

Shropshire
Virtual School



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2022-23



CELEBRATION EVENT 2022

In September we came together with our young people who are looked after to recognise and celebrate their fantastic achievements. There was a wide variety of ages and achievements to celebrate - such as organising a uniform bank to support local families, sharing their birthday money with the children's ward as well as gaining incredible GCSE grades.

We were joined on the day by the Mayor, the Cabinet Member for Children & Families, Corporate Parenting partners and Smashlife Mentoring to deliver motivational messages.

It was great to see so many young people and their parents/carers enjoying lunch together with us and then taking part in lots of activities.



Post 16 and Care Leavers Celebration 2022

Thank you to everyone who supported our Post 16 and Care Leavers Celebration event.

It was a privilege to be part of the evening and see our young people's achievements get recognised.

Lots of dancing and some lovely food!

Well done to everyone. We are so proud of you!



Welcome to 2 new members of staff at our school!

Katherine Jones (on the left) is our new EASO (Education Advice & Support Officer) for Children who are Looked-After in Early Years and in School.

Suzie Rawson (on the right) is our new EASO supporting young people who are in the Post 16 Phase.



Katherine.E.Jones@shropshire.gov.uk

[k](#)

Suzie.Rawson@shropshire.gov.uk

Activities coming up at

Shropshire
Virtual School



Introduction into acting workshop on 7th November 4:30pm-6:30pm for young people who are looked-after by Shropshire in year 9 and above (13-18 year olds) Pizza provided!

Nail Art workshop 7th December 4:30pm-7:30pm for young people who are looked-after by Shropshire in year 9 and above (13-18 year olds) Pizza provided!

Bonfire/Fireworks Competition – bonfire/firework themed bake! Pictures of the young person's baking to be sent to beth.francis@shropshire.gov.uk by 4th November. Judging is in week of the 9th November, there are prizes! (this for looked after children and previously looked after children)

SVS Children in Care School Council – we are in the process of setting this up - if you know of any young people (year 3 up) who may be interested in joining, please forward their names.

If you would like anymore information or have any questions on the activities coming up, please email or ring Beth Francis on beth.francis@shropshire.gov.uk or 07977381169

Our new Shropshire PEP

- We are now 7 weeks into using our new Shropshire PEP. **Thankyou** to all of you as Designated Teachers, we can really see how supported our children are to aspire and achieve 😊
- **Thankyou** also to those who have commented on the new PEP, your feedback is important to us as continue to strive to make the Shropshire PEP an efficient record of our young people's achievements and the very best personalised plan for them.



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Our Shropshire PEP - Top Tips

- Pre-populate the 'My Personal Education Plan'. This really helps to guide the conversation in the meeting.
- Make use of the tab 'Key stage results' to see EYFS, KS1 and 2 results already put on there for you.
- Got a photo of your young person engaging in an activity? Share it at the PEP and add it to the documents at the bottom of the child's front page as a memory they can keep.



Reminders on Attendance

Many thanks for your diligence in ensuring attendance data for Looked-After Children is updated weekly in the EPEP Attendance Module.

It is crucial this is up to date every week in line with expectations from the new Attendance Guidance

You can pass this task on to an **Attendance Officer or administrator** in your school – just email the person's name and email address to anne.c.williams@shropshire.gov.uk.

The weekly update otherwise is assigned to you as DT. Please let us know if there are personnel changes in your school so we can ensure the right person is receiving the requests from ePEP every Monday. The Attendance Module is separate from the PEP so there is no access to all the information contained within a PEP and attached documents by those completing the attendance input.

Suspensions

Through working closely together we aim to avoid as many suspensions as possible, but if they do happen please ensure that children's Social Workers and Virtual School are made aware on the same day with a copy of the exclusion letter. These can also be attached to documents on the pupil's profile page in ePEP.

Previously Looked After Children



Children who have been Previously Looked-After are highly likely to have barriers to or gaps in their learning as a result of their experiences and allocation of PP+ recognises their need for support.

It is for School Leaders to decide how to spend the PP+ Grant within the requirements of the Conditions of Grant and the Guidance recommends that the Designated Teacher consults with their Virtual School on how to spend it effectively, where appropriate.

Please find below some documents below that you may find helpful to support with this:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1066915/Using_pupil_premium_guidance_for_school_leaders.pdf

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/guidance-for-teachers/using-pupil-premium>

If you need any support or guidance please contact

Lindsay.Armstrong@shropshire.gov.uk or
Amy.foulger@shropshire.gov.uk

Our new CORE Training offer for schools 2022-24

- Attachment & Trauma – whole-school
- Boxall profile
- Nurture theory and practice roll out 3 & 4 (already fully booked)
- Emotion Coaching – Awareness
- Emotion Coaching - Accreditation re whole-school development
- Nurture ABC with Lego (supports Speech & Language)
- Transitions



Some aspects of this offer are in development & more details will follow - if you are interested in any of the above please contact Jo.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk.

Becoming an Attachment & Trauma Responsive School with us

What does it entail?

- We do a pre and post Audit together so the training is well matched for your school
- Delivery to primary schools is face to face by our Shropshire VS training team
- Delivery to secondary schools is by an external provider we are working closely with
- All delivery is to the whole school (ie all staff whatever their role)
- Your commitment is stated in an agreement for clarity and effective use of our children's PP+
- Opportunity to earn nationally recognised Bronze and/or Silver awards [The ARC Pathway | ARC \(the-arc.org.uk\)](#)

If you are interested please contact Jo.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk for a copy of the Agreement with further information. This training offer is free for you and so will be available to only a limited number of schools over the 2 years.

Children with a Social Worker

Virtual Schools are strategic leaders for children 0-18 years who have a social worker (or have had one in the last 6 years for safeguarding reasons). Please make sure your DSL is aware.

We are:

- championing CSW and raising awareness of their needs
- promoting good practice & raising aspirations for these learners
- developing productive relationships to enhance their achievements and outcomes



Here is the updated guidance from June 2022

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086931/Promoting the education of children with a social worker - virtual school head role extension 2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086931/Promoting_the_education_of_children_with_a_social_worker_-_virtual_school_head_role_extension_2022.pdf)

If you need any support or guidance please contact

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Amy.Foulger@shropshire.gov.uk

TIME FOR YOU

with Dr Eleanor Tomlinson

(*CPsychol., D.Ed.Psych., BSc Hons* Chartered Educational and Child Psychologist)

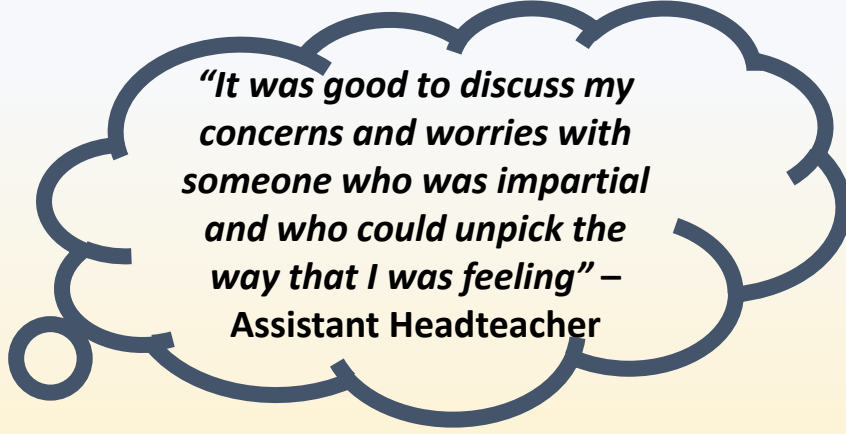
Time for You is for school staff who would like a reflective space to have a conversation about supporting a young person with their education. This is available for your school re:

- young people **in care to Shropshire**
- or were **Previously Looked After**
- **and this will now be open to schools who wish to discuss Children with a Social Worker.**

It is objective, safe and a supportive space which enables you to discuss your authentic feelings, thoughts and concerns around supporting this young person and gives time to considering possible ways of moving forward with them.

The request form and more information is on our website under “Resources, Training and Links”)

[Resources, training and useful links | Shropshire Council](#)



“It was good to discuss my concerns and worries with someone who was impartial and who could unpick the way that I was feeling” – Assistant Headteacher

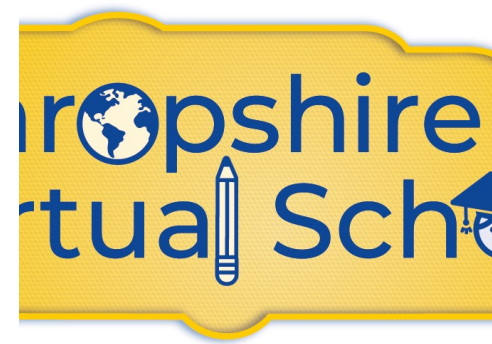
What were our young people up to at half term?!

Thanks to Arthog and Inside Out Learning for supporting our young people from 3-16 to take part in outdoor education activities over 3 days in half term.

There was great feedback including from carers, for example...

“K & J really enjoyed it, and said they would ‘definitely go again’ should another opportunity arise !”

“P had an awesome time. Better than she thought she would.. Testament to all your hard work and kindness...”





Training coming up for DTs and Governors



- **DT new to post & refresher**
7th Dec & 15th March 2-4pm
- **DT Network**
29th Nov & 16th Feb 3.30-5.15pm
- **Governor new to post & refresher**
9th Nov & 16th March 1.30-.3.30 pm
- **Governor Update**
6th Dec 1.30-3pm

All events are online. We are aiming for the Summer DT Network event to be face to face. Please book at

[UCS Shrewsbury CPD \(ucshrewsbury.ac.uk\)](http://ucshrewsbury.ac.uk)

THANK
YOU!

Thank you for all your support and for
the partnership work we do together



Have a fabulous half term in the run up to Christmas!



Jo Kelly
Virtual School Head Teacher



Anne Williams
Specialist Education Access Officer



Lorraine Griffiths
CIAG PA (Post 16)



Paula Edwards
Administrator



Lindsay Armstrong
Asst Head



Georgia Smith
Specialist Teacher



Lisa Peters
Specialist Teacher



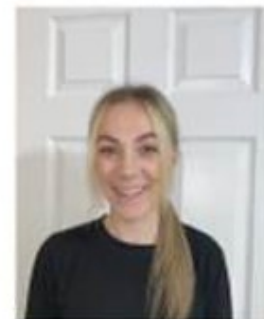
James Waller-Davies
Specialist Teacher



Adriana Coupe
Specialist Teacher



Amy Foulger
Education Advice & Support Officer



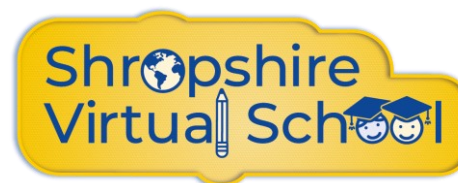
Beth Francis
Participation



Katherine Jones
Education Advice & Support Officer



Suzie Rawson
Education Advice & Support Officer
Post 16



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