



## B&NES Chief Executive Zoom Meeting

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, I was invited, on behalf of Salford School, to talk to the council's Chief Executive about the work we have been doing on sustainable travel and to showcase the work of our fantastic Green Team. Alasdair Yule, the school Travel Plan Officer in B&NES, had recommended that Salford School be invited because of the positive activities and events we have been taking part in.

The local council's Sustainability Team wanted to give Will Godfrey, the new Chief Executive of Bath and North East Somerset Council, a 'tour' of the work going on in B&NES and to hear about some of the work happening to tackle the Climate Emergency. Will Godfrey, a trained accountant who previously lived in Newport before relocating to Bathampton to take up his new role, is dedicated to improving the lives of people who live in our county. Will was initially scheduled to visit Salford School to meet and talk to the children and staff about the work we have been doing to protect the environment and promote healthy lifestyles until the school closures prevented this from happening. The meeting, which took place online on the Zoom platform, was organised by Becca Willcox and chaired by Jane Wildblood from the council's Corporate Sustainability Team.

In the presentation, I was able to talk about the exciting events and ongoing activities our wonderful children and staff are doing at school to protect the environment and preserve our beautiful world for generations to come. These included the fantastic work of our active Green Team who are involved in many environmental initiatives, under the supervision of Mr Jenkins and Mrs Newark, who meet with the team on a regular basis. Will Godfrey heard how the Green Team are responsible for reviewing the current energy consumption in the school; monitoring, recording and reducing our energy use and their role of carrying out litter picks every term in the school grounds as well as the nearby community area. He understood that each classroom takes responsibility for recycling waste into the correct red/green bins which are clearly labelled and monitored by the Green Team.

Will was also introduced to the work we are doing at Salford School to promote the use of healthy travel to and from school and how we encourage the children to walk, cycle or scoot to school where possible. He was informed about the newly appointed Junior Travel Ambassadors who will be given opportunities to help to make travelling to and from school safer and more active for their friends and classmates. He was impressed to hear that we received a silver award from the national Modeshift Stars scheme, under the energetic leadership of Mrs Brook, the PE co-ordinator, and how the school uses the scheme as a framework for encouraging active travel and operating an effective school travel plan.

Will Godfrey was given an overview of our wonderful 'Our World Matters Week' in which the whole school was involved in activities to help us think about how precious our world and natural resources are to us, and how we can look after them for the future. He was impressed by the children in KS2, who came to school by walking, cycling and scooting and enjoyed a healthy and nutritious well-being breakfast including homemade smoothies, baked goodies, fruit juices and yogurts in return for choosing 'active travel'. Other members at the meeting were very interested to hear that some of our children had been given permission to visit Greta Thunberg, making a speech in Bristol, and that many of our children have been inspired by her. They were also full of praise for the school's efforts to make community links with Wessex Water, who talked to the children in an assembly to highlight the importance of water to our daily lives and the year 4 children's visit to Salford Water Recycling Centre in Mead Lane.

Finally, the council members heard about the school's continual and ongoing commitment to protect the environment through a request made by Mrs Newark and Mr Jenkins, who organised the week together, asking every child in the school to make a pledge to try to do one thing which would have a positive effect on our environment. These pledges are displayed in a 'tree' in the school library for everyone to read.

The chief executive, Will Godfrey, and the council members were hugely impressed by the fantastic work happening at Saltford School and thanked the children and staff for their amazing efforts. It was remarked that it sends out a hugely positive message. A huge well done to all the wonderful children and staff of Saltford School for an amazing team effort.

Mr Boyle