



## VSSS - Afternoon at RAF Marham

### RAF Marham visit, a day to remember

Not unlike the scene from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, 10 excited visually impaired children supported by mums, dads and grandads with an enthusiasm for military knowledge gathered for an afternoon of hands on experiences at RAF Marham during May half term.

Warrant officer Mo Howard MBE, Station Engagement Officer was our guide for the afternoon and started with a welcome brief and in depth presentation on past, present and future aircraft stationed at the base. With mobility aids in full swing we walked to the display Tornado and bombs that the students had just learnt about and were able to feel for themselves the scale and size of the aircraft and various bombs and missiles carried by the noisy Tornado's that fly through our Norfolk skies.

Warrant Officer Howard had laid on a coach that took us around the camp which is being comprehensively redeveloped in preparation for the F-35B Lightning stealth fighter jets whose arrival was imminent.

We arrived at the military dog section and here we met the quiet, friendly search and rescue dogs and

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### CONTACT US



Check us out on Facebook

Telephone: 01603 704040

[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

[portage.service@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:portage.service@norfolk.gov.uk)

the more vocal and less sociable police attack dogs. To help calm these highly stressed dogs they listen over loud speakers to classical music, today they were being entertained by Rachmaninov's piano concerto No. 2!

Students were able to try on the protective clothing worn by the handlers during attack training. By this time we were running well over schedule due to the amount of questions the children and adults had for the Police section staff.

With everyone safely back on the bus, with no dogs hidden in large bags, we made our way to the RAF Regiment section where we were able to handle, explore and fire (without magazines and ammunition) the military rifles and pistols currently used by serving RAF personnel when in a war zone. Some of the students took the opportunity to dress up in the bullet-proof vests, Kevlar helmets and webbing belts to enable them to get an understanding of what the soldiers have to endure when out in the field, add a heavy weapon and ammunition to the ensemble and some could barely stand up under the weight of it all!

At last...time to taste the eagerly anticipated 24hour ration packs that soldiers eat when on Military exercises and active duty. At over 4000 calories per box the boil in the bag main meals including beef chilli, vegetable curry and chicken in black bean sauce were well received by the children and adults alike. Everyone tucked into the mango cake, cinnamon swirl and chocolate sponge and custard which received rave reviews from all who tried them.

This was a first and very successful afternoon, we received some fabulous feedback from students and adults. I do know that more than one 24hour ration pack has been ordered from a popular online auction site!!

Thank you RAF Marham and your fabulous military personal, same time next year?

## Personalised Travel Payments

Personalised Travel Payments (PTPs) is a new scheme for SEND Transport that is being trailed for 12 months.

A PTP is a sum of money that the local authority (NCC) offers to parents/carers with a child or young person who has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) to enable them to make their own arrangements to take their child/young person

to and from school. This is an alternative to other Local Authority provided transport such as a taxi or a minibus.

A PTP is for a child or young person with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) attending their nearest appropriate school or other specialist provision, who needs specialist transport. They must meet the general criteria within the home to school transport policy regarding age and distance, which would qualify them for free school transport.

During the pilot, the local authority are looking for approximately 200 families who have a child / young person eligible for specialist transport who are interested in participating in the scheme. For the pilot, we would like to ensure a representative sample of families in a range of individual circumstances. For example children and young people who currently...

- are on shared travel arrangements
- travel in the taxi on their own
- require a passenger assistant
- travel long distances

We will also be looking to see how the PTP works in different types of educational settings.

The PTP is a payment based on distance, taking into account the child's needs, based on the shortest distance by road from their main residence to school/college, measured using the council's measuring software. We will pay your PTP every month in arrears, based on the number of school days in that month. There is no payment for August.

**Potential advantages for families:**

- Increased flexibility for families
- Families will not be constrained by the taxi or mini bus pick up/drop off time
- Parents and carers could consider shared travel arrangements
- Parents and carers or family members can spend more time with their child / young person
- Parents and carers may feel more involved or included in their school community

- Peace of mind – parents and carers know their child’s needs best and can support them so they arrive at school more ready to learn.
- Potentially less time spent travelling for those previously on shared travel arrangements

Please follow the link on the Local Offer to access further information on the PTP:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer/personalised-travel-payment-pilot>

## Summer Deaf Festival

**Summer Deaf Festival**

**FREE ENTRY!**

**Friday 13th July 10am-4pm**  
BSL Interpreters available at the event!

The Forum,  
Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1BH

**Join us for a fun packed day celebrating Deaf Culture!**

- NDCS Listening Bus
- British Sign Language Tasters
- Deaf Author Joyce Dunbar Book Signing and Story Reading
- Talk by Ishtiaq Hussein, Visual Vernacular Artist
- Performance from Deaf Dancer Chris Fonseca and his workshop with young deaf people
- Signing Choir Performances
- Various Stalls, Organisations and much more!

Find out how Hearing Dogs can help Deaf people

Watch the Spectacular Science Show  
Learn about sound and how the ear works  
With Cambridge Science Centre

Like us on Facebook: @NSDF18 | Follow us on Instagram: @NorfolkDeafFestival

# VISUAL VERNACULAR WORKSHOP

Summer  
Deaf  
Festival



WITH ISHTIAQ HUSSAIN



- Find out more about Visual Vernacular
- Learn how to perform VV from an experienced VV artist
- Opportunity to perform in the evening performance
- PLUS... get a FREE Tshirt!

Tickets  
£10pp

Friday 13th July, 5pm - 6:30pm

Norwich Deaf Centre, Vauxhall Centre, Johnson Place, Norwich, NR2 2SA

#### WHAT IS VISUAL VERNACULAR?

Visual Vernacular is a theatrical art form of physical expression, story telling with strong sense of body movements, iconic signs, gestures, facial expressions.

VV has elements of poetry and mime but it is totally different as it is shown visually.

More info: [www.visualvernacular.co.uk](http://www.visualvernacular.co.uk)

SUITABLE FOR BSL LEVEL 3+ OR NATIVE BSL USERS

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

EMAIL: [norfolksummerdeaffestival@gmail.com](mailto:norfolksummerdeaffestival@gmail.com) TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!

# EVENING SHOW

Summer  
Deaf  
Festival



## ISH'S VV WORLD

WATCH PERFORMANCES  
OF VISUAL VERNACULAR BY  
ISHTIAQ HUSSAIN AND OTHERS!

Friday 13th July, 8pm  
Norwich Deaf Centre

Vauxhall Centre, Johnson Place,  
Norwich, NR2 2SA

Tickets: £7.50pp

#### WHAT IS VISUAL VERNACULAR?

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VV has elements of poetry and mime but it is totally different as it is shown visually.

[www.visualvernacular.co.uk](http://www.visualvernacular.co.uk)



Book your ticket now!

Email: [norfolksummerdeaffestival@gmail.com](mailto:norfolksummerdeaffestival@gmail.com)  
or ask at Norwich Deaf Centre

# VSSS - Parent / Carer Survey

We would appreciate it if you could spare a minute to fill in our questionnaire please, if you have not already done it.

All you need to do is click on the link below and answer ten questions and then click on 'submit' at the bottom of the questionnaire . Thank you.  
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/vssparentcarer/>

## Family Voice Transition Sessions

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

Do you want to find out about preparing for adulthood?

Join us for coffee at one of our information and feedback sessions to talk about 'Transition' and what it means for your family.

We've invited Frank Crowdy, Transition Lead for Norfolk County Council, to tell you about the 'NEW TRANSITION SERVICE'.

-Ask questions about what transition could mean in your family.

-Find out who can help and advise you.

-Share ideas with other parents / carers.

-Make sure NCC knows what most concerns families like yours.

All of the following sessions will take place between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Dates and venues:

-Tuesday 19th June 2018

Community Room, South Lynn Community Centre,  
10 St Michael's Road, King's Lynn, PE30 5HE

-Thursday 21st June 2018

Charles Burrell Centre, Staniforth Road, Thetford,  
IP24 3LH

-Thursday 28th June 2018

Atrium, Spenser Avenue, North Walsham, NR28  
9HZ

If you can come, please email us at  
[events@familyvoice.org.uk](mailto:events@familyvoice.org.uk) or call/text on 07535  
895748.

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