

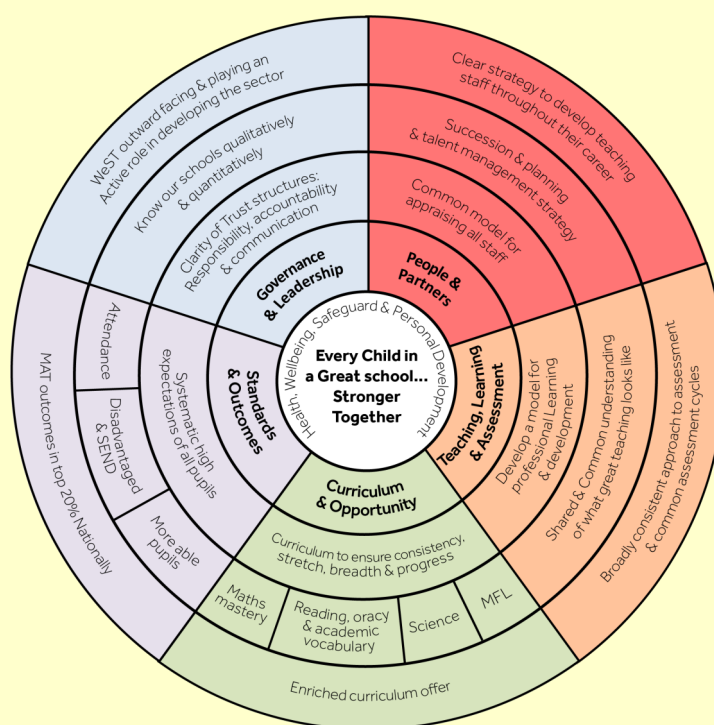
Wednesday Whistle

As I began to write last week's 'Wednesday Whistle' and spoke about the week 'flying-by', little did I know that WeST was about to experience two Ofsted inspections! So, we are only three and a half weeks into term and we have already been 'put through our paces'. The benefit, however, is that we are beginning to develop a real understanding of the new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework from first hand experience.

The first three editions of this year's 'Whistle' have seen me share our guiding principles and our vision and values.

This week I want to take the opportunity to revisit the headline themes of our Trust Improvement Plan. The plan has five strands of activity:

- Governance and Leadership
- People and Partners
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Curriculum and Opportunity
- Standards and Outcomes



As we harness our collective professional 'know-how' from 18 schools we seek to more strongly align our curriculum and take stride towards our children experiencing common assessments across our schools.

For us to deliver both quality and the blend of education in which we believe, it is essential that we have sufficient curriculum planning time together to underpin children's long term success.

As such, WeST, has an INSET on Friday 14 February, 2020.

Wednesday Whistle

I close by thanking everyone at Hele's School for the warmth of their welcome to Shaun Sawyer, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police. The day was focused around building a communicative relationship with our young people and seeking their views and thoughts about aspects of the Police service.

We were delighted to include Year 6 children from Boringdon Primary School and Sherford Vale School and facilitate them in meeting the Chief Constable and sharing their views.



Rob Haring
CEO

Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our schools:



Callington Community College

Leisure Assistant

[Click here for more details](#)

Chaddlewood Primary School

Learning Support Assistant

[See attached document](#)

Coombe Dean School

Teacher of Food

[Click here for more details](#)

Hele's School

Departmental/Resources Assistant

[Click here for more details](#)

Ivybridge Community College

Assistant Principal - Director of Mathematics

[Click here for more details](#)

What's Happening

26 September - Secondary SI Meeting

8 October - Primary Headteachers Meeting

9 October - WeST Trust Board Meeting, Coombe Dean School, 4.30pm



Wednesday Whistle

HR Matters



Thank you to those who attended our most recent HR Matters session on Wednesday 18th September at Coombe Dean School. At this forum we covered a range of topics, including:

- Absence codes and recording
- Trade union facilities time reporting
- Right to recruit
- Preparing as an employer for the UK leaving the EU
- Staff Portal online
- HR Resources / Toolkits: including leavers, grievance, and family friendly.

For future HR Matters forum dates please visit the teams page or contact HR directly. We are currently looking for hosts for future sessions.

We hope you found the session of interest and value. For any queries or suggestions on areas to cover in future sessions please contact the HR team directly on Tel: 01752 891754 Ext: 1765 or email: hr@westst.org.uk

WeST Governor Conference Monday, 25 November 2019



The West Governors Conference is an important date in our calendar and this year, following feedback in June, we have moved the event to capture all the information and updates that happen in the first term of the school year. We would like to invite all WeST governors, trustees, members and clerks to join us on the afternoon of Monday 25th November for this annual event. We are currently finalising the programme, as well as hearing from the CEO a number of specialists who will guide you through the current education landscape and identify the local and national priorities that will have informed planning for the Trust and its schools.

We hope you will be able to join us. If you could click on the link and complete the brief booking form we would be very grateful.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RGDF72J>

Wednesday Whistle

Safeguarding Update



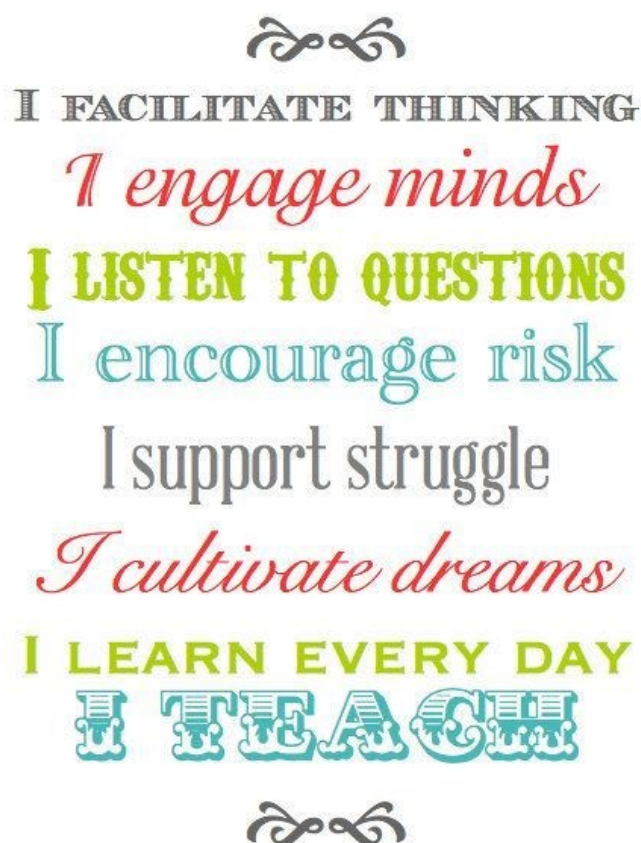
At the Governors Conference in June Devon and Cornwall police gave an at times graphic account of the "county lines" issues being seen in our area. County lines is not something that happens somewhere else and this has been evidenced most recently with criminal convictions for a gang working out of Exeter. Earlier this month a case hit national headlines when 6 members of an establish drug gang were sentenced to a total of over 30 year in prison for their activities in Devon relating to the "despicable trade" that preyed on children to undertake drug running and cash collection for them.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-49605618>

Babcock LDP have recently issued a number of new one minute guides (OMG) and No 28 gives a briefing on the county lines issue and signposts resources that are currently available to pass on any concerns.

<https://www.babcockldp.co.uk/safeguarding-and-compliance/safeguarding/one-minute-guides>

As always if you have any concerns and would like to talk to someone please speak to a member of the school designated safeguarding team in the first instance.



Wednesday Whistle

APPRENTICESHIP NEWS

What do you know about apprenticeships?

- There are around 700 apprenticeships available in all industry sectors – including education
- Apprenticeships go from Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) to Level 7 (Masters degree)
- Apprenticeships are for new members of staff – or for current staff who are undertaking new roles

The Learning Institute is WeST's in-house provider of apprenticeships

New apprenticeship standards are being developed constantly. It is no surprise then, that Westcountry Schools Trust staff are benefitting from this opportunity for professional development – with training being undertaken and paid for by WeST's Apprenticeship Levy.

The Learning Institute is currently training WeST apprentices as Teaching Assistants, Team Leaders, Infrastructure Technicians, Business Administrators, and also has apprentices in other schools on different apprenticeship programmes.

If you are interested in apprenticeships, either for yourself, or for your staff contact our apprenticeships team to find out about the programmes that are available by emailing: apprenticeships@learninginstitute.co.uk or contacting me, Lesley Taylor on lesley.taylor@learninginstitute.co.uk



Apprenticeships currently available in:

- Teaching and Learning
- Leadership
- Administration
- Information Technology

Apprenticeships are for everyone!

See attached

Coombe Dean Students Complete Eco-Schools Audit



Coombe Dean Eco-Schools Team have recently completed a school environmental audit. The audit consisted of ten environmental categories that were all assessed individually to see where our school focus should be.

Due to the findings of the audit, the students have decided to focus their efforts on bio-diversity, energy and waste.

Students Representatives from each Year Group will now begin sitting 'plan-of-action' meetings, starting this week.

Well done to the team. We can all make a difference - not just in school, but also the wider world beyond!



Stronger Together...every child in a great school

Wednesday Whistle

'All About Me'

Foundation Robins and Wrens classes have started the term at Stowford with lots of enthusiasm and enjoyment.

All children have settled in really well and are now busy with lots of different activities for this Half-Term topic; All About Me. One of these activities is a creative one where the children have been making their own 'All About Me' posters at home to share with their new friends.

We are all looking forward to more exciting new experiences such as our first Celebration Assembly as well as taking part in the new Forest School outdoor learning environment.



England and Saracens Rugby star Ben coaches students



On Thursday, 5 September Ivybridge Community College welcomed England and Saracens rugby star Ben Spencer. Ben, who is a former student at the College, delivered a kicking session to selected students from Years 8 to 13.

Ben spent time giving each individual student specific coaching points, which resulted in noticeable improvements to their techniques.

Head of Rugby at the College, Matt Shepherd said, "It was an excellent opportunity for the students to learn from an England International player, who competes against the very best players week in and week out. For our students to be able to have the chance to ask Ben questions about ways that they can improve was something that not many would have the chance to do, and the boys made the most of this amazing opportunity. We hope that in the future we will be able to run a session like this again."

We are very thankful to Ben for giving up his time and delivering a quality session to our students who have benefited hugely from his input.



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Football Success

On a very wet and cold 24 September, 13 schools from within the Ivybridge Learning Community, braved the heavy rain to compete in the Years 5/6 Boys Football Tournament. WeST schools included - Stowford, Woodlands and Yealmpton.

The rain did not stop the standard of some excellent games, referred brilliantly by ICC Year 8 students.

After the Round Robin games - Newton Ferrers were top and then played in the final against Stowford. Stowford won by one goal! Well done to them.

Congratulations to all involved



Police Encounter!

Six of our Year 6 pupils had an amazing opportunity to meet with the Chief Constable at Hele's School.



The aim of the visit was for the police force to engage with and listen to the views of young people. They want to understand the expectations young people have of policing and how engagement will need to evolve.

The children asked some amazing questions and came up with some very modern ways of communicating such as a WhatsApp police group.

