

Thu 17/072025 08:19

Dear Colleagues,

Better Futures Fund

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport [has announced](#) the launching of the £500m Better Futures Fund, aimed at supporting up to 200,000 vulnerable children and families over ten years. Its focus will be on breaking down barriers to opportunity by improving education outcomes, reducing youth crime and reoffending, and providing tailored support for issues like exclusion, mental health, and addiction.

It will be delivered by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, so perhaps rumours of that department's imminent demise are a little premature. The fund is intended to attract an additional £500m from local government, social investors, and philanthropists. Of particular interest to us could be projects that focus on in-school support to boost attendance and achievement. We will know more when the details and eligibility criteria are published "in due course". As this initiative also feeds into the Government's upcoming Child Poverty Strategy, which is due in autumn 2025, those details might not emerge until then.

Photos from the Royal Visit

Those involved on the day have had a sneak preview of these. Here's just one that sums up the fun. There are lots more and if you want to have a look through you can see them in the folder below where they are not necessarily in chronological order. You can download them for personal use - ie for the family album, but please respect the restrictions on social media or posting on public platforms.

[☐ All photos - personal use only not for posting on public platforms or social media](#)



I know many of you took some great behind the scenes photos on the day, of your dressed up colleagues and at the rehearsal when Sian stood in as Her Royal Highness, so please do upload them to this folder. [☐ Photos taken by staff](#)

There are no new starters this week.

Special Mention

This weekend, Preston Montford is hosting another Anne. Anne Beeston from the finance team is holding her wedding party at PM. So congratulations to Anne and Ben and we wish them all the very best in their life together.

Best regards

Mark