



Would this be good enough for my child?

Summer 2025

Tower Hamlets Virtual School Newsletter

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Clive Niall



A Fond Farewell from Clive Niall

I came to work at the Virtual School part time, expecting to stay for just a term, ten years ago and am now saying goodbye as I retire. Having previously been a teacher and headteacher in adolescent psychiatric provisions, I already knew that I found working in a varied environment stimulating and always enjoyed teaching and advocating for diverse groups and individual children and young people at sometimes difficult points in their lives.

My roots in Tower Hamlets run deep, my grandparents on both sides having been born and raised in Whitechapel and Bethnal Green, my dad having spent most of his life working in shoe factories in and around Bethnal Green. My great grandfather, having been the son of Jewish immigrants escaping persecution in Eastern Europe and my paternal grandfather having spent time in the 'care' of the workhouse in Spitalfields has reminded me of some of the obstacles and challenges facing some children and young people coming into care, but also of the rich communities of strength, compassion and resistance that support and allow them to flourish.

I've enjoyed my time working in Tower Hamlets. Whatever the challenges, there has also been joy, laughter, creativity and fun – the best seed box for learning and love – and the stuff that makes dealing with the challenging stuff much more do-able and achievable.

Clive Niall
Teacher
Virtual School



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GIAG Give it a Go Activities

PC Building Workshop – August 4th, 5th & 6th

Calling all young tech enthusiasts! If you're curious about how computers work and want to build one from scratch, join us for our hands-on PC Building workshop.

All tools and materials will be provided — just bring your curiosity and creativity! You'll gain practical skills in computer technology, boost your logical reasoning, and explore real-world applications — all while having fun.

No previous experience is required.

Contact Shah by **30th July** to sign up or find out more shahirul.bashar@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 020 73643692 to book your place.



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.



Kitcat Terrace

Discover Your Leaving Care Service (LCS)

The Leaving Care Service is here for all care-experienced children and young people, offering support, opportunities and a space to grow.

What's on offer?

Summer & holiday activities, core subject tuition, money & budgeting workshops, careers advice & employment training, CV writing drop-ins, counselling sessions, running club, fully equipped kitchen to build independent living skills, a comfy lounge to relax and play games, accommodation advice and guidance.

This fantastic resource centre is all about helping you thrive — whether you're building life skills, discovering career pathways, or just looking for a place to have fun.

Want to learn more?

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

UCL Work Experiences

University College London accommodates excellent weekend and summer work experience programmes from InvestIN. Since 2012, InvestIN has equipped over 70,000 students from across the UK and 100+ countries with an immersive experience of their dream careers. Students can boost their university applications by gaining a L3 qualification in work experience & career planning - equating to 8 UCAS points. Read more about their programme. [Our Programmes – InvestIN Education](#)

If you'd like to know more about the UCL scheme, or would like to register, please contact your Virtual School teacher.

Work Experience Week 2025

Young people joined Chef Mark Lloyd and Atem from Humble Beginnings Film Studios for our most exciting Work Experience Week yet.

The Chef Crew sourced ingredients designed their own menu and hosted a food event for 40 guests at Kitcat Terrace. They even completed their Food & Hygiene training — a brilliant boost for future CVs!



While the kitchen buzzed, our Film Crew captured every moment. They interviewed local food business owners and Tower Hamlets staff, across the borough, shining a spotlight on community.



Are you a team player with big ambitions? If you're in **Year 10–13**, Work Experience Week 2026 could be your chance to explore your talents, meet professionals, and build new skills.

 Contact Alison to find out more and secure your spot

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