

SEND Weekly Newsletter 24 October 2018



Issue 14

Students take part in the NCS programme



Congratulations to a group of Year 11 students from both Elmwood and Selworthy Schools, who embarked on the National Citizenship Service (NCS) Special Schools programme and have successfully graduated after two weeks of outdoor collaborative learning.

This started on a three day residential on Exmoor where students spent time exploring the outdoors, team building and getting to know each other. The rest of the two weeks involved working in different environments and learning new skills including cooking, orienteering, walking and learning about how to be a positive and active citizen.

The NCS staff have been excellent and it is has been a great pleasure from all staff and students to work with such an inspiring and supportive team.

This Special Schools programme is adapted from the fantastic mainstream summer programme and we really hope this is the start of an annual event for the two schools!

SEN training courses

There are a number of SEN training courses available via [Somerset Partnership Teaching School \(SPTS\) Alliance](#) and [Support Services for Education](#) websites, including the [SENCO Conference](#), which takes place on the 8th of November 2018 at Canalside Centre in Bridgwater.

This is a full day of training to support schools in using an evidence-based approach to improve outcomes for children and young people with communication and interaction needs.

For more information about SPTS training courses email office@somersetpts.co.uk.



Somerset Early Years Conference



This year's theme for Somerset Early Years Annual Conference is Celebrating Inclusive Practice in the Early Years and takes place at **Taunton Racecourse on the 21st of November 2018**.

Keynote Speakers include Julie Revels, an independent consultant and trainer specialising in inclusion in the early years and understanding the importance of early child development, and Jane Burchall, a Senior HMI for Ofsted.

There are a number of workshops on the day including Navigating their Needs, EAL and SEND, and Developing an Inclusive Learning Environment.

For more information and to book a place, visit [Support Services for Education](#).

Fit for my Future

A new health and social care programme, **Fit for my Future**, has just launched a website and announced a number of drop-in sessions around the county to help understand how we can best use our resources to help people across Somerset stay healthy and independent for longer.

The programme, which Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Somerset County Council and other partners are running, want to hear as many views as possible and are encouraging people to attend the sessions to share their experiences of health and social care services and what needs to be improved and made better in future.

For more information about the drop-in sessions, visit [Fit for my Future](#) or email somccg.fitformyfuture@nhs.net.

Equality Duty

The **Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)**, which came into force in 2011, means that public bodies (including schools) have to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

The minimum requirement under the PSED for schools is to publish equality information on an annual basis and set/publish at least one equality objective (linked to groups protected by the Act) every four years.

To help schools in ensuring they are compliant with the Equality Duty 2011, which includes support for young people with SEND, guidance has been updated and the Equality Legislation Information Sheet for Somerset Schools is now available via the **[Somerset Learning Platform](#)**.

