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Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Education Noticeboard

21 March 2025

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

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Directors Update

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all well and making the most of the glimpses of sunshine we have been having this week. It was officially the first day of Spring on Thursday March 20th. It was a time of equal daylight and darkness, signalling the return of longer days and warmer temperatures.



In this weeks noticeboard some of the students from The Bridge School celebrated their final adaptive cycling session at the Bike Hub in Telford Town Park on March 12th. They received their Bikeability Level 1 certificates, showcasing their cycling skills and confidence. The training was conducted using Telford & Wrekin Council's new adaptive bikes, funded by the council and Sport England. Well done to all involved.

A reminder that our Skills Show is back for 2025. Please encourage your students to attend this unmissable event to explore exciting opportunities and take the next step toward a successful future!

Alongside the above the YPG grant scheme is also features again in this weeks Noticeboard - I would ask you to please continue to share details of the scheme with your students and if eligible to support them to apply for the grant to progress their education, training or employment.

World Poetry Day is held on March 21st every year. In 2025, it will fall on a Tuesday. World Poetry Day is an annual celebration of poetry and its vital role in promoting cultural expression, preserving language, and advancing creative thinking.

Best Wishes,

Simon

Simon Wellman

Director: Education & Skills

News

Celebrating Students' Cycling Skills



Students from The Bridge School celebrated a major milestone in their adaptive cycling journey as they took part in their fourth and final session at the Bike Hub in Telford Town Park. (Wednesday, 12 March)

This special event marked the culmination of their training but also saw the students receive their Bikeability Level 1 certificates - a significant achievement demonstrating their newfound cycling confidence and skills.

The students have been training on Telford & Wrekin Council's fleet of new adaptive bikes, which were funded in July last year by the council in collaboration with Sport England.

Councillor Ollie Vickers, (Lab) Cabinet Member for the Economy said: "We're so proud of the students' journey, they fully deserve their certificates and hope they enjoy their newfound freedom."

“Our active travel plans aim to make walking, cycling and other sustainable transport options a priority for all residents and this initiative shows how we are delivering on this.

“Cycling is a fantastic way to stay active and explore our local green spaces - especially in and around the town park. We are committed to doing everything we can to positively promote equality, diversity and inclusion across the borough and by providing these new adaptive bikes we are making biking more accessible and ensuring that more residents can participate and thrive.”

Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment and Skills, said:

“Congratulations to all the students from the Bridge School who achieved their bikeability qualification today. It was great to see their training in progress and how much fun they were having.

“Learning to ride a bike is one of the core activities within our 10 by 10 programme, which sets out ten things to do by the age of ten, which we believe are crucial in helping children to develop essential life skills and broaden their horizons.

“I’m so pleased that through the bike hub we can make cycling accessible for all children and young people across the Borough.

“We are committed to working with schools, community organisations, and families to make more and more opportunities accessible to all.”

This unique collection of adaptive cycles includes trikes, tandems, a wheelchair loader, and bikes with varying levels of assistance - ranging from hand cycles to carer-controlled functions. The innovative designs aim to accommodate young people and adults who find traditional bicycles challenging, offering a more inclusive approach to cycling.

The new adaptive bikes form a core part of the council’s Bikeability lessons, ensuring these training sessions are accessible to all. This inclusivity also supports the council’s 10 by 10 initiative, encouraging children to develop key skills and enjoy diverse activities.

Following the success of these sessions, the adaptive bikes will be available for public hire during the school holidays, from Monday to Friday, at the Bike Hub in Telford Town Park.

Stay tuned for additional specific sessions and exciting announcements to come by following @TravelTelford on Facebook.

Details regarding opening hours and accessible parking are available below:

[Adaptive Bikes webpage](#)

The Young Person Grant 2025 is now open for applications



Please continue to share details of the Leader and Cabinet Members' Young Person Grant scheme with students.

Young people aged 15 to 25 have until 5pm on Friday 16 May to apply for a £500 grant to support their education, training or employment.

Please share details of the scheme through your networks and with any young people you're working with. Full details, including terms and conditions and how to apply, can be found on the link below.

Skills Show 2025 - Unlock Future Opportunities. A Must Attend Event for Your Students!



When: 27th March 2025, 11:30 -6pm

Where: [Telford International centre](#), International Way, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4JH

Cost: FREE!

A huge showcase of employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities across the region is back in Telford next week.

Telford & Wrekin Council's Job Box team is co-ordinating the [Telford Skills Show 2025](#) at Telford International Centre on Thursday 27 March (11.30am-6pm).

Open to all ages, this free event is attended by a wide range of employers from across Telford, Shropshire and the West Midlands.

The Council is sponsoring the event along with the Careers & Enterprise Company, NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Telford College and Harper Adams University and you can sign up for it here [Telford Skills Show 2025](#)

At the event there's an opportunity for people to:

- Discover career opportunities and meet employers
- Connect with industry leaders and expand their career prospects
- Receive personalised career advice from recruitment specialists

- Explore training options and enhance their skills.

Employers attending the event include Epson, Ricoh UK, Greenhous Group, Royal Air Force, Bowmer & Kirkland and many more.

The Council will also have a stand at the event to promote latest vacancies and apprenticeships with the local authority.

Many employers will be actively recruiting at the event as well as offering hands-on activities for people to give them an interactive on-the-day experience.

This project is part of Telford & Wrekin Council's wide-ranging investments strategy for 2025/26, which sees money going into creating jobs, supporting education and skills, improving transport, roads and high streets, enhancing green spaces, and looking after vulnerable people.

Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Telford & Wrekin Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment & Skills, said:

"In Telford and Wrekin, we know the difference that a good job can make to an individual's life.

"That's why at Telford & Wrekin Council, we place a huge amount of emphasis on ensuring every resident has access to employment, training and good apprenticeship opportunities and that is why this event, which showcases the very best of those opportunities, is so important.

"Our investment in this event underlines Telford & Wrekin Council's commitment to creating jobs and is part of our vision to protect, care and invest to create a better borough, which we're achieving whilst ensuring our residents continue to pay the lowest Council Tax in the Midlands.

"We are really excited to see the Telford Skills Show back at the Telford International Centre – an event which gets bigger and bigger each year.

"People of all ages can check out the wide range of opportunities which are available and there are many success stories of people who have attended previously and now find themselves in full time employment or an apprenticeship.

“Those looking for new roles or want to change career pathways can also benefit from the event.

“We’d encourage anyone to come along and see what’s on offer, network and speak to employers.

“Telford is a great place to live and work and this event highlights the fantastic employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities which are on the doorstep.”

[Telford Skills Show 2025 floor plan flyer](#)

Workplace Charging Scheme for state-funded education institutions

DEADLINE EXTENDED - Grant for state-funded education institutes to provide support towards the costs of the purchase, installation and infrastructure of electric vehicle chargepoints from Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV)

The deadline for applications to the workplace charging scheme for state funded education institutions has been extended to **31st March 2026**.

This grant is for state-funded schools and education institutions to install electric vehicle chargepoint sockets at their site(s).

Installations usually cost around £1,500 to £2,500, depending on the area and type of installation.

You can get 75% off the cost to buy and install chargepoints up to a maximum of:

- £2,500 per socket
- 40 sockets across all sites including any applications made previously via the Workplace Charging Scheme

You will need to confirm that you meet all the criteria in the application form.

[Read the rules to make sure you are eligible to apply for the grant](#)

Safeguarding



News and updates

Protect and Prepare Webinars for Education Settings

The Department for Education (DfE) in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) invite you to a webinar relevant to those working in education settings.

The DfE Counter Terrorism Protect and Prepare Team will provide you with an overview and update on the proposed Protection of Premises Bill, also known as 'Martyn's Law', and its implications for the education sector. NaCTSO will also provide a briefing on how to consider terrorism protection and preparedness in your setting. You can find more information about the bill [here](#).

Please note: This content may be subject to change as the bill progresses through Parliament.

You only need to attend one of the below webinar sessions, the input is identical.

Use the following links to book your place

Wednesday 2nd April 2025: 12.00 - 1.30pm

[Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Thursday 3rd April 2025: 12.00 – 1.30pm

[Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

If you require further information on these events please contact

Joanne.Hanslip@telford.gov.uk

Education Safeguarding Officer, Education lead for Prevent

Early Years

New Online Network: Where are Babies? Exploring Outdoor Provision for 0-2s



New Online Network: Where are Babies? Exploring Outdoor Provision for 0-2s

13th May 2025 6:45-7:45PM

Join Thrive Together Stronger Practice Hub for our latest free online network, delving into research on outdoor learning for babies and toddlers (0-2s). We'll explore key findings, discuss best practices, and share ideas on how to create meaningful outdoor experiences for the youngest learners.

[Where are babies? Research summary exploring outdoor provision for 0-2s](#)

Thrive Together SPH April – Dec 25 Training Schedule

We're thrilled to share that the Stronger Practice Hubs have been extended for another year! As a result, we've developed even more free training opportunities, including Networks and Webinar Wednesdays, running from April to December 2025, with additional ad-hoc training to be announced soon.

If you'd like to attend any of these sessions, simply click the registration link, enter your details, and upon registering, you'll receive a confirmation email with the joining links.

Networks & Webinar Wednesday's

Love and Nurture Circle with Tamsin Grimmer

8th April 2025 4-5:30PM

29th April 2025 4-5:30PM

13th May 2025 4-5:30PM

25th May 2025 4-5:30PM

3rd June 2025 4-5:30PM

Registration link: [Love and Nurture Learning Circle with Tamsin Grimmer](#)

Supporting Self-Awareness (Parent Engagement)

23rd April 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Supporting Self-Awareness - Parent Engagement Webinar](#)

Transition Arrangement for Bilingual Children and their Parents

7th May 2025 4-5PM

Registration Link: [Transition Arrangement for Bilingual Children and their Parents Network](#)

Phonological Awareness Webinar

7th May 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Phonological Awareness Webinar](#)

Communication & Literacy – A Book Talk & Beyond Network

8th May 2025 4-5PM

Registration Link: [Communication & Literacy - A Book Talk & Beyond Network](#)

Early Years Mathematics – Building Firm Foundations

14th May 2025 4-5PM

Registration Link: [Early Years Mathematics - Building Firm Foundations](#)

Using EYPP Funding Effectively – EEF Guidance Document

18th June 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Using EYPP Funding Effectively - EEF Guidance Document](#)

Beyond Serve and Return: Keeping Conversations Going

2nd July 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Beyond Serve and Return; Keeping Conversations Going Webinar](#)

Interactive Reading: An Effective Strategy to Support CL Development

20th August 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Interactive Reading an Effective Strategy to Support C&L Development Webinar](#)

EAL: Understanding EAL and SEND

16th September 2025 6:30-7:30PM Registration Link: [Seeing children through an EAL or SEN lens network](#)

Goldilocks Effect: Getting it 'Just Right' for your Children 8th October 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Goldilocks Effect - Getting It 'Just Right' For Your Children Webinar](#)

Executive Function & Metacognition: Talking about Learning

5th November 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Executive Function & Metacognition - Talking about Learning Webinar](#)

Curating an Environment for all Children Where Learning is Inevitable

3rd December 2025 9:30-10:30AM

Registration Link: [Curating an Environment for All Children Where Learning is Inevitable](#)

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)

RE Today and NATRE free webinar and resources notification for RE teachers and RE Leads



As part of the launch of *Understanding Muslims, Understanding Islam (UMUI)* resources, NATRE is offering a complimentary webinar to introduce and provide an overview of this resource.

These sessions are designed to support primary and secondary teachers to confidently teach about Islam, using authentic sources and a religion and worldviews approach. The webinar will provide an opportunity to explore how this resource can equip pupils to apply disciplinary ways of knowing, reflecting on contemporary Muslim voices to develop their personal worldviews.

- **Primary Webinar:** Tuesday 25 March (via Zoom)
- **Secondary Webinar:** Wednesday 26 March (via Zoom)
- **Time:** 4pm to 5pm
- **Led by:** [Stephen Pett](#)

Free places can be booked via the link below:

[Book here](#)

Schools in Mind - Have your say in the annual survey



If you are a UK-based education professional we want to hear from you.

Our survey aims to gather critical insights into children and young people's mental health provision and support.

Your response will help us to ensure we are developing the best and most useful mental health training, resources, and support for schools and colleges.

By completing the survey you will have the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win one of three training course places worth up to £330.

The survey takes around ten minutes to complete.

Make your voice heard by completing the survey before it closes on 31 March.

[Survey Link](#)

Other Information and Resources



Easter HHAH 2025 is back in Telford!!

With a range of activities available over the Easter holidays, don't miss out on a space.

Activities go live Friday 21st March 2025 at 4pm. To register your account, confirm your eligibility, and book activities go to the link below.

For all enquiries regarding HHAH please email holidayactivityhub@telford.gov.uk and one of the team will assist you.

[HHAH Website](#)

ELSEC Newsletter

Since the launch of the ELSEC project, in September 2024, the ELSEC team have worked alongside settings to support and deliver Talk Boost groups, complete a classroom audit of every pre-school, Reception and Year 1 classroom in every setting in the project, set up parent information sessions last term and further workshops for parents this term. This term we are offering whole school

CPD around 'Using and Understanding Questions'

[Read More](#)

Awareness Dates

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is from 17th - 23rd March 2025



It's when people all over the UK are encouraged to think about and celebrate neurodiversity, as well as challenge stereotypes people might have about it.

Neurodiversity is a word used to describe the different thinking styles that influence how people communicate with the world around them.

It is an umbrella term - a word that sums up lots of different things. It includes autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Tourette's.

Thousands of schools have signed up to take part, to celebrate and raise awareness about what it means to be neurodivergent.

Siena Castellon started Neurodiversity Celebration week in 2018, she said:
"People often focus on the challenges of neurological diversity.

"I wanted to change the narrative and create a balanced view which focuses equally on our talents and strengths."

[2025 Events Schedule](#)

Spring Equinox – First Day of Spring

March 20th 2025



The Spring Equinox occurs on the 20th of March, marking the transition from winter to spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

This astronomical event holds cultural and spiritual significance across various traditions, symbolizing renewal, balance, and the awakening of nature. It's a time of equal daylight and darkness, signalling the return of longer days and warmer temperatures. The Spring Equinox is celebrated as a time of new beginnings, growth, and rejuvenation.

To commemorate the Spring Equinox and embrace the spirit of renewal across social media and digital platforms, here are some content ideas:

- Share stunning photos of springtime landscapes, flowers, and wildlife.
 - Offer tips for spring cleaning, gardening, and outdoor activities to celebrate the season.
 - Host virtual events or workshops focused on topics like mindfulness, meditation, and personal growth.
 - Share rituals or traditions from different cultures that honour the Spring Equinox.
 - Encourage followers to reflect on their intentions and goals for the season ahead.
-

World Storytelling Day - March 20th 2025



World Storytelling Day, celebrated on 20th March, is a day dedicated to the ancient and timeless tradition of storytelling. This global celebration highlights the power of stories to connect people, preserve cultures, and inspire creativity. Whether through oral traditions, written works, or digital platforms, storytelling is a means of passing down wisdom, sharing experiences, and evoking emotions.

On World Storytelling Day, people around the world come together to tell stories, whether they are personal anecdotes, fairy tales, folklore, or modern narratives. The day celebrates storytelling in all its forms, from live performances and podcasts to books and films, promoting the idea that everyone has a story to tell. It is a time to reflect on the role of storytelling in shaping cultures, educating communities, and fostering empathy across diverse audiences.

To commemorate World Storytelling Day on your social media and digital platforms, here are some content ideas to spark your creativity:

- Share a personal story or memory that has had a profound impact on your life.
- Highlight diverse storytellers and narratives from around the world.
- Host a virtual storytelling event or open mic night.
- Recommend your favourite books, films, or podcasts that celebrate storytelling.

- Collaborate with local authors, poets, or storytellers for a creative collaboration or giveaway.
-

Crucial Crew 2025



Crucial Crew is back for the 30th year and booking is now OPEN.

Crucial Crew is a multi-agency partnership event aimed at Year 6 students designed to provide them with life skills and knowledge that will help to keep themselves and others safe, both now and in the future.

Crucial Crew aim to raise students awareness of important safety issues, encouraging them to think about their own and others safety and guiding them on what to do in a number of potentially unsafe situations.

This year the event is taking place between 23 June 2025 and 11 July 2025, excluding transition days.

Booking is now open until 11 April 2025, so complete the form by clicking on the [link](#) or scan the QR code



[Booking form here](#)

