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Our Ref: C191

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a good week

The Department for Education (DfE) announced yesterday (4 December) major reforms to SEND system. Thousands of pupils are to benefit from a £740 million cash injection from the Government to pave the way for more pupils with SEND to achieve and thrive in mainstream schools. This new funding can be used to adapt classrooms to be more accessible for children with SEND, and to create specialist facilities within mainstream schools that can deliver more intensive support adapted to the pupils' needs. It will start to pave the way for the government's widening long-term plans for reform to help more pupils with SEND to have their needs met in mainstream schools. We will expect to receive guidance and allocation information in the Spring Term and appreciate that this proposal does in part respond to our strategy and many schools and Trusts strategy to meet children's needs. [Read press release on new specialist places to be created in mainstream schools](#)

Last Wednesday (27th November) the DfE announced that schools with primary-aged pupils can now [apply to become an early adopter of the universal free breakfast club program](#). From April 2025, up

Latest attendance news and updates 3

Latest education news and updates 4

Latest SEND news and updates 7

Latest health and wellbeing news and updates5

6

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.

It is important to remind schools that as eligibility is linked to FSM status, there may be families who although have FSM status, their circumstances have changed. This is a finite pot of government funding and with the government protection on FSM status, regardless of circumstance change,

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN for Worcestershire's winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme!

The Department for Education's [Universal SEND Services programme](#) provides Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) specific Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for school and further education staff.

The programme's [online CPD units](#) support professionals to make high quality inclusive teaching the reality for every learner. The final unit in the series, 'Supporting Reading and Comprehension Across the Curriculum' is now available.

Complete the new unit to learn more about:

- x how to identify barriers to learners within the core building blocks of reading
- x the essential role senior leaders, teachers, reading leads, SENCOs, support staff and others can play in identifying when a child needs support with reading
- x

Our Public Health colleagues have been made aware of a new type of cannabis resin called 'Live Resin'.

They have been notified by police colleagues that live resin has been identified in Wales, although they have not had any information to say this is in West Mercia it's worth being aware.

Cannabis concentrates are often named or described by their textures or consistencies: some are hard and brittle, like shatter; some waxy; some thick and gooey, like batter; and some like sauce. By definition, live resin is a more malleable concentrate, sitting somewhere between a wax and a sauce.

It is typically dark yellow in colour but can vary from light yellow to white. Like all cannabis concentrates, it is extremely sticky.

Like cannabis resin it's a class B drug

Live resin can be consumed in a few different ways and can be stored in fridges. Dabbing is the most popular way to consume live resin – inhaling the vapour – often via a dab pen – which is similar to a vape. It can also be smoked as a cannabis joint.

Please also be aware of 'THC diamonds' which have been recovered in Manchester. These are cannabis derivatives which are small crystal structures made from the cannabis plant which are extremely potent.

Appropriate Body Assessments

- x Most assessments are due around mid-December – please check your ECT's profile to see when their next assessment is due.
- x Links to training videos on how to write progress reviews and formals assessments can now be found in the Resources area of ECT Manager.
- x If you have any questions or queries, we will be running a weekly [online drop-in clinic](#) on Mondays at 4pm until the end of term.

TA Level 3 Apprenticeship

What does the course involve?

- x Monthly half day online sessions
- x Independent online learning/coursework
- x 1:1 tutoring – reviews every 6 weeks (online or face to face)
- x Off the job training (new learning undertaken as part of existing job role)

Application deadline is 22nd December 2024

[Apply here](#)

Initial Teacher Training

Please note that the 20 hours of training for all ITT mentors has now been removed from every provider with immediate effect. However, we will still be offering the tier one training due to positive feedback. Dates for this training are available on the websites of the University of Worcester, Stourport SCITT, Tudor Grange SCITT and Prince Henry's and South Worcestershire ITT.

Applications for the 25-26 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

NPQ Funding Update – Spring 2025 Cohort

We are expecting the next round of NPQs to launch from 1st April 2025.

Funding eligibility

Full scholarships will continue to be available to all teachers and leaders from publicly funded schools and 16 to 19 education organisations for NPQLPM, NPOSENCo, and NPQH only (including EHCO for eligible participants).

The UK Government is replacing physical immigration documents with eVisas, a digital proof of immigration status.

Parents and guardians of children who are not British or Irish citizens, and whose children have either a biometric residence permit (BRP) card expiring on 31 December 2024, or a passport with an indefinite

Grand Union Language Hubs are proud to work with schools across the region to promote and enhance the provision of MFL. They aim to empower schools to foster student engagement, motivation and attainment in languages, to enthuse and inspire the next generation of linguists!

They provide free development opportunities for Language Teachers and are delighted to announce their Spring CPD offer!

- x **Facilitating Phonics** (Webinar) - 22nd January - 15:30-16:30
- x **EEF Implementation in MFL** (Webinar) - 5th February - 15:30-16:30
- x **AI: Enhancing MFL Provision** (Webinar) - 26th February - 15:30-16:30
- x **Sequencing for Success** (in-person, Tudor Grange Academy Solihull) - 11th March - 9:30-14:30

Sign up on our website: [CPD Sign Up Page](#)

For any further information, please email office@grandunionlanguagehub.tgacademy.org.uk.

