



ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

Newsletter September 2026

Welcome to the September newsletter - and first things first, a heartfelt congratulations to your incredible young people - their remarkable achievements this year deserve to be celebrated. It has been such a joy hearing their stories, and we're genuinely blown away by everything they have achieved. From tackling personal barriers, stepping outside of their comfort zones, representing the county in sport, earning recognition for being the best in their chosen field, formal qualifications and so much more - every update has been a reminder of how brilliantly individual success is. And to all the parents who have shared this in those annual updates: thank you. They're thoughtful, detailed, and full of pride, and we absolutely loved reading them.

This month, we're focussing on information for families who are starting to think about planning for the next stage be that primary to secondary and maybe the world of qualifications and work - where to begin, how to plan, and where to find support. If you're at that stage, you'll find some links below that maybe helpful.

Transitioning from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3

If you would like to apply for a Secondary School place for 2027/2028 the closing date for submitting applications to Suffolk County Council is 31 October 2026. The Suffolk County Council website has more information - <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place-2027-2028>

There are Resource Lists with details of free and paid resources on the EHE website for those families who would like to continue home educating <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ehe>

Suffolk Colleges Open Days October - December

West Suffolk College, One Sixth Form College and Abbeygate Sixth Form College
<https://easterneducationgroup.ac.uk/events/>

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<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/elective-home-education>



Suffolk New College - Ipswich, Halesworth, Suffolk Rural (Otley) <https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/college-life/events/>

East Coast College - Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth
<https://www.eastcoast.ac.uk/events/>

Norwich City College - <https://www.ccn.ac.uk/news-events/events/>

The Health Academy - an opportunity for young people to explore a career in the health sector. Sessions over four weeks at West Suffolk Hospital October - November <https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/join-us/student-programmes/health-academy>

The National Careers Service website provides advice on how to get work experience to learn about a job role, company or sector <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/types-of-work-experience>

Elective Home Education Drop-ins

Drop-in sessions offer an opportunity to meet the EHE team to find out about local educational resources for EHE children, Suffolk's approach to EHE or to simply discuss EHE and ask any questions you may have. Children are welcome to attend the sessions.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/elective-home-education/elective-home-education-drop-in-sessions>

6/10/2026 10:30-12:30 The Bridge Community Church, 68 Queens Rd, Bury Saint Edmunds IP33 3EW

5/11/2026 11 - 12.30 Lowestoft Library, Clapham Road South, Lowestoft, NR32 1DR

17/11/2026 11 - 12.30 Stowmarket Library, Milton Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1EX

1/12/2026 11 - 12.30 Halesworth Library, Bridge Street, Halesworth, IP19 8AD

9/2/2027 10:30-12:30 The Bridge Community Church, 68 Queens Rd, Bury Saint Edmunds IP33 3EW

The National Literacy Trust <https://wordsforlife.org.uk>

As part of the National Year of Reading, the National Literacy Trust offers support with reading from Early Years to Key Stage 4. There are activities for all ages and parent support.

[Telling Stories at Home](#) - Discover ways to share stories as a family or with your child at home.

[Taking photos and talking about them](#) - Babies and children love looking at and taking photos and videos of themselves and familiar people, and it's a great way to get them chatting and to develop their vocabulary.

[Make a Collage](#) - Making a collage will support your child's creativity.

Suffolk Community Libraries - there are events for children of all ages, search the website for what is on at your local library - <https://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/events>

Taking GCSEs while Home Educated

Home educated students sit exams as external/private candidates at a registered exam centre accredited by their chosen exam board.

The GCSE Exam Boards in England & Wales are AQA, OCR, Pearson (Edexcel) and Eduqas / WJEC. The iGCSE Exam Boards are Pearson (Edexcel), Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and AQA (called AQA Certificate).

Each exam board provides a syllabus and subject specification.

Exam centres can be difficult to find; contacting local high schools (especially one previously attended) may help. Some independent schools also accept external candidates. You can also approach Unity Schools Partnership and <https://www.unitysp.co.uk/> and Thomas Gainsborough School <https://www.tgschool.net/>

As an external (private) candidate, you must pay all associated costs - including study materials, registration, and exam fees. Costs vary by centre and location. Arrangements should be made by early November to avoid extra fees and secure a place.

To search for an exam centre near you, you can use the Joint Council for Qualifications website <https://www.jcq.org.uk/private-candidates/>