

Thu 12th March 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Leadership Forum

The forum met last weekend to discuss in detail issues such as income generation, productivity drivers like AI and working collaboratively on projects. There were many opportunities to bring colleagues up to speed with areas of work across the charity and for trustees to have an opportunity to meet with the staff responsible. We also took time to have an open review on progress with our strategy and the challenges facing us in navigating the very turbulent operational environment.

Outcome of the Board Meeting

At the weekend the Board approved the outcome of the governance review that has been underway over the past few months. This work has been about making sure our governance keeps pace with the organisation we are becoming and supports delivery of our long-term strategy. The review confirmed that our governance is fundamentally strong, but identified opportunities to simplify structures, clarify decision-making and ensure the Board's committees are closely aligned with the priorities set out in the 10-Year Programme.

As part of this review, a new **Commercial & Fundraising Committee** has been established. The committee will provide strategic oversight of income generation, partnerships, sales, marketing and fundraising activity, helping to ensure we continue to strengthen the financial resilience that underpins our charitable mission and future reach. The committee will include a staff representative, and we invite expressions of interest from colleagues who would like to take on this role and help bring staff insight into the discussion. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Carina Parkinson.

Nettlecombe's Nightline Course

The team at Nettlecombe have been busy creating a new nightline course this Spring. A nightline obstacle course is a rope guided trail that students complete blindfolded. It is designed to build trust, teamwork, and communication. It was a full cross-team effort from sourcing donated materials, moving brash piles in the woods, digging in tyres and posts - and all the hours outside in the mud and rain following Storm Chandra. The aim is to utilise our centre grounds more towards delivering the Experience Outcomes.

Below are photos of the build team and the test team



Post 16 Qualifications

Government has [published its response](#) to the consultation on post-16 Level 3 and below pathways. As a result, they are committing to three major changes - the introduction of V Levels, the expansion of T Levels, and clearer Level 2 routes through new Occupational and Further Study pathways. V Levels (vocational pathway) are for students who would like to explore sectors without specialising, but can benefit from breadth, transferable skills and progression flexibility. We were really pleased to see that our suggestion for a V level around Environmental / Sustainability / Green Skills is to be explored in greater depth.

Return of Exhibition and Conference Materials

Staff from Field Studies Council regularly attend a range of conferences and events and we are heading into a particularly busy time. When arranging to return items to the marketing team could you please alert them to any damage, breakages, mislaid parts or coffee stains on the tablecloths so that these can all be dealt with well before the material goes out again.

There are no new starters this week

Best regards

Mark