



Fantastic Feedback: School Tutor Survey Results

Thank you to our partner schools who completed the Connex Education Partnership School Survey in January 2023. We are delighted to share the fantastic feedback we received:

- **100%** of schools would **recommend Connex Education Partnership** to others.
- **96%** of schools believe that the **tuition has had a positive impact** on pupils overall.
- **92%** of schools are **very happy** with the tuition provision provided by Connex Education Partnership's tutors.
- **100%** of schools said that they the tutors delivered **high quality provision** throughout the tuition block.
- **58%** schools reported marked improvements **in non-academic** pupil attributes (most commonly confidence).

Look out for the half termly School Survey which will arrive with you in the next few days.

Top Tuition

In his October 2022 blog, Professor Rob Coe (Senior Associate from the Education Endowment Foundation), outlined how important tuition remains in the post-pandemic landscape, writing:

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

- **Fantastic Feedback: School Tutor Survey Results**
- **Top Tuition**
- **National Careers Week 2023**
- **National Careers Week PGCE with QTS Training Webinar – Upskill Your Staff**
- **Whole School Mental Health and Wellbeing**
- **Certificate in the Fundamentals of Wellbeing**
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- **State of the nation 2022: children and young people's wellbeing**
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- **Have you seen the new EEF Early Years Evidence Store?**
- **Empowering Students to Understand the Cost of Living**
- **March Madness**



'High quality teaching is the most powerful levee schools have for improving pupil outcomes. However, especially post-pandemic, there may be children in need of additional support with their learning. When one-to-one and small group tutoring are implemented well, following key principles, it is likely that it can be impactful.'

Tuition is one of the best evidenced interventions we have to support disadvantaged pupils' attainment.'

Professor Becky Francis

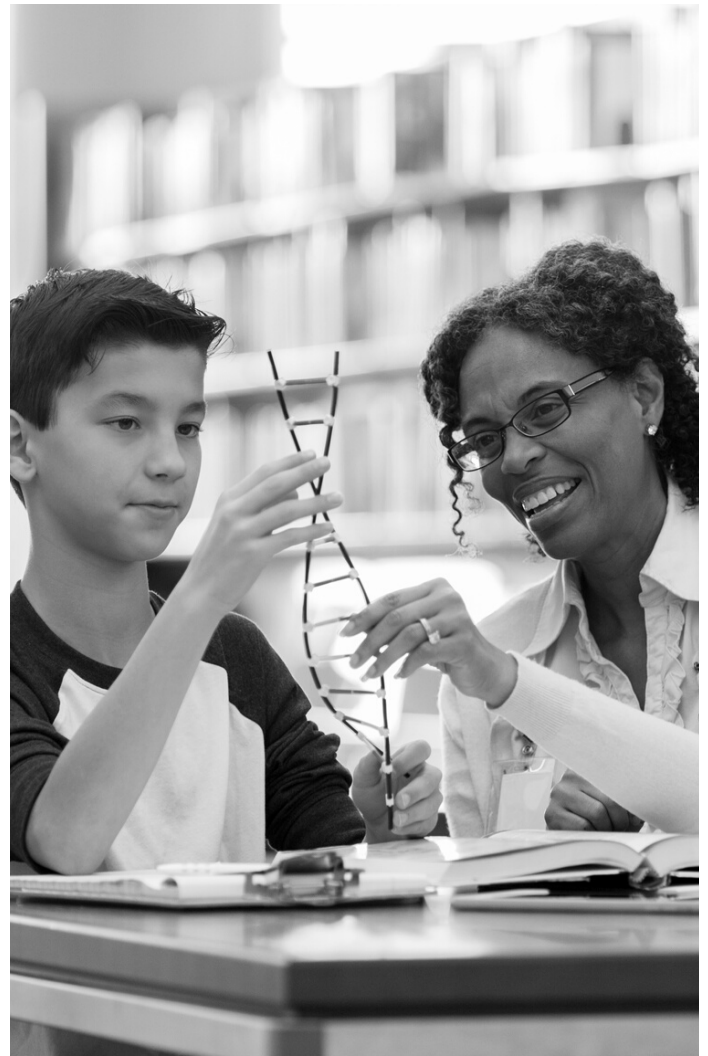
The National Tutoring Programme continues to subsidise schools to enlist the support of tutors to help facilitate the catch up of lost learning through the pandemic. If you haven't yet taken advantage of this opportunity, or would like to know more about how Connex Education Partnership can help meet your tutoring needs, get in touch with our dedicated team of experts. Click [here](#) for more information.

National Careers Week 2023

This year's National Careers Week runs between the 6th and 11th March 2023.

National Careers Week (NCW) is a one-week celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. Our aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways.

(nationalcareersweek.com)



The team at National Careers Week* have created a fantastic bank of resources and tools that you may find helpful to shine a spotlight on CAIG in your school. With recent developments in routes into careers through Apprenticeships, now is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of Apprenticeships for your students and staff alike.

As part of our commitment to lifelong learning and career progression, Connex Education Partnership are proud to be able to support National Careers Week with a free webinar focusing on the use of Apprenticeships and routes to gaining PGCEs with QTS. If your school has not yet explored the use of the Apprenticeship Levy, eligibility criteria, or using Apprenticeships for upskilling staff, join us to find out more!

National Careers Week PGCE with QTS Training Webinar – Upskill Your Staff

Join us on Tuesday 7th March 2023 as our team of experts guide you through the PGCE with QTS apprenticeship landscape for 2023 including the following:

- Apprenticeship Levy Funding
- The PGCE with QTS training route
- Flexible Course Start Dates
- Retain and Retrain Existing Staff
- Senior Leadership Apprenticeships
- Question and Answers

You can reserve your free space on the course [here](#).

The full list of our free forthcoming webinars can be accessed [here](#).

Whole School Mental Health and Wellbeing

Senior Mental Health Lead Training

School settings nationwide are being encouraged by the Department for Education to make use of the £1,200 training grant available to train a senior leader to run the school's approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing for all. Uptake of the Senior Mental Health Lead (SMHL) funding has been strong, with settings now applying and developing their strategies following involvement in the training.

Connex Academy are proud to be an accredited training provider for the SMHL and look forward to welcoming the next cohort of participants. The application window for commencing training before 31st July 2023 is now open.

Our modular, flexible online SMHL training will cover the following:

- ✓ **Getting the basics right** – Learn the wellbeing scale from flourishing to mental health issues.
- ✓ **Clarity first** – Evaluate the state of mental health and its policies in your school.
- ✓ **The change starts with you** – Become a role model by using wellbeing inducing leadership skills
- ✓ **Better together** – Co-create your schools' wellbeing vision for a transformative and inclusive environment.
- ✓ **Learn and grow** – Focus on upskilling multi-stakeholders alongside curricular frameworks for key culture change.
- ✓ **Reach for effective care** – Identify indicators for swift mental health interventions, including students voice.
- ✓ **Moving forward** – Evaluate and optimise all changes for wellbeing sustainability.
- ✓ **Sharing best practice** – Online community of like minded SMHL, sharing a passion for people's mental wellbeing.

You can reserve one of our limited places on the next cohort by entering your details [here](#). Once you have registered your interest, information about how to apply for the Department for Education grant and enrol on our training course can be found [here](#).



Certificate in the Fundamentals of Wellbeing

In addition to our SMHL training, we are proud to have partnered with Create Positive to launch the Certificate in Fundamentals of Wellbeing. This course is designed to support a positive wellbeing culture within your school. The course is modular and flexible and offers a mix of both online and pre-recorded instruction, directed reflection, webinars and coaching to best suit your learning needs. Unlike the SMHL, there is no stipulation for participants to be part of a senior management team. Therefore this course may suit colleagues who will be supporting the Senior Mental Health Lead in rolling out a full school approach.

Find out more and register your interest [here](#).



Connex Academy launched

We are delighted to announce the launch of Connex Academy as part of the Connex Education Partnership.

In January our sister company Thirsty Scholars Partnership, relaunched as Connex Education Academy. Connex Academy has over 30,000 users and a large library of qualifications, courses, and certificates to support Connex Education Partnership schools. They have professional development for your entire school workforce, from DSLs, Leadership, TAs to your Premises teams. You can view the course list [here](#).

Speak to one of your branches about how you access the platform or drop us an email at enquiries@connex-academy.com

State of the nation 2022: children and young people's wellbeing

The recent publication of the Department for Education's research report into the wellbeing of pupils, reveals a perhaps unsurprising mixed picture of how children and young people are coping with issues surrounding physical and mental health.

Whilst some of the research indicates that levels of wellbeing have returned to pre-pandemic levels, variations within subgroups paint an inconsistent picture. The full report can be accessed [here](#), and would be of interest and use to pastoral leads in schools who may be able to apply some of the findings to your whole school approach.

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Connex Academy provide a range of online, stand alone CPD courses related to the content of the State of the nation 2022: children and young people's wellbeing report. Titles including Awareness of Learner Wellbeing, Reflective Safeguarding Practice in Schools and Awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences are live and instantly accessible. To explore our full list of courses, visit the [Connex Academy website](#).



Active Lives and Healthy School Rating Scheme

How does your school compare to others in the promotion and achievement of healthy lifestyles for students? Whilst every school undoubtedly strives to ensure healthy diets and frequent exercise for its students, wouldn't it be reassuring to receive some impartial feedback about how successful you have been?

In participation with Sport England, schools are invited to complete the healthy schools rating scheme survey, designed to recognise and encourage schools' contributions to pupils' health and wellbeing. Primarily looking at healthy eating and physical activity, the survey celebrates areas of success and makes recommendations for improvements. Once completed, schools will receive a grading and award which can be used as a platform for accelerated progress. For more information visit the Sport England* website [here](#) and read more from the Department of Education [here](#).

Intensive Intervention in Years 7 and 8 Literacy

The Education Endowment Foundation* are looking for 100 participant schools to engage in their 'Switch On' Literacy Project. Tailored to students in Years 7 and 8, the project offers intensive individualised, daily, ten-week reading intervention delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council and available to all schools in England, including special schools. [Register your interest](#) by 20th April 2023.

Opportunities to Study and Work Abroad

Now entering its third year, the government's world-wide Turing Scheme, designed to provide international study placements to schools, colleges and universities, is now open for applications. Offering funded, life-changing study abroad placements for young people, the Turing Scheme aims to promote equal opportunities for all, increasing social mobility and developing key life skills. An example of a successful application made in last year's funding round was when a group of students from Blackburn were able to travel to Morocco for two weeks to complete local community and charity work, intertwined with their own curriculum. More information, including how to apply before the 6th April 2023 deadlines, can be found at www.turing-scheme.org.uk.



Have you seen the new EEF Early Years Evidence Store?

Designed to support schools put evidence-informed approaches into practice, the new Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)* Evidence Store will grow over time to encompass key themes around Early Years Education. Currently hosting two themes (Communication and Language and Personal Social and Emotional Development), the EEF said:

The Early Years Evidence Store is a summary of evidence-informed approaches to help educators to understand and reflect on their practice. The approaches are illustrated with practices that typically make-up the approach and a range of examples of what these might look like in practice.

The Early Years Evidence Store demonstrates that the approaches and practices can be implemented with children across different contexts for teaching and learning spanning adult-led and child-led learning opportunities in the Early Years Pedagogical Continuum.

Access to the EEF's Evidence Store and further Early Years materials can be found [here](#).



Empowering Students to Understand the Cost of Living

Widely reported in the news and on social media are the UK's current rising prices, commonly referred to as the 'Cost of Living Crisis.' Children and young people would likely be able to tell you what this means and will have a grasp that day to day goods and services are increasing in price. However, would they feel empowered and able to know how to deal with it themselves?

How financially savvy are your students? Does your Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education curriculum drill down on some of the tools and techniques that young people need to develop to be financially literate adults?



A range of teaching resources focusing on economic and financial matters are widely available for schools to adapt at all key stages. Most high street banks offer programmes of study and online packages designed for schools to use in supporting their children and young people develop a deep understanding of money related topics. Examples include:

Santander and Twinkl's Financial Education*

Natwest's Money Sense*

Barclay's Life Skills*



March Madness

March is often a month full of excitement and energy in schools, as two of the annual school calendar's big events take place.

This year, World Book Day* falls on Thursday 2nd March with thousands of children and school staff celebrating by dressing as their favourite book characters. Initially launched to promote a passion for reading amongst children and young people, the Book Token scheme associated with World Book Day will once again ensure students can choose and own a book for £1 from a selection of 12 top titles. Find out more about how the token redemption scheme works, and what you can do to promote World Book Day [here](#).

Just a fortnight after putting away our book character outfits, it will be time to dig out our red noses for this year's Comic Relief* on Friday 17th March. Whether you plan host a quiz, have a non-uniform day or even a Sponge the Teacher event, free fundraising resource packs are available for you to download from the Comic Relief [website](#). Schools up and down the country will be sharing in fantastically fun fundraising, all in aid of supporting children and young people going through extreme challenges.

**Connex Education Partnership does not have any professional affiliations with organisations referenced throughout this newsletter. We share information that we believe will be of use and interest to schools in good faith, and in the spirit of sharing good practice for the benefit of all.*



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