

Thu 08/08/2024 08:30

Dear Colleagues,

New Letterhead Templates

The letterhead templates have been updated to reflect our new Chair of the Board. Therefore please use the new versions rather than recycling old ones. You can find the templates for a letter, a continuous letter for more than one page and a letter for our trading arm in the [folder here](#). The [brand assets folder](#) contains a range of items that you might need. However if you do need something specific or different, please don't design it yourself, but ask the marketing team who are the Guardians of the Brand.

New Welsh GCSE Geography from 2025

A lot of our campaigning and lobbying work goes on behind the scenes, where we keep persisting in making the case for fieldwork. One example is our involvement over many years in the development of the new Curriculum for Wales. The new (although still to be approved) [GCSE in Geography](#) has been published by the Welsh Awarding Body WJEC and a non-examined assessment is included as part of the fieldwork Unit.

One of our concerns with the early draft was a very heavy emphasis on learners doing fieldwork in their locality. We argued during the consultation that that this was too restrictive and could reduce the opportunity to explore landscapes in Wales and beyond - especially for disadvantaged learners. Consequently, that reference to exploring fieldwork in learners' locality has been removed to widen out the area that they can explore.

Of course, it is likely that most fieldwork will take place in a schools' local area, and we'd like to see more Welsh schools studying in our Welsh centres. The new curriculum, its cross curricular themes and its focus on *Cynefin* (the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar) could present some additional opportunities for us. Still going on in the background are discussions in Welsh Government on how every child in Wales could experience an outdoor learning residential.

Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

Whilst the equivalent Bill in Wales didn't make it onto the statute books, the one in Scotland is still [going through its stages](#). Currently the finances are being examined and there might be a possibility that the residentials become more closely linked to the curriculum. We are keeping an eye on progress.

Special Mentions

The 2023 Financial Statements have all been audited and approved by the Board. Trustees asked that their thanks be conveyed to all staff that were involved in the production of the Accounts and the Audit process. They gave particular thanks to the members of the Finance team recognising that the Audit process adds a significant amount of work over and above the normal tasks.

A message from the team at Slapton: *Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming Ryan, a Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant from Millport who wanted to visit another centre. Elke contacted all Centre Managers and asked if any of us were interested. Originally, Elke and I were going to do a swap as Stella, general assistant wanted to visit Millport. Unfortunately, Stella left*

just a week prior to the swap. The Slapton Team wanted to say a BIG thankyou to Ryan! He was absolutely fantastic and the team tried to poach him, and a thank you to Elke for providing that opportunity.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Sara-Jane Moy has started as an Admin and Customer Relations Team Leader at Epping Forest.

Pippa Lacey has returned to Field Studies Council as a Hospitality and Catering Assistant at Castle Head.

Lucy Elkington has joined the HR team as an HR Administrator.

Best regards

Mark