

Schools Newsletter



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Greetings!

The **Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area** programme, funded by the Department for Education, aims to improve life chances for children and young people living in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, through a range of key priorities. The programme is designed and delivered in collaboration with local partners including our Partnership Board, which includes school and system leaders, and our independent Chair, Tricia Pritchard.

The Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area was officially launched in January 2018 with the publication of our Delivery Plan. So far:

- 51 schools have benefitted from our Evidence Based Fund, through which schools can apply for up to £25,000 to implement evidence-based projects.
- 21 Teach First trainees have been placed in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire schools.
- We have offered Recruitment Incentives Grants of up to £10,000 to 13 schools in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, helping them to attract new staff.
- Over 70 newly and recently qualified teachers are participating in Early Career Development Programmes running this year.
- 60 teachers and leaders are benefiting from fully funded National Professional Qualifications.
- We have appointed dedicated Early Years and SEND Leads to bring together networks of practitioners and share best practice.

But we know there is more to be done to reach our

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ambitious targets. Our upcoming activity includes:

- Funded mental health training for schools, in partnership with the YMCA.
- Funded phonics training for Early Years providers, in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council's Early Years Service.
- A marketing campaign advertising Fenland and East Cambridgeshire as a great place to teach.
- [20 funded foundation teacher training places specifically for Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.](#)
- A cultural enrichment programme for all pupils in the area, in partnership with Festival Bridge.
- Fully funded careers training for all schools with secondary provision, in partnership with The East Careers Training.
- Information sessions for parents focusing on SEND and Mental Health, in partnership with Contact.

If you would like to know more about the Opportunity Area and what your school could benefit from, please contact OpportunityAreas.EAST@education.gov.uk and look out for our monthly newsletters.

Please note that only schools in the Fenland and East Cambridgeshire local authority districts are eligible for support through this programme.



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Schools comparative workforce tool

We have produced a new tool which looks at the schools workforce census for the last 4 years (it is conducted in November annually) and allows schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to compare themselves to other schools locally and against the national picture. The workforce census captures information such as teacher numbers, age profiles, salaries, support staff numbers, pupil:teacher ratios, sickness and vacancies. The tool can be found [here](#). Please read the guidance note for more information on how the comparative tool works. This can be found [here](#). Please ensure you share this with your governors. Any questions, please email jonathan.lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Schools Recruitment R&R Update

We would like to make you aware of the things we are doing to help you with the recruitment and retention of school staff, and to ask you for suggestions as to other things we could do which would be helpful to your school. Please contact us at schools.recruitment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Please click [here](#) for full details of all our current activities, which include:

- Free advertising of vacancies on our website
- Get into Teaching events

- Casualty Schools events
- Strategic HR and People Planning toolkit
- Cambridgeshire Teacher internship programme

Foundation teacher trainee programme in the East Cambs and Fenland Opportunity Area.

Cambridgeshire Libraries launches Homework Clubs for children

Cambridgeshire Libraries are now offering term time after school weekly Homework Clubs in our larger libraries - Central Library Cambridge, Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives, Ely, March and Wisbech. These clubs are open to all children, but are specifically aimed at primary school children.

The clubs offer:

- access to books on hundreds of different topics
- free use of the computers and our online encyclopaedias
- a Homework Helper to help children to find the information they need
- free photocopies/print-outs
- space to do homework
- sessions that are free and no need to book. Stay as long as you like (whilst the library is open!)
- Parents and carers, please stay with children under 11

Please ask in the library when their club is held. Of course, our resources are available any time we are open, but attending the club means that someone will definitely be on hand to help with a homework enquiry.

Department for Education Local Authority Newsletter

A special edition of the [Local authority newsletter](#) has been produced with two time-sensitive announcements and the following:

[EpiPen and EpiPen Junior guidance](#)

[EpiPen Parent Guardian Letter](#)

[Letter concerning new online notification system for child safeguarding incidents.](#)

0 - 19 Places Planning & Organisation Service Infrastructure Summary

The 0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Infrastructure Summary is updated 6 times a year. It provides:

- an overview of the status of all state funded schools across Cambridgeshire, including federations and academy conversions
- a list of schools in the process of converting to academy status
- the progress of DfE approved free school proposals which have reached pre-implementation stage
- a high level summary of planned and proposed changes to schools, including capital projects and PAN changes, by district

The latest update, September 2018, can be found [here](#).

World Mental Health Day Blue Smile

Cherry Hinton CofE Primary school were delighted to welcome 15 volunteers into school to help clear an over grown courtyard. For World Mental Health Day Blue Smile and AstraZeneca / MedImmune have again come together to make a difference for local children. In just one day, the courtyard was transformed to create a tranquil space for the whole school to enjoy. This project was covered by BBC Look East (October 10th) and by Cambridge Independent (October 17th).



Jigsaw - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough magazine for early years and childcare

The [2018 Autumn Term](#) issue has been sent to all schools and early years, childcare and

childminding settings.

New PE Advisory Service Webpage

Please note that all County guidance documents for Physical Education are now integrated into the PE pages of the 'learntogether' webpage. Documents related to legislation, safe practice, swimming, professional development are all now easily accessible in a far more user friendly interface. Please add <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/services-to-schools/pe/> to your favourites and make the PE advisory service your first port of call for all things related to PE in schools.

Safe Practice

We have been made aware that social media is being used as a sharing platform for innovative ideas for teaching and learning in Education. PE as a subject is engaging in the process, understandably, but please be wary of copying ideas because they look fun and exciting. There have been cases recently where PE teachers have posted videos of activities (such as long jumping using gymnastics equipment in lessons) and these are then being shared widely (with thumbs ups) with little due diligence by inexperienced PE teachers. Further down the line children are being injured and a causal link is being recognised between the context and the source of the idea. For further information please contact [Ian Roberts](#), CCC PE Adviser.

PSHE Service - Anti-bullying in school support

The PSHE Service has developed a programme of anti-bullying support and training for primary schools which includes: Playground buddies - supporting peers, promoting play and managing a Friendship Bench; Whole school training on 'Celebrating Girls' Friendships' and 'Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation'; Midday Supervisors - positive behaviour management, responding to conflict/bullying and facilitating playground games; workshops for parents/carers to share your school's positive relationships and anti-bullying practice; consultancies and bespoke training to enable schools to prevent and respond effectively to bullying including challenging cases. Please find an information booklet with further details [here](#). To discuss please email sasha.barker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or phone 01480 376256.

New appointments

Hemingford Grey Primary School has appointed Kirsten Marriott as Headteacher from January 2019.

Schoolteachers Pay Grant allocations 2018 - 2019

[This link](#) will take you to the pay grant allocation for all schools. View the Teachers Pay Grant Revenue allocations (academic year 2018 to 2019) [here](#).

Nominations for NGA Outstanding Governance Awards 2019

We would like to urge Cambridgeshire schools to nominate governors, trustees and clerks for the National Governance Association's prestigious Outstanding Governance Awards 2019.

The biannual awards ceremony, which recognises and celebrates the best examples of school governance, will take place in May 2019. Nominations are welcome up to 3 December 2018.

The NGA awards are the only national education awards to recognise the contribution of governors, trustees, and clerks and aim to highlight best practice that can be shared across the school system. It would be great to see a governing board or clerk from Cambridgeshire amongst the national finalists.

Nominations can be made via the [NGA website](#).

Shake off the winter blues at Grafham Water Centre!

Shake off those winter blues with a visit to Grafham Water Centre! Bring your school

group for a day or residential visit during December, January or February and receive a discounted price.

We have a range of indoor and outdoor activities suitable for the winter months including Climbing, Archery, and Mountain Biking. You can keep warm on our Bush-craft activities, learning how to light a fire and toasting marshmallows!

Visit for the day and include a warm lunch, or stays in our warm accommodation include all meals.

Grafham Water Centre is located on the South shore of Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire with easy access from the A1 and A14. The Centre offers a broad range of water and land based activities led by qualified instructors in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

For further details please call the Centre on 01480 810521 or look at the [website](#).

2019 - 2020 School Funding Arrangements - consultation open until 30 November 2018

Further to reports and discussions with the Schools Forum on the 5th October regarding the School Funding Arrangements for 2019-20 here is a [consultation document](#) on the local authority's proposals for the 2019-20 schools funding formula and the Schools Block for Northamptonshire, along with a [2019 - 2020 NFF Briefing Note](#). Please consider the content and information in the document and then the proposals being made, responding to the questions asked via the online survey:

[CCC School Funding Arrangements 2019-20 - Consultation Response Form](#)

The deadline for responses is midday on Friday 30 November 2018 in order for us to collate and analyse all responses which will be discussed further at the next Schools Forum on the 14 December. A separate email will go out to governors for their responses.

We are intending to hold consultation events where the consultation will be shared, along with information we have on the national picture and the future of schools funding. These dates are provisional held for the Monday 12 November and Tuesday 20 November (dates, times and locations to be confirmed). I will also be covering this in the Cambridgeshire Primary Headteacher Forum on Thursday 22 November 2018 (booking can be found [here](#) - for primary heads only).

Adult Learning and Skills - free creative course for parents & carers

Free 'Make a Festive Calendar' course starting on Monday 29 October, 12.30 to 14.30 for 5 weeks in Ely Library Meeting Room. Adults only. Contact Ely Child and Family Centre to book a place. Tel: 01353 611594.

[University of Cambridge Faculty of Education PGCE courses Open Day](#), Friday 2 November 2018, 15.00 to 17.00.



Training Courses, Events and Conferences

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

[Improving Reading in KS1 - Diamond Teaching School](#)

For teachers and TA's, Tuesday 4 December 2018 09.30 to 12.00, Winhills Primary Academy, St Neots. £60 per delegate.

Improving Reading in KS2 - Diamond Teaching School

For teachers and TA's, Tuesday 11 December 2018 13.30 to 16.00, Winhills Primary Academy, St Neots. £60 per delegate.

Science CPD from Cambridge & Peterborough Science Learning Partnership:

TSST Physics for Non-Specialists Programme

7 sessions starting Monday 5 November 2018, Comberton Village College, Free of charge.

Primary Science Network Meeting- Peterborough

Tuesday 6 November 2018, 16.00 to 17.30, Coates Primary School, Free of charge

Primary Science Network Meeting- Cambridge

Tuesday 6 November 2018, 16.00 to 17.30, Trumpington Park Primary School, Free of charge

Primary Maths Courses for NQTs/RQTs

The following four twilight sessions have been designed especially to support NQTs and RQTs in developing their practice:

- 1) Meeting the Needs of Lower and Higher Attaining Pupils: Thursday 15 November
- 2) Developing Verbal and Written Reasoning: Thursday 22 November
- 3) Developing Mental Fluency and Number Sense: Wednesday 28 November
- 4) Promoting Progress through Effective Marking and Feedback: Thursday 6 December.

All sessions will be held at the ECaR Centre, Stanton House from 15.00 to 17.00. Cost: £50 per session or £180 for all four.

Adult Learning and Skills - free creative course for parents & carers

Create your own festive calendar for your family

Starts Monday 29 October, 12.30 to 14.30, for 5 weeks. Ely Library Meeting Room.

Effective Responses to Bullying

Thursday 15 November 2018, Ambury House, Ermine Business Park, Sovereign Court, Lancaster Way, Huntingdon, PE29 6XU. Course to explore the power of empathy as an effective intervention when bullying occurs. It focuses on a number of non-punitive approaches which work directly with all involved guiding them to take responsibility and ultimately change their behaviour.

Maths Conference in Peterborough

Tuesday 13 November 2018, 14.30 to 17.00 at Arthur Mellows Village College, Helpston Road, Peterborough, PE6 7JX. A FREE conference for primary and secondary Headteachers, maths leads, HoDs and teachers.

Developing and Teaching RSE in Primary Schools

Wednesday 14 November 2018, Buckden Towers, Buckden.

Course to support staff in developing and teaching Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) across the primary and special school. Relationships and Health Education becomes statutory in all schools by September 2020. This course will help coordinators and school leaders plan for these changes.

Safe Practice in PE

Wednesday 21 November, Moggerhanger Park, Bedford or 29th November - Ambury House, Huntingdon. This course is in place to help teachers understand and share good practice for ensuring that PE and School Sport is safe.

Secondary Heads of PE Network Meeting

Friday 23 November - Ambury House, Huntingdon

The opportunity for Heads of PE to network and share practice has been successful in recent years. It is anticipated that we will be joined by representatives from WJEC/CBAC to discuss new L1/L2 vocational qualifications, and the CCC PE adviser will lead opportunities to discuss assessment of Core PE, and share updates from national stakeholders such as afPE and YST.

England Table Tennis - Teachers Award

Wednesday 28 November - St Neots Table Tennis Club

This is a practical course and provides an introduction to table tennis for both primary and secondary schools with ideas of how to engage students through coaching fun activities and games, and a focus on developing skills and techniques.

Data at Your Fingertips (See Assessment)

Friday 9 & Tuesday 27 November 2018 at CPDC (AM and PM Sessions). Aimed at improving schools' familiarity and understanding of the data available to them. From £65 per head.

Leading English (See Briefings)

Monday 12 November 2018 at South Fens Business Centre & Wednesday 14 November 2018, Histon FA (13.30-16.30). To enable leaders to support teachers to meet the demands of the curriculum. From £65 Per head - Free for Schools with Element 2.

PSHE Network Meeting

Tuesday 20 November (CPDC) or Monday 26 November (Huntingdon) - 14.30 to 16.30. Network meetings, part of the Wellbeing Subscription, include national and local updates on PSHE and opportunities to share practice. Relationships Education and, subject to consultation, PSHE are due to become statutory in all schools for implementation in 2019. This year's network meetings will include discussion about these changes and up to date information.

Teaching Children to Calculate Mentally (See maths)

KS1 Wednesday 7 November 2018 (13.30-16.30) or for KS2 Thursday 15 November 2018 (13.30-16.30) at the Cambridge Golf & Conference Centre. Explore the principles and importance of mental calculations. From £65 Per head.

A Deeper Look at Grammar in KS2- Diamond Teaching School

For teachers and TA's, Wednesday 21 November 2018, 13.30 to 16.00, Winhills Primary Academy, St Neots. £60 per delegate.

SENCO Briefings

CAMHS (Children and Adolescence Mental Health Services) updates:

- Primary Schools: 27th November. 10.00 am to 12.15 pm at Huntingdon Development Centre
- Primary Schools: 4th December. 10.00 am to 12.15 pm at Cambs FA, Histon
- Secondary Schools and FE: 4th December. 13.00 pm to 15.15 pm at Cambs FA, Histon
- Primary Schools: 10th December. 10.00 am to 12.15 pm at South Fens Business Centre, Chatteris.

The main focus for these sessions will be an update from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) on referral pathways and thresholds around mental health and neurodevelopmental issues including ADHD (Attention, Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder), ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and LD (Learning Difficulties).

There will also be general briefings on SEND and the opportunity to engage with the continuing development of a joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SEND Strategy and action plan. £30 Academies.

A Deeper Look at Grammar in KS2

Wednesday 21 November 2018, 13.30 to 16.00, Winhills Primary School, St Neots. For teachers and TAs. £60 per delegate.

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