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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this bulletin finds you well.

Following recent feedback from the Primary Partnership, we have made a small change to help ensure our bulletin is as clear and accessible as possible. While feedback has recognised that the bulletin is valued and useful, it has also highlighted that it can sometimes feel lengthy. In response, we have introduced a new section at the start of each edition titled *Important Updates for Information and Action* to front-load the key items that require attention. The remaining content continues to be relevant and informative, and we encourage all schools to read it in full.

To help keep schools up to date with ongoing improvements to Children's Services, we've put together a summary of the latest developments with *Families First*. *Families First* is Worcestershire's new whole-system approach to improving how partners work together to support children, young people and their families. It aims to ensure families get the right help at the right time through stronger collaboration and clearer referral pathways. As these changes progress, we want to keep schools informed about what to expect. Our latest update covers upcoming changes to the Family Front Door, new multi-disciplinary district teams and updates to referral routes. [Download latest update on Families First](#).

And finally, a quick heads-up about our upcoming *Parents and Teenagers Guide to a Healthy, Happy Winter 2025/26*. Following the very positive feedback on our summer holiday guide, we will be sharing a winter edition with schools shortly. This year, there will be two separate guides - one for parents and one tailored specifically for teenagers. Please look out for the PDFs in your email and the next bulletin and circulate them widely to parents and young people.

Wishing you all the best.

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Important Updates for Information and Action

Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire

FOR INFORMATION AND SHARING WITH ALL STAFF IN MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Yesterday, we wrote to all headteachers of maintained schools to let them know our detailed proposal for a single unitary authority for Worcestershire has now been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The One Worcestershire proposal sets out the business case for establishing a single unitary council for the county.

The appraisal has been undertaken in partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and assessed against six MHCLG criteria, including public services, size, efficiency, devolution, and community engagement. In particular, due regard has been given to the guidance from the Secretary of State that unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity, withstand financial shocks, and demonstrate how reorganisation may contribute to putting local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing.

Our proposal has considered in detail the County Council's current and future and financial position and an assessment of the future financial context following the government's Fair Funding review which will assist but not alleviate the significant demand pressures in Children's and Adult Social Care and SEND. Our proposal also provides a pathway to future financial sustainability and improved customer experience via transformation of the current County Council and consolidation of services across Worcestershire coupled with a transparent approach to council tax harmonisation. Our proposal does not disaggregate key services such as SEND, Children's Social Care Services which are rated as Good by Ofsted and Adult Services that have just been inspected by CQC. Any proposal to split these services would add significant unnecessary additional costs to the taxpayer.

Cabinet approved the business case on 20 November 2025, ahead of its submission to MHCLG by the 28 November 2025. You can view the final business case, along with more information on local government reorganisation, on our [County Council website](#).

At the same time, Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council have submitted an alternative proposal for creating two new unitary councils, one for North Worcestershire and one for South Worcestershire, each delivering all services in their respective areas.

The government will make the final decision on which proposal is taken forward and is expected to launch a formal consultation on the proposals in the new year, with a final decision anticipated by July 2026. If approved by MHCLG, implementation would begin with elections to the shadow council or councils in May 2027, followed by the appointment of interim leaders and a phased transfer of services, aiming for full operational status by 1 April 2028 (Vesting Day).

We continue to be committed to keeping you updated as further information becomes available as well as engaging with you as plans progress. For the latest information, please visit: [Local government reorganisation and devolution | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Edenred Portal Access for Christmas holiday 2025

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION BY FSM LEADS IN ALL SCHOOLS

As confirmed by email to all schools on 1st April 2025, FSM eligible pupils will receive £30 per child in vouchers for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

Edenred Portal access will be available from **Monday 8th December 2025 and close on Friday 9th January 2026**. Schools will have access to issue a **£30** 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 9th January 2026**, schools and parents will have until **Friday 16th January 2026** 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, then 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

Free School Holiday Activities - HAF Christmas 2025

FOR INFORMATION AND SHARING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

Free School Meal eligible families are invited to book free activity sessions this Christmas. There's lots on offer with various Christmas family events and activities including SEND provision... all free! All activity clubs include a healthy lunch.

To find out more and sign up, visit: [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme website](#).

Reminder about upcoming changes to the Education Data System

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION BY ALL SCHOOLS

A reminder 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 for 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 addition, during Summer Term 2026, we will ask you to confirm your up-to-date school contacts in preparation for September. These will include your SENCO, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, Admissions Officer, Free School Meals Officer, Attendance Data Officer, and the staff member responsible for education notifications such as elective home education, part-time timetables, absences and permanent exclusions.

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.

Latest Education News and Updates

Service Level Agreements

For middle, primary and first schools who need to access our School Admissions Distance Measuring Service SLA, please make your purchase **by no later than 15th January 2026** by logging on to our [Education eStore portal](#) to purchase your SLA, using your schools DfE number as your username. You can locate the SLA within the Services and Products, Other Support Services section on the eStore.

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.

The service is priced based on number of applicants not your schools NOR.

0-100: £43

101-200: £82

201-300: £119

301-400: £157

400+: £228

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 or you would like us to make the purchase on your behalf, please email our Traded Services Team schoolservices@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 844300.

Latest SEND News and Updates

Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS Training Update

SENDIASS launch brand new FREE SEND Webinars for parent carers

As part of the Worcestershire Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project [SENDIASS](#) will be delivering three brand new FREE webinars for ALL local parent carers.

The new webinar topics requested by Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum include:

- A Guide to SEND
- How to have an effective meeting
- Introduction to dyslexia

These webinars will run throughout January and February 2026 and will include a daytime and evening session for each. Places are already available to book here: [Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) | SENDIASS](#)

SENDIASS launch new online SEND training for schools

Following their involvement in the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme, the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service [SENDIASS](#) are making their Engaging with Parent Carers in Schools training workshop available online to all schools in Worcestershire. Spring term dates and booking details for these sessions can be found on the following webpage:

[Engaging with Parent Carers in Schools \(Worcestershire\) | SENDIASS Training](#)

FREE SEND Workshops and Webinars

[SENDIASS](#) provide **FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars** for parent carers and professionals/practitioners. These workshops can help build knowledge and skills for families with a child or young person with SEND and any professionals that support them.

They have released new dates for the Spring Term.

Workshops currently available for **Parent Carers**:

- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [How to check a draft Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)-HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [Supporting Young People with SEND: Preparing for Adulthood- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Supporting your child to cope with change \(Transitions\) | HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Understanding Dyslexia | HW SENDIASS](#)

Workshops currently available for **Professionals**:

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Response in Schools Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What Does a Good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Engaging with Parent Carers in Schools \(Worcestershire\) | HW SENDIASS Training](#)

All sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions.

Please direct your families to these opportunities. for use in your newsletters or on social media can be downloaded from our [Google Drive](#).

If you would like SENDIASS to host a FREE session at your setting, please complete the [SENDIASS Training Request Form](#) or contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk for more information.

For more information, please visit: [SENDIASS Training delivered at your venue](#)

Latest Public Health News and Updates

INTENT Smoking and vaping prevention teaching resource

FOR SHARING WITH PSHE LEADS IN MIDDLE, SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

The [INTENT smoking and vaping teaching resource](#) (Y7 to Y10) meets the requirements of the PSHE curriculum for these topics AND reduces smoking and vaping behaviours in the long term, thus protecting young people's health and wealth.

There are a very small number of licences still available to middle, secondary and high schools who wish to deliver this programme for the next 4 years from January 2026. Where a middle school or high school delivers the programme their linked middle or high school(s) can also access the resources to ensure that there is continuity across the 4 years.

If your school is using these resources and has not had their licence confirmed for January 2026 or if your school wishes to explore this opportunity, please email ccharlton@worcestershire.gov.uk to find out more. Schools that have had their licence confirmed do not need to do anything further.

Worcestershire Support Whilst You Wait - Feedback Survey

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION WHERE APPROPRIATE

A reminder the *Support Whilst You Wait* webpages for Worcestershire are now live on the [Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB website](#). The information on these pages is designed to help children and young people, parents and carers, and families while they wait for an appointment. The website pages contain details of resources and support available locally and nationally, including links to web resources, telephone advice and some in-person groups.

[Support available in Worcestershire while waiting for your appointment](#)

The website pages also now include a [feedback survey](#) so that parents, carers and their families can share feedback on the website pages, say what additional information they would like included, and make suggestions about how the website could be improved.

Your support in sharing the [website link](#), [QR code](#) and [poster](#) alongside promoting the [feedback survey](#) would be greatly appreciated.

Togetherness Family Health and Wellbeing School Sharing Pack

FOR INFORMATION AND SHARING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

We're delighted to let you know that the Worcestershire County Council and Health Care Trust are sponsoring Family Emotional Health and Wellbeing learning pathways on [Worcestershire Togetherness](#) so that local parents can access trusted NHS-backed learning and resources – to support their emotional wellbeing completely free of charge using access code **PARENTSROCK**

What is Togetherness?

Togetherness is an online learning platform created by psychologists and health practitioners. It offers easy-to-access courses and resources on **emotional health and wellbeing**, proven to make a positive difference to mental health, behaviour, and family relationships.

Why is this important for schools and families?

- **For parents:** Practical strategies to support children's emotional development, manage behaviour, and strengthen family bonds.
- **For schools:** Happier, more settled pupils, improved home-school relationships, and resources that complement your PSHE and wellbeing work.

What's included?

- Courses on understanding your child's behaviour, emotional health, and parenting through different life stages.
- Support for mental health and resilience for both parents and children.
- All content is NHS-approved, evidence-based, and completely free for local families.

You'll receive these updates twice per term. If there's anything else you'd like to see, or if you're interested in teacher training or additional resources, please email: togetherness@uhb.nhs.uk or slawlor1@worcestershire.gov.uk

Please share the latest wellbeing update from the Togetherness team with all parents and carers.

[Togetherness Newsletter for Parents and Carers - December 2025](#)

Suggestions how schools can make the most of this newsletter:

- **Share widely with parents/carers:** please forward the newsletter to your parent mailing list or include a link in your school newsletter. Alternatively, you can share it on your school website.
- **Highlight in parent events:** mention Togetherness during parent evenings or wellbeing sessions. You can also print and display the newsletter on noticeboards or in reception.
- **Embed in your wellbeing strategy:** Use Togetherness resources to complement PSHE and mental health initiatives. Encourage staff to explore teacher training options available through Togetherness.
- **Provide feedback and ideas:** Let us know what works best for your families or what extra support you'd like to see via email at: togetherness@uhb.nhs.uk

Smoke Free Homes Service

FOR INFORMATION AND SHARING WITH STAFF, PARENTS AND CARERS

The Smoke Free Homes service is here to help you quit smoking. It's open to mums, dads, carers, and anyone who lives with a child or young person under 19 in Worcestershire.

You don't have to quit alone! The friendly team is here to help with:

- Setting a quit date
- Access to free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT)
- Access to rechargeable vapes (for anyone over the age of 18)
- 1:1 or joint family support sessions with a trained advisor
- Ongoing monitoring and support for 12 weeks

To access support email: whcnhs.smokefreehomes@nhs.net

Find out more here: [Smoke Free Homes Worcestershire](#)

[Download the Smokefree Homes Service flyer](#)

The [Healthy Worcestershire Stop Smoking Service](#) is also available for people who would like to stop smoking and don't meet the Smokefree Homes Service criteria. To access the Healthy Worcestershire service, people must be over 18 and live in or have a registered GP in Worcestershire.

Worcestershire Children's Therapy Services – Autumn update

FOR INFORMATION AND SHARING WITH STAFF

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust are excited to share the first Children's Therapy Services quarterly newsletter, providing updates from Children's Community Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Specialist Play Services across Worcestershire.

This edition introduces The Balanced System[®], a proven approach that strengthens collaboration with schools and early years settings to improve support for children and families. The newsletter also includes practical updates and resources to help families and enhance access to services.

The newsletter is available as an interactive PDF and easy-read version on their website: [Children's Therapy newsletter - Autumn 2025 | Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust](#).

You'll also be able to pick up a printed copy at one of their outpatient clinics.

They welcome your feedback to help ensure future editions work for our patients, their families and colleagues across Worcestershire. To give feedback, visit: [Worcestershire Children's Therapy newsletter - Autumn 2025](#)

Support your student's fears and worries with Lumi Nova

FOR INFORMATION AND SHARING WITH SENCOS, PASTORAL LEADS & CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Since launch, **over 1500 families** have accessed Lumi Nova in Herefordshire and Worcestershire to support their child to self-manage their fears and worries! Thank you to all the schools that have promoted the offer widely to families.

They are seeing really positive engagement from schools implementing Lumi Nova, with one school in Worcestershire saying: "The idea that we can support young people through gaming is brilliant, as we are supporting children who may not realise they are in need of some support for their worries."

Another shared that "Our school does a lot to support children and families and Lumi Nova is now able to be part of our toolkit."

Information to share before Christmas

For some children, winter can be a tricky time. New year transitions, busy shopping days, or festive gatherings can all bring a bit of worry. Lumi Nova helps children face these moments with confidence! Use the transition and winter themed assets to remind parents that Lumi Nova can be used over the winter holidays.

[Download a resource pack](#)

New to Lumi Nova?

Watch this short, animated video to learn more: [Lumi Nova Introduction Video](#) or join a [Lumi Nova Discovery](#) (45-minute webinar).

Lumi Nova is accessible to families free by visiting www.luminova.app/handw

Latest Training and Conference News

Training to support Writing, Maths and Reading in January / February 2026

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

This workshop will support teachers and subject leaders to consider how they assess attainment in writing in Year 3 and Year 4. We will revisit the NC objectives and consider writing opportunities that will support teacher assessment. We will review a collection of exemplar materials (non-statutory) to discuss and consider how to ensure our assessment is robust and reliable.

- Cost: £115 + VAT
- 9 January 2026, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10510

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

This workshop will revisit the non-statutory assessment framework and support schools to consider how we evidence progress and attainment in reading and will support internal assessment at the end of KS1.

- Cost: £58 + VAT per delegate
- 13 January 2026, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10389
- **DISCOUNT** Attend both Assessment of Reading sessions on 13 January and save £16 – each workshop will be charged at £50 + VAT. Please note it does not need to be the same delegate per session.

Assessing Reading in KS2

This workshop will support teachers and leaders of reading to revisit the NC for reading in KS2 and consider what pupils need to know and be able to do in relation to reading by the end of LKS2 and UKS2.

Focusing on how to assess pupils' achievement and progress in reading and will consider how to plan appropriate opportunities to assess their reading. We will look at a range of strategies that can be used to check for understanding, comprehension and fluency and share range of tools to evidence children's learning.

- Cost: £58 + VAT per delegate
- 13 January 2026, 1.30pm to 4pm, Worcester, course code: 10603
- **DISCOUNT** Attend both Assessment of Reading sessions on 13 January and save £16 – each workshop will be charged at £50 + VAT. Please note it does not need to be the same delegate per session.

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

This workshop will revisit the non-statutory assessment framework and support schools to consider how we evidence progress and attainment in maths and will support internal assessment at the end of KS1.

- Cost: £58 + VAT per delegate
- 19 January 2026, 9.15am to 12.15pm, Worcester, course code: 10390

Year 6 Greater Depth in Standard Writing

This course is designed to support both Year 6 teachers (and English Leads involved in the assessment of writing) to consider the 'Greater Depth Standard' (GDS) in pupil writing, as well as establishing inspiring writing opportunities.

We will undertake a forensic analysis of the Teacher Assessment Framework (TAF) and exemplification material, so delegates will be equipped to identify GDS accurately and confidently in their pupils' writing. We will focus on how we support and plan opportunities to support pupils who are our potential GDS writers.

- Cost: £115+ VAT per delegate
- 22 and 29 January 2026, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester, course code: 10222

Year 6 Refresher training: Assessment of Writing

This is an ideal opportunity to refresh your knowledge and skills around KS2 Teacher Assessment in writing. The session will revisit and explore assessing writing at the 3 standards (WTS, EXS, GDS) and give delegates the opportunity to look at new materials produced by the Standards and Testing Agency.

- Cost: £58 + VAT per delegate
- 5 February 2026, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10511

Enhancing Provision for Learners with SEND *NEW*

A collaboration between the WCC School Improvement Team and University of Worcester. This two-part CPD programme is designed to support Inclusion Leads/ SENDCos/ Teaching and Learning Leads in Primary age settings (inc. First/Primary/Middle schools) in developing inclusive, sustainable approaches to meeting the needs of learners with SEND.

Delivered across two morning sessions with a structured gap task and an online supportive check-in / catch-up, the training provides practical tools, reflective space, and collaborative dialogue to strengthen classroom provision within each school's unique context.

Participants will engage with an adaptive practice toolkit, explore evidence-informed strategies, and co-develop models for implementation that are locally relevant and sustainable.

By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

1. Develop a shared understanding of inclusive principles and current challenges in meeting the needs of learners with SEND across primary settings.
2. Analyse their own school context, identifying strengths, gaps, and priorities in SEND provision through structured discussion and collaborative reflection.
3. Apply key strategies from the toolkit to enhance inclusive practice, with a focus on adaptive teaching and needs-led planning.
4. Critically reflect on current practice, using case-based dialogue and peer feedback to identify opportunities for improvement and innovation.
5. Design a locally relevant implementation model that integrates inclusive strategies into school systems, with clear intentions for sustainability and impact.
6. Strengthen professional networks, fostering ongoing collaboration and shared accountability for improving outcomes for learners with SEND

Cost: £135 + VAT per delegate

- Delivered over three dates
 - Session 1: 24 February 2026, 9am to 12pm, Worcester
 - Session 2: 25 March 2026, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery
 - Session 3: 28 April 2026, 9am to 12pm, Worcester

CPD course code: 10655

TIAAS training Programme for 25/26 new webcast added to the Level 1 offer

How do we engage families through trauma informed practices webcast?

During this 45-minute webcast we will explore meaningful family engagement through the lens of trauma-informed practices. Participants will learn how to effectively engage families and foster investment in their child's success using a trauma-sensitive approach.

The webcast will also include exploration of frameworks created to provide a trauma-informed approach, practical real-world strategies to support and discussions around our own biases as practitioners.

Cost: Free as this is part of Level 1 of the Virtual School TIAAS training programme

Schools / settings can either book per person or the main lead and then share links accordingly.

To find the course on CPD search 10657

Certification: Confirmation of watching the webcast will be updated at the end of each half term to provide data to Virtual School

Lunchtime Learning - Introduction to the OEAP and Evolve Visit Planning System

Thursday 18 December 2025, 12:30pm – 1pm

Please join us for our first lunchtime learning session around running offsite visits and learning outside the classroom. We will be covering:

- Introduction to your Outdoor Educational Advisors
- OEAP - Who are they and our relationship with them
- Information on how to book onto VL and EVC Training
- Introduction to Evolve and Overview
- Q&A

For further information please contact healthandsafety@worcestershire.gov.uk or use the following link to join on the day:

[H&S Evolve Visit Planning - Introduction and Overview \(MS Teams Live 12:30pm-1pm on 18 December\)](#)

The Power of Libraries Conference 2026 – Booking Now Open!

Join Worcestershire Libraries on 19 March 2026 at The Hive Library, Worcester.

Who should attend?

Everyone working in early years education who wants to inspire a love of reading! Join fellow nursery and reception practitioners, early years leads, and childminders to explore creative ways of reading together and discover how Worcestershire Libraries can support you and your setting.

This year's programme features an inspiring speaker lineup, including Lauren Child, award-winning creator of Charlie and Lola; Professor Sam Wass, expert in early years brain development; West Midlands author and English coach Donna David; and BookTrust — alongside practical workshops from Sal Tonge and Thomas Docherty.

Book your place today at the special Early Bird rate of £50 per person. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to all delegates.

Let's celebrate the power of stories and the vital role libraries play in shaping children's futures.

For more information including details how to book, please visit:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/power-libraries-conference-2026>

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**](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Latest Government News and Updates

Register for the Attendance and Behaviour Hubs Programme starting January 2026

The [RISE Attendance and Behaviour \(A&B\) Hubs Programme](#) offers schools practical, school-led support to improve attendance and behaviour. By joining the programme, schools will connect with experienced lead schools that have a proven track record in creating high-attendance and strong behaviour cultures.

There are two levels of support on offer: enhanced and regional. Enhanced Support provides 10 days of tailored support to help a school identify priorities and create an improvement plan. The Regional Support offer will provide structured continuous professional development, professional networks, and opportunities to share and learn from good practice across a wider group of schools. Both pathways include visiting schools leading the programme.

All schools are invited to express their interest in joining the programme and benefiting from this collaborative, evidence-informed approach to improve attendance and behaviour [via this form](#).

[Download guidance on RISE attendance improvement](#)

Martyn's Law Virtual Webinars

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

If you haven't yet attended the Department for Education and Home Office virtual webinar, there is still an opportunity to join an upcoming session for schools. [The next webinar will take place at 12pm on 4 December on MS Teams](#).

Latest News from Teaching School Hubs

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:

Clinic 5 – 19th March 2026

Clinic 6 – 18th June 2026

ECT Mentor Events:

Clinic 1 for Year 1 Mentors – 5th February 2026

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors – March 2026

ECTP Grant Funding for Schools

- Funding for ECTs should come from either core funding, a general annual grant, 16 to 19 funding or place funding.
- Year 1 funding covers:
 - The cost of the 10% they have taken off their timetable to undertake training etc.
- Year 2 funding covers:
 - The cost of the ECT's 5% they have off timetable, and the 20 hours of support given to them by their mentor.
- Settings will get one payment at the end of the ECTs second year.
- If a school has an ECT for the first year of an induction but they then move schools to complete their second year, the funding would be received by the school that the ECT is at for the second year of their induction period.
- This funding is paid in one instalment, and settings do not need to make an application for this funding.
- If an ECT's induction period needs to be extended, the funding will still only cover the two years.
- How the funding is calculated:
 - The rounded totals are calculated as 'salary amount' divided by 1,265, multiplied by 20 hours and rounded to the nearest 100.
 - 1,265 is the number of directed teaching hours.

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

NPQ Update

Applications for 2025-26 are now closed. There will be no further NPQ cohorts this academic year.

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

ECT Assessments

Most ECT assessments will be due in early December - please check specific dates on ECT Manager.

Please contact us 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

Latest Community News and Updates

INFORMATION FOR SHARING WITH YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

St Richard's Hospice Santa Dash

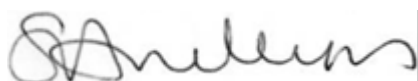
Sunday, 14 December, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2QT

Be prepared to dash around Worcester County Woods for St Richard's Hospice's festive fundraiser! This family-friendly fun-run is guaranteed to get you in the Christmas spirit.

Starting in the hospice car park, 'Dance with Ellie' will get you ready with some jolly tunes and fun festive warm-up. After the jolly jog you'll receive your Santa Dash medal, and a well-earned Christmas treat.

You may already have a Santa Suit from a previous year, so they encourage you to reuse it for this year or, if you wish to wear another festive outfit of choice you are more than welcome! Childs tickets include a Santa hat which can be worn with festive clothing of their choice. Santa suits/hats will be distributed on the morning of the event.

For more information including prices and how to book your tickets, please download their [Santa Dash flyer](#) or visit the event webpage: www.strichards.org.uk/santadash



Sarah Wilkins

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

