

Thu 13/11/2025 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

### **The English Curriculum and Assessment Review and the Government Response**

As with so much in life, it's good in parts. The headline positives are that the importance of hands-on experiences that engage curiosity, fieldwork and practical science are highlighted and acknowledged. The opportunity for all learners to be able to study the separate sciences is also welcome. Climate change and sustainability have really come to the fore and will be properly embedded in the curriculum for the first time including in geography, science and citizenship.

One area of significant concern is that despite the warm words about fieldwork, the upcoming light touch review of Geography GCSE content has been given a clear steer that "*Great care should be taken not to inadvertently create access problems for socio-economically disadvantaged students based on geographical location or the potential costs associated with fieldwork trips and resources. Any amendments should not imply fieldwork involving costly, far-afield trips. Instead, any changes should highlight that effective fieldwork can be delivered through, for example, local visits, and that schools can be supported through additional guidance and initiatives*".

We will have time to prepare our arguments for residential field trips and all their benefits in the context of 'enrichment', which for some disadvantaged learners might be their only opportunity to experience somewhere other than their immediate local area.

### **Remembrance Day Online Gathering 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Thank you to Gus Goodwin and Nick Laphorn for leading us through our pause for reflection on Tuesday

### **Youth Panel Weekend Residential at Castle Head**

The new cohort of our Youth Panel were welcomed by Ellen Monaghan and Jo Harris. They are a diverse group of volunteers aged 16-25 who help steer our work to engage diverse young audiences and share youth perspectives on education and programmes. The group had a fantastic weekend exploring, learning about work across Field Studies Council and planning projects and priorities for youth engagement and inclusion.

Feedback from the Youth Panel about their experience:

*"Being part of a Youth Panel is more than just taking part in meetings... it's about representation – feeling that your voice matters, and that through collaboration, it can help shape something bigger. The Field Studies Council truly embodies education for everyone – and this weekend reminded me what that looks like in practice."*

*"I'm excited to contribute to the charity's mission, especially by continuing to champion equality, diversity and inclusion in environmental spaces."*

*"What stood out most was the people – passionate people from all walks of life who share a common direction: a future where nature connection and environmental education are for everyone."*

Ellen and Jo are very excited to be working with such an inspiring and engaged group of young people who are volunteering their time and skills to support our mission. They also want to thank all the team at Castle Head for hosting the group and in particular Dave, Sonia and Lucy for their support in organising and delivering the weekend, and thank you to Carol for joining online to run a social media and marketing workshop.



### **The 12 Days of Christmas Charity Giveaway - please nominate us**

It's that time of year again when by simply nominating us, we are in with a chance of winning £1,000 from the Movement for Good. You can nominate Field Studies Council [here](#). Last year we were successful and the more individual nominations, the greater our chances. You can only nominate us once so do spread the word with friends and family. Please choose 'Field Studies Council 313364' from the drop down box.

### **Special Mention**

For the second month running (Sept/Oct) our centre-based education teams have achieved the amazing feat of meeting or exceeding expectations of 100% of customers on quality of tuition-resources-delivery. In October we exceeded 65% of customers' expectations on tuition quality which is outstanding in a busy, long term and especially when our customers already have very high expectations of us. A big thank you and well done to you all.

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

Milo Hayes has joined the team at Blencathra as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

Click [here](#) for previous catch ups, and [here](#) for the latest Occasional Staff Newsletter.

Best regards

Mark