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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this bulletin finds you well.

The Department for Education has set out [a roadmap for every school to support pupils back to class](#). From this month, every school will be issued with minimum attendance improvement targets to ensure children are in school and ready to achieve. The attendance baseline improvement expectation (ABIE) will be based on schools' circumstances – including location, pupil needs and deprivation. The department is using AI and data to give more support to schools to meet the minimum expectations, by linking them up with high performing schools with similar circumstances. These top schools will be identified within each school's ABIE report. This comes alongside 36 new Attendance and Behaviour Hubs launched on 13 November, which will offer direct one-to-one support to pupils in schools, as well as sharing of best practice through events and open days.

Last Friday (7 November) the Department for Education [updated the non-statutory guidance on school uniforms](#). This follows their [updated the statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms](#) published in October which also contains draft statutory guidance to support schools to adhere to the proposed limit on compulsory branded uniform and PE kit that schools can require. The government intends to introduce this limit from September 2026 through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. Governing boards and school leaders are advised to act now to prepare for the limit by taking the draft statutory guidance into account; reviewing their uniform policies; making any necessary adjustments; and engaging with suppliers as soon as possible on any changes, to ensure that the correct uniform can be available for purchase ahead of the school term in 2026.

This week is Inter Faith Week 2025 (9-16 November) - a national initiative funded by MHCLG which aims to celebrate faith communities and strengthen community cohesion. Schools will play a key part by building understanding between pupils of all faiths and none. The Faith and Belief Forum, leading the Schools and Colleges Working Group, has launched [a schools' hub with free assemblies, lesson plans, event ideas, and guidance](#). Support is available to plan anything up to a whole-school programme, and pupils can also enter a national poetry competition. [To explore resources and opportunities, visit the Inter Faith Week for schools' website](#).

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest Council News and Updates

Update on Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire

Our draft business case proposal for local government reorganisation in Worcestershire was discussed at full Council last week (6 November).

Councils across the country are preparing to submit their proposals for how local government should be structured and Worcestershire County Council is set to back a plan for a single unitary authority to serve the whole county.

Under the government's plan for local government reorganisation, district and county councils, of which Worcestershire has seven, will be replaced with larger, unitary councils. Councils are required to submit their proposals by the end of November, and the final decision on the future structure of local government in Worcestershire will be made by the government next year.

These proposed changes aim to create a simpler, more sustainable local government structure that will improve access to services for residents, support the local economy, help councils withstand financial shocks, and ultimately save taxpayers money.

Following the invitation from government at the start of this year, we began evaluating the various options for the county's future. After extensive analysis, it became clear that the *One Worcestershire* proposal offered the best outcomes, both in terms of meeting the government's criteria and delivering the most savings.

At the forefront of the *One Worcestershire* business case is a single unitary authority that keeps the county together by retaining the current and long-established county boundary. The proposal is focused on providing the best possible outcomes and value for money for residents and businesses, by creating simpler and more efficient access to services and a community-focused way of delivering services.

The business case highlights that maintaining services currently provided at a countywide level, such as highways, adult and children's social care, education, and public health, will prevent the costly and complex task of splitting them up – an outcome that would inevitably impact the residents who rely on these services. This added together with new links with housing and homelessness services will create opportunities for earlier support. The health care system has the unanimous view that 'a single unitary council for Worcestershire is their preferred option', also stating that 'two unitary authorities would double the amount of work' and would 'undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on patients and local residents'.

Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet are set to agree the final version at its meeting on 20 November ahead of submission to Government at the end of the month.

For more information and to read a copy of the business case for One Worcestershire, please visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LGR

Could YOU be Worcestershire's next Young Poet Laureate?

We are excited to announce, in partnership with Severn Arts, that the Young Poet Laureate competition is back for another year!

The competition is open to young people aged 10-18 and is judged across 3 age categories:

- School years 6-8
- School years 9-11
- School years 12-13

How to apply

To enter the competition, submit one poem on the theme of Freedom. Individuals can apply directly, or schoolteachers can submit poems created by students during a classroom session. Submissions open on Saturday, 15 November 2025, and the deadline for applications is 5:00pm on Sunday, 22 February 2026. The final will take place at The Hive on Sunday, 22 March 2026.

To find out more information and apply, visit <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/ypl26>

Worcestershire Youth Cabinet is looking for new members

Worcestershire Youth Cabinet is holding an event to share what they do with other young people. The Youth Cabinet is a group of young people (aged 11 to 18) who aim to provide all of the young people who live in Worcestershire with a voice. A voice that is heard and listened to by local, regional and national government, providers of services for young people and any other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people.

Young people are invited to come along and see what the Youth Cabinet gets up to, meet like-minded people and find out how to get involved in politics and make changes happen locally.

Friday 21st November 5.30pm-8pm at The Hive in Worcester

Find out more or reserve your place by emailing: youthvoiceteam@worcestershire.gov.uk

We're Hiring - Provision Planning Officer

Do you want to play a key role in shaping the future of education across Worcestershire? We are looking for a Provision Planning Officer to join our team. In this role, you'll analyse data to forecast school place needs, support long-term education planning across the county, and work with colleagues and partners to deliver effective, strategic solutions. We're looking for someone who has strong analytical and problem-solving skills, communicates clearly and collaborates well, and enjoys turning data into meaningful insights.

Find out more and apply at: <https://www.wmjobs.co.uk/job/247762/provision-planning-officer/>

The Hive Library - Working with Schools

Welcome to The Hive – where learning comes alive!

The Hive had an amazing year working with schools in the Academic Year 2024-2025. Through their combination of class visits and outreach assemblies, they interacted with over 13,000 schoolchildren! Over 4,000 of these children visited The Hive as part of a class trip to participate in their amazing workshops.

What Class Visits Offer You

Working with The Hive provides a unique opportunity to work with your classes to promote reading for pleasure and learning outside of the classroom. With access to one of the largest children's libraries in Europe and friendly staff, their class visit workshops help to encourage curiosity, an eagerness to read and showcases libraries as valuable community spaces.

They have workshops which cover a range of different library and literacy activities. These workshops can be tailored to incorporate class topics. For example, they themed their *Inspired Posters* workshop around The Second World War to help Pitmaston Year 6 with their history topic.

A list of some of our workshops can be found online at [School and College Visits - The Hive](#). Here is a list of some of the new workshops they have created in the past year:

Inspired Posters – Originally introduced for their Sustainability Festival, this workshop introduces children to information searching. Using the library catalogue to locate books themed around a class topic, the class produces informational posters using facts they have found in their books. (Year 3+)

Crimebusters – working in teams, the children must solve the mystery of the stolen library book by completing short puzzles. This workshop engages the children with problem solving and teamwork as part of readiness for secondary school. (Year 6+)

Design a Book – Contrary to popular belief, you CAN judge a book by its cover! The children design their very own book covers and blurbs. These can be based on a class topic, different genres, or free choice. (All ages).

Fake News and AI - a brand-new workshop aimed at high school children; this session introduces the class to the concepts of Fake News and AI. The session encourages the class to think critically about the information we access online as part of their information and digital literacy drive.

ALL of their class visit workshops are FREE OF CHARGE.

If you would like to book a class visit or find out more about what they offer, please contact: hivelibraryteamleaders@worcestershire.gov.uk



Children from Tudor Grange Primary Academy Perdiswell enjoying their visit to The Hive

Latest Education News and Updates

Important: Upcoming Changes to the Education Data System – Action Required

We wanted to let you know about important upcoming changes to the way Worcestershire County Council records and manages children's education data.

We are moving to a new system which will bring education data into the same platform used for Social Care, Early Help and SEND.

The new module is called the **Early Years Education System (EYES)**. This change will create a more connected and efficient way to manage information across services, helping to provide a holistic view of each child and their family while maintaining a single, shared database across education and social care. This will improve accuracy, strengthen collaboration and enhance data security.

Set-up for school-age and post-16 education is already underway, with the system scheduled to go live in July 2026. Work for Early Years settings will begin in Summer 2026, ready to go live in July 2027.

To support this transition, we are asking schools to complete a few key actions.

- [Sign the EYES Data Sharing Agreement](#) - this allows us to set up and test connections now, ensuring everything is ready for the transfer of school data from September 2026.
- [Check and update your school's details in GIAS \(Get Information About Schools\)](#) – please make sure your information is accurate, so our admissions list reflects the correct details.

In the Summer Term 2026, we will send out an electronic form to collect your up-to-date school contacts in preparation for September. This will include confirming details for your SENCO, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, Admissions Officer, Free School Meals Officer, Attendance Data Officer, and the member of staff responsible for education notifications (elective home education, part-time timetables, absences and permanent exclusions). This will be a summer term task and is not something you need to action now.

We will continue to keep you updated as work progresses and will provide further guidance to support you through this transition. Your cooperation is essential to ensuring that the system is fully set up and tested ahead of the go-live date.

If you have any questions, please contact chs.system.support@worcestershire.gov.uk

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Pupil Premium Plus Funding for Children Looked After

Worcestershire Virtual School wants all Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding for Children Looked After to be utilised by schools.

For every Child Looked After by Worcestershire, the Virtual School makes available £550 per term (thus £1650 per academic year). Funding is allocated through the Personal Education Plan (PEP) process, for interventions to improve outcomes. Additional funding may also be available to schools where required, through an Additional Funding Request to the Virtual School.

Worcestershire Virtual School continuously encourages Designated Teachers to use the PP+ funds made available via the PEP process and are keen for take-up to increase. This matter was raised at Worcestershire Schools Forum, where it was agreed that this message be raised via the Education Bulletin.

If you have any queries, please contact the Virtual School: virtualschool@worcestershire.gov.uk

Consultation - Proposal to Increase Pupil Numbers at Wyre Forest School

We are consulting on a proposal to increase the number of pupil places at Wyre Forest Special School in Kidderminster, from 362 to 398 places starting from January 2026. This proposal aims to ensure that there are sufficient high-quality special school places across the county to meet growing demand.

The consultation runs from **Monday 3 November to Monday 1 December 2025**.

View the [full proposal document](#) and submit your response using the following online form:

[Submit your responses to the Wyre Forest School proposal](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the Education Sufficiency and Place Planning Team at SPP@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Martyn's Law Virtual Webinars

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly referred to as Martyn's Law, requires that those responsible for certain premises and events consider how they would respond in order to be better prepared and protected.

The Department for Education and the Home Office are delivering a series of virtual webinars for schools to learn about Martyn's Law at 12:00pm on the following dates:

- [19 November](#)
- [4 December](#)

Worcester Evidence Advocates Webinar

A reminder that the Worcester Evidence Advocate sessions continue Thursday 4th December 3.45pm to 5.15pm. If you haven't done so already, please consider signing up at the link below:

[Sign up for Worcester Evidence Advocates Webinar](#)

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

Funded AI Training Courses

Maikai's AI for Schools programme helps schools responsibly and effectively manage the adoption of AI into their world of work. This programme is fully funded by Maikai's corporate partners, bringing high-value skills training to educational institutions at no cost to the schools themselves. The programme consists of two courses, that have both been designed by a council of educational experts and involve 1-1 coaching from industry experts:

[AI for School Leaders](#)

This funded AI programme is aimed at Educational leaders and will help them improve the efficiency of their day-to-day role, as well as addressing school policy and strategy regarding AI and supporting Finance or HR to consider the ethical implications of AI on safeguarding, GDPR and financial data. The course includes:

- The fundamental knowledge in AI and its ethics
- The ability to identify areas for improvement and where AI can solve problems in schools
- Guide learners through the safe and responsible implementation of AI solutions

Maikai are hosting webinars on 19th and 20th November for which they are introducing this fully funded programme suited for Educational and Administrative leaders within schools to help staff safely manage the adoption of AI into their role and school. [Register for AI webinar](#)

[AI for Data & Admin](#)

This 15-month AI programme is ideal for school staff who regularly work with data, helping them save time, improve accuracy, and make better-informed decisions. Across three modules, participants learn how to use AI to access, analyse, and communicate data more effectively, automate repetitive tasks and build custom AI assistants that support their role. By the end of the programme, staff will be able to turn data into clearer insights, streamline reporting, and embed safe, responsible AI practices that directly benefit their team and wider school community.

For those interested in the programme, please [register your interest](#).

Please feel free to get in touch with Kiran.Jayaram@maikai.org if you have any questions.

Inspiring Leadership Conference

The UK's longest running leadership-in-education event, the Inspiring Leadership Conference, will enter its twelfth year next June (4 and 5 June 2026) with an enhanced programme of activity and the opportunity for attendees to gain up to 15 CPD points during the event.

To be held at the ICC in Birmingham, the Inspiring Leadership Conference is attended by around 1,000 senior leaders from schools across the UK and has become a 'must-attend' event in the UK's educational calendar.

The conference includes keynotes from high profile speakers from the fields of education, business, TV, sport and politics; workshops and roundtable discussions, the Schools Week 'Meet the Leader Theatre' delivered by leading education magazine Schools Week; a conference exhibition, and the Inspiring Leadership Gala Dinner and drinks reception.

Super early bird discounts are available as normal for any tickets purchased before midnight on 30 December 2025. Discounts are also available on tickets for delegates from schools which have less than 100 pupils and for group booking packages which include the use of on-site meeting rooms with complimentary refreshments should schools wish to hold Board meetings or team meetings on site.

For more information, visit the Inspiring Leadership Conference website at:

www.inspiringleadership.org

Latest SEND News and Updates

SEND/AP Change Programme

Assistive Technology Lending Libraries Pilot:

As part of the SEND/AP Change Programme, the DFE is offering the LA the opportunity to pilot Assistive Technology (AT) Loan Libraries from September 2025 to March 2026 to help schools determine the best AT to meet individuals' needs prior to purchase. This includes a lump sum to set up and trial a loan library to support the population profile of the local area. Trials would be short term. AT is an umbrella term that includes any device, software or system used to support an individual who has some form of special educational need or disability; it includes specialist equipment like braille devices, as well as free or low-cost accessibility software such as dictation tools. Part of the process includes consulting schools.

To this end, we would be grateful if you could [complete the survey](#).

Please encourage your Learning Support Team to contribute to the survey.

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

PINs Worcestershire was launched in September at our conference. We are working with 31 schools across the County to explore and understand ways in which we can utilise parent and pupil voice to remove barriers and to promote inclusion. PINs is a national programme which is a joint initiative between the NHS, the Department for Education, and the Department of Health and Social Care. It aims to improve support for neurodiverse children in mainstream primary schools by bringing together health and education professionals, local authorities, and parent-carer forums.

Participating schools have identified an area of focus, and we will be coming together in March to review the outcomes of the project with the view to adapting the Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision Guidance which will be rolled out in September 2026 and is being co-produced with our PCF, and Changemaker schools.

UCAN Apprenticeships

We have been made aware of some apprenticeship opportunities that your school may be interested to further bolster capacity in supporting children and young people with SEND and/or pastoral needs. These professional development courses can be funded using the apprenticeship levy.

There is capacity to welcome additional participants to the cohort of *Level 5 TA (with SEND specialism)*. A TA Level 5 drop-in session with the course tutor, Sarah, will take place on Thursday 13th November at 3:30pm.

For leaders who may not have had time to engage with apprenticeships as a mechanism for staff development there is a session called *How Schools can use Apprenticeship Effectively - The Essentials with Q&A*. This is scheduled for Tuesday 18th November at 4:00pm.

Finally, there has been lots of interest in the *two new Pastoral Apprenticeships* which are relevant to both teaching and non-teaching Pastoral staff.

For more information, please download the following flyers:

- [Apprenticeship Overview](#)
- [Early Intervention Practitioner Apprentice](#)
- [Specialist Teaching Assistant Level 5 Apprenticeship](#)
- [Student Development and Support Mentor Apprenticeship](#)

If you have any questions or want to book on any of the sessions, please email: hello@apprenticeships4education.co.uk or visit: www.apprenticeships4education.co.uk

Voices Newsletter November 2025

The second edition of the Voices Newsletter is out now. This has been created by young people with additional needs and disabilities.

All of these contributors have chosen to join our forum, Voices United. This is a group with the aim to inform decisions and shape services through sharing their lived experiences.

If you know of a young person, up to the age of 25, who might be interested then please direct them to our [Co-production and how to get involved \(SEND\)](#) webpage; our Facebook page: [Voices United Worcestershire](#); or via email SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk

There are PDF and word versions available to ensure they are accessible to everyone.

[Download Voices Newsletter](#)

Latest Public Health News and Updates

Infectious Diseases Information Pack

The latest Infectious Diseases Information Pack from the Health Protection Team at Worcestershire County Council is now available for settings to download.

The information pack has been produced to support schools and nurseries this winter and provides advice, information and resources about infectious diseases and actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of transmission.

[Download Infectious Diseases Information Pack](#)

Change of contact details - Worcestershire Integrated Sexual Health

Worcestershire Integrated Sexual Health have updated the contact number for their **Under 21 Saturday Service**. The telephone number is now **0300 1231731**. Although the old number will currently redirect callers to the new number this feature will shortly be turned off.

Please could you check the contact number you currently have on your website and update accordingly.

Lines continue to be open 10.00am to 12.30pm on Saturdays.

Update on School Nursing Teams

On behalf of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust they would like to advise that, following a review of their School Nurse Business Continuity matrix, the School Nursing teams are currently operating under business continuity measures due to vacancies and sickness.

As a result, from Monday 27 October they have paused the post-Reception School Screener “flag meetings” with individual schools. These meetings are usually held after the screener campaign to walk through a school’s aggregated (cohort-level) results. They do not discuss individual children in these meetings; they share anonymised cohort data and suggested next steps.

To protect core capacity while they stabilise staffing, they have taken will take the following actions:

- Honoured any data-sharing/flag meetings already booked.
- From Monday 27 October: cancelled any further meetings scheduled beyond this date.
- Data sharing: cohort-level HNA/screener reports will continue to be produced centrally and sent to schools (admin will coordinate the distribution and will include brief guidance notes).
- Queries: schools can continue to contact the School Nursing Service via the usual routes.

Thank you for your support - this step should help them maintain safe prioritisation while they recruit and manage sickness.

Free Training to Support Children's Emotional Development for Early Years & Schools

Best Start, part of Worcestershire County Council's Public Health, are offering free online training for all staff working with children and families in settings and schools across Worcestershire. These flexible, expert-led courses are designed to help practitioners better understand and respond to children's emotions and behaviour - especially those who may have experienced early adversity or trauma.

Why this training matters:

- Deepen your understanding of children's behaviour as communication
- Strengthen relationships with children and families
- Build confidence in supporting children who are upset, withdrawn, or struggling
- Create emotionally safe and nurturing learning environments
- Support whole-school and setting approaches to wellbeing and resilience

Each course available will take up to 4 hours and can be undertaken individually or as a team.

- **Understanding Trauma** – This concise CPD equips you to effectively recognise and understand the different types of Trauma and look at how early experiences shape behaviour and how to support recovery
- **Understanding Brain Development** – Provides a deeper understanding of brain development from before birth, throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood, looking at how the brain grows and why it matters
- **Understanding Attachment** – Equips delegates to effectively recognise and understand attachment styles and its significance in relationships including why secure relationships help children feel safe and thrive.

To Access the Training

- Complete the Professional Registration form here - [Online Learning](#)
- Include the Access code: **PARENTSROCK_PRF**

Find out more by visiting: [Pathways library - Togetherness](#)

Togetherhness – free online courses and wellbeing resources

On behalf of the Togetherhness team (previously known as the Solihull Approach) can you please share the following with your parent and carer community.

Worcestershire County Council and the local Health and Care Trust fund **Togetherhness** (formerly *inourplace.co.uk*) to ensure all parents and carers across Worcestershire can access free, NHS-endorsed online courses and wellbeing resources.

What is Togetherhness?

Togetherhness is a trusted online learning platform developed by psychologists and health professionals. It offers accessible, evidence-based courses on:

- Emotional health
- Child development
- Family wellbeing

These resources are proven to support mental health, improve behaviour, and strengthen relationships.

Find out more at: <https://togetherhness.co.uk/>

Latest Training and Conference News

Teaching, Learning and Assessment CPD Opportunities

An Introduction to Coaching for Improving Teaching and Learning

- 8 December 2025, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery
- CPD course code: 10559

Key Stage 1 Assessment of Writing (Years 1 & 2)

- 17 November 2025, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Worcester
- CPD course code: 10509

The Art of Modelling - creating a learning narrative

- 20 November 2025, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, Virtual delivery
- CPD course code: 10505

Building a robust reading curriculum

- 25 November 2025, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Worcester
- CPD course code: 10602

How do we know they are learning? Checking for understanding

- 27 November 2025, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery
- CPD course code: 10598

Feeding back to feed forward – revisiting effective feedback for learning

- 2 December 2025, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery
- CPD course code: 10600

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) Assessment of Writing

- 9 January 2026, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Worcester
- CPD course code: 10510

Assessing Reading at the End of KS1: using the non-statutory teacher assessment framework

- 13 January 2026, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Worcester,
- CPD course code: 10389

Assessing Reading in KS2

- 13 January 2026, 1.30pm to 4pm, Worcester
- CPD course code: 10603

Assessing Maths at the End of KS1: using the non-statutory teacher assessment framework

- 19 January 2026, 9.15am to 12.15pm, Worcester
- CPD course code: 10390

Year 6 Greater Depth in Standard Writing

- 22 and 29 January 2026, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester
- CPD course code: 10222

Steer Clear - Knife Crime Awareness Workshop *NEW*

Steer Clear is an early intervention knife crime programme in West Mercia.

During the 90-minute workshop we will provide an overview of the Steer Clear programme and discuss what support we can offer as well as insights into:

- the latest knife crime statistics
- emerging trends and themes
- practical steps we can take as professionals to talk to young people about knives and safety in the community
- local signposting

Audience: DSL, Deputy DSL's, Pastoral Staff

Cost: Free

Date: 10 December 2025, 9.30am to 11am, virtual delivery, course code: 10649

An Introduction to ADHD

An introduction to ADHD - what it is, how it is diagnosed, the impact it has, and how it can be treated and supported at home and school.

Cost: £35 + VAT

Date: 2 February 2026, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10360 / 91691

Empowering Early Writers: Implementing the Writing Framework in Reception *NEW*

Are your youngest learners ready to become confident, capable writers?

This **Power Hour** is designed to equip Reception teachers, Early Years Leaders, English Leaders and Head teachers with clear, practical ideas and the opportunity to explore the key messages contained in the Writing Framework and build strong foundations for all children.

What You'll Learn:

- What the Writing Framework means for writing practice in Early Years
- How to balance high quality child-led learning with explicit teaching of phonics, writing and handwriting
- How to develop vocabulary and oracy
- Accurate assessment of writing in Reception

Audience: Reception Teachers, EYFS Leads, Literacy co-ordinators

Cost: £29 + VAT per delegate

Date: 1 December 2025, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery, CPD code: 10650

Aspiring Leaders

As part of the School Improvement leadership offer, this course is aimed at aspiring Assistant Heads, Deputies and Heads of School who are looking to move into their first Headship. Delegates will have the opportunity to:

- Work with, visit and host leaders from other schools reflecting on effective leadership in a variety of settings
- Listen to and reflect on the leadership journeys of new and experienced leaders and headteachers.
- Undertake a high impact improvement project in their own schools (chosen by individual schools to fit in with current school priorities)
- Sharpen their own leadership and empower other leaders to strengthen the quality and impact of necessary change
- Reflect and use current thinking and research on highly effective leadership.
- Further develop a robust understanding of efficient management of systems and structures.

We are excited by this opportunity to work alongside our future leaders and headteachers while promoting and supporting wider collaborative working.

Cost: £362 + VAT

CPD Course code: 10647

- All sessions are 1.30pm to 4.30pm, Worcester
 - Session 1: 15 January 2026
 - Session 2: 24 February 2026
 - Session 3: 19 March 2026
 - Session 4: 23 April 2026
 - Session 5: 11 June 2026
 - Session 6: 7 July 2026

Did you know we are holding an **Aspiring Leaders Information Session on 4 December, 3.45pm to 4.45pm, virtual delivery, CPD code 10646**. To provide this interested with an opportunity to learn more about our Aspiring Leaders program, where we will explain the content and aims of the course and answer any questions you may have.

Low-Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LI-CBT)

This course aims to give you an understanding of low-intensity cognitive behavioural therapy (LI-CBT) interventions. By the end of the session, you should understand which presentations these interventions might be useful for and how to implement LI-CBT based interventions within your settings.

Audience: Those working with reception age children upwards.

Cost: £35 + VAT

Date: 3 December 2025, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual, course code: 10586

How big is the trauma issue? Trauma, Attachment and Disadvantage Responsive Schools

Join us for a powerful and practical masterclass designed to deepen your understanding of trauma, attachment, and disadvantage—and how these challenges manifest in educational settings. We're delighted to welcome Stuart Guest, Head Teacher at Colebourne Primary School, as our featured speaker. Stuart brings a wealth of experience and insight into creating trauma-responsive environments where pupils can truly thrive.

What You'll Learn:

- How trauma and attachment issues may present in the classroom, school, and home
- Practical strategies to help pupils thrive—not just survive
- A deeper understanding of the impact of disadvantage on learning and wellbeing

CPD Code: 10652

Date: 27 January

Time: 15:30 – 17:30, Virtual Delivery

Cost: FREE

Audience: Designated Teachers, Pastoral Leads, Senior Leaders, Class Teachers

Book Now: [How big is the trauma issue?](#)

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

Ofsted confirms changes to education inspection and unveils new-look report cards

On 9 September, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) [set out a renewed approach to education inspection](#) that will help raise standards for all children.

From November, parents will be given more detail about their children's education with the introduction of new-look report cards. Ofsted has confirmed:

- New five-point grading scale, including the new 'exceptional' grade, designed to raise standards, confirmed following support from parents.
- Parents and carers will receive detailed information about nurseries, schools and colleges, with strengths and areas for improvement highlighted.
- Schools and colleges with identified areas for improvement will receive additional monitoring inspections, to ensure swift improvements are made.
- Nurseries and childminders will be inspected more frequently, to ensure all children receive the best start in life.
- Disadvantaged and vulnerable children will be at the heart of reforms, with a focus on 'inclusion' in every inspection.
- There will be an increased focus on professionals' well-being and workload through a more collaborative approach to inspection.

The consultation outcome and government response is available [here](#)

GCHQ Christmas Challenge

[Government Communications Headquarters \(GCHQ\), the UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency, is running its annual Christmas Challenge for children aged 11 to 18 years old on 10 December.](#)

The challenge puts science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills to the test and encourages students to think laterally and work as a team, while showcasing some of the skills they might need to become a spy. [Schools can register now to get early access to the puzzles.](#)

Teachers will also receive a pack of lesson resources, hints sheet and printable certificates. A coordinated day of puzzling will take place on 10 December, with schools encouraged to share their progress on social media.

[Teachers can register their interest ahead of the 10 December launch date.](#) This will ensure your school gets early access to the resources and content for this year's GCHQ Christmas Challenge.

Latest News from Teaching School Hubs

Rivers Teaching Alliance

NPQ deadline approaching - apply by 23rd November

Cohorts of the following NPQs are confirmed as running from November at Rivers Teaching Alliance.

- NPQH- National Professional Qualification for Headship
- NPQLPM- National Professional Qualification for Leading Primary Mathematics
- NPQSEM- National Professional Qualification for SENCOs

There are a few funded places left for each of these NPQs.

- **NPQ for SENCOs** [NPQ For SENCOs | Train With The National Institute Of Teaching – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
 - Funded places available for all schools (This is the statutory qualification for SENCOs)
- **NPQ for Leading Primary Maths** [NPQ in Leading Primary Maths | Maths NPQ – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
 - Funded places available to schools on this list [Funding for national professional qualifications: eligible settings - GOV.UK](#)
 - £850 for other schools
- **NPQ for Headship:** [NPQ in Headship | NPQH | National Institute of Teaching – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
 - Funded places available for all schools

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 2 – January 2026

Clinic 2 – 5th March 2025

Clinic 3 – 11th June 2026

Year 2 ECT Events:

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

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

NPQs Extended Deadline - Autumn 2025 Cohort

You can now apply for an NPQ until **16th November 2025**.

All schools are eligible for funded places for the NPQSENCO and NPQH.

Disadvantaged schools are eligible for funded places for:

- NPQ for Leading Teaching
- NPQ for Leading Behaviour and Culture
- NPQ for Leading Teacher Development
- NPQ for Leading Literacy
- NPQ for Leading Primary Maths
- NPQ for Early Years Leadership
- NPQ for Senior Leaders
- NPQ for Headteachers
- NPQ for SENCOs
- NPQ for Executive Leaders
- Early Headship Coaching Offer

Check [here](#) to see which NPQs your school can receive funding for.

Apply for an NPQ through our website [here](#).

If the NPQ is not commenced this year, it may not be completed until Spring/Summer 2028.

Interested in an NPQ for Senior Leaders but not eligible for funding?

The [Leader Apprenticeship with NPQSL](#) is a level 5, dual-award qualification that is completely funded by the apprenticeships levy - perfect for aspirant or in-role senior leaders!

Contact if you have any questions - tsh@tgacademy.org.uk

ITT Opportunities

If you are interested in hosting a trainee or a 'Taste of Teaching' event, please contact Steve Dixon at SDixon@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk

Tudor Grange Research School Advocate Hour

Thursday 20 November, 3.30pm (online)

The theme of The Advocate Hour this year is **Using professional development to create enablers of change in schools**. How do you translate the energy of a great training session into genuine, lasting change in your own school or department?

In this twilight series, we will explore how strategically designed professional development can be used to directly motivate and upskill teachers, equipping them to become effective enablers of change.

In the autumn session, leaders from Origin Maths Hub will unpack their models, showing you how they equip their staff with the skills, confidence, and evidence-based tools needed to lead improvements from the ground up.

These sessions are ideal for all senior leaders, middle leaders and teachers.

Read more and register at <https://researchschool.org.uk/tudor-grange/event/evidence-advocate-hour-events>

Latest Community News and Updates

School Leaders Invited to Join Climate Assembly

Teachers and educators from across Worcestershire are invited to take part in a special Climate Assembly being hosted by the University of Worcester.

The event, on Thursday, December 11, will bring together senior education leaders and sustainability leads from across Early Years, Schools, and Further Education for a day of collaboration, insight, and action.

Held at the University of Worcester Arena's Joel Richards Suite, from 9.30am to 4.30pm, this free event is a timely response to the Department for Education's directive that all schools should appoint a Sustainability Lead and begin developing a Climate Action Plan by the end of the year.

The Assembly will feature expert insights from Educational Psychologists and regional coordinators of the DfE Climate Ambassador Scheme, as well as practical support for developing and implementing Climate Action Plans.

There will also be advice on helping schools embed climate resilience into safeguarding policies, as well as an exploration of the psychological impacts of the climate and ecological emergency on staff and students.

Elena Lengthorn, Senior Lecturer in teacher education at the University of Worcester, who has been involved in national plans to introduce a new Natural History GCSE, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for school leaders and sustainability leads to come together to share best practice, discuss activities for use in their schools and help build on their own strategies.

"We will also include insights from the National Emergency Briefing, with updates from specialists in national security, energy, food security, health, economics, and extreme weather."

The event is hosted in association with EAUC, STEM Learning, the University of Reading, and ClimatEdPsych.

The University of Worcester is widely recognised as one of the UK's most sustainable universities. It has consistently ranked among the top institutions in the People & Planet University League, achieving first class honours for its environmental and ethical performance. The University's commitment to sustainability is embedded across its curriculum, operations, and community engagement.

Attendance at the Climate Assembly is free and includes refreshments. Reserve your place via Eventbrite at [Educators Climate Assembly Tickets, Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Protecting Children from Online Exploitation

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia has launched two new awareness sessions to help protect children from online exploitation. One session is aimed at [parents and guardians](#), and the other supports [professionals who work with children](#). Please share the flyers with your school community to encourage participation in these free training opportunities.

Mental Elf 5k Fun Run/Walk

Saturday 30th November - Kidderminster

Please share widely with your students, families and staff.

Join a festive, family-friendly 5K fun run (or walk!), at the stunning Bodenham Arboretum in Kidderminster, to raise awareness and vital funds for Coventry, Warwickshire & Worcestershire Mind.


Whether you're a seasoned runner or prefer a stroll in the park with the dog, it's for you.

Mental Elf is more than just a run. It's about your community. So, dust off your elf ears, gather your team, and make this the jolliest Mental Elf yet!

Prize for the best dressed elf and a best dressed dog competition.

Event Link: [Mental Elf 2025 - Kidderminster](#)

[Download poster for Mental Elf 2025 - Kidderminster](#)



Sarah Wilkins

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

