

Thu 24/10/2024 08:32

Dear Colleagues,

Staff Handbook

An updated version of the Staff Handbook has recently been uploaded to the Intranet:  [Staff Handbook October 2024.pdf](#). This includes the recently launched new Field Studies Council Values and a new Environmental Campaigns Protocol, as well as the usual appendix which summarises the changes that have been made. As the Handbook applies to all Field Studies Council employees, I strongly encourage all staff to remind yourselves of the contents.

Staff Surveys: like buses

I know it feels like it's Survey Season but each one has a different purpose and together they do help us identify where we are doing well and what we could do either better, differently or not at all. At the time of writing 115 staff have already filled in the IIP Survey which was emailed to you on 14th October. The deadline for responses is midnight on 27th so please take a few moments to respond.

We've also received some really excellent and thoughtful responses to the People Roadmap and are going through them in detail. We tried a new approach with that survey which was to seek ideas right from the start rather than ask your opinion on the leadership team's ideas at a later date. So thank you for braving the blank space and taking time to fill it in.

Harris Academy Thank You

An email came in last week from a Science Consultant with the Harris Academy who had been nominated for a Harris Transforming Lives Award. She wanted to dedicate the award to Dawn Cook and Jo Harris because between the three of them, they worked to find funding and deliver staff training so that every Year 13 Biology student at Harris has been offered a fieldwork opportunity. The email below speaks for itself so thank you to Dawn, Jo and to all who made this happen.

"All staff and students have come back with only positive things to say about their experiences of the Field Studies Council centres: their staff and locations. For many of our students it will have been the first time they have... stayed away from home without parents, carers or extended family; eaten food not prepared by family; prepared their own lunches; been to the British countryside; seen a sheep; stood outside in the wind and rain and actually enjoyed it; had games, stories and songs around a campfire; felt safe to walk in the dark and explore the great outdoors. And for many, certainly the first time in a long time they were able to reconnect with their inner child (already disconnected at such a young age).

On our return to schools, we have seen improvements in students accessing exam questions, resilience and confidence to apply knowledge to unfamiliar situations. In some more extreme examples, there has been a complete turn around in attitude towards learning – for the better."

Field Studies Council in the Media

Press and media work about the Generation Green 2 project finally got the go-ahead from DEFRA and has generated a lot of interest. As most of you know, the project has actually been

running since the spring but election rules delayed media announcements. Crafting nine different regional versions took a bit of work but has caught the eye of media outlets and also the BBC. You can hear Robyn Landy, GG2 Project Officer on Radio Somerset [here at 1hr 10mins in.](#)

Flatford Mill continues to get attention with an [article in the Telegraph](#) about perfect views, and now the new National Gallery's [Discover Constable and the Hay Wain Exhibition](#), where the article flags up again the recent Secret Suffolk podcast. Claire Madder and Di Warren from Flatford were invited to the opening where Field Studies Council got a mention. Here's Claire, who also helped out on the press visit, in front of the real thing. As Di put it, "It's REALLY BIG and was GREAT to see it standing proud on a dedicated wall".



Special Mention

Shropshire is used to flooding, but it's usually the river rather than exceptional rain that causes us problems. I've been asked to thank the team at Preston Montford for their quick thinking when flooding closed the usual fieldwork site and many roads and they arranged alternatives at very short notice for the visiting Generation Green school.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Jason Mayall has joined the team at Preston Montford as a Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

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

Best regards

Mark