

Thu 18/04/2024 08:30

Dear Colleagues,

Invitation to 'Take a Closer Look'

Invitations have been sent out to partners, supporters and potential customers to 'Take a Closer Look' at our new learning space in Greenwich Park. We are holding an event on 8th May to showcase what we offer learners and also celebrate our very long standing relationship with The Royal Parks.

Delivering fieldwork in this way makes it accessible to the 1.3 million learners in London and the many more who live and study within easy travelling distance. It's an important and growing area of our business. That's why we are inviting those who think that they know what we do and maybe assume that we are all about residential in remote locations to Take a Closer Look.

Stories and Images for the late Summer Occasional Staff Newsletter

I know that centres are heading towards some of their busiest times and therefore I'd like the Occasional Staff Newsletter planned for the late summer to really celebrate the best of what happened. New courses have been developed, community events are planned and many interesting projects in the grounds to develop everything from increased wellbeing to enhanced biodiversity will have taken place. We will be welcoming new customers, engaging with different faith groups, delivering more government funded schemes and rolling out new menus.

So much of this great work really needs to be shared more widely. I'd like to build up some short stories, photos or even video clips of what's been happening and put it all together after the schools break up in July. I hope that this advance notice will remind you to jot down and capture some of your centre's best moments.

Updated Staff Handbook 2024

The [staff handbook](#) has been updated and some items have been added or amended in response to changes in legislation. The highlights are:

- Section 9 the Expenses Policy has been updated with new simplified meal rates
- Section 13 the Paternity Policy has been updated with changes to notification requirements and the way in which leave can be taken.
- Also in Section 13, the Flexible Working Policy has been updated to reflect that a request for flexible working is now a right from day one of employment.
- In Section 14 there is a new Carer's Leave Policy. Employees now have the right to take up to 1 week of unpaid carer's leave every 12 months to give or arrange care for a dependant with long-term care needs.
- In Section 32 there is a brand new Cycle to Work Scheme which is available to staff.

Media Training at Juniper Hall

Staff at Juniper Hall this week completed some in house media training delivered by Joy. The team not only found out that they were rather good at it, but that a number of their upcoming projects and new ideas were likely to be of interest to local radio stations. This is part of our ongoing work to build up the number of staff that are confident to do more media work as the requests keep coming in. Do contact Joy j.blizzard@field-studies-council.org if your centre or team would like to give it a go.

More Signs of Spring

The rather unpredictable spring weather especially in Scotland has meant that it's taken until now for some of the most northern media outlets to run a piece on the [Signs of Spring](#) survey, but we've had some additional coverage this week in [Inverness](#) and finally [John O' Groats](#).

Next Week's Catch Up

There will be more information on the Cycle to Work scheme and as Joy is on leave please email items for the catch up directly to me by 9am on Wednesday.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

At Blencathra, Emma Camp joined as a Casual Hospitality & Catering Assistant and Stephen Truman became a permanent Hospitality & Catering Assistant.

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

Kind regards

Mark