

Thu 16/03/2023 08:44

Dear Colleagues,

This week the Senior Leadership Team and many other members of staff have been preparing reports for the upcoming annual Executive Weekend at the end of the month. It's a time to reflect on progress and the sheer amount of work and projects that have been carried out since the last one. Our focus though will be forward looking as we continue to roll out our plans in the face of a tricky economic climate.


The budget

I confess that sitting through the budget is like sitting through the news in order to catch the weather forecast. It's easy to drift off at the critical moment. However, I hope that the budget has brought you some slight relief with the extension of the support for domestic fuel bills. Sam Dhadwar will be going through the small print to look at any budget implications for our charity. The less good news is often hidden in the details.

Reminder to redeem your Amazon Voucher

On 9th December last year, eligible staff were sent details of how to redeem a thank you Amazon voucher. The email would have come from 'FSC Amazon Vouchers'. If you are one of the few who has not yet redeemed your voucher, you need to redeem or apply it to an amazon account before April 2023. It can be your account or one belonging to a friend or family member if you don't have an account of your own. Once applied to an amazon account, the voucher will be valid for almost 10 years.

Polite Reminder

Although the Chancellor has frozen alcohol duty on draught beer, I have been asked by the finance team to remind staff about what is - and what is not - an allowable expense. The details are included in section 9 of the  [Staff Handbook](#) on the intranet, but to save you looking for the key point, alcohol is not an allowable expense, so please don't add it to your claim form.

Special Mentions

I'm always glad to receive nominations for special mentions and share them with you, so do keep them coming, I've received two this week and congratulations to all involved:

The first is for Kate Payne and her team at FSC Slapton, especially Maintenance Officer Brian Thirtle. The team have been living and working with and around the severe disruption that building work on new staff accommodation brings. The situation was made far worse by one contractor pulling out and another running 5 weeks over schedule. The education team had to move offices, but they and the hospitality and admin teams all pulled together and mucked in to get the work done. It could not have been done without that great team effort and the nominee wanted to point out that nobody moaned.

The second special mention is for Tom O Boyle who is both the Seasonal Chef and General Assistant at Castle Head. Tom has been with us for 15 years, starting as General Assistant at Kindrogan and then at Blencathra. Since joining Castle Head in 2020 he has stepped into many different roles from centre cook to maintenance, housekeeping and grounds man. He has also covered the chef's role at both Malham and Blencathra. At the moment Tom is halfway through the chef's apprenticeship and is due to complete it shortly. The nomination was sent in on behalf of the whole team at Castle Head. They said that "Tom is a quiet man who is well respected by all that work with him".

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Jane Gordon-Chauvet is Flatford Mill's new part time Chef.

Mark