worcestershire social media channels. Please do follow us and re-share on your channels. You can find us at:

- [Healthy Worcestershire Facebook](#)
- [Healthy Worcestershire X](#)
- [Worcestershire County Council Instagram](#)
- [Worcestershire County Council LinkedIn](#)

To find out more about stop smoking services available in Worcestershire visit: worcestershire.gov.uk/stopsmoking.

If you would like to download the national Stoptober assets, they are available at: [Stoptober 2025 | Campaigns | Campaign Resource Centre](#).

Thanks in advance for all your support to promote Stoptober.

Latest Training and Conference News

School Attendance: Training and Networks

We are excited to share our forthcoming training and network events open to all Worcestershire school SLT attendance leaders and attendance staff.

Attendance Network Launch Taster Event *NEW*

This free to attend, in person network launch event will provide key attendance related updates and feature Parent Carer Forum feedback, a workshop led by inclusion services, and an opportunity for all attending schools to shape the delivery themes for our three further network sessions planned for 2025-2026.

- 13 November, 9am to 12.30pm, Worcester
- Cost: Free
- CPD course code: 10629

School Attendance Network Sessions *NEW*

The attendance network package comprises three sessions over the Spring / Summer terms specifically for SLT Attendance leads: each providing opportunities to bring attendance leaders together to share key updates, effective practice, and information on current attendance drives making impact. Each session will enable time for participants to speak to other leaders in schools across the county and share experiences.

The termly attendance network events will:

- share the latest national and local legislation, information and updates
- provide examples of practices and solution focussed strategies making impact
- provide opportunities for discussion
- feature information from partners/agencies providing further specialist support and guidance supporting attendance
- encourage development of partnership working and peer to peer support
- provide CPD for attendance leaders

Cost: £80 + VAT per delegate

Over 3 sessions:

- Sessions: 21 January, 25 March and 23 June 2026
- Time: All sessions are 1pm to 4pm
- Location: Worcester

Course code 10630

Using legal action to address pupil absence: Guidance for schools

The training will explore when a request for legal proceedings may be appropriate and the requirements upon schools in making such requests. Focussing on unauthorised pupil absence (including unauthorised leave in term time) this will provide delegates with the latest information and appropriate resources to demonstrate what is required in order for the Local Authority to consider the issuing of a penalty notice or undertake a prosecution.

Cost: £40 + VAT per delegate

Discount: Book a delegate to attend both Using Legal & Witness Statements on the same day (does not need to be the same delegate per session but must be the same school) then pay only £55 +VAT for both sessions in total, a saving of £15 (full price for both sessions prior to discount is £70 + VAT)

- 12 November 2025, 9.30am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: 10283 / 91894

Court Process & Writing Effective Witness Statements: Guidance for schools

This training session will inform school staff regarding court processes and equip them with sufficient knowledge and resources to complete witness statements effectively for prosecution of cases under s444(1)/ (1)A of the Education Act 1996 for unauthorised absences. School Attendance Leads, Head teachers, School Attendance Officers, or any other school based associated staff with a key role in addressing pupil attendance, absence and welfare would be most welcome.

Cost: £30 + VAT per delegate

Discount: Book a delegate to attend both Using Legal & Witness Statements on the same day (does not need to be the same delegate per session but must be the same school) then pay only £55 +VAT for both sessions in total, a saving of £15 (full price for both sessions prior to discount is £70 + VAT)

- 12 November 2025, 1pm to 3pm, Worcester, course code: 10284 / 91897

Precision Teaching

This course aims to give you an understanding of what Precision Teaching is and which pupils it would benefit. It will enable you to implement Precision Teaching programmes for reading, spelling and numeracy skills. We will also briefly discuss the learning theory that underpins Precision Teaching.

Due to how the training is delivered, we recommend that at least two people from each school attend to support activities

Cost: Delegate 1: £70+ VAT per delegate

Cost: Delegate 2: £50 + VAT per delegate

- 21 October and 9 December 2025, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10584 / 91645

Introducing the 6-week Trauma-Informed Parents' Journey in your school

Following a highly successful 6-week pilot at a trauma-informed first school in Worcestershire, we are excited to introduce this transformative course. Designed to support parents in adopting a trauma-informed approach with their children, this initiative is now being expanded to more schools, **fully funded by Public Health**.

This **opportunity** is available to **Worcestershire First and Primary schools/settings** that have engaged with the **TIS UK diploma**, funded by Worcestershire Virtual School.

Schools/settings with a **trauma-informed practitioner** are invited to express interest in joining the **Parents' Journey project**.

In **2025/26, there will be three opportunities** for practitioners to receive training, equipping them to deliver the parents' course within their school or setting.

To find out more, we highly recommend attending our **free 30-minute webinar**, designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the project. Please note that spaces are limited, and only a select number of schools/settings can be included in this offer.

In this webinar, you'll learn about:

- The **background** of the project
- The parents' course content
- The **resources** available to support delivery in schools
- The **dates and venues** for practitioner training
- How to **express interest** in a training place

Cost: Free

- 18 November 2025, 4pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10593

Supporting Social and Emotional Wellbeing for 7–16-year-olds using Homunculi Intervention ***NEW***

This training will upskill your school staff to confidently deliver the Homunculi Intervention—a **simple, effective, and well-researched approach** for children and young people aged 7–16. The intervention helps pupils identify and manage difficult thoughts and feelings, such as anger or fear, and navigate tricky situations like bullying or transitions. Staff will explore the theory behind the approach and learn how to deliver it using the published book.

The Homunculi Intervention is neurodiversity-friendly and uses creative, engaging activities where children design miniature agents with gadgets and problem-solving missions, all tailored to their individual needs.

Ideal for school staff working with 7–16-year-olds, this training provides practical tools to create nurturing environments where every child can thrive emotionally and socially.

Cost: £35 + VAT per delegate

- 11 November 2025, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10585

Pathway to Playwork Bootcamp ***NEW***

Worcestershire County Council Children's Services in collaboration with Adult Learning Worcestershire are excited to launch a new opportunity with our **Pathway to Playwork Bootcamp** starting November 2025 **even if you previously thought you weren't eligible.**

Our new non-accredited Pathway to Playwork offers the same insights and practical tools to support your personal or professional development but does not require you to have a formal Level 3 in Education or Childcare to be eligible.

We are now able to offer a non-accredited pathway which doesn't give you the formal qualification at the end however, you'll:

- Access all course materials and resources
- Participate in live sessions and group discussions
- Receive support from tutors and peers
- Gain practical knowledge and insights
- Gain feedback on marked work to create a reflective portfolio to share with current and future employers.
- Be awarded a CPD letter outlining the content covered and the skills developed to share with current or future employers.
- A certificate of completion from WCC Children's Services

Format

- 16 weekly sessions starting 05 November 2025 and ending 18 March 2026, avoiding half terms and holidays
- Each session is 4 hours, and session times are 10am to 2pm
- All sessions are delivered virtually via MS Teams

Register your interest via CPD and search CPD course code 10643

Aspiring Leaders Information Session

Join us for an online information sharing session to learn more about our Aspiring Leaders program. This course is aimed at aspiring Assistant Heads, Deputies and Heads of School who are looking to move into their first Headship. We will explain the content and aims of the course and answer any questions you may have.

Cost: Free

4 December, 3.45pm to 4.45pm, virtual, CPD code: 10646

Free webcasts to support those working in Secondary / High Schools and Post 16 teams

The Education Psychology team have developed two free webcasts specifically for High / Secondary Schools, focussed on Annual Reviews, Preparing for Adulthood and what is involved from a school and child / young person perspective.

Webcast Annual reviews and Preparation for Adulthood

Over 20 minutes the Annual Reviews and Preparation for Adulthood webcast will ensure that settings:

- Understand what children and young people want from their AR
- Understand how to make ARs person-centred and accessible
- Understand what makes a quality AR
- Know about the Year 9 AR toolkit

Cost: Free

CPD code: 10612

Webcast: Taking a person-centred approach to preparing for adulthood

A free 25-minute webcast looking at Taking a person-centred approach to preparing for adulthood. By the end of this webcast, you will understand:

- SEND Code of Practice expectations in relation to Preparation for Adulthood
- Person-centred approaches to use with children and young people

Audience: All educational settings, especially secondary schools, high schools and Post 16 section

- Cost: Free
- Duration: 25 minutes
- CPD Course code: Search 10540

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 Government News and Updates

Help young people unlock forgotten savings

Many young people aged 18–23 may have forgotten they have savings in a Child Trust Fund account. These accounts were set up by the government for children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011, with an initial deposit made into each account. The funds become available when the individual turns 18, and the average amount claimed is around £2,200 - yet hundreds of thousands of accounts remain unclaimed.

HMRC are encouraging young people to check if they have a CTF and claim their money. They don't need to pay someone to do it, they can easily find their provider for free on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

To help spread the word, HMRC has created a set of campaign materials available on our [Campaign Resource Centre](#).

We'd be grateful if you could share these resources with your school community - whether through social media, newsletters, or other channels. Every share helps more young people access money that's rightfully theirs.

Latest News from Teaching School Hubs

Rivers Teaching Alliance

ECT updates

Please do get in touch if you have any new ECTs over the year 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.

Following feedback and research, their programme is undergoing some changes for this 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

At The Teaching Alliance they are going to be running the following cohorts:

NPQSEN (NPQ For SENCOs | Train With The National Institute Of Teaching – The National Institute of Teaching) - this is the statutory qualification for SENCOs. It replaces the previous NASENCO. This will be their 3rd cohort, and their existing cohorts have given extremely positive feedback.

Funding: Limited funded places are available to all school to cover the cost of the course.

NPQLPM (Leading Primary Mathematics) (NPQ in Leading Primary Maths | Maths NPQ – The National Institute of Teaching) - this is for aspiring or current maths subject leaders.

This will be their 3rd cohort. Below are some comments from their previous and current cohorts.

Funding: Limited funded places are available to schools on this list: [Funding for national professional qualifications: eligible settings - GOV.UK](#)

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.

They will also be running all other NPQs, and the venues are likely to be Halesowen or Birmingham.

Please do visit their website for further information:

[The Rivers C. of E. Academy Trust - National Professional Qualifications \(NPQs\)](#)

If you are ready to apply there are 2 steps:

- Register with The National Institute of Teaching and Rivers (choose Rivers Academy Trust from the drop down box): [Training Courses For Teachers – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
- Apply via the DfE: [Register for a national professional qualification](#)

They hope to welcome you, or members of staff in your school to undertake an NPQ with them.

CPD updates

Upcoming CPD includes:

- EYFS - Let's Explore Physical Development, a Prime Area in a Child's Learning Journey- 18.11.25

Please get in touch via teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk or visit [The Rivers C. of E. Academy Trust - Professional Learning](#)

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

School Centred Initial Teacher Training

Applications for the 26-27 SCITT cohort are now open!

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 link below 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:

Conference 1 – October 2025

Clinic 1 – 13th November 2025

Conference 2 – January 2026

Clinic 2 – 5th March 2026

Clinic 3 – 11th June 2026

Year 2 ECT Events:

Clinic 4 – 16th October 2025

Conference 3 – November 2025

Clinic 5 – 19th March 2026

Clinic 6 – 18th June 2026

ECT Mentor Events:

Clinic 2 for Year 2 Mentors – 6th November 2025

Clinic 1 for Year 1 Mentors – 5th February 2026

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors – March 2026

AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2025-26 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/>

You should have now received an email regarding our Service Level Agreement. If you have not yet received this, please email cemms@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk

All ECTs must be registered with the Appropriate Body before Monday 20th October 2025.

NPQ Update

The DfE have announced details of the Autumn cohort of National Professional Qualifications (NPQ). Please note that the Autumn 2025 intake will be the only NPQ intake during this academic year (2025-26). There will be no Spring 2026 cohort, and they are yet to receive confirmation of future funding. For that reason, schools are urged to take up available funded places during this application round.

All schools are eligible for fully-funded places for the:

- NPQ for Headteachers
- NPQ for SENCOs
- Early Headship Coaching Offer

Fully-funded places are available for **disadvantaged schools** for the following:

- NPQ for Leading Teaching
- NPQ for Leading Behaviour and Culture
- NPQ for Leading Teacher Development
- NPQ for Leading Literacy
- NPQ for Early Years Leadership
- NPQ for Senior Leaders
- NPQ for Executive Leaders

Unsure if your school qualifies for scholarship funding. Use Best Practice Network's scholarship checker (you will need your school URN) here: <https://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/NPQ-Scholarship-Checker>

Eligible schools are urged to utilise this funding. Unused funding will be reallocated to another region. School-funded places remain available for all NPQs.

Applications are open **8th September 2025 - 24th October 2025**

How to apply?

Schools within Malvern Hills, Wychavon, Worcester or Wyre Forest, should apply via Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub.

Information about each programme and links to apply are available on our website:
<https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/leadership-development/>

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

ECT Registration

If you have an ECT at your school from September 2025, **it is essential** that they are fully registered by **8th October 2025** (for both the ECF/ECTE provision and with an Appropriate Body).

ECF/ECTE Training

Please follow this [link](#) to the 'Register an ECT' section on our website for more information regarding the ECF/ECTE Training registration process, for both the ECT and their Mentor.

They are aware that there have been some delays with some registrations due to data transfer issues. If you think you have registered but not have not heard from EDT, please do contact them.

Appropriate Body

Please follow this [link](#) to the relevant section on their website regarding registering an ECT for Appropriate Body services.

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)

Applications are open until **11th October 2025** for the Autumn 2025 intake. Please note that this will be the only intake for the academic year 2025-2026.

Find out if you are eligible for fully-funded places [here](#).

Apply for an NPQ [here](#).

Grand Union Language Network

We are delighted to attach their October bulletin which shares details of the following:

- The national launch of LEO (a free accessible online platform for language teachers)
- Event details for upcoming face-to-face Teach meets, focusing on the speaking element of the new GCSE, to include moderation
- A spotlight on culture in the curriculum
- An introduction to the national priority projects for the 3 West Midlands Language Networks
- A spotlight on European Day of Languages
- Exploring partnerships with Routes into Languages

[Download October bulletin from Grand Union Language Network](#)

We also wanted to remind you all this is the final week to register for their free face-to-face CPD event on **22nd October, 1pm to 4pm at Tudor Grange Academy Solihull.**

This is a fantastic opportunity for all MFL staff from Grand Union Language Network.

On the day they have an exciting agenda with a focus on the new GCSE Speaking exam. The agenda will include:

- A thorough overview of marking and moderating against speaking assessment criteria
- Sharing of CPD on how to prepare for the speaking exam
- Considering how we can develop genuine spontaneous speech, with examples and emerging success stories shared by schools across the region.

To make sure you don't miss out on this exciting opportunity **register before Thursday 16th October.**

[Please register your place here](#)

Latest Community News and Updates

Bridges of Light - new festival in Worcester

Severn Arts are excited to announce Bridges of Light, a new, two-day light festival, with a focus on communities, creativity and collaboration.

- Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October
- 6pm - 9pm
- Worcester City Centre
- Free to attend and suitable for all ages

Through high quality light artwork, they invite you to share in their community stories. Visit their light installations, take part in interactive artworks, grab a bite to eat, and enjoy Bridges of Light with family and friends.

Find out more by following them on socials @SevernArts #BridgesofLightWorcester and visiting their website: <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/listing/category/bridges-of-light>

Bridges of Light is presented by [Severn Arts](#) and is part of the [Local Voices, Creative Choices](#) Programme.



Sarah Wilkins

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

