

# Wednesday Whistle



I thought I would take this opportunity to pull a few threads of our work and future developments together. I know that there is an article later in the 'Whistle' on this matter but I can't avoid making a celebratory comment on

the commencement of building work at the Saltram Meadow site. We have experienced a couple of 'false starts' that have, at times, dampened our spirits, but to see the JCB vehicles on site is a clear sign of certainty; Dunstone Primary School's new building are on the way!

Our finance teams are busy with the production of our end of year statutory accounts. This is a colossal undertaking that calls for absolute precision. Overall, WeST has performed well with our collective schools achieving end of year figures slightly better than initially budgeted.

As we look to the 2020-21 budgets we anticipate a slight increase in funding for most WeST Schools since the majority are funded at the minimum national amount. As such we remain cautious with our predictions and prudent in our approach.

Our collective approach to school improvement is beginning to mature and accelerate in its implantation. Our WeST Secondary and Primary Improvement models are beginning to embed; we are seeing some excellent collaborative activity emerge. An excellent example is the work of the Lead Practitioners linked to curriculum alignment and assessment.

We continue to work alongside the four SDMAT schools that, subject to thorough due diligence and appropriate legal processes, are likely to join WeST on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020. Their respective leaders and staff will begin to join some of our networking events and subject specialist groups. Thank you in advance for extending a warm welcome to these new colleagues.

Best wishes,

**Rob Haring**

CEO



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## Whistle Wellbeing



Our Colleagues at Callington have shared the success of three wellbeing initiatives:

We are always on the lookout for ways to improve and develop morale in the college and have recently introduced three different ways of gauging staff wellbeing and of encouraging staff to feel like they belong. Our **TES Staff Pulse** survey is really starting to take off. Each fortnight when the survey goes out a few more people join; we are now well above fifty participants, which gives a good snap-shot of how people are feeling and we have begun sharing the data with staff as part of a culture of transparency and openness as well as developing actions as a result of the survey outcomes.

Our **Secret Buddy Scheme** is one that was hugely successful at the college for many years up to about a decade ago but is proving popular now it has been brought back. It is very simple. You are assigned a buddy, and it is your job to cheer them up over the course of the year with little gifts, notes, and acts of kindness. The "secret" part is that you don't know who is looking after you. At the end of the academic year we'll have a big celebratory unveiling of the buddies with a get together...ideas for this are being collated by the school's Well Being Champions.

The third strand is our **Staff Shout Out** when staff complete a quick google form to nominate someone in the staff who they feel has gone above and beyond during the last week. I compile them all last thing on a Friday and email the whole staff to give a bit of a weekend boost.

*Jonathan Plunkett, Assistant Headteacher*

If you have any wellbeing successes/ initiatives that you wish to share in the Whistle, please send to [balford@westst.org.uk](mailto:balford@westst.org.uk).

## Saltram Meadow is all go!



These photos may not look very exciting to you, however to some of us this is brilliant news and the result of over a year of talks and ten years since the idea was raised. This is the start of the new primary school on the Saltram Meadow Site. The school is funded by Plymouth City Council through Section 106 funds for community development.

Dunstone Primary School will be relocating to these new school buildings at Saltram Meadow. The design and build is very similar to that of Sherford Vale School. There is also a 3G all weather pitch being installed on the top of the quarry where the trees are in the photo.

Katie Patrick, Headteacher of Dunstone Primary School, is very excited and relieved that this project is finally moving forwards. Once complete, and DPS has moved into its wonderful new buildings, the existing Dunstone School site will be handed back to Plymouth City Council. Further news and development photos will be shared for you to see going forward.



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## Children in Need Special—Part 1

### Charity is a core Character Virtue at Ivybridge Community College



Ivybridge Community College are proud to announce that they have raised over **£2300** for this year's Children in Need Day, through a range of activities across the College.

With Charity forming one of the College's core Character Virtues, it was wonderful to see such widespread participation in every year group. Students participated in a **Mufti day**, with a Key Stage 3 **cake sale** and a **'guess the sweets'** activity with a range of sweet treats available for all, raising over £50. On this theme, the Food Technology Department and Year 10 students whipped up a hugely successful **pancake sale** at lunchtime selling over 100 Pudsey spot pancakes, with students having the opportunity to decorate their pancakes, raising over £80 in total. The **Sixth Form Fancy Dress competition**, organised by Flossie in Year 13, successfully raised £213 for Children in Need and Young Minds. Well done to everyone involved.

The fun continued into Monday, as students saw the results of their **'Pie the Teacher'** votes nominate Mr Clift to receive a cream pie to the face by Mrs Hutchinson. Mr Clift chose to forego the goggles and shower cap kindly offered by Mrs Shore, and is still washing the cream out of his hair! Thank you to Dr Turpin and her tutor group for raising over £100 through the student votes – an excellent (if a little messy) start to the week!

A final thank you goes to the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who raised over £60 in their **'Odd Socks' raffle** as part of the National Anti-Bullying Week #OddSocks campaign, with over 100 socks 'raffled' and decorated with positive anti-bullying messages in a great display of kindness and tolerance. Thank you as well to the Limelight Theatre Group who have created a performance that focuses on the importance of empathy for the Anti-Bullying Week assembly.





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## Children in Need Special—Part 2



### Stowford School raise money for Children in Need



Children at Stowford School had a fantastic day of fundraising activities for Children in Need. Mr Jackson Year 6 teacher organised a hall of activities with the help of his super helpers in Year 6. All children had lots of fun visiting the hall during the day and could take part in a range of activities including **'Shoot a Goal', 'Nail Beauty', 'Guess the Name', 'Lucky Dip' and 'Basketball Hoop'**. At the end of the day the total amount raised came to just over **£470** which was amazing. Mrs Williams, Head Teacher at Stowford said, "Once again, our children and families have contributed very generously to this worthy cause".



Children in photo: Isla, Amalie, Alfie, Angus and Mrs Williams (Head Teacher) with a Pudsey.

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## NOTICE BOARD

### Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

#### Glen Park Primary

- Meal Time Assistant

<https://www.glenpark.plymouth.sch.uk/community-1/job-vacancies>

#### Holbeton Primary School

- Teaching Assistant (grade C) Full-time
- Teaching Assistant (grade B) Part-time
- Meal Time Assistant (grade A)

<https://www.holbeton.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=82>

#### Heles School

- Deputy SENCo

<https://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/category/vacancies>

#### Oreston Community Academy

- Administrator

<https://www.orestonacademy.com/current-vacancies/>

#### Yealmpton Primary School

- Temporary Teaching Assistant (grade C)

An application pack is available by emailing the Admin team.

[admin@yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Closing date: 27.11.19

Interviews: 03.12.19

### Vacancies (cont)

#### The Learning Institute, Roche

- Admissions Officer
- Operations Administrator

<https://www.learninginstitute.co.uk/vacancies>

### Trust Meetings

#### Estates Committee

25th November 2019

#### Education Standards Committee

28th November 2019

#### Audit Committee

4th December 2019

#### Trust Board

12th December 2019

### General Election—have you registered to vote?

If you are a UK citizen aged 16 or over, you can register to vote by 26th November by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

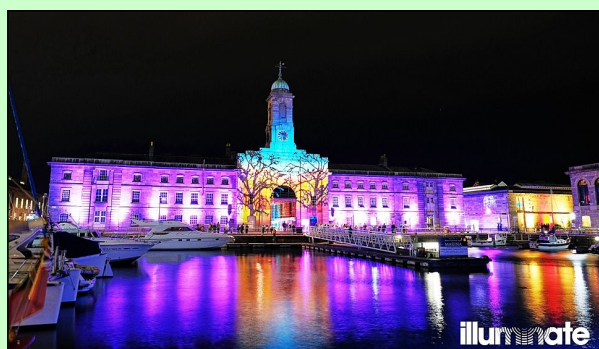
The process takes 5 minutes and is easier than ever with options to vote via e-mail, post or in person.



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## HOT DATES

### CHANGE OF DATE



The light-based festival, **illuminate**, returns to Plymouth's Royal William Yard from 28th November to 1st December, marking the official start of the Mayflower 400 commemorative year.

From 5.30pm each evening, the free festival promises immersive visual art, spectacular projections and interactive installations set out across its festival centre.

You can also see **Dunstone Primary School's Fish Art**, made from recycled plastic milk bottles. The illuminated fish will feature in a pop up shop at the Ocean studios for all to see.