

Thu 12/05/2022 12:54

Dear Colleagues,

Queen's Speech

Sadly the environment didn't get much of a mention in yesterday's Queen's speech. Something that Prince Charles would possibly have liked to remark upon, but couldn't. Among the barrel scrapings is an Education Bill which is likely to bring in the proposals in the recent white paper. An area of slight concern for us is the anti-red tape/ anti health and safety narrative which reared its head again. One person's red tape is another person's safety harness. We will of course be keeping a very close eye on this. So much of our reputation and our ability to reassure customers rests on getting this aspect of our operations right. There are of course plenty of anecdotal and apocryphal stories out there about ridiculous Health and Safety rules but the bottom line is we need to keep our staff and customers safe and will continue to apply our judgements and maintain our standards.

Sales Record

Our approach to the timely gathering and monitoring of data from across the charity yields all sorts of useful information including good news. In the last week of April, the sales team added over £600k of bookings for the next 18 months. This is new record for a week of business and exceeds the weekly average of £250k by a significant margin. Thanks to all of you in the sales team. I know are working incredibly hard to accommodate our usual school and university bookings and slightly more complex holiday and exclusive use requests too.

Market Day on Monday

Sadly, this isn't a quaint artisan cheese buying event. It's the Department for Education's online bidders meeting for those interested in delivering the National Education Park and the Climate Leaders Award. We are still waiting for the detailed tender documents and the application time is likely to be short. I'd like to thank Jennie Comerford for her hard work in already talking to and lining up potential partners.

As part of the development work for the project, the Natural History Museum did a Rapid Evidence Review (rapid but long at 254 pages). A focus group of teachers recommended contacting organisations with appropriate expertise. We came out 5th out of 20 on the list, above many much larger and well-known organisations. The focus group was small, but it's good to see that our name and reputation are out there with teachers.

Radio Star

Congratulations to Jo Harris who delivered an interview on Radio Suffolk last week. A radio car pitched up at Flatford on spec with no prior warning and Jo had just 10 minutes to prepare. You can [hear her clip here](#) at 3 hours and 13 minutes in. It's a master class in how to "paint pictures" for a radio interview.

Welcome to FSC:

Amy Bandaranayake who is joining Epping Forest as a Tutor.