

SSE Customer Newsletter - January 2020

SSE Governance wins Service Provider of the Year award

Congratulations to SSE Governance, who beat businesses such as Company Matters and DMJ Recruitment, to win a **Chartered Governance Institute (ICSA) award**.

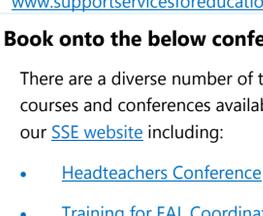
The team, who provides support to those volunteering in governance within all educational settings, were announced as winners for the Service Provider of the Year Award, and attended the ICSA awards ceremony in London on Wednesday 27 November 2019. The evening recognised and celebrated excellence in governance, rewarding the work and achievements of companies, teams and individuals from across the governance profession.



SSE Governance deliver training that offers continued professional development either through e-learning or face to face sessions, as well as providing a helpline via phone and email for specific guidance and a diverse range of resources to support the work of governance boards. To find out more about the support they provide, please visit [here](#).

Congratulations to SSE Governance and the other finalists and winners on the night!

SSE Conference 2020



Support Services for Education (SSE) will be hosting an informative and exciting conference early this year. Tickets are now available to all school leaders, governors and managers across the South West at a cost of just £25 per person including lunch and refreshments.

Taking place on **Thursday 26th March 2020 at Dillington House in Ilminster**, the event theme and focus will be on **'Quality education through a connected and extended curriculum.'**

There will be presentations from keynote speakers including music advocate and teacher at Feversham Primary School, **Jimmy Rotheram**, who will explain how they used music to transform their school from special measures to top 1% for pupil progress, and **Roy Leighton**, an education innovator and one of the most inspiring speakers in education today.

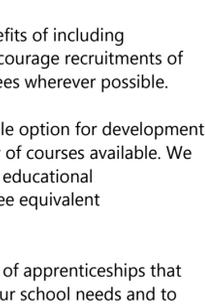
Attendees will also be able to choose from a variety of relevant workshops and presentations from leading organisations that support schools. As well as a diverse exhibition hall and an opportunity to network during the day with colleagues from across Somerset and beyond.

Check out the programme of events and as places are limited be sure to book tickets and sessions early to avoid disappointment. Please visit www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/conference2020.

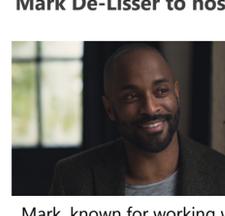
Book onto the below conferences before places go!

There are a diverse number of training courses and conferences available through our [SSE website](#) including:

- [Headteachers Conference](#)
- [Training for EAL Coordinators new into role](#)
- [Wellbeing in Schools Conference](#)
- [Secondary Music Conference](#)



Find out more about SCIL today!



Somerset Centre for Integrated Learning (SCIL) have been training educators, childcare professional and the children and young people's workforce for many years.

Courses range from statutory child protection, CPD and bespoke in-house sessions to teacher training and degree level qualification. Our aim is to support a culture of lifelong learning in a workforce where everyone feels valued and can reach their full potential.

SCIL have achieved the Investors in People Gold award and Ofsted graded their SCITT programme for initial teacher training as **Outstanding In All Areas** at their last inspection. Please watch our promotional video [here](#).

To find out more information about the huge variety of courses on offer, visit www.SCILTraining.co.uk or call 0300 123 1967.

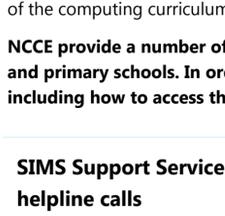
Apprentices in the workplace

Somerset County Council recognises the benefits of including apprentices in the workplace and seeks to encourage recruitments of apprentices and upskilling of current employees wherever possible.

Apprenticeships are becoming more of a viable option for development in the workplace due to the increasing variety of courses available. We are now able to support employees across all educational apprenticeship stages, GCSE to Masters Degree equivalent qualifications.

Please [click here](#) to find out about the variety of apprenticeships that may be of interest to your staff. To discuss your school needs and to identify the right apprenticeships for your staff, contact Misha Liddiatt at MLiddiatt@somerset.gov.uk or 01823 355448.

Mark De-Lisser to host Gifted and Talented workshops



Somerset Music are thrilled to announce that choral director, vocal coach and arranger, Mark De-Lisser, will be attending and hosting our Gifted and Talented workshops at various schools in Somerset in January 2020.

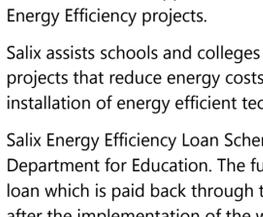
Mark, known for working with vocal talent including Ariana Grande, Jessie J and Beverley Knight, has also worked on several high profile TV programmes such as BBC's The Voice UK, Our Dementia Choir with Vicky McClure and BBC's Meet The Street.

There will be workshops on four days followed by two concerts at the end of the second day at both Robert Blake Science College in Bridgwater and Westfield Academy in Yeovil.

This follows on from the news regarding a further £80 million investment by the Government in music hubs. Thanks to the multi-million-pound culture boost, thousands more children will be able to learn instruments and play in orchestras or choirs. For the full article, please click [here](#).

To find out more about the services that Somerset Music can provide for your school, please visit [here](#).

AV1 Robots to hire



Following a successful pilot with South Somerset schools, the County Council have been successful in securing funding for 50 AV1 Robots that can help support and re-engage young people who are currently off school for medical or personal reasons.

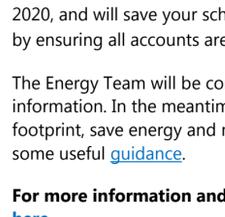
The AV1 is an avatar robot, developed by Norwegian company No Isolation, that becomes the student's 'physical presence' in the classroom, enabling them to partake in lessons whilst accessing the robot from hospital or home.

These will be available for Somerset schools to hire in order to support inclusion.

AV1 Robots can help to maintain or improve attainment rates for the young person, prevent an escalation of need, and prevent a pupil from feeling lonely and isolated.

For more information and to hire one of the AV1 Robots, please fill in the form on their service page [here](#).

SSE eLIM Ed Tech joins NCE to provide support



SSE's eLIM Education Technology has joined forces with the National Centre for Computing Education (NCE) to increase the support they offer to primary schools in Somerset and across the South West, ensuring children and young people benefit from a high-quality computing education.

Our team of tech experts, who are NCE Associate Facilitators and Subject Matter Expert Consultants, will be helping schools to identify their needs and the actions necessary to ensure appropriate experiences of the computing curriculum to prepare our learners for their future.

NCE provide a number of training courses suitable for secondary and primary schools. In order to find out more information including how to access this support, visit [here](#).

SIMS Support Service to roll out self-service for logging helpline calls

SSE SIMS Support team have been working with Somerset County Council ICT to roll out a self-service for logging SIMS helpline calls directly to the team, bypassing the Service Desk.

The benefit of this new service is that your calls are immediately available to the team and you can track the progress of the call. If you wish to set up an account then please click on the following link for instructions – www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/p12300

Please also do let us know if you are thinking of buying Capita products / extra modules as it may be that we have access to discounts or collective purchase reductions.

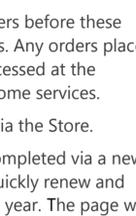
Additionally, if your school is looking at alternative software to SIMS then please do get in touch as we would be very happy to provide impartial support and advice.

In other news, we had a very successful SIMS conference in October, 70 people attended from schools, and there was very positive feedback. For information the next SIMS conference is on **Wednesday 14th October 2020 at Dillington House in Ilminster**.

For more information about what SSE SIMS Support service provides, please visit [here](#).

SALIX Funding for Schools

SSE Property & Grounds service are now able to assist schools with applications to Salix to help fund Energy Efficiency projects.



Salix assists schools and colleges in funding projects that reduce energy costs through the installation of energy efficient technologies.

Salix Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme (SEELS) programme is funded by the Department for Education. The funding is provided via an interest-free loan which is paid back through the predicted saving on energy usage after the implementation of the works.

SSE Property & Grounds service will complete a site survey and explore appropriate technology with necessary budget cost analysis to aid decision making.

If interested and would like to find out more, please contact the [SSE Property and Grounds service](#).

Changes to central energy contracts, billing and payment



The Energy Team has developed a new central bill validation, query management and payment system, which can be linked to SAP and the SCC school finance system.

The new service has been implemented for the Council's corporate property estate with excellent results and will be available to maintained schools from March 2020.

The new service will ensure that you are not paying more than you should be for your energy. It will also reduce administration time, mitigate potential late payment charges (particularly useful where energy bills are issued over the school holidays), identify potential cost recoveries and improve your school's cash flow.

The new service will be available to maintained schools from March 2020, and will save your school time, money and mitigate financial risk by ensuring all accounts are accurate and up to date.

The Energy Team will be contacting schools in the New Year with further information. In the meantime, to help schools reduce their carbon footprint, save energy and money, the Energy Team has put together some useful [guidance](#).

For more information and to contact the Energy Team, please visit [here](#).

SSE Outdoors news and offers

School Residential

SSE Outdoors have a few slots available for Autumn 2020 at our Centres in the Quantocks and on the Mendip Hills, we can offer a bespoke programme to meet the needs of your trip, both linking it to the curriculum, increasing resilience and team building. Get in touch with us if you are interested in having a residential trip with us.



Catch up weekends

We are available for catch up weekends providing an opportunity for subject leaders to deliver key sessions for students focused on curriculum areas, whilst our instructors will provide break out activities to help these weekends to run effectively. Whether it is a Maths and English focus or a weekend giving art pupils the opportunity to complete coursework, we work with you to design an effective session.

2020 Holiday Camps

We are now taking bookings for our 2020 Holiday Camps, more camps will be added in January.

We have moved to an online booking system for our holiday camps, check it out by visiting www.sseoutdoors.co.uk/shop/.

Family Day SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Family Day will be held on Saturday 16th May 2020, details of the event will be shared shortly, including a Facebook event. Check out our Facebook page for updates on the event.

For more information on the above, visit our [website](#) or contact us via email or phone 01278 741270.

SSE Website - 2020/21 Ordering

From the **24 February 2020**, schools will be able to order support services for the 2020/21 academic year through the new SSE Store.

We will notify you when the packages are live.

Reduced **Early Bird** prices will be available for many services/packages until the dates below:

Financial Year packages until **Friday 27 March 2020**

Academic Year packages until **Friday 22 May 2020**

We would encourage schools to complete your orders before these dates to take advantage of the Early Bird price offers. Any orders placed after these deadline dates will be automatically processed at the standard price, which will be up to 10% higher for some services. Please [click here](#) for guidance on how to purchase via the Store.

The **annual ordering** process for 2020/21 will be completed via a new annual ordering page. This page will allow you to quickly renew and review contracts, based on your purchases from last year. The page will suggest upgrades where applicable and bundles which may offer further savings. Your current year Buy Back information can be viewed via your online Purchases report.

If you have any questions or queries about ordering via the website, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0300 123 7365 or sse@somerset.gov.uk.

Are the acoustics of your learning spaces in good shape?

The welfare of staff and effectiveness of teaching can both be adversely influenced in spaces with poor acoustic performance.

This might seem obvious, but who knows what constitutes poor acoustics within a school building? How might you know and plan for improvement?

Follow [this link](#) to find out more.

For further information, please email Mike Highfield, Acoustic Advisor to Somerset County Council, at mahighfield@somerset.gov.uk.

First Aid Lessons for Children and Young People

As of September 2020, the Department for Education has decided that all state funded schools will be required to teach first aid as part of health education.

Primary school pupils are required to be taught basic first aid skills such as how to deal with burns and head injuries. Secondary school pupils will be expected to learn lifesaving first aid such as CPR and how to use defibrillators.

The following charities; St John Ambulance, British Red Cross and The British Heart Foundation who formed the "Every Child a Lifesaver" coalition whilst campaigning for CPR to be taught in schools have created various teaching resources and first aid training that can assist you in delivering this education to pupils.

To find out about more information, please visit [here](#).

Dillington House Adult Education Courses 2020

Fancy taking on a new challenge? Learning a new skill? Dillington House are hosting a huge variety of adult education courses for all ages in 2020 including:

- **Selected Novels of Thomas Hardy**
- **Yoga, Mindfulness and Stress Awareness Getaway**
- **Musicals: The Greatest Showman**
- **Guitar Orchestra Weekend**
- **Three Ways to Paint an Abstract**

For more information about any of these courses or to download the Adult Education Brochure to see the range available, please visit www.dillington.com or call 01460 258 648.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please [click here](#).

For more information, contact SSE@somerset.gov.uk or call 0300 123 7365.