

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Thank You

It feels like it has been a long time coming but today is my last day as Director of Education and Skills for Northumberland County Council. I would like to thank all our headteachers, teachers and school staff for helping to make it such a superb experience – I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I would also like to thank enormously Cath McEvoy-Carr, our DCS, Deb Anderson, my fantastic go-to person, the Education and Skills SMT and all the other officers and elected members that have helped to make it such a challenging and rewarding period for me.

DfE UPDATES

****IMPORTANT** UPDATED: Recording attendance during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

What educational settings need to do when recording attendance in the educational settings status form from 1 September 2020.

The updated educational settings status form and guidance is now available.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings?utm_source=a0930475-1c8c-41b7-bc40-078ffa9fd8cb&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

UPDATED: Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidance on temporary changes to special educational needs and disability legislation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The DfE has updated the guidance to show that the Amendment Regulations will expire on 25 September 2020.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus?utm_source=11cc14f8-9c92-488d-aaaa-cf6733ebfdbbc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notification&utm_content=daily

NEW GUIDANCE: Summary guidance on appeals for GCSE, AS and A level: summer 2020

GCSE, AS and A level grades in England – the DfE has issued new summary guidance on appeals, malpractice and maladministration complaints.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summary-guidance-on-appeals-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-summer-2020?utm_source=d9cbb10e-082f-4dcd-8f16-37ab4970bc2c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

NEW GUIDANCE: Coronavirus (COVID-19): home test kits for schools and FE providers

The DfE has issued new guidance for schools and further education (FE) providers on the initial supply of coronavirus (COVID-19) home testing kits for pupils, teachers and staff.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers?utm_source=cfddd7d1-6426-45af-830d-f6fe10317a3f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

UPDATED: Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19)

What school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The DfE has updated the guidance and added 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): home test kits for schools and FE providers' to the 'Safe working and protective measures' section.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=892b1fc5-c7e1-4b77-aeb0-71081f5215d0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

UPDATED: Taking exams during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

What schools, colleges and students need to know about cancelled GCSEs, AS and A levels and other qualifications in 2020, and the plans for taking future exams.

The DfE has updated the guidance with information on the awarding of grades and autumn exams in 2020 and exams in summer 2021.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020?utm_source=7bf9936a-7fe8-4e92-8398-a2fce61bf35c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

UPDATED: Responsibility for autumn exams

A guide for schools and colleges on who should enter students for autumn exams. It also explains the support DfE is giving for sites, invigilators and exam fees.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responsibility-for-autumn-gcse-as-and-a-level-exam-series?utm_source=5f384b45-00ed-494b-bd87-4328db664f1d&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Please find [information leaflets here](#) which describes the services and resources available to staff, children, young people and schools in Northumberland as we return to school. The full reopening of schools is going to bring challenges, and in anticipation of higher than usual levels of anxiety and worry amongst staff and also parents/carers there are a number of new initiatives and options available.

Please look at the enclosed, and signpost staff/families as appropriate.

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Headteacher-Update-EHW-28.8.20.pdf>

SEN Support Services name change

As you are probably aware, Northumberland County Council's SEN Support Services are being renamed to **Inclusive Education Services** to take full effect from September onwards.

The Inclusive Education Services teams include: Autism Support, Speech, Language and Communication Support, Literacy Support, Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Support, Sensory Support, Educational Psychology, English as an Additional Language and Portage.

The Service Offer to Schools for 2020/21 will be available on the Local Offer next week and will be circulated on the eCourier. There is also [a copy available here](#). It details what you can expect from the new model of delivery and provides all contact details for Managers and Lead Practitioners, along with referral pathways.

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NIES-Core-Offer-Information-September-2020.pdf>

Headteacher Weekly Meeting

It was good to meet all the locality headteachers yesterday. The topics shared during the call this week focused on priority areas for start of term, with key updates from:

- Public Health England update from Liz Morgan, Director of Public Health
- Health and Safety update from John Froud, NCC
- Schools HR update from Christina Ponting, NCC
- Mental Health and Wellbeing support from Katinka Bryan, NCC
- H2ST, Sue Aviston, NCC
- Digital devices, Dave Cookson, NCC
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Please check with locality representatives for any specific information from the updates.

Public Health England contacts details

If schools need to contact Public Health England to discuss cases or outbreaks of COVID or other infectious diseases, please call the North East Health Protection Team on 0300 303 8596 (option 1).

The team is available 24/7 and is well linked in with the Local Authority and other local partners, and so using them as your first point of contact (rather than the PHE / DfE national helplines) is our preferred arrangement.