

Thu 16/04/26

Dear Colleagues,

Sam Dhadwar's marathon series begins this Sunday

After a lifetime of training, Sam is warming up for the London Marathon by... running a marathon! One marathon simply isn't enough, so Sam is doing two and a half over the next few weeks. His first is the Manchester Marathon on Sunday 19th April, followed by the London Marathon on Sunday 26th April, and finally the Great Birmingham Run on Sunday 3rd May.

You can track of Sam's progress this Sunday [here](#) by entering bib number 35417 (the tracker will go live on Sunday). It's a big moment for him and the generous support he's receiving is spurring him on. If you'd like to sponsor him and send a message of support, you can [do so here](#).

Field Studies Council in the Media

Media work has focussed on the launch of our +Adventure programme securing 17 [articles](#) with more to follow. Our push for residentials as a way to combat the poverty of opportunity, experience and aspiration and close the disadvantage gap has also gained some [media traction](#) with 5 articles and more coverage on this issue with also follow. We are working with our sector partners to encourage them to take a similar stance, arguing that reducing residentials to a few local trips in the name of making outdoor learning experiences more accessible is particularly harmful to the most disadvantaged learners. Education Manager Jo Harris has also recorded a Podcast as part of the suitably named Instant Genius series about our work connecting people to nature. You can [listen here](#).

Reminder: New Wellbeing nature retreat at Blencathra – 22nd to 24th May 2026

Don't forget that if you want to be part of shaping a new product for our customers then you will need to book a place. Details were sent out in last week's catch up and 12 places are currently available. The team behind this are really keen to shape something that we know we can be proud of. To do this they will need help in some robust product testing, insight, honest feedback and enthusiasm from staff. It's first come, first served so don't miss out on the opportunity to boost your wellbeing and have some fun with a purpose. You can book on the intranet [here](#).

Staff Handbook

An updated version of the [Staff Handbook](#) is now available. Changes include updates to Section 12. Sickness Absence Policy and Section 13. Family Friendly Policy to reflect changes in legislation; and a new Bereaved Partner's Paternity Leave Policy and updated Compassionate Leave Policy in Section 14; as well as the usual update to the appendix which summarises the changes that have been made. As the [Handbook](#) applies to all Field Studies Council employees, I strongly encourage all staff to remind yourselves of the contents.

Special Mention

Molly Haywood, Preston Montford's Education Support Assistant has been nominated for putting Preston Montford in for the [Shrewsbury Mayors Award](#). This was entirely on her own initiative which has really paid off as the centre has won the Environment Category. An award evening beckons later in the month so well done to Molly and the wider team whose work has been rightly recognised.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistants Cass Brooks and Michelle Borg have joined the team at Slapton and Millport respectively

Rob Jones has also joined the team at Millport as Casual Maintenance and Estate Assistant

Best regards

Mark