

VIRTUAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | AUTUMN 2021

CLOSING THE GAP AND RAISING THE BAR



Welcome

Hi my name is Efrem. I am the PEP Champion for New to Care. My main responsibility is to ensure that the New to Care young people have their PEPs conducted within the set statutory time frame so that education is given immediate priority. I also support social workers and DTs on the protocols of PEPs with the aim that the initial meeting would set the standard for subsequent PEPs. I provide guidance on the use of PP+ funding and how to set targets for the young person. I am a qualified science teacher who is passionate about the achievement and attainment of our LAC children. I have previously worked in a science-based manufacturing industry and civil service. I am a nutrition-based health advocate.

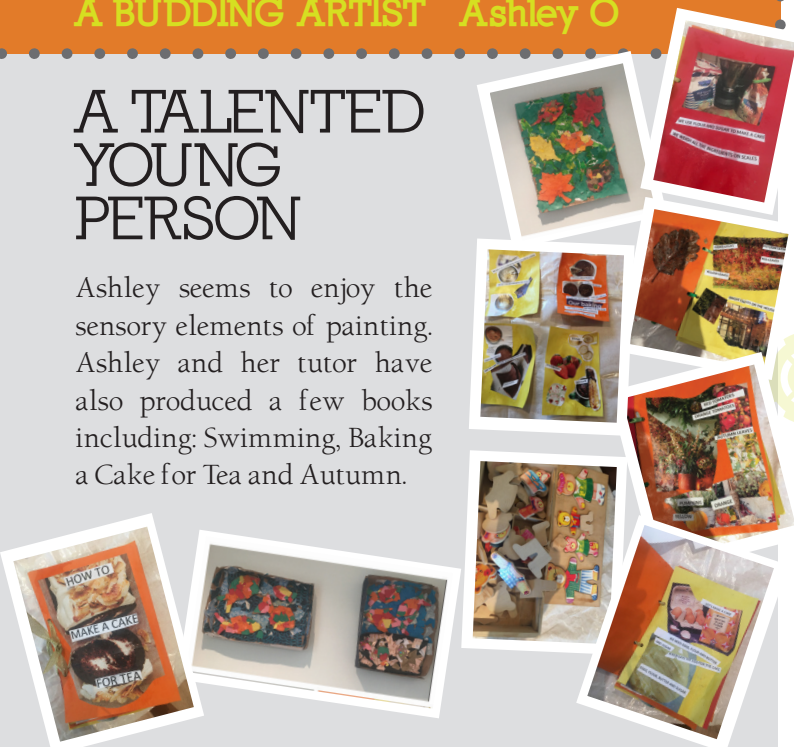
I love to chat and socialise when I am not at work.

Efrem Berhane

A BUDDING ARTIST Ashley O

A TALENTED YOUNG PERSON

Ashley seems to enjoy the sensory elements of painting. Ashley and her tutor have also produced a few books including: Swimming, Baking a Cake for Tea and Autumn.



CONGRATULATIONS A BIG WELL DONE TO ARVIN MOEIN

STUDENT OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2021

Barking and Dagenham Technical Skills College.
We at the Virtual School are super proud of you for displaying exceptional behaviour to earn this commendation.



COMING SOON!

**Creative Opportunities
for vulnerable children
and young people
aged 10-21**

In 2022 designated teachers can refer young people to take part in free, creative activities led by creative professionals. Young people can take part in a range of clubs including dance, art, drama, filmmaking, spoken word. A full timetable will be shared in Jan 2022.

For more information contact
newtownculture@lbbd.gov.uk
or visit **www.newtownculture.org**



QUESTIONS CORNER : NEW TO CARE

Q&A

Q. WITHIN WHAT TIME FRAME SHOULD THE FIRST PEP TAKE PLACE FOR A STUDENT WHO IS NEW TO CARE?

A. Within the 20 days of entering care

Q. HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TO DO IF THIS IS THE FIRST BARKING AND DAGENHAM LAC CHILD IN MY SCHOOL?

A. Efrem is available to guide you. We also have a designated teacher and social worker training on the last Thursday of every month.

To reserve a space on this training contact
Tricia Butler

Q. WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE SCHOOL FOR A CHILD'S FIRST PEP?

A. The designated teacher is expected to attend with information about attendance and the support that would be available to the young person at school.

KEY CONTACTS

Tricia : tricia.butler@lbbd.gov.uk

Efrem : efrem.brehane@lbbd.gov.uk

UCAS SUPPORT

THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON IS OFFERING ADDITIONAL UCAS SUPPORT TO ALL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT:

- One to One support or workshop on Personal Statement
- Interview skills preparation
- Workshop on Student Finance
- Workshop on Support available to LAC at University

If you have any young person who is submitting their UCAS application in January, please ask them to contact their Leaving Care Adviser on how to access this support

PAIRED READING FOR Year 5 LAC

THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL IS OFFERING ALL YEAR 5 LAC STUDENTS PAIRED READING SUPPORT THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS.

Paired Reading has been identified by HMI as a very successful technique in helping struggling readers to improve rapidly their fluency and accuracy in reading. During paired reading, the adult and the young person read together a range of materials. This regular 1:1 support promotes confidence and raises self-esteem in the young person.

Although the intervention is suitable for all year groups, the Aspire Virtual School is offering this to all Year 5 looked after children from January 2022. More details about the arrangements and the implementation of the intervention will be shared at the Designated Teachers Network Forum.

KEY CONTACT JEAN :

jean.mayala2@lbbd.gov.uk

GOVERNANCE

THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL NOW HAS A

Management Committee.

This is made up of representatives from Primary School, Secondary School, IRO Team, our Social Care Colleague and an Independent Chair. The committee meets once per term, and the agenda and area of focus is decided by the committee members. This provides an extra layer of support and challenge. We are looking for new colleagues to sit on the committee, so if you would like to be part of the committee please email

AdminSupport@lbbd.gov.uk

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ATTENDANCE MONITORING HAS MOVED:
We have swapped our attendance monitoring partner. Our attendance is no longer monitored by Looked After Call but by Welfare Call. They will also be collecting attainment. You should receive an email within the next 2 weeks from Welfare call requesting termly assessment data.