

STAFFROOM NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the new summer term, what a busy one last term was! We have collated some of the useful and interesting news stories and updates in this edition of our newsletter. We hope all of our schools, pupils, and your communities, had a restful break and we look forward to working with you this term.

Funded Senior Mental Health Lead Opportunities

The Department for Education is continuing to offer funded opportunities for a senior leader from state schools and colleges in England to train as a mental health and wellbeing lead. The next round of training must commence before 31st May 2022 with the government committing to offer this training to all eligible education establishments by 2025. The grant is worth £1,200 per school.

Designed to support a coordinated approach to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of pupils and in turn establish greater readiness to learn, it is hoped that the outcomes of the course will support improved behaviour, attendance and outcomes.

Eligibility:

All state-funded education settings that are in receipt of ESFA pre-16 revenue, high needs block, or 16 to 19 programme funding are eligible for the grant, including:

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- Mainstream academies and maintained schools
- Alternative provision academies (including hospital schools)
- Pupil referral units
- Special academies and maintained schools
- Further education colleges attended by under 18-year-olds (one claim per campus ID)
- Sixth form colleges
- Special post-16 institutions
- Non-maintained special schools
- Local authorities

Independent institutions (with fee-paying pupils and students) that do not receive the funding types outlined above are not eligible for a grant but may access DfE assured training courses at their own expense.

More information can be found [here](#).

Go Ahead for 2022 Examinations

GCSE, A level and other summative examinations will go ahead this summer for the first time in two years. For many students, this will be the first formal examination series they have experienced which may prove to be a nerve-racking time. The Department for Education have introduced a programme of revision help for students, including pre-releasing select exam content, texts, themes and skills in advance in attempt to ensure fairness and reduce the impact of the pandemic on education.

Other examples of adaptations include providing a formulae sheet in some maths exams and providing choice of topics in English. There will also be a review of grading to make it more generous in recognition of the challenges faced by students.

Connex Education Partnership tutors are able to provide exam board specific bespoke tuition blocks to students in English, Maths and Sciences.

Mental Wellbeing Webinars

The Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) is piloting the use of webinars led by experts in the field to provide high quality materials to provide schools with a better understanding and ability to supporting mental wellbeing. Three recordings are currently live to view and may provide a useful insight for you and your team.

Click the links below to access the recordings.

[Anxiety](#)

[Sleep](#)

[Screen time](#)

If you have any students who you feel would benefit from intensive examination preparation support, get in touch with your [local branch](#) today.

A summary of this development can be found [here](#).



Summer Gained Time

If your school, organisation or MAT is keen to use summer gained time to invest in staff development, check out the online courses provided by [The Thirsty Scholars Partnership!](#)

This is a great opportunity to up-skill your team of support colleagues and with formal qualifications including a [Level 3 Award in Education and Training for Cover Supervisors](#), a [Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools](#) and [Level 4 Certificate for Higher Level Teaching Assistants](#) currently on sale, now is the perfect time to provide high quality and specialism specific training for your staff.

The Thirsty Scholars Partnership is also able to provide a library of online CPD courses appropriate for your full staff body covering topics such as safeguarding, teaching, and learning SEND.

Save time and get ahead of your preparation for September by checking out the courses today!



Wellbeing in Education: How are you?

It's no secret that the last two years have been some of the most turbulent and challenging for anyone working in education, which can take its toll on even the most resilient colleague. We recognise the impact, commitment, and sacrifices that our schools have made to ensure that pupils are kept safe and well through the most testing of circumstances.

In partnership with CreatePositive, we are delighted to be able to offer a fully funded staff wellbeing opportunity open to all of our schools. Known as The Positive Classroom Partnership, colleagues are invited to take much needed time to reflect on how they are, interact with like-minded professionals and experience new techniques to maintain their personal balance.

If you'd like to know more about how The Positive Classroom Partnership could support you and your colleagues, check out the information [here](#).

Crisis in Ukraine

Many young people are struggling to make sense of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. With upsetting images broadcast on the news and with many young people having access to social media, their exposure to what is incredibly worrying news cannot be underestimated.

Teachers are playing an invaluable part in supporting young people to understand the world around them. With that in mind, The Education Hub has produced some helpful information to help schools and adults speak to young people about the conflict avoiding misinformation. More details can be found [here](#).



Guaranteed Cover for Staff Absence

High rates of staff and student absence continue to be seen in schools across the country as a result of the transmission of Covid. Paul Whiteman (general secretary of the NAHT leaders' union) recently said that "Covid cases have been spiking again in many schools, in line with the rising numbers nationally." With almost 160,000 pupils missing school with a positive case of Covid on Thursday 17th March, the knock-on impact of this on teaching and support staff is inevitable.

With so much unpredictability around staffing rates, we understand that finding quality classroom cover at the last minute is not easy. Therefore, why not take advantage of our Guaranteed Cover School to reduce the last-minute scramble in the morning?

Simply book one of our supply staff in advance in the confidence that they are yours if you need them and if you don't, simply cancel before 7.30am without charge!



Tackling Period Poverty in Schools in England

The period product scheme is available for all state-maintained schools in England to order free period products for pupils who need them. Having periods should never be a barrier to accessing education. Currently 94% of secondary schools are accessing the scheme which drops to only 61% in primary schools. More information about how your school can order free period products before July 2022 can be found [here](#).



Improving Attendance Case Studies

The Department for Education has published four insightful recordings of school and MAT leaders sharing their approaches and techniques to managing and improving pupil attendance. The recordings include a summary from Ofsted's National Lead for Behaviour and Attendance of the finding of Ofsted's 'Securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence' report.

Click [here](#) to visit the page.

