

VIRTUAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024

CLOSING THE GAP AND RAISING THE BAR



Meeting the team

Hi my name is
Tina Cumraku

I am the Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Transition Lead for the Virtual School. I joined the team recently, to support the cohort, while Jess King is on maternity leave. Most of my work experience has been with post 16s.

What keeps me enthusiastic about working with post 16s is the excitement and pride I feel when young people succeed in progressing to university, apprenticeship or work, demonstrating exceptional resilience, in the face of adversity or significant challenges.



Certificate of Achievement

VIRTUAL SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to the latest recipients of these awards who should be receiving their certificates shortly. The recipients were nominated by colleagues working with them in the Virtual School. We are hoping to canvas more widely to get the views of designated teachers before the 2024 Virtual School Awards.

1. **CAPTAIN MARVEL
AWARD**

2. **OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT (KS2)**

3. **OUTSTANDING
EFFORT**

4. **OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT (KS4)**

5. **OUTSTANDING
EFFORT**

6. **ENGAGEMENT AWARD**

7. **THE JUDITH DENTON
RESILIENCE AWARD**

8. **THE DEBORAH
WILSHIRE AWARD**

We hope our award recipients are proud of what they have achieved.



OUR CHRISTMAS ALUMNI LUNCH

Christmas with the Virtual School was amazing as our Annual Alumni Lunch took place in Wagamama Restaurant at the O2. This place was chosen by the young people.

It was fun and laughter but also a time when our alumni, who were either working or at university, shared their experiences and golden nuggets with the looked after children in Y9-Y12. We had a care leaver who is currently a Social Worker. We had another care leaver who is currently an apprentice and a few more. One of the young people left with a smile saying "she answered all my questions," referring to her conversation with the care leaver who attended Goldsmith University and is currently a Social Worker.



SAVE
THE
DATE

20th -23rd August

for a 'SUMMER
TO REMEMBER'
AT TREWERN

Trewern is a fantastic resource tucked away in Hay-on-Wye, Herefordshire. It was originally built in 1904 as a medium sized family residence and was opened in 1967 as an outdoor pursuits centre for the schools of Barking. The residential outdoor education and field studies centre is now a much loved and used educational facility. Students from the Aspire Virtual School LBBd have on previous visits participated in a wide range of outdoor pursuits.

Hear what the young people said from last year!!

"I really enjoyed my time at Trewern and I especially enjoyed paddle boarding as it was very fun falling off the boards" Ryan

"I thought that the trip was fun and it was a thrilling adventure. I would go again due to the experience and the staff were also very friendly" Shane

"It was good, I enjoyed the gorge walking" Sophia

"My experience at Trewern was great we did paddle boarding, canoeing, gorge walking and other activities. We had a very good time and made a lot of friends. My experience was very good" Frances

If you think this is something a young person you know will be interested in please contact Kathleen.adams@lbbd.gov.uk asap as there are limited spaces available.

WESTHAM FOUNDATION EVENT



This February half-term was exciting as some of our young people signed up to attend a post 16 event organised by Westham Foundation. It was a mix of careers, sports and a tour of Westham Stadium. The stadium was a lovely sight to behold, and the young people could not stop taking photos. Exploring career options in the field of sports and related to stadiums was insightful.

FEEDBACK FROM FOSTER CARER ON BEHALF OF YOUNG PERSON

"Sami expressed that he thoroughly enjoyed himself, attributing it to a combination of factors: social outings and football, both of which he loves to do. He especially liked the stadium tour, which, as I understand, took place on the first day of the event. He spoke highly of the experience, and I am confident he would eagerly participate in another such opportunity should it arise. Kindly consider him for future similar events; I'm certain he would greatly appreciate it".



POST 16 CAREERS MENTORING

The Virtual School has commissioned two organisations **FIX-UP TEAM AND IDEATE** to offer careers mentoring and post 16 support, to looked after children and care leavers.

These organisations have some exciting activity planned which include:

- ▶ A University visit
- ▶ A visit to a Corporate organisation
- ▶ Traineeship opportunities
- ▶ CV Building workshops

If you have any young people who you think would benefit from this, please do contact:

ANGELINA IKEAKO

Angelina.ikeako@lbbd.gov.uk

Attendance Collection

We want to congratulate our DTs who have supported the effective recording of our attendance. We now have a high percentage of attendance collected across our schools. A big 'Well Done' to our Designated Teachers.

We are keen to make sure that the attendance collection is a smooth transition for you. If you have any queries or need support, please contact **Tricia Butler**:
tricia.butler@lbbd.gov.uk

THANK YOU TO AN AMAZING DESIGNATED TEACHER

This newsletter's spotlight lands on

**NICOLA
ROGERS**

who is the designated teacher from Abbs Cross.



Angelina (Virtual School) reports

"What I really appreciate about Nicola is how she has been a pillar of support for our looked after children and has developed a close positive relationship which was obvious in our PEP meetings. She also completed sections of the PEP before the meeting which provided the details we needed to have a robust discussion and she has a way of making the young person feel very engaged in the PEP so they attend with a smile."

Thank you Nicola.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DESIGNATED TEACHERS AS OVER 50% OF ALL YOUR PEPS WERE RAG RATED AS 'GOOD' OR 'OUTSTANDING'

A virtual handshake to Dorothy Barley Infants school who was one of the 9% of schools who achieved an outstanding PEP.



SAVE THE DATES

PEP COMPLETION DEADLINES

SPRING TERM:

15TH MARCH 2024

SUMMER TERM:

28TH JUNE 2024

DESIGNATED TEACHERS NETWORKING FORUM

SUMMER TERM:

19TH JUNE 2024

8.30am-12.30pm

Venue:

Aspire Alliance Building,
Warren Junior School
London Borough of
Barking & Dagenham

ONLINE ePEP TRAINING

28TH MARCH 2024

25TH APRIL 2024

If you would like to attend please contact

Tricia Butler

PLEASE NOTE DEAR DTS.

DON'T FORGET THE YOUNG PERSON'S VIEWS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PEP.

It demonstrates the young person's engagement with the PEP process and the young person is aware of their targets and progress. Please check as the DT that you remember to collect and complete them.

Thank you for your support.

C: Young Person's View

SQUIDDLE 

Interactive Section

FESTIVAL OF APPRENTICESHIPS

TUESDAY 5TH
MARCH 2024

#NAW2024 ROADSHOW

Venue: KIA Oval

The Virtual School is also organising a group to attend this event.

Do let us know if you are also planning to attend. Please contact:

Tina Cumraku
tina.cumraku@lbbd.gov.uk

www.festivalofapprenticeships.com

