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## Latest education news and updates

### Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme Winter 2024

The Worcestershire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is back for winter 2024!

During the school holidays, eligible families can book FREE holiday activities, family passes and events through the programme.

Funded by the Department for Education, HAF is primarily for children in receipt of benefits related to Free School Meals aged 15, however, the programme does support other children and young people otherwise considered vulnerable (including LAC, SEND and other status).

Families can search and book activities through the HAF booking site. Information and booking instructions to share with families are included in [the HAF Winter 2024 School Comms Toolkit](#). The information is in different formats so can be tailored to the communication channels you use in school.

School holidays can be a difficult time for families, we want to make sure the HAF Programme reaches as many of those who need it as possible. Please support the HAF Programme in your school by:

- Sharing the information linked with eligible families.

- Encouraging families to book activities (HAF activities are FREE to families, no hidden cost (fully funded by the Department for Education).

- Encouraging new starters to sign up to HAF as they sign up to Free School Meals.

More information about the programme is available on [the Worcestershire County Council website](#) or you can contact the HAF Team at [providers@hafworcestershire.co.uk](mailto:providers@hafworcestershire.co.uk)

## Early Years Toolkit Evaluation

You were previously made aware of the new Early Years Transition Toolkit created by Worcestershire Country Council to support transitions from Early Years to School settings. We are looking to evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of this toolkit and as part of this, we are asking for Early Years settings and schools who have used the toolkit to complete the following survey:

## Education Engagement Inclusion/EHE update

The Education Engagement (Inclusion/EHE) Team underwent great change over 2021-2023 saw some significant staff developments.

We are pleased to be starting the new academic year with all new staff fully inducted into their roles







## Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Survey

Healthwatch Worcestershire is a statutory service and their aim is to give local communities a stronger voice in order to influence and challenge how health and social care services are provided locally.

Due to the amount of feedback received from parent/carers about Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), they are running a survey during November to understand parent/carer experiences in detail.





## Lumi Nova Big Sign-up for Children with Anxieties and Worries

Please share with SENCOs, DSLs, Pastoral Leads and Classroom Teachers.

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage is a digital therapeutic mobile game supporting children with fears, worries and anxiety. Designed for children aged 7-12 years, Lumi Nova helps children to reflect on their feelings, build resilience, and learn lifelong skills to self-manage their worries in a fun intergalactic adventure.

Lumi Nova launched in October in Worcestershire and over 200 families have already accessed the offer! A big thank you to all those who have signposted families. We have seen good engagement from schools in Wychavon and Bromsgrove districts and would encourage schools from other districts to attend a Lumi Nova Discovery session to learn more.

Spread the Word: Check out the [Lumi Nova Resource Kit](#) for resources to support you to share Lumi Nova with other professionals and families  
Stay connected: Subscribe to the [Lumi Nova Newsletter](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for new resources and updates  
Learn More: Join a [Lumi Nova Discovery](#) for professionals to learn more about the offer

If you would like to order posters/leaflets or have any questions, please reach out to the Lumi Nova team at [luminova@bfblabs.com](mailto:luminova@bfblabs.com)

## Mental health App co-design opportunity for young people

BfB Labs are in the early stages of developing a new intervention for young people experiencing low mood. They are looking to involve young people with lived experience in the design process to ensure that the new product meets their needs preferences and real life experiences.

If your school or college has a peer-led school council or support group with lived experiences and would be interested in being involved in the design process (focus group or co-design workshops) so that the intervention addresses actual needs, preferences and real life experiences, please contact Kelly Tham via email at [kelly.0595.32841.9@bfblabs.com](mailto:kelly.0595.32841.9@bfblabs.com) or 0121 713 0511

## School Healthy Relationships Education Programme

Misogyny increasing? Unhealthy relationships between pupils?

Expressions of Interest are welcomed from middle and high schools plus special, alternative provision schools to be part of a school healthy relationships education programme.

The programme includes:

Awareness sessions for teachers and DSLs to support the messages given to students, empower staff to have sensitive discussions that students need and seek solutions through whole school approach. Typically, the staff course content includes an overview of the current situation (statistical data), strategies to empower staff for discussions with students, advice on creating a whole school approach, enhancing school policy and advice on where staff can find support.

Pupil (Y7,8 & 9 determined by the school) sessions exploring healthy relationships including inclusion & LGBTQ+. They explore harassment vs. flirting, communicating safely, identifying abuse, sexual wellbeing and sexual violence, coercive control, understanding the law and safely intervening as a bystander.

Group sessions. These are designed to teach students to think, not what to think, promoting reflection and honesty around topics such as domestic abuse, gender stereotypes, objectification, harmful sexual behaviour and healthy relationships enabling students to develop core values that are essential to harbouring healthy relationships in the short, medium and long term future.

There may be some 1:1 mentoring support for some pupils who are not in mainstream education.

If unhealthy relationships are a concern in your school and you wish to apply to be part of this programme, please complete this Expression of Interest form indicating why this programme is important for your school and pupil <https://forms.office.com/e/aejN6y37Up>



## Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

### Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

#### Appropriate Body Assessments

Please find some short training videos on how to write assessments in [AB Support webpage](#)

If you have any questions or queries, we will be running a [weekly drop in clinic](#) on Mondays at 4pm, starting on the 25 November until the end of term.

#### TA Level 3 Apprenticeship

What does the course involve?

- Monthly half day online sessions

- Independent online learning/coursework

- 1:1 tutoring t reviews every 6 weeks (online or face to face)

- Off the job training (new learning undertaken as part of existing job role)

Application deadline is 22 December 2024

Apply here [Best Practice Network Applications](#)

#### Grand Union Languages Hub

The Grand Union Languages Hub offers the following:

Partner School Work:

- Bespoke CPD offer and action plan support

- Funding to support staff, student enrichment offer, resourcing, HHCL

Open to all:

- CPD offer (face-to-face or online) based around pedagogical principles of language teaching

- Sharing of enrichment opportunities for students

- KS2KS3 transition project

- Access to research

- MFL specific support for schools

Sign up to their newsletter via their [website](#) to receive all details.

Please get in touch via [email](#) if you would like to speak about anything in more detail.

### Initial Teacher Training

Please be reminded that all ITT mentors are expected to complete the 7 tier one training. Dates for this training are available on the websites of the University of Worcester, Stourport SCITT, Tudor

Applications for the 2026 cohort have now opened.

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

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

### ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for this academic year. Book your place via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh)

#### Year 1 ECT Events:

Conference 2t January 2025

Clinic 1 t 14th November 2024

Clinic 2 t 6th March 2025

Clinic 3 t 12th June 2025

#### Year 2 ECT Events

Conference 3t November 2024

Clinic 5 t 20th March 2025

Clinic 6 t 19th June 2025

#### ECT Mentor Events:

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors June / July 2025

Clinic 1 for Year 1 Mentors 6th February 2025

Clinic 2 for Year 2 Mentors 7th November 2024

### AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2025 cohort remain open. Please follow the link for guidance on how to

register your ECT/s with us, please be sure to complete the Service Lev24yLang



## Latest government news and updates

### Managing asbestos in your school or college

On 31 October the Department for Education published guidance for school leaders, governors, local authorities and academy trusts about managing asbestos in schools and colleges.

[Download guidance on managing asbestos in your school or college](#)

### GCHQ Christmas Challenge

[GCHQ is running its annual Christmas Challenge for children aged 6-11 on 11 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, printable certificates, and a good luck message from GCHQ Director Anne Keating. A coordinated day of puzzling will take place on 11 December, with schools encouraged to share their progress on social media.

## Latest funding and grants news

The Department for Education (DfE) have announced the launch of a new Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) round.

Academies, multi-academy trusts, sixth form colleges, and voluntary aided schools across England can apply now for capital funding to improve school buildings and expand academies and sixth form colleges rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

Issues with poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency or health and safety.

The highest priority will be given to projects that address compliance and health and safety issues.

# Latest training news and conferences

## Managing School Attendance Supporting Senior Leaders and Attendance Leads

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## Annual reviews and preparing for adulthood

SENCOs from all settings will understand how to start planning for adulthood from the earliest years for those CYP with EHC Plans, and how to use person-centred approaches for their Annual Reviews. The ce





Sarah Wilkins  
Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

