



# Wednesday Whistle



## Staff Pulse



**Together we can create a great place to work**

We want to make Westcountry Schools Trust a great place to work and create an environment where your happiness and welfare needs are heard and met.

Staff Pulse is a wellbeing survey product which will help us gain a better understanding of what it's like to work for the Trust and what issues you have that we need to address. We are participating in a pilot of the survey with Tes, running between now and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. A number of our schools are already making plans to send out their first Staff Pulse survey and other schools/areas will be following suit early in the Autumn term.

Through Staff Pulse you'll receive short and regular email surveys where you can anonymously and honestly share feedback with us and your senior leadership teams, to let us know your views and what support you need.

Please keep an eye out for local communications and materials publicising Staff Pulse in your school/area and explaining how to take part in the surveys, which will be sent from [Staff Pulse Survey - noreply@tes.com](mailto:noreply@tes.com) on behalf of the Trust.

**Staff Pulse - make sure you have your say!**

### Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our WeST schools:



#### Coombe Dean School

Assistant Key Stage Leader

[Click here for more details](#)

#### Ivybridge Community College

Caretaker

[Click here for more details](#)

#### Woodlands Park Primary School

KS1 Teacher

[Click here for more details](#)

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## Policy Update/Implementation



As all colleagues will be aware, over the last few weeks the Trust has been consulting with employees on four employment policy documents:

- Maternity
- Adoption
- Paternity
- Shared Parental Leave

The intention of the revised policies and procedures is to provide closer alignment across the Trust. Representatives of Trade Unions, leadership teams, and Trust Board have been involved in the development of the documents prior to the formal consultation period for employees which concluded on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.

Employees were offered the opportunity to provide feedback and reflections on the policies and their implementation, while no specific feedback was raised with the HR team on these documents, the team did liaise with individuals on specific queries to entitlements. In addition, some minor amendments to the policy documents have been made to aid interpretation.

The final documents will shortly be uploaded to the staff portal WeST website for all employees to view. You may recall in recent Wednesday Whistle articles we have launched a new staff portal area for key employment documents and information on the website and your local senior school administrator can share the password for all employees to access from any internet device.

In addition, the documents and supporting toolkits will be available from the HR Resources folder for Headteachers / Principals and Seniors Leaders to review. If you have not been able to access this folder area please liaise with HR and ICT for support.

The documents will also be circulated for school systems / records to be updated. Key to the implementation plans will be the communication of the revised documents.

Thank you to all who have supported the communication of these key updates across the Trust. The documents will become **effective from 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 onwards** and therefore form part of the employment contract for all employees.

These policies will provide the foundation for working towards closer alignment across the Trust and further documents are currently under development. Once the draft documents are prepared they will also be circulated for employee consultation.

Please liaise with HR should you have any queries on the policy documents and implementation plans ([hr@westst.org.uk](mailto:hr@westst.org.uk)).

Many thanks.



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## Carnegie Book Awards 2019



On the 18th of June the Ivybridge Community College Learning Resource Centre hosted their annual Carnegie Shadowing Event. Carnegie is a children's book award established in 1936.

Students were encouraged to read as many of the eight shortlisted books as possible so they could present their favourite one in an effort to convince others of their brilliance. This year, three of the eight books were free-verse novels. This means they were written as poetry but read like a novel.

Many people can be put off by poetry but actually these books were fresh, insightful, and surprisingly easy to read, not to mention beautiful written and incredibly emotive.

Once again students were amazingly creative; we had a movie trailer, comic books, puppet shows, 3D models, and theatrical re-enactments. We shared some of the students' work online and had very positive responses from the authors themselves! Sophie Anderson, writer of *The House with Chicken Legs*, loved Poppy, Libby, and Harriett's puppet show, and Frances Hardinge was amazed by Willow's atmospheric graphic novel pages.



This year we had even more student involvement as two primary school students joined us from The Erme. Rather than judge the Carnegie medal nominated books for young adults, Laurence and Oliver read all the Kate Greenaway books nominated for their beautiful illustrations. Despite coming to the College only a few times before, these two boys bravely presented their favourites books in front of our 30 students with confidence and charm. They had created their own artwork inspired by the books and were only a little bit crestfallen when their chosen favourites didn't win.



The winners were *Lost Words* illustrated by Jackie Morris and written by Robert Macfarlane, and *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo – both books of poetry. Unlike last year our students were very happy with the result and even better, Dominican-American slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo has now become the first ever writer of colour to win this prestigious children's books award. Acevedo wanted to write books where young girls of colour could see themselves represented in a real way.

The day was a wonderful success and we hope that more students will be convinced to read free-verse novels; we definitely think it will be the next big trend!

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## Recycling Beyond the Sea

Yealmpton Primary School has been working with Amigos After School Club on a recycling project to raise awareness of our consumption of single use plastic, recycling plastic and paper within school and at home.

Our week long arts and science project started with the school signing up to The Plastic Investigator club where every child became an agent, committing to solve the nation's plastic problem (a scheme run by the National Schools Partnership and Asda). After a series of missions, children were tasked to design a plastic recycling poster as part of a nationwide competition. First prize is worth £20,000 for the school and a £1,000 gift card!

We then became recycling exhibition artists to create a 'Beyond the Sea recycling exhibition for our central courtyard, linking with our end of term concert theme.

Our Amigos Eco Warriors chose animals for us to make using recycled plastic that each class had collected the week before. We had recycled turtles, jelly fish, octopus, fish, CD fish, a waterfall to name but a few. Our final exhibition looks amazing and really tells the story of the effects of plastics on our oceans.



## Year 4 Mountbatten Watersports Day

The children in Year 4 spend a great day at Mountbatten Watersports Centre as part of the school's Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds Week. The children took part in archery, den building, a visit to the top of MountBatten Tower and a fun afternoon on the sea in bell boats! Look at the fun they had!



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## Sports Day

To complete our Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds Week, Yealmpton Primary held our annual sports day on the school field. We were blessed with clear blue skies and it was so wonderful to see so many friends and family present to cheer the children on. A huge well done to all the children who took part and a big congratulations to Panthers, who were the winning team on the day.



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# Wednesday Whistle

IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PRESENTS  
A MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP PRODUCTION

# RENT

SCHOOL EDITION  
BY JONATHAN LARSON

**FRIDAY 12 AND SATURDAY 13 JULY 2019 7PM**

Tickets available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/ivybridge](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ivybridge)

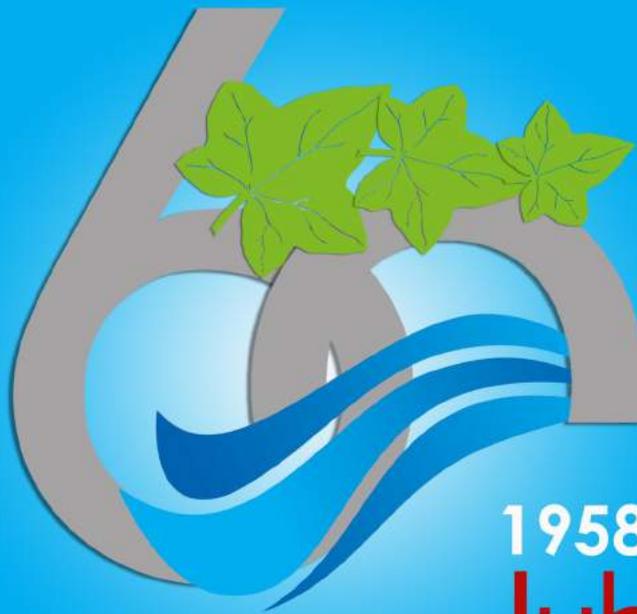
The poster features a vibrant, multi-colored background of a city street scene with fire escapes. The word "RENT" is written in large, bold, multi-colored letters. Below it, "SCHOOL EDITION" and "BY JONATHAN LARSON" are written in white. At the bottom, the dates and time are listed in white, and the ticket source is provided in a smaller font.



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# IVYBRIDGE

Community College



1958~2019  
**Jubilee**  
Celebration

The College will be hosting a celebration on

**Monday, 15 July**

*Any photographs or interesting stories are most welcome to support our exhibition*



# Wednesday Whistle

## Hele's School



COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

## Summer Holiday Club

Monday 22nd July -  
Friday 30th August 2019



6-12 year olds welcome

10.00am - 4.00pm

£12.00 per day

Swimming Tuesdays & Thursdays  
additional £3.50

Morning Club (8am-10am) £3.00

Afternoon Club (4-5.30pm) £3.00

**Day trips every FRIDAY!**

Swimming, Drama, Arts and Crafts  
Multi-sports, Dance, Team Building



Contact us for more information or to book!

Telephone : (01752) 231739

Email: [holidayclub@heles.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:holidayclub@heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

<https://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/holidayclub>