

SESLIP Education Network Update:

December 23rd 2022



From SESLIP:

- The final update of 2022: another year where it has felt hard to keep up with everything going on, including, in terms of children and young people's lives, too much that makes their lives and prospects harder rather than better. I wish all some well earned recuperation as well as celebrations over the Festive Season and see you again in 2023!!
- Plus: a Christmas message for children's services staff and two wishes, from ADCS President Steve Crocker. <https://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/making-some-wishes-for-christmas>

In Today's Update:

1. DfE: DfE annual report published, dashboard of educational outcomes 15 years after leaving school, updated HAF programme guidance.
2. Research: Wider life experiences help to improve adolescent mental health, facial hair and fighting.
3. News: DfE misses £10million in VAT refunds, debunking claim teachers in top 10% of earners, analysis of 2020 and 2021 reference tests, knowledge, power and the curriculum, Christmas and having an eating disorder, High Court rejects challenge to RSE curriculum. And for the end of the year: review of the year with the Institute of Government and educational reads of the year.

1. DfE:

- The department's annual report sets out achievements and summarises its accounts, as well as the department's priorities and risks. Key risks identified include school building collapse especially those of system-built construction, cybersecurity and the future sustainability of high needs funding. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125417/DfE consolidated annual report and accounts 2021 to 2022 accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125417/DfE_consolidated_annual_report_and_accounts_2021_to_2022_accessible.pdf)
- Department launches long-term educational outcomes dashboard. It provides a means to view performance / position in the labour market based on a range of school / educational characteristics for up to 15 years after finishing KS4. <https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/leo-post16education-labourmarket/>
- Updated guidance for the Holiday Activities and Food Programme including the information about grant levels for 2023-24. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

2. Research:

- Pulling together key evidence from across neuroscience and psychology to demonstrate that wider life experiences for adolescents could be vital to address declining mental health. These can include volunteering, taking responsibility, and new experiences. All have great potential, especially if combined with enough sleep and quality adult relationships. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-03172-y.pdf>
- Light-hearted research: tests that support the hypothesis that the purpose of a beard was to protect human males from punches to the face! <https://academic.oup.com/job/article/2/1/obaa005/5799080?login=false>

3. News:

- DfE annual accounts show over £10m in unclaimed VAT refunds from HMRC. These accrued from purchases of sites for free schools, but were subject to delays and complications. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/dfe-taxpayer-funding-free-school-academy-sites-vat-refund/>
- Debunking the claim that teachers are in the top 10% of earners in "some parts of the country", as claimed by the SofS. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/64064200>

- Additional analysis comparing results in English and maths National Reference Tests in 2020 and 2021. There was no significant change in attainment dependent on the socio-economic status of students, though there were some specific areas of underperformance in 2021: for EAL students and, in maths, for students attending schools with high levels of disadvantage.
<https://www.nfer.ac.uk/national-reference-test-2021-factors-affecting-attainment/>
- Thinking about powerful knowledge and how it relates to the curriculum. Prof Michael Young describes how his thinking has evolved and the importance of engaging pupils in discovery for knowledge to build into learning. <https://www.tes.com/magazine/teaching-learning/general/michael-young-powerful-knowledge-curriculum>
- Insightful blog by a young woman who is recovering from her eating disorder and the challenges she finds Christmas presents her with; and some ways she has learnt to cope better.
<https://www.fullofbeansed.co.uk/post/a-reflection-on-christmas> @thefobpodcast
- The High Court in Wales rejects a judicial review about the introduction of the new RSE curriculum. The judge held the introduction had been through "a process of careful consideration".
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/22/parents-wales-lose-legal-fight-gender-sexuality-tuition-primary-schools>
- The Institute of Government's review of the year podcast. 2022: "a year that has raised the bar for political chaos and confusion to new heights". <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/podcast>
- Some suggestions for top educational reads of 2022:
<https://readingallthebooks.com/2022/12/20/top-reads-of-2022/>



*Happy Christmas!
Wishing you well in
2023*