

# VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Brighton and Hove

Our mission statement:

To enhance the life opportunities for children in care by supporting their education and enabling them to achieve the best they can.



## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2015

### NEW VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER



I would like to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of the Virtual School for Brighton and Hove City Council. This role is now statutory and champions the educational needs of Brighton & Hove's children in care wherever they are educated. I am very excited about taking on the further development of the Virtual School and my role. I will build upon my expertise gained whilst working as a Virtual Head for Warrington Borough Council, Local

Authority cross phase school improvement roles and leadership and teaching experience in secondary schools. There have been some real successes by children in care in Brighton & Hove and I am keen to ensure that we all work collaboratively so that children in care really do achieve their full potential.

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

#### Revision Tools

**Bitesize:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

#### SAM Learning:

<http://www.samlearning.com>

Centre ID; BN3 BH1.

Individual log ins are;

DOB+ Initials

(e.g. 150892EM = 15th August 1992 Emily Mitchell)

#### Accessing Tutors

All young people can have a 1:1 tutor and it has proven especially valuable for Yr 6's preparing for SAT's.

**Please call Rob Caddick 01273 296480**

#### Key Stage 4 / Year 10 or 11?...

The Virtual School can offer up to 2 hours a week tuition to support in any subject.

Please contact Fran Coughlan on: **01273 293821**

**[virtualschool@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@brighton-hove.gov.uk)**

### CONTACT US

**Post:** Lavender Street, Kemptown, Brighton, BN2 1JU

**Tel:** 01273 293992

**Email:** [virtualschool@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

### VIRTUAL SCHOOL CLUBS

#### **Dance club Sch Yr's 5-11**

**Thursday evenings 6.30-8.30pm**

**Patcham High School dance studio**

**Tutor: Nina Perring (Patcham High Dance teacher)**

#### **Athletics club Sch Yr's 5+**

**Thursday evenings 4.30-5.30pm**

**Withdean Sports Complex (trackside)**

**Tutor: Richard Carter**

#### **Table Tennis Club Sch Yrs 5-11**

**Monday evenings 5 - 7.30pm**

**Brighton Youth Centre, Kemptown**

**Tutor: Tim Holtam**

### CHANGES TO PUPIL PREMIUM

The Pupil premium has now increased to a maximum of £1900 to support the education of any child in care. We expect schools to lead on the decision on how best to use this money but we expect it to be used towards things like tuition, extra support required, books, school trips and activities. This spend should be agreed at PEP meetings that Social Workers, Foster Carers and Schools attend.

### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TRIP 2014

The Virtual School took ten young people on a Visit to Cambridge University in October as part of a 'Raising Aspirations Project'.

The day trip to the Churchill Campus included a tour and a meal in the great hall, information about provision for care leavers and then a talk from a current care leaver on how he came to study law at Cambridge. This was followed by a walk through the historic city and visit to Trinity College. The day was insightful and educating and was finished off with punting down the River Cam. Look out for more exciting future opportunities!



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## ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

On 21<sup>st</sup> November we were proud to hold our 14<sup>th</sup> annual awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of children in care. 48 young people received awards, celebrating an amazing range of achievement including academic, sporting, musical, acting, dancing and community work. This year the event was at the Metropole Hilton, and the awards were handed out by the Mayor, Brian Fitch, his wife Norah and Pinaki Ghoshal, Director of Children's Services. Young people received a trophy, certificate and high street shopping voucher. We were entertained by Purple Lightning, our in-house young people's band who gave a performance that was both technically accomplished and emotionally engaging; our iMove dance group who performed two great pieces "Reflection" and "I love to Boogie"; and Only One D, a One Direction Tribute band who got lots of the children up on their feet dancing! In the foyer was a manga artist, a face painter and a magician. On the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1 we were privileged to hear a powerful poem written as if a diary entry from that time in the trenches by a young man who put the poem to music with archive images; an impressive and profoundly moving piece of work. The nominees and their guests had a fantastic day and everyone really enjoyed themselves.



Feedback received was extremely positive and one young person said when asked what they liked about the event:

*"The whole afternoon was fantastic. I loved the food and the lady drawing people - she was brilliant. It couldn't have been better!"*

Well done to all our amazing young people who have worked so hard this year in so many ways. We are all proud of you and what you have achieved!



## DESIGNATED TEACHERS NETWORK - 2015 DATES:

### Primary DT's :

Thursday 5th March 15.45 - 17.00 Davigdor Infant School  
Thursday 11th June 15.45 - 17.00 Aldrington Primary

### Secondary DT's:

Tuesday 3rd March 15:45 - 17:00 BHASVIC  
Tuesday 9th June 15:45 - 17:00 Dorothy Stringer



## WHO ARE WE?

Mark Storey - Headteacher **01273 294271**

Lyndsey Grice - Administrator **01273 293992**

Fran Coughlan - KS4 Education Adviser **01273 293821**

Rob Caddick - KS 2/3 Education Adviser **01273 296480**

Una McCartan - KS 1/2 Education Adviser **01273 293432**

Darren Muirhead -16+ Adviser (Wed - Fri) **01273 294533**

Dan Geer - Primary Mental Health Worker (Mon, Tues pm & Wed) **01273 294056**

Abigail Bickford-Smith- Senior Education Psychologist (maternity cover) **01273 296820**