

Telford & Wrekin Virtual School

FOSTER CARER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025



Headteacher's Message

Hello and welcome to our spring term, almost Easter newsletter!

The Spring term is always an incredibly busy time for schools and education and the Virtual School is no exception. We have had a plethora of activities, adventures and events this term not to mention all of the PEP meetings which have taken place using the new Synergy system. The Virtual School Dance Troupe and of course - the Virtual School band have been in rehearsals for the young persons' conference and Hotshots, our annual celebration event!!! on the 6th June 2025

Michelle Salter

Virtual School Head Teacher

Upcoming Events and Key Dates this term:

14th & 15th April- Craft Session
14th-17th April- Y6 Arthog
7th May- Skiing
8th May- Circus Skills
27th May- Smashlife Woodland
27th May- Cooking Workshop
21st June- Football Match
3rd July- Poetry Slam
6th August- Regional Arts Event

Save the date:
06.06.25 Hotshots
Celebrations



Stepping forward Arts Programme- the Virtual School have worked with the share foundation to create an online arts course. This is open to young people in care ages 13 years and above. If you complete the 6 modules you can achieve a financial incentive- please email the virtual school at virtualschool.gov.uk

Free Music Lessons

Did you know, young people in care attending Telford & Wrekin schools can access free, weekly music lessons within the school day?

Please do discuss this with any young people in your care and if this is something they are interested in, please apply through: www.telfordandwrekinmusic.co.uk and select 'Lesson Application Form'.

If your young person does not attend a Telford & Wrekin School but is interested in music lessons, please email: virtualschool@telford.gov.uk and we will support with getting this set up.

Supporting Attachment and Informed Practice in Telford & Wrekin Schools.

This term, we delivered training to our foster carers and kinship carers on how to support school transitions and are running additional courses for foster and kinship carers in the Summer Term. Please contact us directly to sign up and find out more. We have also continued to support Telford & Wrekin Schools to develop and embed Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware practice in their settings and were pleased to nominate five schools for the Alex Timpson Arc Awards which recognise and celebrate best attachment and trauma aware practice in schools and settings. We are pleased to announce that we now have 97% of Telford & Wrekin schools accredited in attachment and trauma informed practice and this is projected to rise to 100% by the end of the year. Two further schools, Donnington Wood Junior School and Woodlands Primary School have become ARC recognised learning hubs and lead their first national events this year.

To find out more, please visit:
<https://the-arc.org.uk/>



Early Years

Reading to young children

There can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns. (National Literacy Trust)

To support this the Virtual School fund Storytime magazine for all children in their final year at nursery and in reception. I hope you are enjoying receiving this each month. If you have not received your copy, please contact the Virtual School.

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This academic year we have a dedicated caseworker to support our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. Amy is working hard to support the education and engagement of the cohort cared for by Telford and Wrekin! Many of our young people attended our young persons' conference on the 4th April, which was a huge success

POST 16

Stepladder Plus

Are you supporting a young person between the ages of 15 and 17. They can apply for the Stepladder Plus scheme and earn up to £1500 for when they turn 18. Presently the young people who have signed up for this have earned over £26000.

Shropshire Youth Support Trust are a registered Charity that provides support for young people in Shropshire, including Telford and Wrekin, who are between 16 - 30 years of age and are not in education, employment or training. To find out more visit www.systbusiness.co.uk

On behalf of everyone at the Virtual School, we wish you a very happy Easter and look forward to working with you all in the summer term. We hope to see you all at Hotshots on Friday 6th June 2025!

