

Thu 17/03/2022 14:58

Dear Colleagues,

We continue to see horrific examples of inhumanity and potential war crimes being committed in Ukraine and I am sure you will be as appalled as I am by it all. Many of you will be considering what you can do <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-launches> gives details and there are many examples of local and national opportunities to help. Please be reassured that we as a charity are actively investigating how we can help and contribute to alleviating the plight of those impacted. If you do have any thoughts on how we might help please email j.blizzard@field-studies-council.org all ideas will be considered and are welcome.

Paper Published about #FieldworkLive

#Fieldworklive was a very bright spot in the dark year of 2020 as FSC engaged over 377,000 learners from 32 countries with our online learning and YouTube lessons. Who can forget the star turn by Lou's tortoise? Or the way in which our teaching staff became natural YouTube stars, camera operators and directors with their own Blue Peter style props for added impact? Now a [paper about #FieldworkLive](#) has just been published in the journal, Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary science education. It has been written by current staff member Bethan Stagg, previous staff member Janine Maddison and past FSC trustee Justin Dillon. It is an international journal produced as part of Springer's open access range, so we expect it to have considerable impact. Congratulations to all involved.

Increasing Phishing Attempts

Please be on the lookout for suspicious or unexpected work-related emails or communications. Some of our staff recently have been targeted directly via WhatsApp and email. In one instance, a member of our education team received a WhatsApp message purporting to be from me, asking her to make a purchase of gift cards. I will not WhatsApp you directly, nor ask you to purchase gift cards either. If you've had a similar experience this year but not reported it – please do so to the digital team. If you do receive an email or communication that is out of context or doesn't seem quite right, whether it's from a colleague or a customer, please also contact the digital team via digital@field-studies-council.org

Equality and Diversity Training

Field Studies Council believe in promoting equality and diversity in the workplace. The Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group have been working in conjunction with High Speed Training to provide appropriate Equality and Diversity training for all members of staff. This online training should take no longer than about 1-2 hours and we would like as many staff as possible to have completed the training before 7th April. Further details on how to access the training will be circulated to managers for cascade in the coming days.

Digital and Data Working Hours Trial

A number of members of the digital and data team will be trialling a new work pattern of a compressed fortnight where they work 9 longer days across a fortnight. This flexible approach is all part of initiatives to help with staff retention and wellbeing. Not all the team are changing their hours, but with some working longer days it does have the advantage of more cover being available to deal with any IT problems that arise and implement system changes outside of busy periods. The five month trial will hope to demonstrate this potential win: win for the charity as a whole and for staff members seeking to readjust their work life balance.

Amazon Vouchers

Some staff have not yet used the Amazon Voucher codes sent as a thank you for your hard work during the pandemic. Eligible staff would have received an email on the 9th December from amazonvouchers@field-studies-council.org with a 14 or 15 letter code. Please redeem the code by the end of April by adding it to your amazon account for later spending. I know that managers will help staff who don't usually access their emails often to do so. More information was in my catch up of the same date which you can see [here](#).

Special mention

Members of the finance team wanted to nominate Phil Clarke from the digital team for the unflappable way in which he deals with IT issues great and small. He's often in and out of head office dealing with kit, numerous deliveries and making sure that the right item ends up with the right member of staff.

Welcome to FSC this week:

Tutors James Appleby at Amersham and Andrea Sicignano at Margam

Keep well and stay safe

Mark