



LIGHTHOUSE  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



# December 2019 Newsletter

For School Leaders, Teachers, Support Staff, Governors and Trustees



## Welcome from the Chief Executive



For years as a secondary school teacher I used to have mixed feeling about the run up to Christmas in school: preparations for concerts and carol services, mock exams (and marking), tired pupils and staff (often wearing santa hats) make quite a cocktail. Now that I am working more with primary schools it is evident that I didn't know the half of it. I don't think there is any experience in secondary phase that can touch back-to-back nativity plays and Christmas shows for blending the delights and demands of the season. So whatever your role within the Trust, I anticipate that you are more than ready for a holiday.

In the last two terms we have, as ever, achieved a huge amount. Our Open Days/Mornings have been opportunities to showcase the best in our schools and behind the scenes our leaders and teachers have been hard at work reviewing and updating our school curricula.

[Read more](#)



# Blagdon Primary School Joins the Trust



We are delighted to announce Blagdon Primary School joined the Lighthouse Schools Partnership on 1st October 2019.

Head Jenny Campbell said: "We have already benefitted from the support of the Trust with the building work that the school has been undergoing and our work to improve the school for our pupils and wider community. We are looking forward to the opportunities it will continue to offer our pupils and staff over the coming years."

Chief Executive Gary Lewis commented: "I am absolutely delighted to welcome Blagdon Primary School to Lighthouse Schools

Partnership. We have had the privilege of working with colleagues at Blagdon to support training and development since the early spring and I was really glad to see this work and the success of teachers in their classrooms recognised in Ofsted's visit last summer and in the very strong SAT outcomes for Year 6 pupils in 2019. A Cherry Tree was planted to celebrate the occasion.



Over 100 guests attended the LSP Business Breakfast on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Gordano School.

Headteacher, Tom Inman opened the breakfast and Gary Lewis, Chief Executive of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, gave an update on the Trust's growth.

It was great to get an update on the MetroWest programme and the regeneration opportunities in North Somerset from Chief Executive, Jo Walker of North Somerset Council.

Many thanks to our Sixth Form students from Gordano, Backwell and Chew Valley Schools who spoke about their experiences of student leadership, with confidence and enthusiasm.

Employer engagement is a key aspect of our Business Partnership and can include: mentoring activities, work experience, links to alumni, careers fairs and networking events. Partners have the opportunity to increase their community profile and get involved in business and careers related events.





We are delighted to welcome Churchill Services, Cornish Garden Services, The Education Broker, Glen Group and Protel Communications to the Lighthouse Business Partnership.

If you would like to find out more about joining the business partnership, please email [businesspartnership@lsp.org.uk](mailto:businesspartnership@lsp.org.uk)

## LSP Procurement Team Continue to Drive down Costs

The procurement team have been working hard to drive down costs for schools while improving scope and value offered by suppliers.

Since 1 September 2018, cost savings as a result of contract renegotiations and bulk procurement are in excess of £552,000.

The trust is delighted to announce the following contract awards:

- Broadwater Technologies Ltd providing legionella services
- Key Integrated Systems Ltd providing fire & security services
- Waterhouse Electrical & Engineering Services LTD providing mechanical & electrical services

We are also delighted to inform you that the Central Team has been successful in achieving a significant grant of £235k to support the continued development of the Trust. This will enable us to put in place some significant and ambitious improvements to the way we operate such as the implementation of an HR system and to deliver a SEND review.



## Support over the Festive Period

The holiday season is fast-approaching and while for many this can be an enjoyable and busy time, for some people this is not always the case. **EASE** provides a 24hr Freephone Counselling and Information Line which gives you immediate access to free and confidential advice from a team of friendly, qualified Counsellors, Medical Advisors and Lawyers. **EASE** can help with issues such as:

- Stress
- Family difficulties
- Money management
- Relationships
- Substance misuse
- Anxiety
- Bereavement
- Depression
- Problems at work



What's more, up to 6 face to face counselling sessions can be arranged for you by your telephone Counsellor when you call the Freephone Line. The cost of these sessions will automatically be covered for you.

If you wish to speak to a Counsellor, Medical Advisor or Lawyer, simply call the 24hr freephone\* **0800 092 0987** and quote the special Scheme Number **72114**.

## Employee Well-being



All employees of the Trust, irrespective of their role, are instrumental in delivering excellence for our children and young people. So that we can support you all in delivering this high standard we are going to introduce a Well-being task group to work together and promote wellbeing for all staff. Health and well-being is a high priority within the Trust and the task group will work together to feed into the development of a Trust People Strategy and how best to capture the voices and views of our staff.

In 2020 we are aiming to implement a Trust wide HR system. As a large employer with nearly 1,300 employees and the addition of the Tcaf funding, discussed earlier in this News Letter, we are currently interviewing providers with a view to implementing an HR system in the Summer of 2020. We are really excited to share this news with you as an HR system will enable us to work more effectively as a Trust alongside providing employees (you) with a self-service view of your own data. Not only will the system provide efficiencies in time, it will enable us to become more joined up in our thinking and management of staff, training, CPD and succession planning.

We will keep you up-to-date with these exciting developments next year.





**S** Proposed South Elevation  
1 : 100



**W** Proposed West Elevation  
1 : 100

## Backwell School New Build

Following a competitive tender we are delighted to confirm Collinson Construction as our partner for the Backwell school new build.

LSP have successfully worked with Collinson Construction in the past, building the Gordano School sports hall five years ago. The project is progressing well and following positive feedback from the pre planning report we will be submitting a full planning application in January 2020.

The building will incorporate a Sport England compliant sports hall, fitness suite, viewing gallery, three Science Labs, two classrooms and staff offices.

## Backwell School Hosts BBC Radio 4 *Any Questions?*

On Friday 4 October BBC Radio 4 broadcast live from Backwell School. The weekly panel show *Any Questions?*, in which a panel of personalities from the worlds of politics, media and current affairs are posed questions by the local audience, rolled into the school for one night only!



Whilst the programme itself is only 47 minutes, long months of planning went into the event. The BBC spent all day on site setting up for the broadcast; the area outside of the Art block was filled with BBC broadcast vans, complete with satellite dishes as the technicians prepared for the live broadcast.



The panel organised by the BBC was very high profile: Nigel Farage MEP, Barry Gardiner MP, Robert Buckland QC MP and Jeanette Winterson Author. Following the 'light-hearted' warm up question of "what would you write on your epitaph?" the live broadcast began. The debate itself was lively covering topics such as Brexit, loss of British wildlife, funding for public services and public and private schools. Including one question submitted by a Backwell School Year 13 student.

If you did miss the live broadcast it is still available via the BBC Sounds iPlayer [here](#).

## High Down Pupils visit Parliament

High Down Junior School celebrated its fourth annual Parliament Week from 4th-8th November and once again it was a huge success, enhancing the British Values area of our curriculum. We were pleased to welcome North Somerset council leader Don Davies in for an assembly focusing on local issues, as well as a visit from Dr Liam Fox, who helped to explain more about the work of an MP and the three parts of Parliament - the House of Commons, House of Lords and Monarch to the school.

This year's School Council and Year 6 House Captains embarked on their annual trip to Westminster, where they received a tour which included the Royal Entrance, Houses of Lords and Commons, a voting lobby, Central Lobby and Westminster Hall. After that the cohort enjoyed a workshop in Parliament's Education Service focusing on elections and campaigning, before a Thames river cruise up to Tower Pier after lunch, which took in sights such as the London Eye, Shard, the Tower of London and a great many bridges.



The children were all impeccably behaved on what was a very long day and were a credit to the school.

*B Culverhouse, Year 5 teacher/co-ordinator*







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## Pupils learn about sustainability during Global Arts week

Wraxall Primary School took part in Global Goals Arts week where they explored life below sea and plastic use reduction.

Learning through music, dance and art, pupils produced posters, musical compositions, artwork and pledges for sustainable development.

The school had guest speakers from sustainable businesses, natural history experts and an eco book sale.

Headteacher, Amy Townsend, said: "The children are eager advocates of sustainable living and this is something we are now adopting as part of our curriculum provision. Our pupils are passionate about the environment and it was great to see their enthusiasm."

Children are already using their entrepreneurial skills to raise money for environmental charities, with two pupils raising more than £140 for Friends of the Earth as part of their personal pledges.



## Pupils get creative for Christmas!

Pupils from Flax Bourton Primary School embraced the festive spirit and created their own Christmas merchandise including cards, mugs, wrapping paper, fridge magnets, t-shirts, teddies and shopping bags to sell at the Christmas Fair.

The School Association worked closely with the school to organise the whole process and profits raised will support the school with specific projects through the year.







## Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training for Pupils

Portishead Primary and High Down pupils came together at their collaborative anti-bullying ambassador training day on 9th October.

It was a fantastic day that involved parachute games, some drama and lots of learning opportunities, led by Portishead Primary Headteacher Richard Riordan and pupil ambassadors from Year 1 to Year 6.

Richard Riordan commented: "It was wonderful to see the children from both schools sharing their experiences and ideas and we will meet again later in the year to share the activities we have led in our schools."

## Chew Valley Students start the festive season with Carol Singing

St Andrew's Church in Chew Magna hosted all of Chew Valley School's Year 7 students and their whole school service of carols this year.





## Pupils enjoy Forest School at Bishop Sutton Primary School

Pupils at Bishop Sutton Primary School have an excellent opportunity to explore and discover the outside world within their Forest School conservation area in a safe and exciting woodland environment.

During a Forest School session, pupils take ownership of their learning and develop their self-esteem through a variety of independent tasks.



Pupils also develop their teamwork skills and develop knowledge of sustainability and respect for their learning environment and the outdoors as a whole. And most importantly, get to drink hot chocolate and toast marshmallows!





# Flax Bourton Primary School Awarded Modeshift Bronze Award



Flax Bourton Primary School is delighted to have been awarded the Modeshift Bronze Award for excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel to school.

Modeshift STARS is the national schools awards scheme that has been established to recognise schools that have demonstrated sustainable travel to school.

## High Down just Keeps getting Greener

Over the past 10 months, the Green Team at High Down has introduced many environmental initiatives. Since September, the whole of the infant school and nursery have been sorting their milk cartons, fruit waste and plastic fruit bags so that these can be recycled but... they're not stopping there.

Caring for the environment is all about teamwork and everyone doing their bit.

The kitchen staff are recycling their balls of cling film; the caretakers are recycling stretchy plastic film; the business manager is taking batteries, fluorescent tubes and printer cartridges to the local recycling centre; unwanted school shoes and uniform are sent to Kenyan school children; unwanted books are taken to the Book Barn near Bath; and used writing instruments are sent to Terracycle to be turned into benches and play equipment.



As for the future, High Down has got plans for a “love a tree” day on 14<sup>th</sup> February (a non-uniform day including an assembly about environmental awareness to raise money for Just One Tree, non-profit initiative removing CO2 from the atmosphere through global reforestation) and a reduction in the amount of waste that’s generated at lunchtimes.

Watch this space and remember “if many people in many little places do many little things together we can change the face of the earth.”

## ‘Mini Police’ Initiative Launched in Schools

High Down Year 5 pupils were delighted to accept an offer by Avon & Somerset Constabulary for some of their children to participate in their new, nationally recognised 'Mini Police' initiative for this academic year.

Mini-Police is designed to give children confidence, a taste of what policing is like and to help and form links within the local community.

Two local officers explained the scheme to the year group and were immediately inundated with interest - around 75 children applied! 47 children were shortlisted for a police interview and the officers leading the programme commented on how well they all spoke and how difficult it was to select a final 'squad' of 15.

The school’s mini-police have now received their uniforms and are already interacting with the community including a visit to a local care home.



**High Down Schools**

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life



## Sixth Form Students attend Climate Change Conference

Sixth Form students from Backwell and Chew Valley schools attended a Climate Change Conference hosted by [Liketobe](#) on the 15th November at Bristol Cathedral Choir School.

The high-profile event brought together 10 leaders in climate change from a variety of backgrounds to share how they became passionate about the environment - and what they're doing to protect it.

Students learnt how roles in power production, transport, environment, design, planning and policy battle climate change. Speakers included internationally recognised naturalist Chris Packham, Backwell School alumnus Richard Roberts and Arctic Ambassador Johnny Issaluk.



## Gordano Sixth Form Students Attend Product Design Event

On the 25<sup>th</sup> November, Gordano Sixth Form Product Design students attended an event hosted by the University of Warwick, and [TTP Education](#) titled 'Product Design in Action'. Along with many others schools invited from across the UK, students listened to talks held by a series of professional designers.

The talks ranged from speakers such as Wayne Hemingway, who discussed his career and how with his wife they built their fashion business before selling, and creating Hemingway design, to Graphic design, materials testing and Social design.



Each speaker introduced their own profession, answering questions from students as well as presenting some of the work that they have been involved in.





# Sponsor a Child

Could you spare just **£10** per month?

You could support an orphan or vulnerable child at one of our life-changing after school clubs in Nkomazi, South Africa, giving them access to nutritious food, educational support and lifeskills.

**£10**

per month will enable a child to attend a club.

**£10**

provides a child with a safe haven and a vital meal.

**£10**

is the cost of just four lovely lattes per month!



Find out more at [www.zafoundation.org](http://www.zafoundation.org)