

# Norfolk Virtual School

for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Issue 4

Summer Term 2020

## Welcome!

I had not expected to be writing something for this newsletter in such exceptional circumstances, I won't dwell on the details because I know you will be receiving a lot of updates. I do want to remind you that the Virtual School team are here to support, so please do not hesitate to get in touch. We have collated an extensive list of resources and details of our specific offer for each year group from Early Years to Post 16 and would welcome your suggestion about what else could be included. You can find more information here.

<https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/teaching-and-learning/virtual-school-for-looked-after-children/looked-after-children-resources/foster-carer-resources-for-lac>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/educational-resources>

We also update regularly on twitter @SchoolClc. The start to the new term is not as expected but despite the different ways of working, personal education plans will continue, and PEP Summer term guidance will be with you soon. In concluding, it has been fantastic how everyone is meeting the challenge. Thank you to everyone who has made sure we are updated, for sending in information on programmes you have in place to support and the learning taking place and sometimes even photographs too!

**Keeley White (Virtual School Head)**

We (Anna and Hannah – rhyming purely coincidental as opposed to a recruitment drive!) have recently joined the world of Virtual Schools and have been impressed with the commitment and motivation of DTs, Carers and Pupils to 'change the narrative'. The Virtual School mirrors that of all schools with negotiating at times a difficult and challenging landscape but the attendance at the recent conference demonstrated the engagement of people to champion and achieve the very best outcomes for LAC. What an amazing job everybody does. This term, we have further developed our inclusion and enrichment programmes; increased our focus on attainment and progress and developed information pathways for carers. We have established a Carers Info tab on our website where we have published information to support both them and their children. It includes a monthly online safety newsletter and resources to support during this time of school closures. **Hannah Collison-Smith (KS2 Advisor) and Anna Hogg (LAC Advisor /Early Years Lead)**

## Petxi Revision Workshops

GCSE revision sessions took place again during February half term. PETXi worked with a target group of learners in Years 10 and 11. Day 1 focused on unseen poetry (English) and day 2 focused on developing key skill in Maths. All those attending engaged well and took away a pack of resources that will help with revision in the coming months.

## Previously Looked After Children

Recently we have expanded our training offer to include a training event for governors regarding supporting looked after children and the role of the governing body. Many thanks to the designated teachers that highlighted this training to their governing body and the governors that attended. Feedback from the delegates attending was hugely positive. We have had interest expressed in a future session for those who were unable to attend and will keep you updated on this. If you do have any queries regarding previously looked after children, please look on our website for further information or contact

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

## Virtual School Comms Team

Norfolk Young Arts continue work with a group of young people to promote Virtual School events. February half term saw the Comms Team developing promotional content for the celebration event; researching guest speakers, creating blog and social media posts. There was also input to help them create a page for the Virtual School Comms Team zine. The Comms Team also started to brainstorm ideas for a workshop idea for the celebration event. The Comms Team have benefitted from learning a range of new skills and have shown commitment during each of their sessions. A big thank you to the UEA for hosting the sessions.



### **Residential Children's Home**

We are pleased to welcome Karis Upton as higher-level teaching assistant for the residential service. Karis will be working across the 6 NCC residential settings with the aim of re-engaging young people with learning and supporting them back into education.

### **Key Stage 2 Update**

We have had an increased focus on KS2 attainment since January of this year. The Virtual School is working alongside DTs and Carers to ensure that attainment and progress is maintained and if there is a change in outcomes, we work together to support the pupil to make progress and attain their targets.

Alongside this, we have been further developing our Inclusion and Enrichment programme for KS2 pupils. All DTs should have received details of the programmes that we can offer and the invitees. Some of the programmes we offer take place over a year, whilst others are one day opportunities. One of the programmes is an exciting year-long programme for Year 5 pupils with Norwich City Football Club with a focus on well-being, Maths and English skills. Alongside the curriculum objectives this programme will offer children time and space to build relationships with each other and will also offer an opportunity for Carers to regularly meet.

We will be inviting Year 4 pupils to two days of exciting Maths and English later in the year. The children will be meeting The Grand High Witch and Willy Wonka who will work with them for an exciting two days.

If you would like to have discussion about any of the above or have a query, please contact Hannah: [h.collisonsmith@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:h.collisonsmith@norfolk.gov.uk)

### **DT Networks**

This terms DT networks focused on PIVATS and previously looked after children. We also used the networks as an opportunity to gather feedback on proposed changes to the allocation of PP+ funding. If you have any ideas for input that you would like discussed at the Spring DT networks, please let us know at [virtual.schools@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.schools@norfolk.gov.uk)

### **Virtual School Competitions**

To help young people feel connected during the period of school closures the Virtual School will be launching some fun competitions over the coming weeks.

We will be starting with **Guess My Favourite Story**. The idea is for children and young people to submit an entry to us about their favourite character/story and we have to guess what it is.

Prizes will go to the most creative interpretations using items from the house and garden. Judging will consider a range of factors including artistic interpretation (drawing/colouring/painting etc), use of language and creative words.

There will be an award winner in each year group. Each winner will receive a book which will be sent to them.

Details of how to enter will be available on our website.

### **Early Years PEP Audit – February 2020**

The aim of this audit was to assess the quality of PEP records for children in Early Years settings. This was the first time Early Years PEPs have been audited. The outcomes from the audit will help to identify best practice and inform future ways of working, specific to Early Years PEP records.

#### **What's working well?**

The attendance log was fully complete, and all PEPs gave the date of the next PEP.

Majority of PEPs found child's Education Details section completed.

Some of the PEPs graded to be 'Good' overall gave a sense of the child and their learning/ engagement throughout the PEP, and the child's voice was evident within the PEP (even when this was captured through observation)

#### **What are we concerned about?**

How SMART are the young person's targets

The Child's Voice needs to be woven throughout the PEP using observation and direct work with the child

More evidence linked to the characteristics of learning

#### **What needs to happen next?**

Specific EY PEP Training to be written and available from September 2020 to support these changes.

### **Contact Us**

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

Tel: 01603 303323

Follow us on Twitter: @SchoolCic

## 'Changing the Narrative' Virtual School Conference

It is fair to conclude that the designated teacher and social worker conference on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was a great success! The feedback we received from those attending was overwhelmingly positive. Many attending said that this was our best conference ever. Our thanks go to all our amazing speakers: Jaz Ampaw-Farr, Luke Rodgers, Bob Pinner, Pete Seadon, Darren Webster and our fantastic young people Ronaldo Martins and Daisy Finch. The market place stall holders fed back that this was a great opportunity to network with delegates. Thanks also go to the Guinea Pig Group (Alysham High School) who ran the Human Library and to the Virtual School Early Years Advisors who ran the sensory room.

More than 200 people, from a range of backgrounds in education and social care, attended the event. The buzz around the John Innes Centre was palpable. Here is just a small selection of the feedback we received on the day.

*"Best group of speakers I've heard at a Virtual School Conference!"*

*"Perfectly pitched and designed ... highly inspiring, thought provoking, challenging and brilliant... the best CPD I have attended in a very long time."*

*"Jaz and Luke were amazing as were our young people Ronaldo and Daisy"*

*"This was an amazing event ... it was truly inspirational and profoundly moving to hear all the accounts of individuals who presented, and their perspective and experiences from the receiving end. Incredibly powerful"*

*"It's great to see young people who are inspirational"*

*"The best conference I have every attended, highly emotional"*



We have already booked Mathew Burton and Kriss Akabusi as our keynote speaker for next year's conference 'small steps, big changes'

**Designated Teacher and Social Worker Conference**  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, John Innes Centre, Norwich  
**Keynote Speakers – Matt Burton & Kriss Akabusi**

