

Devon Virtual School for Children in Care

Spring Term 2017 Newsletter No.2



Head of Virtual School: Dawn Stabb



University of Exeter Open Day



Once again Exeter University hosted a group of around 60 Children in Care from 13 schools across Devon. Students from Year 8 to Year 13 spent the day with student ambassadors and staff from the Outreach Department learning what it was really like to be a student. Topics included the many societies and clubs, courses and student finance. They toured the campus and were treated to lunch in one of the many cafes. This year we were joined by some students from Torbay. This was a very informative day and hopefully helped to show our students that they can aspire to higher education. We would like to thank Natalie Bracher, staff and student ambassadors for a superbly organised day.

Devon Virtual School introduces the ePEP

From September 2017, the ePEP will take over from the current paper form. Many schools will already be familiar with the ePEP from its use by other Local Authorities. The ePEP has many advantages and will hopefully make it easier to track progress and attendance of Children in Care. Training for all Designated Teachers and Social Workers will take place in the second half of the summer term. More details will follow at the start of next term.

Children in Care Celebration Event

The annual Children in Care Celebration Event took place at St James School on 10 March 2017. This year 398 children and young people were nominated, that's approximately 100 more than ever before! 144 children and young people actually attended on the night, each bringing 1 or 2 guests. All the certificates and gift vouchers not presented at the event were posted out to the young people. It was an amazing evening with lots of food stalls and entertainment, eg. magicians, balloon modellers, face painters, a fun photo booth and driving simulator.

Councillor James McInnes, Lead Member for Children's services said how each and every child has shown enthusiasm and commitment to chase their goals.

Devon Adopter Voice

Devon Adopter Voice Forum is a group of adoptive parents who meet regularly with the adoption support managers of Devon Adoption and Families for Children to ensure that adopters' views are taken into account by local adoption agencies when planning their future adoption support services. We also identify key issues that we may want to lobby or campaign on to bring about changes in government services, whether at local or national level eg. use of the Pupil Premium Plus in schools, CAMHS, or the Adoption Support Fund.

This project is part of the wider Adopter Voice project being run across the country by Adoption UK on behalf of the Department for Education. This involves online forums in each Local Authority area, and face-to-face forums in a number of pilot areas. Any issues we identify will be fed into Adoption UK so they can take them forward as part of the national project. For more information about this project, please contact the Adopter Champion for Devon, Yona Wiseman, at:

acdevon.adoptionuk@gmail.com

Sociology Taster Day 2017

Do you have Year 12 students who are interested in studying Sociology at degree level? If so, we would be delighted to invite you to our Sociology Taster Day on Tuesday 6th June 2017.

The Sociology taster day is designed to give students a taste of what it is like to study Sociology at University. Students will get to choose from a series of short, exciting and interactive workshops relevant to A Level, BTEC, and National Diploma courses. During these sessions students will also have a chance to talk to current undergraduate students about their choices and experiences of university life. **This taster event is not only open to students currently studying Sociology, but to anyone who is interested in finding out more about our Sociology courses.**

Features will include a session with Dr Steve Taylor, entitled 'Sociology and You'. In this interactive session Dr Taylor illustrates how sociology gives us an entirely new way of looking at the everyday world around us and enables us to develop skills that can be applied to any area of professional life.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact:

Toby Wilson (Plymouth University Outreach Team)
on 01752 587964 or 07773 053272.