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Dear Colleagues,

Adventures Away from Home Successfully Delivered

Field Studies Council was recently granted government funding to deliver residential and day activities for disadvantaged young people. We have now finished delivery and the feedback so far has been really positive. The £1.5m fund provided bursaries for 8,500 young people, aged 11-18, or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to take part in outdoor learning.

We hosted residential and day courses and I'd like to thank those from the Blencathra, Nettlecombe, Juniper Hall, Flatford Mill, Epping Forest, London and Central Services teams who made it all happen. The project required a huge amount of flexibility among teaching and admin teams who juggled bookings, navigated last minute requests and even sourced packed lunches. This hard work has certainly paid off as students, including many who are often underrepresented, were able to spend time learning in nature. One visiting leader commented *"the students had a fantastic experience...this playfulness reinjected into our students was such a pleasure to see – no more serious teenagers attached to their mobile phones."*

Signs of Spring


It's three months since Amy Bandaranayake launched the [Signs of Spring](#) project and appeared on The One Show. We're halfway through the project which officially ends on 17th June and we'd like to keep the momentum going since the very large numbers of snowdrop sightings earlier in the year. There are 10 signs to record and we are now heading into peak bluebell time even if the first lawn cut has been delayed by the incessant rain. It's easy to [record a sighting here](#).

Developing Our Leadership

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) recently enjoyed a training session with our consultant, Kate Cooper. The workshop provided us with the opportunity to review the training that has already been provided for over two thirds of our leaders so far, including Senior Managers (*tactical level*) and Team Leaders (*operational level*). We also had the opportunity to reflect on the strategic level of leadership provided by the SLT.

This is the first step in our People Plan objective to develop and empower leaders at all levels and create a Field Studies Council leadership culture. This was identified as a need by both managers and also Investors In People. All leaders will have completed the training by the end of the year and we are also working on plans to develop the next phase. A big thank you to Mike Etherington and Zena Plaskett for co-ordinating the roll out.

EDI Strategy

The new EDI Strategy has been published and can be  [seen here](#).

Special Mentions

I've received two special mentions this week. Please do keep sending them in.

Firstly Joe Henley, Higher Education Placement has nominated the staff at Rhyd-y-Creiau for professionally and calmly giving first aid when he passed out repeatedly and had to be driven to A&E. All staff helped and sent kind messages to check in when Joe was in hospital. I'm pleased to report that Joe has fully recovered so thank you to the Rhyd-y-Creiau team for their care.

Secondly, on the contrasting but important theme of fun, Alice Shrimpton from Juniper has been nominated for her role of social secretary. Juniper have recently had a murder mystery night and an easter egg hunt followed by a Ceilidh. Future events include a black tie and poker night, quiz and curry night, outdoor cinema movie and BBQ. Alice dedicates a lot of her own time to this role, and it's very much appreciated by the team.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Simon Oddy has joined Castle Head as a Casual Minibus Driver
Aimee Punshon has joined Rhyd-y-creuau as a Seasonal Tutor
Both Will Langrish and Bageshwer Singh have joined Epping Forest as Tutors
Joe O'Brien has joined Flatford Mill as a Hospitality & Catering Assistant
James Troughton has joined Margam as a Tutor

Other staff changes

At Millport Stephen Taylor has become a permanent Head Chef and Gordon Hanlon has also become permanent Hospitality & Catering Assistant.

Rachel Scott took on additional responsibilities at Bishops Wood as a Forest School Training Coordinator (Lead IQA).

At Head Office Sarah Fenn has been promoted from Assistant Marketing Officer to Marketing Officer.

Previous catch ups can be found on the staff news website [here](#).

Best regards

Mark