

Thu 12/06/2025 09:20

Dear Colleagues,

The Princess Royal's Charities' Forum

Our Patron decided to spend her birthday hosting a forum for her many patronages at Buckingham Palace to discuss some key themes and issues that we all face. Jeff Sissons and I were invited and it's [clear from her speech](#) that HRH is very experienced, well informed and hugely insightful. Her focus is always on the beneficiaries and her power to convene meetings between charities does allow us to learn from each other and become more effective as a result. We are looking forward to her visit on 8th July and yesterday had a detailed meeting with her staff. As soon as we get the final sign off on the timings and programme for the day, we will share it.

"It's No10 on the phone"

We were really pleased to get a call from No10 asking us to participate in Lessons at 10, an initiative set up during the previous PM's term of office to enable school children to see behind the scenes. Every Friday in term time, school children from across the country visit No10 for lessons on a variety of themes. Last week, members of the [Eco Team at Birdham Primary School](#) specifically requested a lesson on an environmental theme. Thank you to Helen Robertson who at fairly short notice delivered a 1 hour lesson where the learners mapped the habitats in the No10 gardens, investigated the biodiversity and then suggested ways to make it more wildlife friendly. So continuing our recent theme of staff being pictured at important locations, here's Helen at the famous black door.



Spending Review

It's never easy to work through the smoke and mirrors of government spending announcements and their impact on us, but Sam Dhadwar will be doing just that. A boost to education spending has been heavily trailed and spending on youth services had already been announced from the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). It included an investment of over £145 million in youth funding for 2025-2026. On the list is £1.5 million for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award to increase access to the scheme and £4.7 million to increase access to outdoor learning opportunities "to foster positive relationships with movement, physical activity, and build socio-emotional life skills". This sounds promising, but rumours are rife in Westminster that the so-

called Ministry of Fun is about to be disbanded and possibly shared between the Department for Business and Trade and that well-known, fun-loving department the Treasury.

How do you travel to work?

We all travel to work in different ways, some of us work from home, an office or learning location. Each of our journeys to work has an impact on the environment, which forms part of our carbon footprint. We are committed to reducing our organisational carbon footprint over time.

Please share some basic information about your daily journey to and from work on this quick and easy Microsoft Form: [Staff commuting survey - how do you travel to work?](#) Sharing your information helps us understand, track and reduce our organisational carbon footprint over time.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Issy Garner has joined the team at Slapton as General Assistant

Ryan Saunby has joined the team at Castle Head as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Julie Vaclavik has joined the team at Nettlecombe as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Special Mention

Kate Chesshire will be celebrating 20 years with the Field Studies Council tomorrow. After starting at Preston Montford as a kitchen assistant, she has had roles within the Preston Montford Office and the Biodiversity Team before starting her Credit Controller role at Central Services in June 2021. The team have duly celebrated with lots of cake.

Previous catch ups can be [found here](#).

Best regards

Mark