



Can you believe that there are only five months until the end of this academic year? We always think about the difference our young people can make in that time but we rarely ask ourselves the same question.

Last year we had a fabulous Virtual School conference and we are pleased to announce that we will be holding this year's conference at the same venue.

It is a wonderful opportunity to network with other colleagues in the local authority and for those out of authority, you will benefit from being able to join virtually should travel be a barrier.

The conference will take place on:

Tuesday 1st July 2025

The Venue : **Crowne Plaza Reading East**

Address: **Wharfedale Road, Winnersh Triangle.
RG41 5TS**

Full details can be found on page 2, 3 & 4.

We really do hope to see you in person as it gives you the space and opportunity to think about the role you play in your educational setting which you rarely get during the academic year.



Whats On

- ★ Thursday 20 March 2025 - 15:30 - 17:00 ATV Training: Adoption, Adolescence & Identity Online via Teams
- ★ Monday 24 March 2025 PP+ application deadline
- ★ Monday 31 March 2025 Spring term PEP completion deadline
- ★ Friday 4 April 2025 End of Spring Term
- ★ Monday 7 April 2025 - Friday 18 April 2025 WBC Easter Holidays
- ★ Wednesday 16 April 2025 National Offer Day (Primary/Junior)
- ★ Monday 21 April 2025 WBC Start of Summer Term
- ★ Thursday 1 May 2025 - 15:00 - 16:30 DSL Training Online via Teams
- ★ Monday 26 May 2025 - Friday 30 May 2025 WBC Half Term



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JULY
2025

CROWNE PLAZE READING EAST
WHARFEDALE RD, WINNERSH,
TRIANGLE, READING RG41 5TS



WOKINGHAM VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WWW.WOKINGHAMVIRTUALSCHOOL.CO.UK



**Book your
place here:**



Lucy Barnes



Fatima
Whitbread



Kinship.org.uk

“Every child is one caring adult away from success - working together to improve educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people”



Fatima Whitbread, MBE is a world javelin champion, world record holder and twice Olympic medallist. She was honoured with the Helen Rollason Award at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2023. The Helen Rollason Award recognises outstanding achievement in the face of adversity.

After Fatima's inspirational career as an athlete, the former BBC Sports Personality of the Year winner headed the Chafford Hundred elite runners club whose members included Linford Christie and Dame Kelly Holmes. Fatima has served as a school governor, is a qualified javelin coach, and spent many hours reporting at the Olympics. As well as being the last woman standing on *I'm a Celebrity Get me Out of Here*, she cooked her way to total victory on the all-sport-champion's *Come Dine with Me*. In addition, she took part in a celebrity version of the Channel 4 show, *Total Wipeout*. Fatima delved into her family history filming for Channel 5's *My Secret Past*. Fatima had a fitness strand on *This Morning* and has also taken part on *A Question of Sport*, *The Wright Stuff*, *Celebrity Blockbusters*, *Through the Keyhole* with Keith Lemon and co-fronted the BBC Learning Campaign – Olympic Give an Hour.

Fatima was a contestant on the highly rated ITV series *Eternal Glory* - and took part in *Pilgrimage: The Road to Istanbul* on BBC 2. She joined six other celebrities of differing faiths and beliefs to tackle a modern-day, 2,200-km pilgrimage across Eastern Europe to the historic city of Istanbul. In 2022 Fatima appeared in *Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins*. She broke three of her ribs while jumping out of a helicopter for a challenge but hid her suffering so she wouldn't be pulled from the show. She most recently took part in ITV's *I'm a Celebrity South Africa* where she came in third place. This was a show where some of the favourite contestants across the series came together to compete against each other.

Fatima's best-selling autobiography *Fatima: The Autobiography of Fatima Whitbread* was published in 1989. Fatima's second book, *Survivor* was published in July 2012 and is a truly inspirational story. Her third book 'My Bright Shining Star' was published in October 2024. *My Bright Shining Star* follows the story of a girl who finds herself living in a shared home away from her mother, yet through the love and support provided by confidant Aunty Rae she unlocks respect, self-worth and confidence.

Fatima has recently launched a campaign called 'Fatima's UK Campaign', aimed at helping children in care and care leavers. The hope is for children to fulfil their positive potential in an environment which fosters self-worth and confidence by means of providing the necessary support & resources to give each youngster the skills and to become productive members of society. As the founder of the Charity, Fatima wants to rejuvenate the children's care system and pursue excellence across the four nations in working with the care system to create a nationalistic framework with the summit taking place in April 2025. The inaugural Summit is being organised to bring together cross-party politicians, decision makers, and representatives from all agencies and charities involved in the care system.



Lucy Barnes is a Pupil Barrister at East Anglian Chambers as well as CEO and Co-Founder of Lawyers Who Care CIC, the UK's first mentoring organisation for care-experienced aspiring lawyers. Lucy is also a Middle Temple Major Scholar and a TEDx Speaker

(<https://www.lucykatebarnes.co.uk/>).

Lucy's path into the legal profession was far from traditional, having come from social housing, family dysfunction and foster care. She was homeless at 13 and again at 16. She is also neurodivergent. Despite these barriers, Lucy went on to achieve a 2:1 Law Degree in 2018, was called to the Bar in 2021 and began pupillage as a barrister on 1st October 2024.

Lucy has dedicated her career so far to advocating for social mobility, especially for those from foster care, social housing and neurodivergence. She was recently selected as one of the 100 faces of the Universities UK #100faces campaign, celebrating individuals who were the first in their families to go to university. She was also the first to write about care experience within the legal profession, and advocates passionately for her community:

<https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/resource/raising-the-bar-care-experienced-people-belong-here.html>

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It's important to empower young people and make them believe in themselves because there is a skill-set and unique strength in every single care-experienced person that's waiting to be found. So why couldn't it be found by lawyers? Why couldn't it be us that supports them, makes them feel safe and makes them feel seen.

Lucy Barnes, Our CEP Co-Founder



MAKING A DIFFERENCE WEEK 2025

**BOOK
NOW**

**FREE
WEBINAR**

A week of lunch and learn webinars focussing on Children in Care & Care Leavers, and the impact of trauma.

Book your place today!

31ST MARCH-4TH APRIL

2025

**Monday
31st March
12.30-1.30pm**

An Introduction to a Trauma Informed Approach

Karen Dawes, Head of Performance and Delivery- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

[Click 'here' to read more & Book Your Place](#)

**Tuesday
1st April
12.30-1.30pm**

Bereavement & Loss

Frances Parker, Assistant Principal Educational Psychologist for Well Being, West Sussex County Council

[Click 'here' to read more & Book Your Place](#)

**Wednesday
2nd April
12.30-1.30pm**

How Trauma Impacts the Brain in Children & Young People

Dr Megan Klabunde, PhD SFHEA- University of Essex

[Click 'here' to read more & Book Your Place](#)

**Thursday
3rd April
12.30-2pm**

Transitions & Working with Young Adults

Sarah Cerioli, Named Professional Safeguarding Adults & Dr Amanda Carr, Head of Research for Children, Young People and Education at TONIC

[Click 'here' to read more & Book Your Place](#)

**Friday
4th April
12.30-1.30pm**

Secondary Trauma and Staff Wellbeing

Lori Goossen, Principle Social Worker at Medway Council

[Click 'here' to read more & Book Your Place](#)

Brought to you by the Children in Care Teams in the South East region





Don't forget the virtual school are here to assist you should you require any support. You can email us at the following addresses and we promise we will respond within 24 hours.

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CONTACT US

Here's how to
CONTACT US!

