

Wednesday Whistle

Happy New Year and the decade of 2020's.



I trust that everyone celebrated the festive season, took the opportunity to rest, relax, unwind and enjoy time with family and friends.

We return to the spring term in good heart. The word spring has several meanings one of which is to suddenly jump upwards or forwards. This is extremely pertinent to us now: we are moving forwards with a new hub model of working. I again congratulate Susie Evans (Hub A), Anthony Hutchings (Hub B) and Sue Williams (Hub C) on their successful appointment as WeST Hub Leaders. In similar fashion I thank Yealmpton Primary School for their support of Buckfastleigh Primary School over the coming two terms.

Spring also refers to new growth and again we now find ourselves working at greater scale. We accept that what has got us to where we are is not sustainable or indeed going to take us to where we want to be in the future. As such we are beginning to plan for the new academic year in September 2020 and ensuring we have sufficient capacity channelled in the right work-streams to secure effectiveness and efficiency.

As such we are seeking to make some exceptional appointments over the coming weeks to bring additional capability to our Trust team.

Current vacancies are detailed later in this note. Where these are external vacancies please do take the opportunity to promote them beyond WeST through your contacts and networks.

Compared to the last half term this period to the February half term break is relatively short. Whilst the week count is low (5) there is still much to do. With this in mind we already have an eye on our Trust wide INSET day on Friday 14th February 2020, details of which will follow shortly.

Picking up on the earlier theme of celebration I'm thrilled that a WeST teacher has been recognised in the New Year's Honours list. Helen Reddy, Head of Performing Arts at Ivybridge Community College, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's New Year Honours list. Helen has been awarded the BEM in recognition of her Services to Educational Gymnastics. This is a wonderful achievement and this recognition is more than well deserved. Many congratulations Helen!

Best wishes,

Rob

CEO WeST



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Helen Reddy Awarded BEM in Queen's New Year Honours List



Helen Reddy, Head of Performing Arts at Ivybridge Community College, has been awarded a BEM in the Queen's New Year Honours list. Helen has been awarded the BEM in recognition of her Services to Educational Gymnastics.

Helen is also a Board Director and coach at Honiton Gymnastics Club. Formerly a gymnast, Helen took over the running of Honiton Gymnastics Club with Pam Burns and Emma Smith aged just 21. While running the club, Helen started teaching at Ivybridge Community College where she is now Head of Performing Arts, Head of the Gymnastics Academy and a former Director of Sport.

"This is a huge privilege and something that I never dreamed of being awarded," said Helen, "Gymnastics has been a major part of my life for the past 37 years and something I love, so to be recognised in this way is an absolute honour."

Rachel Hutchinson, Principal at Ivybridge Community College, said, "Words cannot describe Helen's passion and endless commitment to her work in education and, the Gymnastics Academy at Ivybridge Community College. Helen's relentless drive and boundless energy is infectious and in turn, Helen has created a truly remarkable and unique flagship for the College".

She now runs the most successful school gymnastics team in the UK. Training at lunch times and after-school, Helen's team won more national titles than any other school in the UK at the past three year's BSGA floor and vault and acrobatic gymnastics championships. Helen not only oversees the development of 300+ students at primary and secondary level each year but also she creates and directs the College's Performing Arts Show, which includes performances by more than 500 children.

To meet the growing demand for the sport by young people, Helen has created a sustainable coaching structure at Ivybridge Community College which sees young people taking their first steps as young gymnastic leaders. Her programme at Ivybridge Community College has been recently endorsed by governing body British Gymnastics, which selected Ivybridge Community College as one of only a handful of apprentice hubs in the UK.



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Outstanding Teacher Programme



The Outstanding Teacher Programme (OTP) will be running in the Spring and Summer Term at Ivybridge Community College.

Through our Teaching School SWTSA network we are able to offer this programme at a reduced rate of **£450 per person**.

Also for SWTSA members, the **first four spaces booked on the programme will be half price, that's £225 for the first four SWTSA member bookings.***

Programme Structure

The programme is facilitated over a 10 week period and consists of four half day sessions and two full day sessions delivered face-to-face by outstanding facilitators. Plus three sessions of in-school practice where peer planning and observation can take place.

Key programme changes for 2020

As a well-respected provider of the OLEVI programmes, we have been selected to deliver brand new modules this Spring on metacognition and modelling in line with current evidence based practice.

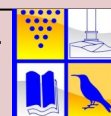
Programme Commitment

Ideally, secondary schools **need to release three teachers** for the programme as coaching **takes place in learning 3s**; PRUs, primary and special schools prefer to release one teacher as members of the **primary learning 3s can come from local cluster schools**.

Registration for this programme closes on **Monday, 13 January 2020 at 9am**.

(Flyers attached to e-mail for further information.)

Anti Bullying Ambassador Training at Callington Community College



Callington Community College has been named as a host venue for the Diana Award's Anti Bullying Program. This is part of Callington's whole-school approach to tackle bullying and links in with its 'Say it, Share it, Solve it' initiative that was launched this academic year.

Once Callington students have been trained as anti-bullying ambassadors, their role will be to help educate their peers on bullying, lead on anti-bullying campaigns and promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference, helping to keep their peers safe both online and offline.

This training is free to us as a College, and we would like to invite other WeST schools to attend. If you are interested then please book directly through the web-link below. Or if you are interested, please contact Adam Murray at Callington CC. This is a great opportunity to promote a culture of anti-bullying across WeST and we hope to see you all at Callington on February 12th, 2020.

<https://diana-award.org.uk/anti-bullying-training/>

Callington Contact Number **01579 383292 Ext 248**



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Exiting the European Union



As you may be aware, Britain is due to leave the EU on 31 January 2020 with a withdrawal deal and the next steps in the Brexit process will see the UK enter a transition period until 31 December 2020.

It's important that our UK-based EU employees are aware of the process of making applications for the government's EU Settlement Scheme in order that they are enabled (as EU citizens) to get the immigration status they need.

If you are an EU citizen, you and your family members need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK. The EU Settlement Scheme allows you and your family members to get the immigration status you will need to continue to live, work and study in the UK and you will continue to be eligible for:

- public services, such as healthcare and schools
- public funds and pensions
- British citizenship, if you want to apply and meet the requirements

Employees who are EU citizens may wish to take the opportunity to confirm their status ahead of the December 2020 deadline – the online systems are expected to be overwhelmed with applications in the transition period so early action is recommended. A summary of key points and comprehensive advice and guidance on why and how to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme is available via the

following links:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/795655/Flowchart_1_EU_Settlement_Scheme_How_to_apply.PDF

<https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799886/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Employer_briefing_information.pdf

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please do bring these to the attention of your senior leaders, or contact the HR team directly, so that we can ensure we provide the support you need.

Wellbeing Tips for Winter Blues



Christmas and New Year are over, but we still have two solid months of winter ahead of us. The cold, dark weather can be a challenge for many. Here are some quick and easy tips that may help to boost your mood during the remaining winter months:

1) Get outdoors

Exposure to daylight is good for us; sunlight can combat depression, regulate our sleep cycle and help us to produce vitamin D.

2) Make sure your New Year's resolution is realistic

By setting yourself unrealistic goals, you essentially may be setting yourself up for failure. Setting goals which are achievable will allow you to stay on track and to feel positive about your progress and overall achievement.

3) Try something new

Whether it's a new hobby or a course that you have always been interested in, trying something new can boost your mood in many ways. You can make new friends, achieve new things and push boundaries.

4) Exercise

Science has proven that exercise releases endorphins, hormones which create a feeling of well-being, so exercise helps to lift your mood. Try to exercise for the NHS recommended 75 minutes vigorous activity/ 150 minutes moderate activity per week.

If you need further support, please contact the DAS Counselling Service which is free for staff and family members (please see DAS flyer attached to e-mail). You may also find it helpful to speak to friends, a GP or visit an online

support service
e.g.
www.mind.org.uk
if you are concerned about your wellbeing.



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NOTICE BOARD



Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

Buckfastleigh Primary School

- Teaching assistants (x3)

<https://www.westst.org.uk/news/?pid=7&nid=2&storyid=69>

Ivybridge Community College

- Deputy Principal

<https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=9&nid=3&storyid=815>

Plymstock School

- Teacher of Mathematics

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/vacancies/>

Westcountry Schools Trust

- Executive Director of English (L16-20) required from September 2020

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/executive-director-of-english-devon-1270236>

- Executive Director of Mathematics (L16-20) required from September 2020

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/executive-director-of-mathematics-devon-1270244>

- Assistant HR Advisor (Fixed Term)

<https://www.westst.org.uk/news/?pid=7&nid=2&storyid=68>

Why you should use the date 2020 in full

As you may already be aware, it is important to write the year 2020 in full when dating important documents.

You should write the date in the format DD/MM/YYYY rather than DD/MM/YY. For example, you must write 08/01/2020 rather than 08/01/20. This prevents anyone making changes and modifying to 08/01/2019 etc. This will also ensure good practice in record keeping.

HR Matters

We are pleased to invite school representatives to join us for the next HR Matters session on Wednesday 15th January 2019 at Ivybridge Community College for 10am – 12noon. This session will be focused on the new redeployment policy and procedure and other key HR updates. Please contact HR to confirm your place on HR@westst.org.uk.

Many thanks

HR Team

School Census Date

Just a quick reminder to all staff involved in the school census that census date is **Thursday 16th January**. However, returns do not need to be made immediately!!

The January School Census data is used to inform a number of key financial returns so ensuring that your information is accurate is the priority.

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HOT DATES



Train to be an outstanding teacher with Teach South West

Teach South West in association with South West Teaching School Alliance (SWTSA) provide School Direct teacher training with an Exeter University PGCE

 Teach South West @TeachSW  Teach South West @TeachSWest

 **EXETER**
ITE Partner  **South West**
Teaching School
Alliance

For more information please go to:
www.teachsw.co.uk

TRAIN TO TEACH TASTER DAYS

Ivybridge Community College
9am – 1pm

Wednesday, 6 November 2019

Wednesday, 29 January 2020

Wednesday, 4 March 2020

Wednesday, 17 June 2020

Newton Abbot College:
9am – 1pm

Wednesday, 15 April 2020

Teach South West in association with South West Teaching School Alliance (SWTSA) provide School Direct teacher training with an Exeter University PGCE



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS...

*****LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*****

Tuesday 14 January - Friday 17 January

To book tickets please visit
Callington Community College
website.