

From: [Cambridgeshire County Council](#)
To: [Cambs Schools News](#)
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Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter

End of academic year message to schools

As we reach the end of another academic year, I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you.

This year has, once again, demanded so much of school leaders, teachers, support staff and governors. Despite the increasing pressures on education, you have continued to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the children and young people in your care. Your resilience, compassion and determination have been truly inspiring.

I know that many of you are working within significant financial constraints. As a local authority that receives comparatively lower levels of funding, we are all too aware of the challenges this presents. Yet, despite stretched budgets and competing demands, you have never lost sight of what matters most. Time and again, you have put children first, ensuring they feel safe, supported and able to achieve their potential.

In particular, I want to recognise the extraordinary commitment you continue to show towards children and young people with additional needs. Supporting inclusive practice has never been more challenging, but your determination to find solutions, adapt provision and work collaboratively for the benefit of every child is something that deserves real recognition. The difference you make every day extends far beyond the classroom and has a lasting impact on children, families and our wider communities.

I also want to thank you for the openness, honesty and commitment you bring to our School Network meetings through CPH. Your willingness to engage, share ideas and provide constructive feedback is greatly appreciated. Those conversations are invaluable in helping us shape strategic developments that are informed by the realities of school life. They remind us that the strongest solutions are created when we work together, listening to one another and keeping children at the heart of every decision.

As I reflect on this year, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. There have been challenges, but there have also been countless moments of kindness, innovation, perseverance and success. Those achievements belong to every member of your school communities, and they deserve to be celebrated.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your professionalism and, above all, your unwavering commitment to children and young people. It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated colleagues.

I hope that over the summer you are able to take some well-deserved time to rest, recharge and spend time with those who matter most. I look forward to continuing our work together in the new academic year as we build on all that we have achieved and continue striving to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

With my sincere thanks and very best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer.

Sarah Callaghan - Service Director for Education

Summer HAF Programme: 21 July - 28 August



The Summer Holiday HAF Programme is fast approaching.

Pupils in receipt of benefits-related FSM (automatically eligible), as well as families experiencing financial hardship (through professional referral), can attend a registered holiday scheme for up to 64 funded hours over the summer holidays. This includes a nutritious meal and a wide range of fun, enriching activities.

Eligibility vouchers were issued to parents/carers of children receiving benefits-related FSM on 8 June 2026.

For families experiencing financial hardship, or those meeting other [eligibility criteria](#), schools can request a booking code [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact The HAF Team at HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Free Breakfast Clubs Programme

The Government is committed to providing a free breakfast club in every state-funded primary school in England. Breakfast clubs help children start the day well by offering a healthy breakfast and time to settle into school before lessons begin. This can support better attendance, behaviour and learning, while also helping families with childcare at the start of the day.

The DfE has updated its list of schools taking part in the Free Breakfast Clubs Programme. This includes schools that joined the Early Adopter Scheme in April 2025, schools that started delivering breakfast clubs this April, and schools that will be launching their clubs from September.

The full list can be viewed here: [DfE Free breakfast clubs - schools on the programme](#)

The DfE also recently sent a short survey to schools that are not yet part of the programme, and has asked them to complete it by **17 July**, where possible. Feedback will help the DfE and its delivery partners to develop guidance and support for schools as the programme

grows.

Courses Booklet 2026 - 2027



The Local Authority's courses booklet for 2026 / 2027 was emailed to Cambridgeshire schools last week. It contains details about our training offer for primary schools from the School Improvement Team as well as courses from the wider Education Directorate.

Included are a range of both face to face and online training covering a multitude of subjects including mental health and workplace wellbeing, physical education, religious education, music, school leadership, maths and English, to name but a few. The following link will take you to where the booklet is published on the Learn Together website.

[Courses and training](#)

Water safety assemblies



- Cambridgeshire has over 8000 miles of waterways.
- More young people are lost to drowning than knife crime, with over 340 deaths per year. Further to that there are over an additional 2400 near misses.
- This year has already seen over 40 people perish in open water.

As a response to these issues, I have delivered assemblies across Cambs primary schools about the water safety code, demonstrating cold water shock, and reminding children about looking out for their friends.

Since June 2025, we have presented to 11,946 children.

We have produced a water safety toolkit for schools and families with a range of key messages that can be used to promote our water safety campaign.

It's available here: [Be Water Smart](#)

[Ian Roberts](#)

Cambridgeshire primary school courses - what's on offer for leaders?

The Cambridgeshire primary school courses, conferences and briefings booklet is published to all schools and supports professional development aligned to school improvement priorities, national/local issues and individual needs. Each primary school has now been sent the booklet by email.

Leadership training is offered by experienced specialist advisers in Safeguarding, Maths, English, PE, PSHE, Cambridgeshire Virtual School, RE, Music and Strategic SEND and Inclusion.

Juliet Adlouné, Professional Development and Improvement Adviser, continues to offer a strong thread of leadership support and training including:

Facilitated HT/DHT/Senior Leader network groups

Dedicated Supported Leadership 1:1 sessions

The DHT/AHT Induction Programme

Aspiring DHT/AHT training

Middle Leadership Tools

Positive Communication and Holding Necessary Conversations

Appraisal training

(Bespoke leadership support or training can also be offered)

Please use what is on offer to support your school improvement planning, to include as part of appraisal and to consider for yourself.

The booklet can be downloaded below:

[Cambridgeshire primary school courses, conferences and briefings 2026/27 booklet](#)

Do contact [Juliet Adlouné](#) for further information.

Early Support cut-off date for Reception children

Early Support is for children from birth to the end of their reception year and children are discharged from the pathway at the end of their reception year. Parents will no longer receive a letter informing them of this.

Once the child is year 1, usually the school will continue to oversee support for the child. If you have any questions please contact early.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Free Fuel Poverty training

Join us for this FREE online training, designed specifically for educational frontline workers supporting vulnerable and low-income households across the East of England.

During this one-hour session, you will learn about fuel poverty, its impact on family life, and the energy advice and support available.

Our expert trainer will share practical tips, guidance, and resources to help you address this important issue with confidence.

Click here to register for a place - [Fuel Poverty Frontline Worker Training for Educational Professionals Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite](#)

Funding to be released: headline position

The LA will release an initial targeted interim allocation of **£4,837,927** to mainstream schools

during the summer/autumn test-and-learn phase: **£694,172** for the 'top 10' secondary schools; **£1,346,805** for the 'top 20' primary schools – with these schools having the highest risk related to delayed assessments. Full details set out in the document below.

EHCP Funding for mainstream schools backlog - communication for Service Director Education July 2026

In addition, **£1,301,429** for schools with EHCP assessments 52 weeks late; and **£1,495,521** for schools with EHCP assessments 18 months late.

A further **£495,000** has also been agreed to begin a phased proof-of-concept approach to reduce delayed assessments in the backlog, with the first tranche expected to be completed by first half of summer term.

The model will be reviewed in the first half of autumn term 2026, with wider rollout from October half term 2026, subject to review and available funding.

Maths Challenge Final 2026

The final for this year's Y5 Maths Challenge took place on the 6th July at the home of NRICH in Cambridge. 16 schools from across the county participated in a very closely contested competition; there was only 1 mark between first and second places!

Our eventual winners were Isle of Ely Primary School closely followed by Harston and Newton and in 3rd place was Queen Edith. It was great to see all the children collaborating with their teammates across three rounds of mathematical challenges. I think it would be fair to say that all the participating teams were fantastic ambassadors for their schools.

Gary Casey (Lead Adviser for English, Maths and Assessment)

Cambridgeshire's Teacher Internship Programme

The **Cambridgeshire Teacher Internship** is a two-year programme. It offers an employment based route to obtaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Year 1 is a **pre- initial teacher training** year. Interns will work as a Teaching Assistant or HLTA (depending on prior experience), gradually increasing their experience of whole class and small group teaching with support as the year progresses. Interns attend a training session every fortnight delivered by specialist advisers and practitioners. The intern curriculum focuses on introducing interns to key themes from the ITT core content framework and other important areas of learning, connected to practical tasks and reflection facilitated by their mentor. The programme also supports interns with their teacher training application in the spring term.

We are particularly interested to hear from existing Teaching Assistants or school volunteers (with a degree) who are working in a **school willing to support their application**. Applications are welcome from primary, secondary and special school candidates. To find out more information on how the Cambridgeshire Teacher Internship Programme Works document below for more details: More details can be found here: **[Cambridgeshire Teacher Internship Programme](#)** along with an application form.

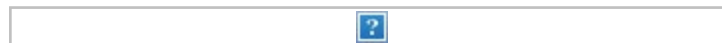
Applications for Year 1 of the programme (starting September 2026) are open until 17 August 2026

Information to share with parents

Morrisons and Kellogg's have announced the return of their school holiday 'Breakfast Clubs', offering free meals to families across the UK to help ease the financial pressure over the summer holidays. As schools close for the summer holidays, many parents face a financial pinch, with new research from Morrisons showing that more than half (54%) of parents feel the strain during the long summer period. In fact, week three of the school holidays is the critical tipping point where the financial impact is most acutely felt by households.

Almost half (48%) of parents also confessed they have been forced to skip meals entirely just to make ends meet and ensure their child does not go without – with breakfast being the number one thing cut from the menu. Families visiting their local Morrisons Café throughout the summer holidays can enjoy a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast', which includes a bowl of cereal and a portion of fruit. The best part, it's not just for kids, adults get to eat completely free too. Both children and adults can choose from much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana. The summer holiday offer will be available from 29th June to 6th September across all Morrisons Cafes nationwide.

Have your say on the proposed GCSE Natural History



Consultation now open

The Department for Education has launched a public consultation on the proposed subject content for a new GCSE in Natural History. This new qualification aims to give young people a deeper understanding of the natural world, including the relationships between people, nature and climate, and to build skills in observation, investigation and environmental stewardship.

The consultation seeks views on the draft subject content, including:

Core knowledge and understanding of natural systems

Fieldwork and practical investigation skills

How the subject could inspire engagement with nature and environmental careers.

This is an important opportunity for educators, environmental organisations, local authorities, parents and young people to help shape a qualification that reflects real-world environmental challenges and opportunities.

Responses are welcomed from schools, education partners and young people.

Consultation closing date: **4 September 2026**

[Consultation survey on proposed subject content](#)

Get Activated this summer with free and low-cost activities for families

Summer is nearly here and Get Activated is returning for 2026 - offering families free and low-cost activities from local organisations across Cambridgeshire.

From sports, arts and crafts, and outdoor adventures, to wellbeing sessions, community events and taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge - families will be able to enjoy a variety of events and activities to keep everyone active, entertained and having fun.

Look out for #GetActivated over the coming weeks for a wide range of fun and healthy opportunities across the county.

School Cybersecurity Phishing Briefing: Unexpected MFA prompts and account compromise

Recent investigations undertaken by The ICT Service have highlighted the continued risk of cyber attacks targeting schools and academy trusts. Attackers increasingly use phishing emails, fake Microsoft sign-in pages and fraudulent multi-factor authentication (MFA) requests to gain access to staff accounts. MFA remains an essential security control, but attackers increasingly rely on user interaction to bypass these protections.

Once access to an account has been obtained, attackers may gain access to email, files and internal communications. They can then use compromised accounts to impersonate staff, target financial processes, request changes to bank details, seek urgent payments, or attempt to access sensitive personal and safeguarding information. This is why effective cyber security depends on technical controls, clear policies and procedures, staff awareness, data protection practice and ongoing vigilance.

Before approving an MFA request, stop and check:

- Are you actively signing in to a system or application?
- Do you recognise the application being referenced?
- Is the location shown consistent with where you are working?
- Is the device or sign-in information familiar?
- Has the request appeared after clicking an unexpected email link or attachment?

If anything does not look right, do not approve the request.

Pause. Check. Challenge. Report.

A genuine sign-in approval should make sense to you. If you were not trying to sign in, or the location/application looks unfamiliar, decline the request and report it.

You can [download the FULL briefing here](#) - please distribute to all staff. With more information on what staff should do; training policies and good practice; leadership responsibilities, support available from The ICT Service.

Letter from Public Health re MenB vaccination for teenagers aged 17 or 18

We have been asked by colleagues in the Health Protection Public Health Team to request that you send the letter below about the Meningitis B vaccination for young people to parents/carers of pupils in the relevant year group. Please download the letter from the link

below:

[Parents/carers MenB vaccination for young people letter from Public Health](#)

Training and events

[SIS – Becoming 1stClass@Number](#) – Maths intervention tab

For Maths Subject Leaders, Year 1 Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants – Session 1 - Mon 5 October 2026 9.30am until 3.30pm (TA all day, link teacher am) Sunley House, Papworth.

Session 2 – Tues 3 November (TA all day) Sunley House, Papworth.

£600 per school for LA schools and £700 per school for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

[SIS – 1stClass@Number 1](#) – Maths intervention tab

For Maths Subject Leaders, Year 2 Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants – Session 1 - Mon 28 September 2026 9.30am until 3.30pm (TA all day, link teacher am) Sunley House, Papworth.

Session 2 – Mon 19 October 9.15am until 12pm (TA only) Sunley House, Papworth.

Session 3 – Mon 16 November 9.15am until 12pm (TA only) Sunley House, Papworth.

£600 per school for LA schools and £700 per school for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

[SIS – Success@Arithmetic](#) - Calculation – Maths intervention tab

For Maths Subject Leaders, KS2 Class teachers and Teaching Assistants – Session 1 - Thur 8 October 2026 9.30am until 4pm (Link teacher and TA all day) Sunley House, Papworth.

Session 2 – Thursday 12 November 9.30am until 4pm (Link teacher and TA all day) Sunley House, Papworth.

£600 per school for LA schools and £700 per school for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

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](#)

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