

19 October 2026

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Bulletin Number 8 – 2026/27 19 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 In Year Admission Responses

Content	Audience	Purpose
Please provide a response to in year applications to the Admissions team as soon as possible. This ensures applications can be processed within 10 school days. If you are unable to offer, please reply promptly so the application can be passed to the next preference school. Children are at risk of missing education when schools hold onto applications and do not reply promptly. Applications should only be refused for KS2 /secondary where the school can show prejudice or a referral to the Fair Access Panel is appropriate. Please advise the Admissions team of the agreed start date. If any children who were offered and accepted a place do not take up it up, please let us know. If you need any guidance, please contact admissions@cheshireeast.gov.uk Link: School admissions code - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Primary and Secondary schools	Information & Action

Contact: admissions@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.2 SEND Annual Conference

Content	Audience	Purpose
Earlier this month, we were proud to host our third annual SEND Conference, which once again proved to be a highly successful and inspiring event. Organised by the Participation Team in partnership with Jigsaw, our SEND youth group, the conference brought together young people from special schools, including those supporting pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs, members of the home education community, and professionals from across the SEND and Alternative Provision Partnership Board. The conference provided a valuable opportunity for young people and professionals to come together, exchange ideas, and work collaboratively to influence and improve services and support for children and young people with SEND across Cheshire East. Young people were at the heart of the event, co-facilitating a range of workshops on key themes including communication, Your Dream School, and the SEND Local Offer. These sessions enabled participants to share their experiences, perspectives, and recommendations directly with decision-makers, ensuring that the voices of children and young people remain central to shaping future services. Alongside the workshops, attendees enjoyed a variety of interactive activities, including team-building challenges and arts and crafts sessions. These activities encouraged creativity, promoted confidence, and helped strengthen relationships between young people and professionals in a relaxed and inclusive environment. The feedback, ideas, and recommendations gathered throughout the day will now be presented to the SEND and Alternative Provision Partnership Board, helping to inform future developments and service improvements across Cheshire East.	All	For Information

If you know a young person with SEND who would like the opportunity to have their voice heard, influence positive change, and develop new skills, we would be delighted to hear from you. For further information, please contact participation@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Link:

<https://livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk/Services/4690/SEND-Youth-Forum-for>

<https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/images/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/group-photo.jpg>

Contact: Sophie Dambok: sophie.dambok@cheshireeast.gov.uk

 07815 997439

1.3 Right to Work Checks

Content	Audience	Purpose
Schools are reminded that Right to Work Checks must be completed before a new employee starts work. In line with Home Office requirements original documents must be seen in person, and a copy taken which must be certified. The required wording for the copy is: <i>'The date on which this Right to Work check was made (insert date).'</i> We would also advise that you add <i>'Certified as a true copy of the original'</i>. Please note that just writing the date on the copy without the additional wording above is no longer acceptable. The date on the documentation must be the same date as entered on the Single Central Record. The certified copy of the document must be kept on the employee's personal file. If the Right to Work Check for a non-British or Irish citizen is via a share code, the results should be downloaded as a PDF and the original PDF retained on file. Schools should ensure that a letter of assurance regarding pre-employment checks from a supply agency includes the right to work check. A flow chart of the process is available on ChESS for Education HR buy back customers.	Headteachers, School Business Managers, Governing Boards	For Information and Action

Contact: Nuala Hadden: deanhadden@cheshireeast.gov.uk

☎ 07868 467607

1.4 Early Years Free School Meals Expansion Grant 2026-27

Content	Audience	Purpose
Eligible schools will shortly receive funding through the Early Years Free School Meals Expansion Grant 2026-27. Cheshire East has allocated funding based on the proportion of disadvantaged children accessing the funded 3 and 4-year-old entitlement. Funding must be used to support the implementation and delivery of early years free school meals. Schools receiving funding will be required to complete an end-of-grant report detailing how the funding has been used and its impact. Further information, including allocations and reporting arrangements, will be shared directly with eligible schools. For queries, please contact the Early Years and Childcare Team through feee@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Academies and maintained schools delivering nursery provision	For Information

Contact: Free Early Education Entitlement Team: feee@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.5 Help Us Grow Intergenerational Opportunities Across Cheshire East

Content	Audience	Purpose
Is your school involved in activities that bring different generations together? The Cheshire East Public Health Team is looking to learn more about the intergenerational projects already taking place in schools across the borough. Whether you have established links with a local care home, host shared events with older residents, or involve older volunteers in school life, we'd love to hear about your experiences. We are asking schools to complete a short survey to help us understand the range of intergenerational activity currently taking place and identify opportunities for further support. The information collected will help us: • Map existing intergenerational projects across Cheshire East. • Showcase and celebrate good practice. • Understand any challenges schools face when developing or sustaining projects. • Connect schools with local care homes and community partners through the Cheshire East Multi-Generational Project. • Offer tailored support through local Care Communities to help schools establish or expand intergenerational activities. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and can be completed by any member of staff involved in community engagement, wellbeing, enrichment activities, or school leadership. Complete the survey by 03 November 2026: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/HC4LDAfXY7	All Schools, Academies and MATs	For Action

By sharing your experiences, you'll help us strengthen links between schools, care homes and local communities, creating more opportunities for meaningful connections between generations and enriching the lives of both young and older residents.

Thank you for your support.

Contact: Hayley Antipas: hayley.antipas@cheshireeast.gov.uk

☎ 07826 513410

2. Training and Wider Development Opportunities

2.1 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for Governors: 10 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
Places are available on our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) training on Tuesday 10 November 2026, 6:00pm - 8:00pm via MS Teams. Early childhood development sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour and health. There is strong evidence that children learn more in the first six years of their life than they do at any other point of their lives. This session is designed to upskill you as a school governor in understanding the Early Years Foundation Stage in your setting, how to monitor high-quality practice and provision and the questions to ask the staff and the early years leader. To book your place, please go to the 'Training' tab in GovernorHub or email the School Governance & Liaison Team. <i>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.</i>	Governors	CPD for Governors/ Trustees

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

☎ 0300 1235036

2.2 Inclusive Governance: 12 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
Places are available on our Inclusive Governance training on Thursday 12 November 2026, 6:00pm - 8:00pm via Zoom. This session will enhance governors' understanding of their role in promoting an inclusive approach to governance. Delegates will gain a clearer picture of how equalities law is applied, how inclusivity enhances their board decision making and what their role is in ensuring that the school effectively manages this critical area. By the end of the session, governors/trustees will understand the requirements of the Equality Act, its development and how it relates to schools when making provision for pupils with disabilities. They will have also gained an awareness of the difficulties schools face around making reasonable adjustments and the growing number of upheld challenges, the impact of AI on writing challenges and how their schools can best deal with complaints when they may be upheld. To book your place, please go to the 'Training' tab in GovernorHub or email the School Governance & Liaison Team. <i>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.</i>	Governors	CPD for Governors/ Trustees

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

☎ 0300 1235036

2.3 Spotlight on Inclusion – 12 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
(Morning session for North and afternoon session for South) Thursday 12 November – Holmes Chapel Community Centre • Spotlight on Inclusion - North – Fill in form • Spotlight on inclusion - South – Fill in form The focus will be on Inclusion Bases. Participants will explore how the DFE Inclusion Bases Guidance can be used to inform and strengthen their practice. The session will provide information on: • The different types of Inclusion Bases • Sharing of current practice from some of our schools who have support bases: 2 primary schools and 2 secondary schools will be presenting • Looking at how we can ensure our practice is good • Co-producing a work force strategy for our staff • Sharing of some of the successful Inclusion Base (support base) provision proposals	Headteachers and SENCos	For Information & Action

Contact: Sarah Clough: sarah.clough@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2.4 Twilight SENCO Networks

Content	Audience	Purpose
(These sessions will be repeated, so you only need to attend one.) • Tuesday 24 November, 3:30pm–5:00pm SENCo Network - Tuesday 24th November – Fill in form • Thursday 26 November, 3:30pm–5:00pm SENCo Network - Thursday 26th November – Fill in form	Headteachers and SENCos	For Information & Action

Contact: Sarah Clough: sarah.clough@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2.5 Inclusion Strategy Sessions

Content	Audience	Purpose
Developing Your Inclusion Strategy This short session will support schools and settings to develop their Inclusion Strategy ahead of the 31 December 2026 publication deadline. Participants will explore how the evidence gathered during their Cheshire East Inclusion Framework visit can be used to inform and strengthen their strategy. The session will provide guidance on the required content, practical tools and templates, and opportunities to work alongside colleagues from other schools, with support from the Cheshire East Inclusion Team. Outcome By the end of the session, participants will: • Understand the requirements of an Inclusion Strategy. • Know how to use evidence from their Cheshire East Inclusion Framework visit to inform their strategy. • Begin drafting or refining their Inclusion Strategy using a clear structure. • Access guidance and support from the Cheshire East Inclusion Team. • Leave with greater confidence and an action plan to complete and publish their Inclusion Strategy by 31 December 2026. North: Oakenclough Family Hub – 23 November Morning session, 9:00am-12.00pm https://chesshub.co.uk/Event/312634 Afternoon session 12.30pm-3.30pm https://chesshub.co.uk/Event/312637	Headteachers and SENCos	For Information & Action

South: Delamere House Training Suite 1 – 30 November Morning session, 9:00am-12.00pm https://chesshub.co.uk/Event/312642 Afternoon session 12.30pm-3.30pm https://chesshub.co.uk/Event/312643		
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Contact: Sarah Clough: sarah.clough@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2.6 Spotlight on Disadvantage – 25 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
Let's Talk RADY (Raising Awareness of Disadvantaged Learners) Online session where you'll have an opportunity to hear and chat with Welsh colleagues, who are between three and four years into implementation • Caerleon Comprehensive and Sofrydd Primary School will share their journey of RADY • There will be an update to the full group and Q&A in breakout rooms split between primary and secondary schools • Key focus on their approaches and the impact on learners Please email joe.carter@cheshireeast.gov.uk to register for a link for the online session, Wednesday 25 November 2026, 1-2pm.	Headteachers, PP Leads, RADY Leads	For Information & Action

Contact: Joe Carter: joe.carter@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2.7 Attendance & Behaviour - Regional Support Offer

Content	Audience	Purpose
Message from Loren Walsh, Senior Delivery Officer, North West Regions Group Improving attendance and behaviour remains a priority for schools across the North West I'm pleased to share that registrations are now open for the January 2027 cohort of the RISE Attendance & Behaviour Hubs programme in the North West. This programme brings schools together to tackle shared attendance and behaviour challenges, providing practical, school-led support and opportunities to learn from peers achieving strong outcomes. Partner schools will benefit from: • High-impact online CPD delivered by experts (92% rated useful in last year's cohort) • Exclusive in-person open day visits to lead schools • Honest, solution-focused collaboration with other schools in the region The programme is run by schools, for schools, creating opportunities to share effective practice, learn from one another and drive sustainable improvement. Our lead schools in the North West are: • Co Op Academy Woodslee • Evelyn Street Primary Academy and Nursery • Oasis Academy Harpur Mount • St Barnabas and St Paul's CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School • The Beacon CofE Primary School • Webster Primary School • Archbishop Blanch CofE High School • Dean Trust Ardwick • Our Lady's RC High School • Workington Academy • Wright Robinson College	Headteachers and Senior Leaders	For Information & Action

Feedback from previous cohorts has been extremely positive, with participants describing the open day visits as "inspirational" and among "the most useful training" they have received, rating the days as an average of 4.76 out of 5 for usefulness.		
If your school is interested in joining the January 2027 cohort, please register through this Expression of Interest Form by 6 November 2026 . A member of the team will then be in touch with next steps.		

Contact: Joe Carter: joe.carter@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2.8 Free courses for parents - with childcare included at your local Family Hubs in Cheshire

Content	Audience	Purpose
We're pleased to offer a range of free courses for parents across our Family Hubs. To help you explore what's available, we're running a series of free taster sessions across Cheshire East. Uniquely, free childcare is available during the sessions, giving you the chance to learn while your child is cared for by our qualified Family Hubs team. Whether you're looking to build confidence, learn new skills, return to education or explore a new career, there's something for everyone. Sessions will run until December, with further opportunities planned for the new year. Browse the programme below to find a session near you. Our sessions are informal and welcoming, with free tea and coffee provided. There are no exams, coursework or homework unless you would like additional learning. Our tutors are friendly and approachable, so please get in touch if you have any questions. Please follow the link for further information. Link: https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/docs/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletin/october-2026/bulletin2.docx	Parents	For Information

Contact: Shamim Khan: shamim.khan@cheshireeast.gov.uk

☎ 07717 690856

2.9 English Hubs: 16 October Update

Content	Audience	Purpose
Please see link below to Lacey Green English Hubs update for 16 October 2026. Link: https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/pdf/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/lacey-green-english-hub-update.pdf	All	For Information

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

☎ 01625 783335

3. Traded Service Information

4. General Information

4.1 Membership now open for The Dome Youth Zone!

Content	Audience	Purpose
The Dome is a new youth zone coming to Crewe and the surrounding areas, a charity built for young people aged 8-19, and up to 25 with SEND. See it at the Grand Opening on 28 November. Membership is £3 a month, including a hot meal with every visit. Members get a safe, welcoming space to be themselves, learn new things and make friends, with a sports hall, 3G pitch, climbing wall, music studio, arts space and training kitchen all under one roof. Membership is open now. Join and be part of The Dome from day one: inclusive and a real place to belong. Link: https://thedomeyouthzone.org/memberships/ https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/pdf/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/rectangle-newsletter.pdf https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/pdf/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/poster2.pdf	Young people and their parents/guardians	For Information

Contact: Neave Bray: neave.bray@thedomeyouthzone.org

 07570 917398