



VIRTUAL SCHOOL KENT NEWSLETTER

Term 5 and 6 May 2023

VSK@kent.gov.uk



VSK Conference 2023

HOLD THE DATE

11th October 9:00 to 13:30

Detling Showground Maidstone

Details to follow in Term 6 on how to book your free place.

Virtual School Kent Awards Nominations 2023 Are Open!

Virtual School Kent are delighted to announce that nominations for this year's awards for Kent Children and Young People in Care and Kent Young Care Leavers are open and we encourage you to nominate young people for an Award.

VSK are busy planning some fun award celebrations based on feedback from young people. Please make a nomination yourself and help us encourage colleagues and schools to nominate to ensure that we share and celebrate our young people's achievements and that they do not miss out on the opportunity of being recognised and rewarded.

You can nominate care experienced young people from Early Year's settings, Year R to Year 13+ using the VSK Awards 2023 nomination form: [VSK Awards Nominations Form 2023](#)

Award Categories this year are:

- Outstanding or greatly improved academic achievement
- Outstanding or greatly improved engagement and/or attitude towards learning
- Outstanding contribution to the education, training, or employment placement
- Outstanding contribution to the community
- Wider achievements of note

****The deadline to make a nomination for Year 12, Year 13 and for our Care Leavers is Friday 9 June 2023.****

****Nominations for Early Years and Year R to Year 11 closes on Friday 7 July 2023****

****As in previous years we will not be able to accept any nominations after this date.****

If you have any further questions, please contact us at: VSK@kent.gov.uk

Post 16 Team

KS5 Virtual PEP Training

17th May and 28th June

KS5 PEP training at Canterbury College

25th May.

The Education People UK Creative Festival at Dreamland Margate

12th & 13th July

If you would like further information or make contact with our Post 16 Team please email I6plusvirtualschoolkent@kent.gov.uk

Out of County Team

The Out of County Team would like remind our schools outside of Kent with Kent CiC on their roll that you are able to access our CPD funding offer that was distributed at the start of the Academic Year. If you would like a reminder of what we have to offer please contact either your VSK lead for Out of County amanda.ormond@kent.gov or VSKAdmin.brook@kent.gov.uk

VSK would be able to fund training for your staff through our Pupil Premium Plus budget. An example of what is on offer can be seen via the link below and we have collated a list of providers that we have had experience of and believe would be beneficial to our schools.

[Trauma Informed Schools UK](#)

If you would like further information or make contact with our OOC Team please email VSKAdmin.brook@kent.gov.uk

East Kent Team

East Kent Designated Forum - Riverside Church Whitstable CT5 3JQ
Friday 30th June 1:30—3:30 pm

A chance to network with Designated Teachers from East Kent, share best practice while receiving the latest update from VSK

South Kent Team

Term 5 :

Wednesday 26 th April	TISUK assessment day at Riverside
Weds 10 th May 2 – 3.30 pm	Task and finish Group CIAG MS Teams
Tuesday 16 th May 3 – 4 pm	Partnership MS teams meeting (VSK, SEN, Social Services)
Thursday 18 th May 9.30 – 12.30 pm	SK Area meeting at Thistley Hill, Dover

Term 6 :

Thursday 15 th June 9.30 – 12.30 pm	SK Area meeting at Thistley Hill, Dover
Tuesday 20 th June 3 – 4 pm	Partnership MS Teams meeting (VSK, SEN and Social Services)
Thursday 29 th June 2023 pm	DT update at Aylesham Business Hub
Wednesday 12 th July 2023 pm -	New DT induction workshop at the Aylesham Business Hub
Thursday 6 th July 2023 all day	SK planning day at the Aldington Eco Centre

If you would like further information or make contact with our South Kent Team please email SouthVSK@kent.gov.uk

West Kent Team

Anxiety and Resilience online workshop by KEPS— for schools, carers and professionals

27th April 9:30—12:30

Anxiety Based School Avoidance online workshop by KEPS—for schools, carers and professionals

25th May 10:00-12:00

Drawing & Talking – Term 6

To be Confirmed

If you would like further information or make contact with our East Kent Team please email

WestVSK@kent.gov.uk

North Kent Teams

We are currently organising training and DT update date.

If you would like further information or make contact with our West Kent Team please email

WestVSK@kent.gov.uk



VSK Advisory Team

Working together to promote positive educational outcomes for children who have needed the support of a social worker. Interactive video course.

It has always been important for children and young people that the adults around them work together and have a shared understanding and language about the needs of the child. We are living through a prolonged collective trauma which has a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing for everyone in the community. Collective trauma requires collective recovery. So, it is not just important, it is essential that adults who work with children and young people and their families can work together with shared understanding and shared language.

This short interactive video course is designed to be accessible for busy people, and to promote discussions with others in the network around vulnerable children. We would recommend accessing this together, in groups, as the content encourages rich discussions. However, it can also be completed individually, making notes in the integral journal which can then be printed to share with others in discussion.

For other free KCA training, available to Kent schools, please visit [Online Training Opportunities:Virtual School Kent \(lea.kent.sch.uk\)](https://lea.kent.sch.uk)

East Kent Schools. Supporting Sensory Needs in the Classroom training, 4th July 2023 Venue TBC.

Children who have experienced Developmental Trauma can often present with Sensory Processing issues which can be misinterpreted as general behavioural problems, ADHD or ASD. By understanding the child's sensory needs, and developing sensory regulating strategies, schools can begin to dampen down over-responsive senses and activate under-responsive ones **within** the classroom.

This free in-person training has been developed by Kent Education Psychology Service, STLS, VSK and Adoption Partnership South East. It is aimed at all mainstream schools in East Kent wanting to learn how to support the regulation of their young people, **within** the classroom.

For more information please email: VSKAdvisoryTeam@kent.gov.uk

Participation and Engagement Team

We had a very busy and active Easter holidays, with pizza making, science days, as well as a circus skill day for disabled children and their families and an interactive role play day for our under 5's.



We also met with all our council members from Super Council, OCYPC, YAC, Adoptables and Children WHO Care

We are now busy planning our May half term activities which includes assault courses, Dover Castle, Archery and High Ropes, as well as a County Wide event for all young people's councils to meet, discuss topics together and have fun. Please look out for the flyers and pass on to any young people who may be interested.

We are now running our Young Adult Council (YAC) Extra.

Our Young Adult Council Extra will be centred around support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People aged 16 and over. Our first meeting took place in April at the Adult Education Centre. It will be an opportunity for the young people to share their views and opinions about how KCC supports them and for them to suggest ideas for improvements. The meetings will take place once every 2 months in Canterbury, we can pay for travel costs and food will be provided. For more information, please contact Kim.evans@kent.gov.uk

To keep up to date with what we are up to, please follow us on : Twitter - [@VirtSchl_Kent](https://twitter.com/VirtSchl_Kent)

Instagram - [participation_team](https://www.instagram.com/participation_team)

Email – VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk

If you would like further information or make contact with our P & E Team please email VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk