

The Difference

Improving outcomes for vulnerable children by raising the status and expertise of those who teach them



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Forward

Welcome to Four Bullet Friday!

Happy New Year!

It's the perfect time to embrace a **renewed focus on partnerships and collaboration** as key drivers of improvement. Partnerships bring together diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives, enabling schools to address challenges more effectively and innovate for better student outcomes.

Let's **step into 2025 with a commitment to working together** for the success of every learner. In this edition of Four Bullet Friday, we're showcasing webinars and courses from some of the organisations who emphasise inclusive practices and principles in their work — offering school leaders valuable opportunities to share, learn, and grow this term.

We're thrilled to kick off the year with **IncludEd tomorrow** and can't wait to share the expertise of our incredible friends and partners with you! For those joining us, be sure to **book your sessions** [here](#).



1. DiverseEd Webinar: Developing the Skill of Empathy

Join [DiverseEd](#) for an insightful webinar with [Ed Kirwan](#), Founder and CEO of [Empathy Studios](#), exploring how to develop empathy—a vital skill for leadership, creativity, and wellbeing. This webinar will be held on **Tuesday, 14th January from 16:00-17:00** and **registration is free**. Click [here](#) to register.

Also discover the **Empathy Programme**, a 12-week resource-backed initiative, and **Empathy Week (10-14 March 2025)**, a free global festival of film and storytelling and learn about research showing improved behaviour, self-esteem, and empathy in students.

To kickstart your DEIB journey in 2025, take a look at the series of events that DiverseEd is hosting throughout the month of January:

- Jan 17: [Diverse Leaders' programme](#)
- Jan 20: [Inclusive Workplace' series](#)
- Jan 20: [Making Schools More LGBT+ Inclusive](#)
- Jan 29: [#DiverseEd Bristol Hub with Dana Saxon](#)
- Jan 31: [Virtual DEIB for ITTE conference](#)



“FILM IS A GREAT ENABLER, IT’S A GREAT CONVERSATION STARTER, AND A GREAT TOOL TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP THE EMPATHY.”



IN CONVERSATION WITH NICK FERRARI

The Power of Empathy in Schools: LBC Interview with Founder Ed Kirwan (Aug 2024)

2. #BeeWell National Coalition Partners Meeting

[#BeeWell](#), a collaboration between The University of Manchester, The Gregson Family Foundation, and Anna Freud is holding a **National Coalition Partners meeting on the 23rd of January from 4:00-5:00pm**. It is open to both **current and potential partners** and you can register [here](#). Speakers will explore:

- Highlights from the #BeeWell programme
- Latest research findings
- Insights into their call for a UK-wide wellbeing measurement programme
- Inspiring guest partners sharing their use of #BeeWell data
- 2025 plans and networking opportunities

Last month, #BeeWell received the [BERA Public Engagement and Impact Award](#) for its transformative work combining academic research with youth-led change to support young people’s wellbeing. The programme currently supports young people across Greater Manchester, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton and judges praised #BeeWell’s youth-centred approach, empowering young people to lead research and drive collective action.

Now in its fourth year, the programme's survey and insights have influenced policies, practices, and community initiatives, advancing the youth wellbeing agenda locally and nationally. To learn more about the survey click [here](#).



3. ASCL Conference for School Pastoral Leadership 2025

Join school leaders, DSLs, SENCOs, and Directors of Inclusion for a transformative day focused on fostering belonging in schools. This [conference](#) will explore strengthening SEND provision, attendance, and wellbeing, with insights into systems that drive improvement. Discover success stories, recent research, and great practice to improve outcomes, particularly for vulnerable learners.

Date: 28 January 2025

Time: 08:30-16:00

Location: Millennium Gloucester Hotel, London

This is a valuable opportunity to network, share learning, and grow inclusive schools. Don't miss the chance to hear from inspiring speakers, including [Kiran Gill](#), CEO at The Difference, and gain tools to strengthen engagement and create positive school experiences for all.

**ASCL CONFERENCE FOR PASTORAL LEADERS 2025
A MISSION TO ESTABLISH BELONGING IN SCHOOLS**

28 January 2025 | London

Strengthen engagement, attendance, and positive school experiences with insights from recent research and great practice.

www.ascl.org.uk/pastoralconf | #ASCLPastoral

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Kiran Gill

Founder and CEO of The Difference

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Phil Jones

National Chair, National Association for Pastoral Care in Education (NAPCE)

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4. Life Lessons Webinar: Inclusive Education For Diverse School Communities

In this webinar [Richard Phillips](#), Professor of Human Geography at the University of Sheffield will share some research findings on student loneliness, highlighting the value of belonging and trust in education. The webinar will be held on **Tuesday 4th of March from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.**

Creating a sense of belonging and trust for students from diverse faith and cultural

backgrounds is vital for:

- Fostering a respectful school culture
- Improving pupil attendance
- Develop pupils skills of empathy and positive behaviour

Richard will also be joined by Life Lessons school partners who will share their real-life experiences with delivering PSHE/RSHE lessons to students from different faith and cultural backgrounds.

The session aims to provide participants with practical strategies and a free resource to help with the delivery of respectful, values-based education across multiple areas of school life. You can register using the form [here](#).

All who register will be sent a recording of the session if they are unable to attend the live event.



The
Difference

**SCHOOLS
WEEK**
Official Media Partner

Book your
tickets now!



JOIN US AT
includEd 2025

Saturday 11th January 2025, Institute of Education

The education conference dedicated to inclusion

"IncludED is uplifting and inspiring. It always results in real changes back at school... and impact on the most vulnerable children." - Wes Davies, CEO The Two Counties Trust

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