



THVS Newsletter

Summer/Autumn 2021: No 1

Welcome!

Tower Hamlets Virtual School achieves its highest outcomes to date at GCSE.

Five years ago, I stepped into the role of Virtual Headship of Tower Hamlets. The role was created to address the concerns that pupils in care had the worst educational outcomes of any group in the UK. Virtual Schools are a strategic group of education professionals influencing care, schools and carers to prioritise pupils' education as a source of protection and a means to create independence as an adult. We provide a range of educational support that follows a child or young person wherever their care journey takes them.

My time in post means I've passed an important milestone by taking a Year 7 through to Year 11. I am really pleased to report that these children have achieved the highest levels of attainment we have ever achieved as a Virtual School. 46% of our young people achieving Level 4+ in E/M with 3 other subjects against a national average of just 14%.

There were many outstanding individual results, in particular 3 young people achieving level 9s in Maths. These outcomes are due to excellent teaching in our partner schools, the collaborative work of Designated Teachers in those schools, carers, children's homes and other institutions nationwide that we support. We want to thank all our partners who have our pupils achieve these results.

David Cregan Virtual School & Executive Headteacher

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Outstanding Individual Results

Getting back to 'normal'

Training for Teachers and Carers

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 and Guidance](#)
[Training](#) and [Resources](#) 2021-2022
[TH Wellbeing Service](#) and [GP Service Video](#)
<http://virtualschool.towerhamlets.gov.uk>



Looking Forward to the Future



The Virtual School will be restarting its programme of enrichment this year and we hope that carers and social workers will encourage our pupils to come along and 'Give it a Go'!

Supporting our Children: Enrichment

Virtual Schools were set up to support and promote the educational achievement of children in the care of local authorities. We believe this success is boosted when pupils have access to enrichment and extra-curricular activities outside the classroom.

Give it a Go activities are a good way to boost student's confidence, improve their social skills and extend their range of friendships and networks. It also provides young people with the opportunities to learn new skills and explore different talents.

Taking part in sports, drama and creative events can also offer students experiences of success that may elude them in academic study.

These ideas are supported by a recent report by the Social Mobility Commission, which links access to extra-curricular activities to employment success. Details on out of school hobbies and clubs is useful information for students completing personal statements and job applications and is greatly valued by employers.

Getting back to 'normal'

Part of getting back to 'normal' will mean not having to self-isolate and miss vital time at school. We work with many organisations. And our Friends of the Virtual School play an important role in making your time outside school eventful and fun too!

We again look forward to working with theatre companies, creative networks, activity centres, authors, universities and speakers. We are especially looking forward to restarting our annual awards evening, when we will get the chance to meet and award many children and young people who have worked so hard during a difficult 18 months.

If you would like to share your experiences of getting back to normal and what has helped you, or even if you'd like to share your ideas about what the Virtual School could do, please contact us. We are happy to hear and share your views.

Bounce Back to Learning!

Naturally enough, the Virtual School is all about learning and wellbeing too! All our young people, carers and teachers have passwords and codes to access the [THVS Learn app](#). There's so much there related to learning and some sections can be found via this link on wellbeing related topics such as Self Awareness, Personal Development, My Care, Highs and Lows, Relaxation. Contact the Virtual School for your code and password if you don't have one.

We have learned to reach out and communicate in new and more effective ways to support professionals, carers and young people. We can share work and new tools via our website, app and events calendar, facilitate special training events throughout the year, and reach out to the 60% of our children and young people living outside Tower Hamlets. Our blended approach, working online and face-to-face, is working well.

"It's vital that our Virtual School enrichment and activity programme helps our children to feel safe and supported!" David Cregan Virtual School Headteacher



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