

Futura Learning Partnership

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Happy and welcoming places of learning and fun - that's what we aspire for all our schools to be



WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Isn't it lovely to see the spring unfolding around us? It seems to have been a long time coming this year. I hope you and your family enjoy some fresh air and perhaps even some sunshine during the holidays.

As always, I'd like to thank you for all you do to help and cherish our schools. I know, too, that you are grateful for the individual support you receive from teachers and other staff when times are tough. The warm relationships and mutual kindness that develop over the years is what gives our schools their strength. The eagle-eyed among you might have noticed that we have changed the name of this update to Community Newsletter. That's because each of our schools is a community – children, staff, parents, carers, step-parents, grandparents, alumni, neighbours, governors – where we care for one another and share common values.



These Wellsway School netballers are jumping for joy after making it to the West of England finals at SGS College

It's exactly four years since we had to shut our doors to many pupils to try to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. The pandemic certainly brought many challenges, and in some cases tragedies. Recent research shows that many people of all ages are still suffering from Covid's after-effects and will continue to do so for some time. Yet we learned from the lockdowns too, building on our strengths and developing some new ways of working that will help us in the years to come.

'SCHOOL IS A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN CAN DEVELOP ACADEMICALLY AND PERSONALLY ALONGSIDE THEIR PEERS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF QUALIFIED AND TALENTED ADULTS.'

One of the unwelcome legacies of the pandemic has been a drop in school attendance levels across the country. While some of our schools have returned to pre-Covid attendance rates, absence levels in others are still unacceptably high. We want to work with you to understand the barriers that might prevent some children being in lessons so that together we can overcome them.

School is a place where children can develop academically and personally alongside their peers under the guidance

of qualified and talented adults. Most importantly, they can have fun while doing so! This term has seen an abundance of activities in all our schools that combine learning and enjoyment: dance and drama performances and competitions, sporting fixtures, expeditions, trips – the list is endless!

World Book Day has become a fixture in many schools. Some encourage dressing up as storybook characters (some teachers relish this while others want to hide in a cupboard!). Others have developed a range of alternative activities to mark the day. I believe it's crucial to share a love not just of books but of words. It's so important to develop communication and language skills – the vocabulary gap at age five between children from advantaged and disadvantaged homes is a shocking 19 months – so this must be a priority for all of us every day, not just on World Book Day.

For busy parents, it might not always be possible to read your child a bedtime story every night, but make sure you and they treasure the times when you can. If your child struggles to find independent reading a chore, perhaps suggest they try audio books. Encourage them to enjoy the language of poems, plays or song lyrics, and help them understand the usefulness of being able to read recipes, instructions for crafts or games,

or to research projects. Most of all, model the pleasure of reading the printed word – put aside your phone!

Thank you to all those parents who took the time to complete our survey about how we could make this newsletter more relevant for you. You have asked for more advice on how to support your children and we will look into the best way to provide that. As the exam season approaches, we must collaborate to help young people balance the demands of study with relaxation.

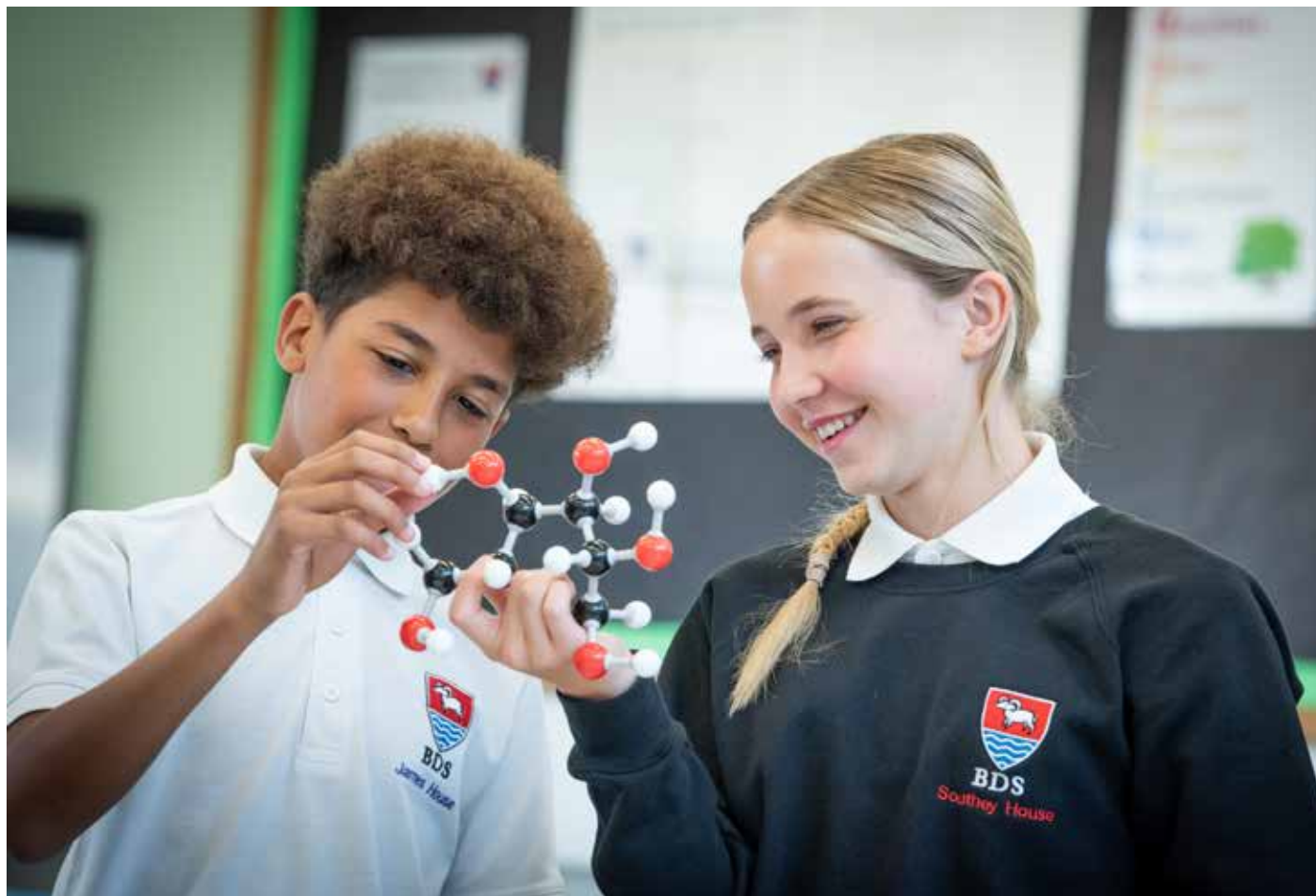
For now, though, it's time for many of us to take a break from the daily routine. My best wishes to those taking part in the holy month of Ramadan, those for whom the forthcoming Easter services are precious – and everyone else too. Happy springtime!

With best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

BEDMINSTER DOWN - 10 YEARS AN OFSTED GOOD SCHOOL



Bedminster Down School is a Good school where students feel safe and focus on their learning.

That's the finding of Ofsted inspectors who visited the secondary school in November and decided it should retain the Good rating it has held since 2014.

They noted that the school has "high expectations for behaviour" in lessons, which students "understand and follow".

The curriculum was praised for being well-structured, helping students remember their learning and developing the reading skills of learners.

Extra-curricular provision, including sport, arts and wellbeing clubs, was highlighted. "The school plans for pupils to have experiences they may not otherwise have. For example, all pupils camp on Dartmoor during their time at the school," the report said.

Personal, social and health education was described as appropriate and timely to meet pupils' needs. "The school enhances the curriculum to make it relevant to pupils. Pupils learn how to keep safe and behave safely, both online and in the wider community."

'I'M DELIGHTED FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY THAT OFSTED RECOGNISES THE VERY MANY GOOD THINGS ABOUT BEDMINSTER DOWN SCHOOL...'

Careers education, including a wide variety of speakers, work experience and university visits was also praised.

Support for students with special educational needs and disabilities and those who need alternative provision was said to be carefully tailored to meet their needs.

The inspectors recognised the support and resource provided to the school by Futura and noted that "governors have the detail they need to ask challenging and pertinent questions."

Headteacher Louise Davies said: "I'm delighted for the school community that Ofsted recognises the very many good things about Bedminster Down School. After the instability of the Covid years, we're in a much more stable place to focus on the things that matter. We're proud of all the progress we've made and will continue to make. I'd like to thank staff, governors, students and parents for all their hard work and support."

YEO MOOR CELEBRATES NEW NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL



Yeo Moor Primary School has celebrated the opening of its nursery and pre-school.

It follows last year's opening of an outside play area with an all-weather surface, bike trail, play area, and learning-through-play activity wonderland.

The nursery and pre-school are already proving popular with the community, and a waiting list is now in place for September.

Headteacher Roland Lovatt said: "We are absolutely delighted with our new nursery and pre-school facilities.

"Our school is passionate about providing high-quality nursery and pre-school education. It is already proving extremely popular, and the children love it."

Visit the [school website](#) to learn more. If you live in the Clevedon area and

are looking for nursery provision, you can book a tour by emailing the school office at office@yeomoorprimaryschool.org.uk.

COLLEAGUES LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER AT JOINT INSET

The first Futura joint INSET day of the year was a resounding success, with over 200 members of our primary and secondary networks coming together to share best practice and develop new approaches.

The newly formed Futura networks are a fantastic opportunity for staff to collaborate with colleagues from different settings and explore their roles. Experts from our family of schools facilitate these networks.

For primary colleagues, there are networks focusing on curriculum areas and networks to explore more general areas, such as assessment and SEND. Secondary networks are for subject leads in specific curriculum areas.

Feedback from participants was extremely positive. Some appreciated learning new strategies to implement in their school: 'Incredibly useful and inspiring training! Ingrid has shown us many different ways we can implement



Secondary subject leads met at the Food Works to collaborate with colleagues from other schools.

music into the school, and I feel excited and inspired to feed this all back to the other staff.' And: 'I have learned so much about teaching music and enjoyed the session and the opportunity to try different instruments.'

Others valued the opportunity to network: 'It was a great opportunity to

collaborate with colleagues, share ideas and become inspired about teaching reading again.'

In addition to meeting over the coming months, the networks will get back together on Monday 8th July, at the second joint INSET day.

AMELIA GOES FROM IKB STUDENT TO VISITING EMPLOYER



IKB hosted ten local employers who conducted mock interviews with all Year 11 and Year 13 students. Before the interviews, students received support from the tutor team to prepare their CVs, which they then sent to their respective employers.

Employers interviewed the students, testing their abilities and helping them gain valuable experience in self-promotion. The event concluded with the employers giving a talk about their employment journey.

The employers were;

- Amelia Nicholas, BMT
- Ashlea Lane, Wessex Water
- Cameron Mackie, Airbus
- Candice Spreadbury, Vodafone
- Fraser Greenroyd, Buro Happold
- George Harrill, Army Reserve Centre
- George Skuse, Mott MacDonald
- Harry Foy, Mott MacDonald
- Mark Allemby, Horstman Defence Systems
- Tatum Stockwell, Vodafone

It was great to see two former IKB students in the employer group. Amelia Nicholas, who now works for BMT after leaving IKB in 2022, shared her experience: 'I'm grateful for the incredible opportunity



to return to IKB Academy, where I pursued my GCSEs and A-levels. This time, I found myself on the other side of the table, conducting interviews with Year 11 and Year 13 students.'

'IKB played a significant role in helping me get to where I am today, and having the opportunity to give back to the school was truly an honour.'

'It was a pleasure interviewing the students, and I hope I've inspired some with my own journey. I wish them all the best for their futures and the careers that are waiting for them. Thank you, IKB Academy.'

For further details on the organisation and delivery of this event, please contact Clare Barclay at IKB Academy.

CHILDREN SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS AT ANNUAL SHOW

St John's CofE Primary School held its annual Celebrating Differences Talent Show.

The event was an excellent opportunity for children to showcase their talents in fields such as drama, dance, magic, and music. This year, there was an increase in the number of children performing in groups, which demonstrated their collaborative skills - a value that both Futura and St John's hold dear.

The initial heats took place in classes, with children voting for the acts they wanted to progress to the finals. The final event was attended by both the children and their parents. Staff hope the event inspires more children to take part next year.



FUTURA'S WORLD BOOK DAY 2024 TELLS TALE OF SUCCESS



Many of our schools took part in activities for World Book Day - here we get an insight on what happened at Chilton Trinity.

World Book Day 2024 saw Chilton staff and students come together to participate in our fun literary events and have an additional reading focus in all lessons.

We kicked off with a scholastic book fair the week before the big day. Students used their vouchers and earned the school £168 in rewards.

We had our annual reading relay. The book was [Jake Atlas and the Tomb of the Emerald Snake](#) by Rob Lloyd Jones, a brilliant adventure with action on every page. Teachers brought up their classes to listen and read. Students and staff were enthralled with the story, with students coming back up at break and lunchtime to hear more.

Our Book Blind Date was a hit. Students were asked to look at a selection of books that had been wrapped and had just their first pages on display to help them choose which book they'd like to be partnered with! This became a real buzz, with lots of students taking part, and all were delighted with their choices. Students will be reading these and giving feedback after Easter.

Throughout the day, we had some fantastic literary costumes come through the library doors; the student librarian team did a joint Hunger Games dress-up, which was amazing. Another great team effort was the characters from Alice in Wonderland.

Every tutor group took part in the 'Masked Reader' competition, attempting to identify the reading voices of over twenty staff members. Only four tutor groups successfully identified all of the voices.

Finally, and still ongoing, is our Read for Good sponsored read. [Read for Good](#) is a charity that gets books and readers into hospitals for children who are poorly. It does amazing work and is a favourite among some of our students who have used their services. Our students have risen to the challenge with many taking part and online sponsorships rolling in. We will know the final amount to be donated next week but it's looking great so far.