

VSH Update

Celebrating three years of nimbl

May 2017

“ We’re excited to say that **nimbl** is now three years old! The system was launched on 3 June 2014 and since then it has been used by thousands of learners in a wide variety of settings, not least virtual schools. We’d like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped **nimbl** be such a success, and enabled us to make a difference to children and young people. ”

James Bench-Capon, Editor

Helping care leavers take their next steps

In partnership with a care leaver and the head of a virtual school, we have created *Foundations*, a publication designed to support care leavers in their transition to independent living.

Every year, around 10 000 young people leave foster or residential care. Care leavers are far more likely than their peers to be affected by self-harm and homelessness, and people in the criminal justice system are more likely to have had a care experience. Working with those from within the care system, we aim to improve the outcomes for care leavers by providing support and information to ease the transition into adulthood.

Foundations contains sections on education, housing, employment and managing money, as well as links to other useful sources of information.

Available for smartphones, tablets and the web, it also includes quizzes and audio case studies to enhance understanding.

The author Sam said: “Working on the app was an absolutely amazing educational process. I wanted to make sure other young people never have to go through the run-around to find out information about university and other levels of education. The information and insight should give more hope and encouragement to care leavers to try higher study.”

Existing subscribers can add *Foundations* to their **MyLibrary** groups for no extra charge. It is also available as part of the **Care Leavers Library**. For a preview, see pearson.co.uk/foundations.

The path to self-awareness

We’ve been working with author John Ollason on our upcoming *Self-Awareness* publication which will feature animated mindmaps with audio voiceover – see image of John in the recording studio! In *Self-Awareness*, John encourages the reader to reflect on themselves and their individual experiences to better understand what motivates their behaviour and help create positive change.

This resource will be particularly valuable for care leavers experiencing the changes and challenges brought by new independence.





New CPD Library titles

This month we have added two new CPD publications that virtual school staff might find helpful.

Supporting EAL Learners is a short course that helps staff in schools and other educational settings to support learners with English as an Additional Language. Combining theory and practice, this course contains guidance, templates, activity ideas and opportunities for reflection on practice.

Supporting HE Applicants has dedicated sections on raising aspirations and supporting children in care when applying to university. It provides information on the main aspects of the university application process and detailed advice on writing references, guiding personal statements as well as a timetable of key dates.



Both of these publications are available as part of the **CPD Library**. Please contact Jacquie Cox for more details.

A growing community

Virtual schools now using *MyLibrary*:

Barking & Dagenham	•	Durham	•	Lewisham	•	Somerset
Barnet	•	East Riding	•	Luton	•	Southampton
Bexley	•	East Sussex	•	Merton	•	Southend
Birmingham	•	Gateshead	•	Middlesbrough	•	Southwark
Bournemouth	•	Gloucestershire	•	Milton Keynes	•	Stockport
Bracknell Forest	•	Greenwich	•	Newham	•	Suffolk
Brighton & Hove	•	Hackney	•	Norfolk	•	Surrey
Bromley	•	Hammersmith & Fulham	•	North Lincolnshire	•	Tameside
Buckinghamshire	•	Hampshire	•	Northumberland	•	Thurrock
Cambridgeshire	•	Harrow	•	Oldham	•	Torbay
Cardiff	•	Havering	•	Oxfordshire	•	Tower Hamlets
Cheshire West & Chester	•	Herefordshire	•	Pembrokeshire	•	Wakefield
City of London	•	Hillingdon	•	Peterborough	•	Walsall
Cornwall	•	Hounslow	•	Plymouth	•	Waltham Forest
Coventry	•	Islington	•	Poole	•	Wandsworth
Croydon	•	Kensington & Chelsea	•	Portsmouth	•	West Berkshire
Cumbria	•	Kent	•	Reading	•	Westminster
Darlington	•	Kingston upon Hull	•	Rochdale	•	West Sussex
Derby City	•	Lambeth	•	Sheffield	•	Wiltshire
Dorset	•	Lancashire	•	Slough	•	Windsor & Maidenhead
Dudley	•	Leicester City	•	Solihull	•	Worcestershire

New additions

 Lewisham  Reading

Find out more

Contact Jacquie at Pearson Publishing to make an order, request a brochure about mobile learning for children in care or arrange a free visit from us. You can also find out more at: www.pearson.co.uk/virtual-schools.



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