

VSK WEEKLY UPDATE



7 January 2026

“A New Year, A Shared Mission: Transforming Lives Together”

As we step into 2026, we celebrate the incredible partnerships that make our work possible—the dedicated professionals, passionate advocates, and resilient children who inspire us every day. Virtual School Kent isn't just about education; it's about creating opportunities, nurturing potential, and building brighter futures. This year, let's continue to break barriers, champion every child's voice, and show what's possible when we work as one team with one purpose: helping every child thrive.

2gether we champion every child's learning journey

0bstacles are met with care, creativity, and collaboration

2hearts and minds united to unlock potential and raise aspirations

6teps closer each day to brighter futures for children in care

Update from EKC regarding Year 11 Applications for September 2026 Entry:

EKC are aware of the problem with students successfully applying for a Course, but then finding they do not have a place on their preferred Course, come September.

We have carried out an analysis around this issue: it would appear that successful applicants are not clicking the **accept place** button, located in their Kent Choices Account.

If you are supporting Year 11s to complete Applications on Kent Choices, should they subsequently be offered a place on a Course, please check back in with them and make sure that they are accepting the offer.

They will then be invited in, in order of when they've accepted. Therefore, if they accept their place in January, they will be first on the list above anyone who accepts their place in July or August.

A reminder of upcoming Open Days at the EKC Colleges:-

[Open Day | Tuesday 27 January - Canterbury College](#)

[January Open Day - Dover College](#)

[February Open Day 2026 - Broadstairs College](#)

[February Open Day 2026 - Folkestone College](#)

[February Open Day 2026 - Ashford College](#)

Sparking Creativity!

The South Kent team have completed their first rollout of their new motivational project, Spark! Young people in year 6 and 11 have been taking part in creative workshops to boost confidence, support wellbeing, and increase motivation. Participants have had fun getting creative and making fantastic work and have all achieved their Discover Arts Award's- well done!

The project will run throughout the year for targeted individuals in the South Kent area. If your young person is selected to take part, the team will be in touch to let you know. If you'd like to find out more about the project, please get in touch with Louisa Clements: louisa.clements@kent.gov.uk



Reynolds Beauty Therapy

Sixth Form College Rainham & Whitstable sites
Our Beauty Sixth Form is a bespoke provision preparing learners for our industry. Learners will study the regulated VTCT NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Therapy General in year one and progress onto the regulated VTCT NVQ Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy Massage in year two. Additionally, learners will gain a Gel Polish Certificate and a Spray Tan Certificate. Professional Beauty Direct accredits both of these courses. Pre-requisite for acceptance on this course is GCSE Maths and English Grade 4 and above or Functional Skills level 2 Maths and English.

Telephone Whitstable & Rainham Landline: 01227 277743

Text Whitstable mobile: 07851996952 / Rainham mobile: 07745619055

Email: trainingwr@reynoldsgroup.co.uk

ERIC - Careers in the Creative Industries

What opportunities will you find on the app?

Everything is aimed for those with zero to no experience

- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- Events
- Competitions & Grants
- Training Schemes
- Workshops
- Courses
- Work experience
- Runner roles
- Freelance roles
- Junior roles
- Mentoring schemes
- CV and portfolio support
- Articles
- Podcasts
- Videos



This guide and toolkit was initially developed by the Virtual School Kent and the Kent Educational Psychology Service. Its aim is to support schools in their understanding of the importance of promoting relational approaches to create a sense of connection, school belonging and with trauma informed practices supporting all vulnerable children, particularly those who may struggle to attend school.

Relational Approaches to support School Belonging and Attendance:

A Guide and Toolkit

Kent County Council
April 2025



[Click here](#)

We'd love to hear from you!



How have VSK supported you or your team recently? Please take a moment to let us know by clicking the link below:

[Feedback Form: Share how VSK supported you](#)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21.01.26	Designated Teacher Update 15:45 online
22.01.26	Designated Teacher Update 8am & 12pm online
11.03.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 venue TBC (likely to be Gravesend based)
12.03.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Update 1pm @ TBC
24.03.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary
24.04.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
12.05.26	Designated Teacher Update 12:30 & 15:45 online
13.05.26	Designated Teacher Update 8:00 online
30.06.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
01.07.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ TBC
02.07.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:00 @ TBC
07.07.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary

Who To Contact



North Kent Assistant Head: Jo Hayes - northvsk@kent.gov.uk

West Kent Assistant Head: Jen Kemp - westvsk@kent.gov.uk

South Kent Assistant Head: Carole Bailey - southvsk@kent.gov.uk

East Kent Assistant Head: Simon Fosse-Collins - eastvsk@kent.gov.uk

Advisory Team Assistant Head: Emma Wills - vskadvisoryteam@kent.gov.uk

Post 16 Assistant Head: Catherine Thompson - 16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk

Post 16 NEET Team Lead: Samantha Perrin - 16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk

Out of County Team Lead: Amanda Ormond - virtualsschoolkentocc@kent.gov.uk



Instagram [participation team](#)



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