



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Education Noticeboard

27 February 2025

A round-up of news, guidance and key updates for education settings

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Directors Update

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all feel refreshed after the half-term break.

Firstly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our schools for your unwavering efforts in improving school attendance. Reports indicate that we are above the national average in Primary, Secondary, and Special schools. Your dedication truly makes a difference.



It's national offer day for secondary school places on Monday, 3 March, and our admissions team will be writing to parents and carers to confirm where their child has been allocated a secondary school place.

This week, we celebrated the reopening of Oakengates Nursery School in its brand-new, purpose-built facility on Charlton Street. With a capacity for 108 children, this new space promises to be a welcoming environment for both children and staff.

Our safeguarding team has also shared some insightful information about funding from Loudmouth for RSHE and safeguarding programs, along with an update on the CSE Review Group's annual report.

Next week marks World Book Day, and we would love to see your pictures and hear your stories about how you've celebrated this event.

There are also some links to activity packs for early years settings and schools to support and inspire children and young people into the world of STEM and celebrate British Science Week.

March is also the start of Ramadan, so our Multicultural team have provided some important advice and guidance on supporting Muslim Pupils during this period. Please take time to read this.

Save the date for Saturday, 22 March 2025, as the Shropshire Athletic Association Under 11s (Year 5 & 6) Cross Country Championships will be taking place. It's a fantastic opportunity for our young athletes to showcase their abilities.

Additionally, we are excited to announce the launch of the Make a Change project, which offers 11–18-year-olds the opportunity to apply for up to £2,000 to bring their ideas to life about causes they care deeply about.

This edition of the noticeboard also includes the new CPD course calendar for the training available in the Spring term 2025.

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Best Wishes,

Simon

Simon Wellman

Director: Education & Skills

News



Woodlands Primary School and Nursery win award for music

We are very proud to announce that Woodlands were recently awarded the Bronze award from Telford Wrekin Music for excellence in our music provision! Well done to our music lead Mrs Williams and the rest of the team for their hard work that went into achieving this.

Well done Woodlands this is a great achievement !!



Oakengates Nursery School

Oakengates Nursery School has reopened in a brand-new, purpose-built facility on Charlton Street this week.

Designed with a capacity for 108 children, the new state-of-the-art [Oakengates Nursery School](#) facility features modern amenities tailored to early year's education, landscaped outdoor spaces to encourage exploration and play,

dedicated parking for ease of access and learning environments which provide a welcoming space for children and staff.

Read more at - <https://newsroom.telford.gov.uk/news/oakengates-nursery-school-opens-following-relocation>

School Attendance

Well done to all our schools, Attendance is better than National!

Huge thanks to all our schools for your efforts to improve school attendance. I'm delighted to inform you that from data published on VYED it shows we are above National for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools.

[Read More](#)

[Attendance Data](#)

National Offer day for Secondary School Places

National offer day for secondary school places

On Monday (March 3), we'll be writing out to parents or carers to confirm where their child has been offered a secondary school place

Applicants from Telford and Wrekin borough will be able to log onto the Parent Portal on Monday morning in order to view their school allocation.

During the morning, we will also be sending out emails to all applicants who live within the borough and have applied on time. The email will confirm their allocated school and what to do next if they want to be considered for a higher preference school or a school not previously applied for.

[Read More](#)

[Guide for Primary Viewing Y6](#)

[Guide for Secondary Viewing](#)

Safeguarding



Loudmouth Funding Update re: Schools' RSHE & Safeguarding Programmes

Loudmouth Education and Training advise that the subsidy available for Telford and Wrekin secondary schools for their RSHE and Safeguarding programmes is only available until the end of March 2025. Session can be planned up until July 2025 but need to be booked by the end of March.

Secondary schools can still book sessions into February – July 2025 **however all must be confirmed by the end of March**. Schools can choose up to 2 programmes each for a contribution of £4 per pupil per programme.

For further information visit their website www.loudmouth.co.uk

Joint CSE Review Group 2024 Annual Report

This report is the second annual CSE report presenting data and information in relation to CSE in Telford & Wrekin, and the activity taking place to respond to CSE and safeguard those at risk. The reporting period for this report is April 2023 to March 2024.

Please click on the link below to access the full report

[Telford & Wrekin Council issues second annual report on Child Sexual Exploitation | Newsroom](#)

Early Years

Supporting the Home Learning Environment Conference on Wednesday 19 March 2025

Parents [and carers] play a key role in children's learning. They are experts on their own children, and they are a child's first and enduring educators, (National Children's Bureau – NCB, 2010).

As a strand of the Family Hub programme, we have been utilising interventions and approaches that are evidenced based to support children's Speech, Language, Communication and Literacy at home. This is your opportunity to learn more about these tools and the importance of the Home learning environment from a range of national speakers. Representatives from local schools and Nursery Settings will update the audience with their progress when utilising these interventions.

[Read More](#)

Request for Apprentices to Participate in User Research Sessions

Are you an apprentice who could lend time to participate in user research sessions?

We are currently working on a project to develop tailored content specifically for early years apprentices. Our aim is to keep apprentices motivated and well-informed throughout their course, building on the success of similar initiatives in other sectors.

To ensure this content is relevant and engaging, we're inviting apprentices to take part in user research sessions. Your help in identifying apprentices from your setting who might be interested in participating would be greatly appreciated

[Read More](#)

CPD

CPD courses to the end of the Spring Term 2025

Further details of these and all other courses are available in the 2024-25 CPD booklet on the [Telford Education Services](#) website and on the [Ollie](#) website.

The CPD Booklet to the end of the 2024-25 academic year can be viewed via [Telford Education Services](#)

As always, courses can be booked by completing and returning a CPD booking form to cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk (unless denoted differently

[Read More](#)

Training opportunity for your wider staff base: chef, dinner supervisor, office based staff etc

You may have noticed that Telford and Wrekin have been running a project (*Talking with your Little One*), in partnership with Speech and Language U.K., to encourage parents to speak more with their children. We have been working with Early Years professionals in Nurseries, Family Hubs, Schools etc. to deliver these important messages. As part of this project, we have put together a short Powerpoint to share with the wider workforce, i.e. anyone working in Telford and Wrekin who has contact with young children.

[Read More](#)

Make a change Project



Have a passion you want to turn into a real project

The Make a Change project is now open to 11-18-year-olds.

And with £2,000 up for grabs, it's a chance to help young people bring ideas to life about causes they care about.

Reasons to enter – the best five ideas will receive up to £2,000 and applicants will

- Gain confidence, team working skills
- Budgeting & project management experience
- Community support
- Support team on hand

[Read More](#)

Outdoor Education

Mini Breaks at Arthog Wales



Arthog Wales is offering mini adventure breaks for organised groups and families for limited dates this spring and summer.

The centre welcomes girl guiding, scout, Duke of Edinburgh, veteran and many other organised groups to join its coastal getaway.

Prices start at £233 per person and includes full board, private dormitories and a jam-packed leader led programme of outdoor adventure and activity.

Full details can be found online at <https://www.arthog.co.uk/info/10/arthog-wales/22/arthog-wales-mini-breaks>

Other Information and Resources

RE Hubs

RE Hubs is a national web-based organisation, set up by a group of professional associations and RE trusts with the aim of creating better provision for teachers of RE.

It provides a centralised resource where teachers can find what they need to teach RE well.

Each region has a page within the overall website. The West Midlands Coordinator is Chris Giles, who can be contacted via email address westmidlands@re-hubs.uk

For further information please follow the [link \(www.re-hubs.uk\)](http://www.re-hubs.uk)

Shropshire Athletic Association -

Under 11's Year 5&6 cross Country Championships

The 2025 Shropshire Athletic Association Under 11's Year 5 and Year 6 Cross Country Championships are taking place Saturday 22 March 2025 at Concord College, Acton Burnell, with the first race commencing at 2.30pm.

Please note that entry forms have to be submitted no later than Wednesday 19 March 2025 (see attached for further information)

[Read More](#)

[Year 5 Route](#)

[Year 6 Route](#)

Awareness Dates



Ramadan March 2025

This guidance provides essential support for children who choose to fast during Ramadan. It also offers an excellent opportunity to educate students about the significance of the Islamic Festival of Ramadan and to build stronger

connections with Muslim parents and communities. It is important for staff to have good understanding of the meaning and importance of the fasting month

[Read More](#)



World Book Day

It's that time again when we encourage a love of books as part of World Book Day, which this year falls on Thursday 6 March.

The theme for this year's event is 'read your way' as World Book Day research shows that children feel reading is something they have to do, rather than something they choose to do.

A wealth of resources is available for educators, including useful toolkits, via the World Book Day.



British Science Week

This national initiative runs from 7 to 16 March as a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths.

Online activity packs are available for early years settings and schools to support them to embrace the week and inspire children and young people into the world of STEM.

Download activity packs [Activity packs - British Science Week](#)

