

Thu 19th March 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Online Strategy Presentation

Thank you to all the centres who hosted me for the in-person strategy presentations which are now complete. Everyone has been very welcoming and thank you to those who were able to attend. I appreciate that some staff may still have missed the previous online or in-person presentations so there will be one more chance on **Thursday 26 March 11am**. This is the Zoom link you will need to log in:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84200703295?pwd=bkCCTYYKSr2AR5PqsNbdVk384dbQe7.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 842 0070 3295

Passcode: 861153

Please add to your calendars if you would like to attend. This session will be recorded and saved on the intranet. Any issues or questions, please contact Carina Parkinson.

New Dead Hedge at Castle Head

Senior Tutor Sarah Coates led this conservation project to engage school groups. Sarah, and helpers from the CH team, put in 40m of posts which created the initial framework. Two primary schools then learnt about the advantages of a dead hedge and filled the space between the posts with dead wood during their conservation session. The hedge replaced a falling down chicken wire fence and boosts biodiversity. They create "linear eco-piles" that provide year-round shelter, nesting sites, and protection from predators for birds, amphibians, and small mammals. The decaying wood also supports fungi, beetles, and other insects.

Dead hedges act as effective, natural windbreaks, protecting delicate plants and creating sheltered and warmer microclimates. Future groups will help maintain the hedge, topping them up as the wood decomposes. Despite the very wet spring, I have been really impressed with the work going on across centres to enhance our estate for both biodiversity and learning experiences - so please keep sending your photos in.



Meanwhile, over in Epping...

Jo and her team have been hosting two rather different groups. Essex Learning Outside the Classroom visited to hear about our work in both Epping Forest and London and then Education Team Leader Lorna delivered a session which included some top tips on dynamic tree safety and also SEND provision. You can see more, along with a photo of a beautiful, pollarded beech tree on Jo's LinkedIn page [here](#).

Earlier in the month, a team from ABTOT and Bonded Coach Holidays also braved the weather and spent a day on the site enthusiastically working in the grounds and dealing with brambles. This was part of their [Travel by B Corp](#) commitments and there are some photos of what appears to be a really good day on their LinkedIn page [here](#).

Special Mention

This week's nomination is for Blencathra Tutor Alex Lowe, who came to Margam's aid for a week. The quality of her teaching and support was described as outstanding "Even when working with a very demanding group, she remained consistently professional, knowledgeable, and highly engaging. Her facilitation skills were a real credit to both herself and Blencathra, and it was clear that the learners benefited hugely from her approach.". Thank you Alex for stepping in and having such a positive impact on the group.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Joe Arnold has joined the team at Flatford Mill as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant. Zoe Davies has joined the team at Preston Montford as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

Wayne Grice has joined the team at Slapton as Maintenance Officer.
Also this week

Nicola Keightley has been promoted to the role of Education Team Leader at Juniper Hall
Katy Kirton has returned to Juniper Hall as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Best regards

Mark