

Thu 23/05/2024 05:46

Dear Colleagues,

No Falls Week

Last week was No Falls Week - a campaign from the No Falls Foundation which is dedicated to promoting safe working at height. We not only supported the campaign but have been encouraging others in the sector to get involved too. The stats below speak clearly to the scale of the problem.

As an education charity, working at height might not be the first risk that would come to mind regarding our activities. But from property maintenance to leading climbing adventures, there is a lot of work that goes on in the background to ensure our centres are well maintained and our procedures are efficient at keeping our staff and customers safe both inside and outside of the classroom.

We actually had 11 incidents related to falls from height in 2023, ranging from low ropes courses to ladders and even falls off bunkbeds so we are certainly not immune to the risks. Don't forget that all of our Operational Codes of Practice - including *OCOP B10 Working at Height* - can be found on the intranet [here](#).

IN 2022-23 ALONE



OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS



Sources: HSE - Fatalities in Great Britain, 2022 • Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations • Labour Force Survey • HSE Costs to Britain Model

Field Studies Council in the Media

Yesterday Mollie Clay, our Biodiversity Learning and Development officer joined the growing list of those who have stepped up to do a radio interview. The live interview on Radio Shropshire was all about the 2024 Young Darwin's Scholarship and thanks go to Mollie who did a great job explaining what's available for this year's scholars. You can listen to the interview [here](#) starting about 1:13 in. Don't forget to remind any young people you know who might be interested that the closing date is 2nd June.

Inquiry into Boy's Education

The [Education Committee](#) is doing a deep dive into how boy's' attainment and engagement in education and what can be done about their underperformance. Our submission focused on the many benefits of outdoor learning residential with some observations from both staff and visiting teachers on the positive impact that they have on boys in particular.

Still waiting

We are still waiting for two official announcements from government. One relates to a DEFRA funded project 'Generation Green 2' where we will be working as a member of the Access Unlimited Partnership again. The project aims to connect young people from disadvantaged areas of England with protected landscapes (ie National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). This will be either through day or residential experiences.

We are also waiting on the official announcement on the GCSE in Natural History. On asking for an update last week we were told that government are "still conducting the cross-government clearance process on the GCSE. That is taking longer than we would have hoped or expected so there's still no confirmed date".

We wait to see what impact the announcement of the General Election on 4 July may have on these.

Staff Survey

The deadline for the staff [survey](#) is fast approaching. You can use the link or the QR codes that have been put up in workplaces. You have until midnight on Sunday 26th May.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Hospitality and Catering Assistants Katie Pattison and Emma Burton have joined Castle Head and Preston Montford respectively.

Previous versions of the catch up can be found here on the [staff news page](#).

Kind regards

Mark