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### CONTACT US



[Virtual School Sensory Support](#)

Check us out on Facebook

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[sensorysupport@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:sensorysupport@norfolk.gov.uk)

Web: [vsss.virtual-school.org.uk](http://vsss.virtual-school.org.uk)

Virtual School Sensory Support - deaf children, young people and families

Virtual School Sensory Support - visual impairment

### USEFUL LINKS

#### SEND PARTNERSHIP

Telephone: 01603 704070

[sendpartnership.jass@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:sendpartnership.jass@norfolk.gov.uk)

#### PORTAGE TEAM

Telephone: 01603 704049

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# Summer Deaf Festival May 2019

This year the Summer Deaf Festival was held on two days – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May. It was the first time the festival had extended over two days and it appeared to be a great success for everyone involved.

There were many exhibitors, including VSSS, all under one roof at the same time so it was easy for people to look at a wide range of information about services to local deaf people.

Many of the children and young people we support were involved in the signed song performance on the Friday, demonstrating a real sense of confidence in their ability to sign in public. Lots of people commented how moving they found the children's performances and admired their confidence and skills in using sign and music together to such great effect. The whole day had a real buzz of excitement.

The Saturday was a more adult day as there were no school groups but there was still plenty of excitement, not least near the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf stall which appeared to be much more interesting than the VSSS stall for some reason!

In preparation for the festival, a group of Deaf children and young people had taken part in a craft activity, making a "Cabinet of Deafness" which is now on display in the VSSS foyer at Woodside Road.

Our thanks go to the organising committee for all their hard work in putting together such a positive event.



# Family Voice Information & feedback Sessions

Are you the parent of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

Join Family Voice for coffee at an information and feedback session about SEN Support and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

They've invited Norfolk SEND Partnership Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) and a representative of the Local Offer to join them so you can:

- Find out more about SEN Support and EHCP assessments
- Tell us about your own experience of support for your child with SEND

Ask questions in a relaxed setting

- Share ideas with other parents/carers

If you can come, please e-mail [event@familyvoice.org.uk](mailto:event@familyvoice.org.uk) or call/text on 07535 895748.

The sessions will be held on the following dates:

-Tuesday 17th September from 10am to 1pm at Community Room, South Lynn Community Centre, 10 St. Michael's Road, King's Lynn, PE30 5HE

-Monday 23rd September from 10am to 1pm at The Suite, Dereham Football Club, Aldiss Park, Norwich Road, Dereham, NR20 3PX

-Tuesday 24th September from 10am to 1pm at The Noble Hall, The Priory Centre, Priory Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 1NW

-Monday 30th September from 10am to 1pm at The Colman Room, South Norfolk House, Cygnet Court, Long Stratton, NR15 2XE

-Wednesday 2nd October from 10am to 1pm at Main Hall, Aylsham Care Trust, St. Michael's Avenue, Aylsham, NR116YA

# BSL Course starting September 2019

## Level 1 Certificate in British Sign Language

**This course is available for professionals, parents and carers.**

BSL Module 101: 10 weeks including exam

September 23rd, 30th

October 7th, 14th, 28th

November 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

December 2nd (101 exam)

BSL Module 102: 10 weeks including exam

January 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

February 3rd, 10th, 24th

March 2nd, 9th, 16th (102 exam)

BSL Module 103: 10 weeks including exam

April 20th, 27th

May 4th, 11th, 18th

June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd (exam retake) 29th (103 exam)

**Dates:** 6:30 - 8:30pm Mondays starting 23rd September 2019 through to end of June 2020 (term time only). Please see dates above.

**Venue:** The Professional Development Centre, 148 Woodside Road, Norwich (parking is available on site).

**Cost:** Limited places for a parent of a deaf child at a reduced cost of £80, £260 for professionals, plus the cost of exams (£93 for the three exams any retakes are extra). The fees may increase slightly as the figure quoted is applicable up to July 2019.

Please bring with you a pen, folder and poly-pockets suitable for A4 size paper these are for course hand-outs.

To book your place onto this course (you must have a confirmed place before attending) please contact Heather Riseborough by latest Wednesday 11th September 2019. Telephone 01603 704040 or e-mail [heather.riseborough@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:heather.riseborough@norfolk.gov.uk)

## Barbecue for VI Children and their Families

Children with a vision impairment and their families are invited to come to a family barbecue at High Lodge on 31st July 2019. The cost of the barbecue is £25 to be split between families. Please bring your own food and drink. Parking is not free, please pay on exit. For further details and to express an interest please go to the VSSS VI Facebook page.