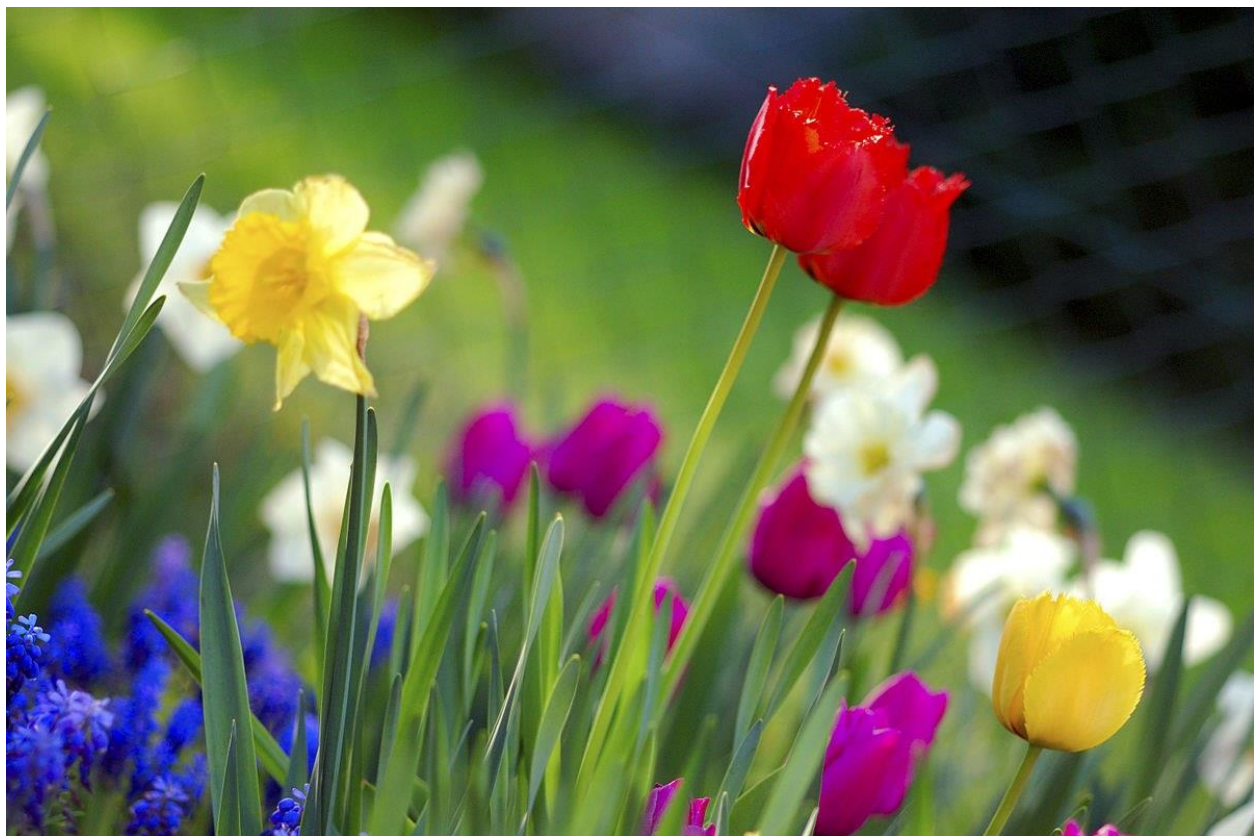


# Designated Teacher Newsletter



WORCESTERSHIRE  
VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Spring Term (Edition 4)



## Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners



The 'Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners' resource is a high-quality online training resource targeted specifically at improving the attainment of our most vulnerable learners across all schools in Worcestershire **which is fully funded by the Virtual School.**

The programme is based around six recorded training modules available to all staff (and governors) to access at their own convenience and/or for schools to incorporate into their whole school professional development plan. It contains over 12 hours of materials presented in bite-sized sessions, designed and produced by leading experts who have a wealth of experience in school improvement for disadvantaged youngsters.

### Finding Out Sessions

Following on from the launch at the Headteachers' briefing on 14th February, we would encourage you to sign up to one of the 30 minute virtual 'Finding Out Sessions' to discover what the resource is and how other schools are successfully using it.

Follow the link to register which session you would like to attend:

<https://calendly.com/louisejblackburn/thinking-differently-find-out-more>

**Thursday 2nd March at 12-30pm**

**Friday 17th March at 12.30pm.**

### Support and Training

In addition, we would recommend that you attend the training on **Thursday 27th April, 1.30-3.00pm** which will be carried out via Microsoft Teams. You will discover how you can utilise each of the 6 training modules and how they could work best for your school. A Q&A session will be held at the end of the session.

To register to attend this course, please complete the form through this link: [Registration](#). Closer to the date the Teams invitation be sent out to you (using the e-mail you entered on the registration form).

Louise Blackburn from Challenging Education will be offering virtual training and coaching on each individual module for ideas on use and best practice. She will also be available to offer advice on any

queries. This will help schools consider how to target their disadvantaged pupils more directly and develop greater confidence in using a range of strategies to engage their disadvantaged learners and their families.

We would encourage attendance at all 6 of these sessions and you must register through this link.

[Registration - training modules.](#)

All the sessions will be held at 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

**24th May – Moving on, Moving up**

**28th June – Settling in**

**13th September – Hard to reach schools**

**18th November – Assessing the poorest child**

**22nd November – Equity based ethos**

**13th December – Taking the REINS (Reflection, Evaluation, Impact and Next Steps)**

#### **How to Access the On-line Resource:**

To access all 6 modules of 'Thinking Differently' click on the link [www.challengingeducation.co.uk](http://www.challengingeducation.co.uk) and follow the instructions. Once registration is complete, the login details can be shared within your school with other colleagues who wish to access the materials.

For any queries regarding registration or accessing the modules, please contact:

Michelle Organ [michelle@challengingeducation.co.uk](mailto:michelle@challengingeducation.co.uk) Tel: 01743 343469.

## **Neurodiversity Celebration Week (13th-19th March 2023)**

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, universities, and organisations with the opportunity to recognise the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual. To access training and resources, please follow the link

[Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#)

## Designated Teacher Training

Worcestershire Virtual School is providing training/update sessions on 21st March and 11th July (1.30 and 3.30pm). Please e-mail [virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) with the date and time you would like to attend.

## Mental Health Issues affecting a pupil's attendance - DfE Guidance

The DfE have issued guidance building on the 'Working together to improve school attendance' guidance. This clarifies the expectations upon school staff/academy trustees/governing bodies, parents/carers and Local Authorities where pupils are experiencing social, emotional or mental health issues that are affecting attendance. The guidance can be found through this link. [Guidance for School](#)

## The National Grid for Learning - free Neglect course

Alex Dave, a neglect expert will be offering this new two-hour session every month to help you upskill in this key area which is expected to be accentuated by the current cost-of-living crisis.

The course is ideal for new or experienced DSLs, helping them to understand, identify and evidence neglectful care, exploring what neglect looks like, its impact and how to better identify it.

Alex Dave is a fascinating speaker whose just joined the company after a two-year stint as project manager over at Surrey County Council. She's been in education since 2006 after studying Early Childhood Education and Teaching at the University of Warwick, before moving abroad to teach in Japan as an English teacher. Since her return to the UK in 2007 she's occupied senior management roles in organizations such as the MacIntyre organization for disabled people and Young Epilepsy. And it is her unique interest in the area of neglect which has spurred her on to deliver this course. It's an opportunity to study under a highly experienced professional, with a wide breadth of experience in the educational world, that's not to be missed.

To sign up for the neglect course please follow this link: [The National Grid for Learning](#)

## Department for Education | Early Years Child Development Training (FREE)

This training course will give you a thorough understanding of the most important aspects of child development in the early years.

The course has 10 modules. 4 modules are currently available. You must complete the available modules in order.

Each module should take between 1 and 2 hours to complete.

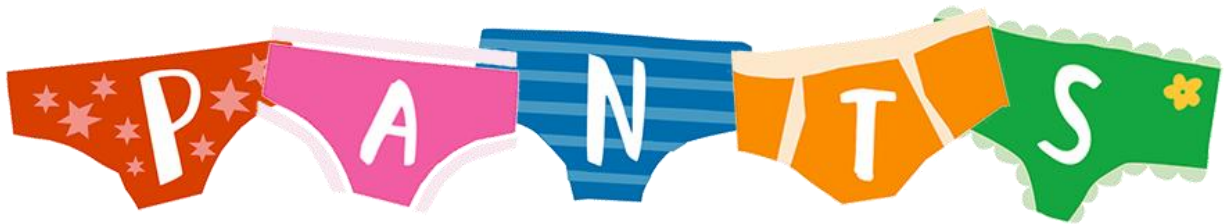
You can pause and restart the training as much as you like.

Each module includes:

- opportunities to reflect on your learning and practice.
- a learning log to make notes on your reflections.
- practical tips and ideas to use in your setting.
- learning check questions to test your understanding.
- an end of module test.
- the opportunity to download a personalised certificate of completion.

To access this training, please use this link [Child Development Training](#)

## NSPCC 'Talk PANTS'



The NSPCC 'Talk PANTS' resources help children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. With the help of the friendly dinosaur Pantosaurus, Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep your child safe from sexual abuse. [Link to NSPCC 'Talk PANTS'](#)

## How to contact us



**We are here to support you and our children looked after and previously looked after. Please call or email, using the details below or visit our website.**

**Virtual School Helpline 01905 844913 [virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)**

**<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtualschool>**