

Newham Virtual School

Dear Reader,

The purpose of this Virtual School newsletter is to give carers, and relevant professionals an introduction to some of the work undertaken by the Virtual School over the last six months.

The Newham Virtual School Team

What We Do

We are the department that oversees the education of children and young people looked after by Newham local authority. Our job is to support children who are (or have been) in care and are aged between 3 years to 25 year olds. How we support these children and young people is dependent upon need and age. We are able to provide advice and support for carers, schools and professionals working in supporting these children.

Contact:

**Executive Head Teacher – Val Naylor or
Head of School - Catherine Doyle**

NVS@newham.gov.uk

A Foster Carer's Story

I have been a foster carer for 4 years. My motivation to apply was helping children to have a safe environment to grow up in and be safe. I have learnt something every day in my role as a foster carer. It is a huge commitment but very rewarding.

The training is absolutely brilliant. I have learned so much, which I share with family and friends, whilst giving them help and a few tips on bringing up their own children.

If, I were to give some advice if you were thinking of becoming a foster carer, I would say as long as you have a big heart and plenty of patience, go for it. It changes your life and that of children who need loving homes. The reward is huge and the support network is like having another family, which is always there to help if needed. The other professionals you work with are very supportive, and you will have a lovely working relationship with them as they want what you want for the child/children and that is the best we could possibly give them at such a traumatic time in their life.



Useful Resources

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Upcoming Events

Summer Term

Celebration event for children in care under 16 years old and their carers. Details to follow.

More Important News - Post 16 LAC News:

ESOL Summer School

An ESOL summer school for 22 newly arrived young people was held in the summer holidays, including a trip to the Natural History Museum. To support well-being, each day began with a session of yoga for the participants. The students received an NVS Certificate of Achievement. It was very well attended, illustrating how keen these young people are to learn.

India Trip

10 Newham LAC, chosen because of their outstanding personal achievements over the last 12 months, went on a 12 day trip to the Punjab region of India. They volunteered each morning in a primary school to teach English. Their afternoons were spent helping in a homework club and providing football coaching sessions. The trip was very successful and provided opportunities for our Newham young people to learn a whole range of skills, which will hopefully be of great use to them in the future.

Celebration Event 2019

The annual Celebration Event was held at Stratford Town Hall, for 80 of our post 16 year old young people in November. Their achievements were acknowledged and certificates given. Numerous Newham Councillors attended, along with the new Director of Children and Young People Services, Tim Aldridge. The event was organised with much help from a group of young people in care.

Mentoring Support

A group of post-16 looked after young people are being supported by the mentoring programme arranged between NVS and Social Work students at East London University. This work supports young people who are in or wish to access further education, training and work opportunities. **Contact NVSMentoring@newham.gov.uk.**

NVS is working in partnership with the Drive Forward Foundation, which provides career guidance, mentoring and opportunities to take part in social activities over a two or three year period. The programme is run and delivered by people who were once in care themselves, and is aimed at young people in care aged 14 to 16. **Please contact Catherine Doyle on NVS@newham.gov.uk for more information.**

The next NVS newsletter will be available in the summer term, please let us know if there is anything people want to see or would like to contribute. Your feedback is welcome.



Some of the young people who visited India, with the children they worked with.

New Schools Grading Systems

SECONDARY

How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 STRONG PASS 4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

Source: Ofqual



PRIMARY

GDS	Working at greater depth within the expected standard
EXS	Working at the expected standard
WTS	Working towards the expected standard
PKG	Pre-key stage, growing development of the expected standard (the child is working at a lower level than expected)
PKF	Pre-key stage, foundations for the expected standard (the child is working at a significantly lower level than expected)
BLW	The child is working below the pre-key stage standards (the lowest level of attainment)