

Schools Newsletter



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Greetings!

Happy new academic year!

I trust you had a restful summer and that the new term has started well. It has been a busy period over the summer in the Local Authority and I look forward to sharing some of the areas we have been working on at the various Headteacher meetings across the autumn term.

As many of you will know, we are hugely disappointed to be losing Helen Phelan, our Head of SEND and Principal Educational Psychologist. She has been a fantastic asset for Cambridgeshire over many years and has led the team through some significant change in the last 18 months. The fruits of her efforts are coming this autumn with the consultation on our SEND strategy, the SEND toolkit and the SEMH review. Helen's expertise and exemplary approach will be very much missed but we wish her the best in her new role as Assistant Director for SEND in Barnet. I am delighted that Marian Cullen (currently SEMH manager) will be acting Head of SEND until December and Kirsten Branigan will act as Principal Educational Psychologist. I will share information on the permanent recruitment process in due course.

There are a few things I want to highlight with you -

- Our data performance team have been busy working on our school profile pages - these will be shared with schools in the coming weeks. Improving the quality of data to support school improvement remains an area of development.
- We will continue to work closely with heads groups on the change programme the LA is going through and we continue to support the

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Cambridgeshire Schools Improvement Board which has been incredibly well led by Rae Snape for the past year. The development of the school led system continues to be my key area of focus.

- We are still waiting to hear what resources we have been allocated by the Department for Education to support the teachers' pay award. Once we know, we will share this information, along with CCC application of the pay changes to its centrally employed teachers.
- We have produced an updated and expanded structure chart for staff who work in the Education Directorate which can be found [here](#). A summary of management in other parts of People and Communities will be shared in coming weeks.
- Wear Yellow and Shine - Friday 19 October - As you may be aware, Shine is a charity that is based in Cambridgeshire that provides support for children with spina bifida and / or hydrocephalus. The support they provide for children and their families is essential and they currently support 92 children across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. I have been supporting them to plan a 'Wear Yellow and Shine' event in schools on the 19th October to raise much needed funds. The leaflet you can find [here](#) gives details of what we are trying to deliver. If you are able to take part, please email fundraising@shinecharity.org.uk to sign up! I would really welcome your support.

Best wishes for the academic year. As always, please contact me or any of my leadership team if we can help in any way. I look forward to seeing you over the autumn.

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Grants information

Part of the school survey identified that you wanted more help from the LA to identify external sources of funding. We have accessed a list of grants that might be available to schools for various projects and this can be found [here](#). We would welcome any feedback on these grants so we can update the list if you find they are not suitable for schools in Cambridgeshire. Please contact [Jonathan Lewis](#).

CHUMS - Early Intervention Training Programme for Schools

We are delighted to deliver our early intervention training programme for schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the next academic year. In line with the government's green paper on Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health, we hope that this project supports schools to identify a lead person within each school who will oversee the mental health and emotional wellbeing for pupils.

If you are interested in the programme or would like more information please email chumstraining@chums.uk.com. Training sessions will begin in the new academic year. For more information on local mental health services and training visit www.keep-your-head.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



Advertise your Vacancies for Free!

Research has shown that schools in the UK spend collectively more than £180 million on advertising jobs, via national or non-specialist jobs websites and agencies which puts great pressure on already strained budgets.



With this in mind the [Teachincambs team](#) have exciting news for all schools! - from September 2018, the site will be free for all Cambridgeshire state-funded schools to use. This means that you can advertise for **free** with us and receive all the extra benefits too! As part of this change we are also offering a subsidised rate of £70 per head for the [RQT conference](#) coming up 1st November.

If you do not have a login to place your adverts yet, please contact schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to get set up on [Teachincambs](#) today.

In addition to this, Cambridgeshire is piloting the new Teaching Jobs site being developed by the DfE, and all of the county's schools are eligible for a login. If you do not already have one, please contact teachingjobs@digital.education.gov.uk to get set up on the system. It too is completely free of charge. The aim is to significantly reduce the amount you have to spend on teacher recruitment.

[Lynne Birch](#) and [Helen Manley](#)

Music Therapy Services

We are a team who are currently working with 80 schools across the county and Peterborough to deliver a variety of programmes related to Music/Music therapy, Arts and Wellbeing. We deliver services to support students to access learning. Our experience is that music can be a real motivator to engage hard to reach students (and families) both individually and in groups. As a non-verbal intervention it can help to address many mental health and relational issues.



We offer training, support 1:1 and also supervision to school staff both to write music plans and also to put together a music for mental health and wellbeing plan. Below are two examples of how we have accessed funding and supported schools to get funding.

1. Cottenham Primary School has just fundraised for £5000 for music therapy services next year.
2. This year we raised £20,000 to deliver a transitions project for students with ASD starting school. We have had very good outcomes.

Our inclusion services access money from the County Music Hub who administer national funding for music and engagement.

We are currently working with Educational Psychologists to identify gaps in county services which we can support over the next 5 years and in light of the Green Paper delivery.

[Orla Casey - Head of Music Therapy](#)

School refurbishment projects and impact on sprinkler / detector heads

If you intend to carry out any type of refurbishment work/ major changes in layout within your buildings, please seek advice from your sprinkler/ fire alarm company and/ or Property Advisors before doing so. The Council's Property Compliance Team can also provide advice (property.compliance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). Placing walls/ items too close to the detector heads may reduce their coverage and effectiveness which could adversely affect your insurance.

Mathematics Collaborative Network

Pearson is launching the Mathematics Collaborative Network. Hosted at local schools, and open to both Edexcel and non-Edexcel schools, the purpose is to:

- Develop subject intelligence
- Share expertise
- Encourage on-going Innovation
- Encourage student Progression.

The first network meeting for this region is on Tues 9th October 2.30-4.30pm at Thomas Gainsborough School, Sudbury.

Full details of this FREE network can be found [here](#)

Please email mathsevents@pearson.com with your contact details asap to inform us if you would be interested in attending and we can then ensure that you are emailed a confirmation with all the information about how to book a place.

DfE SEND Workforce Development Survey

The DfE is funding a 'SEND Workforce Development Project-Whole School SEND'. A survey, which takes no more than 20 minutes to complete, has been created to give insight into how your school identifies, accesses, uses and follows up on training /CPD in your setting; who makes those decisions and the impact they have on the SENCO, Headteacher and teaching staff roles, workload and activity.

Please click [here](#) to complete the survey.

You are not asked to identify yourself or your school in the questionnaire: your contribution will be entirely anonymous and participation is voluntary.

If you have any questions please email: wssen-d@ucl.ac.uk

Horizon scanning

[3 questions evidence-informed teachers must ask](#)

"Evidence-led teachers must ask at least three questions," write the co-creators of the EEF Toolkit, Prof. Steve Higgins (Durham University) and Dr Lee Elliot Major (Sutton Trust) in TES:

1. If something does not directly contribute to the quality of teaching and learning interactions, is it needed?
2. Do you have evidence that the activity you are undertaking impacts on pupil progress?
3. And could there be equally effective approaches that take less time?

DfE Curriculum Fund update

A fund will be available for a small number of schools to refine high quality curriculum programmes they have already developed, and to trial these with other schools. Specifically, the DfE is focusing on curriculum programmes in science, history and/or geography across key stage 2 and/or key stage 3. The bidding window will close in the second half of September, with an anticipated start date of January 2019. Schools and trusts can register interest and receive further information by emailing: Curriculum.Fund@education.gov.uk

New DfE service - How to get information about schools

This is a register of schools and colleges in England. You can search for and download information on establishments, establishment groups or governors. Schools, local authorities and academy trusts can also update details by signing in to their Secure Access account. Click the link above to find out more.

Barclays Code Playground: Live YouTube Coding Session on 19 September 2018 - Barclays Bank are supporting National Coding Week by hosting a series of free coding days for primary schools. Click above for more information.

NFU Farmvention

Competition officially open for entries. An opportunity for primary schools to be turned into a farm for the day!

Chartered College of Teaching event: Learning Without Limits

Wednesday 19 September 2018, either 15.00 to 16.00 or 17.00 to 18.00, Thomas Paine Study Centre Lecture Theatre, University of East Anglia.

Opportunity to work with the Early Years Service alongside your current teaching role

The Early Years Service is currently seeking practitioners who would like to apply for the role of Early Years Lead Practitioner, to join our current team. This is an unpaid role that would give valuable opportunities and experience to those seeking professional development. The role is open to class teachers and teaching assistants as well as established phase leaders.

Please contact jane.vass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or harriet.gervasio@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for more details.

The Key for Governors & School Leaders

The Key is providing an exclusive membership offer to Cambridgeshire schools only available until the end of September. The Key is an invaluable resource that provides online support, articles, knowledge and tools for governors and school leaders. Click [here](#) and find the flyer to find out more.

"We Need You!"

The School Admissions Team have been busy over the summer holidays, having received and processed over 2500 applications requesting school places for September since 1st June.

Your swift responses to requests for places and flexibility, when needed, to ensure families are kept together wherever possible, have supported us in making this happen. As you will appreciate there are still many anxious parents, phoning daily, who have not yet been notified of the outcome of their application, either because it has only just been received, or because we are currently awaiting a decision from the school.

In order to get offers to these families as soon as possible after the start of the term, please could you check the Schools Portal and update your school's Admission Officer daily with decisions for applications received? To avoid further delays to the admission of children, your Admissions Officer will, following initial notification of an application having

been received, chase the school for a response after 3 days. If a decision is not received within 5 days, we will have no alternative but to refuse the place and to offer the right of appeal before considering other preferences.
Thank you for your continued support!

Attendance Service

Data provided by the Department of Education shows that during the academic year 2017, in Cambridgeshire, 3201 primary pupils and 3217 secondary pupils were at some point persistently absent from school. To support schools to secure an early sustained improvement in attendance we are introducing a fast track direct referral process for the application of Penalty Notices. District workshops have been arranged to provide details of criteria and how to make referrals. Further information will be available from your linked Education Welfare Officer.

Attendance Service County Manager - Karen Beaton

karen.beaton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New Joint Annual Governance Training Programme

The School Governance Team has been working with Peterborough Governor Services to develop a new [Joint Annual Governance Training Programme for 2018-19](#). Now available to view and download.

Deal for schools: Hiring supply teachers and agency workers

The DfE has established [a list of preferred agencies](#) to:

- help schools get value for money
- set standard practice for safeguarding checks
- set standard practice for agency fees.

The agencies that have signed up to be part of this deal have agreed to:

- complete thorough checks on all their workers
- have relevant accreditation
- be open about their rates - showing the mark-up they charge
- give schools the opportunity to avoid paying temp-to-perm fees
- always tell you that they're part of the deal
- offer the terms they agreed as part of the deal first

The Energy Challenge - PSHE Service

[The Energy Challenge](#) is designed to help pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 recognise the impact of diet and exercise on their bodies while working scientifically. Join the competition now! Over 50 Cambridgeshire primary schools have already registered.

Change of address for The Education Wellbeing Team (PSHE Service, PE and School Sport, Outdoor Education and Life Education)

New address: Speke House, 17 Compass Point Business Park, Stocks Bridge Way, St Ives, PE27 5JL

Email addresses and telephone numbers remain the same.

Adult Mental Health First Aid

Did you know?

- 1 in 4 adults will experience some form of mental health issue in any given year
- Mental health issues are responsible for 91 million working days lost in the UK
- 75% of people with diagnosable mental illness receive no treatment at all.

Adult Mental Health First Aid courses run by qualified Instructor [Juliet Adloune](#) can help

schools/settings to support themselves and their colleagues as well as being part of a proactive well-being, recruitment and retention strategy.
A Cambridgeshire SENDCo evaluated the 2 day course as '...extremely useful with lots of practical advice...incredibly informative and valuable...'
Book [here](#).

Education employment: Use of Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLR) Payments

Schools can use TLR payments where a qualified classroom teacher is undertaking a sustained additional responsibility that ensures the continued delivery of high-quality teaching and learning, has a significant responsibility that is not required of all classroom teachers and that:

1. is focused on teaching and learning;
2. requires the exercise of a teacher's professional skills and judgement;
3. requires the teacher to lead, manage and develop a subject or curriculum area; or to lead and manage pupil development across the curriculum;
4. has an impact on the educational progress of pupils other than the teacher's assigned classes or groups of pupils; and
5. involves leading, developing and enhancing the teaching practice of other staff

Schools can determine to allocate a TLR 1 or a TLR 2 but there is also a TLR 3 available too.

Please note that a TLR 3 can be awarded for a fixed-term period only to a qualified classroom teacher who is undertaking time-limited school improvement projects or undertaking one-off externally driven responsibilities. The duration of the fixed-term period must be established at the outset and a TLR 3 cannot be awarded permanently. A qualified classroom teacher can be in receipt of a TLR 1 or 2 at the same time as a fixed-term TLR 3 but a TLR 3 cannot be awarded permanently. If teachers have been awarded a permanent TLR 3 schools must liaise with her HR provider to ensure this is resolved.

Education employment: Consultation Timeframes

During the year schools may find there is a need to consult with staff and trade unions about changes they are proposing to make. These changes can often impact on a small number of staff and may not trigger the legal requirement to consult for at least 30 days. The LA considers it is best practice to use 30 days to consult as this provides time to meet with the affected staff and to consult with trade union colleagues. In general it is possible for schools to plan the changes they need to make to ensure they are able to have a 30 day consultation period however we do recognise that as the year progresses this becomes increasingly challenging. Where schools are needing to use a shorter consultation time period, due regard must always be given to the right to representation and schools should extend the consultation period to ensure the right to representation can be exercised. To minimise the risk of having to change your consultation period schools should work with their HR provider to plan the timeframes for any change programme taking into account a 30 day consultation period.

If you have any specific questions about the above, in the first instance please speak directly to your own HR provider.

Brass effect helps Sawston pupils achieve Arts Award

More than 200 pupils at Sawston Village College completed their Bronze Arts Award, recognising their participation and skills development in the arts, with help from Cambridgeshire Music, the county's music hub.

The school participated in Cambridgeshire Live - a project which brings top orchestras and bands in to schools to give concerts, run workshops, and play alongside young

musicians.

Following a visit from the Brass Funkeys, an 8-piece, New Orleans-influenced brass band, Year 7s at Sawston wrote a review of their experience, which is one of the main requirements of the Arts Award. The visit was clearly a hit: "I have learned that anyone can play any instrument and it made me feel a lot better about music," one young contributor reflected.



Altogether, 248 pupils were able to achieve their Award in one go. The school plan to take part in the project again this year, with a view towards helping other pupils gain the qualification. For more information about Cambridgeshire Music Live, and how your school can take part, please [visit the website here](#).

Apprenticeships in schools - survey

The DfE is looking to school leaders, business professionals and teachers for their views on how the department can best support schools to use apprenticeships in their workforces. Please take a couple of minutes to complete [this survey](#). The deadline for responding is Monday 17th September at 9am.

IT and Digital Service Newsletter

Please click [here](#) to see the IDO Autumn Newsletter, where you will find all the information regarding the upcoming School Census and the School Workforce Census. Also details regarding the Reception Initial Data Collection and the DfE Data Exchange Project.

There are a number of news items so we would appreciate your support in ensuring that it is circulated to any relevant colleagues.

[Maria Clough](#), Business Systems Manager
IT and Digital Service

Training Courses, Events and Conferences

For a list of all current training courses provided by the Local Authority and Teaching schools [click here](#).

[NGA Development for Clerks Programme](#)

This accredited programme is designed for new and experienced clerks currently working in all school and trust settings. It results in a Level 3 Certificate in Clerking of School and Governing Boards. DfE funding is available to cover over 80% of the cost.

[NGA Development for Chairs Programme](#)

This programme is funded by the Department for Education and provides chairs, vice chairs, committee chairs and aspiring chairs opportunities for developing leadership skills and confident governance.

[An Introduction to Phonics](#)

Monday 17 September, 13:30 to 16.30, Cambridge Golf and Conference Centre. From £65 per person. For teachers and teaching assistants.

[Assisting English](#)

Wednesday 19 September, 09.00 to 12.00 at the ECaR Centre, Huntingdon. From £60 per school. For teachers and teaching assistants.

[Developing Good Mathematical Foundations in Early Years and Key Stage 1](#)

Wednesday 19 September, 13.30 to 16.30, Cambridge Golf and Conference Centre. From £65 per person. Part 1 of a 2 part course for class teachers and subject leaders.

[Schools Intervention Service Teacher and Governor Assessment Workshop](#)

Thursday 20 September, 09:00 to 12:00 **and** 13:00 to 16:00, Cambridge Golf and Conference Centre
"Sensible Approaches to Progress and Assessment"

[Introduction to the Bar Model](#)

Tuesday 25 September 13.30 to - 16.30 at Cambridge Golf and Conference Centre. From £65 per person. For subject leaders, teachers and senior leaders.

[Prevent Lead Training \(for Designated Personnel for Child Protection in schools\)](#)

Tuesday 25 September 2018, 09.30 to 11.30, Huntingdon Primary School Development Centre.

[Computing At School Primary Hub meeting: Cross curricular Computing and Music using Sonic Pi](#)

Wednesday 26 September 2018, 16.00 to 18.00, Chesterton Community College, CB4 3NY. FREE event (book by clicking link).

Learn hands on how to link Computing to Music for a topic using FREE Sonic Pi.

[Triple Science : Physics](#)

Monday 01 October 2018, 9.30am - 3.30pm, Thomas Clarkson Academy, £150 per delegate.

[Basic Child Protection](#)

Thursday 4 October 2018, 09.30 to 12.30, Huntingdon Primary School Development Centre.

[TSST Physics for Non-Specialists Programme](#)

7 sessions starting Thursday 11 October 2018, Comberton Village College, Free of charge.

[Centre for Computing History - Teachers Twilight Session - women in computing](#)

Thursday 11 October 2018, 16.00 to 19.00. The event must be booked, but it is FREE.

[Safeguarding Young Adults at Risk of Harm](#)

(for staff who are supporting vulnerable young adults in school)

Friday 12 October 2018, 09:30 to 16:00 at Cambridge Professional Development Centre

[Primary Science Conference](#)

Friday 19 October 2018, 9.00pm - 3.30pm, Swavesey Village College. £95 per delegate.

[Game of Dragons - Outdoor Maths Challenge](#)

Saturday 20 October 2018, St John's College, University of Cambridge. Fun outdoor adventures to put maths skills to the test.

[Introduction to Mindfulness](#)

Wednesday 31 October 2018, 13.30 -16.30, Oliver Cromwell Hotel, High Street, March PE15 9LH. Find out more about this form of meditation.

[Developing & Teaching RSE in Primary Schools](#)

Wednesday 14 November 2018. Venue: Huntingdon.

This course will support staff in developing Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) across the primary and special school.

[Effective Responses to Bullying](#)

Thursday 15 November 2018. Ambury House, Ermine Business Park, Sovereign Court, Lancaster Way, Huntingdon, PE29 6XU. This course explores the power of empathy as an effective intervention when bullying occurs.

[NPQML & NPQSL](#)

New 2018-2019 dates released - venue: Hinchingsbrooke School, Huntingdon.

Are you eligible for a fully-funded place?

Funds of £10 million have been set aside by government in order to support teachers and leaders in challenging areas to access the National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) for

Middle Leaders (NPQML), Senior Leaders (NPQSL), Headteachers (NPQH) and Executive Leaders (NPQEL).

We are able to offer [fully-funded places](#) on the NPQs to those applicants working in a school in an Opportunity Area (OA) or a Category 5 or 6 area. Anyone in these areas who does not already hold the NPQ for which they are applying and has not previously dropped out before completing it may apply.

PLEASE NOTE: All funding is subject to DfE approval. Where funding is not awarded for any reason an invoice will be issued for the programme to the invoice details provided.

[Termly Governance Briefing and Networking Sessions \(Autumn Term 2018\)](#)

Six sessions available across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is recommended that all governing boards should aim to send at least one representative. The programme is available on the LTC School Governance Team web-page (for more information click the heading above).

[Teaching Assistant Conference 2019!](#)

Thursday 25th April 2019 at the Huntingdon Marriott Hotel. £70 per head.

**Tell us what you think of this Newsletter or if you know of a colleague who would like to receive it, please share this email address: schools.news@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
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