

STAFFROOM NEWSLETTER

Summer Term Connex Education Partnership Newsletter

Spotlight on EYFS and Primary Support

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) recently published a report detailing the extent of the pandemic on learning for students in primary schools. The research commissioned by the EEF concluded that: 'The proportion of children in their sample reaching the expected levels in all areas – communication and language, physical development, literacy, maths, and personal, social and emotional development – was 59% in 2021, compared to 72% for the 2019 cohort. This difference is equivalent to, on average, three more children in every classroom not reaching the expected levels by the end of the school year.'

To support the closing of the attainment gap, the EEF recommend schools focus on 3 key areas of development for academic year 2022-23 namely:

- 1.High quality teaching, every day, for all pupils
- 2.Targeted academic interventions
- 3.Addressing non-academic barriers to succeed at school

Tutoring as an Intervention

Connex Education Partnership's team of highly skilled QTS tutors offer the perfect opportunity for schools to deliver high quality targeted academic interventions as recommended by the EEF. Working across both primary and secondary phases, our experienced tutors are able to provide initial baseline assessments to assess need, followed by a block of 15 hours of small group or 1 to 1 tutoring. The EEF believe that this type of intervention results in an impact of 4 or 5 months progress being made.

Gavin Powers of The Park Infants School in Nottinghamshire used Connex Education Partnership

IN THIS ISSUE, WE'RE COVERING:

- Spotlight on EYFS and primary support
- Tutoring as an intervention
- DfE experts and mentors programme
- September 2022 preparation
- Bonus payments for teachers of STEM
- Calling all future TV producers
- Secondary subject content changes post-brexit
- National leader of education programme opportunities
- Thank a teacher day at Connex Education Partnership
- How are your numeracy skills?
- Tackling hay fever in schools

tutors to support his Year 6 pupils in their return to lessons following extended periods of school closure and reported: 'We put 200 of our 500 pupils through a block of tuition focussing on our disadvantaged children. In the recent Year 6 reading assessments, the average gain in reading age was greater for those who had been supported by tuition than those who had not. The students who are engaged in tuition are more confident in class and willing to answer questions and get involved in discussions.'

If you would be interested in finding out how to best spend your school's NTP or SLTG funding allocation for tuition, contact one of [Connex Education Partnership's branches today!](#)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

DfE Experts and Mentors Programme

Further to the 2021 announcement from the Department for Education that £153 million would be invested to support provision in early years teaching and strive to minimise the impact of the pandemic, an additional significant investment has been promised to a new 'Experts and Mentors Programme.'

The new programme seeks to provide face to face or virtual support for individual EYFS practitioners, leaders or whole settings primarily in the north of England with roll out across England in September 2022. Experienced early years professionals have been allocated to the roles of mentors, experts and area leads, with educational settings able to apply for support to focus on a specific identified area of development. For more information visit <https://www.pengreen.org/early-years-experts-and-mentors>. The closing date to apply for support is Friday 24th June 2022.

September 2022 Preparation

With the end of the summer term almost in sight, many school leaders will be turning their attention to the planning of their 2022-23 strategy and September CPD day plans. Below are four points of note for leaders to consider in their forward planning for the new academic year.

1. Have you referred to the EEF's new 2022-23 planning tool designed to support schools tackle some of the legacy impacts of the pandemic? The '[Moving forwards, making a difference: A planning guide for schools 2022-23](#)' is free to download and focusses on pertinent development areas for schools to hone in on as they prepare for September's fresh start.

2. Designated Safeguarding Leads will be required to share with colleagues the 23 changes being made to Keeping Children Safe in Education for September 2022. Whilst much of the document remains unchanged, it will be important to factor the changes into your training offer. The full 2022 document can be found [here](#) with a summary of the changes listed on page 174 onwards.

3. Mental health and wellbeing of the whole school community will undoubtedly remain a priority for most educational settings in the new year. The Department for Education has published a [compilation of support services](#) available for schools to reference as they develop their approach to student support including access to resources, psychological first aid training and the new Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) service. Don't forget to register for the next cohort of the [Positive Classroom Partnership](#) to access free targeted staff support in the new year.

4. Flexible working opportunities are commonplace in many schools and are becoming ever more popular with both employers and employees. If you are looking to update your approach to supporting flexible working patterns, you may be interested in the [recently published non-statutory guidance](#) from the government outlining ways to implement flexible working. Remember that Connex Education Partnership can support you and your staff with flexible working through the provision of supply teacher and tutors who can work around the needs of your school.

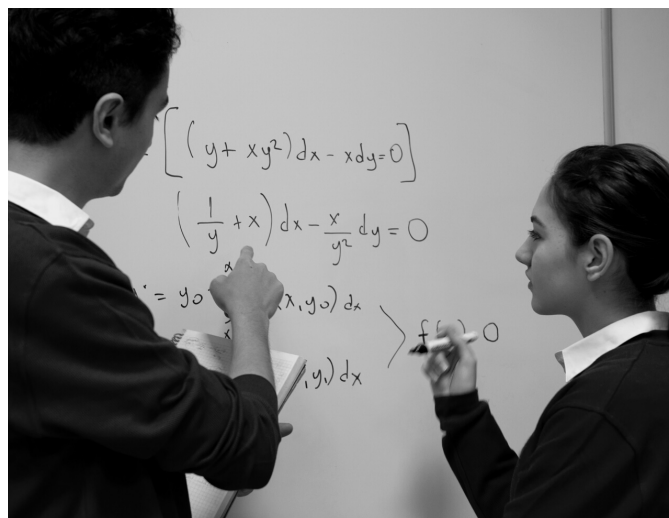
Bonus payments for teachers of STEM

Teachers of some science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects working in disadvantaged schools may be eligible for a £3,000 tax-free bonus for the next 3 years. Part of the government's recently introduced 'Levelling Up Premium', teachers of STEM subjects in their first 5 years of teaching may be able to claim up to £9,000 over three years in bonuses if they are working in priority areas in an effort to increase teacher retention and boost student outcomes, further raising school standards. Read more about the announcement [here](#).

Calling all Future TV Producers

Channel 4 are currently running a competition for students in Years 7 to 9 to pitch their ideas for a new TV series based in a school, youth or sports club. Winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Channel 4 with a range of runners-up prizes also up for grabs!

The competition aims to broaden students' understanding of the range of employment opportunities in broadcasting and enjoy collaboration with a small group as they develop their TV show ideas. This opportunity would be of particular interest to Careers Leaders looking to develop their Gatsby Standards. 4Schools are providing packs of support information to any schools keen to facilitate the competition with more information available [here](#). The closing date for entries is Friday 17th June 2022.



Thank a Teacher Day at Connex Education Partnership

National Thank a Teacher Day fell on the 26th May 2022 and provided us with a brilliant opportunity to recognise some of our most flexible and responsive teachers! We are lucky to work with thousands of highly skilled teachers and tutors, who offer excellent supply teaching and tuition to hundreds of schools nationally. Often parachuting into schools at short notice to support schools and ensure students' education continues, we are extremely grateful to our teacher and tutor community. We hope you enjoyed your surprise personalised gifts on National Thank a Teacher Day - you rock!

Secondary Subject Content Changes Post-Brexit

Following the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, four subjects currently offered as GCSE, AS and / or A level have experienced some changes to content to reflect international adjustments. Teachers of the following courses will need to check the specification for changes and adapt their planning as required:

- AS and A level Politics
- GCSE Citizenship
- GCSE Economics
- GCSE, AS and A level Law

National Leader of Education Programme Opportunities

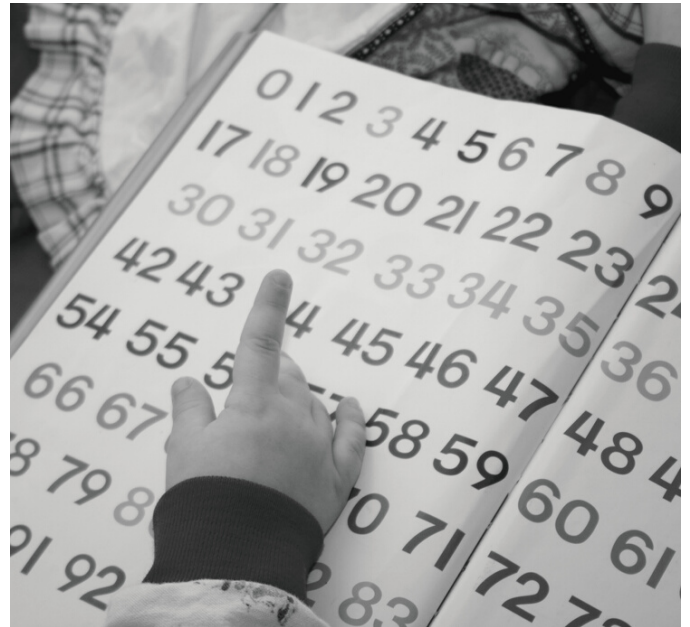
Have you considered applying to become a National Leader of Education (NLE)? If so, now is the perfect time to do so! The current accreditation of NLEs will end at the end of the academic year, with a new cohort being recruited for the 2022-23 academic year. The Department for Education is seeking headteachers with experience of school improvement to join their new cohort of NLEs. More information including a link to apply can be found [here](#).



After the Bell Podcast The ECT Series

Pick up our After The Bell podcasts for quick tips and discussions with our experts around all things educational – on your commute home, jogging on the treadmill or whilst cooking dinner.

[LISTEN NOW](#)



How are your Numeracy Skills?

It might not be the type of online quiz that you're used to, but why not test your numeracy ability with the Department for Education's new online quiz designed to test adults' numeracy skills! Answering just 6 short questions will provide feedback on your strengths and areas for development with mathematical problem solving, offering suggestions of how to upskill afterwards. Give it a try and see how you do! Access the quiz [here](#).

Tackling Hay Fever in Schools

For sufferers of hay fever, the spring and summer terms can pose daily discomfort and challenges in a school environment. When temperatures rise, the temptation is to open windows to cool down often increases the problem for hay fever sufferers. With 49% of the UK population now reporting experiencing hay fever symptoms, it is unsurprising that schools are seeking technological support to help support their community. The DfE have recently approved a Dyson* air purifier as a means to reduce the impact of hay fever in schools which is being celebrated by Dyson giving away 100 free units to schools on a first come, first served basis. For more information, check out the information [here](#).

*Note that Connex Education Partnership does not have any affiliation with Dyson. We are committed to sharing useful information with our schools and do so in good faith without commercial association to other companies.

