



Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area Newsletter

16th September 2021

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Message from our Chair



I hope that term has started well for you all and that pupils have settled into their new classes and schools.

All of us working in various capacities for the Opportunity Area (OA) are looking forward to working with you in the fifth year of the programme.

This year, we will be expanding our early years support to include community support. We will be increasing the focus on families and the community in the light of the pandemic. We will also be extending and embedding training programmes from last year. Our programmes will complement the national recovery programmes and tailored to local needs so please continue to give us feedback.

We are continuing to plan for sustainability once the programme funding ends and will keep you informed of our progress. Our key priority remains working together to overcome the challenges of closing the gap between the life chances of young people from different backgrounds and walks of life.

In this newsletter you will find details of the new and continuing offers available from the Opportunity Area this year to support the aims above. There is a lot going on!

You will notice that we have updated our newsletter format so hope you enjoy reading this new-look edition. Please feel free to forward it or print it off to share with your colleagues.

Tricia Pritchard

Independent Chair

Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area Partnership Board



One-to-one Guidance Service

One of our original priorities for the OA programme was to recruit, develop and retain the best leaders and teachers in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. As part of this priority, we funded a One-to-one Guidance Service for local people interested in pursuing a teaching career. The service was led by the Diamond Teaching School Alliance.



The service involved:

- Information events – Local people interested in exploring teaching as a career could attend an information event to hear impartial information about routes into teaching and ask questions.
- Impartial, one-to-one guidance – Prospective teacher trainees were able to speak with a teacher training guide on an individual basis.
- Teaching Experience Programme – Prospective teacher trainees could access experience days in local schools to understand the job more fully and speak to experienced teachers.

The service ran from September 2019 until July 2021. In that time, 75 people who engaged with the service have been offered places to start their teacher training. This is just the number that we know of so the true figure could be even higher. It is fantastic to know that there will be 75 more local people going into teacher training from the area!

Insight Guides

The central Opportunity Area (OA) team at the Department for Education (DfE) is putting together a series of Insight Guides sharing insights from projects conducted across the 12 OAs. These guides are for education professionals including practitioners and system leaders with an interest in the thematic areas. These include:



- careers education
- teacher recruitment, retention and workforce development
- early years
- school improvement
- place-based working

Have a look at the [OA Insight Guides](#) to see if there are any insights you can take forward in your school or setting.

Opportunity Area Updates



Year 5 Offer



We are pleased to share with you our offer for Year 5 of the OA programme. We have put together a [Year 5 Offer summary document](#) which details all of the projects and initiatives available this year. Please take a look at this document to find out what is on offer and share it with your colleagues.

We have lots of projects and initiatives available for you to get involved with across our four main themes:

- Ready to Learn
- Early Years
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Community Support

In addition to our main theme-focused projects, we will be working on:

- Sharing best practice picked up over the course of the OA programme
- Working with other government departments on projects relevant to our local area
- Twinning with Peterborough to share best practice with our neighbouring area facing similar challenges

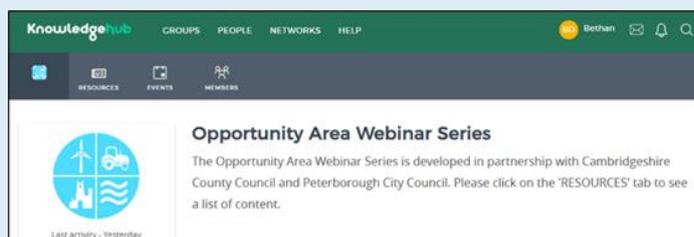
Please keep an eye on the [Opportunity Area website](#) for the latest updates on our offers.

OA Webinar Series

The [Opportunity Area \(OA\) Webinar Series](#) has recently been updated with new sessions and resources, including content on speech and language, governance and illustration. More resources will continue to be added over the coming year so make sure you join the OA Webinar Series group to keep up to date.

Please take a look at the [OA Webinar Series 2021/22 flyer](#) and share it with your colleagues. This flyer provides details about some of the new and upcoming webinar content. There is also a handy timetable of upcoming live sessions so you can sign up and put these in your diary!

Karin Horowitz is back to deliver live Mental Health and Wellbeing webinar sessions this year. Schools in the OA will be eligible to access an optional one-hour follow-up session with Karin Horowitz to discuss how to embed learning from one of the Mental Health and Wellbeing sessions. Details of how to access this support will be available on the [OA website](#).



You Said, We Did

Last term we met with many of you at our virtual Year 5 Launch Events. It was great to see so many of you and hear your feedback on our plans for Year 5. We also found it helpful to hear about the challenges you were facing, particularly in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following on from your feedback, we have put together a [You Said We Did document](#). We would encourage you to read through this to see how we are responding to the issues and ideas you shared. We hope you will have already seen in our Year 5 offer how we are starting to address some of your feedback.



National Professional Qualifications

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub (CPTSH) has put together some [helpful information about National Professional Qualifications \(NPQs\)](#) to help schools decide which NPQs might be suitable for their staff.

If your school has 30% or more pupils eligible for pupil premium you are able to access NPQs **fully funded**. You should have been notified by CPTSH if you are eligible for this funding.

The deadlines to apply for the November 2021 cohort are:

- 30 September 2021 (Teach First NPQs)
- 8 October 2021 (Church of England NPQs)



English Hub Offer



The New Wave English Hub is available to support your school or early years setting to improve the teaching of early language and reading. The hub is running a number of free webinars across the year. This term, webinar topics include:

- Supporting Parents with Phonics
- Child-led Book Talk
- Implementing Talk Through Stories

Details of the full English Hub offer and upcoming webinars can be found in the [New Wave English Hub Support Offer 2021–2022 booklet](#).

Region of Learning – SHIFT IGNITE Programme

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Region of Learning is recruiting young people aged 16–24 years for the [IGNITE programme](#). This programme is led by the Region of Learning delivery partner Shift Momentum. The Region of Learning project is a partnership led by Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, and Peterborough City Council.

The IGNITE programme will focus on young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (or at risk of becoming NEET), unemployed or economically inactive. It is designed to support young people develop the business skills to:

- explore self-employment
- launch a micro-business of their own, or
- develop into better employees for existing businesses.

The first cohort is due to start in October. A young person can self-refer or be referred by a parent/carer, local authority officer, school or third sector organisation (with the young person's consent). Refer a young person by emailing support@shiftpmomentum.co.uk.

For more information about the programme, see the [SHIFT IGNITE programme brochure](#).

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Grants

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has a number of grants available for community groups and organisations in Fenland. Please take a look at these fantastic funding opportunities and share them with your networks:

- [Cambridgeshire Education Opportunities Fund](#)
 - Grants of up to £3,000
 - Grants will be awarded for high-potential projects aiming to raise the attainment, opportunities, and wider outcomes of 3-16 year-olds, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds
 - Grants will be for projects based in primary and secondary education settings (Key Stages 1–4 inclusive)
- [Healthy Fenland Fund](#)
 - Grants of £500–£5,000 to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Fenland
- [D and J Lloyd Community First Fund](#)
 - Grants to support voluntary and community groups working in Cambridgeshire to:
 - provide support and relief to those that are in need, particularly those suffering financial hardship, illness, social isolation or homelessness or negative effects of old age
 - promote the arts, particularly, but not exclusively, working to help those at a disadvantage take part in arts activities
 - protect the environment and/or sites or buildings of historic or architectural importance
 - promote learning, skills development and education (excluding areas of statutory responsibility) to those that are marginalised or excluded from society

STEM Learning Offer

[STEM Learning](#) is the UK's largest provider of education and careers support in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It delivers both the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) programme and the Science Learning Partnerships programme:

Computing – NCCE

The [NCCE programme](#), funded by the Department for Education (DfE), aims to ensure every child in every school in England receives a world-leading computing education.

Opportunity Area (OA) schools are eligible for support through the NCCE network of 34 school-led computing hubs. NCCE subject matter experts can work with you to identify your school's needs and develop a targeted programme of support. Schools can receive:

- Quality-assured, high-impact CPD with generous bursaries
- School-to-school support
- Teaching and learning resources

To access this free support, contact [your local Computing Hub](#).

Science Learning Partnerships

STEM Learning's network of 28 school-led [Science Learning Partnerships](#) can work with you to assess your school's needs and develop a targeted programme. Support includes:

- High-impact CPD with generous bursaries
- Educational resources
- School-to-school support

STEM Learning's [science education recovery web pages](#) also include carefully curated collections of resources and courses for each educational phase. These cover the seven key features of great science teaching, plus targeted materials on areas such as SEND, transition and tutoring.

Contact

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“Our vision is for the Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Opportunity Area to become a beacon of excellence for promoting greater social mobility and transforming the life chances of every pupil”