

12 October 2026

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Bulletin Number 7 – 2026/27 12 October 2026

The weekly School Bulletin is produced by the School Governance & Liaison Service:
schoolbulletin@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1. Strategic Information and Actions

1.1 Free School Meal eligibility checks

Content	Audience	Purpose
Ahead of the school census we wanted to remind you of the process within Cheshire East for Free School Meal eligibility checks. • Parents should apply online using the Cheshire East Live Well Parent Portal for Free school meals. • Applications are dealt with by Cheshire East Free School Meals team • Schools and academies are notified through the Establishment Portal about pupils who are eligible for Targeted FSM or Expanded FSM <u>Advantages of this process</u> • Ensures consistency of records between Cheshire East, schools and academies • Smoother process for families where eligibility may impact on provision of services such as school transport and Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme • Enable wider services such as social care to be aware of family circumstances • Cheshire East has up to date accurate data for analysis and reporting If you have any queries about Free School Meal checks, then please contact freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk.	All Schools	For Information

Contact: freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.2 Schools Funding Formula Consultation 2027/28

Content	Audience	Purpose
Cheshire East Council and Schools Forum are consulting mainstream schools on the schools funding formula for 2027/28. The survey was launched on Friday 9 October and will be open until Friday 6 November. Once again, the options are limited and the survey is asking for preferences over the minimum funding guarantee and block transfers. The models and a briefing note are placed on the Schools Forum website, the link to a survey has been sent by email (also provided below) and schools are asked to feedback their views. Links to briefing sessions, being held on Monday 12 October 1:00pm-3:00pm and Tuesday 3 November at 10:00am-12:00pm, are also included in the email. As usual, the Schools Forum meeting on 3 December will recommend a funding formula to Cheshire East Cabinet for consideration. Link: Budget Consultation with Schools - Allocating Funding for 2027/28	All schools	For Action

Contact: Kathy Oliver: kathy.oliver@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.3 REMINDER: Alternative Provision Survey

Content	Audience	Purpose
As part of the Inclusion agenda, we are looking to improve the support for schools considering AP. To do this we need to know the current position regarding AP, its current usage and what is needed. In order to share your views, we are asking SENCOs in all schools to complete this short survey by 19 October 26. The QR code to the survey can be found here. Your co-operation is much appreciated. Link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=E C25zcsjwUqpszT0-qooUXvi36IDDF9Osq6U7ujpuIFUQjJHNjhYRjBQUVpSVVdERDRGV0YySlk1Uy4u&embed=true	Headteachers and SENCO	For Information & Action

Contact: Nicola Axford: nicola.axford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

☎ 07798 925902

2. Training and Wider Development Opportunities

2.1 Safeguarding for Governors: 02 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
Places are available on our Safeguarding for Governors training on Monday 02 November 2026, 6:00pm - 7:30pm via MS Teams. Delivered by Cheshire East Council's Safeguarding Children in Education Settings (SCiES) Team, this course will outline the statutory safeguarding responsibilities of governors/trustees and ensure they are aware of their specific strategic obligations in line with national and local guidance and legislation. Please note the course will not cover the following: • <i>SCiES Effective Safeguarding training</i> • <i>Safer Recruitment training</i> • <i>Managing allegations against school staff</i> • <i>Details of individual cases</i> To book your place, please go to the 'Training' tab in GovernorHub or email the School Governance & Liaison Team. This course is free to schools and academies who have purchased the CPD Training and Support for Governors package via ChESS Hub. For non-purchasing schools and academies, the charge is £75 per delegate.	Headteachers; Chairs of Governors	CPD for Governors/ Trustees

Contact: School Governance: schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

☎ 0300 1235036

2.2 Upcoming Health & Safety and First Aid training courses

Content		Audience	Purpose
PLEASE BOOK via ChESS HUB		Headteachers, Site Maintenance Officers, Caretakers and First Aiders	To gain an accredited qualification in Health and Safety / First Aid
Course details	Venue & date 2026		
Paediatric First Aid (blended learning) (6 hours e-learning and 6 hours face-to-face training) £104 per delegate THIS COURSE IS FOR TREATING INFANTS & CHILDREN (ages 0 to 16)	Municipal Buildings, Crewe Tuesday 13 October		
Emergency First Aid at Work £63 per delegate THIS COURSE IS FOR TREATING ADULTS (age 16+)	Macclesfield Town Hall Thursday 5 November		
IOSH Managing Safely (3 day) course 09:00 to 17:00 each day £225 per delegate	Municipal Buildings, Crewe Thurs 12, Fri 13 & Fri 20 November		
IOSH Managing Safely Refresher (1 day) course 09:00 to 16:30 £165 per delegate	Macclesfield Town all Monday 16 November		
First Aid at Work (blended learning) (6 hours e-learning and 12 hours face-to-face training) £137 per delegate THIS COURSE IS FOR TREATING ADULTS (age 16+)	Macclesfield Town Hall Monday 30 November and Tuesday 1 December		
Course times – 09:30 to 16:30 unless otherwise stated			

Contact: Diane Owen, Corporate Health & Safety Team: dianek.owen@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2.3 Supporting Young People's Mental Health: 12 & 15 October

Content	Audience	Purpose
This free course is designed for parents, carers and family members of children and young people aged 8 to 25. Gain practical skills, advice and strategies to help young people cope with challenges, improve wellbeing and thrive. Course delivered by Youth Fed. • FREE TO ATTEND - we have 12 spaces available for each course • FREE REFRESHMENTS & SNACKS PROVIDED • CHESHIRE EAST RESIDENTS AGED 18+ WHAT YOU WILL LEARN • Understanding youth mental health and wellbeing • Anxiety and stress • Self-esteem and confidence • Recognising low mood and depression • Breaking myths and stigma • Practical coping strategies • Mindfulness, grounding and breathing techniques • The NHS 5 Ways to Wellbeing • Knowing when and where to access support BOOKING LINK & COURSE DATES & VENUES • Monday 12 October 2026, 10:00am - 2:00pm at Broken Cross Family Hub Parkett Heyes Road, Macclesfield, SK11 8UD – Booking Link • Thursday 15 October 2026, 6:00pm - 9:00pm at Ash Grove Family Hub Ash Grove, Macclesfield, SK11 7TD – Booking Link Link: https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/pdf/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/october/youth-mh-course-macc-booking-flyer-qr.pdf	Parents, carers and family members	For Information

Contact: Lori Hawthorn: lori.hawthorn@cheshireeast.gov.uk

☎ 07765 037538

2.4 Reading Open Morning: 22 October 2026

Content	Audience	Purpose
Join us at Underwood West Academy on Thursday 22 October from 9:00am-12:30pm to explore the Teaching of Reading using the Take One Book approach and The Reading Journey. There will be an opportunity to view lessons and talk with colleagues and students. We'll be sharing the latest resources, and you will be able to browse high-quality texts for teaching. The event is suitable for schools already using Take One Book that are keen to develop the pedagogy. It will also be useful for schools interested to learn more and learn about different approaches to teaching reading beyond the beginning stages. To book your place contact the school at bursar@underwoodwest.cheshire.sch.uk Link: https://aetashgrove-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/abroadhurst_aet_cheshire_sch_uk/IQCTCS82icBXTLjkssfrBFu6AWV_VjsP5BCcOPdUCPbX_0s?e=Ovkp1n	Primary Schools	For Information

Contact: Ali Broadhurst: abroadhurst@aet.cheshire.sch.uk

☎ 01625 466914

2.5 Headteacher Workshop: 11 November 2026

Content	Audience	Purpose
We are pleased to confirm that we will be running a Headteacher workshop for our buy-back schools and academies. • Date: Wednesday 11 November 2026 • Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm - refreshments will be served from 8:45am • Venue: Canalside Conference Centre (Middlewich Community Church), Brooks Lane, Middlewich, CW10 0JG • Cost: £35.00 We will be joined at the workshop by Steve Hargreaves, Founder and Director of The Compassionate Leadership Company who will facilitate a session as part of the morning. Places are available to book through ChESS. The places are limited to one delegate per school.	Headteachers	For Information

Contact: Katie Dean: deanhadden@cheshireeast.gov.uk

 0778 6686716

2.6 English Hubs Northern Network Training: 21 October 2026

Content	Audience	Purpose
See High-Quality Phonics and Early Reading in Action at this fully funded training session aimed at teachers and Learning Support Assistants (LSA) delivery phonics lessons and interventions. What to expect: <i>Real-Classroom Practice: See effective Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) teaching in action.</i> <i>Fidelity and Consistency: Learn how to deliver your school's SSP programme with precision across all year groups.</i> <i>Teacher Confidence: Gain practical insights and techniques to lead phonics sessions with complete confidence.</i> • Date: Wednesday 21 October 2026 or Wednesday 17 March 2027 • Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm • Venue: Lacey Green English Hub To book your place, contact khall@laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk	Teachers and LSA's	For Information

Contact: Kerri Hall: khall@laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk

☎ 01625 783335

2.7 English Hubs Northern Network Training: 11 November 2026

Content	Audience	Purpose
Reception Showcase: Literacy and Language This immersive spotlight event provides Early Years practitioners and school leaders with a deep dive into early language acquisition and foundational writing. Grounded in the DfE's Reading and Writing Frameworks, this session offers a unique opportunity to tour our Spotlight Reception settings, observe high-quality provision in action, and see firsthand how rich oral language and early writing skills are cultivated every day. Join us to discover evidence-based strategies to enrich vocabulary, foster communication, and inspire confident early writers - all supported through our fully funded Hub provision. • Date: Tuesday 10 November 2026 • Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm • Venue: Lacey Green English Hub Link: Book Now	Early Years Practitioners and School Leaders	For Information

Contact: Kerri Hall: khall@laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk

☎ 01625 783335

2.8 English Hubs Northern Network Training: Developing Oracy

Content	Audience	Purpose
Developing Oracy Across the Classroom and the Curriculum High-quality oracy teaching boosts pupil attainment, confidence, and essential life skills. This fully funded programme offers a series of research-driven, practical sessions designed to help schools embed high-impact spoken language strategies across the classroom, curriculum, and wider school community. Participants will explore current research on language acquisition, establish a shared whole-school vision, and gain practical pedagogical tools for everyday teaching. The course also covers progressive curriculum planning, disciplinary talk, and methods to ensure oracy development remains equitable and accessible for all learners. Course Leader Delivered by Charles Hewitt, Headteacher at Fender Primary School and founder of Oracy North West. Charles brings extensive experience in leading whole-school oracy development, including achieving accreditation as a Voice 21 Centre of Excellence. What You'll Gain • <i>Practical tools to strengthen pupils' speaking, listening, and reasoning skills.</i> • <i>Approaches for seamlessly integrating oracy into subject teaching and curriculum design.</i> • <i>Strategies for supporting diverse learners, including EAL, SEND, and disadvantaged pupils.</i> • <i>Guidance on building a sustainable, whole-school culture of talk and buy-in.</i> This is a three-day course. Attendance at all three days is mandatory. • <u>Day 1: Thursday 12th November 2026 (9:00am – 4:00pm)</u> Venue: Lacey Green English Hub, Lacey Green Primary Academy, Barlow Road	Senior Leaders, Oracy Leads, Curriculum Leads, and English Leads	For Information

Focus: Exploring language for learning & curriculum integration - Day 2: Thursday 18th March 2027 (9:00am – 4:00pm) Venue: Lacey Green Conference Centre, Lacey Green Primary Academy, Barlow Road Focus: Developing oracy-rich classrooms, inclusive practice & building a culture of talk - Day 3: Thursday 22nd April 2027 (9:00am – 4:00pm) Venue: Fender Primary School, New Hey Rd, Woodchurch, Birkenhead, Wirral CH49 8HB Focus: Oracy in action Link: Book Now		
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Contact: Kerri Hall: khall@laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk

 01625 783335

2.9 English Hubs Northern Network – New DfE Funding for Secondary School Books

Content	Audience	Purpose
Great news for secondary schools! The DfE is investing £5 million in books and reading materials to support reading for pleasure as part of the National Year of Reading 2026. All state-funded secondary schools in England with KS3 and KS4 pupils are eligible and do not need to apply. Schools will receive between £450 and £1,400, with allocations based on school size and disadvantage. Funding can be spent on a wide range of books, e-books, audiobooks and accessible reading materials - with schools encouraged to consider pupil interests, diversity, less engaged readers and pupil choice when selecting their books. Schools should have received details from Browns Books and must place their orders by 31 March 2027. Link: Funding for books and reading materials for secondary schools: guidance for schools - GOV.UK	Secondary Schools	For Information

Contact: Kerri Hall: khall@laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk

☎ 01625 783335

3. Traded Service Information

4. General Information

4.1 Ketamine Information and Advice

Content	Audience	Purpose
Please see links below for ketamine information and advice for education settings, including an educational video about ketamine which is aimed at children and young people. Link: Ketamine Information and Advice - leaflet https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_Ol1TXIEgQ&t=26s	All Education Settings	For Information

Contact: Jade Fox: jade.fox2@cheshireeast.gov.uk

 07955 212480

4.2 Drug Advice Webchat - Get drug advice from our online team

Content	Audience	Purpose
We would like to promote Change Grow Live's drug advice webchat - if you're worried about your drug use and are considering a reduction or even stopping, we can offer advice and discuss the support options available. Link: Drug advice webchat Change Grow Live	All	For Information

Contact: Jade Fox: jade.fox2@cheshireeast.gov.uk

 01270 321444

4.3 Love Music Trust - Choral Day

Content	Audience	Purpose
The Love Music Trust is delighted to be running a Choral Day on Thursday 12 November at St John's Church, Hartford from 10:00am – 4:00pm. This inspiring event will be led by Stuart Overington, an accomplished choral specialist and Director of the Halle Youth Choir, known for his engaging, informative and inclusive style of working with a wide range of choirs and ensembles. The course is open to choral singers from Year 7 - 13, who have a passion for singing and wish to extend their skills over this busy and challenging day of workshops and introductions to new choral repertoire. A choral concert will follow in the venue at 6pm, featuring school choirs and performances from the day's workshop. The closing date to sign up for this exciting opportunity is Thursday 22 October. Link: https://www.lovemusictrust.com/schools/choral-day-2026	Secondary School and Academies	For Information

Contact: John Barber: jbarber@lovemusictrust.com

☎ 07973 714432