

We find ourselves engaged in another hectic week of activity.

I must begin by extending an extremely warm welcome to all of our new colleagues at Ashburton Primary School, Buckfastleigh Primary School, South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School. Whilst we have been working closely in partnership for a while, it was only on 1st February 2020 that we officially joined together as one school trust.

Monday and Tuesday saw us welcome potential Director of Primary School Improvement candidates to WeST HQ and Glen Park Primary School. Whilst being involved in a competitive selection process inevitably generates an amount of stress, all of the candidates spoke with genuine warmth about WeST, its work and how we care for our children. Given the sector wide experience of the candidates, we can take heart from this and be proud of what we do!

I am now delighted to announce that Richard Light has been appointed as Director of Primary School Improvement (DPSI) and will take up post with effect from 1st September 2020.

We are about to advertise for two crucial posts. The first being the Headship position at Coombe Dean School and the second, leadership of South Dartmoor Community College. More details will follow shortly.

I sign off by expressing how much I'm looking forward to joining the WeST Primary Leadership residential this Thursday and Friday.

Best Wishes

Rob Haring

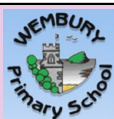
CEO WeST



Stronger Together...every child in a great school

Wednesday Whistle

Plymouth Primary Schools Rowing 2020



Row, row row!!!

Wow, this wonderful group of eight students from Wembury Primary School worked their socks off in the Plymouth inter schools rowing competition at Plymstock School this week. They worked so hard as a team and as individuals, the team spirit was amazing.

Each child had to row an individual two minute race and they were judged on the distance they rowed. George B with his powerful, steady, long stroke breezed into first place in the intermediate category; the distance he rowed was the best achieved in the whole competition. Snapping at his heels was Kenzo who came a close second.

Following the individual challenges, the children had to row as a team with each child rowing for thirty seconds. We were meters ahead within seconds of the competition starting. The children held onto this lead and managed to achieve another first place in the team event.

All of the children did a fantastic job and as a school we came first in our category. We not only came first, we smashed the existing distance rowed in previous years in the team challenge.

What a wonderful afternoon with lots of happy smiling children from Wembury.



Ivybridge Multiskills Event



On Tuesday 28 January at ICC Sports Hall, 11 schools attended the Ivybridge Learning Community Multiskills event. WeST schools were Stowford, Woodlands, Holbeton, Yealmpton and Sherford

The event consisted of throwing, balancing and running activities with 6 stations.

12 pupils from Stowford School were the Young Leaders who assisted all the children at each station. They received many compliments from teachers and I am very proud of them.

The winning school team was Stowford.



Wednesday Whistle

Artic Explorers

Sherford Vale welcomed Sir Robert Scott to the school on Friday 31st January. The arctic navigator and explorer described some of his most intrepid adventures to the children as part of an immersive learning experience provided by Blast from the Past (www.blastfromthepast.co.uk).

The children were given a range of learning resources including a presentation and physical equipment that would have been used on his expeditions, while the actor playing Sir Scott wore an authentic costume and remained in character for most of the session. The children were also encouraged to experience what it would have been like to stay in the arctic explorers tent and eat some of his basic food rations.



Mentoring at its Very Best

On Wednesday 29th January, 41 Year 12 students attended a two hour training session to become Year 12 mentors in English and Mathematics. The first hour involved Mr Willow, in Mathematics, and Miss Pepper, in English, providing training sessions to support the mentoring of the Year 11 students.

This was then followed by Level 2 Safeguarding Training, to ensure that the students in Year 12 are able to understand the expectations when working with other students.

The Year 11 Mentoring Programme is a unique project aimed at providing a personalised approach to support individual students by those who have just completed their GCSE examinations themselves. Not only do they provide empathetic understanding, but are able to support students to become resilient and to provide academic expertise within these two core subjects.



Wednesday Whistle

Exiting the European Union

As you may be aware, the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 and the UK is now in a transition period (which is also known as the implementation period) until 31 December 2020. During this 11-month period, the UK will continue to follow all of the EU's rules and its trading relationship will remain the same.

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 June 2021 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://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-factsheet/eu-settlement-scheme-factsheet>

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

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.

Many thanks

The HR Team

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 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



Wednesday Whistle

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

Heles School

- Exam Invigilators

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

Plymstock School

- Attendance Administrator
- Teacher of Science (0.5 FTE)

<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%2FReceptionist&pid=161>

Westcountry Schools Trust

- Executive Director of Mathematics

<https://www.westst.org.uk/news/?pid=7&nid=2&storyid=74>

Yealmpton Primary School

- Year 4 Teacher—temporary

<https://www.yealmpton-primary.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=107>

CORONAVIRUS:

PUBLIC INFORMATION



The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours.

To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

Find out more at gov.uk/coronavirus

Wednesday Whistle

HOT DATES

Want to feel healthier and be more active? Try a different sport each month in 2020 as part of the Mayflower 400 - Get Active programme. February's theme is rugby so why not have a go yourself? Book your session here <http://bit.ly/2upKXbG>



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>

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!