

Thu 07/04/26

Dear Colleagues,

There's lots going on and much to celebrate in this week's catch up and thank you for sending in all your good news.

Green Kitchen Standard Awarded

Building on our Food for Life Award, the Field Studies Council has continued to push forward on sustainability across all our kitchens. By focusing on our top 10 food sustainability commitments, teams right across the organisation have been working hard to make meaningful improvements in how we manage energy, water and waste. This collective effort gave the catering teams the confidence to go for external accreditation through the Soil Association's Green Kitchen Standard. This involved a two stage approach with a site inspection and behind-the-scenes audits.

Any one of our kitchens could have been selected for inspection, so when Margam hosted the visit recently, they were carrying responsibility on behalf of all centres.

The results: Field Studies Council achieved an overall score of **82%**, well above the **industry average of 73%**, with **several areas scoring a full 100%**.

So many thanks go to Hannah, JP, Sian and the wider Margam team for delivering a showcase that truly reflected the standards being lived every day across the Field Studies Council, to Sam Thurston for providing evidence of practice across our network and to Chris Wilkinson for co-ordinating it all. This is a fantastic achievement and clear recognition of the hard work, consistency and dedication shown by catering teams at every centre.



Flatford Team at the Suffolk School Farm and Country Fair

A small contingent of the Flatford Team recently attended the [Suffolk School Farm and Country Fair](#), attended by over 4,500 KS2's from approximately 140 schools. It was a really good event to attend as it provided an opportunity for Di to talk to lots of teachers and catch up with those who already come to Flatford for day courses. Activities included badge making with Claire and pond dipping with ETL Charlie and Tutor Sam. The bugs and creatures were taken out of our very own pond and transported to the location, and all were safely returned to Flatford after the event.



He's done it! Check out the medals!

This weekend, Sam crossed the finish line of the Birmingham Half Marathon, completing the third and final event in his incredible fundraising trio. Sam has taken on the Manchester Marathon, London Marathon and Birmingham Half Marathon- three major events, and a huge personal mission. Countless miles fuelled by determination to help break down barriers to nature-based learning. A massive well done to Sam! Your commitment has made a genuine difference and raised almost £4,000 for the Field Studies Council. If you would still like to donate, [please do so here](#)



Thinking of having a go yourself?

We have secured a place in the TCS London Marathon 2027. Would you be interested in running 26.2 miles through London in the world famous marathon on Sunday 25th April? Can you commit to fundraising a minimum of £2,500?

If so, please follow the link and [<http://Register%20your%20interest%20here>] register your interest. Applications will be subject to a selection process, the deadline is Friday 29th May. There's more information on the form so please read it first before signing up.

In the meantime...

David Plant is currently undertaking the 96 mile Highland Way. If you'd like to support his [Hike to the Highlands](#) please click the link. There will be a further update in next week's catch up.

Special Mention

Thank you to everyone who has completed a case study and to the ETLs for championing this important work. This year to date 46 case studies have been submitted. These stories play a vital part in securing future funding, reporting to our funders, storytelling to our supporters and as one ETL said helps cement the feel good factor of the difference we make doing our jobs. They are used in our press and media work, formal consultation responses, submissions to government inquiries and our regular correspondence with politicians because, importantly, they bring the facts to life.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

New starters this week

Leo Higgins has joined the team at Blencathra as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant
Sam Salisbury has joined the team at Millport as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant
Peter Collis has joined the team at Slapton as Administrator

Also this week

Linsey Hodge has been made a permanent member of the team at Millport as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant
Em Kendall has been appointed the additional role of Youth Panel Coordinator
Lucy Killen has been made a permanent member of the team at Rhyd-y-Creiau as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant
Alice Crane has been promoted to the role of Senior Tutor at Juniper Hall

Best regards

Mark