



AfC Virtual School

Designated Teacher Newsletter

Spring term 2020

Pupil Premium Plus funding for previously looked-after children

To qualify for the annual Pupil Premium Plus funding of £2,300 for each previously looked-after child, every school must record the number of eligible pupils in their January census, which must be completed and returned by Wednesday 12th February 2020.

To be eligible, each child must have spent at least one day in the care of a local authority in England or Wales and have ceased to be looked-after because of adoption, a special guardianship, a child arrangements or residence order. Unfortunately this funding is not available for children who have been adopted from overseas.

For more details please contact AfC Virtual School on 0208 831 6037 or go to the Funding section of our website: <https://www.afcvirtuelschool/previouslylookedafterchildren.org.uk/>

Training dates for Spring term 2020

Richmond Designated Teacher Forum - 15/01/20 4pm –5:30pm,
Grimwood Training Centre, Twickenham.

Richmond & Kingston Foster Carers -28/01/20, 10am-2pm, King Charles
Centre, Surbiton.

RBWM DT Forum - 05/02/20, 4pm–5:30pm, Maidenhead Town Hall.

R&K School Governors - 12/02/20 7pm - 9pm, King Charles Centre,
Surbiton.

Kingston DT Forum - 26/02/20 4pm–5:30pm, King Charles Centre,
Surbiton.

RBWM Foster Carers -10/03/20, 10am-2pm, Holiday Inn, Slough.

RBWM School Governors - 26/03/20 7pm-9pm Maidenhead Town Hall.

Please ensure that you let **School Governors** know when and where their training sessions will take place as these only happen annually.

If you are unable to attend DT training, you are more than welcome to ask another member of staff to come in your place.

The Adopter Hub

We are offering a free subscription to every school in the boroughs of Richmond, Kingston and RBWM to the [Adopter Hub](#), a web-based platform run by PACT that offers information and resources for DTs, adoptive parents and Special Guardians. This site includes a confidential, secure and thoroughly-monitored peer-support forum for adoptive parents.

If you know of any adoptive parents or guardians who you think would benefit from this resource, contact emma.dyer@achievingforchildren.org.uk or ask them to contact us and we can arrange for a free subscription for them.

Adoption support funding

Families at your school may not be aware that they are able to apply for Adoption Support funding at any time.

The Adoption Support fund (ASF) was established to provide therapeutic support for families in the years following adoption. It is available for children living in England up to and including the age of 21 (or 25 with an EHC plan). Funding per child per annum is capped at £5,000 with an additional £2,500 assessment fee if needed. Therapies offered include psychotherapy; music therapy; theraplay and filial therapy.

More information is available on our website [here](#) or at [First4Adoption](#)

To apply, parents or guardians, rather than the school, will need to contact the local authority who will apply to the fund on their behalf.

For *adoptive parents* living in **Richmond** and **Kingston** local authorities, their first point of contact is the new regional adoption agency, Adopt London South. They can call them on 0207 525 4491 or email them at postadoptionssupportALS@southwark.gov.uk and they will take a referral.

For *Special Guardians* living in **Richmond** or **Kingston**, contact adoption support on 0208 547 4620 or by email at adoptionduty@achievingforchildren.org.uk

For all enquiries across the **Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead**, contact the Adopt Thames Valley Permanence support team on 01865 323121 or by

email at ATV.PermanenceSupport@oxfordshire.gov.uk

AfC Virtual School Transition hub

On 27th January 2020, AfC Virtual School, in collaboration with Barnet Virtual School and St Mary's University, Twickenham, opened a transition hub for adolescents in care between the ages of 10 and 14.

The hub is funded by the Youth Endowment Foundation and is a feasibility study that will investigate what works in terms of support with transition when young people first come into care or when a school or care placement breaks down. The hub will support a maximum of six pupils at a time for a period of up to six weeks.

Eligible pupils will be those who are new to care; children who have experienced a placement (care or school) change; or children where either care or school placement is at risk. The hub will also support foster carers, designated teachers and form teachers in their new schools. The hub is situated in Richmond-upon-Thames school.

For more details, please contact Suzanne Parrott, AfC Virtual School headteacher on 0208 831 6037.

Ofsted thanks

We have been lucky enough to have had two Ofsted inspections since the start of the academic year! Thank you to colleagues in Kingston schools for your partnership and contribution to our recent Outstanding grading.

Thank you also to all schools in RBWM who have worked with the Virtual School in the recent Ofsted. We very much appreciate your feedback and support.

A word about PEPs from Suzanne Parrott

"I have had the pleasure to audit rather a lot of PEPs associated with the two Ofsted visits. I have been impressed by the detailed feedback that DTs are providing from teachers on attainment, progress and regarding the Pupil Premium impact. In the best cases, the use of the SMART approach is really helping young people meet their targets within the timeframe.

Do not hesitate to contact AfC Virtual School if you need training in chairing a PEP or about the Welfare Call system."

Our contact details

The Virtual School is here to support all Designated Teachers (DTs) and your colleagues with information, advice and training whenever you need it.

Our Headteacher is Suzanne Parrott: suzanne.parrott@achievingforchildren.org.uk

For all enquiries about children looked-after your leads are:

Deputy Head, (Richmond) Paul Chapman:

paul.chapman2@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Assistant Head, (Kingston) Clare Farley: clare.farley@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Assistant Head, (RBWM) Christina Buckley:

christina.buckley@achievingforchildren.org.uk

For any enquiries about previously looked-after children's education, your first point of contact is Emma Dyer: emma.dyer@achievingforchildren.org.uk

To book a training course, please contact sam.connor@achievingforchildren.org.uk

If you would like to contact any of us by telephone, our number is 0208 831 6037.

Your contact details

If you are a Headteacher receiving this email but are **not** the school's Designated teacher, we would be grateful if you could update us on the name, telephone contact and email of your designated teacher as soon as possible so that we can contact them with information about training and resources. Please call Emma Dyer on 0208 831 6037 or email: emma.dyer@achievingforchildren.org.uk.
