

Thu 9/10/2025 08:01

Dear Colleagues,

Investors in People accreditation 2025

We're getting ready for our Investors in People (IIP) accreditation. This is an opportunity to showcase Field Studies Council as a great place to work. It is a chance for us to share how proud we are of our organisation, and to highlight to the wider world what makes Field Studies Council so special.

The process begins with a **survey**, and this will be followed in November by an assessor visiting some of our centres and also running online interviews, so that people from across centres and departments can share their views. The survey is an opportunity to be open and honest, to talk about what could be improved, but equally to share what we value and what makes Field Studies Council a great place to work. Both are important.

The survey will land in your inbox on **Monday 13th October** and will run for three weeks. Please do take part. Every response helps IIP build a clear and balanced picture and will show the pride we have in Field Studies Council as well as the areas where we can get even better.

The Big Give -Christmas Challenge

This Christmas we are aiming to raise **£35,400** to support our flagship programmes — **Grants for Schools and Young Darwin Scholars**. With the [Challenge](#), every pound donated can be **quadrupled**, making donations go even further.

I'm delighted to share that we've already reached our pledge target of **£10,200**. We have just had confirmation that the Big Give 'champion' funders will add **£7,500** to our match pot. The final step will be the live campaign running 2nd–9th December 2025.

Special Mention

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the recent supplier demonstrations for our new HR and payroll system. Your input will be invaluable in helping us make the right choice. We're especially grateful to our staff assessors – Em Kendall, Ellen Monaghan, Liz Willcox, Clare Rooney, Julie Bowen, Jo Vere, Nick Laphorn, Janette Ford, Lucy Elkington, Paige Philipps and Sam Dhadwar - who took time out of their busy schedules to review key areas such as employee self-service, recruitment and onboarding, e-PDR, payroll and reporting.

And also thanks must go to the core team of assessors – Gary Foster, Elaine Davies-Long, Trevor Fitch and Andy Cawthray - who stayed the course from 9 to 5:30 over 3 full days of detailed demonstrations, requiring a lot of concentration and commitment.

Your energy, engagement and questions throughout the demonstrations were an exceptional team effort. The suppliers' feedback echoed that. We're now pulling all the scores and feedback together and will soon announce which system has been selected. Everyone's input will form part of that final decision. Thank you again for helping shape this important work.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Isla Baldwin has joined the team at Castle Head as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

Previous Catch Ups can be found [here](#)

Best regards

Mark