

VIRTUAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2022

CLOSING THE GAP AND RAISING THE BAR



Meeting the team

Hi my name is
Kathy Twin

I have been a member of the Aspire Virtual School here in LBBD for over 10 years now having previously worked in the LA's science advisory team.

Although I now work part-time (WED-FRI), my main responsibility remains to act as the named Virtual School lead for our young people in care up to Y11 who also have additional needs and require an educational health care plan (EHCP). About 20% of our current cohort hold an EHCP. I then hand over responsibility to my colleague Cris Ford who steps in at the end of Y11 to maintain our support here in the Aspire Virtual School for these EHCP youngsters through their post 16 studies.

The nature of our young people's needs involves me working across a very diverse range of educational settings and I value highly and do my utmost, to attend your annual review meetings for our young person's EHCP. I always advise my colleagues in social care to use the annual review meeting as one of the 3 termly pep meetings they are required to carry out. Don't be afraid to let us know of the dates of your annual reviews so that we can plan our pep meetings to sync.

When a young person with an existing EHCP has to change school, I am here to offer advice and guidance to their social worker to ensure they can identify other suitable educational provisions for consultation. This is especially important when the young person moves out of borough and the social worker has to track down and deal with unfamiliar schools and SEN colleagues in another local authority.

Developing and maintaining a strong partnership with our EHC team here in LBBD is pivotal to our support for our EHCP youngsters. By attending annual reviews, I can help our EHC team in LBBD maintain close links with our youngsters, especially those in residential settings or those attending schools out of borough. Remember LBBD continues to be financially responsible for the EHCP of each of our young people in care even when they attend schools as far away as in Wales, the Lake District and Suffolk and we have to rely on the support of the local LA. In a wider capacity I enjoy meeting those of you participating in our DT meetings and ePEP training online. Thank you, it's a pleasure to work alongside such committed colleagues.

EASTER IS HERE!!

LOOK OUT FOR THESE
EASTER ACTIVITIES
RUNNING IN BARKING
AND DAGENHAM

Each of these activities promises to engage children in a fun and exciting way.

FUTURE YOUTH ZONE

4 April - 8 April 9.00am to 3.00pm

11 April - 15 April 9.00am to 3.00pm

Contact: **Abigail Porter**
020 3941 6722

enquiries@futureyouthzone.org

INSPIRE MINDS THROUGH SPORTS

4 April - 8 April 9.00am to 3.00pm

Contact: **Darrelle Russell**
07947 117 313

imtsports@hotmail.com
www.imtsports.org

BALLERZ - MULTI- SPORTS HOLIDAY CLUB

4 - 14 April 2.00pm

Contact: **Aaron Hunwicks**

07482 468 659 (Northbury)

Joe Robb 07482 468 659 (Valence)

contact@ballerz.uk

ARTBASH

11 to 14 April 9.00am - 3.30pm

Contact: **Paula Hughes**

Register: bookings@artbash.co.uk

EVERYONE ACTIVE

SWIMMING AND OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES

11 April - 14 April, 9.00am - 3.00pm

becontreeactivities@everyoneactive.com

LET US KNOW IF ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN
GOT ON THE PROGRAMME AND ATTENDED.

For more activities check out this link:

<https://www.lbdd.gov.uk/free-holiday-activities>

'SHOUT OUTS'

An Outstanding Social Worker

SAMANTHA MCKOY

Sam has remained steadfast in her excellent support for one of our "hard to reach" young people throughout her school years, despite the young person spending most of her days presenting as a pupil vulnerable to suspension.

Sam has never flinched and has continued to work hard to support and engage with her, taking the placement breakdowns along the way in her stride. Sam thank you, for all you do for all your young people.

A Fantastic EHC Team Colleague

TRACY GEORGE

We want to send this "thank you and we will miss you" message to Tracy George who has been a strong and supportive member of the EHC team here in LBBD for 12 years. Always willing to listen and dig out paper-based files. Tracy was quite a detective when needed. The Virtual School has valued her support in providing the best kind of advice and support to enable our post 16 continue their education into year 12 and beyond. Many Congratulations on your new role with our Admissions team.

An Inspirational Designated Teacher

VERONICA JACKSON

The Virtual School would like to celebrate a dedicated and committed colleague who took on the role of DT for CLA at Trinity School and has been very creative in the use of pupil premium to meet the needs of our individual children. Her professional approach has been exemplary. Veronica you definitely deserve the relaxation and enjoyment that comes with retirement. All our best wishes.

DT NETWORK TRAINING

The recent DT network training was very successful particularly well received was the Emotion Coaching Training delivered by Alun Rees. DT feedback was universally positive, many requesting further references, extension and reading.

Many thanks to Alun for providing such thought provoking and inspirational training, and for kindly providing this reading extension list:

Atkinson, J. (2002) **Trauma trails: the transgenerational effects of trauma in Indigenous Australia.** North Melbourne, Vic.: Spinifex Press.

Bomber L (2008) **Inside I'm Hurting: practical strategies for supporting children with attachment difficulties in schools.** Worth Publishing

O'Brien, J. (2016) **Don't send him in tomorrow: shining a light on the marginalised, disenfranchised and forgotten children of todays schools.** Bancyfelin, Carmarthen, Wales: Independent Thinking Press.

Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child |
Dr. John Gottman
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVDMATVzhTk>

The Biology of Toxic Stress
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4CD6jyWw2A>

Brené Brown on Empathy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw&t=6s>

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMME (NSBP)

The programme, which runs until July 2023 is funded by the Department for Education and run by Family Action, providing schools with support to run a successful, healthy and affordable school breakfast provision

Family Action who is a promotion partner of NSBP is committed to supporting child development, and we believe a healthy school breakfast, without barrier or stigma, can set up children to succeed and give them the very best chance to learn.

Continued....

Continued from overleaf...

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMME WILL PROVIDE:

Healthy free food delivered to eligible schools until July 2022.

Schools will then be asked to contribute just 25% towards the supply and delivery of breakfast food from September 2022 to July 2023

A knowledgeable school support team, will be on hand to provide remote advice and support to help schools get the most out of their breakfast provision

Good practice sharing opportunities, resources and the opportunity to learn from a national network of schools.

The opportunity to enhance parental engagement on healthy eating and the importance of having a nutritious breakfast each morning.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Schools can consider using their Pupil Premium and pupil premium plus to support their financial contribution to breakfast club provision as endorsed by the Education Endowment Fund's (EEF) Pupil Premium guide. This encourages the use of wider strategies that support pupils' readiness to learn including setting up a breakfast club.

NEXT STEPS

If your school is interested please complete the Expression of Interest form here <https://nsbp.family-action.org.uk/s/expression-of-interest>

COMING SOON

FOSTER CARERS *Training*

IN APRIL

"WORKING WITH AND PREPARING CHILDREN TO BECOME EXAMINATION READY."

IN MAY

"RECOGNISING AND SUPPORTING A CHILD'S ACADEMIC AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR STRENGTHS."

IN JUNE

"THE ROLE OF THE FOSTER CARER IN THE YOUNG PERSON'S PEP MEETING."

IN JULY

"EMOTION COACHING - MANAGING CHILDREN'S EMOTIONS."

AWARD WINNERS



CELEBRATING OUR STARS

A total of **18 Awards and Commendations** were sent out from the **Aspire Virtual School** recently. The Awards range from the classic 'outstanding effort' and 'outstanding achievement' to the more specific such as the 'Captain Marvel KS2 Award for doing something Marvellous'. This year we have created the 'Deb Wiltshire Award', in honour of our amazing colleague Deb, from the EHC team who sadly died in January 2021 from COVID. This award is given to 'a student with SEND who has accessed their education and made full use of the opportunities offered to them'.

All award and commendation winners received a certificate and gift card.

Our young people could not have made this amazing progress without the support of their excellent designated teachers.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL *Designated Teachers Hall of Fame*

AWARD CATEGORY

Captain Marvel Award
Outstanding Achievement Award
Outstanding Effort Award
Outstanding Achievement Award
Outstanding Effort Award
Engagement Award
Judith Denton Resilience Award
Deb Wiltshire Award
General Commendation Award
General Commendation Award
General Commendation Award
General Commendation Award
General Commendation Award
General Commendation Award

SCHOOLS

HARTLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY
ROYAL LIBERTY SCHOOL
ROBERT CLACK
HAVERING 6TH FORM COLLEGE
JO RICHARDSON
DRAPERS ACADEMY
MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
WESTLANDS SCHOOL
DAGENHAM PARK
JO RICHARDSON
HARINGEY 6TH FORM COLLEGE
NEWHAM 6TH FORM COLLEGE
BARKING ABBEY
BENNETT MEMORIAL DIOCESAN SCHOOL

DESIGNATED TEACHER

Nicole Galinis
David Hinnigan
Emily Valentine
Sheivon Brown
Sharon Staggs
Doug Bannister
NO DT
Richard Clark
Katy Brookes
Sharon Staggs
Saida Hasni
Shirene Torrance-Dodd
Yvonne Burrows
Vicky Woosey





EQUIPPING YOURSELF: AC EDUCATION

Many children in the UK are vulnerable. Trauma through loss, neglect and abuse impacts on a child's health, wellbeing and ability to engage in learning. Children who have not formed secure attachments are often disruptive and unfocused in school and can underachieve as a result. By exploring adverse child experiences and the impact of trauma on the brain, we can understand the behaviours displayed by young people and how to support them.

AC Education supply online courses and face to face training for all those working with vulnerable children throughout the UK. These courses offer practical strategies to support traumatised and vulnerable children to achieve their full potential.

THE COURSES ARE:

- **Written by experts** such as YoungMinds, UCL Institute of Education and Lisa Cherry
- **Easy to access** with quizzes to ensure understanding, videos and interactive activities to reflect on learning
- **Accredited** by the CPD Service
- **In partnership with experts** such as The Attachment Research Community (ARC)

THERE ARE 40+ TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM AND INCLUDE:

- Supporting Pupils with Unmet Attachment Needs
- Understanding Trauma and the Impact on Young People
- Post-Pandemic Recovery
- The Role of the Designated Teacher
- Supporting Pupils with Mental Health Difficulties
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention

See our website **www.ac-education.co.uk** for the full list.
Courses take between 3-4 hours each and are CPD Certified.

Barking and Dagenham Virtual School have been offering this valuable resource to their schools since 2017 and it is fully funded by them.

To have access to one of these courses contact the Virtual School by sending an email to: Tricia Butler: **tricia.butler@lbbd.gov.uk**

FEEDBACK ON THE COURSES

"A really good course, practical, informative, useful."

"Course is very good would recommend to all teachers."

"I love the section on the importance of trust."

"I'm a Nurture Class teacher in a primary school in Preston and can't wait to get back to see my children and start exploring the meaning on trust."

"The online course worked very well in terms of the IT, solid and easy to use training."





TUTOR OFFERING FOR ALL!

The Virtual School is offering every looked after child an opportunity to receive tutoring through the National Tutoring Programme. Our partner of choice is Targeted Provision.

Targeted Provision Tutoring Agency is a national provider of education and mentoring to vulnerable pupils. They work with 100 schools and specialist schools, and 70 local authorities SEND, Inclusion and Virtual School teams to provide bespoke education and re-engagement packages to those with Additional Educational Needs.

All tutors are all qualified teachers with SEND experience. They are supported by a team of SENCos and Specialist SEND teachers to deliver trauma-informed, differentiated lessons to help pupils make progress towards their academic and emotional targets.

THEIR OFFER:

Through the National Tutoring Programme, they can provide 1:1 tuition to pupils from KS1 - KS4 in Maths, English or Science.

Tuition is commissioned in packages of 15 hours per subject, and you can have as many packages of 15 hours per pupil as you like. Pupils can therefore receive anything between 1 and 15 hours a week of support ongoing.

WHO SHOULD YOU REFER:

PUPILS WHO ARE:

- Unable to attend school due to mental or physical health
- At risk of exclusion
- Working below age related expectations
- Struggling in any subject
- In need of intervention
- Working below their potential

TUITION CAN BE DELIVERED:

- Online or face to face in school, in children's homes and foster homes (any location with a second DBS checked adult available)
- Online only in family homes

HOW IS TUTORING STRUCTURED?

Schools can provide specific targets for tutors to work on with their pupils, and the tutors will provide progress reports for each pupil. All resources and lesson plans will be differentiated to meet the individual needs of pupils.

WHO CAN MAKE A REFERRAL?

DESIGNATED TEACHERS
FOSTER CARERS
VIRTUAL SCHOOL ADVISERS
SOCIAL WORKERS

To refer a young person for tutoring contact
Kathleen Adams via email
Kathleen.adams@lbbd.gov.uk

RECENT TESTIMONIALS

"I would like to say that your tutor has been fantastic. We had a data drop before half term and there is obvious progress with the children she has been working with."

MERCY ATKINS
Headteacher at Riverview CofE Primary
and Nursery School