

Futura Learning Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Singing is just one of the activities enjoyed by children at Salford School, which has been awarded Ofsted's top grade



WELCOME

Dear parents and carers,

School life is always busy and varied but the past few weeks have been exceptional! As well as the usual Term 5 activities, including SATs in primary schools and the start of public exams in secondaries, we have all witnessed the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

This historic event has been a wonderful opportunity for children and teachers to learn more about our country and its traditions and to make memories. Pupils and staff at Two Rivers Primary in Keynsham were honoured to welcome Mohammed Saddiq, who as Lord Lieutenant of Somerset is His Majesty's representative in the county, to their school. The children proudly showed him round and beautifully demonstrated our trust value of respect. They were ambassadors for their school and our trust, as was I when I was lucky enough to attend a Royal Garden Party on May 3, just a few days before the Coronation. It was a lovely day and the gardens at Buckingham Palace were wonderful. The King and Queen were there - I even received a handshake from The Queen!



Image left: The Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Mohammed Saddiq, with Claire Graham, Director of School Improvement and the pupils at Two Rivers CofE Primary School. Image right: HM Queen Camilla at the Royal Garden Party

Closer to home, many of our schools held Royal-themed lunches, teas and other activities. I know you will share my gratitude to catering and other staff who put so much time and energy into making these events memorable for the children. I'd also like to thank everyone who supports our schools' parent-teacher and friends groups in their supreme efforts not only to raise funds but to develop the community spirit that helps children to thrive. As we get deeper into the season of school trips, sports days and camps, I am grateful to all the parent and community volunteers who help make these a success too.

As you know, our family of schools has expanded and we believe that, over time, this will bring many advantages for your children. I am enjoying visiting and getting to know the Somerset schools and staff in all schools are already feeling the benefits of working together in a wider team, sharing expertise and best practice.

On the subject of excellence, I am delighted to bring you the news

that Saltford CofE Primary has been rated Outstanding by Ofsted. This is a marvellous achievement and congratulations go to headteacher Dawn Sage and her team.

This outcome is a fitting tribute to the hard work of the whole school community. It is also pleasing that Ofsted highlighted the contribution made by Futura. The report said: "The trust's support has been instrumental in developing the expertise of staff. The trust, combined with an effective local governing body, share the vision of leaders. They support and challenge in equal measure. As a result, the pupils at this school receive outstanding provision."

Of course, we strive every day to make our schools the best they can be not to impress inspectors but for the benefit of the children and families we serve. An Ofsted inspection is simply a snapshot; no report will ever capture every aspect of a school's provision. While independent scrutiny is important - and it is wonderful to receive external validation - we must also acknowledge that the

inspection process places stresses on school staff. With this in mind, I would urge any parents and carers who have concerns to take them up directly with the school rather than airing them on social media or reporting them online. Conversely, if you are delighted with your school, tell the head and the staff and broadcast your appreciation as much as you like! Gifts at the end of term are lovely - but words of thanks all year round really help too.

We are ending Term 5 with a spell of beautiful weather, which looks set to extend into the half-term holiday. I wish you all a restful break and thank you once again for all the support you provide.

Andrea Arlidge

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

CAN YOU HELP THE FOODBANK?

Keynsham Food Bank is seeking donations. Items needed include, tinned carrots, sugar, tinned spaghetti bolognese, pot noodles, crisps and snack bars.

Stanton House at Wellsway School is co-ordinating a collection this term.

There are also donation points at Waitrose, Tesco and the Co-op in Keynsham, Tesco in Saltford and at Saltford Hall.



INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL STORIES

The following articles celebrate how Futura Learning Partnership staff and schools are delivering our mission to provide the best possible education to all our pupils. We don't have enough space to feature every school in each issue, so we've included a selection of primaries and secondaries, and will include our other schools in future editions.

SALTFORD SCHOOL RATED OUTSTANDING

Salford CofE Primary School has been judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding in all areas of its provision.

Inspectors said pupils and staff were rightly proud of their inclusive school, where all children are encouraged to be the best versions of themselves.

They said headteacher Dawn Sage and her team pursued excellence at all times and had constructed a curriculum that was exceptional.

"Staff share this continuous drive for improvement across all aspects of the school. Together, they are aspirational for what pupils can achieve," Ofsted said.

A team of three inspectors visited the 438-pupil school for two days in early spring. They were hugely impressed with the children at Salford, describing them as welcoming, extremely well-behaved, eager to participate in all aspects of school life and passionate about their learning.

"The school's vision, 'Caring for our Community,' informs the development of pupils' characters. They are kind and look for ways to help others," the report noted.

"Pupils are highly motivated. They try hard in lessons and show resilience when faced with a setback. When attempting work that they find challenging, pupils persist until they are successful. Pupils strive to meet the high expectations set by staff."

Other areas the inspectors highlighted included the welcoming library and the strong culture of reading, the wealth of opportunities for children to take on leadership roles, the many clubs and activities and the extensive choice of outdoor play activities.

"Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the education and care their children receive at the school," Ofsted said.

The school was rated Outstanding for quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years provision.

The inspectors praised the high-quality training for staff, tailored to support the school's priorities. This meant that children,



including those with special educational needs or disabilities and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, were able to flourish. Staff morale was said to be high, with leaders, including governors, placing importance on wellbeing.

The support provided by Futura Learning Partnership, which Salford School joined in 2016, was also highlighted.

Ofsted said: "The trust's support has been instrumental in developing the expertise of staff. The trust, combined with an effective local governing body, share the vision of leaders. They support and challenge in equal measure. As a result, the pupils at this school receive outstanding provision."

Mrs Sage said the inspection outcome was thanks to the efforts of the whole school community, including children,

staff, parents, wider families, the local community and the trust.

"We are so proud of our school, where children are challenged in their learning and are nurtured to develop personally and academically. Salford CofE Primary is a place where children value their strong friendships and feel safe and happy in school. We all strive every day to make sure the school is a place where everyone can thrive," she said.

Andrea Arlidge, Chief Executive of Futura Learning Partnership, said: "We are delighted that the excellent education and care provided at Salford CofE Primary School has been recognised by Ofsted. This wonderful report is a tribute to the hard work of everyone connected with the school - congratulations to all."

SALTFORD'S KS2 ASCEND KELSTON HILL IN TRADITIONAL WALK



Saltford School's KS2 children made their annual pilgrimage up nearby Kelston Roundhill to remember the events of Ascension Day. This day, forty days after Easter, commemorates Jesus leaving his disciples to take his rightful place with God in heaven.

The children set off on Thursday May 12 with a spring in their step and all made excellent progress towards the summit, stopping on the way to refuel with a drink and a mid-morning snack. Once everyone had assembled at the top of the hill, Mrs King led a talk and prayer to mark the significance of the event.

The children were then able to tuck into a well-deserved picnic lunch before they spent some time playing in the fresh air before retracing their steps back to school.

This memorable day also gave the children a chance to chat with their friends,



teachers and other adults, enjoy the scenery and observe nature.

Well done to all the children for participating so well. Thank you to Mrs King, Mr Jenkins and all the staff and parent helpers who accompanied the children. Thank you also to the landowners, William Heath and Hugh Padfield, for once again extending an invitation to us to use the site for this event.



PUPILS USE CODING SKILLS TO RACE LEGO ROBOTS

Year 5 pupils from Mary Elton Primary School in Clevedon participated in an exciting Lego Robot Workshop, delivered by Garry Packer, an engineer from the STEM Ambassadors hub.

The children built, programmed and raced their Lego robots within given parameters. The robots needed to travel from one line to another and then turn to return back to where it started - not an easy task! The children had to use their physical programming skills and learn new ones.

Garry said that our Year 5 children showed 'great collaborative team work, great listening skills and some really innovative problem solving'.

This workshop provided a great launch for future projects we have planned where the Year 5s will combine their physical and computer skills.



YEAR 10 AMBASSADORS REPRESENT SBL ACADEMY AT WEST OF ENGLAND'S FIRST SCHOOLS SUMMIT



Year 10 ambassadors represented SBL Academy in Oldland Common, South Gloucestershire, at the West of England's first School's Summit.

Metro Mayor Dan Norris hosted the event at Aerospace Bristol in Filton. Two Year 10 student ambassadors, Josie and Sebastian attended. They had a fantastic informative and interactive day and were great ambassadors for SBL Academy.

Please read below for a great recap of the day by Sebastian.

My experience at the Metro Mayor Summit Event

It was a really great experience; there were lots of workshops which you could do, a lot of adults (working in different sectors like culture, transport, energy, nature, etc.) who you could ask questions about what their job and what their day looks like. There were also lots of refreshments and food. There were opportunities to explore the museum and go on the Concorde itself.

There were eight workshops in total. One was exclusive, the Dragon's Den, to

those who had picked it, but you could just join in to listen to what they were talking about. The rest included Transport, Retrofit, Nature, Energy, Careers, Culture, and Active. Josie and I focused on Culture, Transport and Nature.

During the culture workshop, we were first asked to make a circle of things/ideas that reminded us about culture, and then we learnt a lot about stage lighting during theatrical plays or festivals. We also talked to a representative from a company called Air Giants who specialise in making robotic giants who move with a computer programme, and are filled with air and lights.

During the transport workshop, we were first asked to complete a survey to see how a majority of people travel around Bristol. Then, we were split into four groups, each focusing on different points during a journey from point A to point B. Josie and I focused on how you would get to where you would start the journey from (such as, how would you get to the bus station from your house) and the challenges faced at the bus/train station.

And finally, during the nature workshop, one of the people from our table was dared to put their hands into a mystery box to see what the item was and what that item could represent (for example, a megaphone could represent communication and spreading your message louder). Afterwards, we talked about the density of green areas where we live, and were then asked to put some ideas onto a wooden leaf about "What would you like to see more of outside?" which would then be put on a cut-out of a tree from wood and placed in the Metro Mayor's office.

Overall, the experience was really great, and definitely worth going to! I really enjoyed it and it was great being able to spend some time learning about the different environmental impacts of different things and learning about stage lighting, as well as being able to communicate with students from other schools.

COULD YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The growth of our trust means we need more inspirational and professional people to join our dedicated and passionate staff team.

If you are planning your next career move, and think you could help make a difference for our students, please [take a look at our vacancies](#) or check your local school websites.



FRIENDSHIP INSPIRES FORMER FUTURA STUDENTS TO PEDAL 950 MILES IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH UK



Former Saltford pupil Leo Nolan has just completed a 950-mile cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats in support of former Chandag pupil, Dan Money. Now both 24, the two became good friends through their time at Wellsway School.

Late last year, Dan received a shocking diagnosis of bowel cancer and has since been undergoing treatment in Birmingham, where he has been working as an F2 Junior Doctor. He has chosen to raise money for Cancer Research UK (CRUK) to help fund important up-to-date research that will increase treatment options for people in this situation.

Leo and his cycling friends decided to dedicate their ride in support of Dan's fundraising and wore their CRUK jerseys with pride.

In 12 days of cycling, and fuelled largely by malt loaf, they climbed the equivalent of 40 Empire State buildings, had three punctures, two injured knees and one rider knocked off by an inquisitive lamb. Dan and his Mum met the team in the Midlands to offer encouragement and good food!

Dan and Leo would like to thank everyone from the Futura community who has supported their fundraising so

far - staff, former pupils and families alike. If you would like to donate, please go to [Leo's Land's End John O' Groats giving page](#) or [Daniel's Giving Page](#).

Top left image: Dr Dan Money, top right image: Hamish, Adil and Leo and above image: the three friends on the open road during their 950 mile ride.

JOBS JAMBOREE PROVES AN ARRESTING EXPERIENCE



Cheddar Grove Primary in South Bristol held a Jobs Jamboree. Nineteen people from the local community, including parents, volunteered to spend either half a day or a full day in school talking to classes about their career and how their education helps them. There was a wide range of careers from film director to nurse to business owner.

Each class was shown a presentation and then involved in various activities linked to the adult's career. This included

using Google maps to send ambulances to incidents effectively, planning how to set up a Police Station, looking at the inside of a Police van and arresting the headteacher Mr Jeffery! There were also talks from a drum teacher, a nurse and a water scientist. It was an amazing day and the children really enjoyed meeting people from all different occupations. One child was asked 'What was good about meeting a drum teacher?' and replied 'Everything!'



AUTHOR'S VISIT MARKS OPENING OF SCHOOL LIBRARY



Chestnut Park Primary School in Yatton celebrated the grand opening of the school library with the community and a visit from the author Cheryl Lee-White.

The children and parents enjoyed a reading assembly and listened to the story 'The Kindness Trio' by Cheryl Lee-White. This is an important story for the school as it aligns with the 'School Promise' to Be safe, Be Respectful, Be Kind and Be ready to learn.

Children dressed up as their favourite book characters and were joined by their families to share stories

The PTA donated over £700 of books and ran their monthly coffee and cake morning.

Headteacher Tamara Dexter said: "Opening the library for the children has allowed us to share and celebrate the importance of reading with the whole community. Chestnut Park is a school where every child will develop a love and enthusiasm for reading which will support them to become lifelong learners."

Image left to right: Emmee Standeven - assistant headteacher, Cheryl Lee-White - author, and Tamara Dexter - headteacher with pupils of Chestnut Park

35 GUEST SPEAKERS PROVIDE INSIGHTS TO WORLD OF WORK



Students from Chilton Trinity and Clevedon Schools saw the conclusion of their successful Be Inspired weekly career talk programmes. Since October the two secondaries have hosted 35 guest speakers, who have met and encouraged more than 900 students as part of the programme to increase awareness of professions and careers, as well as the pathways to achieve these aspirations from school.

Year 11, from both schools, had the opportunity to attend lunchtime workshops exploring Higher Education and Apprenticeships – developing an understanding of the benefits of both options and how students can best prepare for future applications.

Students from both schools, interested in future careers in the public services, benefited from visits to the Avon and Somerset Police HQ and Black Rock Police Firearms Training Centre, Portishead. As part of their experience students explored the constabulary's firearms services, armoury, mock up hostage house and 100m range through in-depth tours by police marksmen. The students from Years 10 to 12 also visited the police HQ's control centre and were given a presentation on the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship. Both visits provided a real insight into the role of the police in society.

Clevedon School's Sixth Form continued to prepare students for



their Post-18 options through the weekly Foundation Lecture programme delivered by various organisations including Wilmott Dixon and UWE. Topics included open mindset and thinking outside the box; the benefits of Gap Years; and higher education and apprenticeship routes, through a visit from UWE. Clevedon's Sixth Form also welcomed back former students who, as part of the school's Alumni, discussed their current apprenticeships during weekly assemblies.

Clevedon's Year 11 Aspire programme came to fruition as students, with clear ideas as to their future career direction, were able to sign up for workplace, HE and service visits this coming summer, after their GCSEs.

Chilton Trinity's successful enrichment programme saw visits from companies including the engineering giant Thales, further and higher education institutions and career services. Through these experiences and tutor led sessions students gained a greater understanding of future options and the benefits of the alternatives available.

Chilton also celebrated Science Week by hosting daily whole school, virtual sessions from the NHS, EDF energy (Hinkley Point), Thales, Thatchers and Airbus. Finally, Year 9 students visited the Bristol offices of Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC), one of the leading five accountancy and financial services companies in the world.



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