

# 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.



## Autumn 2nd half term Newsletter (November 2013)

### Good News... Children in Care Celebrations 2013!

### Snapshots...



On 4th November the annual CiC Awards Ceremony was held at the Corn Exchange. The theme was **CARNIVAL** and it was wonderful to see so many of our young people being recognised for a diverse range of achievements, including success at school, sports, music and community work. The room looked fantastic as you can see from the photograph below. Nominees and their guests were entertained with performances from our young people's band Purple Lightening pictured above, vocal group The Diamonds and dance group iMove, showcasing a huge range of talent and performance skills. Well done to the 54 young people who received an award— we're already looking forward to next year's event!



### This Term...

#### Key dates:

- November GCSE re-takes
- Burning the clocks - 21st December!
- Year 11 visits to Post 16 provision

#### Things to look out for:

- Welfare Call - We are really pleased to let you know that we will soon be working with a company called Welfare Call who will be contacting all of the schools our children attend to help us track their attendance, exclusions and progress. We hope that this will be another way in which we will be able to help quickly when things aren't going so well. It will also help us to know how things are going every term rather than just when a PEP happens. We will send out more detailed information to schools and carer's in the near future.

### 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

#### Are you in 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 or Lyndsey Grice on;  
**01273 293992 / 01273 293821 or**

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

### What do you want?

Please send us any suggestions or ideas you would like to see the Virtual School offer for YOU! For example this could be a new club you would like to be part of...

### Contact us...

**Add:** Lavender Street, Kemptown,  
Brighton, BN2 1JU  
**Tel:** 01273 29 3992  
**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

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.



## What's on?

### The Virtual School Steering Group -

The Virtual School now has a Steering Group. This is a group of people who will meet up every term to look at how well the school is doing in helping raise the educational outcomes of children in care. The group is led by the Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion and has a number of people on it who are interested including a foster carer, a social work manager and a senior manager from a school. Mary Hinton, as Headteacher prepares a report for each meeting. If you would like to know more or have anything that you would like the group to look at please contact Mary

## Good News...

Hello, I am currently studying in year 11 at Dorothy Stringer. I joined mid-year 9 and thought it would be hard to settle in as being part of a minority in many ways: race, religion and being a foster child. However, the school put aside my differences and treated me as they would any other child. After a year had past I felt comfortable enough to apply for the post of head girl. Later being told that no child in foster care had managed this, I was up for the challenge. Personally I didn't think I could do it as I had only been at Stringer a year in contrast to the 12 other girls who had started in year 7. After the voting had ended, the candidates got shortlisted to 3, after a shaky interview, I managed to get the role of Deputy Head girl. I am very pleased and am still smiling....as always. Please do not feel pressured in school, be yourself and let the rest fit in. being in care does not make you any less important or different and it's nothing to be ashamed of; just show everyone how resilient you can be. Good luck for the future.

## Quote... Director of Children's Services; Pinaki Ghoshal



I've been the Director of Children's Services in Brighton & Hove for the last four months. As a teacher and manager I have had the opportunity to work with many children and young people in care. I have experienced stories that have upset me but also experiences that have uplifted me. As the person responsible for education, social care and some health services for children I want to make sure that we engage with you and with all of our children and young people. This helps to make sure that we deliver excellent

services and that these services make a real difference to your lives. I'm committed to ensuring that you are all safe and happy and that we properly prepare you to become successful adults. If we need to make changes to make this happen then the changes will be made. Over the next few years I want this city to be one of the best places for children and young people, all children and young people to grow up in.

## Contact us...

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

**Tel:** 01273 29 3992

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

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

## What's on offer...

### Virtual School Clubs



**Girls Dance - (Sch Yr's 6-11) Mon 7-8.30pm**

**Table Tennis - (Sch Yr's 5-11) Mon 5.30-7pm**

**Basketball - (Sch Yr's 6-9) Tues 5-6pm**

**Athletics - (Sch Yr's 6-9) Tues 4.45-5.45pm**

**Vocal - (Sch Yr's 7-11) Thurs 4-5pm**

**Skate club - (All Sch Yr's) Thurs 4.15-5.15pm**

All of the clubs will begin on various dates so please get in contact if you are wanting to join!

Contact Lyndsey Grice on 01273 293992 or email; [virtualschool@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@brighton-hove.gov.uk).

We must have names of young people signed up for each club so please get in touch to book a space!

### Homework club

<http://www.brighton-hove-rpml.org.uk/Libraries/Pages/Homeworkclubs.aspx>

### Consultation service

Any professional working with CiC... Contact (29) 3992

## Who are we?

Mary Hinton — Headteacher **294271**

Fran Coughlan — KS4 Education Worker **293821**

Robert Caddick — KS 2/3 Education Worker **296480**

Una McCartan — KS 1/2 Education Worker **293432**

Lyndsey Grice — Administrator **293992**

Catherine Mellor — Primary Mental Health Worker (Mon, Tues pm & Wed) **294056**

Darren Muirhead — 16+ Worker (Wed—Fri) **294533**

Nicola Gardner — 16+ Worker (Mon—Wed am) **294534**

Vivian Fahmy — Education Psychologist **296820**