

Wednesday Whistle

The heavy rain has passed and the warm sunshine is beginning to return. I'm led to believe Friday will be an evening for the BBQ!

We, however, continue to work in a period of uncertainty. It is crucial that through these unprecedented times we look after ourselves and each other. I was fortunate to listen to a session from Jaz Ampaw-Farr earlier today which had a focus on the health and wellbeing of our children. The initial message, though, is that we can only guide, help and support those around us if we first look after ourselves. Consistent routines and structures are steadying features when all around seems in chaos. It is therefore important that we remain calm, do our best to establish a daily pattern of working and draw support from our strong and established frameworks.

As anticipated, the number of children in WeST Edu-care has risen this week and has now nudged over the 200 mark. I now confirm that both Woodlands Park Primary School and Hele's School are re-opening their doors from Monday 11th May to provide Edu-care. As before, we are introducing more capacity whilst still doing our best to prevent the further spread of infection and keeping our staff safe.

You will have awareness from the media that the national picture is beginning to change. We understand that Thursday will see the government make some general announcements on how the current instructions for 'lockdown' might soften. This could include a statement on schools but this is uncertain. We believe that the Prime Minister will offer greater clarity through a more extended briefing on Sunday and this is where we expect to hear guidance on the potential re-opening of schools. We think he will outline a National Framework as to how schools will begin to return to teaching children. The guidance will

come in two stages, the first a general approach and the second some degree of detail. Any partial and phased return is unlikely before Monday 1st June and even this could be later should the government deem that the five conditions set have not been met.

The partial and phased return is expected to mean that Year 10 and Year 5 children return first with the hope that other younger Year groups in the primary phase might follow shortly after.

However, we now await the actual announcements and will plan accordingly.

I am delighted to share another recruitment update with you:

- Claire Duncan has been appointed as the new Headteacher of Dunstone Primary school. Claire will take up post in September 2020 at the existing site and will have the privilege of relocating the school into its new accommodation in the Saltram Meadow development. Claire is currently a very successful and experienced Deputy Headteacher at Glen Park Primary School in Plympton. We wish her every success for the future.

Best wishes,

Rob



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A Wonderful Example of Character Education



Ivybridge Community College Year 10 student, Owen Chapman, has certainly been making the very most of his time during lockdown, and for a very worthy cause too.

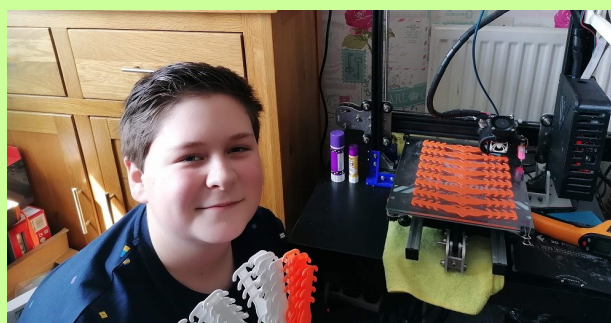
Owen said, "I saw online that people were '3d printing' mask ear savers for the NHS and other Key Workers (An ear saver is a small adapter that improves the fit of masks and makes them more comfortable for long-term wear by removing pressure from behind the ears of the wearer). Initially, I went to my dad and asked if we could help and contribute to help through these tough times. We have currently produced around one thousand items, and we are producing probably around fifty to sixty a day. My dad agrees that it is a fun and enjoyable project and it also feels great to help the frontline workers in this time of desperation.

I have managed to fit this around my home learning because the prints take approximately thirty to forty minutes for each set, so I can check up on the printer and the quality of what is being produced and get ready to repeat the prints. We are currently printing ten per print and to date we have donated to five hospitals around the country and also to local care homes."

"I am filled with so much admiration for this practical support that Owen, along with his father have done to support the NHS. It is wonderful that he has helped to make the wearing of protective masks more comfortable for medical staff, who are trying to save lives.

Many of the character virtues we encourage our students to exhibit have been embodied by Owen, namely empathy, courage, ambition, respect and charity. We are so proud of his achievements."

Gill Taylor, Deputy Principal



'FACE COVID'

How to respond effectively to the Corona crisis by Dr Russ Harris, author of The Happiness Trap 'FACE COVID' is a set of practical steps for responding effectively to the Corona crisis, using the principles of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). Here's a quick summary of the key steps, and in the attached paper they are explored in more depth:

F = Focus on what's in your control

A = Acknowledge your thoughts & feelings

C = Come back into your body

E = Engage in what you're doing

C = Committed action

O = Opening up

V = Values

I = Identify resources

D = Disinfect & distance

Please have a read through the accompanying paper to explore these, one by one...

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Celebrate VE Day 75 at home

Plymouth City Council is inviting us to celebrate VE Day 75 on Friday 8th May from the safety of our own homes.



A huge range of resources have been pulled together in a dedicated area on the Visit Plymouth website to help you throw your own 1940s themed party at home, including bunting templates, hair tutorials, wartime recipes and a playlist. Plymouth Dance has filmed three different tutorials so you can learn some new moves and dance along to vintage tunes provided by The Drat Pack.

A range of worksheets are available to download, including rationing-themed maths puzzles, word searches and crafts, that offer a useful home-schooling opportunity during lockdown.

The Box has also provided some fantastic film clips showing Plymouth during the war years. The footage offers a glimpse into the city's past, including the King's secret visit in 1941 and the bomb damage the city suffered during the Blitz.

You'll be able to see an online gallery featuring even more fascinating archive images from the city's collections, as well as links to information and resources from the Imperial War Museums and Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

For those wishing to participate in VE Day at home, there are a number of key moments during the day that everyone is invited to take part in, which will bring people across the country together from a distance. This includes a two minute silence at 11am and the Nation's Toast to wartime heroes at 3pm – to join in, simply raise a glass of a refreshment of your choice and say: "For those that gave so much, we thank you."

Find out more and discover all of the resources available at [Visit Plymouth](#). You can follow the History Festival from 8 May [by clicking here](#).

If you host a VE Day celebration then please ensure you stay at home and only celebrate with the family or friends that you live with.

'From Lockdown With Love' campaign

'From Lockdown with Love' is an online gallery for people to display their creations whilst in isolation and is a way of injecting a little colour and positivity into the world during this unique time. The website has now been live for just over a week and is blooming into something really special. Check it out here:

<https://fromlockdownwithlove.org/>

All anyone needs to do to be involved is get making and creating and then post a picture on their social media of choice using the hashtag **#FromLockdownWithLove**. The work is then displayed on the campaign's dedicated social channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and on the website.



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**Thinking about
Teaching?**

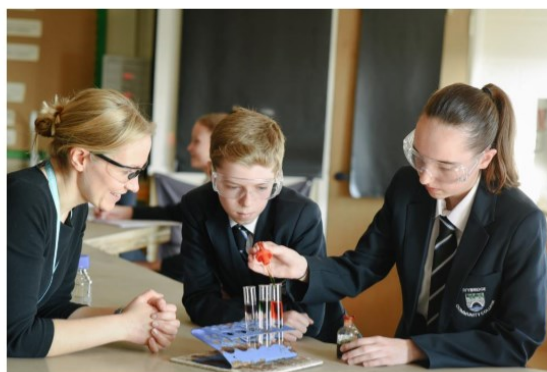
**Train to be an
outstanding
teacher with
Teach South
West**

**Join our
Microsoft Teams
Taste of
Teaching Event**

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

Train to Teach Event

Teach South West, an outstanding Teacher Training Provider, is continuing to recruit for its teacher training programmes commencing September 2020. Online events are being held for anyone who may be interested. Please share the accompanying flyers with your colleagues, parents, families and friends. (Flyers attached to e-mail).



TRAIN TO TEACH ONLINE EVENT

**Thursday, 14 May and
Thursday, 21 May 2020
at 6.00pm**

HR Matters – Wednesday 13 May 2020 @ 10am

WeST HR will be hosting a virtual HR Matters session in the HR Matters Teams channel for 1 hour on Wednesday 13 May at 10am.

A proposed agenda will follow shortly but if there are specific topics that you would like to discuss please get in touch with us by emailing HR@westst.org.uk or by phoning us on 07449857998.

Should anyone require support on accessing the HR Matters channel in Teams please contact us using the details above and one of the Team will be able to assist you.

Please could you send your confirmations of attendance to the HR email address or phone number as above as soon as possible.

Thank you,

WeST HR

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NOTICE BOARD

Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

Boringdon Primary School

- SENCO
- KS2 Teacher (maternity cover)

https://boringdon-pri.eschools.co.uk/web/job_vacancies/399137/cHJldmld3x8MjAyMC0wNC0yNyAxMjoxMjo1Mg%3D%3D

Buckfastleigh Primary School

- KS2 Teacher

<https://www.buckfastleigh.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=77>

Callington CC

- Specialist catch up teacher for English and Maths
- Head of Communications: Curriculum Leader for English and MFL
- Assistant SendCo

<https://www.callingtoncc.net/news/?pid=3&nid=3>

Chaddlewood Primary School

- Site Caretaker
- 2 x Cleaners

https://www.chaddlewood-primary.plymouth.sch.uk/web/present_vacancies_and_application_forms/45730

Coombe Dean School

- Teacher of Geography

<https://www.eteach.com/job/teacher-of-geography-1101567>

Ivybridge Community College

- Teacher of English (maternity cover)
- Teacher of Mathematics (maternity cover)
- Teacher of Computer Science and ICT

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

Sherford Vale School

- Deputy Headteacher

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/deputy-head-teacher-devon-1322269>

Stowford School

- Temporary Teacher

<https://www.stowford.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Temporary+Teacher+%28KS2+or+EYFS%29&pid=169>

WeST

- HR Officer/Advisor
- Governance Clerk

<https://www.westst.org.uk/news/?pid=7&nid=2pid=7&nid=2&storyid=98>

Testing for Covid-19

Tests are now available for our staff and members of their household who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and are self-



isolating. A test will provide confirmation of whether symptoms are caused by the virus and will enable you to decide when you are well enough to return to work.

Tests can be booked directly via the government's online system here <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/> and guidance on how to do this is provided here https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881043/covid-19-testing-self-referral-portal-user-guide.pdf

In the first instance we would encourage you to book a test directly if you are able, however, as an employer we can also do this on your behalf if required. Please contact your line manager or the HR Team should you require support to do this.