

Membership Matters

E S F A



English
Schools'
Football
Association



Membership Matters - December 2024

Welcome to December's edition of Membership Matters. We hope all Members have had an enjoyable month so far. Season's greetings from all at the ESFA. We ask that you share this email far and wide within your schools' football networks to ensure all members are kept as up to date as possible with ESFA activity and messages.

A welcome message from ESFA Chair, Nick Loftus

"Best wishes to all over the Christmas period. I hope that everyone has a great break.

Hopefully you will be able to look back on a successful 2024 in schools' football. As teachers know, success isn't always measured by victories in football games, and there are many ways that we can provide success for school children through sport. The experience of participating and being part of a team can give a real sense of achievement regardless of the outcome of the match. The opportunity to learn and develop through football is so important.

Let's all look to increase participation and give more children the chance to represent their school, districts and county football teams in 2025.

For those of you still in the ESFA National competitions, good luck in the new year. "



Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup - County Rounds

The Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup is well underway with all the district rounds now complete and 15 of the County Rounds having already taken place. The ESFA would like to congratulate all members who have helped run the district and county rounds of this competition and remind members to contact Haydn.Evans-Wood@schoolsfa.com with any questions around the competition.



The ESFA's official photographer Garry Griffiths has been in attendance at a number of Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup county rounds, capturing all the action. The below reports and photos are from events hosted by Buckinghamshire Schools' FA and Cornwall Schools' FA.

[Buckinghamshire](#)
[Cornwall](#)

If you would like your Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup county round event to be covered in a similar way, please contact Jacob.blades@Schoolsfa.com



Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup TV Mini Series

The ESFA is delighted to announce that the 2024 Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup Finals, hosted in May at Derby County FC, will feature in a brand new mini-series on TV Channel POP throughout December, Starting Saturday 7th December.

This exciting new project between the ESFA and The Pokémon Company international showcases this long standing competition in a whole new way, allowing a wider audience than ever to see the opportunities that schools' football provides.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to watch plus get a sneak peak with the series trailer below.



Rep Football Roundup - Dec 2024

Haydn Evans-Wood , The ESFA's National Competitions Coordinator has written a mid season report of the national cup representative competitions which has been published on the ESFA's website and can be viewed below.

[Read the full report here](#)

The ESFA would like to say a huge thank you to our volunteers for their hard work and commitment, ensuring the national competitions run as smoothly as possible and ensuring as many pupils as possible have the chance to play in the national cups.



ESFA CEO receives Honorary Fellowship from UCFB

The ESFA is delighted to announce that Andrea Chilton, ESFA CEO is the recipient of an Honorary Fellowship from the University Campus of Football Business, which she accepted on Thursday 21 November at UCFB's Manchester campus graduation ceremony.

Read more about it [here](#) and take a look at Andrea's acceptance speech via the video below:



ESFA safeguarding briefing - Jan 25

The ESFA's Safeguarding team will be holding their mid-season briefing for association safeguarding officers and secretaries on Wednesday 8th January at 6.30pm. Team invites will be sent out during the first week of January.

Message from Emma Allen and Martin Duffield - The ESFA Safeguarding Team

ESFA National Schools' Cup - December roundup

The ESFA National Schools' Cup competitions saw over 7000 teams enter the 34 different competitions with around 120,000 pupils playing national inter-school football. The PlayStation Schools' Cup and Arnold Clark Schools' Cup competitions are progressing nicely with round 5 and 6 on the horizon for the remaining teams. The below report provides a brief over view of the core ESFA national cup competitions.

[Read the full report here.](#)

If you have schools in your district or county still competing in the national cups, make sure to congratulate them on their success and support them as the competitions progress.



ESFA Enterprises Coaching Camps



Thank you to members who have promoted the ESFA Enterprises Coaching Camps to their audience, your support is much appreciated.

The registration deadline has been extended to the end of January so please continue to share this exciting opportunity. ESFA Enterprises has also added the ability to pay the cost of the camps in instalments. For more information visit ESFAEnterprises.com



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