

Thu 06/05/2021 09:44

Dear Colleagues,

It's a multiple Election Day with multiple choices where some of us could be forgiven for trying to choose those that they hope will do the least amount of damage. It's not quite back to normal however. Apparently the pencil on a bit of string is no more, so don't forget to take your own along with you when you go to vote.

School Trips Guidance

The Welsh Government updated the guidance on Friday which allows for day visits but continues to advise against residentials and at time of writing, the updates due this week have yet to be published. Bookings suggest that we may well have a busy autumn.

All Staff Zoom on the New Brand

You can [catch up](#) with yesterday's zoom about the new brand. A new Slack channel **#fsc-brand** has been set up to capture staff thoughts and there is a link to the slides from the presentation. There has been an enthusiastic response and a lot of posting so please do join the channel, have a look and have your say before the team meet again next Wednesday. Designer Rebecca is also on the channel to help answer any questions you may have.

New Centre Managers

A warm welcome and congratulations to Andrea Leng who will be taking up the post of Centre Manager at Malham Tarn, and to Arran Holdsworth who has been appointed Acting Centre Manager at Preston Montford. Both come with a lot of knowledge and experience. Andrea is currently an HE lecturer at the University of Derby and completing her PhD. She has been Head of Geology/ Biology in Birmingham schools and will be known to some of you as a former Senior Tutor and Deputy at Blencathra. Before becoming Education Team Leader at Preston Montford, Arran was Programme Manager of Land Based Studies at Derwen Specialist College in Oswestry. He has also worked as an Education Manager with the British Red Cross and was Deputy Head at Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre in Llangollen, where he worked for 10 years. Prior to that he taught Geography in secondary schools in Oswestry and Walsall.

Keeping Up with The Times

I wrote recently about the hard work that goes into getting FSC news and features into the press, so I'm pleased to say that we have picked up more great coverage. The Times featured the FSC's Millport Family Safari holiday in its '25 family adventure holidays in the UK' feature on Saturday. [Here's the link](#) unfortunately you won't be able to read the full article unless you have a subscription but I have included it for those who might have one.

Mental Health Awareness Week 10th – 16th May

I'd like to thank Zena from the HR team for her hard work in tracking down and making available all sorts of useful resources that help keep our own mental health in good condition and to support others to do so. You can find them on the [Staff Wellbeing Pages](#), or in the HR folder in the [Document Archive](#). To reflect upcoming Mental Health Awareness Week Every Mind Matters is being updated with new resources to help with the many aspects of coping with Covid-19. In addition to the Every Mind Matters [Mind Plan](#) there are practical tips and videos from experts on dealing with [stress](#) and [anxiety](#), boosting your [mood](#), [sleeping](#) better and what you can do to help others – including advice for [parents](#) and for [children and young people](#).

Digital Helpdesk

On Wednesday 12th May the Digital Helpdesk is being moved from a server at HO to the cloud. This means that on that Wednesday the helpdesk email will be in limbo during the move, and messages sent to the helpdesk may go missing. Please hold off sending new tickets or replying to existing tickets on Wednesday until Thursday. However, on Wednesday Digital will still be providing support, but by phone only (01743 852140) if the issue is not urgent please send an email on Thursday. After the move to the cloud, opening new tickets be the same as before. Simply send an email to digital@field-studies-council.org and it will be forwarded on to the new cloud-based helpdesk. Messages from the helpdesk to staff will be sent from digital@fieldstudiescouncil.on.spiceworks.com, just click reply to the emails as normal there is no need to modify this email address or add another email.

Special mention

This week's special mention goes to Gary Foster of the Digital department. Gary has been working long hours and weekends to get our bookings management system Cinolla ready for FSC's new trading arm. He has also been implementing changes that will improve functionality, provide better management information, and clearer data analysis. As with much of the work undertaken by the Digital team these efforts often go unseen and it is only on the very rare occasions when such systems and services go wrong that we as end users realise how important they are in helping us perform our roles on a daily basis.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark