What do our pupils need on return to school?

There has been so much in the media over the last few weeks related to return to school - children needing to catch up, attainment gaps widening, mental health issues, inactivity and fitness, anxiety and health worries.

Those of you who work in primary schools will already have experienced the optimism with which most pupils have arrived back at school with. They are generally happy to be back seeing their class mates and their teacher and TAs.

Most teachers will know that short term interventions are not the only answer and that schools need the autonomy to consider their own cohorts, assess where the highest needs are and decide the sorts of approaches that are going to make the most difference.

What do we know about the types of approaches that can have a positive impact on attainment and well being?

- One to One tutoring. The Virtual School uses tutoring already as a strand of support for pupils needing targeted work in certain subjects, for exam preparation and for pupils who are in between placements. Tutoring can raise attainment if pupils engage well, if the tutors collaborate with the host school re syllabus content and when the goals for tuition are clear.

If you want to find out more about the National Tutoring Programme announced by the government- read more [here](#).

- Other approaches the EEF have positive evidence for are small group tuition, oral language interventions, peer tutoring and metacognitive strategies. [EEF toolkit](#).

- Social and emotional learning is also a helpful intervention - great if you have ELSA trained TAs or therapeutic mentors in school. [ELSA network Oxfordshire](#). Betsy de Thierry now has a [youtube](#) channel you can look at for ideas about trauma informed work.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time and Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st July @ 15:00</td>
<td>Zoom Seminar (<a href="#">Click here to register</a>)</td>
<td>Session 1: Children in Need - family dynamics for young people in need. What is it like for young people who are living in environments that can adversely affect their learning, development and well-being? In this session we will explore children in need, family dynamics and history and how these can be hidden from schools but have a significant impact on a child’s ability to learn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th July @ 15:00</td>
<td>Zoom Seminar (<a href="#">Click here to register</a>)</td>
<td>Session 2: Messages in Behaviour - the reasons young people come into care. Myth Busting! Children do not come in to care because they are ‘bad kids’. This session is all about understanding the real reasons that children come into care, taking a look at neglect, abuse and generational patterns within families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th July @ 15:00</td>
<td>Zoom Seminar (<a href="#">Click here to register</a>)</td>
<td>Session 3: Entering Care - the lived experience of coming into care. The day they come into care is one that young people do not forget. In this workshop we hear the reality of a young person’s journey into care, the changes in their norms, the immediate differences in lifestyle and the impact of this through authentic lived accounts.</td>
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Thank you for continuing to organise reviews over this term and managing the meetings online. The Virtual School have been trying to attend as many as possible to support with discussions and ideas for next steps and for managing return to school. We know reviews are crucial for any children or young people who are transitioning to a new school or college place, especially our year 6s and 11s who may not have had the opportunity to visit their new school or college. Every year Welfare Call do crucial updates of the system and generate all the EPEPs for the next academic year in a big rollover. They do this at the start of the summer holidays.

Virtual School caseworkers must sign off all open Personal Education Plans before the rollover in order to ensure schools get their PP+ funding. If the DT hasn’t completed the PEP and signed it off, the comments and data that has been put in will not be saved. It can be a bit of a rush for case workers to try and contact any DTs with incomplete PEPs and get them signed off in time so to make sure it goes smoothly this year;

Hold any outstanding PEPs well before the end of term – end of June at latest.

• Complete as much as you can prior to the meeting
• If it is an issue getting everyone to the meeting share the comments and data by phone with individuals and record their views
• If there are any queries – contact your VS caseworker by email before the PEP, so they can advise you and provide appropriate information for you to be able to complete the online PEP.
• If you are delegating EPEPs to other colleagues - keep track, chase and let them know to tell you as soon as it is completed so that you can QA and sign it off.
• Remember to look in the notes section of the EPEP pages to see if there are any messages from your caseworker.

Thanks

Post 16 update
At last... ePEPs for year 12s will be up and running next term for colleges as well as sixth forms. Thanks Mark Walker for putting together the post 16 template with Welfare Call.

The Oxfordshire Kindness wave continues to flourish, and many people including artists and scientists have been creating wonderful challenges and activities for our young people to enjoy. We would love more children and young people to become involved as we have many skilled and keen creatives who have given their time and their passion to this project. You can follow them on twitter or have a look at the website where all the challenges are described. Perhaps your pupils would benefit from getting involved and doing one of the fun challenges? Perhaps there are activities that you know pupils in your setting would love to do and That The Virtual School could set up. We are hoping to create some summer holiday activities, but we need to know exactly what pupils would participate in if it was available. We have asked carers to let us know their ideas. IF DTs know their pupils well and have any good ideas to share - please contact us and let us know.

Let us know by getting in touch with your Virtual School caseworker, contact Virtual School. Our email is virtualschool.LAC@oxfordshire.gov.uk. If you would like to phone us, we are at 01865 328550.

If you haven’t seen the Horrid Henry return to school video yet – here it is!