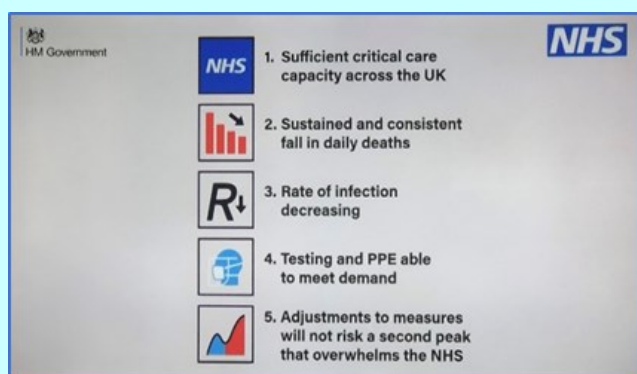


# Wednesday Whistle

In preparing for this article I had a quick look back at last week's edition. Whilst the prediction of fine weather for the weekend was nearly right – not quite the sunshine expected on Friday, but Saturday was wonderful – my early thoughts on how schools might return were a bit further from the mark! Having said this the general gist was there.

The last couple of days have seen the DfE publish a significant amount of guidance on how we might begin to re-open our schools in a partial and phased fashion. 'Ifs and maybes' permeate both the Secretary of State's speech and the DfE guidance.

Our starting point, however, is that we can only begin to reintroduce our children back to school once the five conditions that the government set are met. These are illustrated in the graphic below and it is far from certain that all five will be satisfactorily met by Monday 1st June.



We are now giving considerable thought as to how we interpret the guidance at a local level and in relation to our context. Whilst we hold a strong desire to see our children back in our schools as soon as possible we will only embark on partial re-opening once it is safe to do so.

As further guidance is released it is now clear that there is no expectation of children in Year 10 or 12 returning to school on Monday 1st June, rather this is far more likely to happen towards the end of June.

As we contemplate the next steps for our schools it is important that we don't lose sight of the good work and successes of the last couple of months. Edu-care now has an established rhythm of working and we saw some 250 children earlier this week. We are doing a terrific job of supporting and keeping in touch with our vulnerable children, linked effectively with our Local Authorities and have provided home learning through a variety of styles.

I suspect that we will hear much through various media channels in the coming days but I wish to reassure you that we are trying to make sensible plans, maintain staff and child safety, interpret guidance for our context and bring children back to school when we can.

Thank you for your continued hard work and support.

Best wishes,

Rob





# Wednesday Whistle

## Kindness matters more than ever

Hello WeST Colleagues

Kindness is a principle that makes all our lives better and it's important to us that we are kind to each other at work and to ourselves.

Being kind can mean asking someone how they are or helping out with a task. It can also mean taking care of ourselves and asking for support if we need it. If you want some more ideas about how to be kind to yourself and how you can look after your mental health. WeST has partnered with Able Futures and they are available to provide support at no cost to you.

**Monday 18th May** is the start of **Mental Health Awareness Week** and this year the theme is kindness. To help you remember ways you can be kinder to yourself and to other people, here are some little things you could try to do each working day next week.

- 1) Take your full lunch break** – eat something nutritious, go out for a short walk and don't start back at work until you've had your full lunch break.
- 2) Ask someone you work with if there's anything you can help with** – sometimes just sharing some ideas about a new task is a good way to help someone you work with relax and feel more confident about what they are achieving.
- 3) Post something kind on your social media** during Mental Health Awareness Week and use the hashtags #KindnessMatters and #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek.
- 4) Arrange to take your tea break with someone you've not caught up with for a while.** Having a quick virtual chat while you're both making a cuppa could be a way to ask someone if they need to talk about anything that's on their mind.
- 5) Share an inspiring story of kindness** that you've seen in action with us by replying to this email so we can share some of the kind things you are all doing and feeling at the end of this week.

For more information on how kindness affects our mental wellbeing, [visit the Able Futures website](#).

Able Futures delivers the Access to Work Mental Health Support Service which can give you nine months support from a mental health professional at no cost to you.

There's no waiting list and you can apply online or by calling **0800 321 3137**.

If you are experiencing issues such as anxiety, depression, grief or stress, or are struggling to deal with problems such as debt, disrupted sleep or relationship breakdowns that may be affecting your mental health, Able Futures can help you build resilience, tackle issues, feel better and learn new ways to manage your mental health throughout the ups and downs of life.



# Wednesday Whistle

## Expressive Lockdown Poetry



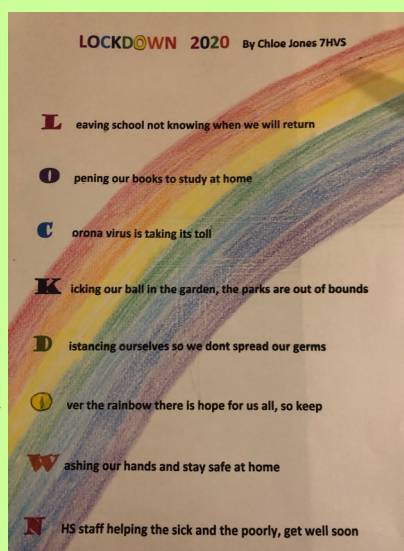
Ivybridge Community College Year 7 student, Chloe Jones, has delighted staff at the College by submitting her beautiful 'acrostic' poem using the word 'Lockdown'.

All students in Year 7 were encouraged to write an acrostic poem in a competition organised as part of their Home Learning work expectations.

Chloe said "I really didn't want to leave school when it shut, as I would miss all my friends and teachers. I like school and think I work harder there as it's more difficult to get motivated at home. I have Face Timed my friends to keep in touch and get help with school work. My mum and dad bought me a new bike as an early birthday present so I'm using that a lot for exercise as I'm missing my swim training.

I have been helping out at home with the cooking of the evening meals, mainly making desserts! I feel sad about it all, as so many people are dying and their families can't say goodbye to them, and I miss seeing my grandparents and being able to give them a hug."

Gill Taylor, Deputy Principal said, "This is an excellent piece of creative writing, which provides an insightful perspective from a Year 7 student's point of view regarding her feelings and emotions during lockdown."



## Pizza for our Key Workers



Thank you so much to the Dartmoor Lodge who delivered complimentary pizzas and biscuits to school staff at Ashburton Primary School (including staff from Buckfastleigh Primary, South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio) on Wednesday.



We all appreciated your generosity and thought for the key workers at these schools. The pizzas were delicious!



# Wednesday Whistle

## Coombe Dean Designers Published in International Art Magazine!



The Pop-up Design Agency is an initiative conceived by Coombe Dean in order to simulate the function of a small design agency for one week. It immerses the pupils, acting as the design team, into a live client project led by an industry professional.

We are proud to report that this project has since made it into the highly respected International Journal of Art and Design (iJADE Magazine).

A big well done to all our aspiring Designers who proposed such impressive concepts towards the remodelling of Plymouth's historical Elizabethan House, and in such a short period of time.

Read the full original school article [here](#).



## Thinking about Teaching?

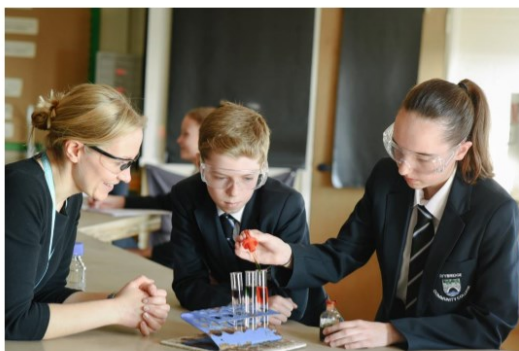
Train to be an outstanding teacher with Teach South West

Join our Microsoft Teams Taste of Teaching Event

For more information please go to [www.teachsw.co.uk](http://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 were circulated with last week's Whistle, for more information please contact Teresa Hocking via e-mail [thocking@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:thocking@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)



## TRAIN TO TEACH ONLINE EVENT

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

# Wednesday Whistle



**The Learning Institute**  
Growing Communities

[www.learninginstitute.co.uk](http://www.learninginstitute.co.uk)

07956056447 | 07956056419



/tlisw



/learninginstitutesw

Check our website for details  
of online information  
events



Promoting learning through high quality practitioner-led innovative programmes

## APPRENTICESHIPS

*"My apprenticeship has made me realise that no matter how old you are, or what path you have trodden before, there is always more to learn."*

Teaching and Learning | Information Technology |  
Business Administration | Leadership and Improvement

A unique suite of professional development programmes including apprenticeships in schools and public bodies. Can be funded through the Apprenticeship Levy.

## FOUNDATION DEGREES

*"Where will you be in five years time? With this course, who knows, you could be on the way to somewhere much more exciting"*

FdA Early Years Professional | FdA Inclusive Education |  
FdA Learning and Education | FdSc Mental Health and  
Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Study one day per week, with a combination of face-to-face delivery in local venues and live online learning. In partnership with the University of Worcester.

## TEACHER TRAINING

*"This course provides first-hand experience of working within schools, which is invaluable when becoming a teacher."*

Primary Teacher Training | Secondary Teacher Training

School-based routes are a great way to gain the qualifications and practical skills needed to become a teacher. It allows those who have just finished a degree, or have been working in a career for many years to combine teacher training with learning on the job.

● Undergraduate Degrees ● MAs ● Teacher Training ● Apprenticeships

# Wednesday Whistle

## NOTICE BOARD

### Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

#### Ashburton Primary School

- Year 2 Teacher

<https://www.ashburton-primary.devon.sch.uk/vacancies/>

#### Chaddlewood Primary School

- 2 x Cleaners

[https://www.chaddlewood-primary.plymouth.sch.uk/web/pre-sent\\_vacancies\\_and\\_application\\_forms/45730](https://www.chaddlewood-primary.plymouth.sch.uk/web/pre-sent_vacancies_and_application_forms/45730)

#### Coombe Dean School

- Teacher of Geography

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

#### 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>

#### Yealmpton Primary School

- KS1 or KS2 Teacher
- 0.4 Maternity Cover Teacher

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

### Lead Practitioner for Mathematics - required from 01 September 2020 (Leadership 9 - Fixed term contract 01/09/20 to 31/08/21)



The Lead Practitioner for Mathematics will promote and implement strategies for raising attainment and progress in Mathematics across all WeST schools. Working in partnership with the School Improvement Team, Headteachers and Mathematics Subject Leaders, the role involves both strategic leadership of subject development across the trust, alongside day to day support of Mathematics departments. This will include activities such as coaching, planning, leadership development, modelling strong practice, data analysis, curriculum development and support with student intervention.

#### Some specifics:

The post is fixed term for 12-months (01 September 2020 to 31 August 2021).

We are increasing the amount of time allocated to the Lead Practitioner role. Currently it is 0.2 (1 day) per week but from September this will be 0.4 (2 days) per week.

The remaining 0.6 would be in the candidate's home school teaching.

The successful post holder would relinquish all internal school responsibilities for the duration of the secondment (this would need to be discussed with your Headteacher). The successful candidate's current internal school role (or equivalent) would be protected during the secondment (again – this would need to be discussed with your Headteacher).

The post would be paid at Leadership 9 (partly funded by both WeST and the home school).

The full job description and person specification is attached.

#### To apply....

If you are interested in applying for the position, you would need to discuss this with your Headteacher and have their full agreement first. Please note – this may be dependent on backfill capacity.

If your Headteacher is in agreement, please submit a letter to Rob Diment via Beth Alford on [BAford@westst.org.uk](mailto:BAford@westst.org.uk) (max one-side of A4) explaining why you would like to do this role and what you can offer, by **Tuesday 19 May 2020**. A video interview will take place later that week.