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HESW Newsletter

Feb 2013

Hi All,

Welcome to the February 2013 edition of the HESW Newsletter. With our busy home educating lives, it is hard to produce the HESW newsletters as often as we would like. However, social media is at hand. HESW now has a twitter and facebook account, where we can post little snippets of good stuff on a more regular basis.

[Child Benefit post 16](#)
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Child benefit for 16 - 19 year olds in full-time home education



You can claim Child Benefit for your child up to their 20th birthday if they are in 'eligible education'. Home education does count as a valid option for Child Benefit. Your child does not need to be studying for exams or be enrolled on a formal course. Home Education must be full-time (12+ hours supervised study a week during term time) and non-advanced, which means not higher than Level 3 courses such as 'A' levels.

Sometime between January and June of the academic year in which your child turns 16, you will receive a letter from the Child Benefit office asking what your child's plans are. You will need to let them know that your child is going to continue in full-time home education. It is probably best to do this in writing with the form they send you (keeping a copy for your own records is a good idea). Doing this over the phone can get more complicated, as sometimes the operators are not always aware that home education is valid, or may think you need to be studying for exams. The form will probably ask you when the course started; if your child is not studying for an exam or enrolled on a formal course, then this is the date you started home-educating (de-registered from school) or the date of your child's 5th birthday. Some families have been sent additional forms to complete the process. If you need any further advice or assistance do [contact us](#) at HESW.

Links to the relevant Government websites:

www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19

www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefit/keep-up-to-date/when-child-aged-16/child-16.htm



[National Science & Engineering week](#) - 15th - 24th March

Invention & discovery

NSEW shines the spotlight each March on how the sciences, technology, engineering and maths relate to our everyday lives, and helps to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers with fun and participative events and activities. Use their interactive map to find an event near you.

[CORE](#) focuses on developing creative projects, giving individuals the opportunity to explore, create, learn and grow through creative movement & dance, land based craft and woodland/forest school activities.

CORE offer forest school courses specifically for home educated children. Click the link to see their spring/summer 2013 programme.

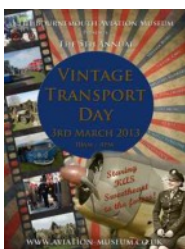
[Outward Bound Courses](#) - The Sir Francis Chichester Trust offers FREE places on Outward Bound courses to young people who live in Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay) and who are aged 16-24. Closing date for applications for courses this summer is Tuesday 2nd April with interviews for those shortlisted being held 25th and 26th April, young people who apply need to be available on one or other of these days.

[Dance in Devon](#) - "is committed to increasing the understanding of the benefits of dance on the lives of young people and is keen to support young dancers across the county in a multitude of roles. We offer opportunities, resources and training, and support to make Youth Dance in Devon the best that it can be."

Fancy a day out?

[Donkey Sanctuary](#) - gently rolling countryside with walks around the fields where you can meet the donkeys, who adore the fuss & attention received from visitors. [Educational group](#) visits also possible.

The Sanctuary is open 365 days a year from 9.00 am to dusk with **free** admission and parking.



[Bournemouth Aviation Museum](#)

5th Annual Vintage Transport Day
3rd March 2013.

Many attractions including; vintage buses, classic cars, military vehicles, re-enactments, live music, vintage fashion, stalls & refreshments.

[Willows & Wetlands Visitor Centre](#) - Taunton - learn about the history and art of willow growing and basketmaking. For more information and visiting times, click the link. Free entry & parking.

Free stuff

[Wessex Water Education Packs](#) - If you live within the Wessex water region, just fill in the online form to receive a selection of educational resources about water.

Product review



[The Creativity Hub](#) [Rory's Story Cubes](#)

Such a simple idea - just roll the dice and make up a story based on the pictures. Fun for all the family; it really gets our imagination and creativity going with hilarious results!

Easy to pop in your pocket, making it a great game to travel with.

[Bang Goes the Theory](#) - although all the printed teachers' packs have now all gone, you can still download both packs covering series 1-4 from the BBC site.

[The Royal British Legion Learning Pack 2011-12](#) - pack includes posters and CD/DVD set

[Science & Technology Facilities Council](#) - various resources to download or order

[Grain Chain](#) - Educational story posters that explore the journey from the field to the plate.

[Society for General Microbiology](#) - a wide range of microbiology teaching resources for all age groups from primary to post-16; various booklets and posters.

[DixiReader](#) - free dyslexic friendly programmes to download

HE news

Commons Education Select Committee report into Support for Home Education

"The Education committee published its [Report on Support for Home Education](#) and MPs said that home-educated students deserve fair access to exams. The report published concluded a short inquiry that examined the support available for home educators and their families. Members of the Committee met home educators, national and local support groups, and a number of local authority officers from across the country." For the full report and more, click the link.

Pathways to the Future - Home Education Conference March 9th 2013

"What are the further education options after being home-educated and what pathways are open to home-educated young people?"

The Home Education Centre educational conference at the Chard Guildhall, Somerset. Free to attend, but essential to book as places are limited.

For more info visit : www.conference2013.homeeducationcentre.org.uk



Website resources

[Worksheet Works](#) - "Our goal is to provide the finest quality paper-based teaching materials to teachers and parents around the world." Hundreds of worksheet, millions of combinations.

[Codecademy](#) - learn to code interactively for free.

[Memrise](#) - the *Memrise* community uses images & science to make learning easy and fun. An online learning platform that combines the best insights from the art and science of memory to provide a fast and fun way to learn vocabulary and languages.

www.homeeducationsw.org.uk

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