

Thu 27/04/2023 08:37

Dear Colleagues,

### **Consultations and Curriculum Changes**

The Westminster bubble may be distracted by other things, but the day to day work of government is continuing. The Education Select Committee is looking into the effectiveness or otherwise of Initial Teacher Training to which we have just submitted evidence.

A new [Education for 11-16 Year Olds Committee](#) has been set up in the Lords to consider 11-16 education in England. Of particular interest to us is their investigation into the effectiveness of the curriculum in equipping young people with the skills they need for the green economy. It's a perfect opportunity for us to make the case for better ecology and fieldwork skills and more opportunities for all learners to develop them. The Inquiry is also looking at the prioritisation of funding. This is particularly timely as we continue to see the cost of living crisis undermine schools and parent's ability to pay for residential.

There is almost constant clamour for curriculum, exam or assessment reform. England is overdue a review, but we must be very careful what we wish for because current curriculum and assessment requirements underpin so much of this charity's income.

### **Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III.**

Just in case you may have missed it, the Coronation of King Charles III is on Saturday 6 May. There will be a Bank holiday on Monday 8 May. This holiday is in addition to your annual leave allowance. If you are unable to take the holiday on the Monday you will be able to take a day off in lieu as with other scheduled Bank holidays.

### **Qualifications Wales Consultations**

Having developed GCSEs to line up with the new Curriculum for Wales, attention is now turning to the '[Full Qualifications Offer for 14-16 years olds](#)'. This will include a suite of Made-for-Wales qualifications to prepare learners for work and life, designed to sit alongside GCSEs. Skills in 'learning in the outdoors' and 'sustainability' have been suggested alongside subjects that are often championed such as sign language and first aid. We will be responding to the consultation on all of these ideas.

### **iHASCO - Online Training Platform**

The migration of online training over to iHASCO is going well with around half of centres now set up and completing training on the new platform. Feedback from staff is very positive with comments stating that the training is much improved, more informative and engaging, it includes some really good tips and is easier to understand. We hope to have all remaining staff registered by early May at the latest, so if you haven't yet received your invite keep an eye on your inbox over the next week or so.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact [j.bowen@field-studies-council.org](mailto:j.bowen@field-studies-council.org).

### **Earth Day Tweet**

Several members of staff have commented on the short but really thought provoking [video clip](#) that accompanied our tweets about Earth Day 2023. The clip was actually made by 16 year old Sophia Lewis (daughter of our Marketing Officer Anna). It was created especially for Field Studies Council as part of Sophia's college course in Creative Media. I would like to thank Sophia for putting her considerable talents to good use on our behalf and wish her all the best as she pursues further studies in film making.

**Catch up timings**

As some teams meet on Thursday morning they have found it useful to have the most up to date catch up in front of them. I'm going to aim to get the catch up out in the morning in future. Therefore, in a slight tweak to the internal comms protocol, any copy for the Catch Up needs to be sent to [J.blizzard@field-studies-council.org](mailto:J.blizzard@field-studies-council.org) by 9am on Wednesday. Joy is always happy to receive items for inclusion well before that deadline.

**Special Mention**

Head Office staff wanted to thank both Sam Dhadwar for his latest samosa run and Carina Parkinson who brought in some truly delicious bakes on her first day. They also wanted to give a special mention to Mike Etherington who often leaves very high quality biscuits in the kitchen for all to enjoy. These small acts of calorific kindness- that I know occur across the organisation - are much appreciated.

**Welcome to Field Studies Council**

Andy Ward has returned to Castle Head as Maintenance Officer and Janet Taffs is the new Administration Assistant  
Carina Parkinson has joined Head Office as Senior Administrator

Best Regards

Mark