

Wednesday Whistle



This week has represented a turning point – the wider reopening of our primary schools. We have welcomed selected year groups back into school for taught lessons. After all the

thorough planning and preparation, it has been wonderful to see children back in school amongst their peers and learning. Thank you to everyone who has offered reassurance and extended a warm welcome to these children in what are very different circumstances. I certainly know that our schools and classrooms look and feel different.

We are taking small, carefully planned steps forward to ensure we are safe, get things right and establish confidence in what we are doing. I am sure that the initial days of return will 'fly by' and it will not be long before we see more Year 6, 1 and Reception children in school.

I thought you would like to know that the number of children in Educare each day is significantly up on this time last week. This is despite us knowing that some children who were in Educare are now attending Curriculum taught classes.

Whilst sharing attendance news I'm pleased to report that Tuesday saw 60% of children attend taught classes of those who were eligible to attend. It seems sensible to assume that this percentage might rise as the week progresses and confidence grows across our parental body.

I take a moment here to thank all those colleagues who are involved in the harvesting and recording of daily attendance data. I know

that these processes are far more complicated and time consuming than when working under normal circumstances. We have fed this workload issue back to the DfE. However, having this accuracy of data, in a timely fashion, really helps us see the wider picture and enable us to plan with a greater degree of 'sense' and precision. It all helps!!!!

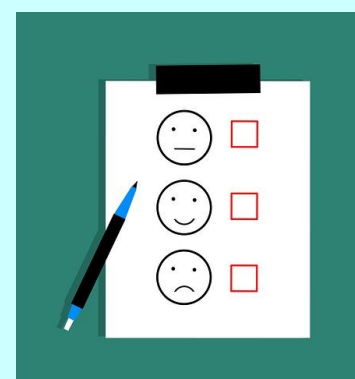
I hear from our Secondary leaders that plans and preparations for Year 10 and 12 students to return on Monday 15th June are proceeding well.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that Dean Hughes has been appointed as IT Strategic Manager for the Trust. Dean will be seen around all of our schools as he looks to develop his analysis of our existing IT systems and infrastructures. Dean will then use this analysis to develop and implement a long-term strategy for WeST and the alignment of our IT systems. We look forward to Dean joining in July 2020.

I close by asking those of you who have so far missed the online survey to take part and have your voice heard. The link is on the next page and will certainly take you less than ten minutes to complete. The survey closes tonight!

Best wishes

Rob Haring



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Have Your Say....

Closing today!
(10th June)

A staff survey following the pandemic & shaping next steps.

Thank you to all colleagues who have participated so far! If you've not yet completed the staff survey there is still chance. The survey closes today - 10th June 2020.

WeST has developed a specific staff survey for all colleagues to gather feedback and input to help shape future plans as we expand our educational provision over the coming months. The short survey has 11 questions to share your perspective. You can access this link on any internet enabled device or use the QR code below. Results will be anonymous and reviewed centrally by the Executive Team. A summary of the results will be published in future editions of the Wednesday Whistle.

To complete your survey: [click here](#) or scan this QR code:



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SDCC 3G

It is with great excitement that we can announce the SDCC 3G football pitch works have now been completed. It has been fantastic to work with a contractor who have managed to balance hard work with social distancing to deliver this project on time and under budget. The same contractor is also delivering the new 3G pitch at Callington Community College (more to follow on this in the coming weeks).

The pitch has a 10 year warranty and a lifecycle of 15 years. Maintenance will be required periodically with a mixture of in-house and outsourced tasks. The flood lighting has also been upgraded during the current works.

The school will not only be able to use the new pitch in their PE curriculum, but also to hire to the local community (a source of revenue for SDCC). In two weeks, the new SDCC pitch will be tested for FA registration which will mean football league games can formally be played on the pitch. League level hockey can also be played on this quality of pitch (markings to be added in August).

Keeping with the theme of South Dartmoor, we are due to start a 10 class refurbishment project in the coming weeks in the English/ maths block. Due to the reduced capacity of the school, we have brought the project start date forward from the summer holiday as the project was due to take four weeks (which has now been extended to allow for social distancing); this early start will mean we can meet the completion date of the new academic year.



Saltram Meadow

The construction of Saltram Meadow continues, although the pace or works has slowed due to the availability of labour, supplies and to allow for social distancing rules.

Although handover has now slipped into 2021, it is great to see progress as there are still many construction projects that have not yet restarted in the wider community and across the UK.

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Dedicated Student Impresses with BBC Competition Entry



Ivybridge Community College Year 11 student, George Folland, has produced a fantastic original composition during the lockdown to enter the BBC Young Composer 2020 competition this summer. In this track *Tumkur Road*, you will hear his intention to create a musical landscape that combines aspects of a film score like a large string section with rhythmic elements from modern Pop and Hip Hop. The name *Tumkur Road* comes from the area where the traffic sounds were recorded.

George explained that he really appreciates this opportunity to share his work with a wider audience. The track was created before lockdown, but he was able to use the time to create the written description for it. The notes were submitted in conjunction with the piece which was a requirement of the BBC competition.

Speaking about the piece George said that he, "wanted to create something that was rich with imagery, revolving around the busy traffic ambiance, manic drums, and bass." He also said that, "during lockdown, I have continued to create new music whilst also making an effort to improve my music theory knowledge. As well as this, I have been using the time to explore my local area whilst experimenting with my dad's old 35mm camera. I cooked my first chilli con carne for my family and have been making loads of sourdough bread."

Katya Padlyevs'ka, Head of Music at the College said, "I am extremely proud of George's achievements in and out of College, he is a phenomenal bass guitar and guitar player and has performed in so many events including the College's latest *Beauty and the Beast 2020* production. He has always been a model student to his peers and younger students, with his kindness, impeccable manners, dedication, talent, calm and natural ability to support and lead others as well as ability to contribute sophisticated answers and opinions succinctly. Over the last two years I have also watched George's compositional style evolve where he can now compose freely as well as to a brief in a range of musical styles as would be expected from a professional and well-rounded musician working within the Music Industry. I am absolutely delighted he is continuing with his career aspirations in Music next year and have no doubt he will be successful on this path. I am also very excited about hearing more from him and his wonderful music in the future!"



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NOTICE BOARD

Vacancies

The following vacancies are currently being advertised within our organisation:

Chaddlewood Primary School

- 2 x Cleaners

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

Glen Park

- Class Teacher (temporary)

<https://www.glenpark.plymouth.sch.uk/community-1/job-vacancies>

Hele's School

- Finance Officer
- Pastoral Support Managers
- SEN Admin

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

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. Tests can be booked directly via the government's online system [here](#) and guidance on how to do this is provided [here](#).

June is LGBT+ PRIDE Month

This month is LGBT+ Pride Month, a special month dedicated to:

- Celebrating LGBTQ+ people across the world
- Campaigning for equal opportunities
- Highlighting issues facing the LGBTQ+ community



This year coronavirus and lockdown has meant that many people are experiencing new levels of isolation, domestic abuse and family tensions (among other things).

We want to raise awareness that helplines are still open for anyone who is struggling during these times of increased uncertainty. There are also advice pages and helplines specifically dedicated to supporting the LGBT+ community:

- **Switchboard LGBT+ helpline** - Switchboard LGBT+ helpline offers a place for calm words when you need them most. Call **0300 330 0630**, open seven days a week from 10am-10pm each day. You can also message or email them - [see their website](#) for details.
- **Proud2Be** is a social enterprise supporting the LGBTQ+ community in South Devon and beyond. They offer a range of support services including 121 support for young people and weekly online socials and parties.
- For further support **Mindwell** has [a page](#) dedicated to the LGBT+ community.

