

Thu 02/06/2022 10:40

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to wish you all well as we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, whether you are a fervent monarchist or a staunch republican 70 years of service deserves respect and recognition. You may be working, relaxing or celebrating; regardless I hope that you have the opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy our June weather, in whatever form that may come to you over the Bank holiday weekend!

Money in the bank

Last week our cash holdings peaked at £5,931,000 just very slightly short of the £6m we were hoping to hit. Most of this is from customer deposits for future courses, which reflects the excellent work of the Sales Team to get money into our bank account. It also reflects growing customer confidence too. It's further proof, if any was needed, that the change to our terms and conditions made before Covid has made our financial position much more robust.


An Inspector Calls

With furlough fraud hitting the headlines, I'm pleased to say that an HRMC inspection into our furlough claim has given us a clean bill of health. The complexities of the furlough schemes (furlough, flexi-furlough and the job retention bonus) were such that individual calculations had to be done for every member of staff every month. Added to this were the frequent changes and extensions to the scheme at short notice and the variation in the % paid changed over time. This created a lot of work for the finance, HR and payroll staff in particular. It was worth it however, as the furlough schemes allowed us to claim a much needed £2.7m. Thank you to all of you who were involved.

Biodiversity Training for Housing Associations

Sanctuary Housing is one of the largest not-for-profit housing associations in the UK. FSC recently delivered some biodiversity training for their staff. It went down very well with the organisation and they particularly liked finding out that environmental policies could be so much broader than just carbon reduction. Since then an opportunity has opened up to talk to the national Charity Sector Procurement Group executive who are on the lookout for interesting speakers. A great opportunity to influence and spread the word.

Monthly Policy Monitoring Report for June

This month our Policy Officer reflects on dodgy political leaders, the new and very crowded Welsh Curriculum and a reason to be grateful to Gavin Williamson. Who knew? You can  [read it here](#).

Special Jubilee Mention

Something light hearted, celebratory and cake centric. Molly Gasson, daughter of Gill from our Customer Relations Team has been nominated by Gill's team mates. Here is Molly with her spectacular Jubilee Cake which won the KS2 school competition. The chocolate biscuit cake with iced shortbread decorations was all Molly's own work. Whilst getting permission to share the picture, Gill explained that her own involvement was limited to just clearing up red and blue food colouring marks after the baking session. Optimistic Molly is now planning cakes for an 80th Jubilee but perhaps we could persuade her to road test some for FSC's 80th next year.



Welcome to FSC:

At Millport, Ella Standish is joining as a Tutor and Daniel Begley as Hospitality & Catering Assistant
Job Forster is returning to Blencathra as General Assistant

Best wishes

Mark