

Thu 11/05/2023 08:03

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you were able to enjoy the Coronation bank holiday weekend

Bookings and Courses

It's a tough trading environment out there at the moment with school and parental finances under pressure. Ongoing industrial action can't make it any easier for schools to commit to residential. I know that the marketing and sales teams are just some of the many staff putting a huge amount of effort into retaining and chasing down new business. Some good news: Our [Duke of Edinburgh Gold](#) residential bookings have just reached £100k. This year we have two new courses – a history residential at Preston Montford and Conservation and Zookeeping at Slapton Ley in a new collaboration with Dartmoor Zoological Society. The latter course is already fully booked. We have also had a good response to the [Young Darwin Scholarship](#), at the end of last week we had already received 154 applications before the closing date of 4th June.

We have also joined the [Council of British International Schools](#) as an associate member to explore developing this area of business. It gives us access to large network of over 450 schools in 80 different countries with 165,000 students who 'follow a curriculum that is focused on British educational ethos and values' and typically has a focus on 'a range of opportunities in and out of the classroom'.

Westfield Health

It has come to our attention that not all staff received renewal letters from Westfield Health in January. Westfield sent letters out in April to all FSC staff, however, the deadline date for upgrading your cover or adding an extra adult was incorrectly left at 1 January 2023. We have been liaising with Westfield and an extension has just been agreed for **31 May 2023**. The application form can be found on My Westfield and needs to be emailed direct to Christopher Walmsley on the following email address christopher.walmsley@westfieldhealth.com Applications must be submitted by 31 May 2023. If applications are received within this date then both the enhanced cover and policy for the additional adult will cover pre-existing conditions (except for Personal Accident and Private Health Insurance, where applicable) and claims can be made immediately (except Maternity / Paternity / Adoption benefit which have a 10 month qualifying period).

Our Next Natural History Live Webinar

Conversations in my house about the woeful state of our highways revolve around giant potholes and the hope that more celebrities can be persuaded to fill them in. On a more positive note, the cracks in the pavements have provided an environment in which some plants thrive. Dr Bethan Stagg, known to many of us, will be presenting the latest of our free Natural History Live webinars at 1pm on Friday 26th May entitled [In Between the Cracks: Getting to know our wild urban plants](#). She will be talking about the ways that plants have adapted to all sorts of urban habitats and how to identify them. There will be time for a Q&A too. It's a free event but you do need to book. Just [click on the link](#) to find out more.

No Mow May

There has been some good media coverage of [No Mow May](#) but as you would probably expect, our centres are already well versed in managing grass cutting operations to balance the needs of wildlife, study opportunities, access and areas where our customers can enjoy sports. No Mow May certainly doesn't mean less work for the teams who are managing our estate for nature recovery under our Carbon and Nature Recovery Plan. We are custodians for protected species and habitats including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and every centre has its own Site Action Plan to manage all these responsibilities. Any photographs of the resulting wildflower meadows will always be gratefully received by the marketing team.

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