

Thu 07/08/2025 08:27

Dear Colleagues,

### **MPs (like busses)**

The summer recess gives MPs the opportunity to get out and about in their constituencies. Even before the election we had very deliberately increased our regular contact with them. We don't always have a specific ask but like to keep them updated and always offer them the chance to visit. This persistence is paying off. Recently newly elected MP Claire Hughes (pictured below with Tutor Georgia Creig and Centre Manager Shell Waters) came to Rhyd-y-Creiau for a tour and an in-depth discussion. Today Caroline Voaden is visiting Slapton and Stephen Kinnock is soon to be visiting Margam.



We are pleased that Westminster MPs in devolved administrations are really starting to understand that whilst education is a devolved issue, English policy and decisions made in Westminster have a profound impact on the charity wherever the centre is based. For example, 87% of RyC learners come from England, and policies from VAT on private school fees to increased employer's national insurance can affect us significantly. We are using these visits to get our MPs up to speed with the key issues so that on return to the next Parliamentary session they will be better informed to deal with some of the big upcoming policies - curriculum reform, youth strategy and access to green space to name just three.

### **Media Coverage (also like busses)**

Last month saw significant national, regional and local coverage with 38 high value media placements, 157 brand mentions and coverage reaching 2.8 million people. Our work to help deliver the new Welsh Geography GCSE got good coverage in the [Welsh press](#). Two other big stories included our role in the successful delivery of Generation Green II and the visit by our Patron HRH the Princess Royal. Coordinating our response to Generation Green II with YHA by amplifying coverage at a local centre level was effective, here's just one example in [Charity Today](#). Coverage of the [Royal Visit](#) was brought to life by some really good interviews with both our staff, teachers and learners.

### **Test Match Special**

This might not mean much to non-cricket fans, but the recent "ladybirds stopped play" incident during the England v India test match led to a fair amount of not particularly expert commentary on things entomological by the Test Match Special Team. So we sent them our fold out charts for ladybirds and butterflies should a break in play offer another opportunity for them to comment on passing wildlife beyond the usual pigeons at long leg. Unfortunately for us, the cricket was too exciting and as far as we know, our charts didn't get a mention. Next year we will send them off in time for the 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Possibly with a cake.

### **Group Bookings**

I know that a lot of centres are hosting exclusive use bookings and large groups, and that this can sometimes entail a fair amount of work and a good deal of patience. So, thank you to those involved as it is a significant income producer for the charity.

### **Welcome to Field Studies Council**

Erika Pavilioniene has joined the team at Epping Forest as Cleaner.

Jodie Woodman has also joined the team at Epping Forest as Administrator.

Also this week congratulations to:

Kelsie Cooling has been promoted to the role of Tutor at Epping Forest.

Please don't forget to send in nominations for special mentions, photos and news by 9am on Wednesdays for inclusion in the catch up.

Best regards

Mark