

Activity & Support Programme 2019-20



This is the complete education activity and support programme for academic year 2019-2020 being delivered by Halton Virtual School and key partners.

Our programme consists of:

Education & Opportunity Activities – we offer a variety of experiences for our children and young people that focus on a range of academic, personal and independence skills. The activities generally take place during the school holidays. Letters and invitations are sent out to children/young people and carers in advance of the activity/event with a request for confirmation of attendance.

Interventions – we provide extra support to our children and young people through a variety of resources available to us.

The full programme can also be found on the Halton Virtual School website – www.myvirtualschool.org – along with details of events we’ve run in the past. Below is the front page you will see when you visit the website and you won’t need to log in to access any of the content. You can find the programme on the “Virtual School” drop down menu.



Welcome to Halton Virtual School

The aim of this website is to provide information for our children in care and care leavers and all those who are involved in working with and supporting them.

This is a developing website so we will be constantly updating and adding more pages and resources to each section. If you feel that there is any information that would be useful for us to include or if you have any questions that we currently don't have answers for on the site, please get in touch with us.

This website was last updated 15-01-2019

List of updates can be found below.





Activities / Events

Autumn Half Term 2019



Monday 28 th October 2019	Tuesday 29 th October 2019	Thursday 31 st October 2019	Friday 1 st November 2019
Creative Mind with Curtis Jobling	Eat Fit & Move It	Monster Mayhem	Pit Stop Challenge
Years 8, 9 & 10	All CIC	Years 3 & 4	Years 10 & 11
<p>Curtis Jobling will be visiting us again to bring us more lively activities, hints and tips and general chit chat about writing and also future aspirations regardless of what they may be. His last visit with us brought us lots of laughter and the feedback from everyone who took part was that they'd like more of the same!</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To look at goals and aspirations. Get hints and tips to improve writing skills. 	<p>The CIC health team are delivering a hands on, activity packed day around "healthy eating and physical exercise".</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about healthy eating – do taste tests and make your own healthy lunch. Look at different ways to keep active – not just through exercise. 	<p>A monster themed day perfect for Halloween filled with lots of crafts and games.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a monster puppet. Use your imagination to develop a character profile to bring your monster puppet to life. Work as a team to pass different literacy, maths and general knowledge activities in a point scoring game against other teams. 	<p>Be part of a "pit crew" to dismantle and reassemble a go-kart. The challenge is to do this in the quickest time possible as you race against other groups.</p> <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop team building and communication skills to get onto the timed leaderboard. Learn how to disassemble and accurately reassemble a go-kart with the correct tools and techniques.
<p>Curriculum Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English – writing – use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect. English – speaking and listening – use discussion in order to learn and being able to elaborate and explain clearly understanding and ideas. PSHE – goals and aspirations – learn about choices available to them, benefits of being ambitious and identify own strengths, interests, skills and qualities. 	<p>Curriculum Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSHE – what makes a healthy lifestyle including benefits of physical activity, rest and healthy eating. PSHE – recognise opportunities to make their own choices about food, what might influence their choices and benefits of eating a balanced diet. Cooking and nutrition – use the basic principles of a healthy and varied diet to prepare lunch. PE – lead healthy, active lives 	<p>Curriculum Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art & Design – use a range of materials creatively to design and make a puppet. English – reading & writing – use a range of vocabulary to create a fun and interesting monster character profile then read aloud own work. English – recall and use knowledge around adjectives, spellings and rhyming words. Maths – recall and use maths knowledge and techniques including times tables, operations and number patterns. PSHE – interpersonal skills – communication and team working. 	<p>Curriculum Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design & Tech. – understand and use mechanical systems. Design & Tech. – select from and use a wide range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks. PSHE – interpersonal skills – communication and team working.

Spring Half Term 2020

Monday 17th February 2020	Tuesday 18th February 2020	Thursday 20th February 2020	Friday 21st February 2020
Virtual Reality	Now Press Play	Outward Bound	Spy Academy Code Breakers
Years 7, 8 & 9	Years 1 & 2	Years 3 & 4	Years 5 & 6
<p>Using the latest VR technology you can be transported to anywhere in the world and beyond! Pupils will get the chance to use tools to create their own VR world.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience the world of VR. • Learn how to use VR creation tools to build a VR 3D world. • Use imagination and creativity in creating a VR 3D world that can be explored by themselves and others. 	<p>Take a trip like no other – become the main character of a story through an interactive audio experience.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to audio tracks and use imagination to bring events and stories to life. • Share the experience with others through writing. 	<p>For those who enjoy exploring, adventure and storytelling we have booked a day at the Fiddler’s Ferry Education Resource Centre.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use imagination and creative skills outside of the classroom. • Explore the natural habitats and look out for different woodland creatures in a safe environment. 	<p>The day will involve solving riddles and code breaking to expose the enemy spies who have infiltrated the academy.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at different types of ciphers and codes that have been used including pigpen, Caesar shift, Morse code and semaphore. • Solve the trail of coded clues to identify who the enemy spies are.
<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computing – use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content. • Computing – undertake creative projects using a specific piece of software. • Design & Tech. – develop and communicate design ideas using annotated sketches, detailed plans, 3-D and mathematical modelling, oral and digital presentations. 	<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English – spoken language – participate in improvisations and discussions. • English – writing – writing narratives about personal experiences (real and fictional). • English – read aloud what they have written with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear. 	<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning outside the classroom. • Science – identify different living things, investigate and explore their habitats. • Science – working scientifically – using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions. • English – listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers. • Art & Design – to use a range of materials found in nature to creatively design and make an art piece. 	<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History – explore different ciphers and codes including how they were developed and used. • Maths – problem solving – use knowledge about ciphers and codes to crack coded text. • PSHE – interpersonal skills – communication and team working.

March 2020

Wednesday 25 th March 2020	Thursday 26 th March 2020
Skills North West	
Years 7 – 9	Years 10 & 11 and Post-16
<p>We will liaise with schools, carers and young people to arrange a trip to Skills North West (North West’s largest careers, jobs, skills and apprenticeship event) where our children and young people will get the chance to see different careers and opportunities that are out there. They’ll be able to take part in hands-on demonstrations and activities throughout the day in the hope to motivate and inspire them in developing their skills and raising their aspirations.</p>	
<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE – to evaluate their own personal strengths and areas for development and to use this to inform goal setting. • PSHE – The knowledges and skills needed for setting realistic and challenging personal targets and goals. • PSHE – learn about different types of work and different pathways through education and work. • PSHE – learn about the information, advice and guidance available to them and how to access it. • PSHE – learn how their strengths, interests, skills and qualities are changing and how these relate to future employability. 	

Spring Break 2020

Monday 6 th April 2020	Tuesday 7 th April 2020	Thursday 9 th April 2020
Detective Training Agency	Man Hunt	Next Steps
Years 7 & 8	Years 5 & 6	Year 11
<p>Our trainee detectives need to put their problem solving skills to the test if they want to solve cases and graduate from the Detective Training Agency.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete basic training quizzes to help observation, listening and team working skills. • Work as a team to solve a theft and a murder case. • Collect stars throughout the day to graduate from the Detective Training Agency as “detectives”. 	<p>This is an interactive e-safety lesson. Our children will get the chance to put their knowledge and skills with technology to the test with lots of hands on activities.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put existing e-safety knowledge into practice whilst learning new information and skills. • Discover where technology can be of help when used appropriately. 	<p>We like to get our Year 11s together every year to let off some steam whilst doing something new and fun. The activities vary every year and have included dragon boating, graffiti workshops, escape rooms and outdoor activity centres.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to discuss post-16 options with the virtual school team and look at the support we can offer. • Personal development – building confidence as well as working on team work, communication and resilience. • Taking part in new activities and stress relief.
<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths – solve problems involving the four operations. • Maths – be able to read measures in volume, time and distance in metric units and convert measures when given the scale. • Maths – shape & problem solving – working out which shapes can fit within a specific area without leaving any empty spaces. • Maths – fit together clues to draw a conclusion. • English – articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions. • PSHE – interpersonal skills – communication and team working. 	<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computing – use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly, keeping personal information private. • Computing – recognise common uses of information technology beyond school. • PSHE – interpersonal skills – communication and team working. 	<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE – learn about different types of work and different pathways through education and work. • PSHE – learn about the information, advice and guidance available to them and how to access it. • PSHE – intrapersonal skills – building confidence and resilience. • Other links vary depending on the chosen activity.

Summer Half Term 2020

Tuesday 26 th May 2020	Thursday 28 th May 2020	Friday 29 th May 2020
Wacky Races	Topsy Turvey Tales	Game of Life
Years 4 & 5	Reception, Years 1 & 2	Years 8 & 9
<p>Build your own balloon car racers and experiment with the design before entering it into the Wacky Races Championship Rally. There will be prizes awarded to the car that travels the furthest, the one that goes the fastest and the one with the best design.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build cars which are propelled by balloon power. To experiment with designs and explore factors that would affect how fast or how far a car goes as well as how it looks. 	<p>Things get a bit mixed up in Fairy Tale Land. Our storytellers will need to help sort out the mess so that all the characters are back in their own story and that the stories are in the right order.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To listen to a story and put it in the correct sequence when it's mixed up. To make finger puppets for a selected fairy tale. Use imagination to come up with their own mixed up fairy tale. 	<p>During the day our young people will simulate a time in the life of a chosen job. They will have to make a number of choices throughout the day which will affect their bank balance and their well-being score. The aim is to still have money in the bank at the end of the activity and have a good well-being score.</p> <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore different jobs that can be linked to specific skills or interests. Think about the choices they make and how it impacts of finances and their well-being. Looking at different aspects of working such as wage slips, taxes, expenses and banking.
<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science – physics – Newton’s Third Law, the balloon pushes air out backwards and the car and the balloon get pushed forwards. Design & Tech. – come up with elements of a balloon car that can be changed which can affect it’s performance. Design & Tech. – experiment with different designs to improve a balloon car’s performance. Art & Design – to use a range of materials creatively to design and make a balloon car. Maths – to measure the distance a balloon car travels. 	<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English – reading – becoming familiar with key stories, fairy stories and traditional tales, retelling them and considering their particular characteristics. English – reading – recognising and joining in with predictable phrases English – reading – participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say. English – reading – explain clearly their understanding of what is read to them. 	<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSHE – to assess and manage risk in relation to financial decisions. Maths / PSHE – looking at real life application of maths in terms of finances and understanding different elements of managing money. PSHE – explore what positively and negatively affects their physical, mental and emotional health.

Summer Break 2020

Tuesday 28th July 2020	More dates in summer TBC.
Moving Up	
Year 6	
<p>Each year we like to celebrate the end of primary education with our Year 6 children and look at preparations for secondary school.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To celebrate the end of primary school. • Offer support around the transition to secondary school. • A chance for personal development. 	
<p>Curriculum links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition – managing change positively and knowing where they can go for support if needed. • PSHE – intrapersonal skills – building confidence and resilience. • PSHE – intrapersonal skills – communication and team work. • Other links vary depending on the chosen activity. 	

Other events that the Virtual School will be linking in with:

- Universities – some universities have a range of outreach events throughout the year for CIC and Care Leavers. Many will also accommodate bespoke campus visits so we can tailor them to the interest and requests of our children and young people.

Educational Interventions



Intervention	Target Group	Details
Storytime Magazine	KS2 – identified through PEPs and feedback	<p>A year’s subscription to a story magazine sent out monthly to each child at their placement address.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop an interest in reading through brightly illustrated magazines rather than books. • To develop reading skills through easy to read short stories.
Curiosity Book Club	Reception & targeted children identified through PEPs and attainment results	<p>Partnership with local bookstore “Curiosity Bookshop” to provide individualised book parcels sent out to a child’s placement address once a half term for the academic year.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage reading at home by providing reading materials that a child can read individually or with carers. • To tailor reading materials to suit individual needs, levels of reading and interests/hobbies.
1:1 Tuition	As requested	<p>Working alongside a tuition agency to arrange after school tuition for a range of subjects should a child or young person request this support.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide good quality 1:1 support on a child or young person’s identified subject. • To provide tuition in more than one subject should it be needed. • To monitor progress through reports received from tutors for each session.
Virtual School Website	Primary, Secondary, Post-16	<p>Developing sections within the Virtual School website to support children and young people from primary through to post-16.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide subject specific information including tutorials and links to relevant websites. • To provide worksheets for a range of subjects. • To provide information and guidance around key stages including Year 8/9 options years and post-16 options.