



BUILDING A BOROUGH OF BELONGING

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

A message from SLT

The Spring Term has been a whirlwind here in the Virtual School, with our children and young people firmly at the heart of everything we do. One of the standout moments was our Inaugural Virtual School Conference in February. It was an incredible day, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us to help shape something truly special. Together, we explored what it means to Build a Borough of Belonging - a place where every child is able to learn, grow and thrive through the strength of their relationships with people, place and community. You can read more about the day in the attached newsletter, produced by our CAPE team.

We also want to take a moment to recognise the vital role our education settings play. Our partnerships with you are the threads that weave stability, connection and hope for our children. Every conversation, every collaborative plan, every shared success strengthens the circle of support around them. It is through these relationships that we create the conditions where our children feel seen, valued and able to flourish.

As we head into the Easter break, we hope you find time to rest and recharge. We look forward to continuing our work together in the Summer Term - united in purpose and committed to the very best for our children and young people.

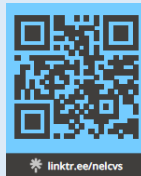


“Belonging; giving every child permission to shine!”

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Creative Lego

Organised by Unseen Arts, Michelle & Jodi had the absolute pleasure of joining our children for a colourful, imaginative dive into the world of Lego. From building towering theme parks to crafting cosy campsites and even designing epic aircraft hangars, creativity was in full swing. The children let their imaginations run wild – and the results were nothing short of brilliant!



Coffee Mornings



Michelle, Avril & Jodi joined the **Foster Carers Coffee Morning**, strengthening connections and sharing practical insight, advice and guidance to help us better support our children – what a valuable way to spend a morning!



Jodi & Laurie joined our **Kinship Support Group** to talk all things education and share the exciting news that NE Lincs has been chosen as a pilot Kinship Zone – a huge step in strengthening connections and building the support network our Kinship families deserve.

Resource Meeting Michelle, Avril & Jodi hosted a focussed session to explore resources available to our children's home staff and foster carers – including Good2Learn, EBSA Horizons and the VS App. The discussion was collaborative and constructive with great feedback on how these tools can support our children and the adults who care for them.



The Virtual School and Community Educational Psychology Team have co-produced our **Love & Belonging Framework** to offer, clear, practical support for adults helping children to feel connected. We're now developing a full **CPD programme for 2026/2027**, enabling you to plan and embed sessions meaningfully into your school calendar. Our focus is on training that is intentional, developmental and genuinely impactful. More details will be shared in the Summer Term.

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Spotlight

Each term we like to capture some of the amazing work going on in our schools -:

- Thank you to Ell Cross at Clee Academy for going above and beyond to support our young people.
- Shout out to Shellie Walker and Toni Swan at Humberston Academy for working collaboratively with us to ensure the best outcomes for our young people.
- Appreciation to Kirsty West at New Waltham Academy who completes the PEP Paperwork in such a supportive way.



Permission to Shine



- We are incredibly proud of one of our young people who is on track to pass her GCSEs after 18 months out of education, and who has now received an unconditional offer from Bishop Burton College.
- We're celebrating another young person who has received a conditional offer from Oxford University – an outstanding achievement!
- Huge congratulations to one of our Year 10 students who was selected as one of just 10 young people from 480 applicants for the Orsted Work Experience Placement.
- Well done to one of our Year 6 students who passed his 11 Plus and secured a place at Skegness Grammar School.
- We are also celebrating the success of a young person who has successfully returned to mainstream education
- We're proud of another young person who has successfully reintegrated back into education after a long absence
- Well done to another young person who recorded a video message for his peers to highlight what it is like to be child who struggles with his speech.



Extended Duties

The new **Attendance Guidance for Social Workers and Professionals** released last week continues to shape and strengthen the Virtual School's extended duties for children with a social worker, and with the imminent release of **the Children's Wellbeing & Schools Bill** expected to formalise these duties in **statute**, these responsibilities will soon become formal requirements. This shift will also have a direct impact on education settings, as expectations around monitoring, responding to and improving attendance for these children will become more consistent and clearly defined. To support this, we are introducing a structure cycle of attendance reporting and assurance meetings between the Virtual School and Social Care, ensuring attendance remains at the forefront of our collective practice. These arrangements are designed to help all partners – education settings, social workers and the Virtual School to work intentionally, proactively and in full alignment with our shared responsibility to remove barriers and improve outcomes.

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