



AfC Virtual School

Designated Teacher Newsletter

New: careers advice for care-experienced young people from AfC Virtual School

AfC Virtual School now has its own full-time careers advisor. Gill Higgins offers advice about careers, further and higher education options and apprenticeships to care-experienced young people to enable them to take their next steps in planning their futures. She is also able to support with mock-interviews, cvs and application forms.

Exam helpline: between 13 and 31 August 2020, Gill will also be offering impartial advice and guidance to help young people explore the options open to them. To contact Gill, please call her on 07864 612857 or email her:
gill.higgins@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Gill has produced a flyer to advertise the Virtual School Careers Service to young people, attached to this newsletter. We would be grateful if you could make this flyer available to colleagues and young people who might benefit from Gill's advice.

Strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ)

Many thanks to all of you who completed SDQs this term. We are currently in the process of uploading the results onto Welfare Call and populating the PEP documents ready for September.

Please see the new PEP flowchart including the SDQ cycle, attached to this newsletter. Further details will follow in September. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Clare Farley.

Email: clare.farley@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Webinar: Working with traumatised children in the classroom

Our partner organisation, The Adopter hub, are running a webinar on **Tuesday 21 July between 12pm and 1pm** about how to support traumatised children in the classroom.

Leading the event is Catherine Hockley (CEO and Founder of Create Hope). The areas that she will cover include: displays of emotion and brain development; primary and secondary emotions; and what a child needs. There will also be opportunities to ask questions.

You will need to be a member of the Adopter Hub to attend this webinar. AfC Virtual School has paid for all DTs to have membership of this organisation, if you do not have a login, please contact emma.dyer@achievingforchildren.org.uk to receive one.

To register, log in to your Adopter hub account at and follow the links to Schools Resources: <https://www.theadopterhub.org/schools/resources-schools>

The Education of Care Experienced Children: Masters level module

Bath Spa University and the National Association of Virtual School Heads are jointly offering this stand-alone MA level module, which can also count towards a full MA Professional Practice course. This is a flexible, part-time programme for busy professionals interested in the education of care experienced children. Teaching starts in September 2020 and will take place entirely online, including tutorials.

For further details, visit <https://navsh.org.uk/postgraduate-study-in-professional-practice/>

Summer activities week for children 27-31 July

Our Summer Activities sessions are going online this year in all three of our cohorts: Richmond, Kingston and Windsor & Maidenhead boroughs.

We are offering exciting activities and fun classes for all age groups, which children will be able to enjoy from the comfort and safety of their homes.

Where equipment for experiments, arts & crafts sessions and books are required to participate, we will make sure to send these to you by post ahead of the sessions so the children can enjoy and take part in as many activities as possible.

These sessions are offered to all looked-after and previously looked-after children and we hope that you will encourage families to register. Closing date to register:

15th July 2020

For further details, please contact Tav.Juttla@achievingforchildren.org.uk

The full brochure is attached.

Film project for Year 11s

AfC Virtual School is running an eight week film and media project in collaboration with Luke Rodgers, director of the Care Leavers.

The project is free and will take place online, beginning on Thursday the 16th July at 2pm via Google Hangouts. The project centres around creating films, posters and a website on the theme of 'Care in Covid' and will provide invaluable experience and materials for a portfolio or cv.

For more information about the project, visit the project website:

<https://thecareleaders.wixsite.com/website-25>

If you know of a young person who would benefit from this opportunity, please contact tav.jutta@achievingforchildren.org.uk for further details about how to register.

Thank you!

AfC Virtual School thanks all DTs for their superb work this year in the very challenging context of COVID-19 and recognises their adaptability to the ever-changing set of circumstances that they have been continually presented with over the past few months.

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please contact emma.dyer@achievingforchildren.org.uk

AfC Virtual School Head Teacher is Suzanne Parrott.
