

Worcestershire Virtual School News

Issue 12

Contents:

New Staff

Trauma Informed Schools

16-19 Bursary

Transitions

Summer Activities

Thank You

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome Becky James and Mary Williams as Learning Advocates to the Virtual School Team. They will be taking up their posts in September. Becky James will be responsible for the Reception Year children and replacing Mary Jenkins. We would like to thank Mary for her dedication to supporting our children who have been in Year R over the last 3 years and raising their profile. Mary is returning full time back to her post in the Learning Support Service. Mary Williams will be replacing Jill Peplow who is now a Learning Advocate for the Post 16 cohort within the Virtual School.

Trauma Informed Schools

Worcester Virtual School are extremely proud to announce that a further 25 Worcestershire schools have a delegate who has successfully completed a Diploma in Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools and Communities.

We want to thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication, we are seeing the impact of this training in whole school cultures, and we have been hugely inspired by this group and the difference they are making to the lives of so many children.

The delegates have gained key insights into the psychology and neuroscience of mental ill-health and challenging behaviour alongside vital tools and techniques in knowing how to respond to a child's narrative of painful life events.

We look forward to welcoming Cohort 4 to the training in November.

16-19 Bursary

Any Y11 leavers who have made an application to an FE college, in or out of county, or a Training Provider and who wish to apply for the 16-19 Bursary can now do so (opens from 1st July).

Applications can be made regardless of whether the student has a conditional or unconditional offer for September. The student number which was generated when the application was made, will be needed for the application.

Whilst CLA are prioritised, the application process can be lengthy, with a lot of evidence required. It is recommended that applications are made early, to avoid any delay.

The application needs to be made directly to the Finance Team of the college/training providers that the young person will be attending in Sept. The application form can be found on the website for each college/training provider under Student Services or Student Finance.

As an example, if you have someone applying to HOWC for September, this is the link to the application form <https://www.howcollege.ac.uk/student-life/student-finance/further-education-finance/>

This is the general guidance <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund/how-to-claim>

Transitions

The Virtual School website is packed with resources and ideas to help with transitions, which are all looking different again this year. Please take 5 minutes to check out the website:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtualschool or follow the links:

[Teacher Feedback to Improve Pupil Learning | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](#)

[Delayed and Accelerated Transfer policy | Delayed and Accelerated Transfer policy | Worcestershire County Council](#)

[ERIC - EJ971753 - Principles of Instruction: Research-Based Strategies That All Teachers Should Know,](#)

[American Educator, 2012](#)

[Free PSHE resources offered to help support transition](#)

[Effective transition for year 7 pupils](#)

[12 tips for a smooth year 6 to 7 transition](#)

[6 Tips for starting a new class](#)

Summer Activities

I am very excited to share that in collaboration with **West Midlands Virtual Schools' sports initiative** we are offering a morning of outdoor activities and team building skills in the summer holidays.

This event is aimed at young people **Children Looked After** supported by **Worcester and Hereford Virtual Schools**, aged **9-18 years**.



When?

Thursday 29th July 2021 From 9am-1pm

Where?

Lakeside Activity Centre
Lakeside Campus
Holt Heath
WR6 6NH

Please remember to bring a packed lunch, any medication required during the event (e.g., inhalers, allergy medication, etc), bag for dirty/wet clothes, change of clean clothes, waterproof coat (wet weather), sun protection, & hat (hot weather), strong enclosed shoes (that can get dirty) - NO sandals, flipflops or heels

Please see the attached leaflet with the direct link needed for signing up:

[WMVS Summer Activity leaflet and booking](#)

Please cascade with all Children Looked After that this is relevant to and really promote, it is so positive we able to offer a face to face activity morning after such a challenging year, places are limited so please encourage people to sign up promptly.

Thank you from Worcestershire Virtual School

We would like to thank all of you for the way in which you have carried out your role as Designated Teacher this year. What a year it has been! You have been so supportive of your Children Looked After and Previously Looked After. In this period of uncertainty, you have gone the extra mile to make sure our children/young people were always well supported whether at home or learning in school.

We hope that you have a good break over the summer and look forward to working with you next year.

Very best wishes

Worcestershire Virtual School team

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
virtualschool@worcestershire.gov.uk

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtualschool>

