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## Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you all had a good summer break and feel refreshed and ready for the start of the new academic year. Welcome to all new head teachers and staff in Worcestershire. Attendance is a main focus for us all this year whether an LA school or academy please look out for our attendance updates and guidance for LA contacts, resources and training that we have available.

It's been an unexpected start to the Autumn term following the announcement from the Department for Education advising that education settings with any space or area with confirmed RAAC should no longer be open without mitigations in place.

As many of you are aware, work to understand presence of RAAC across the whole school estate has been undertaken over several months however responsible bodies are still working with some schools to conclude assessments.

Department for Education has produced [a frequently asked questions document about RAAC, and how](#)

[education settings before and during hot weather](#) Settings can [sign up to receive Weather Alerts](#) from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Met Office

On 1 August following a consultation process, a decision was made to close the Kidderminster base of The Beacon Primary Pupil Referral Unit. I would like to express my personal thanks to the staff for the positive education provision they have provided to children, young people and their families in Worcestershire and their continuation of support for Redditch and Bromsgrove. The Unity Academy, a Rivers Multi-Academy Trust school, opened its doors this week and will work with other Wyre Forest primary schools to prevent exclusion and promote practice that supports children and families. This is a fabulous new facility and we wish the staff and children all the very best for their first term of operation.

Wishing you and your staff, students and governors all the very best for the new term.



# Latest education news and updates



## Reminder regarding portal notifications and sharing of attendance data

Schools should continue to use the Children's Services portal to notify any in-year starters, in-year leavers, absences, irregular attendance or part-time timetables. Please be advised that over the summer holidays there have been some minor changes to the portal including:

- 1) Ability to record Flexi-schooling arrangements (via the Part time timetable notification form)
- 2) Parent phone numbers now mandatory.
- 3) Additional absence reasons/flags to help identify children with medical needs.
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## Latest SEND News and updates

### All-Age Autism Strategy Improving Health Services Engagement

Over the last few months, NHS Herefordshire and Worcester have been gaining views from autistic people, their families, provider organisations, professionals and wider residents about their health needs and experience of accessing health services through an online

# Latest health news and updates

## Meningitis

The UK Health Security Agency and leading meningitis charities are urging students to make sure they have been vaccinated against meningitis and other diseases before the start of the academic year.

The NHS MenACWY immunisation programme for schools is offered to all pupils in year 9 and 10. UKHSA [vaccine coverage data](#) shows around 1 in 8 new students going to college and university this year remain unprotected against these 4 strains of meningococcal bacteria, each of which can cause long term disability, serious health complications and can be life threatening.

We are urging all students to make sure they are up to date with all free routine NHS vaccines, and to know the signs and symptoms of [meningitis](#) and [septicaemia](#) as it could help save a life.

For more information on protecting your child through vaccination and when they should have each one, visit the UKHSA blog [Protecting your children through vaccination](#) [UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

### Call to action for education settings

Please share the information above with your school or college community to help raise awareness and promote the uptake of the vaccines.

There are resources available for use on social media available here:

Meningitis [social media assets](#)

MMR [social media assets](#)

## All secondary school pupils eligible for free flu vaccine reminder

On 4 July the government confirmed that all secondary school pupils in England will be offered a free flu vaccine from September for the 2023 to 2024 season.

An initial list of groups eligible for this year's flu vaccine was first announced in May. The government has confirmed it is expanding the programme to over three million pupils in secondary school years 7 to 11, who will be offered the vaccine as a nasal spray through their school's vaccination programme from 1 September.

NHS school aged immunisation services will be undertaking the vaccinations from September during the autumn term. All primary school children and infants aged two and three will also be offered the flu vaccine. Eligible groups are urged to take up the offer from September before the flu season begins, to give themselves the best possible protection in winter.

UKHSA have recently shared guidance on the secondary school vaccination programme, and other schoolbased routine immunisations. Secondary school resources to share with parents are also available.

A local school aged immunisation provider will contact your school to agree a date for the vaccination session and the best approach for implementing the programme.



## International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 7 September

It's the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on 7 September.

This year the theme is *Together for Clean Air*. The day aims to raise awareness and enable actions to improve air quality. Everyone has a part to play to find new ways of ~~things~~, to reduce the amount of air pollution we cause, and ensure that everyone, everywhere can breathe clean air. Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental risks and can lead to stroke, heart and lung disease, cancer and respiratory problems. It can also exacerbate conditions such as asthma, including in children.

Air pollution comes from a number of sources, including vehicles, household energy use, industrial facilities and industry, wildfires and the burning of waste.

This year in Worcestershire, we are asking people to take action. We are asking that parents don't leave their engine idling especially around schools, and instead consider walking, wheeling, cycling or using public transport for journeys instead of using the car.



# Latest Government updates

## Keeping children safe in education

The September 2023 version of the

## Additional support for schools in financial difficulty in 2023 to 2024

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has today (18 August) [published information](#) about the [additional funding available to support schools in financial difficulty in 2023 to 2024](#).

## Latest training news and events

### Changes to CPD

During the summer months the training team have been working with WCC developers to enhance the functionality of the CPD system. We are pleased to announce the latest updates will be rolled out during September:

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## Training and Conferences by Worcestershire Children First

These sessions will cover all aspects of KS1 assessment ~~and~~ moderation, and you ~~shouldn't~~ need to attend any of the other courses advertised.

Cost: £220+ VAT

29 September and 16 October 2023, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10212 / 83590

Book via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your School CPD Leader login details.

### Senco Leadership Development Programme

Our leadership programme has been designed and developed around the SEN Code of Practice, Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and SEND best practice to ensure schools are meeting their statutory duties and provide highly effective support for children and young people with SEND.

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

Cost £350 + VAT per delegate

- Dates: Six sessions 26 Sept / 10 October/ 24 October/ 14 November / 27 November / 12 December 2023
- Time: 9am to 12pm / Venue: Worcester
- CPD Code: SCH 10287 / 83464

Book via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your School CPD Leader login details.

### INTENT Smoking Prevention Programme

INTENT is an evidence based ~~single~~ prevention programme delivered as 2x45 minute lessons each year for 4 years, from Y7 to Y10. There is robust evidence to demonstrate that this programme reduces smoking initiation by engaging young people with ~~smoking~~ messages. Your pupils ~~the~~ create Personal Plans (or "Implementation Intentions") about ~~hoilssmouliswif4alEMCi(f4)-2 ( )1iyoo30~~ ingDs as atv7c M(v)3 Sc 0 Tohe710w(ro)-ito 0.9 p1i7 tlegvar f ds0w(ro)-ito yl y p( p)-4ir

- 9 October 2023, 4.05pm to 4.50pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10088 / 83716
- 17 January 2024, 9.10am to 9.55am, virtual delivery, course code: 10088 / 83717
- 2 February 2024, 9.10am to 9.55am, virtual delivery, course code: 10088 / 83718

Book via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your School CPD Leader login details.

### Training taking place during October to December 2023

We also have the following training taking place between October and December 2023, delivered by the School Improvement team. Visit [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) and search the course title, listed below, to find out more about these exciting courses:

- Book and Brew! Planning reading and writing opportunities from a rich text
- Deep Dive into Reading are you ready?
- English: Subject Leaders Network Meeting
- Humanities: Subject Leaders Network Meeting
- Leading for Impact: Leading for Learning
- Maths: Subject Leaders Network Meeting
- New to Year 6
- Principles of Instruction Revisiting Rosenshine's Principles to support pupil's learning
- Subject Leaders: Are you ready for inspection?
- Taking care of you! Managing workload and wellbeing as an ECT



## Other local news and events

### Careers and Apprenticeships Roadshows October 2023

The Worcestershire Careers & Apprenticeships Roadshow makes a triumphant return!

With events this year held at both County Hall in Worcester (October 5<sup>th</sup>) and Redditch's Heart of Worcestershire College (October 17<sup>th</sup>) young adults aged 15-24 can explore their career, education, and training options. Attendees can connect with local employers for valuable advice, live job openings, and apprenticeship opportunities. Both events are run from 4pm to 8pm.

This is an unmissable opportunity to shape their Worcestershire career future!

**WORCESTERSHIRE  
CAREERS AND  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
ROADSHOW**

**WORCESTER | OCTOBER 5TH |  
COUNTY HALL, ONE  
WORCESTER, WR5 2ND | 4PM TO 8PM**

**REDDITCH | OCTOBER 17TH | 4-8PM  
HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE  
PEACOCK WAY, REDDITCH, B97 7AA**

**AGED 15-24?  
CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS**

**WORCESTER | OCTOBER 5TH |  
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HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE  
PEACOCK WAY, REDDITCH, B97 7AA**

European Union Social Fund  
Worcestershire county council  
Worcestershire  
WORCESTERSHIRE APPRENTICESHIPS  
CAREERS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

## Inspiring Worcestershire Resource Development and Activity Plan

Inspiring Worcestershire have launched their Resource Development and Activity Plan for 2023/24. The plan includes major dates included

- Careers and Apprenticeship Roadshows in Worcester on 5 October in Redditch on 17 October
- Life Beyond School Event 25 October at Worcester Sixways Stadium
- Skills Show in Worcester on 16 March 2024

They will also be producing resources including those for Tomorrow's Engineering Week (November 2023) and the NHS and Care Week (11 March 2024).

Their excellent Passport to Hospitality and Passport to Retail resources which have been NOCN approved will be available in September.

[Download Inspiring Worcestershire Resource Development and Activity Plan](#)

## Arena Flowers Infinite Garden

Arena Flowers's mission is to create an inspiring, educational space at their Droitwich HQ which physically demonstrates their commitment to circularity, which can be used by schools and community

## Fire Service Resources for Schools

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service would like to remind schools of the educational resources and activities available for schools.