

Welcome back after what I hope has been an enjoyable Easter holiday for you and your families. Welcome also to a new format for our newsletter. As we turned four years old this month, it seemed an appropriate time for a refresh. Thanks to my assistant, Lynne Carley, who has created this. Do please let us know what you think of it.

Term 5 is a short but notoriously busy one and in our secondary schools and sixth form college the 'busyness' will inevitably be focussed around the work in preparation for the award of grades to GCSE and A Level students. This is a very different scenario from last year, when schools and colleges were asked to make grade predictions. This year, grades are awarded on the basis of what students have achieved over their period of study towards the public examinations. Our Year 11 and 13 students have six weeks of pretty intensive work, during which time teaching and learning continues as normal and they are assessed on what they have learned. This period could make a significant contribution to final grades so it's important that attendance and engagement is excellent for all. We are working closely together as a Trust on the award of grades; by doing this we ensure that every grade is awarded fairly and equitably through a very robust marking and moderation process shared between all academies. This opportunity provides one of the many benefits of working in a multi academy trust (though I would say that, wouldn't I?!)

During this first week of term all the academies in the Trust will be commemorating and reflecting on the life of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh through assemblies, collective worship, tutorials and class activities. I believe that the last time the Duke came to Salisbury was actually in 2004, before most of our current pupils and students were born. However, it's important that our children and young people recognise and understand the significance of his contribution not just to the monarchy but to modern day society in general. How many of our students have completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award during their time at one of our secondary schools or college? The pleasure and satisfaction to be gained from that very worthwhile award stays with young people well into adult life. We hope that all those who are engaged in the award currently will take great pride in their achievement and that many more will choose to take part in the future.

In this newsletter you'll see many photos to make you smile; delightfully, since 8th March we've had ample opportunity to capture images of children and young people learning and having fun. It's such a pleasure to have them all back and we really hope that this term is as much about 'business as usual' as it possible can be. I should also mention here that the image surrounding the front page of this newsletter is taken from Bemerton St John Primary School; a new art installation into the entrance corridor of the new building has been created by the children. 'Flying high together' is the message it gives me.

Also, flying high is Miss Alik Constantopoulou, who has been our Interim Headteacher at Pembroke Park Primary School. When we appointed her we knew we would only have her with us until Easter as today she starts her new role as an HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) for Ofsted. We thank her for all that she has done for us in her time in MLP, both at Pembroke Park and the work with other primary schools in the Trust. We will be keeping in contact with her and will follow her progress with interest.

Thank you, parents, for all that you are doing to support your children back at school and college. Here's to a great term!



Sarah Busby – Chief Executive Officer



*Alongside one of the many photos we hold of DofE expeditions in schools is a photo of Neil Owen, the Chair of MLP's Trust Board with the Duke of Edinburgh, taken a few years ago in Neil's electronics factory in Windsor*





# AMESBURY ARCHER

## Wellbeing Fortnight

We were looking forward to the return of all children on March 8th and we were certainly not disappointed when the day arrived!

All our Archer learners came back to school with really positive attitudes and a real thirst for getting back to some normality with their learning and with their peers.

Our 'Wellbeing Fortnight' took place over the course of the first two weeks back in school. We reintroduced behaviours and learning slowly and steadily to help rebuild children's stamina and confidence in school. The focus was on the social, emotional and physical agility of each child to ensure the transition towards some sort of 'normality' was a success.

Over the course of the two weeks, the children all continued learning the core subjects of maths, reading and writing in the mornings and then had an opportunity to take part in a wide range of varied activities in the afternoons. These included Zumba, yoga, mindfulness, games with Dion, cookery, science investigations and team building activities.

As the fortnight progressed, it was clear how much the children had missed their normal routines. It also became apparent how well many of our parents had done supporting their children's learning at home! What it has shown us is that, although we are really proud of the high quality of learning that was provided for all the children by the staff on a daily basis, nothing beats the interpersonal experiences that we all get from being in school together.

"Children particularly loved the team building activities where they had to work together really closely to solve a wide range of problems"



# SCIENCE

## BEMERTON ST JOHN

### Celebrating British Science Week

We were delighted that the children's return to school coincided with British Science Week, which had a theme of 'Innovating for the Future'. All classes became brilliant innovators and developed a wide range of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) skills in their science lessons.

Wrens and Robins had fun making flutter jars and marveled at the shadows created when lights shone through them.

Swallows became innovators for the future because they thought carefully about how to design and make robot insects to explore volcanoes.

Kingfishers learned how to identify different types of plastics. They also discovered that Miss Reeve's previous STEM career was, impressively, as a flight test engineer!

Woodpeckers innovated their own electrical games and had to think of ways to overcome problems as they made them. They had an inspiring STEM Zoom presentation from Mr Young, an aircraft engineer.

Nightingales had to show their teamwork skills as they built their spaghetti and marshmallow towers. Calmness and patience are a key STEM skill which they displayed.

Eagles explored and researched the energy of static electricity and how it can make objects move.





# PEMBROKE PARK

## The Spring Equinox

The Spring Equinox (when day and night are both exactly 12 hours long) fell on 20th March 2021. Pupils at Pembroke Park had special assemblies looking at how this festival is celebrated in Persia (now known as Iran). This festival is known as Norooz (new day) and is celebrated with a series of events, starting with fireworks and "fire-jumping" (don't try this at home!). It ends with a big family picnic on the 13th day of the new year. The assembly also explored the similarities and differences between the Iranian and British culture and the children were very interested to see pictures of the typical landscape, architecture and food in Iran.

At Pembroke Park we learnt about the Haft Seen. This is a very special table with several objects which represent good things for the new year. The children learnt about the objects and how to say them in Farsi, the language of Iran. The Haft Seen translates as "Seven S's" as the seven main objects all begin with the letter S. Families add other symbolic objects on their Haft Seen which can be different, just as we decorate our Christmas trees differently in the UK.

Mrs Wilkinson, our Headteacher, created Pembroke Park's very own Haft Seen in the library area and all pupils from Nursery to Year 6 were able to view and ask questions. 3 Chestnut had a special lesson and even got to taste some of the edible items on the table (including chocolate eggs!). Everyone was so respectful of the table and understood that it was a very special display that they could appreciate, but not touch. They demonstrated a great level of curiosity and interest in the project and our pupils were encouraged to lead similar assemblies on their own cultures if they so wish.

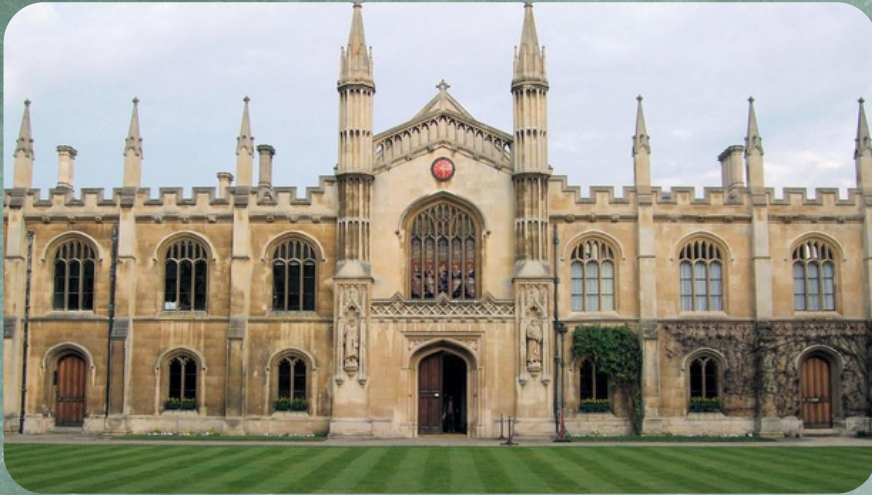


“As the pupils have recently returned to school, it felt like the perfect time to mark a new beginning with the celebration of a new season”

# S6C

## Supporting aspirations

There has been a real focus since returning to college on supporting students with their career planning and aspirations. It has been a really important priority to reignite students' career aspirations and passions and to connect their learning with potential pathways they can follow. Students have signed up to virtual university and careers fair and have been exploring virtual work experience opportunities.



Fifteen Year 12 students have been successful in their application for online Masterclasses at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

The lectures look fascinating and it will be a great experience for them to gain insight into the academic life after college.

Our Year 13 BTEC Business students have also had university success with almost all students accepting a University place including Durham, Exeter, Cardiff and Royal Holloway. Well done to all these students and their teachers, Steve Price and Catherine Pennington, for their outstanding support!

Some A Level Business students have also enjoyed virtual visits from local employers, including Beauty Full Time in Marlborough and Total Foot Health in Salisbury.



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*"It was interesting to hear about how you got started in your business and about the qualifications needed to achieve"*

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I'm thankful  
for my mother  
who is always there  
for me when I need  
help or when I'm  
sad.  
😊

I am thankful for  
my family and school.  
I am hopeful we can all  
work together to stop climate  
change and deforestation. - Grace R  
- year 7



# SARUM ACADEMY

Tree of Hope and Gratitude

As all students returned to the Academy on 8th March, we shared some wellbeing time and reflected on what we are all thankful for and our hopes for the future.

I am Greatful for having an family who all loves me with there heart and is there for me when times are tough.



# THE NEW FOREST SCHOOL

It has been wonderful hearing the children playing in the playgrounds again. It is like the world has reset and we are a little closer to being back to normal.

The children have been amazing since we returned to school on the 8th March and the staff are delighted to have them back.

We have been focusing on the wellbeing of the children following lockdown - we wanted to give them a chance to share their experiences of the last few months. We have used a number of picture books across the school to help them get a sense of themselves and where they fit in to the world. At KS1, the children have read *The Tell me Tree*, *Ruby's Worries* and *The Colour Monster* as a gateway into their thoughts and feelings. At KS2, the focus has been on a glorious book by Oliver Jeffers called *Here we Are* to allow them to reconnect to each other and to share their worries and concerns. Each class has made books and displays to share and celebrate this important work.

Big Story Day is a termly event where we share and discuss a part of The Bible as a whole school. Vicar David and members of Southampton City Mission help lead the day and this term's day was no different. The focus was 'God's Rescue Plan' and we read the story of Joseph. Over the course of the day, the children explored his life and how he kept his faith in God to help him overcome some really difficult times.

Years 3 and 4 children enjoyed dressing up and acting out the story of Joseph.



# THE TRAFALGAR SCHOOL

## Great Green Charter

At The Trafalgar School at Downton, students have just published the schools Great Green Charter and Eco-Code, written by the students as part of its drive for a 'greener and cleaner' school. In writing the Eco-Code the Schools Green Ambassadors undertook a whole school self-assessment using the eco-schools audit toll - identifying areas where the school could improve its green credentials, reduce its impact on the environment and further our collective understanding.

We look forward next year to working with other schools across the Trust in partnership events and initiatives. Watch this 'green' space!

### LIGHTS AREN'T NICE

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CLASSROOM, TOILET & OFFICE LIGHTS WHEN LEAVING

### DON'T PRINT

DO WE REALLY NEED THIS WORKSHEET?

### LET THERE BE (SUN) LIGHT!

OPEN BLINDS INSTEAD OF SWITCHING ON LIGHTS

### DON'T LITTER BE BETTER!

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

### DON'T DISH THE FISH!

(OR MEAT) TRY A VEGETARIAN MEAL ONCE A WEEK

### PLASTICS AREN'T FANTASTIC!

USE A REUSABLE BOTTLE, MUG, CUTLERY, STRAWS - THE FISH WILL THANK YOU

### STOP, THINK, ACT!

HOW DO YOUR ACTIONS AFFECT THE WORLD AND PEOPLE AROUND YOU. BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN!



## ECO-CODE



THE TRAFALGAR SCHOOLS COMMITMENT TO, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, THE ENVIRONMENT. WRITTEN BY STUDENTS FOR US ALL #ECO-COUNCIL #TSD'SECOCODE



*"It is wonderful to see students taking responsibility in this way. Not only are they helping to minimize the Schools carbon footprint but helping to educate us all in being more considerate in our choices around environmental matters"*  
Mr Curtis, Headteacher

## OUR COMMITMENT TO:

1. RAISING AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SURROUNDING OUR SCHOOL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY.
2. REDUCING OUR SCHOOL'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION.
3. BECOMING A SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE SCHOOL.
4. ENCOURAGING ECO-FRIENDLY BEHAVIOURS.
5. LOOKING AFTER AND CARING FOR OUR SCHOOL AND DOWNTON'S ENVIRONMENT.
6. IMPROVING ECO-FRIENDLY TRANSPORT OPTIONS TO SCHOOL.
7. CONNECTING WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE.



## GREAT GREEN CHARTER

THE TRAFALGAR SCHOOLS COMMITMENT TO, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, THE ENVIRONMENT. WRITTEN BY STUDENTS FOR US ALL #ECO-COUNCIL #TSD'SECOCODE



# WYVERN ST EDMUND'S

## *Return to School*

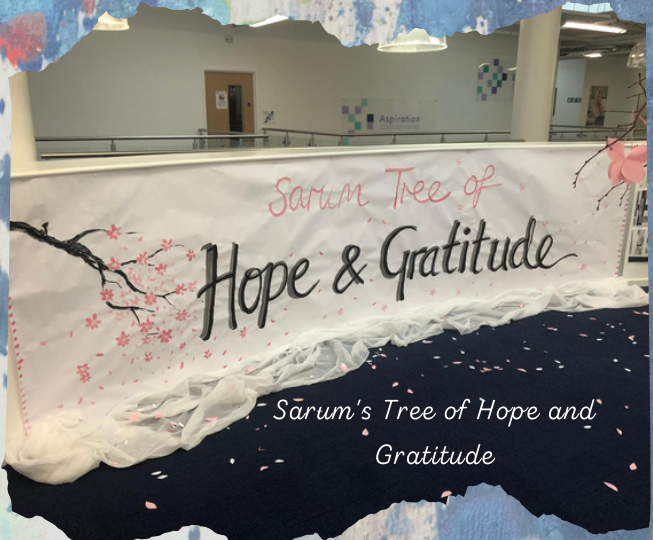
We were thrilled to welcome all students back to school on 8th March after two days of mass testing on the 4th and 5th. Our on-site testing clinic remained busy throughout the first week back and by the end of Monday, 15th March our brilliant team of experienced test processors had facilitated 3,595 tests! We can't thank the testing team, made up of WSE staff and local community volunteers, enough for all their hard work.



We are also very proud of the way our students conducted themselves during the testing process and how they have settled straight back into normal school life. It's clear to teachers at Wyvern St Edmund's that our students worked incredibly hard during lockdown and we've thoroughly enjoyed consolidating and extending that learning in the classroom with face to face teaching over the past few weeks. Students have adjusted well to the expectation of wearing face coverings in all indoor areas - demonstrating the WSE core values of respect and courage!

On Red Nose Day, we had a non-uniform day to raise money with some students choosing to come in fancy dress and odd shoes. The PE team joined in the fun.





*'Mad Professor Lawrence' leading a Science Day with Year 5 pupils at Pembroke Park*



# GALLERY



*El Salvador crosses as part of Easter celebrations at BSJ*



*New building work continues at The New Forest School*



*New school entrance at Bemerton St John*



*Archie meeting the children for the first time at The New Forest School*