

# Wednesday Whistle



I trust that everyone has survived storm Ciara, unfortunately this weekend we will be dealing with storm Dennis!

Last week saw us full-on with our recruitment to key posts.

For those who are yet to hear, Helen Tipping is retiring at the end of the academic year and is already planning to walk the complete south coast path! This means that the leadership of the Hub structure, from a primary perspective, will be through Richard Light (newly appointed DPSI) and our three Hub leaders.

I have to share how enjoyable and informative I found the WeST Primary Residential conference. I'm already looking forward to next year's event!

Other news is that Jackie Rundle is moving on from her leadership position at Holbeton Primary School.

Our advert to recruit to the headship post at Coombe Dean School is currently on the TES. Hot on the heels of this should be the leadership position at SDCC. More details to follow shortly.

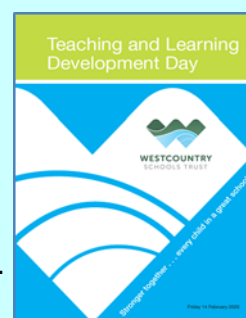
As you read this our first WeST Teaching and Learning Development Day is only 48 hours away. I

know that the sessions are well planned with some being supported by nationally renowned key note speakers.

We should finish the half term on a high by sharing each other's company, professionalism and learning together.

Best wishes for a restful half term break,

Rob Haring

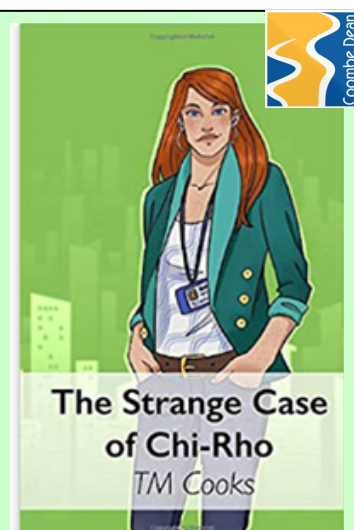


## Coombe Dean White Water Writers Now LIVE on Amazon!

Following the hard work and dedication of our White Water Writers over the last week, Coombe Dean are proud to announce that their book is now live and available for purchase on Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Strange-Case-Chi-Ro-T-M-Cooks/dp/B084DG2R5Q/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=strange+case+of+chi+ro&qid=1581321975&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Strange-Case-Chi-Ro-T-M-Cooks/dp/B084DG2R5Q/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=strange+case+of+chi+ro&qid=1581321975&sr=8-1)

A huge well done to our writers, and a special thank you to Next Steps South West for their unwavering guidance and support. We're very much looking forward to the book signing at Plymouth University in March!



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## Gold Sports Ambassadors



Last week 15 students from Plymstock School's Leadership Academy supported both the Plymouth School Sports Partnership team and the children taking part in the 2020 Primary and Secondary Indoor Rowing Championships. The PSSP team, parents and children taking part were all impressed by our sports leaders' support throughout the day and the encouragement they gave to the students taking part. They even stayed late into the evening to help clear up and tidy away.

Thank you to Mrs Hughes for organising the Leaders.

Lauren, one of our Year 11 Ambassadors wrote the following:

"On Tuesday 28 January, leaders from Year 10 and Year 11 were asked to participate in an in-school event that would play host to this year's Plymouth Rowing Championships that welcomed many different primary and secondary schools throughout the day. The primary schools started arriving as soon as 11.30am. As many as 10 to 15 different primary schools attended the event and after school hours many different secondary school attended also."

Molly, Lauren, Lotty, Kate, Betsie, Charlotte, Holly, Beth, Iris, Natalie, Leah, Carmen, Imogen, Hollie, and Elouise...

Well done to you all! Each of you were incredibly helpful and supportive and should be very proud of what you achieved.



## Medifest



The Year 5 children of Oreston Community Academy had the privilege of visiting Medifest 2020, a health and science festival at Plymouth Guildhall. The event was organised by a group of children from DHSG and Oreston Community Academy in conjunction with Plymouth City Council. The children were taught key health messages and discovered more about how their bodies work through interactive activities provided by over thirty exhibitors.

Representatives from a wide range of companies, organisations and learning providers encouraged the children to consider health-related careers. These included the Be Well Space, the Defense Medical Services, Boots, Livewell SW, paramedics from Heartstart, University Hospitals NHS Trust Plymouth, NHS Devon CCG, Day Lewis, CPPE South West, Park Pharmacy Trust, Peninsula Clinical Trials, University of Plymouth, Scott College, University of Bath and Devon LMC.

Inspirational speakers, Dr Robert Spencer from the Dr Jenner Museum and Professor Nick Barber of the BBC's Victorian Pharmacy, gave presentations about the history of vaccinations and medicines: the wonderful poisons.

Many pupils returned on the Saturday for the public open day. The children were a credit to the school with their outstanding behaviour and appetite for learning.



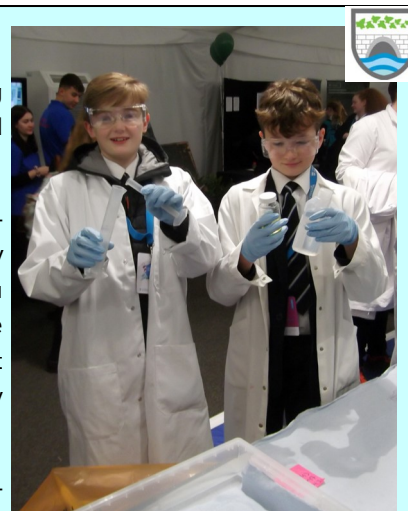
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## Students get 'Hands On' at STEM Showcase

On Thursday, 23 January, Ivybridge Community College Year 8 students, including many of the Reach Academy students, had the opportunity to attend the Science and Technology Showcase event at the University of Plymouth.

At the Key Stage 3 sessions the 23 students were introduced to the wide range of career possibilities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). They attended an inspiring lecture and then had the opportunity to visit and explore a range of stands and exhibits, including Segways, computer game technology, marine wildlife, chemistry experiments and healthcare sciences. One of the key exhibits that really grabbed the students' attention was the renewable energy stations, where they were able to get hands on and generate energy using a wave pool.

Many thanks to Mrs Shore, Mr Snodin and Miss Roberts for accompanying the students on the visit.



## Woodlands Park Rockstars



On Friday at Woodlands Park, we all came in dressed as TimesTables Rockstars avatars, with a 50p donation for NSPCC. The best dressed from each class won a 30 minute gift voucher to get out of class to play TimesTables Rockstars in a lesson of their choice. At every o'clock, we got out our sponsor sheets and read aloud challenging times tables for a minute with our partners, which we have been collecting sponsors for at home. The reason for this event is that some children suffer from abuse and neglect. NSPCC can use the money raised to help children like this.

Written by Lucy B.

**£1,998.70** has been raised through our sponsored event. Due to this high amount we are the first school in the SW to be awarded a fluffy buddy mascot. The children are very proud of this!



## Chaddlewood Primary School has been illuminated!



This week children at Chaddlewood School have been working collaboratively to create lanterns of all shapes and sizes for our Illuminate Festival. Inspired by Royal William Yards 'Illuminate' we decided we would create our own light display at our school to commemorate the 400th year since the Mayflower ships voyage. With a sea theme, 400 glass jars were decorated to mark 400 years since the voyage and over 150 lanterns were carefully made by our wonderful children, including a replica Mayflower ship, a bloom of jellyfish and two larger than life Octopi. The children and staff have worked extremely hard!

Hundreds of parents came to see our art display and said 'Wow! What an amazing light display celebrating the anniversary of the Mayflower! We could really tell so much time and effort has been put in by both children and staff and the result was fantastic. A super magical end to my day, very well done indeed.'







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## WeST NQT exchange



During the last fortnight of this half term, secondary newly qualified teachers across WeST, benefited from an opportunity to observe the teaching of their subject in a different school setting. This is the third year that we have run the WeST NQT exchange and feedback from those involved has been extremely positive. At this midway point in their induction year, NQT's identified an area of their teaching that they wanted to explore further and this became the focus of the exchange. Areas of focus this year included effective questioning, differentiation, successful behaviour management at KS4, supporting SEND students and effective retrieval practice.

NQT feedback has been extremely positive with comments such as "A highly beneficial visit. One in which I observed students clearly demonstrating a love for PE which was inspiring and energising to see. The PE department were also fully welcoming and open to sharing and having their practise observed. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit" and "it was hugely beneficial! - I have learnt a great deal". A number of NQT's have requested a return visit in the Summer Term! Induction Tutors from participating schools would like to thank all departments and colleagues who hosted an NQT. It provided a great opportunity to enrich their induction year and will surely enhance the learning experience for our students.

Nicola Withey

Plymstock School

NQT Professional Development Tutor

## Dear Colleagues



Your health and wellbeing at work is our highest priority and, for this reason, we are very pleased to announce that WeST has partnered with Able Futures.

Able Futures deliver the new **Access to Work Mental Health Support Service** on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Individuals accessing this new service will receive 9 months of professional mental health support from a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant.

A Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant will support an individual through information and advice on a range of issues; coaching and teaching on how to manage mental health difficulties; as well as help in accessing services.

The support available via Able Futures is designed to help with a range of mental health issues, including stress, anxiety, and depression, which result from both inside and outside the workplace.

Support is available over the phone and through face-to-face meetings - at a time and place that suits. There is no cost to use this service and it is 100% confidential.

**Support from Able Futures can be accessed by:**

Calling their Freephone number on: **0800 321 3137**  
(lines open from 8am to 10.30pm, Monday to Friday)

Emailing them at: [hello@able-futures.co.uk](mailto:hello@able-futures.co.uk)

Or completing their Self-Referral Form at: <https://able-futures.co.uk/mental-health-support-for-individuals/apply-for-able-futures/>

Kind regards,

Your HR Team

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## NOTICE BOARD

### Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

#### Coombe Dean School

- Headteacher

<https://www.westst.org.uk/news/?pid=7&nid=2&storyid=76>

#### Heles School

- Exam Invigilators

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

#### Plymstock School

- 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>

#### 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](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)



Stronger Together...every child in a great school

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## HOT DATES

### WeST CP and Safeguarding Programme 2019/20



DfE guidance **Keeping Children Safe In Education** guidance details the requirements placed on education establishments in relation to child protection and safeguarding matters and details the expectations in terms of knowledge, skills and understanding of all staff and of those staff with specific roles within safeguarding teams. To support these requirements a comprehensive programme of child protection and safeguarding training has been developed to support DSLs and other staff working in WeST schools and settings. Details of the full programme are available from your DSL who will be to advise on any safeguarding training needs.

All members of staff and volunteers including governors should attend a **L2 CP Awareness session** at least annually. If you have yet to attend a session this academic year WeST are offering a catch up session as follows:

#### WeST L2 Child Protection Awareness

**Date:** Wednesday 26th February 2020

**Time:** 4pm – 6pm

**Venue:** Plymstock School

If you would like to attend this session booking is required. Please click on the link below to book your space.

**Booking:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NPQSDB6>

Train with **Swim England** on their two day **National Curriculum Swimming** training for primary school teachers and TAs. The course will up skill staff and equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver swimming lessons in line with the national curriculum.

**Venue:** Liskeard Leisure Centre

**Course dates:** Tuesday 5th and 19th May 2020

**Course times:** 0930 to 1530

**Cost per candidate:** £100 for Arena members and £160 for non-members this includes your £35 certificate and resource pack

**[BOOKING LINK](#)**



Please bring your own lunch. This is a practical course so you will get wet and you need to attend both days training

Please note: PE Funding can be used to support payment and supply cover for this course

For further information please contact Julie Ponting on [jponting@callingtoncc.net](mailto:jponting@callingtoncc.net)