

Thu 15/05/2025 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

Grants for Schools

Our flagship programme [Grants for Schools](#) is re-opening for applications on the 19th May with a huge £55,000 bursary pot that is aiming to support around 400 young people to take part in outdoor education at our Field Centres both residential and day. This would not be possible without the generous donations and fundraising efforts of both our supporters and team members, so many thanks to them.

Birmingham City Council Parks

Field Studies Council and Birmingham City Council have signed a MoU to work together to deliver high-quality environmental education across the city's parks. This agreement will support the ambitions in the Birmingham City of Nature 25-year plan alongside City of Nature Alliance organisations. Although Field Studies Council delivery will focus on key parks, with over 600 green spaces in the city, we will be able to reach more people by delivering fieldwork and nature connections on their doorstep. Working in urban greenspaces will expand our current Urban Geography offer.

Thank you to those who got this agreement over the line at a time when the City Council has had other things on its mind. If you have contacts in Birmingham, organisations or schools that may be interested in what we do, please get in touch with Vicki Wood or Helen Robertson.

Royal Visits and Garden Parties

We are now able to go public with the date of a visit from our Patron HRH The Princess Royal. She will be visiting Preston Montford on 8th July and has particularly asked to meet some of the charity's beneficiaries who are on site that day. I have worked with the Princess Royal who was Patron of my previous charity and she is a fantastic advocate for the charities that she supports. Over the last year of working with her staff we know that HRH wants to see for herself where her Patronage can make a real difference, so this first visit is a really important part of exploring those ideas.

Jeff Sissons and I will shortly be attending The Princess Royal's Charities Forum, convened by The Princess Royal to discuss with other charities key issues that we are all facing including financial, public trust and the opportunities and risks presented by new technologies.

On a lighter note, Nick Laphorn and Catherine Gillatt attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for charities after being invited by our Patron. Yesterday Helen Robertson and Jo Harris attended another after receiving an invitation from the King for those involved in education.



TCS London Marathon 2026

Would you be interested in running 26.2 miles through London in the world's most iconic marathon?

Following the fantastic success of Sam Thurston's London Marathon run, we are delighted to have secured one charity place in the TCS London Marathon 2026. This place will be exclusively open to Field Studies Council staff, trustees and our partners at Rivervale and Sprayway to apply for. Please register your interest [here](#). Applications will be subject to a selection process and you will need to commit to raising a minimum of £2,000. The deadline for applications is Saturday 31st May, with the successful applicant notified early June.

Coming Soon: New Employee Hub

HR are pleased to share with you that the new Employee Hub will be launched shortly. It's a newly created intranet section for all staff with a set of pages that will be replacing the existing HR employee zone documents. Its aim is to provide us all with easy access to everything we may need throughout our employment. This includes appointment information, forms, our staff handbook, policies, guidance and workplace benefits and wellbeing offerings.

Pulse Survey – there is still time to have your say

The Staff Pulse Survey landed in inboxes on Monday, and we're pleased to see that over a quarter of you have already responded. A big thank you to managers who have displayed the QR code in workplaces, making it easy for colleagues to take part using their phones. If you haven't had a chance yet, there's still time. The survey is open until midnight on Sunday 25 May 2025.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Ralf Banks has joined the team at Blencathra as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

Grace Macmillan has joined the Biodiversity team as Biodiversity Course Administrator.

Previous versions of the catch up can be found on [Staff News page](#).

Best regards

Mark