

Medical Education Service (MES) newsletter

Spring Term 2021

Welcome to the second edition of The Medical Education Service (MES) termly newsletter. The MES team provide short-term education to help schools and settings to provide continuity in education when a child or young people has been absent from school for 15 days or more due to a physical or mental health need.

Visit the web page to find an **outline of the new service, how to make a request** and any **relevant documentation**.

<https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/medical-education-service>

Your Locality Coordinators are:

Hambleton and Richmond:

vicky.davis@northyorks.gov.uk

Harrogate and Craven:

sarah.wright6@northyorks.gov.uk

Selby:

katharine.hunter@northyorks.gov.uk

Scarborough/Ryedale/Whitby:

sarah.wright6@northyorks.gov.uk



No Isolation AV1

The MES are offering a small number of schools the opportunity to trial an AV1 for the summer term, free of charge.

AV1s are small robots designed to help children and young people who are unable to access a classroom for a range of reasons. The robot acts as their eyes, ears and voice whilst they are unable to be in the classroom physically. Through the AV1 app they are able to connect to their AV1 which is in the classroom whilst they remain remotely elsewhere. They can hear through the AV1's microphone, see through the camera and speak through the loudspeaker.

AV1s can help attendance, well-being and increase the number of hours of education a child who is unable to access the classroom can receive. They can prevent children and young people from falling behind. Privacy and safeguarding have been carefully considered and there are multiple layers of security.

The Medical Education Service has purchased a number of these AV1s and can loan them to school for £55 per week. Schools may not yet know how the AV1s operate and how valuable they can be to a learner so the MES are keen for schools to utilise them.

Therefore, we are offering a small number of schools the opportunity to borrow an AV1 for the summer term, free of charge. This is a good time to take up this offer as children and young people are returning to school after the national lockdown. All you need is the ability to download the AV1 app to a mobile device such as a tablet or phone.

All the MES asks for in return is a short report on how the AV1 was utilised. It may be that you have a child or young person who is at home and cannot attend school for a specific reason, or you may have a child or young person who is in school but is unable to access the classroom. You may have a different idea how the AV1 can be used; the MES are open to any suggestions or ideas.

If you would like to take up this offer please email your MES locality coordinator with your name, the name of your school, and a paragraph on how you intend to use the AV1. The MES will then pick some schools at random and arrange delivery. At the end of the summer term, we will arrange for collection of the AV1 and look forward to reading your feedback. The company 'No Isolation' who designed the AV1 device are on hand to support schools with the initial set up process.

What do our schools say?

One Headteacher told the MES *"The AV1 in my classroom has been an absolute lifeline for my pupil. It has meant that he has been able to continue to keep in touch with the class and, when well enough, has been able to access the learning as though he were in the classroom."*

What do our young people say?

One of the MES pupils who has been working as part of a study group told their tutor "You have helped me right from the start to come out of me shell. Thank you."

What do our parents say?

One parent explained that their child's anxiety around having lessons has decreased since their medical tuition first started and that they were now "enjoying the shared reading of novels. They have started to read independently at night for the first time in years since having the sessions." This wonderful example illustrates the fact that this support encourages a thirst for knowledge as well as making a measurable impact on a children or young person's progress in learning.

Success stories

This half term all MES have staff have completed The Theory and Practice of Boxall Profile training. This will enable the MES to work with schools to provide a framework for a systematic assessment of children and young people. It is crucial that a professional who knows the child or young person best carries out the assessments. Boxall profile assessments are underpinned by **The Six Principles Of Nurture:**

- Children's learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom offers a safe base.
- The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
- Language is a vital means of communication
- All behaviour is communication
- The importance of transition in children's lives

