



Would this be good enough for my child?

Autumn 2025

# Tower Hamlets Virtual School Newsletter

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## Changes for Learners

Firstly, I'd like to wish all our carers and children a very Happy Christmas. Whether you celebrate or not, this break is a welcome chance to relax, reconnect, and prepare for the second half of the year. As a Headteacher, I often think of this point as the halfway mark—especially for those in Years 6, 11, and 13 who will soon begin revision for exams finishing by June. Schools are complex places, and the Virtual School's role is to help carers and social workers navigate them, so our children achieve the best outcomes.

Over the next three years, the National Curriculum and exam system will be reformed to make learning fairer, broader, and less stressful for all young people—including those in our care.

### What could change?

- A 10% reduction in GCSE exam time, with streamlined content to ease pressure while maintaining standards.
- Removal of the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8, giving schools freedom to offer creative, vocational, and practical subjects.
- Stronger foundations in reading, writing, oracy, and maths in primary and early secondary, plus new content on citizenship and media literacy. Year 8 will include diagnostic checks to catch gaps early.
- Greater use of digital tools and accessible assessment for learners with SEND. Our staff will attend the BETT event at ExCeL, 21–23 January, to explore innovation.
- Clearer post-16 pathways: alongside A Levels and T Levels, a new vocational "V Level" route will offer practical progression. Expansion of BTEC-style learning is welcome.

### What can carers, social workers, and children do?

- Keep communication open with schools and the Virtual School.
- Ask about flexible subject choices at options time or through extended school and clubs.

These reforms aim to remove barriers so every child—including those in care—can succeed. Let's continue working together to be the very best.

Have a lovely break, and I look forward to seeing you all at the Virtual School Awards on 13th February 2025.

**David Cregan**  
Executive Headteacher of the Corporate School for Children Vulnerable



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# GIAG Give it a Go Activities



Our **Forest School Activity Day** was a fantastic success! Young people enjoyed a full day of outdoor fun, from nature walks and wildlife spotting to tree climbing and rope courses. The campfire cooking and fresh mini pizza making were big hits, and the arts and crafts using natural materials sparked creativity. Team challenges brought everyone together, and the environmental education sessions inspired curiosity and care for nature. It was a joyful, enriching experience that celebrated the magic of the outdoors during half term.

## Contact Shah:

[shahirul.bashar@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:shahirul.bashar@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or call 020 73643692 to book your place on a GIAG day.

## THVS Learn



Your child will receive login credentials for THVS Learn, our digital library and learning platform.

We offer specialist mobile and online learning packages designed for children, young people, teachers, and carers. [THVS Learn](#)

Want to see it in action? Watch the [Anspear - Virtual Schools](#) video to explore the app and discover the subjects available.

To get started, please contact your child's **Virtual Teacher** for access credentials.

# Work Experience Summer 2026



## Are you a team player with big ambitions?

### Work Experience Week 2025

Students with an interest in Film and Catering worked alongside industry professionals to produce a careers film showcasing opportunities across Tower Hamlets and beyond.

They visited restaurants, the Town Hall, and Kitcat Terrace, gaining hands-on experience in, camera positioning, lighting, and colour, interviewing techniques and sound recording, and planned a food event for 50 people.

### Work Experience Week 2024

Students interested in Film and Tower Hamlets Careers Services interviewed key teams to learn more about the support available to young people. They explored how local services can guide them into further education and a wide range of career pathways.

### Work Experience Week 2026

If you are interested in **Catering, Sports Leadership, Event Organisation, or Film and Media**, speak to your **Virtual School teacher or social worker** to find out how you can take part in Work Experience Week 2026. OR  **Contact Alison** to find out more and secure your spot.

[alisonv.thomas@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:alisonv.thomas@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

You can also explore our Work Experience Week video archive below. [Careers guidance London Borough of Tower Hamlets](#)

# Revision Advice

This period of preparing for exams can feel challenging and stressful, but remember that there is plenty of support available to help you manage both your workload and your wellbeing.

You can read helpful tips on planning your revision and looking after your mental health at the link below:

[Revision & Exam Tips | Mental Health | YoungMinds](#)

## TOP TIPS

1. **Start early**
2. **Make a plan**
3. **Prioritise your revision**
4. **Test yourself**
5. **Use practice papers**

Read more about the 5 Tips in this link: [Tips for Exam Preparation](#)



## Kitcat Terrace

Make your voice count. Join a forum where you can help shape and improve services for young people while taking part in activities that build new skills and hobbies.

CLICC (Children Living in Care Council) works with service leaders such as the Corporate Parenting Board and also runs supportive, fun youth sessions. The Junior and Teen CLICC groups meet monthly on Fridays from 4–6pm at Haileybury Youth Centre on Ben Jonson Road in E1. The Senior CLICC group for those aged 18 and over meets every Monday from 4–8pm at Kitkat Terrace in Bow, E3.

Reach out on **020 7364 1140** or contact [Abdul Choudhury](#) and get involved.



Website: Home ([towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk))  
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