

Futura Learning Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Have you heard the latest? After almost two years of interruption, enrichment opportunities for Futura children and young people are on the increase



WELCOME

Dear Parent and Carer,

I can't quite believe we are now half way through the school year! As we approach the February half term, I have been reflecting on the fact that it is nearly two years since Covid-19 first began to impact us. This was at the start of term 4 in 2020 when we had pupils in two of our schools returning from school ski trips to Italy, which was at the European epicentre of the outbreak. I remember well the concern there was at the time and how quickly things took off from that point. Now, almost two years on, it is amazing to consider all the advances that have been made, taking us to the point where the government is considering removing all restrictions. What a triumph for both science and public health policy, in terms of testing, treatments, vaccines, and the control measures that have been implemented on an unprecedented scale.

With levels of Covid-19 still high in our area, we need to continue to be vigilant in our schools and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the control measures that remain in place to help keep everyone safe, particularly with the LFD home testing.

As we begin to get back to normal it is so good to see clubs, activities and trips making a comeback in our schools. The experiences these provide are such an important part of a child and young person's education and very rewarding for the adults taking part as well. This edition of the newsletter gives a flavour of some of these and it's great to see children and young people having fun and making memories that will stay with them beyond school. This evening I am going to see the school production at Wellsway – Disco Inferno – and I am really looking forward to it! My thanks go to all my colleagues across our family of schools for all they are doing to bring back enrichment activities.

I know we don't look for thanks in the education profession but it is nice to be recognised nevertheless. [The Pearson Teaching Awards](#) are currently open for nominations and close on March 4th. This national scheme is a great way to recognise people working in education who have made an outstanding contribution and it would be good to have some nominations from the Futura family of schools.

Another great award scheme that recognises children and young people is the [Bristol Young Heroes Awards](#) that closes on March 18th. Do you know of a young person who is deserving of this recognition?

Finally, we are very pleased that our Director of Education, Gary Schlick, has been selected to train as an Ofsted inspector. This insight will be of enormous benefit to us as a trust and will ensure we can provide even stronger support for schools preparing for an Ofsted inspection. The training is very intensive and here are some of Gary's initial reflections:

"Two weeks in a room with 50 Ofsted inspectors may not be everyone's idea of fun but half way through this experience I am feeling very privileged to be here. I am undertaking my training to become an Ofsted Inspector; joining an organisation that is a force for good in education. Yes, inspectors send a shudder down the spines of many but my experience of the training so far has been very reassuring. The focus on the curriculum is clear but so is the absolute priority on assuring the safeguarding of pupils and an understanding of how Ofsted can positively impact on staff workload. I've got a huge amount left to learn but so far so 'good'."

I hope your children enjoy the half term break and we look forward to welcoming them back to school on Monday 28th February.

With best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge

Chief Executive

BDS STUDENTS VOTED ON TO BRISTOL YOUTH COUNCIL

Two students from Bedminster Down School, Kendra Mayo in Year 10 and Ellis Pitman in Year 7, have been elected to Bristol Youth Council.

During their two-year term of office, they will represent young people's views to adult decision makers, such as the Mayor, councillors, council officers and Members of Parliament.

In the run-up to the citywide elections, BDS students were given the chance to

watch all candidates' video manifestos.

After polling closed, the votes were counted and candidates were invited to City Hall to hear whether they had been successful.

Ellis said: "My heart was hammering as my name was called last, but I'm so glad that I was successful".

This is a fantastic opportunity for Kendra and Ellis to represent the youth of Bristol and influence policy



decisions – everyone at Futura Learning Partnership congratulates them and wishes them the best of luck.

LOCAL BOY 'DONE GOOD'!

Our schools aim to provide a strong foundation that enables children and young people to flourish. Wansdyke School recently received a lovely email from the parents of a former pupil and wanted to share some of it with the trust.

The parents of Jack Britton wrote: "I just thought you may wish to know how one of your many ex-pupils are doing after they left Wansdyke School.

"Jack was the shortest in the class at Wansdyke, Dad would say positive things to him about famous people who are short.... like Napoleon, however he had a late spurt and is now 5'9".

"He has been a really good boy and become independent - thanks to some fine teachers at Wansdyke - and went on to Bedminster Down Academy.

He did well at maths, drama and other subjects, and attended St Brendan's College. He then opted to go to the University of Sussex in Brighton for a maths degree and secured a good 2:1 despite working online in the final year and a half due to Covid

restrictions like other schools, colleges and universities. He is currently in London at Kings College doing a Masters in Climate Change and enjoying this more than maths!"

Wansdyke School added: "It's lovely to receive news about a former pupil, and that he thinks fondly of his time at Wansdyke. Having spent most of his school life within the trust, thank you Bedminster Down for taking good care of our pupils and helping them on their onward journey."



FUTURA SIXTH BUILDS FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Futura Sixth is going from strength to strength in its first year, following the rebranding of the collaborative sixth form, working with SBL Academy, Wellsway School and IKB Academy.

Applications to join Futura Sixth are up again for 2022, thanks to our strong offer, which rivals all of our local competitors. We are working closely with Bedminster Down School to encourage the students to understand that as part of the Futura Learning Partnership they have an automatic progression route to Futura Sixth.

We have nearly completed interviewing all of the Futura Sixth applicants and this has helped us to understand the subjects the students have chosen and whether these were right for their long term aspirations and goals.

A number of our sixth form students

in Year 12 have recently started their [Access to Bristol](#) courses, which supports local applicants to the University of Bristol, and we wish them all the best. Meg, a Year 13 student from SBL, has received a conditional offer of a place at the University of Oxford to study Biochemistry, and is working hard to achieve the grades she will require.

Year 13 students have finished their UCAS applications to attend university as the next step in their education. I'm sure over the next few weeks they will be receiving their place offers. It's always exciting to see our students being offered places on some of the most competitive courses.

We will now start to look at Post-16 induction/taster sessions and students' bridging work, which will enable them to make a successful transition from

Year 11 into Futura Sixth. We have worked hard this year to be ahead of schedule in terms of applications and understanding the timetable and staffing requirements. This will allow us to ensure we recruit the very best teachers for our students.

We can also start to focus earlier and support Year 10 students with some information in the summer term to encourage them to consider Futura Sixth as the best option for their futures. It's not too late to apply for next September and we would be delighted to talk to you if you would like more information about what we have on offer.

Danny Wilkinson
Director of Post-16

STEM DAY AT ST JOHN'S



Key Stage 1

Children (and staff!) in KS1 had a fabulous STEM day on Wednesday 26th January, showing great collaboration skills during all of their activities. They decorated 3D shape nets on the laptops, explored capacity in the mud kitchen, showed their engineering skills when creating a model using guttering and water pipes, created glasses to learn about rainbow colours and made a balloon rocket.

Key Stage 2

Mrs Wellington delivered an excellent lesson to upper KS2 children about Skeleton winter sport. Her presentation linked many aspects of the curriculum such as geography, science and PE. The children were given opportunities to participate and ask questions, sparking their curiosity. The practical element of trying on and touching parts of the equipment was also enjoyed by the children

and, consequently, they drew some fantastic kit designs of their own.

St John's were also lucky to have a virtual call from Emma Gauntlett, a pilot for Easyjet, telling pupils how she got into flying and her favourite parts of the job. The children had lots of questions and really enjoyed hearing all about what a pilot does!

ZEST CATERING DISHES UP MANY HELPINGS OF FUN

Fun is on the menu next term as our fantastic in-house catering team, Zest, prepare for some themed days at trust primary schools.

First up next term is a special event for Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday, swiftly followed by some tasty treats to mark World Book Day on March 3.

Easter is always an inspiration for cooks, so expect to see some super puds and possibly some egg hunts as that festival approaches.

Later in the year children and staff can look forward to an Under the Sea menu, Mexican and Chinese days, a feast for Roald Dahl Day, then - of course - special



menus for Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas. Happy eating!

SCIENCE AND SPORT INSPIRE YEAR 5 VISITORS

A Sport and Science transition taster session at Wellsway School went down a storm with Year 5 children from Salford and Marksbury Primary schools. The pupils had the opportunity to work

alongside Wellsway staff and sports/science ambassadors while trying out new activities. The Year 5s enjoyed playing badminton and made excellent progress in a relatively short time. In the

science session the children carried out three experiments in the lab. Using the method of paper chromatography, they separated different inks and dyes to form chromatographs and even a bouquet of



flowers! Many thanks to Miss Barron, Miss Fox and Mrs Joseph for helping to run the sessions and to all the ambassadors who were such great role models.

Salford School commented: "We were delighted that 45 of our Year 5 pupils

could attend the first event in a new programme at Wellsway School that is designed to support a positive transition into their secondary education. They took part in engaging sports and science activities that were designed

to introduce them to some of the facilities, staff and student ambassadors at Wellsway. It was clear from the children's comments that they had had a great time and were looking forward to their secondary experience."



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK IN OUR SCHOOLS

THE MEADOWS

Last week was children's Mental Health Week so the children at The Meadows have been thinking about 'what is mental health and how do we look after it?' Many children have been actively travelling to school as this is a great way to support our mental health. The scooter pods have been put to great use and we may have to order some more if the children continue to actively travel to school. We really hope they do! The active travel initiative is supporting the school in achieving a Mode Shift Award. An amazing effort was made by two children who scooted from Keynsham to school in Bitton.



CHANDAG JUNIORS



Chandag Junior School started their week with an assembly from [Place2Be](#), thinking about the theme 'Growing Together' and how we grow physically, but also emotionally.

In classes, children discussed skills they already have, such as riding a bike, baking or playing a specific sport.

They then put together information to show how they learned that skill, including what they could do if they continued to practise the skill.

Throughout the week, children and staff wore green ribbons on their jumpers and

cardigans to show their support for mental health awareness. Although wearing our green ribbons for our Mental Health Awareness week made it a particular focus this week, it remains a priority for us in our school all the time for pupils and staff.

We are pleased with the uptake of our extra-curricular clubs to enrich learning and enable more connections with others. Through our PSHE curriculum, we frequently do meditation and learn about strategies for supporting our own mental health wellbeing. This term, our Year 3 pupils have had weekly yoga which

will be experienced by Year 4 next term. We value our Forest School sessions and these contribute to our pupils' wellbeing as we consider they fulfil many of the suggested five steps to improve mental health and wellbeing:

- Connect with other people
- Be physically active
- Take notice and pay attention to the present
- Keep learning – learn new skills
- Give to others

CHANDAG INFANTS

The children thought about their goals for the future and came to school on Friday 'Dressing to Express' what they'd like to be in the future.

As you can see in the picture, we have two future teachers taking the class register! To find out more information you can click on the [Place2Be](#)



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK IN OUR SCHOOLS



The judging panel (left to right): Ms Deady, vice principal, Ms Smith, SBL catering manager and Mr Anderson, principal.

SBL ACADEMY

SBL held various events during Children's Mental Health Week to promote positive mental health and raise awareness.

The main event was The Great SBL Bake Off. Twelve students, including one from Wellsway, donned their aprons and created a tasty array of baked goods.

The judging panel was Mr Anderson, Ms Deady and Ms Smith – you can decide which one was Paul Hollywood and which was Prue.

The winners were Ella Felmingham and Millie Connors. Special mentions go to Suzi

Clarke, Kaelin Bond and Charlie Wheller.

Well done too to the other contestants, Eva Forbes, Amelia Anwar, Alfie-Lee Wheller, Sophia Cornock and Connie McCavana.

All the creations were sold at a bake sale, as were donations including a plate of warm brownies from Food Tech and a batch of delicious cupcakes provided by Zest Catering, Ms Smith and her team.

During a Non-Uniform Day, students and staff were encouraged to wear wacky socks to connect with the Children's

Mental Health Awareness tagline of 'Express Yourself'. The £919.15 raised will be used in school to buy resources and equipment to help our students and promote positive mental health at SBL.

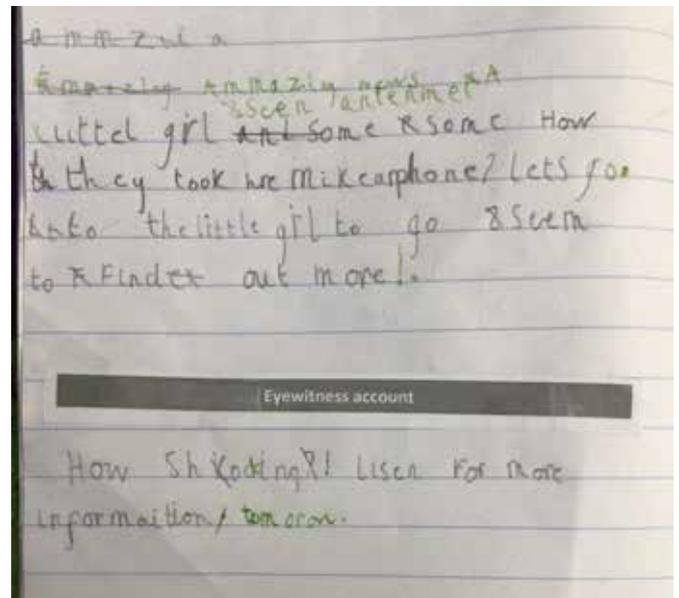
A special thank you to Ms Park, Miss Bond and Mr Winchester for all their hard work in organising this week and making sure it all ran smoothly. The school is looking forward to working with [Off The Record](#), who will be coming into school in April to retrain the Mental Health Ambassadors.

HERE IS THE NEWS FROM TWO RIVERS



The children of Butterfly Class in reception at Two Rivers have been learning about Chinese New Year. They made a dragon and lanterns for classroom displays.

In year one children have been combining writing, computing skills and presentations to create a news report. They used green screens and iPads to create and present a news report to the class,



PUPILS WEAVE SOME MEDIEVAL MAGIC

Chandag Infant School Year 2 celebrated their history learning with a medieval-themed WOW day. The children came in themed costumes and took part in a range of activities. Everyone made a shield, painting and decorating with

emblems. Each group had a medieval-style dancing session and all the children had a chance to explore making bread. The last activity was to paint a raven picture using some of the style and skills of Jackson Pollock.



COULD YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The growth of our trust means we need more inspirational and professional people to join our dedicated and passionate staff team.

If you are planning your next career move, and think you could help make a difference for our students, please [take a look at our vacancies.](#)

YOU'RE SUCH STARS! PUPILS ON PANTO TRIP WIN PRAISE



A whole-school trip to the Hippodrome to see Bednobs and Broomsticks for Wansdyke Primary proved a great success. For some children, it was their first experience in a live theatre or even being on a coach, and although excitement was evident, the behaviour of everyone was exemplary. The children have produced some wonderful work reflecting

on the performance, which will remain a fond memory for many.

The school was delighted after the visit to receive an email from an assistant head at a school in Wiltshire, who was also at the Hippodrome as part of a school trip. They said of the Wansdyke pupils: "They were an absolute credit to the school and their families, and watched the

performance brilliantly. They were polite and courteous around the area and the couple of boys in Year 6 who I spoke with were lovely lads. I do hope they enjoyed the show. A massive well done to your staff and other volunteer helpers that accompanied them. I know having so many students on a trip is no small feat!"

FAMILIES DIG IN TO SUPPORT WANSDYKE SCHOOL



We are fortunate to have support from family members - including parents, grandparents and aunts - who love gardening with their children! On Saturday 29th January we held a volunteer session to give the grounds a bit of attention. Our tremendous workforce achieved so much - thanks to everyone who took part.

AHOY THERE, ME HEARTIES ...



Reception class children at Wansdyke School have been enjoying the pirate ship in their classroom. They have been reading *The Pirates Next Door*, by Johnny Duddle.

SCHOOL TRIP THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD



Year 5 at Cheddar Grove had an amazing time exploring at We The Curious and had a great time in the Planetarium.



SPRAY DAY FOR YEAR 5 PUPILS



Salford's Year 5s were keen to step out of the classroom for an exciting, hands-on workshop on graffiti. This was run by a real graffiti artist who could show the positives of graffiti. Everyone got the chance to put on their overalls and masks and show off their artistic flair using spray paints. They created some original artwork to take home and to remember the experience.

STONE AGE BASICS AT SALTFFORD



Salford's Year 3s travelled back in time to the Stone Age with visitors from The Forest School. They were welcomed into a world of how to keep safe, how to hunt for food and how to build a shelter for warmth.

The children were split into three groups to learn how to grind flour, make clay pots, build homes and defend their land as well as how to start a fire – all the essential skills for survival. This was a fantastic experience for our Year 3s which we hope they will remember for many years to come!

EXCITEMENT AS LIVE PERFORMANCE RETURNS



Chandag Junior School Year 4s presented a play about the Ancient Romans to their families and the whole school. It demonstrated different areas of Roman life. We are all incredibly proud of how resilient the children were at learning their lines and performing in front of many people. It has been two years since we have had any kind of production and the children did themselves proud.

MATHS FUN ADDS UP TO HELP FOR CHARITY

Pupils at St John's raised £152 by taking part in the NSPCC Number Day. Reception children enjoyed maths games while

Year 1 were introduced to Times Tables Rock Stars before joining other classes to compete in the TTRS Number Day

challenge. Award for top scoring individual went to Greta in Year 6.





PRESENTS

TEEN GYM MEMBERSHIP

MONDAY - FRIDAY 3.15 - 4.30 PM

Year 10 + 11 Students

£3 per session or £24 for block of 10

Payment by card only or Prepaid over the phone

Visit centre reception to join or ask for more details

WWW.SBLSPORTS.CO.UK

WWW.SPORTWELLSWAY.COM