



ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

Newsletter November 2025

As the vibrant colours of autumn settle in, the Home Education Team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who've shared such inspiring updates over the past year. It's been a genuine joy to read about the wide range of experiences your children have embraced - from academic successes to exciting adventures across the UK and beyond. Equally moving have been the stories of young people overcoming anxiety and adversity, building new skills, and growing in confidence. These reflections beautifully capture the richness and diversity of home education, and I'm pleased to say we've been able to respond individually to each one; thank you for your patience as we worked through them.

Looking ahead, we'd like to encourage those of you with children preparing for exams or exploring next steps - whether that's college, apprenticeships, or entering the world of work - to check out the links below and keep an eye on college websites for upcoming open events. We'll be sharing more information with families in the coming weeks, and as always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can support you in any way.



If you are aged 16-18 and want help to take your next steps and get into work, training or education then get in touch today! There are Young Person's Coaches and Young Person's Workers who are here to help you. <https://thesource.me.uk/yourfuture/stuck/>

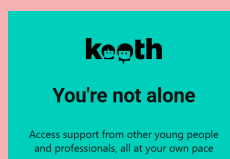


Inspire supports 16-24-year-olds in East Suffolk and Ipswich to make their next steps into work, education or training. There are drop-ins offered at Colville House, Lowestoft and the DWP in Felixstowe 9am - 5pm and Job Clubs in Leiston are planned.

<https://inspirecharityuk.org/>



Supporting 16-24-year-olds not in education, employment, or training, 517 London Road, Ipswich, IP2 0ST <https://www.lhskillsacademy.org/>



<https://www.kooth.com/>
1:1 professional mental health support through a chat based service 24/7, no waiting list

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Endeavour House

8 Russell Road

Ipswich Suffolk

IP1 2BX

01473 265139

ehe@suffolk.gov.uk

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children>

[-families-and-learning/schools/](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/)

[elective-home-education](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/elective-home-education)



Taking GCSEs while Home Educated

Home educated students sit exams as external/private candidates at a registered exam centre accredited by their chosen exam board.

The GCSE Exam Boards in England & Wales are AQA, OCR, Pearson (Edexcel) and Eduqas / WJEC. The iGCSE Exam Boards are Pearson (Edexcel), Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and AQA (called AQA Certificate).

Each exam board provides a syllabus and subject specification.

Exam centres can be difficult to find; contacting local high schools (especially one previously attended) may help. Some independent schools also accept external candidates. You can also approach Unity Schools Partnership and <https://www.unitysp.co.uk/> and Thomas Gainsborough School <https://www.tgschool.net/>

As an external (private) candidate, you must pay all associated costs - including study materials, registration, and exam fees. Costs vary by centre and location. Arrangements should be made by early November to avoid extra fees and secure a place.



Joint Council for
Qualifications CIC

To search for an exam centre near you, you can use the Joint Council for Qualifications website

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/private-candidates/>

Elective Home Education Drop-ins

Drop-in sessions offer an opportunity to meet the EHE team to find out about local educational resources for EHE children, Suffolk's approach to EHE or to simply discuss EHE and ask any questions you may have. Children are welcome to attend the sessions.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/elective-home-education/elective-home-education-drop-in-sessions>

11/11/2025 10.30-12.30 Felixstowe Library, Crescent Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 7BY

11/11/2025 11-12.30 Lowestoft Library, Clapham Road South, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DR

21/11/2025 11-12.30 Stowmarket Library, Milton Road North, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1EX

5/12/2025 11-12.30 Halesworth Library, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8AD

13/1/2026 10.30-12.30 Woodbridge Community Hall, Station Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AU

29/1/2026 10-12.00 The Pavillion, Mildenhall, Recreation Way, Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 7HG

4/2/2026 10-12.00 Bury St Edmunds Library, Sergeants Walk, St Andrews Street North, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1TZ

24/2/2026 10.30-12.30 Hadleigh Library, 29 High Street, Hadleigh, Suffolk IP7 5AG

24/2/2026 11-12.30 Saxmundham Fromus Centre, Block E, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1AL

6/5/2026 10-12.00 Bury St Edmunds Library, Sergeants Walk, St Andrews Street North, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1TZ

7/5/2026 10-12.00 Haverhill Library, Camps Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8HB

Amazing Achievements

If your child has achieved something they are proud of, we would love to hear about it! It could be a sporting, creative, or personal achievement, a new skill they've mastered, or something entirely different. To share your child's achievement please send us a brief email to ehe@suffolk.gov.uk explaining what they have accomplished. Don't forget to include any pictures or photos, along with their name and age.

Building this fireplace was something for Vince (8), Elliott (15) and Victor (8) to be proud of.

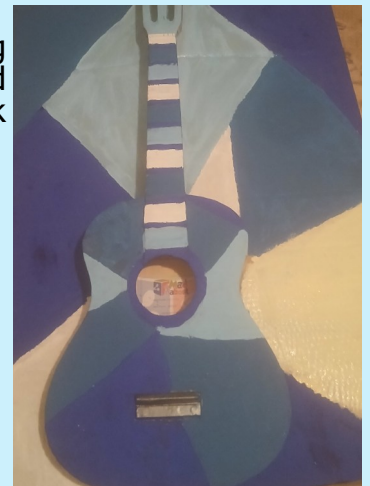


Dalton (12), enjoyed taking the time to write his own English story



Felix (8) and Izzy (2) went to a pottery workshop in Haverhill in September, Felix made a poppy bowl and a poppy badge. Izzy is only 2 so was given some clay to play with. We will be going back this month to paint our poppies and learn some more about clay and pottery!

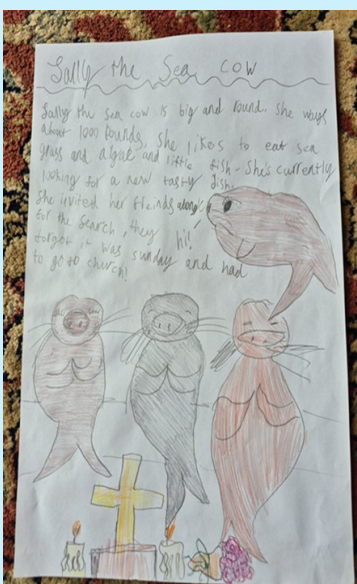
Bailey(14) has been learning about Vincent Van Gogh and did this art work



Tom (10) passed his Initial Grade Violin



Scott (9) wrote and illustrated this poem about a sea cow



Isla (11) has a love of dance including aerial hoop and silks; she attended her first completion at "Fly High" in September this year and was placed 5th. This was an amazing achievement for Isla and has given her the confidence and encouragement to take part in even more competitions in the future.

