

Date: Autumn term 2017

Dear

We have recently invested in *Britannica School* – an award-winning online resource from **Encyclopædia Britannica**.

This resource is now available for children in care to access at school or from home and can be used on any device including computers, laptops and tablets. It is also available to you to use to help you support your child with their school work. The overriding feature of this world famous, unique encyclopaedia is that it is linked to the National Curriculum and safeguards your children from inappropriate material they can easily stumble across when they use conventional search engines.

Please encourage your child to use Britannica School as a starting point when they're searching for information to help them with homework, projects and research papers on the internet. Children and young people can choose from three learning entry points – Foundation, Intermediate or Advanced – then select a reading level that matches each child's ability. Additionally, the pages can easily be translated into many languages, therefore supporting young people who have English as an additional language.

You can be confident that your child is exploring safe material from an internationally trusted, nonbiased, and reliable source with access to articles, videos, images and educational games in all subject areas.

A separate letter has been sent to your child or young person, with the E-Safety Guide and a Guided Tour of how Britannica School works and a copy is enclosed. Should these get mislaid, a copy is available on our website, www.essex.gov.uk/virtualschool

There is an expectation that carers will provide access to the internet to support their learning. Young people also have access to the internet at school, college or via the public library.

Please feel free to explore for yourself and we hope you will gain as much enjoyment as your children will.

If you feel you may require training, in the first instance please contact your supervising social worker



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