

Worcestershire Virtual School News

Issue 10

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Year 11

Following the recent guidance issued by the DfE, we feel this would be a good opportunity to check that our year 11 children looked after (CLA) have the support they need as they move into their post-16 careers.

The guidance identifies that pupils cease to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday of June in the year in which they turn 16, but as the 2021 exams approach and grades having to be submitted by 18 June 2021, there is not the same requirement for pupils to attend school until this date. We support the guidance that strongly encourages schools to maximise opportunities that meet the progression needs of these students during this period. Worcestershire Virtual School believes that schools are best placed to make appropriate judgements on the activities for the pupils on their roll. For our CLA we would expect that schools would wish to continue to support our young people as identified in their PEP targets, or as ongoing support is required to secure post-16 provision, whilst they continue on the school roll.

Where schools feel that pupils would benefit from the Virtual School support, or they require support for which they would be eligible for PP+ funding, please do not hesitate to contact your PEPCo/ALA to discuss what is available. For example, pupils may benefit from additional transition support as they move on to further studies and/or vocational technical qualifications. Pupils may need encouragement and support to attend taster sessions if they haven't secured a post-16 route and assistance to identify a route which best meets their progression needs and aspirations. Some students may need help completing apprenticeship applications and preparing for work, in partnership with employers, including providing work experience.

Where you are concerned that there is a risk of the young person becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) schools should support through careers advice and guidance on the options available.

Finally, we ask schools to be aware of students' needs in relation to their mental health and well-being and to consider what is available to students should they require support.

Early Language Training for 4-5-year olds in Reception

The second wave of the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) has been launched and every state school with a Reception class in England can apply for FREE training and resources through an early year's catch-up programme funded by the Government. NELI is intended to improve the oral language skills of children aged 4-5 in need of support in this area and has proved to be effective in raising outcomes in children's early language, communication, and speech skills. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis with registration closing when all places have been offered or when the registration window closes on 30th July 2021. For more information and to register to receive NELI see <https://www.teachneli.org>

The Attachment Research Community (ARC)

Call to Action

Attachment and Trauma Awareness - teaching, learning and emotional wellbeing in schools

Call To Action is for a system wide redevelopment of policies and processes, academic support, and training programmes to improve performance, emotional wellbeing, and narrow attainment gaps for our children and young people in education.

The Covid pandemic has been a testing time for all in schools, **especially the most vulnerable**. Support is required to support recovery and positive mental health, rebuilding trusting relationships to allow all children and young people to **Thrive**.

This **Call to Action** Document, entitled '**Attachment and Trauma Awareness - teaching, learning and emotional wellbeing in schools**', aims to complement and extend the DfE guidance on supporting mental health in schools and on teaching about mental wellbeing.

It recognises the role of schools to be proactive and ensure a systemic approach, with school leaders embedding whole school systems which are efficient and effective in improving learning and well-being outcomes for all children and young people, both in terms of their short-term, immediate needs and their longer-term strategies.

It raises the benefits of developing the educational workforce and celebrating good practice through a positively focused inspection framework.

Worcestershire Virtual School advocates for increased consideration of a child/ young person's Adverse Childhood Experiences and the world through their lens, we encourage schools to consider the power of relationships in all policies and procedures.

Call To Action echoes the Trauma Informed Schools ethos and principles we are engaging across Worcestershire through our training mission in which we are working collaboratively with TIS UK, the dedication and outstanding practice of all delegates embarked on this journey so far has been inspiring and is making such a difference to so many young people.

[CTA Document Brochure.pdf \(the-arc.org.uk\)](#)

What ACTION are you taking in your setting? The virtual school would welcome hearing from you about the policies and processes in place that support your children and young people to be the best they can.

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We are here to support you and our children looked after/previously looked after. Please call or email, using the details below or visit our website.

Virtual School Helpline 01905 844913
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<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtualschool>