

Thu 26th April 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Reminder - Online Strategy Presentation

For staff who have missed the previous online or in person presentations at my recent visit to your centre, don't forget that will be one more chance to hear it and ask questions **today at 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 for those who cannot join me. Any issues or questions, please contact Carina Parkinson.

Elections in Wales and Scotland

This week the Scottish Parliament that gave us the Outdoor Learning Residentials Act and the Welsh Senedd that didn't quite manage to do the same by just one vote have their final days of business before being dissolved. The election system will change significantly for both. Without boring you with all the details (feel free to ask Joy), in Scotland there are to be 73 constituencies each with 1 MSP and 8 regions with each having an additional 7 MSPs each, elected via a list system. In Wales 16-year-olds will get the vote for the first time and the number of MSs will increase from 60 to 96. There will be 16 constituencies, and each will have 6 members decided using a list system.

Whatever your views on the usefulness or otherwise of having more politicians, this will give us a number of additional people with whom to make our case, and there should in theory be a more representative political make up. We have in the last couple of years made increased use of these multiple politicians in each area where we have a centre and will be doing so again as soon as we know the result.

Special Mention

This week's nominee is Dale Fort Tutor Dan Foster for his geography teaching at Margam. The team there greatly value his expertise, adaptability, and willingness to step in and support both staff and students. The nomination stated that Dan's approach has consistently enriched the learning experience, helping to make lessons engaging, informative, and accessible. He has also played an important role in supporting students during their visits to the Field Studies Council. Thanks to his guidance and enthusiasm, many students have been able to gain the best possible experience from these opportunities, developing both their knowledge and confidence in the subject. His contribution has not gone unnoticed, and the team are very appreciative of the positive impact he continues to have on our students. Thank you Dan.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Marella Nicoll and Anne Poole have both joined the team at Preston Montford as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistants.

Andrew Davey has joined the team at Dale Fort as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

Also, this week

Brian Thirtle has returned to Slapton as Casual Maintenance and Estate Assistant.

Best regards

Mark