

Thu 24/02/2022 14:07

Dear Colleagues,

I am sure that, like me, you would wish to spare a thought for those innocent people who are being affected by the tragic situation in Ukraine.

Living with Covid

The C-OPT team have been working through the implications of the PM's announcement for England, and changes due in Scotland and Wales too. The Health and Safety Working Group met today to iron out more of the details. As restrictions lift, one common thread is that adopting those routine Covid-19 behaviours into our daily routines will become an essential part of how we live with COVID-19.

Last Week's All Staff Zoom

It was a good turnout for last week's all staff zoom. Thank you for making the time and for engaging in the chat and discussions. The recording is [here](#) for those of you that missed it, or would like a recap of what was discussed. I shared the proposed organisational goals for 2022 and also a dashboard that we will be using to measure our progress towards those goals. After final sign off by the Board of Trustees we will provide an easier to read version. The meeting flagged up that some staff don't know how to order FSC publications for the centre shops. All FSC staff, centres and their shops are eligible for a 40% staff discount on the price of FSC fold-out guides. Ordering couldn't be easier. Simply drop an email to the Publications postal sales team in Telford on publications@field-studies-council.org, or phone them on 01952 208910, listing the guides and quantities that you need. You can [browse the full list of titles](#) but please don't make an order online, as you won't be able to get the staff discount this way.

Price Rises

I'm sure it will come as no surprise to either staff or our customers that the price of our courses will have to increase. The SLT have agreed a price rise of 6% for 2023 in order to ensure that we cover our costs. The nature of what we offer at centres means that FSC is disproportionately impacted by price rises in food, heating fuel and the need to recruit and retain enough staff. We are working on some extra messaging around this for centre and sales staff in case any of our customers want to know more.

FSC Apprenticeships

The recent National Apprenticeships Week saw one of FSC's own past apprentices take to the airwaves. Customer Relations Advisor Jess Horne, who started an apprenticeship with us when aged just 15, spoke to Radio Shropshire about what FSC has to offer. You can [hear her via this link 2hrs 52min into the show](#) Jess admitted to feeling nervous but there's no sign of it. We are starting to see apprentices move into permanent posts, for example in Hospitality and Catering via the Government's Kick Start Scheme. We have also welcomed back one former apprentice who re-joined FSC's marketing team on a permanent basis.

Back in September we welcomed a cohort of 10 Trainee Tutors to do a Level 3 Outdoor Activity Instructor Apprenticeship. I'm pleased to say that the plan to grow our own pool of talent is paying off as four have already been promoted to Tutor, and a further two have Tutor roles from March. Six months in, I asked them to reflect on their experiences so far:

Cam Jaramillo, now a Tutor at Margam wrote that *"Being offered the trainee tutor apprenticeship with Field Studies Council was a big turning point in my career path. After graduating university, and over a year of fruitlessly applying for jobs in the environmental sector, I finally had my foot in the*

door. I hadn't really considered education or teaching before this opportunity, but here I am 6 months later in a role as a full time tutor and excited for new prospects.

Emma Kendall, Tutor at Slapton wrote that *"The apprenticeship has been a great opportunity for me develop my skills and confidence in teaching, explore new areas of the UK, while meeting amazing, like-minded people along the way. After two and a half years in the PR industry, I've loved being able to work outside using my geographical knowledge gained at university. I've thoroughly enjoyed my first month and a half at Slapton Ley as a permanent tutor and look forward to learning more in the future ... and enjoying the summer months by the sea."*

Other Media Appearances

Jo Harris delivered an extensive interview with the National Association for Primary Education all about FSC's offer for primary education, and the benefits for outdoor learning particularly post pandemic. You can see the whole discussion on YouTube [here](#). At the other end of the age spectrum, Jo's blog for OCR on incorporating climate change into A level biology has just [gone live here](#).

Happy Landings

The Winter Olympics ski jumping provides some great analogies for life and work. Thanks go to staff from the digital team who have been working tirelessly to ensure that newly branded website not only launched but landed safely by sorting out potential bugs mid-flight.

Welcome to FSC this week:

Billie Crampton is our new Conservation & Engagement Assistant at Bishops Wood
Seasonal Tutors Nicola Brown and Sarah Sheehan at Dale Fort
Hospitality and Catering Assistants Paul Ryan at Juniper Hall, Toby Hembrow-McKinley at Nettlecombe Court, Olivia Breeze and Michelle Hansen at Rhyd-y-creuau
Cook and Hospitality and Catering Assistant Marth Van der Vliet at Blencathra
Casual Minibus driver Stephen Truman at Malham Tarn.

Farewell to Mary Jones

Mary from the marketing team is leaving us next week after four years. She will be very much missed by her colleagues for her artistic flair and her calm demeanour. During the height of the pandemic Mary was really a marketing team of one, seeing through new projects such as Stay with Us. Since then she has been instrumental in delivering our new brand. She is possibly one of the very few members of staff with an expertise in millinery. So we take our hats off to her and wish her all the best in her new role.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark