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**To:** [Mim Baron \(she/her\)](#)  
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# Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter

## Important assessment update - End of KS2 Writing Moderation

On 2nd of March the [Key Stage 2 teacher assessment guidance](#) was updated and in section 6.2, on independent writing, the following statement was added describing writing that **would not** be considered independent:

edited or rewritten following feedback from large language models or other forms of artificial intelligence (AI) – teachers should make it clear to moderators where they have used AI programmes to provide feedback, so this work can be excluded from the pupil's collection of writing

This does not mean that schools cannot use AI to support the editing process, however writing produced directly in response to the feedback should not be used as part of a pupil's writing collection for moderation.

If you would like more information regarding this update please contact [primary.assessment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:primary.assessment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or [english.team@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:english.team@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Year 6 English Challenge Final

This year's Year 6 English Challenge culminated in the final which was held on the 16th March at Over Community Centre. Teams from across the length and breadth of Cambridgeshire took part in rounds that tested their knowledge of books, grammar, punctuation and text types.

Congratulations to all the teams who took part, they represented their schools brilliantly in front of an audience of parents and teachers. After a hard-fought and close scoring competition the top three teams were... Histon and Impington Brook in 3rd place, Cottenham Primary school in 2nd place and our 2026 champions were St. Philips C of E Primary School who will have the honour of looking after the English Challenge cup for a year. You can read an article from the winning team below.

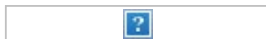
## Summer HAF Programme



The summer HAF Programme is operating between 21 July and 28 August. Eligible pupils in receipt of benefits-related FSM can attend a registered holiday scheme for up to 64 hours, fully funded. A daily meal and enriching experiences are available. Eligibility vouchers will be issued to parents/carers on 8.6.26 by email or text. [Parents HAF webpage.](#)

Questions? Please email: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Survey regarding the online referral form for Attendance Penalty Notice/Prosecution



The **Attendance Team** has launched a survey seeking schools' and headteachers' views on the online referral form for legal sanctions. The Attendance Service needs to hear schools' views by **28 April 2026**. Schools' views are sought on the online referral form (irregular school attendance rather than term-time leave).

The Attendance Service would like your feedback on the layout, questions, the information we ask you for and the general usability of the online form. We would also value any recommendations you have on how we can improve your user experience.

This survey will remain totally anonymous, unless you choose to give us your details to be part of a steering group (more detail within the survey). We are unable to provide individual responses to any survey participants, but we assure you that all individual responses will be read and taken into account as part of this exercise.

The online referral form we are consulting you about can be viewed here: [Referral Form](#)

This survey will close at the end of the day on **28th April 2026**.

Please access the survey here: [Survey regarding online referral form for Attendance Penalty Notice/ Prosecution](#)

or via the QR code above.

Thank you for your support.

### **GDPR Statement:**

This engagement is to find out schools' views on our online referral form for penalty notice/prosecution. We may share your information within the Attendance Team and with the council analysis team. You do not have to give us any personal information. We will not publish any personal details you do give us, but may publish your response, and include it in public reports, with personal details removed. Personal data will be held securely, in accordance with data protection legislation. We will only store it for 12 months after the results have been analysed and the report published. Further information about how we collect and use personal data, and your rights around this, can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council website at: [Privacy statement - Cambridgeshire County Council](#).

**The Cambridgeshire County Council Attendance Team**

## News from St. Philips - English Challenge Final 2026

At the English competition in Over Community Centre, we had a great time competing in many fun challenges. We unscrambled words, completed puzzles and then won, thanks to our incredible teamwork and variety of knowledge (which was taught to us by our brilliant teachers)!

It was amazing to compete in different rounds. These included: the relay round, the puzzle round, team rounds and 'extra thinks'. We hope to pass the trophy on to another successful team next year!

**The St Philip's Team**

## Feedback from schools: Shaping the Crisis and Resilience Fund

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is available to local authorities in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

The Council is seeking feedback from local partners/organisations to understand how this fund can be administered most effectively. This form seeks to capture any ideas/feedback from those working in schools to help shape the fund. Please share your insights **by 30 April** here:

[Feedback from schools: Shaping the Crisis and Resilience Fund – Fill out form.](#)

## Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Assessment 2026

Please send your Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results to the LA no later than **Thursday 25th June**.

To support schools and settings with this year's EYFS Profile submission, the Early Years Childcare and School Readiness Service have produced the following Sway to share with EYFS teachers and school leaders: [EYFS Profile Assessment 2026](#)

You will find information about:

Changes for 2026

New DfE assessment support materials

Key documents and helpful resources

Guidance for completing and submitting the profile

Headteacher responsibilities

Moderation opportunities

If you have any queries about EYFS Profile assessment, please contact [sarah.hellary@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hellary@cambridgeshire.gov.uk), Early Years Improvement Adviser.

## A Day of Welcome: Building a Culture of Welcome in Schools (Friday 12 June 2026)

**A Day of Welcome, Friday 12 June 2026 (EYFS-KS4)**

An annual day of solidarity and learning in schools that aims to build a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary and support Refugee Week 2026.

**FREE author events**, including with Michael Rosen and Dina Naveri will be held, and resources that can be used all year will be provided.

A Day of Welcome is developed in partnership with Schools of Sanctuary & Anglia Ruskin University.

Register here: [A Day of Welcome - Schools of Sanctuary](#)

For more info, please contact: [dayofwelcome@uk.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:dayofwelcome@uk.cityofsanctuary.org)

## School Term and Holiday Dates 2027 - 2028

Thank you very much to all those who responded to the consultation on this issue. The summary results of the consultation, together with the confirmed dates, are now on the council website as follows:

### [School term dates | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

The confirmed Cambridgeshire school holiday and term time dates for 2027 – 2028 are agreed as shown below, or in the link here: [Agreed Term dates 2027 - 2028](#)

These dates total 195 days, from which schools should choose 5 days to set aside as professional training days.

#### Autumn Term Dates 2027

Wednesday 1 September to Friday 22 October (38 days)

**Half Term: Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October**

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December (35 days)

**Christmas Holidays: Monday 20 December to Friday 31 December**

#### Spring Term Dates 2028

Tuesday 4 January to Friday 11 February (29 days)

**Half Term: Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February**

Monday 21 February to Friday 31 March (30 days)

**Easter Holidays: Monday 3 April to Monday 17 April**

#### Summer Term Dates 2028

Tuesday 18 April to Friday 26 May (28 days)

**Half Term: Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June**

Monday 5 June to Friday 21 July (35 days)

**Summer Holiday: Monday 24 July onwards**

Foundation, Voluntary Aided, Academies and Free schools are responsible for setting their own dates and so may choose to follow a pattern and/or specific dates that do not match those set by Cambridgeshire County Council.

## New Inclusion and Accessibility Grant scheme launching for schools

The Education Capital team are pleased to launch the “**Inclusion and Accessibility Grant**”. This scheme is to help our mainstream school environments be as accessible as possible.

The aim is for schools to be proactive and creative in what changes, adaptations or capital projects they might need to accommodate learners with additional needs. We want schools to think ahead rather than solving concerns once they arise.

This is an important step in making all our Cambridgeshire schools as Inclusive as possible, in line with our “Inclusion for All agenda” as well as the new DfE SEND Reform and white paper guidance.

Ideas may include...

Physical changes, access routes, automated entrances, hygiene facilities.

Assistive aids, hearing loops, acoustic boarding, blackout blinds.

Sensory spaces, for regulation and education. Raising/standing desks.

To find out more information about the grant, the application process, and to start informal discussions around ideas and need, please contact -

[PlacePlanningReferrals0-19@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:PlacePlanningReferrals0-19@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## High praise from schools for residential visits at Grafham Water Centre

Grafham Water Centre would like to share some truly heart-warming words received from a school attending recently for their yearly residential:

"Your approach is the exact way to be. There's no rush — purpose and safety are clearly explained, and children are given the time they need to push themselves. Your group leaders are always a credit to both the centre and humanity, showing care, attention and enthusiasm. You must be so proud to have them work for you."

"I know budgets are tight, but keep investing in the people that **make** Grafham Water what it is, and you'll continue to do right by the young people who spend time here."

Grafham Water Center has responded to say "We couldn't be prouder of our incredible team and positive impact they have every day. Thank you to everyone who shares these wonderful comments — they mean the world to us!"

[#GrafhamWaterCentre](#) [#TeamAppreciation](#) [#OutdoorEducation](#) [#MakingADifference](#)

Some late availability dates are still available at Grafham Water Centre, either for a day visit or an overnight stay: **11 to 15 May and 13 to 15 July 2026**

Find out more here: [Primary Schools - Grafham Water Centre](#)

## Cambridgeshire Primary Headteachers Conference Summer 2026



The Summer Term [Cambridgeshire Primary Heads Conference](#) will take place on **Thursday 11 June** at Delta Hotels by Marriott, Huntingdon. This event will offer primary school leaders a valuable opportunity for professional development, strategic reflection, and collaboration with colleagues from across the county. The programme will include a keynote address by Steve Head, a highly regarded speaker recognised for delivering insightful, relevant, and engaging content that supports leadership in education. There is no charge to attend. We invite you to secure your place at this event using the registration link provided (select the Cambridgeshire Primary Headteacher Forum tab): [Primary Heads Conference registration](#)

## NJC Pay Award Update

The Local Government Association have provided an update on the 2026 NJC pay award negotiations for support staff. A full and final pay offer of 3.3% was made by the National Employers on 24 March 2026.

Each of the unions' national committees met to decide their respective positions. UNISON and Unite have both rejected the offer without conducting a consultation of their wider memberships. GMB has decided to adopt a neutral position in its consultation, leaving its members to decide for themselves whether to accept or reject the offer. Its consultation will close on Friday 22 May 2026 after which a further update will be provided.

## Please help to promote Soham Town Rangers 'powerful' Knife Angel visit in Ely this spring

### Knife Angel Visit to Ely – A Powerful Community Event

A striking national monument called the **Knife Angel** will be visiting Ely to raise awareness

about the dangers of knife crime and its impact on individuals, families, and communities.

The sculpture will be on display at **Palace Green, opposite Ely Cathedral, from 20 May to 17 June**. It is free to attend and open to the public every day.

Standing at 27 feet tall, the Knife Angel has been created using over 100,000 knives and blades collected by police from across the UK. It is a powerful symbol designed to highlight the serious consequences of knife crime and the importance of making safe, positive choices.

#### **A Valuable Opportunity for Families**

A visit to the Knife Angel provides a meaningful opportunity to:

• Talk openly with children about personal safety

• Discuss the real-life impact of knife crime

• Encourage positive decision-making and community responsibility

While knife crime is relatively low in Cambridgeshire, it is an important issue for all communities, and this installation aims to raise awareness and promote prevention.

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#### **Supporting a Local Charity**

The event will also support **East Anglian Air Ambulance**, who will be offering activities such as CPR and defibrillator awareness sessions during the visit.

We hope families will take the opportunity to visit this impactful installation together and use it as a starting point for important conversations at home.

Further details will be shared locally during the visit.

## **Secondary schools - Transform your canteen with Bite Back in Schools**



**Bite Back in Schools** is a **free, fully funded programme** that empowers Years 7–10 students to improve their school food environment.

By signing up, **schools receive a £500 student-led grant**, ready-made teaching resources, a kick off assembly and ongoing support.

The flexible 15-hour programme fits around timetables while helping students build skills in public speaking, leadership, and problem-solving, alongside understanding government policy and inequality.

Aligned with PSHE, Citizenship and Food Technology, it delivers real student leadership and whole-school impact.

**[Apply for 2026 places now]** Visit the [Bite Back in Schools website](#) or email [schoolfoodchampions@biteback2030.com](mailto:schoolfoodchampions@biteback2030.com).

## **Cambridgeshire School Business Networking Group**

The Cambridgeshire School Business Networking Group is now up and running and the group is asking for your support in helping them to grow a strong and collaborative community. Membership of the group includes:

- Membership to ISBL
- Access to a secure online forum to share ideas and ask questions
- Termly breakfast networking events
- Annual wellbeing symposium
- Membership to FUNDED

You can join at: [CBSN.co.uk sign up](https://cbsn.co.uk/sign-up)

#### Membership details:

- Annual membership runs from 1 January
- Standard cost: £50.00

Special Offer: Join before the end of April for £40.00

CBSN membership includes access to ISBL benefits, such as:

- Regular ISBL bulletins, finance updates, and breaking news
- Termly hard copies of the ISBL member magazine
- Access to the ISBL self-assessment tool
- £50 discount on full ISBL membership for accreditation
- Opportunities to contribute to ISBL consultations with the Government
- Discounts on training and events

Please feel free to share this with colleagues working in business, finance, or administration roles within your school.

CBSN understands that these are challenging times in schools, with increasing pressures on budgets and expectations, and the group offers an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and support one another.

#### Next event:

The next Breakfast Networking event will take place on **Thursday 18 June** at the St Ives Golf Course: [Reserve a place](#)

Cambridgeshire School Business Management Networking - **Thursday 18 June 2026**

## FREE DfE webinar: Successful transitions: a primary perspective

Free webinar, 28 April 2026, 4pm to 5pm

More information, and registration link here: [Successful transitions webinar](#)

## Training and events

#### Training provider: CCC

##### [SIS – Leading English](#) – Core Offer tab

For English subject leaders - Tuesday 5 May 2026 9.30am until 12pm – Over Community Centre OR Thursday 7 May 2026 9.30 until 12pm – Online. £75 per person for LA schools and £85 per person for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

##### [SIS – Leading Maths](#) – Core Offer tab

For Maths subject leaders – Tuesday 5 May 2026 1.30pm until 4pm – Over Community Centre OR Thursday 7 May 2026 1.30pm until 4pm – Online. £75 per person for LA schools and £85 per person for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

##### [Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Conversations](#)

For all school practitioners responsible for the end-of-year early years foundation stage profile (EYFS) profile assessments. Variety of dates in May and June 2026. Online. **Free**

### **[Supporting children with English as an additional language](#)**

For Reception class staff. Wednesday 13th May 2026, 13.30 – 15.30, Online. Members: £14.40, Non-Members: £24

### **[Characteristics of effective learning – Putting them into practice](#)**

For Early Years practitioners. Wednesday 13th May 2026. (.30 – 12.30, Sunley House, Papworth Everard. Members: £32.40, Non-members: £54

### **[Cambridgeshire Music - Getting the most out of your instrument trolley webinar](#)**

For all staff delivering music and using instruments. Tuesday 19th May 2026. 16:00-17:00. £40 (or £20 when survey completed.)

### **[Cambridgeshire Music - Planning and progression in primary music webinar](#)**

For all staff who are designing a music curriculum and building progression into it. Wednesday 1 July, 4pm to 5pm on Microsoft Teams. £40 (or £20 when the survey is completed).

**Training provider: The ICT Service**

### **[Handling Data: Subject Access Requests and Consent](#)**

Wednesday 17 June 2026, 10.30 to 11.00

### **[The Fundamentals: Data Protection Awareness and Skills](#)**

Tuesday 9 June 2026, 10.30 to 11.00

### **[Assessments and Assets: Securing data with DPIAs and IARs](#)**

Thursday 11 June 2026, 4pm to 4.30pm

**Training provider: John Murray CPD (hosted by Fourfields Primary School)**

### **[Reading Intervention CPD](#)**

Thursday 11 June, 9.15–12.15

£95 per person (click the heading for more information, including how to book)

**Training provider: University of Cambridge**

### **[GCSE CPD at the University of Cambridge](#)**

22nd June 26 – 9.00am – 3.30pm at the schools of Muslim studies, Free . A series of CDP sessions looking at aspects of the GCSE RE syllabus for both Islam and Christianity.

## Quick links

**[SEND Information Hub \(Local Offer\)](#)**

**[SEND OAP toolkits - Learn Together](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire Learn Together](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire County Council](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub](#)**

**[Early Years, Childcare, and School Readiness Service](#)**

**[Knowledge Hub](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter – Learn Together](#)**

**[Grafham Water Centre](#)**

**[Burwell House](#)**

## Keeping in touch...

Email **[Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter](#)** if you have suggestions for content or would like to provide feedback.



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