

Spring has Sprung!

And we are looking forward to celebrating achievements!

Here at the Virtual School, we are focused on creating our first awards ceremony in 2 years. We are incredibly excited to finally bring the school together again to celebrate our children's incredible successes.

The Virtual School Annual Awards Ceremony 2022 will be held at <u>The Republic</u> on the 1st of April 2022 at 6pm. The Republic is the site of the Town Hall, but by this time next year Tower Hamlets will have moved to a new Town Hall in Whitechapel. The evening will be a historic goodbye to East India.

The night will feature Lemn Sissay poet and author as host, plus video contributions from our children who have working with amazing people like the author Alex Wheatle MBE and the English National Ballet.

Both Lemn and Alex are care-experienced friends of the Virtual School. Alex is an author and winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. His <u>life story</u> features in Small Axe, a 2020 anthology of five films by Steve McQueen about the West Indian community in the UK during the 1970s and 1980s. Lemn will tell you more about his life on the night.

I look forward to celebrating with children, carers and social workers.

Read more about the services and resources available to children, young people, carers and teachers during the spring and summer term. Remember, you can always check our <u>events calendar</u> to find out more!

David Cregan Virtual School & Executive Headteacher

THVS Learn app for DTs, Children and Carers

Music Production

GCSE Study Support, and Local Projects

Annual Awards Ceremony

Do you have a story for our newsletter? Contact us vsinfo@.towerhamlets.gov.uk





DT Support Carer Information Health and Wellbeing Have you visited our website?

The DT Role
Support for Carers
TH Wellbeing Service and GP Service Video
Home (towerhamlets.gov.uk)



It's in Your Hands!

Support is always available at the Virtual School. Your Virtual School Teacher, DT and wider resources, on and offline will help you to make the right choices for a bright future!

Fabulous Futures

Mantra Music is a care leader's record label run by the founder of the Ric Flo organisation, highlighting art, music and animation. Ric is an inspired speaker and is one of our Friends of the Virtual School. If you are over 18 and would like to break into the music industry, this may be your way to start your journey!

RICH MIX

Rich Mix is another amazing organisation there to help young people starting out as creatives. If this is you, watch this short video, and visit their site in Bethnal Green.

Focused Study Support for GCSE

If you're in years 9-12, individual and small group study support will be provided by the Virtual School, over half term breaks throughout the academic year. You will be able to discuss your English, Maths or Science progress with a tutor and address any learning gaps. Approach your exams with confidence!

Do you have a story or suggestion for the Virtual School newsletter? Contact us at

vsinfo@.towerhamlets.gov.uk

5-25 Years Old?

Your future is in the palm of your hands! Care experienced children, young people can find free interactive resources from the Virtual Schools' **THVSLearn** app available on smartphones, tablets and computers. Available online and offline, our curriculum library provides on-demand access to core curriculum support, extra reading, advice about further education, semi-independent living, support at Tower Hamlets and to PSHE resources.

For smartphones, look for THVSLearn at the AppleStore or GooglePlay
For desktop, visit:
https://thvslearn.nimbl.uk/ Your
Virtual School teacher will provide you with a username and password.

For further information about independent living, courses, services, employment and life opportunities beyond 16, Tower Hamlet's Young People's Coordinator Farhan has developed Tower Hamlets Know Now for Apple and Android

You will find further links to study, employment, training and events here.

Making Changes

The Through Care Service (TCS) provides services in partnership with key agencies to young people being looked after by the council, or who were looked after by Tower Hamlets before moving towards independence. The TCS provides practical, social and emotional support for young people from 14 years to 25 years; guiding them through education and job choices, helping them to find the right accommodation and providing advice on day to day living experiences as appropriate. This support was previously only available to care leavers until the age of 21.

Corporate Parenting Board

The Tower Hamlets Corporate
Parenting Board (CPB) demonstrates
our continuing commitment to the
corporate parenting principles and
shows how we deliver on them
across many partnerships and
services. The board meets on a
quarterly basis and has
representation from Councillors,
young people, foster-carers, partner
organisations and senior managers
from across the Council. Find out
more here.

(Source: Annual Report 2020/21)

"Interviewing Alex Wheatle was so interesting. And it helped me to understand more about my experiences in care!" Year 11 student



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