

Thu 22 01 2029 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

Centre visits and presentations

Yesterday was the first online staff presentation that I'll be doing in the coming weeks both on zoom and in person. It's an opportunity to talk with all of you about our strategy over the next few years and how we are planning to meet the many and varied challenges that we are facing.

The Senior Leadership Team has listened carefully to your feedback on strategy presentations, and that you would prefer one consistent presenter. So I'm looking forward to being able to visit all the centres in the coming weeks to talk about our strategy over the next few years.

Sam's Marathon Challenge

Last year's many successful fundraising initiatives saw over £300,000 raised for the charity and included Sam Thurston's London Marathon triumph. Now Sam Dhadwar is on the run but has set himself an even bigger challenge. I'm tempted to say that he doesn't do things by halves but this time he is because he's aiming to run 2.5 marathons in 15 days to raise £25k. You can see his [fundraising page here](#) where he sets out why he's doing this. It will be updated with his progress and photos as he trains. I hope that as many as possible will support him and there will be more opportunities to get involved with our fundraising campaigns in the coming year.

Correlation is not causation - you don't have to be called Sam to run Marathons for Field Studies Council, and we have secured a place in the 2027 London Marathon for staff of any name. In the meantime, good luck Sam.

Staff Pay Award from April 2026

The Board has agreed a 2.5% cost of living pay award for all employees. However, for some employees the award will be higher because of the combined effect of the new National Living Wage (NLW) and our policy to maintain a minimum 2% differential between scale points.

The National Living Wage rate is increasing by 4.1%, from £12.21 to £12.71 per hour. Field Studies Council's scale point 4 is equivalent to the NLW and will therefore increase accordingly. In order to maintain the 2% differential between scale points as noted above, the following increases will be applied to the salary scale with effect from April 2026:

- Scale Points 4-19: 4.1%
- Scale point 20: 3.0%
- Scale Point 21 and above: 2.5%.

The current salary scale can be found on the Employee Hub here: [Salary Scale April 2025.pdf](#) and the new scale will be published in due course.

Margam Park's Roman Villa

In last week's catch up I mentioned that the recent discovery of large scale Roman remains at Margam Park had created a buzz. Here are Siân and Amanda with Dr. Alex Langlands who

heads up the Swansea University led ArchaeoMargam project. The very well attended open day was an ideal opportunity to build some relationships with key organisations who might be very keen to stay on the site in the coming months.



There are no new starters this week, but click on the links to see previous [Catch Ups](#) and [Occasional Staff Newsletters](#).

Best regards

Mark