



the Maximilian

Monthly Newsletter for Governors from the Education Commission

Edition 75
December 2019

Welcome... *The Maximilian* is a monthly newsletter from the Education Commission to all categories of governors in our schools, highlighting changes in legislation and other news which will be of help to governing bodies.

The staff at the Education Commission wish you and yours a happy and holy Christmas.

"Today in Bethlehem, a saviour has been born to you"

Luke 2:11

Christmas Opening Hours

The Education Commission will be closed from Midday on Tuesday 24th December 2019 and reopen at 9 am Thursday 2nd January 2020.

Foundation Governor Appointment Process

The Education Commission will be amending the forms used for appointment and re-appointment of foundation governors with effect from the 6 January 2020.

In order to simplify the process, schools, colleges and academies will be asked to obtain the references for foundation governors and also to undertake DBS checks both at appointment and re-appointment phases and to share this information with the Education Commission.

Character Education Framework

Non-statutory guidance to schools on character education and development for pupils.

[Please click here to view more details.](#)

Winner & other finalists of the Christmas Card Competition 2019

The winner of this year's Christmas card competition is Lily M from St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Bexley



Below are the finalists.



Case Law update disability discrimination claims where a pupil has a 'tendency to physical abuse'

In a recent Upper Tier Tribunal decision of *C&C v The Governing body of a School, The Secretary of State for Education (First Interested party) and The National Autistic Society (Second Interested Party)* 2018 UKUT 269 AAC, Judge Rowley upheld the appeal of a 13 year old known as "L". L had been given a fixed term exclusion for aggressive behaviour linked to his autism, anxiety and Pathological Demand Avoidance- against a finding of the First Tier Tribunal that he was not 'disabled' insofar as his tendency to physical abuse was concerned. This decision will affect how schools can defend disability claims where a pupil has acted aggressively or committed an act of violence, through no fault of their own, as a result of their condition.

It is important to note that schools are not required to tolerate violent behaviour at all costs.

Schools must now on all occasions be able to justify their decision for exclusions and show how reasonable adjustments have been made to assist the particular pupil. This includes ensuring that alternatives to exclusions have been pursued if at all possible.

Attachment (ACAMH)

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) has a very useful website. One of the topics they address is attachment.

Attachment is a universal system that all infants have the capacity to develop as soon as they are born. Its purpose is to keep the infant safe by signalling to the parent when they need them to address one of their needs. The kinds of behavioural signals that you might expect to see when an infant's attachment system is activated are: crying, calling for, reaching out to or crawling towards their carer. Children can have attachment relationships with more than one caregiver.

- Assessing attachment
- Attachment in infancy
- Attachment in childhood
- Attachment in adolescence
- Useful organisations and resources

You can find the resource by clicking [here](#).

Teachers: claim back your student loan repayments

Claim back the student loan repayments that you made while employed as a teacher in the 2018 to 2019 financial year.

[Please click here to view more details.](#)

Applications are now open for the Sutton Trust US Programme

Applications are now open for the Sutton Trust US Programme, which the Fulbright Commission delivers in partnership with the Sutton Trust, the UK's leading social mobility charity.

What is it?

The Sutton Trust US Programme is designed to support students from state schools across the UK to explore US study and access leading universities.

It includes two residentials in the UK before all students spend a week in the US staying on campus at a leading US university and visiting a variety of other American universities.

An optional second year of the programme supports students to apply to US universities alongside their UCAS options.

In the past eight years, we have helped more than 400 British students get places and funding at top US universities.

How much does it cost?

The programme is free for students. All costs are covered by the programme – including travel, food, accommodation, admissions test preparation and more.

Who are we looking for?

To be eligible to apply, students must:

- Currently be in Year 12 in England and Wales, S5 in Scotland or Year 13 in Northern Ireland
- Attend, and have always attended, a state-funded school or college i.e. non-fee paying
- Not hold US citizenship
- Be from a low or middle income family (generally, this will mean a household earning £45,000 or less)
- Be interested in US culture and higher education

For additional criteria, take a look at the ["Who can apply?"](#) page on the website.

When is the application deadline?

You must submit your application by 19 January 2020, however we strongly advise to get started earlier, as the application form requires some thinking!