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## HESW Newsletter

Oct 2013

Hi All,

What a lovely summer 2013 has been. The sunshine always makes everything so much easier! Lots of opportunities for days outs, camps and great HE experiences with other families.

Autumn brings abundance (and lots of apples here in Somerset) and still many things to do in the region to keep us all busy.

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College places for 14 -16 year olds.



In the past some colleges were willing to offer 14-16 yr old home educated young people a place, but obtaining the funding for these courses was complicated, relied on persuading local authorities to help or it was up to parents to simply pay the fee. As from this September 2013 however, any home educated young person who wishes to attend college either full time or part time can have their place directly funded by the Government. Colleges are not obliged to offer under 16yrs a place, but if they do so, they can simply enter the students name on their records and receive funding as they do in the usual way for post 16yrs students. The DfE has made it quite clear that any arrangements between the college and parents does not need to involve the local authority at all.

If your home educated 14/15yr old has any SEN and needs additional support at college, again the college can note this down on the record and receive the funding through their usual channels.

This simplifying of funding college places for 14-16yr olds came about as a result of the [Wolfe report](#) (2011), in which recommendations were made to help improve, create and maintain vocational education for 14-19yr olds.

In June 2013 the [DfE published a guide for enrolment of 14-16yrs into further education colleges](#). Guidance for the funding of home educated young people is contained in Annex C on page 28.

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## What's on

[Sidmouth Science Festival](#) - takes place 14th - 20th October

This year the Festival weekend will extend from Saturday in Sidmouth town to Sunday at the Norman Lockyer Observatory. The events will be for all age groups and all parts of the community. Most events are free but there will be a charge for Saturday evening show and Sunday day at the NLO.

[Bridport Arts Centre](#) - lots going on this Autumn including...

BACStage - weekly Youth Theatre for 12 - 18yr olds. Weds 5.45 - 8pm. Create dynamic and challenging theatre through these stimulating sessions led by choreographer, director and producer Niki McCretton. There are regular opportunities for students to share the work created and to work towards bronze and silver Arts Awards. Email [kate@bridport-arts.com](mailto:kate@bridport-arts.com) or call the box office on 01308 424204 for further details. £5 per week.

Halloween themed workshop during half-term - [Create a Creepy Haunted House](#)



FREE drop-in workshop for families for [The Big Draw](#) on 12 October.

Create a magical visual symphony to "Carnival of the Animals" and other musical tunes, figuratives and abstract. 10 am - 3 pm

[Chemistry week](#) - 16th - 23rd November 2013, this year's theme is Health. As well as national events, activities are organised throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland by the RSC Local Sections. [The Global experiment](#) is an engaging way to get involved with chemistry week. Test your fruit and veg for vitamin C using simple kitchen equipment and household items. Upload your data and analyse the results.

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## Courses for Young People

Online courses that are free to sign-up to:

[Coursera](#) - is an education company that partners with the top universities and organisations in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free. Choose from over 400+ courses in a wide range of subjects. Students from 13yrs can access the site (with parents' permission if under 18yrs)

[FutureLearn](#) - Newly launched and owned by Open University. The aim is to inspire learning for life. Offering a diverse selection of free, high quality online courses from some of the world's leading universities and other outstanding cultural institutions. This is their first year so FutureLearn is in beta and the courses running are all pilot courses. Well worth a look, as the site is sure to develop quickly. Again for 13yrs+ students

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[Bridging the Gap Course](#) - Free full-time course for 16 - 18 yr olds - still has some places. Unique course of hands-on projects covering arts, crafts, outdoor practical work, leadership skills, Maths, English & Humanities. Small group setting, no more than 15 students. Based in Stroud and accredited through Cirencester College. A young person may

## Product review



[Simple And Motorized Mechanisms Base Set](#)

If your child is anything like my middle one, then they could spend all day playing with Lego. Now, I already think Lego is great for improving a child's dexterity and creative thinking, but this set takes it one step further in helping your child's learning. Play & learn; everyone's happy!

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## Free stuff

National Youth Film Festival's FREE film screening programme - 21st Oct - 8th Nov. UK wide festival for schools & youth groups (replaces National Schools Film week). [Book free cinema tickets](#) at venues near you. There are still spaces available, but they are filling up fast.

[European commission](#) - many educational publications free to download. Books can be ordered & will be posted to you free of charge if you need more than 1 copy of each (eg. for families in your HE group).

[Progressive Phonics](#) - 'an all-in-one reading program that is easy, fun, and totally FREE' Series of books to download to help you teach your child to read and write with just a few minutes a day

[Book packs for home educated children](#) - Booktime "encouraging families to have fun reading together"  
For reception aged children (4 - 5 year olds)

[Visiting a Dairy Farm](#) - Free CD ROM from Farming and Countryside Education. Introduces primary aged children to what goes on at a dairy farm. [FACE](#) has many other [resources](#) on their website to access & download, including interactive resources, fact sheets, recipes, craft makes, plus find farms to visit.

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## Clubs to join

For children interested in archaeology then [YAC](#) is worth a look at.

Local branches around the country usually organise monthly meetings or outings. To find a branch near you [click here](#)



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## Website resources

[Sheppard Software](#) - hundreds of educational games, activities and quizzes to use online for free.

[Get tuned](#) - helping you learn how to tune various stringed instruments, plus online tuners & metronome.

[Ebug](#) - a place to play games and learn about microbes

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