

Middlesbrough Virtual School



Autumn 2022 Newsletter

Issue Overview

- **The National Literacy Trust partnership—
The Polar Express**
- **Teesside University
Raising Aspirations**
- **Our time with CICC**
- **DT Training Dates**

Welcome to the first edition of the Virtual School Newsletter. I hope that you find it helpful and interesting. As Corporate Parents we are all committed to supporting the children we care for to achieve the best possible outcomes they can. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts you all make



to support our children with a social worker and thank you all for showing Middlesbrough children they matter. If you have any best practices you would like to share please send it to myself via email at; Victoria_Banks@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Autumn Term PEP Quality

A total of 551 PEPs were held in the Autumn Term

24 Gold quality PEPs

75.9% Green quality PEPs

A special mention to the provisions that achieved a Gold PEP in the Autumn Term: Newport Primary, Whinstone Primary School, Carmel College, St Peter's Elwick Church of England Primary School, Corpus Christi RC Primary School, Beverley School, Pallister Park Primary School, Outwood Academy Acklam, Breckon Hill Primary School, Parkend Primary School.

We would also like to credit the 11 social workers that contributed to a Gold PEP in the Autumn Term: Paul Quinn, Candice Patterson, Joanne Chambers, Nichola Chamberlain, Kayla McClarence, Hannah Dunne, Hannah Walker, Sharon Llewellyn, Nicole Fiddes, Taryn Whiteside and Lucy Liddle.



Key dates for your diary:

- **25/01/23** Middlesbrough College Open Evening.
- **17/02/23** Data collection for the Spring Term.
- Designated teacher training schedule can be found to the right, please email Anna_Bligh@middlesbrough.gov.uk for more information and to register your place.

Designated Teacher Training:

Creative use of PP+	01/02/23 (online)
Attachment	15/02/23 (online)
Supporting EYFS	08/03/23 (online)
Child centered PEPs	15/03/23 (online)
DT and Finance workshop: PP+ payments	22/03/23 (face to face)



National Literacy Trust and Middlesbrough Virtual School: The Polar Express Christmas event

The Virtual School made a bid to the National Literacy Trust to encourage reading for pleasure in our primary cohort year 3-5. We noted that some young children leave primary school with a reading age that does not prepare them for secondary school. We hoped that this project would intervene early to encourage and foster a lifelong love of reading. We put the bid to the Literacy Trust who gave us over £700 to spend on books to promote the love of reading.

On the 15th December we held a Christmas, Polar Express reading event. We dressed in pyjamas watched the film, enjoyed stories and hot chocolate. Santa paid us a visit and gifted the young people with books and chocolates.

We all had a great day, and we are looking forward to our next Literacy Event with a storyteller in March.

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday 18th May 2023

Middlesbrough Virtual School Annual Conference

More information will be sent via Email.



Pupil Perceptions Survey

All schools have access to pupil perceptions. Pupils are presented with a simple online questionnaire that takes around 15-25 minutes to complete. There is no software to install; simply access **Pupil Perceptions** via the web. Each respondent is allocated a unique password. This enables any pupil who has given answers that may require action (eg to do with bullying or safety) to be identified quickly by the school, while making sure that no one outside the school can access personal data.

See attachments for further information or contact Louise_Tennant@middlesbrough.gov.uk

The voice of our young people

In October the Virtual School was invited to attend the Children in Care Council (CICC) to gain some insight into how the young people view education and their PEP meetings. To increase attendance at PEP meetings, it was suggested that schools could do the following:

Have food or snacks available during the meeting

Use PP+ funding to create a reward system for achievements and progress.



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On the 24th of October we held our first Raising Aspirations event with Teesside University. We supported 16 of our young people (ranging from Year 4 to 10) to take part in a Campus Tour, a Q&A with University students, a creative task and an afternoon of sports competitions. The young people particularly enjoyed visiting the recording studio, the paramedic training centre and the crime scene investigation house. They were able to find out about different University courses and how these can lead to a range of careers. The last activity of the day was a fun enrichment activity. After an hour of competitions focussed on accuracy and precision, the young people were ready to be collected.

We received some great feedback from the young people that attended, and we are currently organising the next Raising Aspirations event. Our aim is to ensure all of our young people have high aspirations for their future, and consider University as an option for them.



Schools in the Spotlight

Hollis Academy had a special mention in the media following their engagement with Middlesbrough Virtual School and the PROCLAIM project. Read it here: [Inside the 'incredible' Middlesbrough school where a third of pupils are in the care system - Teesside Live \(gazettelive.co.uk\)](https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/education/inside-the-incredible-middlesbrough-school-where-a-third-of-pupils-are-in-the-care-system-2022-10-11/)

Cath Dixon who worked in safeguarding at Acklam Grange School, is known to many across the local authority. She has recently retired, over the last 5 years the Virtual School worked closely with Cath to support the needs of the children in our care. Read the article here: [Cath bids farewell to school after 25 years after helping huge numbers of pupils past and present - Teesside Live \(gazettelive.co.uk\)](https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/education/cath-bids-farewell-to-school-after-25-years-after-helping-huge-numbers-of-pupils-past-and-present-2022-10-11/)

Sarah, the PEP Advisor working closely with Acklam Grange School, stated "Cath has always overwhelmed me with her enthusiasm and her genuine desire to meet every child's unique needs. I wish her all the best for the future and thank her wholeheartedly for the great good she has done for the children of Middlesbrough."

"If a young person's behaviour is related to trauma and we don't understand it, we risk re-traumatising them"

- Luke Rodgers BEM (The CareLeaders)

How to contact us:

Virtual School Head: Victoria_Banks@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Deputy Head: Mark_Middlemiss@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Contact Number: 01642 201885

Or speak to your allocated PEP Advisor for support.

