

VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

18 March 2026

Dear All

Virtual School Kent are *delighted* to announce that nominations for this year's VSK Post 16 Awards are now open for Kent Young People in Care and Kent Young Care Leavers currently in Years 12, 13, 13+ or who are in employment/training.



We encourage you to nominate young people for an Award.

You can make a nomination yourself and help us share this information with other colleagues so they can make a nomination. This will ensure that we are able to celebrate our young people's achievements and help make sure that they do not miss out on the opportunity of being recognised and rewarded.

Link to Nomination Form: [VSK's Post 16 Award's Nominations 2026 – Fill out form](#)

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 is 5.00pm – Friday 8th May 2026

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



NEURODIVERSITY

— CELEBRATION WEEK —

March 16th to 20th is Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

It is a time to recognise and celebrate the unique perspectives and strengths of neurodiverse people, including the children and young people we support, as well as adults, such as their parents and carers, and our co-workers.

It is also a time to reflect on inclusion and equality in our education settings.

Mentally Healthy Schools have lessons plans for both Primary and Secondary aged pupils, to help them understand that everyone thinks, learns and experiences the world in their own unique way.

[Neurodiversity Celebration Week: primary presentation : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)

[Neurodiversity Celebration Week: secondary presentation : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)



THE
ADOPTABLES



FREE GIRLS' RUGBY FESTIVAL!

AGES 7-12 YEARS (Y3-Y7)

FREE!



Saturday 21st March
10:30 - 13:00



Ashford Rugby Club
Kinneys Fields, Kinneys Lane
TN24 9QB



Fun rugby activities for girls of all abilities



Coaching and games
Contact and non-contact rugby



Led by qualified coaches



**THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TROPHY
WILL BE THERE FOR PLAYER PICTURES!**



ASHFORD
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



England
Rugby

SIGN UP NOW!

[GCSE Exam Preparation Masterclass | How to Maximise Every GCSE Mark | The Degree Gap](#)

A free parent and student masterclass focused on the final run up to exams. English, Maths and Science strategies that directly translate into higher marks.

Live online · 26th March · 7 to 8pm UK time

Kent School of Fashion, located in Canterbury, are offering the following free Summer School:

[Creative Summer School - \(6 -16 Yr Olds\) Fashion, Photography, Painting, Drawing, Robotics and Crafting.](#)

Looking for something exciting, inspiring, and creative for your child this summer - Our Creative Summer School, funded by the BBC Children In Need, offers a safe and vibrant space for young people to explore the world of art, design, and innovation — all while making friends and building confidence.

Contact:

hello@kentschooloffashion.com

Market 1 – Turner Contemporary, Margate Saturday 4th April 2026 (Easter weekend)

Our first market of the year will take place Inside the Foyle Rooms at Turner Contemporary. This is a brilliant fit for the Teenage Market, offering a modern, creative setting with excellent footfall from both local visitors and tourists over the Easter weekend.

This market will be limited to 25 stall spaces, and applications are now open. We'll be selecting carefully to ensure a good mix and variety of products.

🔗 When applying, please make sure you upload plenty of clear photos and include a really detailed description of what you'll be selling.

Students can apply to take part here:

<https://theteenagemarket.co.uk/events/margate-easter-teenage-market/>

Market 2 – The Pavilion, Broadstairs Sunday 14th June 2026 (Dickens Festival weekend)

Our second market will take place at The Pavilion in Broadstairs, timed to coincide with Dickens Weekend. This event attracts large crowds from across Kent and beyond, making it a fantastic opportunity to trade in a busy, vibrant town.

This market will also be limited to 25 stall spaces, so when applications open, we'll again be selecting carefully to ensure a good mix and variety of products.

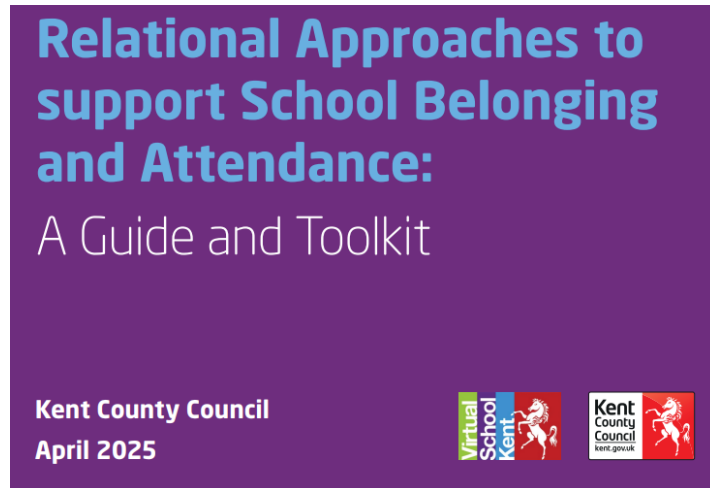
🔗 As with our other markets, please upload plenty of clear photos and include a detailed description of what you'll be selling when you apply.

Students can apply to take part here:

<https://theteenagemarket.co.uk/events/broadstairs-dickens-weekend-teenage-market/>

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](#)



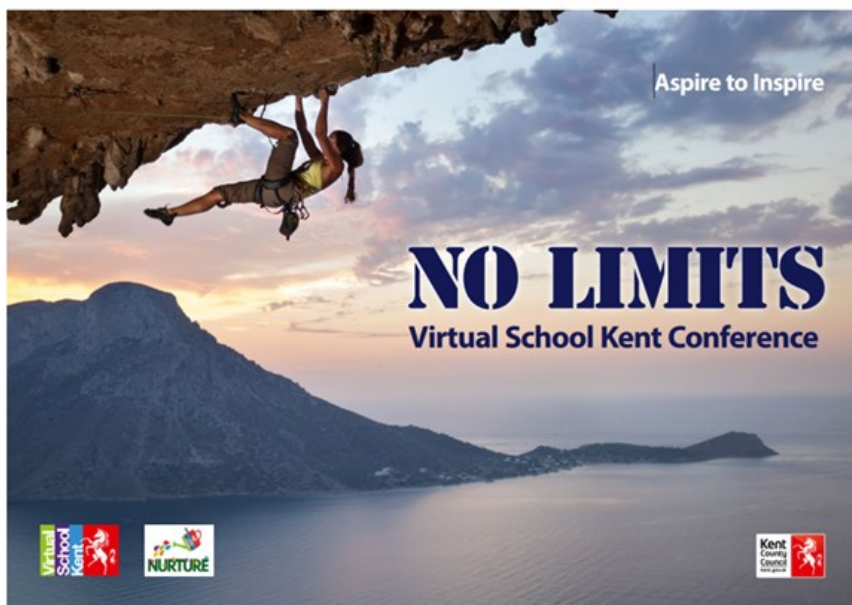
Book Your Place Today!

TISCUK Training — Training for Education Settings | Virtual School Kent:

- Senior Leads Training 26th and 27th March OR 18th and 19th June
- Transforming Behaviour Through Trauma-Informed Approaches 31st March
- Diploma in Trauma-Informed Mental Health Schools 11 days starts 16th March

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

30.04.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum @ Green Banks - Thanet MASH East Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form 30th April 2026
12.05.26	County Wide Designated Teacher Update 12:30 & 15:45 Online Countywide Virtual Designated Teacher Updates – Fill in form
13.05.26	County Wide Designated Teacher Update 8:00 Online Countywide Virtual Designated Teacher Updates – Fill in form
30.06.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30 @ Whitstable Youth Hub East Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form 30th June 2026
01.07.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ North Team - Virtual DT briefing - 01 July 2026 -Term 6 – Fill in form
02.07.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:00 Online Countywide Virtual Designated Teacher Updates – Fill in form
07.07.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Update / Induction 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary South Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form Tuesday 7th July 2026 –



SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday
7th October
2026
10am til 2pm

DETLING SHOWGROUND
GUEST SPEAKER: ALFIE WATTS –
Winner of Race Across the World
This event is for Designated
Teachers, Senior Leadership
Teams and the young people they
support



Join Us at the “No Limits” Virtual School Kent Conference!

We’re excited to announce this year’s **No Limits** Virtual School Kent Conference on **Wednesday 7th October 2026**, from **10am to 2pm**, at **Detling Showground**.

This inspiring event is designed for **Designated Teachers, Senior Leadership Teams, and the young people they support in Years 8 to 13**. Together, we’ll explore ambition, resilience, and what it truly means to aspire without limits.

We’re also thrilled to welcome our guest speaker, **Alfie Watts – Winner of Race Across the World**, who will be sharing his remarkable journey and the lessons he learned along the way.

Please save the date and start planning which young people you’d like to bring—this is an event they won’t want to miss!

Who To Contact



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

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

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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](#)



Facebook [VSK Participation Team](#)



X [@VirtSchl Kent](#)



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