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**Autumn Term Events and Opportunities**

**Instagram: @vsstaffordshire**

**The Virtual School are passionate to promote Wider Leaning opportunities (Arts/Culture/Sports) to our Children and Young People, offering a wealth of experiences and signposting to extra-curricular in your area.**

**Please see some of the upcoming events below, we will have on offer this year. If you wish to be updated with new events and opportunities please follow this link ..** [**https://forms.office.com/e/JnebupRs6f?origin=lprLink**](https://forms.office.com/e/JnebupRs6f?origin=lprLink)

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|  | **ARTS** |
|  | **SPORTS** |
|  | **EARLY YEARS** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Activity | Information | Booking details | Who for? |
| 21st July until 5th Sept 2025 | Summer Reading Challenge | Have you completed your Summer reading challenge- read 6 books of your choice. Please send us a photo of yourself with your certificate and unusual place to read. This will be entered into a prize draw. Announced Sept 5th | Sign up to your library and start your Summer reading challenge-  Enter our Competition to win a Kindle / voucher …  [**Reading Competition.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\Reading%20Competition.pdf)  share your photo and book reviews with us to  [Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk)  **Closing Date 30th September 2025** | For all our Staffordshire children in care, previously looked after and children with a social worker.  Also, to those children who have a different Local Authority, but live in Staffordshire. |
| Sept 2025 until April 2026 | Care to Dance  Lichfield or Stafford | NO dance experience needed, just a love of dance and a ‘have a go’ attitude!!  Free weekly sessions during term time.  Professional dance teachers leading sessions with a trauma informed and attachment aware focus. Social worker present at all sessions to support any individuals, but also to develop positive trusting relationships in a safe environment.  **Mondays**  Stafford 5:45–6:45pm  aged 7-18yrs  **Tuesdays**  Lich 5pm – 5:45pm  aged 7-12 yrs  5:45 – 6:45pm  11yrs + | Follow the booking link on flyer  [**Care to Dance classes - Staffordshire 25-26.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Care%20to%20Dance%2025-26\Care%20to%20Dance%20classes%20-%20Staffordshire%2025-26.pdf)  or email  Director of Care to Dance  [beth@caretodance.co.uk](mailto:beth@caretodance.co.uk)  They do have dance sessions on different days in different venues, which may suit you better? | For all our Staffordshire children in care, previously looked after and children with a social worker.  Aged 7yrs +  Also to those children who have a different Local Authority, but live in Staffordshire. |
| Sept 2025 and ongoing | FREE Music Lessons in school in Staffordshire | All children in school years 4,5 & 6 are encouraged to take up a musical instrument in school. Fully funded by us.  Whether you wish to try the recorder, guitar or drums! Ask your teacher to see what is available for you to have a go at – release your hidden talent. | [Children in Care Music Entitlement 2025-26 (003).docx](https://staffordshire-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mary_gardner_staffordshire_gov_uk/EQlJHV_J6jVBtt2G5zk4KBYBbG8WYB4NP99ZBLQqLzGWbg?e=YInA4T)  Please speak with your designated teacher at school to arrange, contact [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk)  And make sure this is discussed at your PEP to ensure no delay in the sessions starting | For all our Staffordshire children in care attending school.  Year group 4,5 & 6  Those in other year groups can enquire about music lessons in school too, and this can be arranged and funded through pp+. |
| Sat 13th Sept  12 til 6pm  Boney Hay Primary school | US GIRLS ROCK Festival | This is an Active Lichfield event.  Free **US Girls Rocks Festival**! Activities, live music, silent disco & more. Join us for a fun-filled celebration of the US Girls programme – designed to get more people active and raise awareness in a vibrant mini-festival setting! | [**US Girls Rocks Festival Tickets, Sat, Sep 13, 2025 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/us-girls-rocks-festival-tickets-1610408347719?msockid=12cc538c077c62b33c734031068763bc) | For all children in the area aged 8yrs +  Under 18yrs must be accompanied by an adult.  Max 4 children per adult |
| Wed 17th September | TEAMS | Our original VS School Council are coming together to discuss the plan for the year ahead | Teams invites have gone out.  Contact [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk)  Hoping you can join us | Original VS School council members |
| Saturday 11th October  10:30-12:30 | Come and Play Music Workshop  Lichfield | Staffordshire Virtual School are teamed together with Entrust Music Service to provide Music opportunities to help boost confidence, raise self-esteem and support young people in realising their potential.  It’s all about trying new things and developing skills and any hidden talent! | .  [**Come and Play Music workshop.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\Come%20and%20Play%20Music%20workshop.pdf)  Music instrumental teachers at schools will offer this to our children at school too. | For all our Staffordshire children in care, previously looked after and children with a social worker.  Aged 7yrs – 12yrs  Also to those children who have a different Local Authority, but school in Staffordshire. |
| Monday 20th October  4:45- 6:45pm | Podcast Workshop  Stafford | Learn how to create your own show from scratch.  From brainstorming ideas, coming up with scripts and sharing your story. Whatever you are into - just come and chat! Get behind the mic and be heard. Meet Aaron- who will be leading the session | [WMVS PP Podcast flyer Stafford & Stoke.pdf](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\WMVS%20PP%20Podcast%20flyer%20Stafford%20&%20Stoke.pdf)  Limited places available so book today to avoid disappointment. | No experience necessary – just energy, enthusiasm and ideas.  For all our Staffordshire children in care, previously looked after and children with a social worker.  Aged 11yrs – 18yrs  Also to those children who have a different Local Authority, but live in Staffordshire. |
| Wednesday 22nd October  8am until 8pm | How Drama & Academics work well?  Cambridge Uni | Drama workshops with Bedazzle- teenage Mental health charity.  Workshop to learn a piece from the musical - Addams family with University students, followed by a Q and A about how academics and drama can go hand in hand!  2nd Workshop bedazzle themselves with a specific focus on the positive effects on mental health and drama .  A Tour around Cambridge theatre with a look into the tech side of things.  A great experience. | Those who would be interested please email  [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk)  Only 2 places available | Staffordshire Children in Care aged 13yrs + studying Performing Arts and wishing study at Uni for Further Education. |
| Wednesday 22nd October | Virtual School Council Meeting | ½ Termly Meetings at Northfields in Stafford.  We are keen to connect with our youngsters and listen to their voice.  In a safe space we have fun, food and make great friendships.  Come to join us and be part of something amazing. | [Virtual School Council 25-26.pdf](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\Virtual%20School%20Council%2025-26.pdf)  Speak to your Virtual school Advisor or Mary Gardner if you have an interest to join.  Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk | For all our Staffordshire children in care, previously looked after and children with a social worker.  Aged 10yrs +  Also to those children who have a different Local Authority, but live in Staffordshire. |
| Friday 24th October 2025 | A2U Yr 9 day | Our Aspire to University Programme continues.  Those signed up will have an aspirational day on the campus. Where the students embrace team work and challenge with achievement. | Speak to your Virtual school Advisor or Mary Gardner if you have an interest to join this programme.  Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk | For Staffordshire Children in Care who have achieved their yr 6 SATS and have aspirations about Further Education.  Students sign up to this at Year 7. Coming together with others from different Local Authorities on a termly basis. |
| Tues 28th October 2025  All day | POST 16 Sports development programme  Stoke YMCA | Arranged by Stoke VS & Together Active | Speak to your Virtual school Advisor or Mary Gardner if you have an interest to be part of this  Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk | POST 16 students interested in sport living or ale to travel independently to Stoke. |
| Thurs 30th October 2025  1pm- 4pm | POST 16 sports careers and opportunities fayre  Stoke YMCA | Arranged by Stoke VS & Together Active. | A qr code on a blue square  AI-generated content may be incorrect.  [Sporting Futures - Careers and Employability Fair.pdf](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\Sporting%20Futures%20-%20Careers%20and%20Employability%20Fair.pdf)  Speak to your Virtual school Advisor or Mary Gardner if you have an interest to attend.  Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk | Yr 11 & POST 16 students who have an interest in careers linked to sport. |
| Tues 4th Nov  8am – 8pm | West End Theatre Trip  Phantom of the Opera | Educational trip to the West End. To watch the professional performance followed by Q & A session with cast, backstage crew and front of house.  Shares what goes on behind the scenes to make a production happen and opens the young people’s minds up to careers opportunities. | [**West End Theatre trips.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\West%20End%20Theatre%20tripss.pdf)  **Limited tickets**  This will be a first come first served basis, particularly for those who have not been on a theatre trip with us before.  To request a ticket please complete this form  <https://forms.office.com/e/L9GZiwfajk>  or email  [Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk) | CIC to Staffordshire 14yrs + |
| Friday 7th Nov | A2U Yr 8 Connexions day | Our Aspire to University Programme continues.  Those signed up will have an aspirational day on the campus. Where the students look at their aspirations and the steps they may need to reach these with careers advice and guidance.. | Those who would be interested please email  [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk) | For Staffordshire Children in Care who have achieved their yr 6 SATS and have aspirations about Further Education.  Students sign up to this at Year 7. |
| Friday 14th November  Wolverhampton Uni  5pm-7pm | NEW Yr 7 Launch evening | A Wonderful evening set in the Chancellors Hall for our New Year 7’s who are joining our Aspire to University Programme. | Those who would be interested please email  [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk) | Invited students looked after to Staffs LA, who have exceeded KS2 SATS results. |
| Tues 18th November  8am – 8pm | West End Theatre Trip  Hamilton | Educational trip to the West End.  To watch the professional performance followed by Q & A session with cast, backstage crew and front of house.  Shares what goes on behind the scenes to make a production happen and opens the young people’s minds up to careers opportunities. | [**West End Theatre trips.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\West%20End%20Theatre%20tripss.pdf)  **Limited tickets**  This will be a first come first served basis, particularly for those who have not been on a theatre trip with us before.  To request a ticket please complete this form  <https://forms.office.com/e/L9GZiwfajk>  or email  [Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk) | CIC to Staffordshire 14yrs + |
| Thursday 27th November  9:30am – 3pm | Yr 7 Aspire To Uni | Our Aspire to University Programme starts for our Year 7’s  Those signed up will have an aspirational day on the campus. Where the students embrace team work and challenge with achievement. | Those who would be interested please email  [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk) | For Staffordshire Children in Care who have achieved their yr 6 SATS and have aspirations about Further Education.  Students sign up to this at Year 7. Coming together with others from different Local Authorities on a termly basis. |
| Sunday 30th Nov  10am- 12noon | Christmas Craft  Cannock Chase | Come and join Staffordshire Virtual School for a fun and festive morning ,creating and designing as little or as many Christmas Cards as you like!  Festive refreshments will be available on the day 😊 | Booking form  [Christmas Craft Event 2025.pdf](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\Christmas%20Craft%20Event%202025.pdf)  Those who would be interested to join us please email  [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk) | This is open to Staffordshire Children in Care, previously looked after and children with a Social worker, aged 4 years old up to 14 years old.  Guardians and siblings welcome to come join the festivities. |
| Saturday 6th Dec  All day | Xmas Fun  Uttoxeter | Christmas celebrations at Staffs Foster Carers annual event | Booking with Staffs Foster Careers  Not a Virtual school Event – but one we support | All CIC to Staffordshire Foster Carers to celebrate at their annual event |
| Tues 9th Dec  5pm-8pm | Care To Dance Showcase Performance | Our children are working hard every week, to put together an evening of entertainment. They are brave, bold and brilliant, and I am sure you will want to come and applause them for what they have achieved. | If you want tickets for this performance , please email  [Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk)  or  Director of Care to Dance  [beth@caretodance.co.uk](mailto:beth@caretodance.co.uk) | We welcome an audience of family, friends, teachers, social workers and all those who wish to celebrate our children’s achievements. |
| Friday 12th Dec 2025  10am – 2pm | University Taster Day  KS3/4 | Students will discover the affordability of higher education, the financial support available to them, and gain practical experience of what studying at university is like.  **The day includes:**   * A **2Engage workshop** on confidence and speaking skills * A **“What is University?” talk**, including tailored support for care experienced students * A **campus tour** * A **skills workshop** on careers and employability | [**Uni Campus Taster Day.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\mgard2sc\OneDrive%20-%20Staffordshire%20County%20Council\Documents\Autumn%202025%20events\Uni%20%20Campus%20Taster%20Day.pdf)  Booking link  <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MP3ANA/>.  Please let your Virtual school advisor or [mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk) know if you are attending this, so we can ensure your absence from school/ college is authorised.  Thank you | All children in care in KS3/4  To be accompanied by an adult/ guardian, whether that be your designated teacher from school, Social worker, Guardian etc. |

[Leisure centres & memberships - Active Lichfield District](https://www.activelichfield.co.uk/venues/)

**Any queries or issues with links please email** [**mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk**](mailto:mary.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk)