

Professional Learning Academy

Professional Learning and
Leadership Development

Calendar 2025-2026

Introduction

The Professional Learning Calendar for 2025-2026 is a response to school and local authority improvement plans, attendance at previous CLPL and practitioner feedback data. This session's menu is deliberately paired back so that we can provide bespoke professional learning that is responsive to the needs identified by individual schools.

Delivery

Twilights will be delivered at the Professional Learning Academy from 4:00pm-5:30pm, unless otherwise stated. Bespoke sessions will be delivered in school at a date and time determined by the school.

Gateway

Twilights must be signed up for on Gateway CPD Manager and will require approval from the in-school Gateway Coordinator. Gateway codes are in the programme column (Course ID: ...). Enter the number detailed under programme title in Course ID box on Gateway.

Access to Gateway can be found by either clicking or scanning the following:

[North Ayrshire CPD : Login \(cpdservice.net\)](https://cpdservice.net)



Bespoke Professional Learning

Choose from a range of bespoke professional learning that is blended to meet the pedagogical needs of *your* teachers at *your* school. Provide us with collegiate dates and we will create the pedagogy palette that suits you.

Contact: erinmclaughlin@north-ayrshire.gov.uk to arrange any sessions.

Literacy	Programme	Description	Notes
	Approaches to Writing	Exploring research-based approaches to writing in the primary school.	
	Running Records	Equip teachers with the knowledge and skills to use running records to assess reading.	
	Note Making Skills	Exploring approaches to teaching young people the skill of note making in order to support learning across the curriculum.	
	Literacy Progression Framework Training	An introduction to the newly released North Ayrshire Literacy Progression Frameworks including an in-depth look at accompanying resources and tools.	
	Phonics	Supporting teachers with strategies to teach phonics in primary and secondary.	
	SHORS	A whole school approach to support the teaching of reading comprehension through this research based approach.	
	Oracy	Why Oracy Matters: Exploring the importance of oracy for and beyond the classroom.	
		Learning To and Through Talk: Opportunities to embed talk through the curriculum.	
		Planning, Assessing & Supporting Talk: Tools for planning, scaffolding, and assessing oracy.	

Mathematics	Programme	Description	Notes
	Approaches to Numeracy	Addition and Subtraction Multiplication and Division Fractions, Decimals and Percentages Practical sessions showing the progression across all levels of numeracy, reflecting current documentation and research.	
	Problem Solving	An active, practical approach to problem solving to consider why teaching problem solving skills and mathematical reasoning is important and ensuring a consistent approach across North Ayrshire.	
	Building Thinking Classrooms (Primary)	An introduction to Building Thinking Classrooms (teaching practices for enhancing learning) focusing on the work of Peter Liljedahl.	
	Building Blocks of Numeracy	To explore the building blocks that young learners should experience to lay a firm foundation in Numeracy and Mathematics.	
	Using Manipulatives	Promoting effective use of manipulatives such as Rekenreks, Numicon, Cuisenaire Rods and Dominoes to develop a deeper understanding of numeracy and maths.	
	Mathematics Framework Training	To impart knowledge on skills on how to mathematics in a progressive and manageable way to support learners attainment.	

Pedagogy	Programme	Description	Notes
	Starters and Plenaries	Considering the importance of starters and plenaries in contributing to an effective lesson and providing practical starter/plenary ideas.	
	Adaptive Teaching	Considering the rationale for, and practical approaches to adaptive teaching in the classroom.	
	The Power of Feedback	An introduction to the principles of providing effective feedback to learners.	
	Effective Questioning	Considering approaches to questioning in the classroom and how to use effective questioning to enhance learning in the classroom.	
	AiFL Strategies	Enhancing the use of AiFL strategies in the curriculum.	
	Supporting Dyslexic Learners	A practical exploration of early identification, supports and teaching strategies to help Dyslexic learners in the classroom.	
	Retrieval Practice	An introduction to retrieval practice and exploring how it can be used in the classroom to raise attainment.	

Digital	Programme	Description	Notes
	Using AI	Basic introduction to AI particularly Generative AI. Tips on how to recognise AI in learners' work and apply in own practice.	
	Digital Accessibility	In this session, you will learn about the benefits of digital accessibility tools on both computers and iPads, how to use them in your classroom, and where to find more resources and support. This session will help you create more inclusive and accessible learning experiences for your students.	
	Microbits	Introducing staff to the micro:bit and the Makecode website and explain about lesson plans and resources. Also explore how to connect MicroBit, write a program, test it and download to MicroBit	
	Stop Motion Animation	Discover the power of stop motion animation in the classroom. This engaging, practical training session will equip teachers with skills to integrate stop motion into lessons, fostering creativity, storytelling, and pupil engagement. Learn simple techniques, tools, and ideas to bring subjects to life through hands-on animation.	
	Using iPads for Literacy and Numeracy	iPad apps can be engaging and fun ways to support development and instruction in the classroom. Find out how the native apps can help to support this. You will have the opportunity to explore and practice with some of the apps during the session.	

Leadership	Programme	Description	Notes
	Leadership of Pedagogues	Practitioners will explore leadership theories to critically reflect and develop their own leadership.	
	DHT Readiness for Headship	A forum for challenging professional assumptions and stimulating professional growth through research informed practice.	
	Middle Leadership Collaborative Enquiry	Middle leaders will collaborate with colleagues across the authority to use research to support practice.	

MHWP Bespoke Professional Learning Offer

The Mental Health and Wellbeing workstream are committed to supporting the professional learning of staff and can advise on professional learning available that may best needs your needs or offer bespoke sessions for establishments or clusters. If there is interest or need for a particular course or intervention or to find out more and discuss requirements contact Eilidh James or Louise King.

eilidh.james@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

louise.king@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

MHWP	Programme	Description
	Mental Health Improvement – A Practical Approach	A 2-hour session designed to provide information and practical tools to improve wellbeing and build resilience in children, young people, and adults.
	RSHP Curricular Resource: building confidence in delivery	Relationships, Sexual Health and the resource provides a comprehensive set of learning activities for use in early learning settings, primary and secondary schools, ASN settings, colleges and in community-based learning. The resource is structured in line with Curriculum for Excellence Levels. RSHP.scot This learning can be tailored to meet the needs of the cohort.
	Suicide Talk	Pastoral staff can then deliver the resource with senior pupils.

STEM Bespoke Professional Learning Offer

Professional Learning for Learning for Sustainability and STEM is available through Tim Dreyer by request. Sessions can be delivered to small groups of staff, whole schools or cluster groups. Professional Learning activities include, but are not limited to, the sessions below. Please contact Tim directly to discuss any LfS or STEM professional learning requirements. timdreyer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

STEM	Programme	Description
	Inheritance for first and second level	This session explores practical activities, texts and digital resources that support teaching and learning of SCN-1-14a and SCN2-14a
	Chemical reactions in the primary classroom	This session explores a range of hands on practical activities, including risk assessments, for exciting chemical reactions that can be carried out safely in the primary classroom. SCN 2-19a.
	Electrical circuits	This session introduces a range of resources that are available to borrow to support teaching and learning of electrical circuits. You will learn basic concepts of series and parallel circuits and use this knowledge to design and build a game.
	Coding with Marty/Spheros/Indi Cars	This session explores block coding with 'Marty', 'Sphero' and 'Sphero Indi' robots. You will develop an understanding of computational thinking, how to use block coding commands and be equipped with a range of coding challenges for Early, first and second level learners.
	Engineering and design process	This session showcases the Design and Engineering process, how to celebrate engineering 'fails' and will provide you with a range of progressive Engineering Challenges and resources for pupils.
	NAC STEM curricular frameworks: Early Years Outdoor resource / Second level skills framework	This session explores the current NAC Science frameworks and how they can be used as a context for LfS themes and literacy and numeracy outcomes.
	Safe use of fire pits.	In this session you will learn how to safely use fires as a context for teaching and learning. You will be provided with examples of risk assessments and a range of curricular outcomes that can be addressed using fires.
	STEM & Outdoor Learning	This session focusses on a range of biodiversity and numeracy themed experiences and outcomes from early to second level that can be delivered through outdoor learning.

	Starting out with STEM / LfS.	The perfect starting point for any staff who have been given responsibility for STEM or LfS. Discover a range of local and national resources and organisations that can support STEM and LfS in your setting.
	Support for including LfS on school improvement plans.	Bespoke support for leadership teams who would like to include LfS on School Improvement Plans. This could be as a stand-alone improvement priority or embedded as a theme across multiple priorities.

NACEPS Professional Learning Offer 2025 - 26

North Ayrshire Educational Psychology Service's 25/26 professional learning offer has been developed taking into consideration local authority and national education priorities. With a focus on implementation to ensure impact, the Educational Psychology Service aims to work with partners to deliver professional learning which is specific to individual context and needs. The following table outlines key areas in which we can offer training and coaching.

Improving Relationships and Behaviour	
<p>Universal Emotion Coaching Expectations and Consequences Supporting Classroom Environments</p> <p>Targeted Building on Positive Relationships - supporting adult presence</p> <p>Intensive Positive Behaviour Support Planning</p>	<p>This offer is being developed in line with the Supporting Relationships and Behaviour Steering group. Educational Psychology Services will provide coaching and capacity-building for staff across universal, targeted, and intensive levels. Drawing on psychological theory and an understanding of neurodiversity, we aim to strengthen relational practice and enhance staff confidence in supporting learners who experience emotional and behavioural dysregulation to foster emotionally safe environments that enable learners to thrive.</p>
Attendance	
<p>Staged Approach to supporting attendance</p> <p>Part 1) Context and universal approaches Part 2) Early Intervention including risk and resilience factors Part 3) Targeted supports</p>	<p>This professional learning has three sections. Parts 1 and 2 are suitable for all teaching staff, Part 3 is more targeted support for ASN co-ordinators/DHTs etc.</p> <p>Part 1 looks at both the national and local context in terms of attendance as well as analysis of school data and whole school universal approaches. Part 2 highlights what the research tells us about the importance of early intervention with attendance and shares tools to support exploration of risk and resilience factors at individual, family and school levels. Part 3 explores more targeted supports for individuals and introduces tools and resources to support schools with collaborative planning, assessment and intervention.</p>

Supporting Neurodiverse Learners	
<p>Supporting Neurodiverse Learner modules remain available on Supporting Needs glow tile - https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/NorthAyrshireCouncil/StaffArea/supportingneeds/SitePages/Neurodiversity.aspx?Mode=Edit</p> <p>Supporting Our Autistic Learners with NAIT's We Were Expecting You (in partnership with NEST and Dregghorn Outreach) SCERTS (in partnership with Dregghorn Outreach and EYIST)</p>	<p>This professional learning builds a deeper, practical understanding of neurodiversity and introduces key frameworks to help plan for and meet individual needs. Through a range of professional learning materials, practical strategies and real-world examples, we aim to support education teams in North Ayrshire to create Autism- and neurodiversity-friendly environments where learners can feel valued, welcomed and understood, while empowering establishments to feel prepared, proactive and confident in celebrating and nurturing the strengths of every learner.</p>

Establishments can access other already available offers on request e.g lego-therapy, New Perspectives on change and loss.

Please email requests for professional learning to the following address for consideration – psychologicalservice@north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Use the form [attached](#)

Requests will be processed centrally and an EP will be in touch to discuss implementation plans.

NB Professional learning should be incorporated into Establishment Improvement Plan priorities and consideration should be given to the working time agreement to ensure relevant staff can commit time to learning so that change in practice has impact over time.



COLLABORATION TRANSPARENCY IMPACT

Twilight Calendar

Twilights will be delivered at the Professional Learning Academy from 4:00pm-5:30pm, unless otherwise stated. All sessions must be signed up for on Gateway. If you do not have login details please contact:

erinmclaughlin@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Literacy

Programme	Date	Description	Notes
Oracy *Participants are expected to attend all three parts of this programme. Course ID: 90234	28 th October	Why Oracy Matters: Exploring the importance of oracy for and beyond the classroom.	
	17 th February	Learning To and Through Talk: Opportunities to embed talk through the curriculum.	
	19 th May	Planning, Assessing & Supporting Talk: Tools for planning, scaffolding, and assessing oracy.	
Literacy Coordinators Network Course ID: 90236	2 nd September	An opportunity for collegiate professional dialogue to share good practice.	
	25 th November (In service day) 9am-11am		
	7 th May		

Mathematics

Programme	Date	Description	Notes
Approaches to Numeracy – Addition and Subtraction Course ID: 90239	30 th October	A practical session showing the progression across all levels of numeracy, reflecting current documentation and research.	
Approaches to Numeracy – Multiplication and Division Course ID: 90240	22 nd January	A practical session showing the progression across all levels of numeracy, reflecting current documentation and research.	
Approaches to Numeracy – Fraction, Percentages Course ID: 90241	19 th March	A practical session showing the progression across all levels of numeracy, reflecting current documentation and research.	
Numeracy Coordinator Network Course ID: 90243	22 nd September (In service day) 1pm-3pm	An opportunity for collegiate professional dialogue to share good practice.	
	13 th November		
	12 th May		
Mathematics Framework Training Course ID: 90247	Early Level 17 th February	To impart knowledge on skills on how to mathematics in a progressive and manageable way to support learners' attainment.	
	First Level 10 th March		
	Second Level 28 th August		

Pedagogy

Programme	Date	Description	Notes
Supporting Dyslexic Learners Course ID: 90251	16 th September	A practical exploration of early identification, supports and teaching strategies to help Dyslexic learners in the classroom.	

Digital Technologies

Programme	Date	Description	Notes
Using AI Course ID: 90248	30 th September	Basic introduction to AI particularly Generative AI. Tips on how to recognise AI in learners' work and apply in own practice.	
Digital Accessibility Course ID: 90249	4 th November	In this session, you will learn about the benefits of digital accessibility tools, how to use them in your classroom, and where to find more resources and support. This session will help you create more inclusive and accessible learning experiences for your students.	
Microsoft Advanced Educator Course ID: 90250	11 th September	This course is for staff who have successfully completed Microsoft Educator.	
	18 th September	There are 2 parts to this qualification and participants are expected to complete one part in their own time with support resources.	
	23 rd October		
	27 th November	The other part of the qualification is in person and comprises 4 sessions over a three-month period.	

MHWP

Programme	Date	Description	Notes
AYRshare Awareness Course ID: 90261	25 th September 3:30-4:30	Basic introduction to using AYRshare i.e opening a record, adding and deleting contacts, archiving a file, chronology, adding a document and accessing help guides.	
	18 th November 3:30-4:30		
	25 th February 3:30-4:30		
	27 th April 3:30-4:30		
Kitbag Training Course ID: 90259	30 th September 3:30-5:30	learn how to deliver sessions to individual children or small groups of pupils using the Kit-Bag resource.	
	12 th March 3:30-5:30		
MVP Training Course ID: 90258	14 th May 9-4	Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a peer mentoring programme that gives young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin all forms of gender-based violence in our society.	

In Service

Our training and networking opportunities are detailed below. All sessions will take place at the Professional Learning Academy.

Programme	Date and Time	Description
Literacy Progression Framework Training	22 nd September 9:30am-12pm	An introduction to the newly released North Ayrshire Literacy Progression Frameworks including an in-depth look at accompanying resources and tools.
	22 nd September 12:30pm-3pm	
	25 th May 9:30am-12:00pm	
Numeracy Framework Training Course ID: 90268	Early/First Level 22 nd September 9:30am-12pm	These sessions will provide guidance, ideas, and practical advice on how to translate the framework at Early, First and Second Level.
	Second Level 25 th November 12:30-3	
Literacy Co-Ordinator Network Course ID: 90238	25 th November 9am-11am	An opportunity for collegiate professional dialogue to share good practice.
Numeracy Co-Ordinator Network Course ID: 90242	22 nd September 1pm -3pm	An opportunity for collegiate professional dialogue to share good practice.
Using Manipulatives Course ID: 90269	9-12	Promoting effective use of manipulatives such as Rekenreks, Numicon, Cuisenaire Rods and Dominoes to develop a deeper understanding of numeracy and maths.

Leadership

Leadership is a key strand of professional learning. North Ayrshire's calendar is inclusive of leaders at all levels.

Programme	Date	Description	Notes
Moderation Leads Course ID: 90481	Thurs 11 th Sept	To embed the moderation cycle for learning, teaching and assessment, each session will provide opportunities for professional dialogue and collaboration to support the moderation process. PLA 4:00-5:30pm	
	Thurs 27 th Nov		
	Thurs 29 th Jan		
	Thurs 19 th Mar		
Aspiring Pastoral Course ID: 90273	Thurs 15 th Jan	An exploration of contextually relevant pastoral roles and responsibilities. PLA 4:00-5:30pm	
	Thurs 5 th Feb		
	Thurs 5 th Mar		
	Thurs 19 th Mar		
	Thurs 7 th May		
	Thurs 11 th Jun		
Probationer Mentor Network Course ID: 90274	Tues 2 nd Sep	A forum to consider key elements of being a probationer mentor. PLA 9:30-11:30am	
	Tues 18 th Nov		
	Tues 17 th Feb		
	Tues 12 th May		
Middle Leaders Leading Change	Thurs 12 th Mar	In association with Education Scotland, this programme is aimed at anyone in a middle leadership position. Running from March 2026 to June 2027, it will support you to develop an enquiring stance when planning and leading change. Please contact Erin McLaughlin for an application form. There will be 20 places on this course. PLA 3:30-5:30pm	
	Thurs 4 th June		
	Remaining dates TBC		

Coming Soon

The dates for the programmes below are yet to be announced. To register your interest please fill out form on link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Z9pvJVX7gJ>

Programme	Description
Hands on Headship	A responsive programme addressing the complexities involved with being a HT.
Student Mentor Training	A programme to support student mentors delivered in conjunction with UWS
Data	Programmes delivered by the National Standardised Assessment for Scotland team.
Spelling Across All Levels	2-part twilight giving practical ideas and activities to support learners in developing independent spelling strategies