

# VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

10 June 2026

## VSK Pre 16 Awards Nominations – Live!



**The nomination window will remain open until Friday 3rd July at 5pm.**

Please be aware that no further nominations will be accepted after this deadline.

This is your opportunity to recognise the Kent looked after students that you support up to the academic Year 11.

We're keen to celebrate a wide range of achievements and contributions, so please consider nominating someone who shines in any of the following categories:

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

**You can submit your nominations using the VSK Pre 16 Awards Nominations 2026 form:**

**[VSK Pre 16 Awards Nominations 2026 – Fill out form](#)**





## Child Safety Week (1–7 June): “Don’t Leave Yourself Exposed” Campaign

For Child Safety Week, the iTHRIVE and Participation Team have launched “**Don’t Leave Yourself Exposed**”, a youth-informed campaign funded by the Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

This campaign responds directly to feedback from young people, who told us they need **earlier, clearer conversations about nude and explicit image sharing** — before something goes wrong, not only after.

Young people shared that discussions often happen too late. This campaign supports **early reflection**, helping pupils pause and think before asking for or sharing an image.

### What’s included:

- A **paired set of posters** designed to be displayed together, addressing both *sharing* and *asking for* explicit images
- A **youth-created assembly resource**, scripted by young people and developed with safeguarding oversight

The campaign avoids shame or fear-based messaging. Instead, it focuses on **trust, boundaries, and personal control**, recognising that some young people may experience pressure or coercion and may not always have trusted adults available.

### How schools can use this:

- Display the posters in prominent areas
- Deliver the assembly to support age-appropriate learning

Share the campaign’s Instagram content via school channels to reinforce key messages

These resources can support **safer, earlier conversations with children and young people aged 4–17**, both during Child Safety Week and beyond.

[Don't Leave Yourself Exposed - Kent Resilience Hub](#)



### Tiny Triumphs – New Video Series for Families

Kent Family Hub are pleased to share that the **Tiny Triumphs** video series is now live and available on YouTube.

**Tiny Triumphs** is a collection of short, engaging animations that help families recognise and celebrate everyday moments that make a big difference to children's development. Told through a child's voice, the videos highlight how simple interactions like talking, playing and listening together support children's growth, confidence and wellbeing.

Through relatable, animated family scenarios, the series reminds us that:

- **Small steps really matter**
- **Connection helps children grow**

#### **Everyday interactions build confidence and skills**

The series has been thoughtfully co-designed with a group of young parents to ensure it feels meaningful, inclusive, and easy to use in everyday conversations with families and carers.

We encourage schools, settings and professionals to watch and share these resources with staff, partners and families who may find them helpful.

**Watch the series on YouTube:**

[Tiny Triumphs | Early Years | Home Learning Environment - YouTube](#)

As part of our ongoing work to strengthen safeguarding and pupil voice, our recent Designated Teacher Network Meeting included input from an external speaker, Jermey Indika, who shared interactive methods to support young people in understanding safety, recognising feelings, and identifying trusted adults.

This input aligns with our wider focus on ensuring children feel heard, supported, and able to seek help.

If colleagues would like to explore this approach further, more information is available here:

<https://jeremyindika.com/primary-school/>



Set for Success - Youth Sport Trust

Set for Success is an intensive youth leadership initiative funded by the Wimbledon Foundation in partnership with Barclays and delivered by the Youth Sport Trust. It seeks to support young people at risk of not fulfilling their full potential.

Working nationwide, the programme supports young people from under-served communities to develop their life and leadership skills. Students from Year 9/ S3 identified by schools as benefiting from additional support to build confidence, resilience and aspiration will embark on a two-year journey.

SEND Transitions into Higher Education

This is a free conference to enable practitioners across sectors to collaboratively support disabled/SEND students, particularly ages 16-24, ensuring confident progression into HE and long-term career success.

**Date:** Wednesday 1 July 2026

**Time:** 9:30 - 15:00

**Venue:** University of Greenwich, Medway campus



The Big STEM Challenge - Social Enterprise Kent



UK Creative Festival & Careers Fair | Margate

# Book Your Place Today!

**WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2026**  
09.15- 2.45pm – with workshops between 10am and 2pm

**GUEST SPEAKER: ALFIE WATTS** – Winner of Race Across the World and ambassador for Young Minds.

Interesting and interactive, with workshops, opportunities to speak to universities and explore career options for young people and interventions and ideas for school staff.

This event is for all Designated Teachers, Senior Leadership Teams and the young people they support

**NO LIMITS**  
Virtual School Kent Conference  
DETLING SHOWGROUND, MAIDSTONE

Scan the QR code or go to <https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t> to register your interest

Logos: Virtual School Kent, NURTURE, Kent County Council

This is an **unmissable opportunity** for Designated Teachers and Senior Leaders and the young people they support in Years 8 to 13.

We are asking every school to sign up to ensure your staff and the young people you support benefit from this unique experience.

**Secure your place now via the QR code or booking link – don't let your school miss out.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t>



## PEP reminder:

Please ensure upcoming and overdue PEPs are prioritised and completed within statutory deadlines. Timely PEPs are essential to securing the right educational support for our children and young people.

# Virtual School Kent Advisory Team

Strategically championing the educational needs of children with a social worker, those previously in care and children in kinship care.



## Did you know VSK has an Advisory Team?

The VSK Advisory Team provides advice, guidance and signposting for education settings regarding three vulnerable groups of children and young people:

- **Ever6 Children with a Social Worker:** Children currently or previously subject to CIN, CP or assessment in the last 6 years, including those who have returned home from care.
- **Previously Looked After Children (PLAC):** Children who were in care and left via Adoption, Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Child Arrangement Order (CAO).
- **Children in Formal Kinship Care:** Children living with relatives under a formal court order (SGO or CAO) who were not previously looked after.

## What do we offer?

Although children in these cohorts do not have an allocated VSK officer, the Advisory Team is available when needed to discuss concerns about individual children or groups, and to help plan next steps and solutions to support their education and wider outcomes. Parental consent is required to discuss a named child or share personal information. Cohort or anonymised discussions can take place without consent.

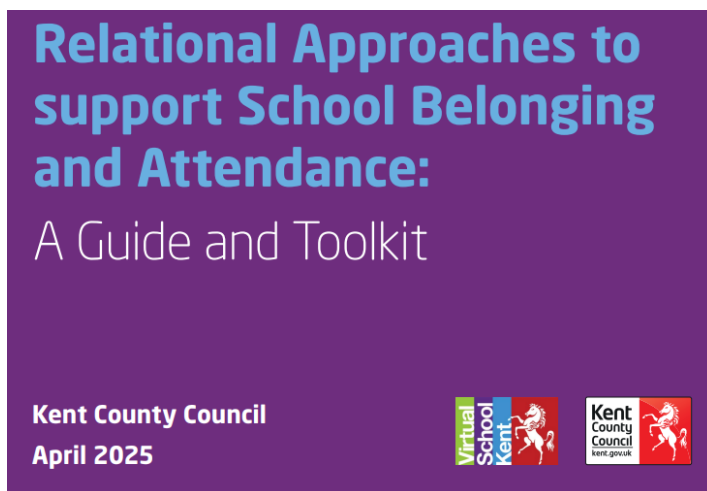
## Get in touch

- To find out more, visit the VSKAT section of our website: [VSKAT Introduction | Virtual School Kent](#)
- To discuss a child or cohort, complete the contact form (remember to obtain consent if required) [VSK Advisory Team - Request Advice](#)

We also welcome examples of good practice, strategies, and success stories. Understanding what works well across the county helps us provide the best possible advice to schools, families and professionals supporting the VSK Advisory Team cohorts.

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.

[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](#)



# Book Your Place Today!

**Click. Book. Secure. *Don't miss out.***

30.06.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30 @ Whitstable Youth Hub <a href="#">East Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form 30th June 2026</a>
01.07.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ <a href="#">North Team - Virtual DT briefing - 01 July 2026 -Term 6 – Fill in form</a>
02.07.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:00 Online <a href="#">Countywide Virtual Designated Teacher Updates – Fill in form</a>
07.07.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Update / Induction 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary <a href="#">South Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form Tuesday 7th July 2026 – Fill out form</a>
07.10.26	VSK No limits Conference @ Detling showground for Primary/Secondary and College staff. Sign Up form <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t">https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t</a>



# Who To Contact



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<http://kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk>