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Ask for	Virtual School
Direct Line	0161 342 4057
Date	06/09/2019

Dear Colleagues,

**Autumn Term 2019 Update from Tameside Virtual School**

Welcome back and I hope everyone has had a good summer break.

We have had a busy summer at Virtual School collecting in the data from the KS1 and 2 assessments and our "A" Level and GCSE results. We have had some exceptional personal achievements within our cohort of young people despite some of the adversities they have faced and these wouldn't be possible without the commitment and support from the schools they attend, so thank you.

Tameside Virtual School is now being extended into Tameside Virtual School and College. We already encourage PEPs for young people at nursery and through further education so this is just formalising this procedure. We are currently recruiting to a new post which will be responsible for the monitoring of Post 16 care leavers who are in education. This person will also be working with schools and universities to track and support young people who may have the ability to follow a university pathway but may not have been aware of the opportunities available. I will keep you posted on the development of this role.

Last term we had a PEP completion rate of 95%. This is slightly lower than the previous two terms of 97% and 98% respectively. We encourage you to hold PEPs as early in the term as possible and then send the paperwork within 2 weeks of the meeting being held. Slightly updated paperwork has already been highlighted to you in an email from Phil, and this is incorporating recommendations from our recent Ofsted inspection around being more aware of career aspirations. From our own analysis of the PEPs last term, we noticed that there are many PEPs taking place without the young person present. We encourage you to have the young person fully participating in the meeting (if they wish to do so) and we have amended the document slightly to ensure this is recorded. Pupil Premium + funding remains as being approved via the PEP when it clearly demonstrates the additional impact it is having on the young person above and beyond their usual school experience.

As a reminder, our PEP documents can be found and downloaded from:

[www.tameside.gov.uk/tamesidevirtualschool](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/tamesidevirtualschool)

Our PEP deadlines for the school year are as follows:

Autumn: Thursday 5th December 2019  
Spring: Thursday 19th March 2020  
Summer (secondary): Thursday 2nd July 2020  
Summer (primary): Thursday 9th July 2020

We are looking to have some informal drop in sessions for Designated Teachers this term for any queries and we are working closely with Rochdale and Oldham Virtual Schools to deliver some quality Attachment training as requested by many of you. As soon as I have dates and venues I will send these over. The North West training date has been set as **11th February 2020** at Old Trafford if you want to put this in next year's diary! Governor training is taking place over two sessions on **23rd October** so please encourage your Governors to sign up for this.

And finally, thank you to everyone for your patience whilst we commissioned our new attendance monitoring system. Many schools have the data extractor installed and this is the most efficient method of Looked After Call collecting our attendance data. If you have any queries or require assistance regarding this please contact Phil at [phillip.allen@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:phillip.allen@tameside.gov.uk). Our average attendance figure for our Looked After Children cohort last academic year was around 90%. There are many young people who have 100% attendance which is all credit to schools who provide a safe and nurturing environment for them. We had some queries from primary school colleagues stating they were unhappy with having to duplicate the assessment data at the end of term for Looked After Call as it is already in the PEP. This was a service offered by Looked After Call but we have asked them not to do this going forward as we don't want you having to duplicate work, but we do need everyone to ensure as much assessment data is included in the PEP document as requested.

I'd like to thank you again for all your support and hard work for our most vulnerable cohort of young people. Whilst always striving to improve our service and the outcomes for young people, I am always overwhelmed by the good news stories and personal achievements of many of our young people supported by you.

Best wishes for the new academic year.



Amanda Aylward.  
**Tameside Virtual School Headteacher**