

# Norfolk Virtual School

for Looked After and Previously Looked after

Issue 2

Autumn Term 2019

## Welcome!

The last academic year has proved our busiest yet. Over 290 colleagues attended one of our training events and we made a commitment to visit every school with a Norfolk looked after young person on roll in addition to any contact regarding individual children. Our KS4 revision workshops were fully booked and we increased our focus on enrichment activities. We celebrated the success of young people at our annual event where the Paralympian, Sam Ruddock delivered a fantastic keynote speech and young people told us it was the best celebration to date! We also undertook some research with a small group of schools looking at best practice, challenges and opportunities in supporting care experienced learners. As term starts our offer is being shaped by feedback from these activities and all our partners, including designated teachers. In the next academic year, we will be holding two conferences, one for post 16 providers for the first time. In addition to our key Stage 4 revision workshops, there will be a similar offer for pupils in key Stage 2. Our attachment courses have been full, and we will continue to offer this programme with the addition of whole school training. In response to requests from schools we will again offer some more specific training courses in venues across the County and will relaunch our DT networks, in the West these will be led by a Designated Teacher, a model which we hope to replicate. Our partnership with you is central to our work, please get in touch if you have any feedback or requests for training or support which is not already in place. We look forward to working with you in the coming year and celebrating the achievements of Norfolk looked after learners.

**Keeley White (Virtual School Head)**

## Creativity in Multi-Lingualism

Last term the Virtual School worked collaboratively with Young Norfolk Arts Trust, City College Norwich and several primary schools – celebrating creativity by and for young people. This project was a celebration of creativity and multi-culturalism bringing together children and young people who speak many different languages, including British Sign Language. The Virtual School specifically worked with a group of City College Norwich students studying English as a Second or Other Language course, including a group of unaccompanied asylum seekers. We incorporated rhythms and beats from many cultures across the globe and allowed the young people to express themselves and communicate through music. It was easy to see our students engaging and smiling more as the project went on as confidence grew, expressing themselves more and more fluidly through music and sharing their wealth of rich cultures. Individual recognised instruments from different countries and led sharing of rhythms and different approaches to playing. The project really brought young people together and allowed cultures to interweave through different settings and age groups. The final performance was a collaboration of many people and settings, inclusive of many languages, cultures, styles and traditions coming together through a creative performance piece.

Our College group formed the percussionists in the piece playing the introduction and outro to the primary schools' song and finished with an independent percussion piece. The performance was held at the Assembly House as the pre-launch to the Young Norfolk Arts Festival. It was open to the public and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We hope this project to be the beginning of many more performances and expect to be performing at the launch for Black History Month on 28<sup>th</sup> September outside The Forum, where we shall continue to celebrate diversity and expression through music for our young people and the wider community.

## PiXL Twilight Session

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September (4pm - 5.30pm) DTs are invited to join us at the PDC (Norwich) where we will be sharing ideas on how we can use PiXL resources to support Norfolk LAC in your schools. We will be joined by Paul Hammond from PiXL.



## Virtual School Website

We have now launched our new look website. Here you will find the resources that you need to support you in your role as DT. Please visit regularly to check out the latest news, events and training.

<http://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/vs4cic>



## **Celebration of Achievement Event**

More than 150 children and young people in care have been recognised at Norfolk County Council's annual Celebration of Achievement Awards. Every year the County Council hosts the event to mark the academic, sporting and personal successes of children and young people in its care. This year's award ceremony took place on Saturday 20th July at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and was attended by children and young people, their foster carers and social workers.

Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services at Norfolk County Council, said: "Well done to all of the children and young people celebrated at our annual awards. Every one of them should be very proud of what they achieved and what they have overcome. Their stories show what can be achieved with determination and encouragement and I know others will be inspired by their success. I'd also like to congratulate the children's foster carers, social workers, teachers and all those who are working together to help Norfolk's children in care achieve their potential."

The awards were presented by Sam Ruddock who is a track and field Paralympic athlete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He spoke to the audience about overcoming his challenges and making his international debut at the London 2012 Paralympics, competing in Rio 2016 and his journey towards Tokyo 2020.

All the young people received a celebration pack including a book token, medal and certificate. The event was supported by many local businesses who donated prizes and vouchers in recognition of the young people's achievements.

UEA also presented awards to celebrate particular effort and achievement in education. Winners have been offered opportunities to take part in university activities specially designed to suit their circumstances. Liz Ferguson, UEA Outreach Officer, said: "We're delighted to host these awards at UEA for a third time and hear directly about the wonderful efforts and achievements of young people in care. Of course, our Outreach team is proud to be able to present our own UEA awards at this event too, celebrating students who have demonstrated progress or dedication to their education— congratulations to them.

"The winners of our award can take part in visits or activities with us, which are organised especially for them, as they continue their studies."

Among those to receive awards include Ethan Christian, who is 16 years old and lives in the Norwich area. His nomination states that "He is very motivated to join the RAF later this year. Ethan is a Sargent in the Air Training Corps (ATC) and has applied himself significantly at school to achieve the grades he needs to enter the RAF. Ethan is a role model for his peers".

15 year old Tinishia Carter from the Kings Lynn area was nominated for successfully achieving the Girlguiding Baden Powell Award. The Baden Powell Award is the highest award a Guide can gain and can take up to 18 months to complete. Her dedication and perseverance to achieve the award was outstanding.

After the ceremony Tinishia went on to give an impromptu performance on the piano. She was so impressive that Keeley White (Head of the Virtual School) has invited Tinishia back to play during next year's ceremony.



### **Norfolk Nurture Hub**

In the summer term, 2019 NurtureUK's Norfolk Nurture Hub on Waterworks Road, Norwich opened its doors for the first time to children and young people. The Pilot Nurture Provision ran for one day a week for six weeks, supported by the Norfolk Virtual School for looked after children. Based on assessments from Boxall Profile Online, activities were focused on supporting SEMH needs through a range of activities to develop self-esteem, resilience and emotional regulation. During the sessions the children and young people, who ranged from KS2 to 4, were led by an experienced teacher and member of support staff in a homelike environment and were introduced to regular structures and routines.

Feedback from the children and young people was extremely positive, when asked about their experiences one child rated his experience as 20 out of 10 and another said, "it has been helping me to learn and to do stuff, and its taught me how to calm down", some of the children made a friend for the first time.

The Norfolk Nurture Hub is in the process of planning its expanded provision to start from after October half term. Children struggling to maintain their placements in mainstream school will be able to access the Hub for one or two days a week and access a Nurture curriculum based either on STEM or creative activities. From January a classic Boxall Nurture group will be available for the youngest children in EYFS, the focus of this will be school readiness.

If you would like to find out more about the Norfolk Nurture Hub's provision for children please email Head of Nurture Provisions Anna Harvey, [anna@norfolknurturehub.org](mailto:anna@norfolknurturehub.org)



### **Designated Teacher for Previously looked after children survey**

At the end of July in preparation for the next academic year, we gave Designated Teachers the opportunity to feedback to the Virtual School their experience of supporting previously looked after children within school. The survey asked questions about; accessing the Pupil Premium Plus grant through the January census, spending the grant, engaging adoptive parents and guardians, raising awareness of the needs of previously LAC, contacting the Virtual School, topics of training that would be useful as well as what you would like to see on our website as useful resources. We have had a fantastic amount of responses and would like to thank everyone that has taken the time to complete the survey. The results of this survey will be vital for developing training and resources to support schools with promoting the educational achievement of previously LAC.

It isn't too late to complete the survey if you haven't done so already. The **closing date** is **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019**.

The survey can be accessed here: [https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DesignatedTeachers\\_PreviousLAC2019/](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DesignatedTeachers_PreviousLAC2019/)

The survey is completely anonymous. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact:

[harriet.tunnicliff@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:harriet.tunnicliff@norfolk.gov.uk)

### **Brand New for October 2019 – Designated Teacher Training for Previously Looked After Children**

As part of developing the support we offer Designated Teachers in supporting previously looked after children we are launching a new training session. The training will cover statutory duties in respect of previously looked after children including highlighting the difference in responsibilities for looked after and previously looked after children and the importance of the Designated Teacher in promoting educational achievement. It will provide delegates with a better understanding of Adoption and Special Guardianship issues including the roles of the Post Adoption Support team, Kinship Care team and the Adoption Support Fund. Additionally, it will cover the importance of understanding how previously looked after children's early experiences can impact their education, Pupil Premium Plus and best practice in engaging families in conversations about their child or young person. The course aims to give delegates a toolkit to take back to school to support them and their colleagues in promoting the educational attainment of previously looked after children.

The session will take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** see below for more information in our autumn term training schedule. We hope that you will be able to join us.

### **Incentive Scheme**

We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff in schools that have been working with children and young people who sat exams this summer. As in previous years we will be running our exam incentive scheme. We will be contacting DTs and young people over the coming weeks with full details of this year's scheme.



## DT Conferences

### **Designated Teacher and Social Worker Conference ‘Changing the Narrative’**

- 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 John Ines Centre (Norwich)  
Keynote Speaker - Jaz Ampaw-Farr plus others to be confirmed.



### **Post 16 Conference ‘Attachment and Trauma Informed Practice’**

- 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 South Green Park (Mattishall, Dereham)  
Keynote Speaker – Sarah Naish, plus workshop sessions.

## Autumn Term Training

### **Training for Designated Teachers for LAC**

- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October PDC (Norwich) 1-4pm (£50 per delegate)

### **Producing Quality Personal Educational Plans (PEPS)**

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Knights Hill (Kings Lynn) 1-4pm
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, PDC (Norwich) 1-4pm
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Kings Centre, (Great Yarmouth) 1-4pm

### **Previously Looked After Children**

- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October PDC (Norwich) 9.30-12.30pm (£50 per delegate)

### **DT Network Meetings**

- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October Breckland Council (Dereham)
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October Springwood High School (Kings Lynn)
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October PDC (Norwich)

### **Understanding Self-harm and Suicide**

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October King’s Oak Academy (Kings Lynn) FULLY BOOKED

### **Attachment Training**

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October PDC (Norwich)
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October PDC (Norwich)

Cancellation fee applies.

### **Training by offered by our EAL Colleagues:**

- **EAL Admission and SEN** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September PDC Norwich 9.30am-4pm (£170 per delegate)
- **Excellence in EAL Secondary Provision and Co-ordination (3-day course)** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February PDC (Norwich) 9.30am-4pm (£450 per delegate)
- **Primary EAL Health Check** Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October PDC (Norwich) 9.30am-4pm (£170 per delegate)
- **EAL Interventions – What to Teach?** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November PDC (Norwich) 9.30am-4pm (£170)
- **EAL Secondary Networks**, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May PDC (Norwich) 4.15pm-6.15pm (£120 per delegate)
- **EAL Early Years and Primary Networks** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May PDC (Norwich) 4.15pm-6.15pm (Early Years settings £120 per delegate)

More information about our training and events can be found on the Virtual School website. <http://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/vs4cic>

To make a booking visit [www.educatorsolutions.org.uk](http://www.educatorsolutions.org.uk)

## Contact Us

E Mail: [virtual.schools@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.schools@norfolk.gov.uk)

Tel: 01603 303323

Follow us on Twitter: @schoolcic

Education is the passport to the  
future, for tomorrow belongs to  
those who prepare for it today.

Malcolm X