



Welcome to the 2022-23 academic year! We hope you have had a restful and rejuvenating summer break.

There's something quite special about the first few weeks of the new year. The anticipation of welcoming new pupils and staff into your school, launching new initiatives and projects, and the opportunity for a fresh start full of optimism for the year ahead! Whatever your priorities for the next three terms, Connex Education Partnership remain committed to supporting you with your staffing and training needs and look forward to working with you.

National Tutoring Programme Success

Over the summer holidays, the government published the latest engagement figures for the National Tutoring Programme (NTP). A staggering two million tutoring courses have been started since the inception of the scheme, designed to support pupils catch-up following extended disruption to learning owing to the pandemic. With almost 600,000 courses started in the last 2 months of the 2021-22 academic year alone, it's clear to see that schools are embracing tuition as part of their academic diet across all key stages.

State-funded schools will be eligible for a 60% subsidy towards tuition provided through the National Tuition Programme in 2022-23

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This Newsletter will cover some of the hot topics being discussed in school's this September, including:

- The National Tutoring Programme
- Our Classroom Climate
- KSCIE 2022 Campaign
- School Workload Reduction Toolkit
- New Statutory Careers Guidance in Schools
- Technological Help for DfE Laptops and Tablets
- Senior Mental Health Lead Training
- Supporting Ukrainian Students in your School
- Emergency Planning
- Defibrillators in School
- The Lionesses' Legacy



making bespoke, targeted and high-impact intervention an affordable option. Connex Education Partnership have been the largest provider of tutors through the NTP and continue to match schools with QTS tutors. If you'd like to explore the possibility of using specialist tutors for targeted interventions for your pupils in need of additional support, or if you are interested in registering as a tutor, contact your [local Connex Education Partnership branch](#) to find out more.

Our Classroom Climate

Our Classroom Climate has teamed up with Connex Education Partnership and Cardiff University to deliver the biggest ever climate change education programme undertaken in the UK! Suitable for pupils in Key Stage 2, the project is designed to capture the imagination of the next generation of scientists keen to learn more about sustainability, climate change and improving air quality. Our package includes 80+ digital lessons, scientific experiments and teacher resources. In addition, a Science Box including an Algal Bio-reactor and an air quality monitor are provided to allow classes to conduct their own experiments with accuracy.

Professor Geraint Jones (Founding Executive Director & Associate-Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the National Institute of Teaching and Education, Coventry University) said:

“At the National Institute of Teaching and Education, we believe that the knowledge of the impact of climate change and the understanding of how we can protect our planet should sit at the very heart of school curricula. Teachers, therefore, need programmes like Our Classroom Climate to engage their pupils in changing the world’s attitude to protecting our environment.”

[Click here](#) if you'd like to find out more about how your school can be involved in the Our Classroom Climate project and register your interest.

KCSIE 2022 Campaign

The updated course on Keeping Children Safe in Education is here! This mandatory course will provide your staff with all the necessary up-to-date knowledge regarding government legislation, policy, guidance, and best practice from experts in the field, showing all safeguards in place to protect children and young people from preventable harm. To celebrate the start of the school year, Thirsty Scholars Partnership, will be providing the updated course completely free. Information on how you can access this course will be distributed shortly. In addition, we are hosting a free webinar covering all the changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education for 2022. The webinar will take place on the 22nd of September. Click below to register your attendance.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



School Workload Reduction Toolkit

The NASUWT Union reports that half of teachers say that their workload and stress of the job have negatively affected their physical and mental health. This has been further compounded by the impact of the pandemic, resulting in even longer hours, often eating into school holidays too. Many schools are proactively making significant strides to reduce workload for their staff and improve working conditions. If your school is prioritising this area of development for the 2022-23 academic year, you may find the School Workload Reduction Toolkit to be a handy resource to support you in identifying the issues in your school and embedding practical ways to make a change. More information can be found [here](#).



New Statutory Careers Guidance in Schools

Local Authority maintained secondary schools in England have been required to provide impartial careers guidance to all students in Years 8 to 13 since 2013. In September 2022, the Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Bill 2022 comes into force. This extends the need to provide impartial careers information to all Year 7 students and now also applied to all academies in addition to those schools under local authority control.

The requirements of the new bill have been published by the House of Commons Library. The document [\(accessed here\)](#) also includes information about the most recent DfE Careers Strategy, Skills for Jobs White Paper, organisations that can provide support and a summary of how schools are currently performing in this area.

Technological help for DfE Laptops and Tablets

Digital poverty hit the headlines through 2020-21 as many schools struggled to meet the needs of their communities in terms of access to the technology required for remote learning during the Covid-19 lockdowns. The Department for Education's laptop and tablet scheme provide some schools with technology to help plug gaps within their student cohort, with many devices still held by the schools today. A series of guides related to the maintenance and technological troubleshooting of these machines was published last term, and updated at the end of June. Schools may find [passing this link](#) to their IT Support Teams or those with responsibility for running any related programmes to help get the most out of your laptops and tablets.



Senior Mental Health Lead Training – Improve your School’s Approach to Mental Health

In our [April newsletter](#) we highlighted the government’s grant of £1,200 per school available for schools to fund a senior leader to access high quality training to become a mental health leader. Many schools have already accessed this provision and have embedded a new approach to supporting their staff body’s mental health following successful completion of the course.

We are delighted to be able to invite schools to enrol for the Senior Mental Health Lead Training provided by The Thirsty Scholars Partnership commencing in October 2022. [Click here](#) to read more about the content of the fully funded opportunity, including information about how to access the government grant and to register your interest. We also offer self-funded routes for completion of the training should your school not be eligible for the grant.

Cohort places are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot quickly!



Supporting Ukrainian Students in your School

Government statistics from the end of July suggest that over 100,000 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in the UK since the start of the conflict. For many of these families with school-aged children, September marks a fresh start with their engagement in the UK’s education system. Equally, for some schools and local authorities, this may be one of the first times they have had to plan and deliver support for children of refugee families. Whilst schools are being encouraged to contact their local authority, charity sectors and support groups to access geographically local services and support, the Department for Education has packaged a set of supportive resources that will help you to best provide:

- Explanation of the education system
- Learning English as an additional language
- Support for wellbeing and mental health
- Refugee specific support

More information including links to a range of support services for schools and Ukrainian families can be found [here](#).



Is your Emergency Plan up to date?

Whilst few and far between in occurrence, emergencies that impact education and childcare require careful advanced planning to minimise and mitigate any potential impact on your school community. From a public health incident, to severe weather; serious injury to a member of your school, to criminal activity, all schools and childcare settings are advised to have an emergency plan in place that can be readily referred to if required.

In August 2022, the government published a new [Guide to Emergency Planning](#), which replaces all previous guidance. It is recommended that any existing Emergency Plans are compliant with the new non-statutory guidance.



Recruiting Governors for Schools

The relations between the Local Governing Body and school is vital, with the balance of challenge and support to move the school forward being at the heart of it.

If you're looking to recruit additional school governors this year, have you considered looking at the [Inspiring Governance](#) service online? Designed to match the skill set of willing and available local volunteers with the needs of schools, the Inspiring Governance website can offer an efficient and effective approach to finding your next governors.

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

Do you have a defibrillator on site?

Under plans released by the government in July, all state-funded schools who do not yet have a defibrillator on site will be entitled to receive one, fully funded, before the end of the 2022-23 academic year. As part of the press release announcing the plan, the Department for Education said

'The rollout will build on existing requirements for schools to teach first aid as part of the curriculum, with secondary school pupils being taught life-saving methods such as CPR and the purpose of defibrillators. This rollout will help protect schools and their local communities against cardiac arrest, delivering wider access to these devices.'

Schools who wish to opt-in to the free defibrillator scheme should ensure they reply to the survey sent out to schools, or read more information [here](#).



The Lionesses' Legacy

Following the incredible performances from the England Lioness Football Team during the Euro 2022 Football Championship, football fever truly gripped the country! Whilst the impact of the team's epic performance was felt far and wide, the impact on young females was particularly great with many finding inspirational new role models in the team.

Subsequent to their win, all 23 members of the winning women's team signed an [open letter](#) to the two contenders to become the next UK Prime Minister calling for greater opportunities in girls sport, especially football. Many clubs have been inundated with enquiries from girls hoping to follow in the Lionesses' footsteps, with schools also seeking to widen their offer at the start of the new year.

Whilst your PE and Sport teams will no doubt be assessing how they could increase participation in girls' football in your secondary school, have you considered investing time in young female sport leadership opportunities? If so, you may be interested in the Your Time programme facilitated by Sport Leaders, which is 'designed to encourage girls in schools to participate in competitive sports leadership opportunities.' The free scheme, delivered partly online and partly in school, requires a minimum of 6 girls aged 14-16 to take part, which would be followed by a full training and competition pack including certificates and promotional posters.

Sport Leaders have a range of school-targeted sports leadership programmes available. Check out 'Your Time' plus many others on their [website](#).

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

