

Education Essex

Your weekly LA news roundup

Issue 16, 7 January 2019

Guest Editorial by Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back after the Christmas break and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and successful 2019.

I am sure that we all enter the New Year with the usual feelings of excitement being balanced with trepidation at what might happen. However, as the eternal optimist I am always convinced that nothing will be anything like as bad as it may seem!

That said, we all know that educating our young people is always challenging and that factor is not diminishing – we see an increasing number of children and young people who have special educational needs and mental health difficulties. There seems to be no reason for this and certainly no one seems to be able to explain the increasing incidence of children on the autistic spectrum or why more are suffering from social emotional and mental health problems. The truth is that we need to recognise this and ensure that the best support is provided to the children and their families.

I was recently interviewed on BBC Essex with two extremely well-informed people who are part of separate organisations helping and supporting families of children with SEND. The overwhelming message that I received is that they all consider the Local Authority to be the “enemy” preventing children from getting the resources they need. I was extremely dispirited by that. It is true that we need to manage the resources and sometimes that does mean that parents and carers are disappointed with the outcome but that does not mean that we do not care, of course we do!

All that I would say is that this is a challenge that we all face so please, let us work together to ensure that all our children and young people get the best start in life.

This leads me to some really good news. Could I congratulate:

Gary Smith, Headteacher at Marker Field School and Chairman of the Essex Special Schools Education Trust who has been made an OBE and Dr Margaret Wilson, former headteacher of Benfleet’s King John School and chief executive officer for the Zenith Multi Academy Trust who has been made a CBE.

We have some really great teachers in Essex and both Gary and Margaret exemplify that.

Have a good week!

Cllr Ray Gooding
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

In this week's issue (please note these are not hyperlinked):

- **School Management:** Health and Safety Monitoring (HSIM) 2018 – Deadline Extension; Mitie Energy Contract; School Attendance, Requirement and Enforcement Briefing on 26th February;
- **News and Information:** Proposed sale of the EES for Schools business;
- **Staff Support:** Directors Conference for Chairs of Governors; Therapeutic Play Skills in School-Spring Term
- **Pupil Support and Welfare:** Health advice for schools and parents on three common childhood health issues; Multi-School Council Spring Meetings;
- **Other Education Services:** Essex Youth Inclusion Ensemble; Two Day Band Workshops in February 2019 Half-Term; Courses for Teaching Staff in Schools; A Year in the EYFS: A Term by Term Guide for NQT's; Educate and Celebrate; Resilience at Essex Outdoors; TSA Courses

School Management

Health and Safety Monitoring (HSIM) 2018 – Deadline Extension

EYFS-KS5 / Headteachers / Business Managers / Health & Safety Co-ordinators / Premises Managers

The deadline for the online health and safety internal monitoring (HSIM) 2018 has been extended to **Friday 18 January 2019**. There will be no further extensions. Links to the monitoring page are on the main health and safety home page. All Community and V/C schools must submit the relevant checklists by the above date. Please read the guidance and preparation sheets before completing the checklists. **Note:** Academy, Foundation, V/A or Independent schools who buy the Health and Safety Service have the option to submit the forms.

For more information contact the Corporate Health and Safety Service on 0333 013 9818 or

hs@essex.gov.uk.

(Only for Community and V/C schools or other schools which buy in to the H&S Service)

Mitie Energy Contract

EYFS-KS5

Following on from recent communication in regard to the Electricity and Gas Supply Contract, a further documentation was emailed out on the Wednesday 12 December 2018 from Christine Calver. This explains further in regard to Market Price increase, benefits of the Flexible Procurement arrangement, Online Access for billing and Vat Declaration forms. Please email essexbureau@utilyx.com if you have not received this.

School Attendance, Requirement and Enforcement Briefing on Tuesday 26 February 2019

KS1-KS5

The School attendance, requirement and enforcement briefing will provide a foundation of the law and the process schools should take to ensure pupils receive the education they have a legal requirement to receive.

The briefing will enable participants to build on knowledge helping you to handle common issues that arise on a day-to-day basis in a confident and professional manner. The February briefing will cover:

- Non-school attendance
- Necessary process/evidence
- Prosecution

Please visit the [ELS](#) website for more information.

News and Information

Proposed sale of the EES for Schools business

EYFS – KS5 / Headteachers / Business Managers

The proposed sale of the EES for Schools business continues and Essex County Council (ECC) is currently in negotiations with a bidder. While this doesn't guarantee a sale will take place, it is a significant step in the process.

As expected with this type of process, the amount of information that can be shared at this time is limited. It is expected that more detail can be provided during February 2019 and March 2019. Please be assured that the EES for Schools team remain committed to providing schools with an excellent service and support they are known for.

Staff Support

Directors Conference for Chairs of Governors

EYFS-KS5 Chairs of Governors / Vice Chairs / LA Governors

The next Directors Conference for Chairs of Governors will be held on Tuesday 12 February 2019, at Hamptons Sport and Leisure Centre, Chelmsford, CM2 9FH. Clare Kershaw, Director of Education looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Therapeutic Play Skills in School-Spring Term

EYFS-KS5 / Headteachers / Designated Teachers for Children in Care / Senior Leaders / Support Staff

The Essex Virtual School is pleased to announce that they have commissioned for the spring term, training for Therapeutic Play Skills in School. This will provide a training opportunity for school staff on Using Creative Therapies and Therapeutic Play in the Classroom. The date for this is Monday 11 March 2019. Please download the [flyer](#) and [booking form](#) and return it to virtual.school@essex.gov.uk. Please note that there is only availability for one person per school. Closing date for applications is **Friday 22 February 2019**.

Pupil Support and Welfare

Health advice for schools and parents on three common childhood health issues

KS1-KS2 / Headteachers in Mid Essex and South Essex Schools

On behalf of Dr Sooraj Natarajan, local GP and Clinical Lead on Children's health in Mid and South Essex, schools are being asked to share this information with staff, parents and carers so that they are aware of what to do in the event of:

- Diarrhoea and Vomiting;
- Bronchiolitis
- Head Injury

For more information visit the [Essex Healthy Schools Programme](#) page.

Multi-School Council Spring meetings

EYFS – KS5

All schools are invited to join the Multi-Schools Council; you can join at any time during the year. Meetings are held 3 times a year in each quadrant of Essex and schools can bring between 5-8 pupils. The next meetings are being held on:

- Mid – Thursday 17 January 2019
- South – Thursday 24 January 2019
- North East – Thursday 31 January 2019
- West – Thursday 14 February 2019

If you would like to join the Multi-schools council or find out more information, please contact Kierran Pearce - Kierran.Pearce@marketfield.essex.sch.uk

Other Education Services

Essex Youth Inclusion Ensemble

KS2 – KS5 / SEN Schools/Heads of Music, Heads of Performing Arts, Head Teachers, Heads of Year

This new music group allows participants to play traditional instruments, like guitar and trumpet, and new instruments & tech, like iPads and GarageBand. For ages 10-18, all abilities & needs, a mixed group of disabled & non-disabled, making music together. The free open sessions are 10am – 1pm Saturday 19 January 2019 and Saturday 26 January 2019 at Great Bradfords Junior School, Braintree. For more information visit the [Essex Music Hub](#) website.

Two Day Band Workshops in February 2019 Half-Term

KS4/KS5 Music Teachers

Places are currently available for two two-day band workshops taking place in February 2019 half-term. This course is open to all secondary ages, all instrumentalists and all abilities. Subsidised by Essex Music Services, the courses are being held in Harlow (Monday 18 February 2019 & Tuesday 19 February 2019) and Brentwood (Wednesday 20 February 2019 & Thursday 21 February 2019).

Young musicians will explore song writing, record music and will perform within an official gig.

For more information and to book a place, visit the Essex Music Hub website:

- [Harlow Course](#)
- [Brentwood Course](#)

Courses for Teaching Staff in Schools; A Year in the EYFS: A Term by Term Guide for NQT's

EYFS NQTs

This course consists of 3 different modules (Autumn term has taken place), which aim to link specifically with the challenges of that particular term. Please follow the links to book your place on the module/s of interest to you. The modules are as follows:

- [Spring Term: Making progress, The Role of the Adult, Outside Play in the winter](#)
- [Summer Term: The EYFS Profile, Transition from Preschool, Continuing the learning journey into Year 1, Challenge for the most able children](#)

For further information on the services offered contact EES for Schools on 0345 200 8600, enquiries@EESforschools.org or visit the [EES for Schools](#) website.

Educate and Celebrate

KS3-KS5 / Teachers / Headteachers / SLTs / School Governors

Engage students in campaigning for positive change by joining the [Educate & Celebrate PRIDE Youth Network programme](#). Educate & Celebrate are experts in transforming schools into LGBT+ friendly places and offer a range of services. Join the ever-growing network of young people who lead on social justice in their school. Students are trained, provided activities and linked with other schools to share ideas through social media, and participate in a national conference, all to increase the visibility of LGBT+ in the school environment.

For further information contact CEO Dr Elly Barnes MBE on ellybarnes@educateandcelebrate.org or 07748 102859.

Resilience at Essex Outdoors

KS2-KS5 / Headteachers / DHT/ SENCOs / Teachers/ Head of year/KS/TA

Developing levels of resilience in pupils will directly impact on their approach to learning, improving their exam results and setting them up for future success. By partaking in a trip to [Essex Outdoors](#), pupils' level of resilience will increase by working together to successfully overcome challenges. Contact Essex Outdoors on hello@essexoutdoors.com or 0345 200 4220 to find out more or to book a place.

Teaching School Alliance Courses

Benfleet Teaching School Alliance

- [Pastoral Leaders programme 2019 \(7 twilight sessions\)](#) – starting Monday 14 January 2019
- [Primary Enhancing & Developing Headship Skills \(1½ day course\)](#) – Monday 21 January & Monday 4 February 2019
- [Memory and how to hack it! by Robin Launder](#) – Thursday 7 February 2019

For more information and to book places visit [Benfleet Teaching School Alliance](#) website.

Billericay Teaching School Alliance:

- [Developing Self Resilience & Self Management \(Secondary NQTs\)](#) – Wednesday 6 February 2019
- [Writing Across The Curriculum \(Secondary\)](#) – Wednesday 6 March 2019
- [Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme \(Primary and Secondary\)](#) – 5 sessions starting Tuesday 5 March 2019.

For further information and to book places visit the [Billericay Teaching School Alliance](#) website.

Chelmsford Teaching School Alliance

- [First Aid \(Focused Session incl. Asthma / Diabetes/ Epilepsy & other areas\) with Frinton Training Services](#) – Wednesday 6 February 2019
- [Recently Qualified Teacher Programme](#) - Wednesday 23 January 2019 & Wednesday 20 March 2019
- [Paediatric First Aid Training \(Certified 2 day course\)](#) – Starting Wednesday 19 June 2019

For further information and to book places visit the [Chelmsford Teaching School Alliance](#) website.

Wickford Teaching School Alliance

- [Pizza and Pedagogy](#) – Friday 11 January 2019
- [Wickford Science Learning Partnership: Assessment & Progression](#) – Monday 21 January 2019
- [Teach Meet](#) – Tuesday 5 February 2019

For more information visit the Wickford TSA website.

For information on Teaching School Alliances:

Essex Schools Infolink Page: [Teaching School Alliances, Standards & Excellence, Data & Standards, ESI](#)

Other Education News including updates from the Department for Education (DfE), can be found [here](#).

Look out for the next issue of Education Essex on Monday 14 January 2019. **Sign up** to the [Education Essex mailing list](#).

For enquiries and password assistance regarding the secure area on Essex Schools Infolink contact the [Password Team](#).

Visit the [Essex County Council Website](#).

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