

Schools Newsletter



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Greetings!

Welcome to this week's edition of the schools newsletter. As Chairman of the Children and Young Peoples Committee (CYPC) it was excellent to see our new Service Director, Jonathan Lewis, settle in to his new post. Jonathan and I recently met to discuss plans for the future and I'm very excited to share his ambitions and to create better communication with all schools in Cambridgeshire. It is imperative that all schools and the Local Authority have the best possible working relationships in order that we can improve educational outcomes for 'every child' in the county.

Jonathan will be working closely with all the CYPC members and only last week, along with other committee members, met with Sue Baldwin the Regional Schools Commissionaire to discuss their aims and ambitions, whilst also raising questions and concerns.

The CYPC has a busy Agenda in 2018, with one of the key concerns for members being funding for Cambridgeshire schools. We are all working hard with the county's MPs and the County Council's Network to

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[Maths and English Advice](#)

[Knowledge Hub](#)

[Help With Recruitment?](#)

Dates for your diary

Friday 23 March 2018: Deadline to submit [Primary Mathematics Teaching for Mastery TRG Application](#)

take a strong message to Government, with our [Fairdeal4Cams](#) campaign, that historic underfunding of large rural counties cannot continue.

I have spent the past 10 months, as Chair, getting out and about meeting as many staff as possible. I believe we have a great workforce in our schools who go above and beyond to deliver a quality service. On behalf of the CYPC I would like to thank each and every one of you because I fully appreciate this is often done in difficult and trying circumstances, and I look forward to working together with you all.

School survey

Please [click here](#) to go to the Cambridgeshire school survey mentioned last week.

Damian Hinds pledges workload reduction

Find out more [here](#).

The Schools Intervention Service Annual Assessment Conference

This year the conference was led by Mary Myatt. Headteachers who attended evaluated the conference very positively and said that it would have a positive impact on their work in schools. There was lots of good discussion and sharing ideas. Headteachers asked for a conference led by Mary Myatt for teachers next year. The date of Thursday 20 September 2018 has been secured, more details will follow.

Some messages from the conference:

- At least one member of the school leadership team should be on Twitter for Education. People to follow: Jamie Pembroke from the School Data Company, Tom Sheraton, School 21 in Stratford East London where Year 1 children learn texts from Shakespeare and Year 3 pupils give four minute speeches (without notes) to large audiences. Andrew Percival from a school in Oldham that is working on minimal marking
- The merits and uses of FFT and Arbor were discussed
- Teaching for depth not coverage was emphasised. Provide opportunities over time to enable children to produce something worthwhile. Think of 'episodes of learning' rather than individual lessons.
- Teachers should timetable time each day to read high quality texts to children 'which are above their pay grade'
- Worksheets can limit learning, pupils need to have opportunity to complete demanding work. Ability grouping can place limits on children
- Feedback should be high quality, 'Austin's Butterfly' demonstrates this very clearly to teachers
- The importance of speech and language from Early Years was emphasised. By the time disadvantaged pupils start school they are likely to have heard around 30 million fewer words than other pupils.

[Rosemarie Sadler](#)

Cambridgeshire festival of education

The future is bright, the future is pink. The brightly feathered flamingo was chosen by The Cambridgeshire Festival of Education steering committee as a symbol of hope and optimism for Education in Cambridgeshire. Thanks to the Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board and building on the success of last year, the festival is continuing in 2018 to offer the ultimate in optimism and inspiration for teachers and prospective teachers. FREE Fringe events (4th-8th June across Cambridgeshire) will be



detailed in a forthcoming Schools Newsletter. Tickets for Saturday 9 June at The University of Cambridge Faculty of Education are on sale now; www.cambsedfest.com Become a #flamingoofhope.

Affordable childcare - information for parents

The Government launched its 30 hours extended entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds in September 2017. Working parents of younger children may find information about this extended childcare entitlement useful, and tax-free childcare has now been extended to children up to the age of 12 for out of school and holiday care.

The Government's Childcare Choices website, <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>, offers parents information on all the available childcare entitlements. Any enquiries on 30 hours extended entitlement can be sent to 30HoursChildcare@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Children's Board has undertaken a number of multi-agency audits. From these, re-occurring themes have been identified as lessons for agencies, including schools, to put into practice;

Think Sibling: Local and National Serious case reviews tell us that, in relation to a child at significant risk of harm, there were often other children within the family. These siblings were omitted from assessments. Schools need to think 'are there any other siblings either living in the family home or living elsewhere as part of an extended family'? If so they need to ensure that they are actively part of any assessment and, if necessary, any child protection process.

Think the Unthinkable: Schools should always work with 'healthy scepticism' when dealing with families where children might be at risk and to actively think 'is this child abuse'?

Disguised Compliance: This can involve parents, carers or siblings giving 'the appearance of co-operating with child welfare agencies to avoid raising suspicions, to allay professional concerns and ultimately diffuse professional intervention'. Schools need to be aware of possible disguised compliance from families and to always check out what is being said.

[Chris Meddle](#) and [Diane Stygal](#) - The Education Advisory Team

Asbestos management assurance process online

The Education & Skills Funding Agency has sent out an online survey on Asbestos Management at your School. You will all be aware that Cambridgeshire uses an online management system call Frontline, which your School has access to. This management system will provide each School with 80% of the information required. It is essential you complete this before mid-day on Thursday 3 May 2018. The Cambridgeshire County Council Property Compliance team will be available to go through the survey with you and ensure that the information you provide is accurate. Previously, there was an issue with the wrong date being used. Rather than using the 'Survey Date' please use the 'Live date'.

[Click here](#) to contact the team.

View the Asbestos Management Assurance Process User guide [here](#).

Recruitment and retention steering group

The Headteacher steering group of [TeachinCambs](#) met last week to discuss issues and priorities for the future. We are looking for examples of strategies which have worked well for schools in terms of recruiting/retaining staff - more details to come, but if you have any tips to share, suggestions to make or are interested in joining the steering group, please let us know using this [email](#). For the notes of the latest steering group meeting, [please click](#).

Apprentice teachers - what you need to know

The teacher apprenticeship is now available for September 2018. It is a one year programme leading to QTS - the rules are the same as for any other apprenticeship, in that the apprentice would be expected to receive training for 20% of their time, and be at work for the remainder; working up to 80% of a timetable as their training progresses. For more information, go to <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/services-to-schools/apprentices/> to find details of the teacher apprenticeship, and our guide to recruiting an apprentice.

Primary mathematics teaching for mastery teacher research group

The Cambridge Maths Hub is currently recruiting schools to be part of a pilot Teacher Research Group(TRG). The TRG provides an opportunity for schools to engage in high-quality, sustained, collaborative professional development and participate in an important national project. In each TRG three schools will work with one of our mastery specialists. They will meet twice between now and the end of the school year. Application deadline: Friday 23 March 2018. Cost: FREE.

[Apply here](#) or contact admin@cambridgemathshub.org

A wonderful netball opportunity for schools

Netball is the biggest female team sport in the UK, with over 1 million women playing every week. Schools & colleges have the chance to win an England Netball player visit for a coaching session in 2018. Schools must register their interest online, and explain why their netball team would love to have this great opportunity. The rest of the world will then vote for the school that deserves to win. To register, please [click here](#)

For any questions about this opportunity, or anything else related to PE & Sport [lan Roberts](#) - Cambridgeshire CC PE & School Sport Adviser, 01480-37907.



Horizon Scanning

[BBC's new Education Strategy to encourage social mobility in the UK](#)

Priorities include:

- * Improving literacy rates by focusing on pre-school children to counter the fact that the most disadvantaged 5-year-olds can be 19 months behind their more affluent peers in vocabulary development on school entry.
- * Championing the wider needs of children by building resilience and self-esteem and by supporting mental health.
- * Opening up the world of employment to young people at a time when recent CBI research has revealed that 84% of UK businesses feel the quality of careers advice young people receive is not good enough.

[Get involved with Ambition: Feed](#)

[Melanie Renowden](#) (Deputy CEO of Get involved with Ambition) tweets: Really excellent edition of the [podcast tackling recruitment and retention of staff](#). Highly recommended listening - please share!

[How curriculum planning can achieve greater financial efficiency](#)

Integrated curriculum financial planning is an emerging approach by the DfE. [This video](#) outlines the process and how it can be applied to all schools to drive efficiency but also ensuring a breadth of curriculum offer.

Training Courses, Events and Conferences

For a list of all current training courses provided by the Local Authority and

[Secondary Heads of Science Network Meeting](#)

Monday 19 March 2018, 13.30 -16.30, Swavesey Village College. No charge
This is a chance for collaboration with your peers so you can share information and develop as a leader.

[Primary Science Network Meeting](#)

Tuesday 20 March 2018, 16.00 to 17.30, Pathfinder School, Northstowe. No charge.

[Introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

Friday 23 March 2018, 10:00 to 16:00, Babbage House, Cambridge CB3 0AT.
Cost £45. Compulsory course for all new DofE leaders and helpers.
Contact Nichola.west@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for application form.

[Governance Conference - 'Ambitious Leadership'](#)

Saturday 24 March 2018, 09.30 to 13.00, at Swavesey Village College. Free to subscribing schools.

[Primary Science Network Meeting](#)

Monday 26 March 2018, 16.00 to 17.30, Highlees Primary School, Peterborough. No charge.

[Making powerful connections between primary science, maths & literacy](#)

Tuesday 27 March 2018, 9.30 to 15.30, Cambourne Village College. £150 per delegate
Encouraging children to communicate science ideas, knowledge and understanding develops their literacy skills.

[Pool Carers Courses](#)

April 2018. The Grove Primary School, CB4 2NB. Two day courses for new pool carers and one day update courses available.

[Leading English Briefings](#)

Monday 23 April - Thursday 26 April 2018, 13.30 to 16.30 at venues across Cambridgeshire. Enabling English Subject Leaders to network and develop subject-specific skills. Free for schools with Element 2.

[PE Convention](#) - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Schools

Tuesday 1 May, 13.00 to 16.15, Hinchingsbrooke School, Huntingdon. To provide Senior Leaders & PE practitioners with guidance and resources related to PE and Schools Sports provision, and the Primary PE and School Sport Premium funding.

[Workshop 6: Safeguarding Policies and Website Compliance](#)

Tuesday 1 May 2018, 09.30 to 11.30, South Fens Business Centre. £60 for maintained schools. £70 for academies.

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Wednesday 2 May 2018, 09.30 to 11.30, Cambridge Golf and Conference Centre, £60 for maintained schools. £70 for academies.

[Workshop 7: Health and Safety](#)

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[Cambridgeshire Festival of Education](#)

Saturday 9 June 2018, The University of Cambridge Faculty of Education.

[Trampolining Refresher Course](#)

Monday 2 July 09.00 to 15.30, One Leisure, St Ives, PE27 6WU. A mixture of practical and theory activities to review their trampolining knowledge and update their techniques.

Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment Tutor-led Online Courses.

Increase your knowledge of how best to support children/young people with a hearing or visual loss. Each course equates to approx. 20hrs study time, £65 per course.

Please contact Sibel.djemal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tell us what you think of this Newsletter or if you want to add someone to the distribution list - email schools.news@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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