



## Virtual School Newsletter: Christmas 2021

Welcome to the Virtual School Christmas 2021 Newsletter. As the Virtual School Head Teacher, I would like to thank you all for your continued commitment, hard work and support to ensure that our pupils develop, flourish and maximise all opportunities to succeed in the next steps of their learning despite the many additional challenges we have faced this term.

We have a number of exciting plans for 2022 to ensure we enrich the education and lives of our Children in Care – further details are included in this Newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to wish you a fond farewell as retirement beckons for me! Joanne Lloyd and Peter McPartland will be heading up Halton Virtual School in the interim. Have a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Sharon Williams – Virtual School Head Teacher

## Virtual School Website

Just a reminder that all our Protocols, Guidance, Forms, PEP information and plenty of other useful resources can be found on the Virtual School Website by clicking <https://www.myvirtualschool.org/>

There are a number of different tabs with specialist information including the role of the designated teacher, children in care (and previously in care), Primary / Secondary, Post 16 links and an additional Early Years section that is currently being developed and will be available in the Autumn term.

## Virtual School staff

There have been lots of exciting changes to the Virtual School, with the addition of four new members of staff. The staff and their roles are:

- Joanne Lloyd – Interim Virtual Head / Primary Progress and PEP Coordinator
- Peter McPartland – Interim Virtual Head /Secondary Progress and PEP Coordinator
- Min Ling Lee-Tai – Education Support Worker
- Louisa Rees – Education Support Worker
- Gemma Donaldson – Early Years Support Worker
- Alys James – Secondary PEP Officer
- TBA – Primary PEP Officer
- Ian Wilson – KS4 and Post-16 Employability Officer
- Kelly Franklin – Post-16 Progress and PEP Coordinator
- David Bradshaw – PLAC Support Worker

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Virtual School if we can help in any way.

Tel: 0151 511 7391

Email: [virtual.school@halton.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@halton.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter:

**Halton Virtual School @HaltonVirtual**

## PEP Meetings and Pupil Premium+ Funding



Thank you for the great work you are all doing in completing PEPs to a high standard in these challenging times. We are required this term to have a full PEP as the focus from the DfE is on progress and learning for all our children.

If you have any queries regarding PEPs and their submission, please contact our PEP Coordinators Jo Lloyd, Peter McPartland or Kelly Franklin by email:

[virtual.school@halton.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@halton.gov.uk)

## Attendance Tracking

Thank you for your support in encouraging our Children in Care to attend school.

Please continue to send in attendance data for all your children so that this crucial data can be continued to be collated.

## EHCP Review Meetings



Please could we ask that you remind the SENCO in your school to invite the child's Social Worker and Carer to their EHCP Review Meeting.

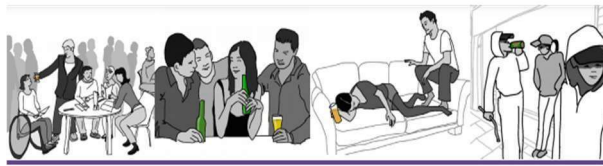
We hope that we can continue to be a real asset to the support we can offer schools, Social Workers and Carers for all our children with an EHCP.

## Activity Days

We have a rich and varied activity programme bursting with exciting opportunities for our children and young people to engage in during. More information will be revealed in early 2022 in anticipation of our February half term activity days.

## Additional Information

### Talking to Young People about Alcohol (FREE resources)



### **The Alcohol Education Trust**

The Alcohol Education Trust is a small focused charity which works across the UK to keep young people safe around alcohol. They are a leading early intervention charity that supports young people aged 11 – 25 in making more informed life choices through the 4,500 schools and youth organisations they support free of charge with award winning resources and training. The trust states its vision as “for young people to enter adulthood having a responsible understanding of alcohol and its short and long term effects. We engage children of all abilities and backgrounds before they begin drinking, helping them build resilience skills, know how to avoid and resist risky situations and to look after themselves and each other in a variety of settings”. For more information, or to access a range of excellent and free resources for school or home,

visit: <https://alcoholeducationtrust.org/>

**For more information or general enquiries, please contact:**

Tel: 0151 511 7391

Email: [virtual.school@halton.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@halton.gov.uk)

