

Thu 14/01/2021 11:38

Dear Colleagues,

New Staff Wellbeing Check In

Lockdown doesn't seem to be any easier third time around and conscious that this can take a toll on our wellbeing, HR have developed this very short [Staff Wellbeing Check In](#) survey so we can get a handle on how you are at the moment and if there is anything more that we can do to support you all. Its short and anonymous but will help us to help you so do please take a few moments to fill it in before 22 January when it will be closed to allow us to respond in good time.

Update from SLT

You have heard me talk about the 'roadmap' before and we continue to regularly review and update the assumptions and models made for our recovery against what we see as the current and developing situation. This includes assessing which elements of the business are likely to experience the best, medium or worst case scenarios in the coming weeks. As you can imagine this is a complex and ever changing task but our approach has been tested and has proved fairly accurate so far. This will be reported to the upcoming Finance and Administration Committee and then to the Board of Trustees in March. We will continue to maximise the help we can get from utilising the government furlough scheme. This is to help maintain cash levels and, ultimately, safeguard jobs into the future. January arrangements have already been notified to all staff via line managers and February arrangements will be notified in due course.

IT Equipment and Printers to help home learning

The shortage of suitable equipment to help learners at home has hit the headlines again. As we don't have students in at the moment we may be able to help out with this, so do not hesitate to raise it with your manager if you think we could. I am aware that some of you may also be in need of equipment such as laptops or even printers. A plea from Digital; please don't just help yourself to items because some of the equipment is leased and doesn't actually belong to us. Contact Digital and they will do all they can to provide support and of course track where these items are going.

#Naturelive2021 FSC's New Primary Education Offer

Demand for FSC's resources and the support that we can offer to teachers and learners during lockdown continues to grow, our content views are increasing online and we now exceed 600 subscribers to our YouTube Channel. A recent review of our primary offer found that even though we have primary content through #FieldworkLive and the Royal Society of Biology's Science at Home programme, there is still more that we could do. FSC will be launching #Naturelive in late January and early February. There will be five live sessions run through the FSC YouTube Channel around the themes of nature walks at two different times, birds, ponds and wild skills. The sessions will be free but we will encourage participants to visit our page after the session and donate if they can. We will also be running special publications, promotions and sales. We will all look forward to seeing the team (including Lou's pet tortoise) resume their starring roles.

Welcome to two new centre managers

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome and introduce two new Centre managers: Liz Cain will be joining us as the new Centre Manager at Rhyd-y-creuau and will bring many years of experience with her. She has run a range of centres for different providers including PGL, Manor Adventure and other leisure organisations. Her most recent role was as Head of Centre for an 80 acre site for 250 guests. She will also continue that great FSC tradition of having academic expertise in rather interesting areas as Liz is currently finishing her masters dissertation on Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Byelaws and whether these byelaws change environmental behaviours.

We have also appointed Dan Grewcock as the new Centre Manager at Nettlecombe Court. Dan has spent the majority of his professional career working for PGL in leadership roles in both operations and facilities teams but also managed to fit in time as a volunteer policeman in Wiltshire and a Rescue Technician and trainer when in Australia. Dan is also studying a masters at Sheffield Business school and admits to still having an Aussie twang.

I hope you will join me in welcoming both Liz and Dan who were successful in a very strong field of excellent candidates.

Article in Education Today

Despite the current lockdown, FSC continues to highlight the benefits of outdoor learning and in particular the role that we can play in the country's recovery. We secured a two page spread in the Education Today magazine which you should be able to [view here](#). There are a number of interesting articles including one on Climate Education.

Keep safe and stay well

Mark