

Thu 13/06/2024 08:33

Dear Colleagues,

2025- 2030 Strategy Review

The Senior Leadership Team has almost completed a series of visits to centres, head office and publications to discuss the 2025-2030 strategy and get your ideas and feedback on the work so far. If you were not able to attend in person or join the zoom meeting, a recording was made and is [available here](#). If you have missed the live sessions but want to feedback on the specific questions posed you can send comments to me. Please put Strategy Feedback in the subject line.

Trainee Tutor Apprentice Recruitment

This year, we've returned to face-to-face interviews for Trainee Tutor recruitment. We received a high number of applications – over 70 for fewer than 10 positions. On Sunday and Monday, we held a successful selection event at Preston Montford. The 20 prospective trainees tackled a range of tasks, including presentations, micro-teaching exercises, and time management assessments. The process was very positive, and we look forward to repeating it in the future.

Thanks to Becky Langman (Apprentice Coordinator) for her excellent work in preparing the event. We'd also like to give a special mention to one of the candidates, Bethan, who brought a homemade 3-foot earthworm model as carry-on luggage on her flight back to the UK for the interview. It apparently caused a fair amount of discussion in the queue at the airport and was the subject of considerable scrutiny at the security gate.



Changes to the Welsh School Year Put on Hold

The Welsh Government recently consulted on changes to the school year. Proposals looked at ways to even out the length of terms and teacher workload, taking one week from the summer holiday and moving it to a 2 week half term in the autumn and occasionally de-coupling the holidays from Easter when Easter was particularly early or late. The thinking behind the changes was to support disadvantaged pupils at particular risk of falling behind during long holidays, and also support parents struggling to find appropriate summer holiday childcare.

The responses (described as "mixed" and with "contradictory" findings) was the largest to an education consultation ever received. Although responses were narrowly in favour of the changes, the government is going to take more time to consider them, given how much change is already underway in Welsh schools. So, no changes to the school year will be made in 2025/2026 and any decision has been put off until the next Senedd term. We will be keeping an eye on any outcome and implications for our Welsh centres, staff and customers in particular.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Graeme Hamilton has joined Millport as an Administrative Assistant.

Beth Archer has joined Flatford Mill as an Education Support Assistant.

At Juniper Hall, Josh Wood returned and Mima Semple has joined as Hospitality & Catering Assistants and Mike Moore has joined as a Maintenance Officer.

Andrew Watson joined Preston Montford as a Casual Chef.

There will be no Catch Up next week as I will be on leave, trying to set an example by staying away from non-emergency email mails. Previous Catch Ups and the latest Health & Wellbeing Newsletter can be found here on the [staff news page](#) of the intranet.

Best regards

Mark