

Thu 29 02 26 08:30

Dear Colleagues,

### **Strategy Presentations**

There was a good attendance for the two online presentations about our strategy for the next few years so thank you to those who managed to carve out some time in the day to attend. I'm looking forward to a busy timetable of visits to all the centres in the coming weeks and to talking with as many of you in person as possible.

### **Feedback from United Learning**

*"I was blown away by Castle Head...I do not think we can thank you enough for all you have done."*

[United Learning](#) is a very large and diverse Multi Academy Trust. Some of their schools use us already but by no means all do so. Some really targeted excellent work by both sales and education staff has continued our strategy of engaging with Trusts that has been highly successful with Harris Academies. Sales & Customer Relations Manager Dawn Cook and Education Manager, Jo Harris have worked together to target the academy curriculum leads with a soft sell combination of visits to showcase our offer, CPD support and support when we have funded projects to help those learners who would otherwise struggle to come along.

We have run two showcase events for United Learning, one at Greenwich and the latest at Castle Head. Thanks to the many staff who worked very hard on the events and those who will now be following up to turn United Learning's enthusiasm into bookings.

*"Wow! You really did put on two great days. Our HoDs have been buzzing since the meetings. The afternoon sessions were really useful giving practical ideas to take back to school, both settings were great."*

### **Signs of Spring TV interview**

Thank you to Tutor Georgia Creig at Rhyd-y-creuau for stepping up to do a TV interview on ITV Wales about [Signs of Spring](#). I got the sense that the reporter was very pleased to get out and about and report on something positive. The programme only stays online for 24 hours so we are tracking down a proper copy for the records.

Please don't forget to submit your sightings of 10 signs of spring for this year's survey [here](#).

### **Millport Ferry**

Something else that hit the [headlines](#) this week was the plans to cut the number of ferry crossings to Millport by 25%. Changes to the timetable that are to take effect in March has caused a great deal of concern on the Island. A campaign has already gathered considerable momentum with half the population turning out for a protest at the weekend.

We have added our support as you would expect, asking the Cabinet Secretary in the Scottish Parliament to intervene and setting out in a letter the potential impact that these changes would have on our customers and the charity as a whole. Since then, a meeting has been organised

between the ferry company and the Cabinet Secretary. It was due to take place yesterday so at the time of writing we are waiting to hear the outcome.



There were no new starters this week.

Best wishes

Mark