

# OXFORDSHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Issue 11

Term 6  
2023/24



Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Oxfordshire Virtual School's termly update for parents and carers of Children We Care For and Previously Cared For Children. Please circulate this newsletter to other people with parental responsibility or care responsibilities for Children We Care For or Previously Cared For Children. If you have any questions/requests for content of upcoming issues, [laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## CONTACT US

### Website:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/virtualschool](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/virtualschool)

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## Endings / New Beginnings

**SATs** – We are sure all Year 6 parents/carers breathed a huge sigh of relief when the SATs tests were completed. We are proud of every child and sincerely hope everything went as well as it could have done.

**Transition Visits/PEPs for Year 6s** – June and July are hugely important months for Year 6s. Staff in primary and secondary schools will hopefully already have made arrangements to attend Term 6 PEPs to plan a smooth transition. All care-experienced children, especially Years 6s, really benefit from extra visits to their new school, photos of key staff and information about routines, what to bring, timetables and what to expect.

**GCSE and Post-16 exams** – The exam season is fully underway / nearly over. Exams are stressful for everyone, but especially for young people with instability and uncertainty in their lives. Please reach out to school staff if your child is struggling – we are also here to advise and support, if needed. If things don't quite go to plan, please reach out to school staff or your child's Virtual School worker – there are people to pro-actively support regarding best possible next steps.

## Things to do locally:

[20 Best Things To Do In Oxfordshire Near Me | Attractions in Oxfordshire | Day Out With The Kids](#)

## Virtual School Podcast on Managing Transitions

Click here to listen to our latest podcast on managing transition:  
<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-fdqmf-15feade>



## Oxfordshire's commitment to children we care for and care experienced young people

**A corporate parent is the name given to an organisation or person who has special responsibilities to children we care for and care experienced young people.**

A corporate parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a parent should. While you or your organisation may not be able to provide everything a parent can, you should still be able to provide the children and young people you're responsible for with the best possible support and care.

Corporate parent responsibilities are intended to encourage people and organisations to do as much as they can towards improving the lives of children we care for and care experienced young people, so they feel in control of their lives and are able to overcome the barriers they may face.

As corporate parents in Oxfordshire we are ambitious for our children we care for and care experienced young people. We are committed to

working together to help children, young people, and families to thrive.

**We want Oxfordshire to be a great place to grow up and for any Oxfordshire child or young person to have the opportunity to become everything they want to be.**

To achieve this vision for children and young people we have a focus on all children and young people being successful, safe, healthy, and supported.

Some of our children we care for and care experienced young people have told us what they need from their corporate parents and how we can best support them to help them thrive.

**YOUTH VOICES**

OXFORDSHIRE

CARE FOR THE FUTURE

Youth Voices (formally Children in Care Council, CiCC) is the new forum for Children We Care For (CWCF) and Care Leavers. Youth Voices help the council achieve our commitment to CWCF and care-experienced young people in Oxfordshire. Youth Voices have regular meetings, run surveys and access a range of enrichment activities that support us in working alongside them to better understand their needs and aspirations. Youth Voices hold the council, as Corporate Parent, to account against its commitment.

Should your child be interested in joining Youth Voices, please contact James Collins (Youth Voices Engagement Officer) on 07803287813, [james.collins@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.collins@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or visit [Children in Care Council | OXME.INFO](#)

### Open Days

If your child is in Year 11, please encourage/support them to attend upcoming Open Days/Events, especially if they have not yet applied or chosen a course. Contact Izzi Crowther [Isabel.Crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Isabel.Crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk) if they might appreciate support on a visit or with applications.

It is also a good time to encourage your child, if they are in Year 10, to attend Open Days/Events to start getting some ideas for their Post-16 options. Any Year 10s with EHCPs should have their Annual Review in the Summer Term to start considering Post-16 providers.

**\*\* OPPORTUNITY FOR C&YP WHO ARE INTERESTED IN/LOVE DANCE \*\***



Care to Dance is a social enterprise that supports care-experienced young people through dance, led by Qualified Social Workers and Dancers. The combination of Social Work and Dance provides a holistic approach in supporting those who have experienced trauma.

Care to Dance is an opportunity for young people aged 7-24 who want to learn different styles of dance, including hip hop and breaking workshops, and is held Every Monday: 7-12 year olds: 5-6pm 12-24 year olds: 6-7pm Rose Hill Community Centre. 12-24 year olds have an opportunity to gain Level 1 and 2 Dance Leadership Qualifications.

If your child might benefit from this programme (which is part-subsidised by Oxfordshire Virtual School), please contact Beth Vecchione for more information on 07868897816 or [beth@caretodance.co.uk](mailto:beth@caretodance.co.uk)

## **Pupil Premium Plus for Previously Cared for Children**

The 2024/25 Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) allocation for children adopted from care, children who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) and children who left care under a Child Arrangement Order (CAO) is £2570.

For settings to access this PP+ for Previously Cared For Children (where a child has not returned to their birth parents), they need to be informed by those with Parental Responsibility (PR) that the child is subject to an Adoption, Special Guardian or other Child Arrangement Order so that they can input this onto their system in advance of the January census. Without this information, the money won't be received from the Department of Education.

For more information, visit [Previously cared for children | Oxfordshire County Council](#) and go to 'Pupil Premium Grant'

## **School Readiness and Lifelong Learning Newsletter**

The May issue of the newsletter can be found here:  
[School Readiness and Lifelong Learning Newsletter May 2024 \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)