

28 September 2026

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Bulletin Number 5 – 2026/27 28 September 2026

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

1. Strategic Information and Actions

1.1 Admission Arrangements – Review of Policies, Consultation and Determination for 2028-29 academic year

Content	Audience	Purpose
Governing Boards and Academy Trusts of schools which are their own admission authority are advised to review their admission arrangements, details on what is required for consultation purposes, and what should and could be contained in school policies is contained in the School Admissions Code. Consultation period is 01/10/26 to 31/01/27 and must run for a minimum of 6 weeks. Once admission arrangements are finalised, they must be determined by 28 February 2027. Please see paragraph 1.1 - 1.54 of the School admissions code 2021 (publishing.service.gov.uk) for information about determining admission arrangements. Link - School admissions code 2021 (publishing.service.gov.uk)	Governing Bodies and Headteachers	For Information & Action

Contact: School Admission Team: admissions@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.2 Transition re: Pupils with an EHC Plan

Content	Audience	Purpose
The SEND Team would like to thank all settings for prioritising transition annual reviews for pupils who will be moving to a new phase of education next September. We appreciate your efforts in completing Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan reviews as early as possible this term, particularly for those pupils with more complex transition arrangements, to support effective planning and decision-making. The statutory deadline for the Local Authority to name the next placement in an EHC Plan is 15 February 2027 for pupils transferring to primary or secondary settings, and 31 March 2027 for young people transitioning to post-16 provision. Link: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities/education/supporting-send-in-education/children-with-ehcps-moving-to-a-new-phase-of-education.aspx	Headteachers /SENCOs	For Information & Action

Contact: Rachael Pickles: rachael.pickles2@cheshireeast.gov.uk

☎ 07816 144386

1.3 Reminder to complete the PE and Sport Premium digital expenditure reporting return

Content	Audience	Purpose
The deadline for completion of the PE and sport premium digital expenditure reporting return is Wednesday 30 September 2026. As a requirement of the 2025 to 2026 PE and sport premium 2025 to 2026 PE and sport premium conditions of grant, all schools must complete and submit a digital expenditure reporting return outlining how it has used its funding and the impact it has had on achieving the aims and objectives as set out in the guidance. Should schools fail to comply with the terms and conditions, this may in some circumstances result in the Secretary of State recovering some, or all the PE and sport premium grant. If you have not already completed and submitted your report you have until 5pm Wednesday 30 September 2026. Please note, the return is significantly reduced from previous years. If, after reading the guidance, you have any questions, please contact the Customer Help Portal.	Primary school/ academy Leaders	For Information & Action

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

☎ 0300 1235036

1.4 Schools' Forum Vacancy: Academy Primary HT Representative

Content	Audience	Purpose
The Cheshire East Schools' Forum currently has a vacancy for a Headteacher representative in the Academy Primary School sector. For info, the other posts for Academy Primary HT representative are currently held by Anna Jones of Black Firs Primary School and Janet Mckinlay from St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Please could any Headteacher/Principal interested in putting themselves forward for this role contact the Schools' Forum Clerk at schools.forumclerk@cheshireeast.gov.uk by noon on Monday 16 November 2026 to confirm as such. Further information on the role and membership of the Schools' Forum can be accessed here: Schools Forum (cheshireeast.gov.uk). There are four Schools' Forum meetings each academic year – these will be held online, 16:30-18:00. The remaining dates for 2026-27 are: • Thursday 03 December 2026 – MS Teams • Thursday 11 February 2027 – MS Teams • Thursday 17 June 2027 - MS Teams If you have any queries in relation to the above, please don't hesitate to contact the clerk on the email below.	Academy Headteachers, Principals and MAT CEO/Senior Leaders; Chair of Trust boards and Local Governing Bodies	To seek nominations for academy sector reps on the CE Schools' Forum

Contact: Louisa Moseley: schools.forumclerk@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.5 Schools' Forum Vacancy: Academy Representative (Other)

Content	Audience	Purpose
The Cheshire East Schools' Forum currently has a vacancy for an Academy representative (other) to represent this sector which can include Multi Academy and/or Single Academy Trust CEOs, CFOs, senior leaders, trustees or local governors. For info, the other posts for Academy Other Representatives are currently held by Janet Furber from The Cornovii Trust (Chair of Trustees), Ruth Livingstone from Bosley St Mary's CE Primary School, Kevin Simpson from The Aspire Educational Trust (CEO) and Sarah Sproston from Excalibur Primary School. If anyone is interested in putting themselves forward for this role contact the Schools' Forum Clerk at schools.forumclerk@cheshireeast.gov.uk by noon on Monday 16 November 2026 to confirm as such. Further information on the role and membership of the Schools' Forum can be accessed here: Schools Forum (cheshireeast.gov.uk). There are four Schools' Forum meetings each academic year – these will be held online, 16:30-18:00. The remaining dates for 2026-27 are: • Thursday 03 December 2026 – MS Teams • Thursday 11 February 2027 – MS Teams • Thursday 17 June 2027 - MS Teams If you have any queries in relation to the above, please don't hesitate to contact the clerk on the email below.	Multi Academy and/or Single Academy Trust CEOs, CFOs, senior leaders, trustees or local governors	To seek nominations for academy sector reps on the CE Schools' Forum

Contact: Louisa Moseley: schools.forumclerk@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.6 Expression of Interest Secondary School's Climate Conference

Content	Audience	Purpose
At Cheshire East Council, we are working towards achieving our wider borough carbon neutrality target of 2045. As part of our work to support climate action, we are exploring ideas for a Secondary School Climate Conference Day. Schools would be invited to bring up to four students from Years 8-10, alongside one or two staff members. The event would give students the opportunity to explore key climate themes, hear from industry professionals, and gain insight into future careers in the green sector. At this stage, this is an expression of interest only, with no commitment required. Your feedback will help us assess demand and shape the event. We would greatly appreciate all secondary schools completing the short questionnaire below. Link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EC25zcsjwUqpszT0-qooUUJZknd_Sf1OhIra_xiKsopUNjlOOEowV0tDMTRaOEZVRUE1Q1A2OU9FOC4u	Cheshire East Secondary Schools	For Action

Contact: Evie Davis: carbonneutral@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.7 Strengthening a school's approach to preventing harassment at work

Content	Audience	Purpose
From October 2026, changes in legislation are expected to strengthen employers' duties to take all reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment, including harassment by third parties such as parents, contractors, volunteers and members of the public. A key part of this is encouraging a positive speak-up culture. Bystander intervention training can help colleagues recognise when something is not right and take small, safe steps to support others. The Suzy Lamplugh Trust is offering free 30 minute Active Bystander Intervention Webinars which can be accessed via the link. While the webinars focus on harassment in public, the skills are useful in any situation where someone may need support.	For all Schools, Academies and MATs	For Information

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

 07786 686716

2. Training and Wider Development Opportunities

2.1 Governor Training on Cared for Children: 13 October 2026

Content	Audience	Purpose
On Tuesday 13 October 2026, we are running a live, online training session for governors/trustees on 'Cared for Children: The Role of the Board'. The course will be held from 6:00pm -7:30pm, via MS Teams. There are many reasons why children and young people become cared for by the local authority. However, schools play a vital role in providing Cared for Children with experiences to help them achieve their full potential. This session will be delivered by senior leaders of the Cheshire East Council's Virtual School and aims to provide governors/trustees with an understanding of the needs of Cared for Children (incl. children with a social worker) and how they can best support the learning and achievement of these children within their schools. Please consider whether this training would be valuable for a member of your board to attend. For more details or to book a 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 CE Governor CPD Training package via ChESS Hub. For non-purchasing schools and academies, the charge is £75 per delegate.</i>	Headteachers; Chairs of Governors	CPD for Governors/ Trustees

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

☎ 0300 1235036

2.2 Governors' Conference 2026: Free places available

Content	Audience	Purpose
This year, our annual Governors' Conference will take place on Friday 16 October 2026 from 9:00am – 1:00pm at Cranage Hall and we are providing 1 x FREE delegate place per CE school. Our half-day conference provides governors and trustees with an opportunity to network, whilst receiving updates on both national educational developments and key local authority initiatives. Please see this link for further details and the event programme. Safeguarding remains one of the most important responsibilities for governing boards, and the recent changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2026 reflect the Department for Education's strengthened focus on protecting children and young people. However, with children's lives more connected to digital technology than ever before, schools face a rapidly evolving landscape of online risks and harms. To help governors and trustees navigate these challenges, we are delighted to welcome Dr Peter Buzzi, Director of Digital Safeguarding UK, as our keynote speaker. The conference will also include a LA update from Helen Wallace, our Director of Education, Skills and Inclusion alongside information on Cheshire East' Best Start in Life Programme, an introduction to Trauma-Informed whole-school practice and building a curriculum that supports children's mental health and wellbeing. Bookings are now open and can be made via Governor Hub or by emailing the School Governance & Liaison at schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk Conference costs: 1 x FREE delegate place per CE school. <i>An additional free delegate place is available to schools that have purchased the CE Governor CPD Training package for 2026-27*. Additional delegate places for non-buy-back schools will be charged at £40 per delegate*. * Subject to availability</i>	Chairs of Governors/ Trustees	CPD for Governors

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

☎ 03001 235036

2.3 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		
First Aid at Work Re-qualification (2 day) course £125 per delegate THIS COURSE IS FOR TREATING ADULTS (age 16+)	Municipal Buildings Crewe Tuesday 29 & Wednesday 30 September		
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)	Macclesfield Town Hall Wednesday 7 October 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 ^t December		
Course times – 09:30 to 16:30 unless otherwise stated			

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

2.4 Professional Development Opportunities for all School Staff through The Cornovii Trust

Content	Audience	Purpose
The Cornovii Trust (based in Nantwich and Alsager) would like to invite primary and secondary colleagues across Cheshire to join some of their high-quality professional development opportunities. Details are in the link document. The Developing Teacher Programme is a lesson study based approach where colleagues from the primary and secondary sectors work together, observe lessons across both phases, analyse effective practice and explore the pedagogical issues relating to KS2-3 transition. This programme was a huge success last year within our group of schools. It takes place over x3 days (see dates in the document) and costs £120 per delegate in total. 1. The Developing Leader Programme is open to all staff (teaching and non-teaching) from both the primary and secondary phases. It explores generic leadership principles, followed by x2 elective modules. Again, this programme was a big success within our schools last year. It takes place over x3 twilights and x2 elective days (see dates and further details in the document) and costs £120 per delegate in total. If you or any colleagues are interested, please contact Janine Edwards at Malbank School jme@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk Link: https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/pdf/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/september/tct-career-pathway-brochure.pdf	Primary & Secondary Colleagues	For Information

Contact: jme@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

2.5 English Hubs Northern Network: 25 September Update

Content	Audience	Purpose
Please see link below to the English Hubs Northern Network update, funded by the Department for Education. Link: https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/pdf/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/september/hub-update-28.09.26.pdf	All	For Information

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

☎ 01625 783335

2.6 Love Music Trust - CPD on Notation: 20 October 2026

Content	Audience	Purpose
The third Love Music Trust CPD session of the new year will be taking place on Tuesday 20 October at Smallwood Primary Academy, CW11 2UR, when there will be an exciting, interactive workshop - Cracking the Code: Simple Music Notation for Non-Musician Primary Teachers - based on building confidence and upskilling practitioners in teaching musical notation. The presentation will be delivered by one of our lead music schools' teachers, Jo Darlington, and will include singing, composition and progressive, practical activities for developing rhythmic and melodic notation, alongside materials to develop these concepts in your own primary setting to fulfil the statutory requirements of the KS1/2 Music Curriculum. Please book online via the website (link below). Attendance can be either in person or online. Link: https://forms.gle/1cwiHHsHBuQ7q5vy8	Primary School and Academy Music Leads	CPD

Contact: John Barber: jbarber@lovemusictrust.com

☎ 01270 766214

3. Traded Service Information

There are no items in this area.

4. General Information

4.1 Visyon and Epic LAN Rocket League Gaming Day event

Content	Audience	Purpose
Rocket League gaming day held at Visyon in Congleton. Free event for families to attend and enjoy with wellbeing advice and online safety support for families available. Link: https://www.visyon.org.uk/events/gamingday https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/images/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/rocket-league-gaming-day.png	Families	For Information

Contact: Lynne Cunliffe: lynne.cunliffe@visyon.org.uk

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