

Thu 24/11/2022 08:10

Dear Colleagues,

Grants for Schools

This year the Grants for Schools programme simplified our offer, providing grants to state schools where at least 10% of students receive the pupil premium. The grants are paid over three years enabling schools to plan and embed outdoor learning more easily. The applications closed at the end of October and it probably won't surprise anyone that it was oversubscribed fourfold.

Of 172 applications, 33 schools have received offers to the value of £56,100 with another 10 on the waiting list. Schools who received offers include 1,454 young people from England, Scotland and Wales, across all age groups including one Special Needs school. Therefore nearly all centres will be hosting a Grants for Schools group. Dawn's team are now working to translate offers into reality and book them in.

Some of the applications really highlighted the difference that these grants can make *"These young people have high aspirations but have little experience of the countryside, and language of the countryside. These children often face disadvantages when trying to answer questions which require understanding of the language of ecology, finding find it hard to differentiate between hedgerows and hedgehogs."*

Our Bright Future

Since 2016, we have been involved in this very large scale National Lottery funded programme which is now drawing to a close after engaging over 128,000 young people. It composed of a portfolio of 31 different projects all with the shared aim of empowering those aged 11-24 which could lead to future environmental change. They were a mix of both local and national projects. We delivered three very different projects with partners: The Vision England project supporting 700 young people with visual impairment, The Growing Confidence project in Shropshire and also Green Futures in Yorkshire. We also developed a new project which successfully increased the diversity of those taking part in our Young Darwin's Scholarship Programme.

The [evaluation report](#) shares the key learnings and also sets out the positive impacts of nature on young people including


- Improved mental health and wellbeing
- Increased self-esteem and self-confidence
- New skills, knowledge, and qualifications
- Increased employability and aspirations for work and learning

Many staff over the years will have been involved in delivering Our Bright Future, but I would like to thank Jennie Comerford for leading on so much of it. There is a [video](#) that celebrates what some of the young people have achieved through Our Bright Future and although our particular projects are not featured, you get a clear sense of the difference that it made.

Ten Year Plan Zoom today at 1.30

Don't forget that if you have missed your local talk, or are based remotely please do join me at 1.30 today. Invitations have been sent. To avoid being the person frantically trying to type a question when the meeting ends, do feel free to send questions in advance to Joy J.blizzard@field-studies-council.org

Review of Royal Patronage

We recently heard from Clarence House that a review of Royal Patronage will be take place in the coming months. In the meantime, we have been asked to simply update the website to refer to *the former Prince of Wales* as Patron. You may already have received an updated  [letter head template](#) from the marketing team.

The King is keen to avoid waste so it's fine to carry on using materials that have already been printed. As another change will need to be made when we know the outcome of the review, can I reiterate Mel's request that if you do find references to the Patron, please drop the marketing team an email so we can compile a definitive list, marketing@field-studies-council.org is also the email to use if you need any support with letterheads or other templates.

Welcome to FSC:

Emma Passmore is joining Head Office as Higher Education Development Officer (7.5hpw)
At Juniper Hall, Sarah Bradford is returning as Hospitality and Catering Assistant and Gerry Brady is joining as the new Maintenance Officer
New Hospitality and Catering Assistant Kerry Morton is joining Flatford Mill and Jarosz Mateusz is joining Millport
John Tuffs is Slapton's new Housekeeping Assistant

Best wishes

Mark