

# Wednesday Whistle



Thank you to everyone who helped to host the visit of Tracey Cleverly, Director of Education at Learning Academy Partnership, and Cheryl Weyman, CEO of Academy for Character and Excellence, last

Friday. Special thanks to the teachers and students at ICC and GPPS who welcomed our visitors into their lessons.

The current week is one that is chock-a-block with recruitment. Monday and Tuesday saw us interviewing for the roles of Executive Director of English and Maths. I'm delighted to inform everyone that Scott Davies has been appointed to the role of Executive Director of English and will take up his new role from 1st September 2020.

We have been busy long/shortlisting for the role of Director of Primary School Improvement. Interviews for this crucial post will be Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th February.

We are also busy constructing the application packs for the leadership role at SDCC and the Principal at CDS – watch this space!

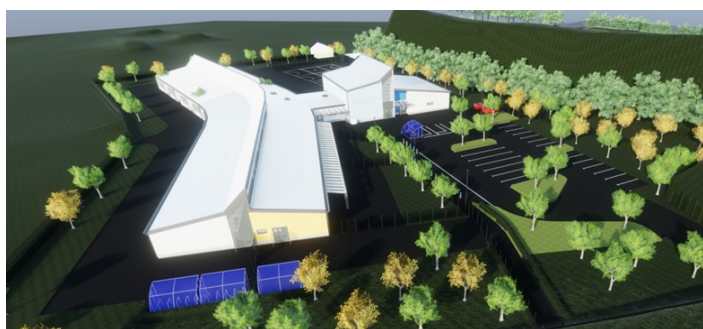
I was fortunate, last week, to visit the construction site of the new primary school at the Saltram Meadow – the relocation of Dunstone Primary school. Foundation work is well underway and the programme is currently on schedule for an autumn 2020 completion.

On a final note good luck to Esther and the team at Oreston.

WeST have now enjoyed (!!!) three Ofsted's in three weeks. Onwards and upwards.

Best wishes,

Rob Haring



# Wednesday Whistle

## Sweet Charity!



Ivybridge Community College staff and students have brought in more than 120 empty confectionary tubs for a fundraising initiative organised through the College's Key Stage 3 Office, raising essential funds for Dartmoor Zoological Park. The tubs will now be collected from the College and recycled by local company, DCW, with all profits being donated to Dartmoor Zoo.

Coral Jonas, who is the Deputy CEO of Dartmoor Zoo and also a Governor of Ivybridge Community College said, "Thank you so much to Ivybridge Community Colleges, staff, students and parents, for taking part in our latest fundraiser for Dartmoor Zoo. By collecting the tubs you have helped Dartmoor Zoo with their £4,500 a day running costs, contributed to the development of new enclosures to take part in vital conservation programmes and you have given us the chance to continue more research into animal welfare. On top of that you have kept reusable plastic out of landfill."



## Meet Devon's best dinner lady, a legend of school kitchens



Yealmpton Primary School's very own kitchen manager Cathy Deane, finished joint second place in the South West regional final of the School Chef of the Year 2020. For the competition the chefs had 90 minutes to prepare four portions of a main course and a dessert suitable for 11 year old school children with a maximum spend allowance of £1.30 per head! Cathy prepared Nasi Goreng (an Indonesian rice dish), corn flake breaded chicken with sweet & sour vegetable salad with crispy bread. Well done Cathy!

P.S Since going to print Cathy has heard that she has been selected to enter the National Finals.

# Wednesday Whistle

## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



The musical comedy our climate-denying age requires, Howard Ashman and Alan Menken's 1982 tale of a plant bent on human destruction bloomed again in Callington last week. Funny, schlocky, nutty and sad, it's a show about falling for (and sometimes into) the wrong guy or the wrong vegetable, but with doo-wop, puppetry and our own psychedelic twist. We made the decision to bring the piece forward from the early to the late 60s and with an interval soundtrack ranging from "? And The Mysterions" to "Love" and "The Seeds" the scene and atmosphere was set.

Little Shop of Horrors is based on a Roger Corman B-movie about a humble flower shop assistant who unknowingly nurses a homicidal succulent. Directed by Mr Plunkett and Nyah Mansfield with heart and guts, the show starred Alex Long as Seymour, the beleaguered botanist, and Tate Mitchell, as Audrey, the tender, Bronx-honking trollop he loves. Both Alex and Tate were magnificent, growing through the four nights of the show's run with pitch perfect singing and wonderfully timed comedic moments. Audrey wastes her favours on Orin Scrivello, DDS (hilariously portrayed by Jorgia Pickett), a dentist with a creative approach to pain management and a bit of an Elvis fixation. A sextet of street urchins (Ana Pascoe, Lily Plunkett, Romy Richardson, Robin Dungey, Millie Wilde and Ruby Scott) suggest that maybe she should just leave him. Audrey gestures with her broken arm. "If he does this to me when he likes me, imagine what he'd do if he ever got mad," she says. The street urchins act as a link to the audience throughout and the six of them were fantastic.



The performances were exceptional from the whole singing, dancing cast with particular mention for Jasmine Squires who joined the cast with a week to go and on the opening day stepped up to take on the major role of Mr Mushnick, performing with a tremendous New York Yiddish accent. Audrey 2, the man eating plant was controlled by Edie Olsson and sung to the depths of their souls first by Connaugh Smith and then as it grew into maturity by Daisy Mays; wow, that girl can sing!



With a beautifully martialled choreographic palate refined, from Sophie Le Corre's starting point, by Maya KC Cotton, the show's music was arranged and performed by Mr Lane and his musicians. Particular mention must go to Mr Procter who as well as drumming in the show co-ordinated sound, lighting and set construction. The cast, crew and music band performed superbly.

This was a great start to an exciting spring term of productions; the same team will bring you the play "A Series of Public Apologies (Following An Unfortunate Incident in the School Toilets)" which will be performed here at the college in late February and at The Theatre Royal Plymouth in March. **Mr J Plunkett**



# Wednesday Whistle

## What's Changed About How Coombe Dean Post-16 Students View Their Sixth Form?



Some of the current Year 12 students at Coombe Dean had mixed expectations when they began their Post-16 careers at Coombe Dean in September. However, when they talked to us this week about their actual experiences, it turns out that the reality is very different ... and much better than they anticipated.

Ethan, who is combining vocational and academic studies, imagined a rigid world of inflexible courses and a divide between the adult teachers and child learners. *"Actually, there's been a real freedom," he says. "I've been able to take on Psychology A Level alongside my vocational courses and my EPQ involves research into areas that really interest me. I've made lots of contacts with people in the health industry – contacts that will be useful in my career. These are serious, professional relationships in which I have an adult role to play."*

Livia talks about friendship and respect in the Post-16 Centre. *"I thought friendship groups would stay the same," she says, "which would actually mean the same conflicts and drama and pressure to fit in that we had in the lower school. Actually, everyone gets along; there is new mutual respect, here, and it is OK to sit with people who are not in your circle of friends. If you want to settle down and study, people just come and join you and respect your choice to work."*

Tia anticipated a lot more independence ... but not in a 'good way'. She says, *"I soon discovered that there's a wealth of support to help us manage the demands that come with increased independence – both inside and outside Post-16. I've particularly valued the opportunity to join in the Exeter Schools Programme which develops links between Coombe Dean and Exeter University. I imagined being cast adrift in a little boat: in reality, I've joined a bigger crew of like-minded people."*

Tom expected Post-16 to be a harshly competitive environment. But he found that the breadth of study at this level allows everyone to find their niche. *"We may be doing the same exam, but we're all working in different fields with different interests," he says. "The result is that it feels like working together rather than against each other."*

*"Smaller classes mean better and stronger one-to-one relationships with teachers and other students."*

*"You feel like you've got somebody."*

*"Tutor time has more focus on helping me."*

*"By working together, you find out there's more than one way to do things."*

This sense of working together to gain a new independence seems to be the big theme in our conversation: Our students paint a picture of Post-16 at Coombe Dean as a fresh start with greater independence, and of a community built around strong supportive relationships and mutual respect. It's a place where you can be part of something bigger and feel like you have an important role to play.

If your Year 11 pupils are considering post 16 education in Plymouth, come and take a look at the Coombe Dean community for yourself. Our Open Evening is on Thursday of this week (30th January), with entry from 7pm until 8.15pm. *All are most welcome!*

# Wednesday Whistle

## NOTICE BOARD

### Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

#### Heles School

- Exam Invigilator

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

#### Plymstock School

- Attendance Administrator

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

#### South Dartmoor Community College

- Data Manager
- Exam Invigilators

<https://www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=44>

#### Stowford School

- Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist

[https://www.stowford.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Administrative+Asst%](https://www.stowford.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Administrative+Asst%20)

Dear all

WeST HR would like to invite you to our upcoming **HR Matters Event** on Wednesday 12 February 10am-12pm. The topic of discussion at this session will be **Redeployment**.

The venue has been confirmed as Ivybridge Community College.

For those who have not yet responded to the calendar invite sent out, please could you send your confirmation by Friday 7 February or by emailing us at [HR@westst.org.uk](mailto:HR@westst.org.uk) or by phoning our HR Helpline on 01752 891754 ext 1765. Due to space restrictions, we are only able to accommodate 2 people from each business unit.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Thanks

HR Team



Coombe Dean School  
**Post 16 Open Evening**  
Thursday 30th January: 7 - 8.15pm



@CDSplus16

01752 406961

[post16.coombedean.co.uk](http://post16.coombedean.co.uk)

# Wednesday Whistle

## HOT DATES



### Apprenticeship Jobs Fair

Building Plymouth and the Plymouth Manufacturers' Group have joined together to help you meet top employers, offering hundreds of local apprenticeships. This is the event to explore the amazing and diverse job roles available to you, right now, in Construction & the Built Environment, and Manufacturing & Engineering. You can try your hand at taster activities, check out sample products, and chat with Plymouth apprentices already working within these dynamic and growing industries – don't miss your best chance of securing an apprenticeship!

**When:** Saturday 8th February, 10am—2pm

**Where:** Plymouth Guildhall

**More info/ book a free ticket:** <https://www.buildingplymouth.co.uk/news/apprenticeship-jobs-fair-announced-as-part-of-national-apprenticeship-week-2020>

### Twilight Tales

Come and enjoy a storytelling performance with our in-house storyteller extraordinaire Jacqueline.

Includes toast, jam and hot chocolate or juice for the kids.  
Bring your children dressed in pyjamas if you wish, ready for them to roll into bed when you get home.

**Suitable for:** All the family

**Cost:** £6.50 child or adult ticket. (Children under 1yrs free.)

**When:** 6pm to 7pm Friday 15th Nov 2019

**Where:** The Soapbox Children's Theatre in Devonport Park. Just inside Devonport Park at the corner of Milne Place and Exmouth Road PL1 4QH

<https://www.stiltskin.org.uk/box-office/Family-Twilight-Tales-6pm-FRIDAY-7th-FEB-2020-EARLY-BIRD-TICKETS-p166196736>

