



VSK NEWS

Kent's Virtual School for Children in Care and Young Care Leavers Summer Term 2018

Welcome

Well, the summer is here and VSK have been extremely busy as I am sure you all have. Our work will not slow down over the summer, with data collection; hosting a myriad of Activity Days and working with our young people ensuring they are September ready for transitions into new settings.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their hard work in supporting our young people over the academic year 2017-18, as always you really make a difference.

As any school I am sad to say we have some of our wonderful staff moving on to pastures new and we wish them well in their next adventure. As we know as one door closes another open's, so we have also got some fantastic new staff joining us in the Autumn Term and we look forward to seeing them develop and make impact.

Please take time to review what is happening within VSK as this edition has great information on key initiatives and pilot, updates on ePEP and VSK staff information. As well as this, there is an update on Participation and Engagement Team's fantastic work.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you at the September and October Award Ceremonies.

Best wishes

Tony Doran

Headteacher, Virtual School Kent

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ePEP NEWS

Once again we would like to extend our thanks to the county wide Designated Teachers for their commitment to ensuring PEPs are closed within the 7 day target window and all PP+ applications have been made by the deadline.

It is also the time of year where exams have been busy taking place or are imminent and questions arise around updating the ePEP system with this information. For all **current Yr11** pupils please can you ensure you complete the 14-19+ Plan for Education, Employment and Training in Section B of their PEP.

How to record exam results on ePEP

Examination results can be entered in to ePEP through the 'Young Person's' overview page (the one with the five coloured boxes at the top) and by navigating half way down the page to 'Actions' and clicking the 'Key Stage Results' button;



Will take you through to the 'Add a new result' page, where you are asked to enter the Key stage, Subject, Scoring system and End of Key stage level e.g. KS 4, Accounting, GCSE and C.

Keystage	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
Subject	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
Scoring system	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
End of Keystage level	<input type="text" value="Select"/>

As per the previous academic year, the GCSE grading 1 – 9 for Eng. Lit, Lang and Maths; this can be accessed through selecting the combination;

Key Stage 4 → Eng. Lit/ Lang / Mathematics → GCSE (1 – 9) → Level (1 – 9 +U)

Keystage	<input type="text" value="KS 4"/>
Subject	<input type="text" value="English Language"/>
Scoring system	<input type="text" value="GCSE (1 - 9)"/>
End of Keystage level	<input type="text" value="6 (0.00)"/>

For a full list of coding combinations which covers Key Stage One SATS Assessment, Key Stage Two SATS Test outcomes and teacher assessment please consult our guidance [How to enter Progress and Attainment Data onto the ePEP System](#) which can be found on the VSK Website: <http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk-resources/personal-education-plan-epep>

Term 6 Progress and Attainment

Please remember that at the end of term 6 we shall also be collecting the last tranche of progress and attainment data for our school age LAC. An email reminder will be sent out regarding this at the beginning of July. Please remember that where previous progress and attainment data has been added to the PEP there is no need to re-enter your entries. Instead it is only necessary to navigate to the 'edit' button on the right hand side of grid;

Term 3 and 4		Term 5 and 6		Expected Attainment at Year End	Expected Attainment at Phase End	Actions
Current Level - National Expectation	Rate of progress	Current Level - National Expectation	Rate of progress			
On	Above			On	On	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

This will reopen the form where information can be entered into 'Data Drop 3';

Data Drop 3

School's internal data

Current Level - National Expectation

Rate of progress

Clicking save at the bottom of the form will drop the information into the grid.

Subject	Qualifications Type	Baseline		Term 1 and 2		Term 3 and 4		Term 5 and 6		Expected Attainment at Year End	Expected Attainment at Phase End	Actions
		Current Level - National Expectation	Rate of progress	Current Level - National Expectation	Rate of progress	Current Level - National Expectation	Rate of progress	Current Level - National Expectation	Rate of progress			
Business Studies	GCSE	On	On	On	On	On	Above	Above	Above	On	On	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

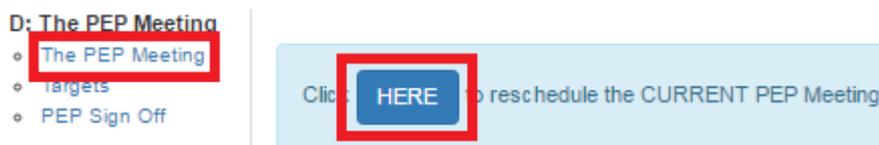
PEP Sign Off

The final piece of housekeeping before the summer break is ensuring your PEPs are marked complete. As you are all aware the PEP should be marked complete within the 7 day window after the PEP meeting, this is imperative to evidence the meeting;

Current Formal PEPs				
	Date Started	Target Date	Current Meeting Date	Year group
193826	31/05/2017	10/07/2017	03/07/2017	Year 10

However at the end of term 6 it is more crucial than ever that **all PEPs** for past meeting dates are closed with targets up to date and PEP write ups complete. PEPs remaining open on the system at the end of summer prevents files from being promptly transferred to new provisions where young people are transitioning schools and can cause data quality errors when the school year groups are updated.

If your PEP did not take place, the meeting date can be changed through the professional section → 'The PEP Meeting', then by clicking the blue button "Click HERE to reschedule the CURRENT PEP Meeting".



Contact

As ever, please do contact our team directly should you have any questions or queries and we shall be happy to help. Thank you for your hard work and we both wish you a fantastic summer.



03000 415353 - Rico and Maria



VSK_ePEP@kent.gov.uk



**[http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk-resources/
personal-education-plan-epep](http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk-resources/personal-education-plan-epep)**

EXAM RESULTS

Thanks to all our schools, you go over and above to support our children and as we come to the end of the academic year I am really hopeful that all your hard work comes to fruition - especially for our year 2s, 6s and 11s who have taken SATS/ exams.



As do all schools, VSK have a duty to collect end of key stage **exam results** for our children and so we would really appreciate your support with this. Your locality Asst Head will be in touch with you to organise arrangements for this – especially for A level and GCSE results as it may be that **your School Exams Officer** is the best person to contact us on the day. Please support us with this, it takes a massive effort to collect the results in quickly as we have to contact so many individual schools! If you can provide your VSK Assistant Head with details as to who to contact on the results days we would be very grateful.

I hope that the last few weeks of the summer term go well for you all and I look forwards to seeing you all in September!

Jo Kelly, Deputy Head (North and West Kent)

MISCHIEF MAKERS - THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Children aged 4-11 are invited to join the Summer Reading Challenge in all Kent's libraries, from 14 July to 15 September. The theme for 2018 is **Mischief Makers**; celebrating the 80th anniversary of the much loved comic, Beano.

Children taking part in the Challenge will follow clues to explore their colourful collector's map of Beanotown; meeting Dennis, Gnasher and friends along the way. As children read library books, they will collect special stickers to help them find the mysterious buried treasure.

To take part in the Challenge, all children need to do is sign up at their nearest library. When they have completed the Challenge by reading 6 books they will receive a medal and a certificate. **It's all free!** There's a website to add to the fun too www.mischief-makers.org.uk

Find out more at your local library or www.kent.gov.uk/libs



SOUTH KENT PAIRED READING PROJECT

South Kent are very proud to report remarkable results, yet again, from this year's Paired Reading Project in collaboration with Kent Education Psychology Service. 17 children took part this year and completed the 16 week scheme alongside their foster carers. Paired reading is a simple yet very effective way of improving a child's reading. It helps to improve their basic reading ability (i.e. the ability to read words quickly and accurately) and their ability to understand whatever is being read.

Foster Carers or Teachers/TAs read in tandem a book or piece of text of the child's choosing, but that is appropriate for their reading ability. The child chooses a signal that they use to alert the adult to stop reading with them once they feel confident to go it alone. The adult will always step in to help correct a word or say a word that the child gets stuck on. They then read together until the child uses the signal again. Continual praise is given to the child when they correctly read a word that challenges them.

The advantages to this approach include:

- Increased enthusiasm: children are encouraged to pursue their own interests in reading material.
- Lots of praise: pupils are told when they are doing well, instead of only errors being highlighted.
- Emphasis on understanding: not just mechanically reading, but getting the meaning out of the words on the page.
- Children are encouraged to read with expression and the right pacing.

The Foster Carers received training in order to deliver the correct technique and the VSK FELOs contacted them weekly in order to monitor progress and advise on any queries.



VSK Education Support Officers conducted YARK assessments prior to and at the completion of the project which provided us with measurable impact on reading age improvement. The children and their carers were then invited to attend a celebration event on the 9th May where they enjoyed a special tea, made some colourful book marks and listened to the energetic and exciting story telling of our special guest Whoopie!

All of the children were presented with certificates and medals for their participation and fantastic achievements on the project. At the time of the celebration event 7 children had completed the end of project assessment achieving in:

- Accuracy, 70 months progression which is an average of 10 months improvement in reading age.
- Reading Rate, 23 months progression, an average of 8 months improvement.
- Comprehension, 60 months progression, an average 9 months improvement.

A big thank you to the South Kent Team and Dr Rachel Standen for their enthusiasm in delivering such a wonderful scheme, which we hope shall be repeated with a new set of children next year.



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH EAST

Carole Bailey, Assistant Head (Dover & Folkestone)

Tel: 03000 417216 or Email: carole.bailey@kent.gov.uk

Welcome to the Dover and Folkestone news !

It has been a very busy time in South Kent this term. We have reached the conclusion of our paired reading project and you can read of the excellent successes of our young people and their carers - well done to all involved in this initiative, and thank you to Dr Rachel Standen and my team for their work in enabling this project !



We have recently been supporting over 20 young people in schools in Year 11 taking their Key Stage 4 examinations. We wish them and their schools every success and look forward to the results at the end of August. I should like to especially thank Paula Howe, Key Stage 4 progression officer, for her diligence in working with Year 11s to ensure they have onward plans for their post 16 ambitions. We also have young people currently awaiting their Key Stage 2 and 5 results, and similarly wish them every success with their onward plans.

We do not rest on our laurels in South Kent! Two of our education support officers have been undertaking further study this year to upskill; Abigail Ingram has been undertaking a course in speech and language, and Emma Wills is completing her SenCo qualification. Together with Jo Rees and Nicola Mitchell they are also completing their Nurture Group training to support schools in developing this type of work. Thank you ladies for your continued commitment to being best able to support our young people in developing their respective skills set.



In the new school year Emma will be moving to the Canterbury locality to further her SenCo knowledge, and I should like to especially thank her for the proficiency, expertise and passion she has brought to South Kent. I know she will be greatly missed by the Dover schools, but I am sure she will quickly establish herself in her new area .

Many will remember Lynn Griffiths who has recently been working in the Canterbury locality. We are pleased to welcome Lynn back to Dover and Folkestone in September, where she will initially be the lead support officer for the Dover schools.



I wish you all a restful summer break.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH WEST

Jen Kemp, Assistant Head (Ashford, Romney Marsh & Tunbridge Wells)

Tel: 03000 415685 or Email: Jennifer.kemp@kent.gov.uk

At this time, I am reminded of the wise words of Charles Darwin; *“It’s not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.”* I may well adopt this as South West Kent’s new moto!



My last update brought the very welcome news that Sammy Fletcher had joined the locality as ESO for Tunbridge Wells. Unfortunately for us, due to some staff

changes in East Kent, Sammy was re-located to the Canterbury

team. Fortunately for us, I was then able to appoint Vanessa Neal to our yet again vacant position, who is now firmly super glued to her desk at Kroner House! Vanessa, despite only being with us for three weeks has made a strong impact on our team and is already proving herself invaluable to the smooth running of our ship. I very much look forward to seeing what more we can accomplish now we have a full locality team.



Sam Pilcher has reaffirmed her position as ESO for Ashford and The Marsh meaning we welcome Paula Howe back to lead our Year 11’s onwards towards their post 16 career pathways. The whole South West Kent Team have been supporting our Year 6 and Year 11 students as they have embarked on the exam period and we wish all our students undergoing assessments the very best of luck.

This term we have celebrated the achievements of our Paired Reading project cohort and all enjoyed a very creative celebration event that you can read more about in this newsletter. A big thank you to Steve and Sam who supported both the foster carer’s and children who participated in the project. To quote the words of one carer; *“Thank you so much for G’s paired reading results and for your continued support with G over the past 3 years whilst she has been in my care. I do honestly believe that one of the reasons G did so well with this project is because she has known you for so long, what with the visits you carried out when she was with previous carers and the consistent support you give her at review meetings.”* It’s always so nice to hear such positive feedback and this helps to affirm the impact of VSK’s direct work with children and young people.

The new academic year will bring the opportunity to further evaluate the impact of local PP+ initiatives, whilst I also look forward to new projects such as the exciting Rowan Tree Dramatherapy course, supported by Children in Need, that VSK will be collaborating on.

See you again in September!



NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Margaret Hamlyn, Assistant Head (North Kent)

Tel: 03000 412777 or Email: margaret.hamlyn@kent.gov.uk



What have our children and young people been up to?

- Many of our young people have now got access to the Loan iPads to be able to access learning apps. One of these is TT Rockstars and they are competing to get points in learning their times tables. I wonder which group will top the table?
- Some of our young people are signed up for activities in the summer. It will be lovely to hear about them in September.

Let us know other great news about what they've been doing in their next PEPs...

Preparing for the end of the school year, school moves and goodbyes

I know our Year 6 students are eagerly awaiting their SATs results. I am sure they have done their very best and we will all be proud of their achievements. They will have already started their transition planning and visits to their new schools. This is a difficult period for many of the young people so support, which you all offer, is vital to them feeling less anxious. Good luck to them all!

Our Year 11s are just coming to the end of their exams and will have some anxious moments over the next 2 months waiting for the results. Again, I am sure they have all done their best and will, hopefully, gain access to the Key Stage 5 studies they would like to follow. We are around over the summer to give support and look at how their results affect their plans, so please let us know if any young person needs support.

Attendance has improved over the year, with the number of fixed term exclusions dropping. We are sure this trend, if continued, will support the progress of the young people and help them to achieve their potential.

Paired Reading

The group of young people have just finished this phase of the project. I hope they have all enjoyed the reading and discussions with their carers and I am sure the outcomes will reflect the time and effort put into this by everybody involved.

The celebration event for this year is with Jeremy Strong again. He enjoyed it so much last year that he made sure his diary allowed him to return.

I wonder what stories he will have for us all this time.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Staff Changes in the VSK North Kent Team

The world of VSK is ever-changing! Sam Armstrong-Mills has moved on to further study and time with her family. Our new Key Stage 4 Progression Advisor is Lisa Millgate, who comes with some experience of advising young people about Key Stage 5 options. She is settling in to the role quickly and will be available after the GCSE results day to support and advise about options for any who wish / need to make changes to their plans.

It is also time for me to say goodbye. I have really enjoyed my time with VSK, in all areas I have worked, and I have met some very special people along the way. I am off to Norfolk to spend more time with family and friends. I thank you all for the support I have received over the last 5 years, which has allowed me to support the young people, schools and other professionals.

Maths Mastery Project

Lisa Thistlethwaite has worked hard with others in the team to keep this project moving forward. As mentioned, the young people in KS 2 now have their iPads with learning apps, including TT Rockstars. I am interested to know how the challenges are going and which team will be top of the leader board!

The LAC Solihull Approach Training

The Solihull Training has now been offered to all areas of Kent and schools are busy organising their nurture groups ready for the new school year. Amanda Ormond has worked tirelessly to organise and support the delivery of these sessions, alongside Jo Kelly and Kelly Davey. She will now be busy supporting those schools who are setting up groups. Thank you, Amanda.

Speech, Language and Communication Project

This project is moving forward with the school in West Kent working with us to support young people with all types of SLCN. They have identified that many children lack vocabulary, so are looking at training Vocabulary Mentors to support small groups or individuals to progress in this area. This is just one of the areas being considered for support. The school are also developing staff to support outreach and training opportunities. Further updates next time!

And last but not least, look out for :

- The NK PP+ Support Map, which we are going to be updating over the next few weeks ready for the new school year.
- Your new Assistant Head, who starts with VSK at the end of August. I am sure you will all welcome her into the VSK team and into your schools.



Have a great summer! Margaret Hamlyn and the North West Team

Jemma Page, Assistant Head (Tonbridge, Maidstone & Malling)

Tel: 03000 412777 or Email: jemma.page@kent.gov.uk

Relax Kids

During the Easter break we held a Relax Kids Pre SATS Session for year 6 young people. They had a great time with a relax session first, then created resources to help support them in conquering their anxiety and worries. In their evaluations they named strategies that they felt able to use during the SATs with Star breathing and Power points being the most popular.



They all said they felt calm and relaxed at the end of the session with all except 1 giving 10/10....When the child who had rated the session 9.5 how we could improve it his response was *“You need Hot Chocolate then you would have got 10/10!”* ...Note to self, get hot chocolate for the back to school session!

TT Rockstars

The launch event took place at the end of May and was incredibly successful. All the children were given an iPad and were introduced to TT rockstars – a times tables app where they can improve their knowledge and quick recall of times tables. They began to play/race against each other to become top of the leader board. Positive feedback has been received from both children and foster carers – *“it’s great, it’s fantastic, they’re playing it every night”* are just some of the comments VSK has received since the training. Hopefully the iPads will encourage the children to make a huge effort to learn their times tables – which will then help all of their maths learning within school.

Letter Box has returned!

BookTrust the UK’s leading children’s reading charity work to inspire a love of reading in children. Following on from the success from the last three years and thanks to the positive feedback received from Foster carers and their young people, all children in YrR to Yr6 will receive a colourful parcel of books, maths games, stationery and other high-quality materials once every month for six months, from May to October.

Each parcel is carefully selected for a child based on their current reading levels and ability using the data shared by the young persons school. We hope this year’s parcels will be as well received as the previous years.



Simon Fosse-Collins, Assistant Head (Thanet)

Tel: 03000 418601 or Email: simon.fosse-collins@kent.gov.uk



Wow – it is almost the end of Term 6! I am sure that all your thoughts are turning to the holidays and how to spend as much time as possible by the pool with a tatty paperback and some cool cocktails.

The Thanet team are looking forward to some exciting news as two of our ESOs are expectant mums. Both Keira and Maria are not too far off 'popping' and all of us wish them the very best with their pending new arrivals. This does mean in September we will be welcoming new ESOs, and we will update you in due course. One new arrival is Andrea Jordan who joins us as an ESO and brings a range of experiences of working with children. I am sure many of you have already met her and I know she is looking forward to working with you all.

It was positive to hear the feedback from the March Multi-Agency Day. The two keynote speakers, Dr Andrew Curran and Dez Brown certainly made a massive impact on many of you. Both speakers challenged the audience to consider how our children develop and meet the challenges of being a child in care in East Kent. Work is already underway on booking next year's speakers.

The feedback from the Paired Reading scheme has been very positive. Anecdotally, the children have all made progress and developed a deeper interest in reading. Some of the carers have also rekindled their own passion for reading. When the formal analysis of the results has been completed it will be great to share them with you. We look forward to welcoming many of the participants to our celebration event on the 13th of July in Canterbury.

By this time many of our children will have completed their final exam leaving the prospect of the odd tearful good bye. Many of them find change deeply upsetting or unsettling and their behaviour might deteriorate rapidly. Sometimes they will sabotage long standing positive relationships in very negative ways, rather than accept some relationships end naturally. If you have children who need extra transition support, then please contact VSK to establish how we can support the young person in managing this difficult time.

The Thanet team would like to wish all our children the best for their results in the summer. For children who have completed their Y11/12 or 13 and are unsure about their future options, then they can always contact our Post 16 Team.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a good end to the summer term and hope that you enjoy the summer holidays. I look forward to meeting with you again in the autumn terms and please keep an eye on CPD online for Designated Teacher updates and other VSK events.

NEWS FROM THE EAST

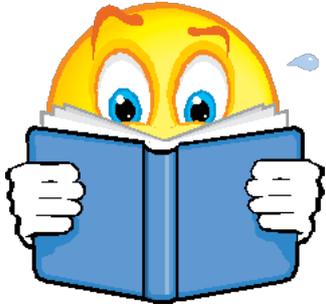
Gina Turner, Assistant Head (Canterbury)

Tel: 03000 419420 or Email: gina.turner@kent.gov.uk

Warm greetings from the Canterbury VSK team, it is lovely to see the sun and feel some heat at last!

The end of the academic year is fast approaching so it is time to reflect on the successes that defined 2017/18.

Our iPad lending scheme has continued to evolve and we have begun personalising the iPads so that students have access to support that is specific to their needs. This has taken some time to accomplish, but the result is amazing and is proving invaluable to the students who are using them.



The Paired Reading scheme has been very successful with supporting children to progress with their reading abilities and to ensure some special time at home with their carers sharing books. We are looking forward to the Canterbury celebratory event for all the hard work that these children and their carers have put into the scheme. There will be cake!

For another year we are fortunate in Canterbury to see the impact of the Coastal Alliance and Canterbury City Schools projects which have ensured that children in need of specific services and professionals such as therapy, Speech & Language interventions and Educational Psychology are assessed and supported appropriately. I would like to thank Herne Bay High and St Anselm's for organising these projects and Bonnie Tate and Anita Carney for taking the lead in their respective schools. The impact of this has been potentially life changing for some of our most vulnerable learners, so many thanks to all professionals involved for your hard work.

All of us in the Canterbury locality team would like to congratulate our Year 11 students who are preparing to enter the next stage of their life – it has been a difficult year under the new arrangements for GCSE and we are aware of the pressures young people have been under. Hopefully by now, you will know what comes next and can now unwind until September.

On a final note, it is with much regret that I announce the retirement of John Ollason, one of the Canterbury support officers and the creator of the iPad lending scheme. John has been with VSK for some time and now feels ready to take things easy and retire. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him the very best for the future – he will be sorely missed.



Joanne Hayes, Assistant Head (Swale)

Tel: 03000 415679 or Email: Joanne.Hayes1@kent.gov.uk



We are coming to the end of another school year, when it feels in some ways it has only just started! A lot has happened this year though, and we have enjoyed watching and helping the children grow and progress with all the hard work and support from the adults who care about them.

With lots of sports days and school trips taking place at this time of year we are pleased to see so many of our young people having the confidence and support they need to enjoy these activities. The academic side of things is important of course, but for children to develop holistically they need these experiences and opportunities too. We are very grateful to the schools who recognise that nights away can be scary for our children and may trigger difficult memories, but are able to give them the tools and sometimes even the words to deal with these situations and then be able to join in with all the fabulous activities they have planned for them.

There are plenty of community events going on this summer around Swale to keep the children engaged and active, as well as the events put on by VSK ourselves.

We are looking forward to hearing about the young people's successes over the summer, and supporting them onto their next steps. We hope you all have an opportunity for a bit of a rest, and that you enjoy the summer holidays. Let's hope the sun keeps on shining!

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT FOSTERING?

Open your heart and you could help to transform the lives of children and young people in Kent by becoming a foster carer.

KCC are especially looking for carers for:

- older children – aged 13 to 18
- siblings
- disabled children



Open your heart

kentfostering



If you think you can provide children with the stability and routine they need to flourish and develop then please give KCC Fostering a call on **03000 420 002** or come along to an information event <http://www.kentfostering.co.uk/events> to find out about the benefits, payments and all the great support KCC can provide you.

PARTICIPATION TEAM UPDATE

The last few months have been busy ones for the team!

Activity Days

The Easter holidays allowed young people to develop their acting, dancing and singing skills as they took part in our fun Performing Arts Days. We were amazed by how hard the young people worked on their routines and it was great to see them gaining confidence as the day went on. Over the May Half term, the team organised action packed sessions at Arethusa Activity Centre in Upnor and Revolution Skate Park in Broadstairs. At Arethusa, the young people had the chance to take part in archery and climbing. Some fears were definitely conquered on the climbing wall, with lots of young people reaching the very top! The archery was also a great opportunity for the young people to work as a team and show their competitive sides as they all vied for the top target score. Some talented young people also showed off their skills on the scooters at Revolution Skatepark, performing stunts and tricks, before getting kitted up in their harnesses and having a go at the climbing wall.



VSK Talent Showcase

On Friday 1st June, the Virtual School Kent Participation Team put on a Talent Showcase at County Hall in Maidstone. The aim was, to not only celebrate the amazing talents of our some of the young people we are privileged to work with, but also to dispel some of the myths around the stigma of being in care or being a care leaver. Rather than celebrating academic achievements, this event was about all the other amazing talents our young people have, which included dancing, singing, art and poetry. The show was a resounding success and was well attended by young people, senior leaders at KCC, Social Workers, Independent Reviewing Officers and Foster Carers.

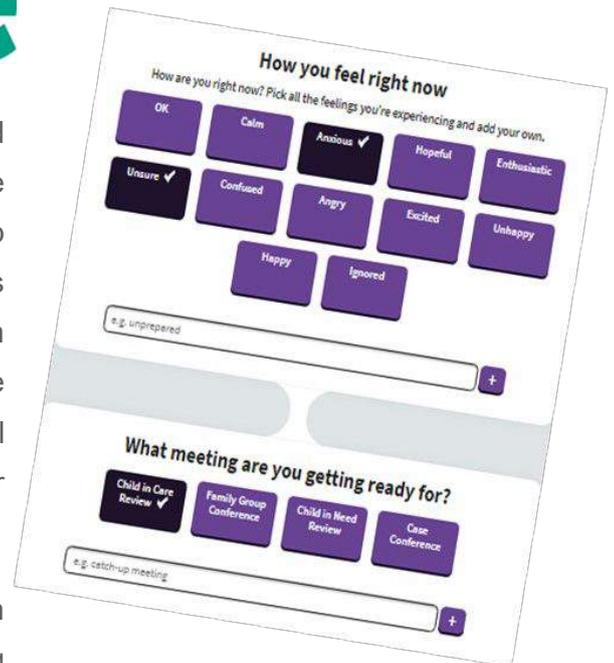
The day also featured a film made by the Participation Team and young people about the stigma young people face being in care, or as care leavers. The film was highly praised by Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services, as were the talents of all the young people on the day. It made us so proud to see so many young people having the confidence to get up on stage and perform in front of a live audience. They truly are an inspiration!

Please contact us if you would like more information about the activities we support or have children or young people that you think would like to get involved: VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk

There are lots of exciting opportunities taking place during the summer months!

In our Spring edition, we told you about a fantastic app called MOMO One which is for young people in care and care leavers in Kent between the ages of 8 and 21. The app makes it easier for young people to structure their thoughts and say what they want to say about topics important to them such as preparing for adulthood. It also helps young people talk to their Kent County Council workers, such as their Social Worker or Personal Adviser, by allowing them to send their views on to them any time they want, 24/7.

During the past two terms, the Participation Team have been out and about around Kent promoting the app to young people, foster carers and professionals.



 **Share my good news**

 **My worker is visiting**

 **Sort a problem**

 **Get ready for a meeting**

 **Change something**

 **Prepare for a Child Protection Conference**

The MOMO app can be downloaded onto an Android or Apple device, or young people can access it online through any web browser at app.mindofmyown.org.uk.

Once a young person has set up their Young Person account, they can use MOMO and send a statement to their worker anytime and anywhere they want using any device they have with an internet connection.

Get Involved:

- Have a look at the demo version of the app at <https://one-demo.mindofmyown.org.uk>
- Share MOMO with young people in care who you think might benefit from using the app to communicate with their Social Worker, Personal Adviser or Independent Reviewing Officer.
- Give young people time and/or access to a computer or laptop if they tell you they would like to send a MOMO statement to one of their workers.
- Let any colleagues who work regularly with young people in care know about MOMO and how young people can use it.

If you would like to find out more about MOMO or would like to receive user guides for young people, please contact Sarah.Newman@kent.gov.uk.

NOTE: MOMO Worker Accounts are intended solely for KCC staff working in Specialist Children's Services.

VSK Contact Information



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