

# Futura Learning Partnership

# NEWSLETTER

## FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Platinum jubilee commemorative 50p coins were in the spotlight at Salford School during a visit from the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset Annie Maw



## WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Futura Parent and Carer Newsletter. As we approach the end of the school year, it is great to see a whole range of activities taking place across the Futura schools. With tests and exams now complete, schools are focusing on making sure our pupils enjoy the end of the year and are well prepared for their next steps. I am certainly looking forward to joining in these activities over the coming weeks.

One event that I am particularly looking forward to is the Futura Oratorio that is taking place at The Forum in Bath on 19th July. The piece features 400 students from across the 13 Futura Learning Partnership schools performing in three choirs and one orchestra. The concert will premiere a new piece of work called 'Avona - The Oratorio', telling the myth of the River Avon in a 30 minute piece composed and performed by Futura pupils, working with composer Phil Dixon. The collaboration has been masterminded by our Director of Music, Ingrid MacLean, and is a massive undertaking. Many thanks to Ingrid and all the staff across our schools who have given their support. It will be a great way to celebrate our new trust name and emphasise that we truly are a family of schools.

One of the great joys of my role is hearing about, and sharing, all the great work that goes on across our family of schools. This edition of the bulletin contains some fantastic events that give some examples of how well our schools are helping children and young people to develop their sense of social and environmental responsibility. Many congratulations to Saltford School for achieving the Junior Forester Award, which they received from HM Lord Lieutenant of Somerset. What a great achievement also for Ollie Rose (Year 9 at Bedminster Down School) who has been selected from hundreds of applicants across the country to be one of twelve National Ambassadors to work with Jamie's Farm in Wiltshire. I was also very impressed to see how students at Wellsway School are showing their support to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. You can read about all three of these achievements in the bulletin alongside a whole hosts of activities that have taken place. Many thanks to all the colleagues who helped make them possible.

On Monday 11th July all Futura schools are having an Inset day and members of staff will be attending the Futura Annual Staff Conference at Wellsway School. The last trust conference was held in November 2019 and it will be so good to be back together again as a staff body after an enforced break of nearly three years. The conference will be attended by 650 members of staff and will include a range of presentations and workshops. The key note speech will be delivered by a national expert, Matt Pinkett, and is entitled 'Boys don't try, rethinking masculinities in schools'. I'm sure this will be a very thought provoking session. At the conference, we are also launching a new Futura Staff Award Scheme. We have thought long and hard about how we can introduce a meaningful way to recognise our colleagues' hard work and contribution and are introducing the Futura Values Awards to recognise colleagues who deserve appreciation and thanks for going above and beyond. The recipients of these awards will be nominated by their peers and will receive a badge to go on their lanyard. A small token of appreciation that emphasises the value we place on our staff.

On the topic of recognition, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Director of Education, Gary Schlick, who has successfully completed his training as an Ofsted inspector. Gary completed his sign off inspection this week so is now a fully-fledged inspector. This is a significant achievement for Gary and an important step for us as a trust.

Work on the merger with Clevedon Learning Trust continues to go well and we will shortly be commencing the formal due diligence process. In taking this forward, it has been a great privilege to work closely with John Wells, Clevedon Learning Trust's CEO, who is retiring at the end of this school year. John has had an amazing career and is leaving a great legacy in the family of schools he started in 2015 when he was Head of Clevedon School. We look forward to welcoming our colleagues from CLT and to working with them as a wider family of schools when we join together next year.

As we approach the end of this school year, I hope your children are enjoying the post-test and exams period and the opportunity this brings to have some fun! I appreciate that some children and young people are approaching the end of their time in a Futura school and I hope they enjoy their remaining time with us.

With thanks and best wishes,

*Andrea Arlidge*

Chief Executive

# CHARITY RUNNERS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE



Wellsway School held a charity event to show support to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. More than 80 students and staff took part, working in teams to run as many laps of the track as possible in an hour. The school's Sports Leaders and Miss O'Malley started the proceedings with an aerobic warm-up. There was a fantastic atmosphere as everyone worked together, encouraging all to do their best. A total of 732 laps of the track were completed, the equivalent of 182 miles. The event raised £365 for the people of Ukraine.

# PUPILS WELCOME SOMERSET'S LORD LIEUTENANT



Salford School was lucky enough to be visited by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Mrs Annie Maw, and her Deputy Mrs Gloria Craig on Friday 10th June. The Lord Lieutenant represents the Queen for our area and she came to present us with the [Junior Forester Award](#).

The award is the result of the Green Team's work this year, planting a tree for the Platinum Jubilee Queen's Green Canopy initiative and carrying out other activities working towards the Junior Forester award.

Mrs Maw joined us for an assembly presentation put together by Mrs Newark

about the Green Team's work and then spent some time with the children who had been involved in the activities. She presented them with a certificate celebrating their work, as well as three special books promoting caring for the environment. The children really enjoyed telling Mrs Maw and Mrs Craig all about their favourite activities and she was fascinated to find out what they had been up to. You can see the [assembly presentation here for more detail of all the work the Green Team did](#).

Our visitors were then shown around our school by Mrs Sage, who pointed out all the work that has been done to improve the environment on our grounds.

Because of the work that was done for the Junior Forester Award, our school was chosen to receive a number of commemorative 50p coins marking the Jubilee. Every child in the Green Team and the School Council has received their coin, and there will also be one for each of our families.

Many thanks to the Green Team, Mrs Newark, Mr Boyle and Mrs Hamlen for all their hard work towards this award.

# GIRLS GIVE CONFIDENCE A TRY

Some Year 8 girls from SBL have taken part in the Bear in Mind project run by Bristol Bears community team.

Bear in Mind is a health and wellbeing programme aimed at equipping girls in secondary education with the tools to build self-confidence and to cope with the wider issues faced by young women across modern society.

The groups were apprehensive at the beginning; however, as the sessions went on they slowly grew in confidence and began to open up to the positive aspects of the course. Alongside the classroom activities the girls also took part in some tag rugby sessions that build towards games against other school groups on the programme.



The group went on two trips. The first trip was to Ashton Gate, where they had a stadium tour and found out about many of the jobs and roles that are needed to run a professional sports club. The second trip was to Shaftesbury Park, where the girls took part in a number of sessions with

players from the Bristol Bears women's team and then played matches against other schools.

It was lovely to see the students get fully into the games at the end of this programme and enjoy themselves. Well done to them all for completing the programme.

## AIM FOR THE MOON - YOU MIGHT BECOME A STAR

A moon landing was one of the activities undertaken by students from SBL Academy and Bedminster Down School during a leadership programme this year.

The students had to design, build and operate a lunar rover in the session at Aerospace Bristol museum. Other venues visited were Clifton College sports grounds, Bristol University and Bristol Zoo.

The aim of the five sessions was to build self-confidence and help students realise that they have all the



attributes needed to put themselves forward for leadership opportunities

both in school and in the community.

Motivational speaker Cameron Parker talked about overcoming barriers, setting personal standards and how hard work and determination play a vital role in taking charge of your own future.

Some of the students have already volunteered for extra projects and this is testament to their drive to improve as young leaders.

Well done everyone.

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

IKB Year 10 students missed out on skills training and team building activities during their induction - so they have done them this term! They spent a day and a half developing vital skills that will support them in Year 11, the Sixth Form and beyond.

External speakers led workshop sessions on team building, self-confidence, communication and resilience and the event was finished off with staff and students enjoying ice creams on the grass in front of the IKB building. Students are already benefiting from the skills they learned, which they will also be able to apply to their work placements later this term.



# FOLLOW THESE PIONEERS - EARN AND LEARN WITH US!

Three Futura Learning Partnership trainees are about to become qualified teachers under a scheme being piloted by our trust.

They will be the first in this part of the country to secure QTS after completing the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship and we have a second group waiting to start.

Meanwhile, thirteen teaching assistants have completed the Level 3 qualification with us and we have more on the way to achieving it.

Futura Learning Partnership offers apprenticeships in many roles - providing an excellent opportunity to gain qualifications without paying any

fees and while earning.

Watch this space for details of provision ranging from a Level 7 apprenticeship for a SENCO (special educational needs co-ordinator) to courses in play therapy, site management, school finance management and senior leadership

More information can be found at [Orange Moon Training](https://www.orangemoontraining.co.uk), our training partner's website.

If you would like to explore an apprenticeship route please do contact me: [jgallop@futuralearning.co.uk](mailto:jgallop@futuralearning.co.uk)

**Jon Gallop**  
ITE and Apprenticeship Coordinator



## 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.](#)

# BIG SHOUTOUT TO ASDA

Thirty general and regional managers from stores around Bristol and Bath worked on the grounds of Wansdyke School as part of their service to the community. They brought with them plants for the grounds and gardens, which were very much appreciated by the green team, the dig it club and the garden of hope children.

Some of the managers painted the railings at the front of the school, some painted the woodwork around the school with stain to preserve its life and others were involved in cutting back bushes and brambles. They worked really hard and we are really grateful that they chose Wansdyke to work with as their community project this year.



## SCHOOLS LINK UP TO MARK PATRONAL FESTIVAL

St John's held their annual Patronal Festival, welcoming the children and staff from Two Rivers to join the celebrations. The morning was spent engaged in activities linked to respect, including writing group prayers, making prayer ribbons and learning a song, as well as other activities. The traditional fish and chips lunch

was enjoyed in the warm sunshine, before the afternoon's events started off with an assembly about the parable of the Lost Sheep. The focus of the afternoon was to think about St John, so the children worked together, in mixed aged groups, to create their version of our school logo.



# AROUND THE SCHOOLS

## LOTS OF LEARNING DOWN BY THE RIVER



Year 5 children at Chandag Junior School took part in a workshop run by Bristol Avon Rivers Trust. The children began in the classroom, learning about the effect of pollution on the river system and how their actions can improve the river environment. Then they walked to the river where they learned how to build rafts from natural resources, developed their map reading skills

and sketched their surroundings. They also had a great time river dipping where they studied invertebrates living in the river. It was a great way to spend a warm June day and the children had a wonderful time. We were very grateful to Bristol Avon Rivers Trust for providing this free workshop.

## SAFETY FIRST AS WORKSHOP KEEPS PUPILS ON TRACK



Year 2 enjoyed a Train Safety workshop before their rail trip to Bath. The children learnt fascinating facts about keeping themselves safe and the running of train stations. They can now explain the significance of the yellow platform line and the orange line on the side of every train! Thank you to the Platform theatre team who trained the children well and accompanied them on their adventure to experience the Living Tree at the Egg Theatre.



## RUGBY FOUNDATION LINK IS A WINNER

Aspire Academy welcomed Bath Rugby Community Foundation into the school to help develop students' rugby skills as well as delivering interactive Personal Social Development lessons with KS3 students. This has been a real success with students developing the key skills of teamwork, problem solving and communication.

# JAMIE'S FARM SELECTS OLLIE AS AMBASSADOR

Ollie Rose in Year 9 at Bedminster Down School has been selected to be one of this year's Ambassadors for Jamie's Farm in Wiltshire. He was selected from hundreds of young people from across England and Wales to be one of twelve National Ambassadors to work with the Farm. The role involves promoting their aims to potential funders as well as working with the charity to give feedback and guidance on how to continue to improve their offer to young people. The selection wasn't a random choice - Ollie was initially selected as a potential Ambassador due to the incredible progress he made while attending one of their residential weeks. He was then selected once all the other nominees had been discussed so is very much there on his merit.

As a result of this selection, Ollie has been asked to attend an additional week-long residential in August as well as a number of weekends throughout next year travelling to the different franchised Jamie's Farms across England and Wales. In return, the Farm staff will mentor Ollie and support him with documenting his experiences for his CV.



Well done, Ollie - what an outstanding and thoroughly deserved achievement. We are extremely proud of you!

# FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT SOME SCARY CREATURES



Did you know that an African Land snail has 10,000 teeth? This was the favourite fascinating fact learned by Year 2 at Cheddar Grove during a visit from Zoolab. It involved classifying different types of animals and learning lots of information about invertebrates and vertebrates. Everyone was very brave and either held or stroked all the animals.

# LIBRARY CHALLENGE



The children of Two Rivers enjoyed a visit from Keynsham Library staff who talked to the children about the 'Gadgeteers' summer reading challenge. If you'd like more information on the scheme then visit the [Gadgeteers website](https://www.gadgeteers.org.uk).

# PIRATES BOARD THE MATTHEW!

The Reception children at St John's had a fantastic time being pirates aboard The Matthew in Bristol Docks before exploring the M-Shed. They were a credit to the school and made Mrs Bruton very proud.





# FROM VAN GOGH TO STREET ART - A DAY OF INSPIRATION



Students from SBL were inspired by artists from the past and the present on a visit to Bristol. The Year 10 and 12 Fine Art students enjoyed the Van Gogh Immersive Experience - a fabulous 360 degree digital art exhibition of his work and a virtual reality journey into his life - at The Propyard before spending the afternoon exploring some of the amazing street art created for this year's Upfest festival in Bedminster.

# CURTAIN UP ON THE END-OF-YEAR SHOW



As the end of primary school beckons, Year 6s at Saltford have all been involved in putting on a show, using their acting, singing and dancing talents. There have been intensive rehearsals over the past few weeks, all culminating in a brilliant show. The first performance was enjoyed by the rest of the school children during the day and then parents came in for the evening performance. What a show it was! The children's ability and enthusiasm never fail to impress us. Thanks to our recently-retired Mr Baker who gave his time and talents to bringing the show to the stage and to the other staff and supporters who produced such wonderful costumes, scenery and music.



# SCHOOL CAMP: WHERE MEMORIES ARE MADE

## SALTFORD



Saltford School has a strong tradition of offering the experience of going away on camp every year from Year 4. It has been a delight to be able to offer these again this year.

Year 4s enjoyed two days in Somerset, staying overnight at Barton Camp in Winscombe. The activities included outdoor and indoor games, hiking, swimming and a visit to Puxton Park. One of the highlights was the sing-song around the camp fire accompanied by Mr

George and his guitar. Trying a new venue this year, Year 5s spent three days on camp and stayed at Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre in Bruton, stopping at Glastonbury Tor on the way for some walking and sketching. Year 6s were excited and well prepared to be going to Okehampton for their week-long camp. The programme was varied and fun – including “weaselling” on the moor – and it required the children to tease their

brains and conquer some fears too. Above all, we know that the children, and staff, have great fun on these camps. Spending quality time outside school in a new environment means that the children can try new things and discover qualities they never knew they had. The camps really foster independence and strengthen the bond between classmates and staff. These are the experiences that live long in the memory.

## WANSDYKE



Year 6 went to camp at Simonsbath, where they enjoyed wonderful weather and fantastic activities.

# SPORT

## OWEN'S A LEADER IN HIS FIELD

Owen G from Wellsway School won Gold in the Shotput, Discus and Javelin events at the Under 15 Welsh Athletic Championships.

Congratulations to him on his first places in the South West Schools Champions in Javelin and Shot Put too!



## ROUNDERS SUCCESS

SBL's Year 7/8 rounders team were exceptional ambassadors for the academy on Tuesday 14th June, at a Year 8 rounders tournament. The team played fantastically and came third overall - excellent work everyone!

## HOLLY'S THE FASTEST 800M U15 GIRL IN THE WEST



Holly S from Wellsway won the South West Schools Championships in Exeter under 15s Junior girls 800m, with a winning time of 2 minutes 19 seconds. This competition included the six counties of Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. We wish Holly all the best when she competes in the next competition, representing Avon, at the English Schools Championships in Manchester in July

## TOM'S INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT CALL-UP



Congratulations to Tom M, from Wellsway School, who has been selected to represent Team GB U15 Baseball team. He will be taking part in a competition against countries including Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Belgium and Russia. This is a fantastic achievement for Tom and we wish him all the best for the competition.

# CHAMPION! SPORTS AMBASSADORS HOST PRIMARY EVENT

More than 90 Year 3 children took part in a multi-skills festival at Keynsham Cricket Club. The event was run by a group of Wellsway's Year 8 Sports Ambassadors. The Year 3 children came from Chandag Junior, Salford and St John's Primary Schools and they worked in mixed school teams participating in a wide variety of activities including throw rounders, Kwik cricket, end ball and relays. The Sports Ambassadors demonstrated the activities, coached the children and encouraged them to do their best.



The Sports Ambassadors from Year 8 and 9 also travelled over to Salford School to help run their Sports Day. In the morning a team of 15 helped with the KS2 event, measuring the field activities and helping with the equipment on the track. In the afternoon a different team assisted with the KS1 event, encouraging the children as they completed a variety of challenges.

At the end the Sports Ambassadors took part in a tug of war against the staff! Many of the Sports Ambassador's had siblings taking part in the event and we managed to get some family photos.



## VICTORY IN FIRST CRICKET MATCH AFTER COVID

At last! SBL's Y9 boys cricket team played and won their first post Covid game, beating Trinity Academy in the magnificent surroundings of Bitton CC . SBL's 16 overs saw them put an impressive 84 on the board for Trinity Academy to chase; a stellar fielding performance led to the the opposition being all out for just 60. A big well done to top scorer H. Mercer with 26 runs and leading wicket taker J. Millard with his 3/0 masterclass! A massive thankyou to Y11 D. Miles and Josh/Andy from Bitton for their help with umpiring and scoring throughout. A wonderful afternoon's cricket - the future is bright for this sport at SBL!



## KARATE ACE EARNS HUGE MEDAL HAUL

The Meadows now has a three times European Kenpo Karate Champion in the age 8-10 division.

Step forward Archer - who competed in seven categories and came away with three gold medals, three silver medals and a fourth place. He was taught by Europe's top exponents in the discipline during three days of seminars. He has learned an enormous amount and had the most fantastic life changing experience. Well done Archer!



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