

THE PRIORITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL POST



An Academy



THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST

FREE
PLEASE TAKE ONE

Issue 9, Summer 2021



The Priory Learning Trust charity for 2021/22

Tomorrow will be a good day

HEROES



Superb students age 9 to 16 have won prestigious Anne Frank Awards. They have helped make a better society with acts of kindness.

SEE PAGE 3



Students at one of Britain's best Sixth Forms raise thousands in one week.

SEE PAGE 2

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Man City's Pep, Celebrities And Thousands Celebrate The Life Of Kind Charity Hero Liam


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Ex-Student Makes £100 Million



see page 5

200 Jobs Boost For Town



see page 7




PCSA OPEN EVENING



Join us on Thursday 9th September from 5pm

All Positive News

Here at Jill Dando News, we focus on positive news stories.

Our talented student writers and reporters cover the stories that will make you smile.

We interview the ordinary hero in the community to the famous - like BBC TV's Fiona Bruce.

There are so, so many inspirational people all around us in Weston and Worle - literally everyone we've had the pleasure of talking to!

Enjoy your summer.

Tamsen, 13, Jill Dando News

JILL DANDO
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THE GOOD NEWS POST

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Tamsen	Mia	Gytis
Mark	Virginia	Archie

Hi there!

Welcome to the Good News Post.

In my four years in Jill Dando News, I have interviewed incredible people such as a real-life NASA astronaut.

I expect more positive news stories in my year to come as Student Editor. They cheer us up and make us all feel that -

'Tomorrow is going to be a good day'.

Send us your news at editor@theplt.org.uk

Happy reading.

Joshua, 15, Jill Dando News

HEROES OF KINDNESS, CHARITY AND COMPASSION



Liam Shepherd was a massive real life hero.

He has rightly received massive praise from the whole town, celebrities and even the Manchester City Head Coach. As we see on page 7, his remarkable kindness and charity fundraising for Winston's Wish and others will never be forgotten. We teach all our students - and make all our great staff aware - that it is really important to think about others. We must, and we need, to look outward from our community. We do have a civic responsibility.

In my now 20 years working in and around North Somerset I have always been truly inspired by the courage, kindness and compassion shown by

students, staff and others in our community.

We are all about putting Students First, Cherishing Staff and Serving the Community. Helping others is part of what we do and will encourage others to do this as well. Amazingly through our 'charity of the year' approach our schools and communities have raised over £130,000 for local and national charities in recent years.

I was delighted to join well over 120 staff and students in The Mendip Challenge for Weston Hospicecare - around £8K was raised.

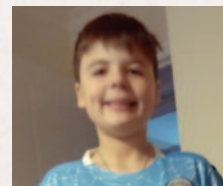
We have also recently supported another great local mental health charity 'In Charley's Memory' and also The MPS Society. In 2021-22 we will support

Brain Tumour Research.

Our good friend in the police, Jim Murray sadly died of this terrible illness in December 2019. He was our community policeman for many years, helping hundreds of people. He too was a real life hero.

winstonswish.org
braintumourresearch.org

*Neville Coles, CEO,
The Priory Learning Trust*



Liam Shepherd



Jim Murray

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS RAISE £2000 IN JUST FIVE DAYS



It ended a year where the school-based Sixth Form at The King Alfred School Academy in Highbridge continued to soar.

Some 36% of this Year 13s have offers from Russell Group universities with a three year rise in offers from Oxford and Cambridge.

The range of courses to be studied include music, psychology, medicine, maths, sport, history, law, biology, politics, photography and film.

They also have a flourishing community and charity work, and host an inspirational political question time.

The TPLT Sixth Form attracts students from Weston-super-Mare, Bridgwater and beyond.

Head of Sixth Form Jonathan Gaskell said: "We would love to meet prospective students."

Apply today - see www.tkasa.org.uk and make contact with Mr Gaskell via email jgaskell@tkasa.org.uk



Theresa May backs students' aspiration and good news stories

By Joshua Keyes, 14

Former Prime Minister, Theresa May congratulated WCSA students on their ambitions and aspirations via video message.

Last year's Head Girl, Daisy Dennett, is joined by this year's Head Boy, Jack Clark, in wanting to be Prime Minister, along with current Year 9 student Virginia Rulli-Gibbs.

Theresa May said: "I think my own journey to Downing Street shows that we can all can succeed. I wish you all the very, very best.

"Set your ambitions high and go for those goals, and with high ambitions, with aspiration and hard work, you too can be a success."

Mrs May added: "I am also really pleased to hear that so many students are writing and publishing good news to the media in the name of their former student, Jill Dando.

"Jill, of course, got to the very top of her profession. She did so with warmth, humility and kindness. And so can you."

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Thank you to Theresa May. We believe that our students will go on to achieve huge success



Five students nominated for prestigious Anne Frank Award

By Dawson, 13, Jack, 16 and Aimee, 14



Jaydon Done, 14, Oscar Munslow, 14, Rose Millard, 14, and Jessica Selwyn, 16, of PCSA have all helped to make a more positive, kind and inclusive society. Katy Adams, 9, of CBPSA (pictured left), received an award for her amazing community litter picking. This includes taking a stand against prejudice or promoting greater social inclusion.

The awards are named after diarist Anne Frank, who was one of around six million Jews to be murdered in the Holocaust.

Director of Careers James Wilmot said: "We are delighted to have so many students nominated. It is a wonderful achievement."

Principal Angelos Markoutsas, pictured with Oscar, said: "Well done to all these brilliant students. The story of Anne Frank is vital for our times and all of the students have been demonstrating something positive, kind and inclusive."

Be Kind

It's true - doing an act of kindness makes us feel better! Give to charity, help a neighbour, give a gift.

Thousands to enjoy new wildlife boosting nature walk

The 'Jill Dando Walk' will be enjoyed by the 1400 students of WCSA, the entire community and thousands of local primary school children, families and residents. Students will help in the design and gardening. It will give a forest-school style entrance, boosting mental health and the environment. And also it follows on from the dozens of Jill Dando apple trees planted in schools across Somerset before lockdown - provided by Sanders Garden Centre. The Jill Dando Walk is being designed by a former student of the school, Matt Davis, 30, who trained at the world famous Eden Project in Cornwall and now runs his own Somerset garden design and maintenance company ygsm.co.uk.

To help with the project get in touch editor@theplt.org.uk



CAMPAIGNING CHILDREN CHANGE MILK FIRM PLASTIC POLICY

By Jill Dando reporters **Olivia**, 10 and **Chloe**, 10. Photo by **Joe**, 10.



The Year 6 pupils of St Anne's Church Academy have made a positive change to their school's milk service.

The children persuaded School Milk Services Ltd to change the plastic container that the milk is delivered in.

The firm is also going to work with the manufacturers to try to change the plastic straws to paper ones.

Principal Emma Hardy-Smith said: "This was

a fantastic project by our eco-minded pupils. We continually tell our pupils just how they have the power to make a positive difference in the community and the world, and persuading the company to change the plastic containers is a brilliant achievement."

Help our inspirational horse rescue charity



By Jill Dando reporters **Mia**, 12, **Tamsen**, 13 and **Mark**, 12



Somerset residents are helping to raise money for a charity that cares and rehabilitates abandoned and abused horses and donkeys.

Jonquil Brooks raised 900 euros for the amazing charity Andalusian Rescue Centre for Horses (ARCH) by making a 200 cm x 168 cm quilt out of various fabrics in a patchwork style.

Jonquil visited Jill Dando News students at PCSA to show them the quilt and explain more.

Jonquil said: "This is a brilliant charity and we would encourage everyone to get behind it. I enjoy making quilts and just wanted to do something to help.

For more on the charity or to donate www.horserescuespain.org

NEW PRINCIPAL

By **Shannon**, 12

A kind, caring and happy school has welcomed a new Principal.

Principal Lindsay Evans is the new Principal at Castle Batch Primary School Academy.

Lindsay said: "I am so delighted to be Principal at what I have already seen is a caring, inclusive academy. The children and staff have been so welcoming already."

Lisa Dadds, Head of Primary Education at TPLT, said: "Lindsay is a superb appointment and will fit in extremely well. These are very exciting times for the children, staff, families and community."



"Whoever is happy will make others happy too. He who has courage and faith will never perish in misery."

Anne Frank

PUPILS SHARE DREAM JOBS

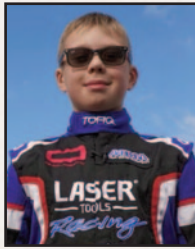
By Tommy, 11

Children aged 9 and 10 have been sharing their dream jobs including becoming future racing drivers, police officers and even a pro wrestler

Pupils at Castle Batch Primary School Academy unveiled their career passions during a unique CV and mock interview day.

Future racing driver Jacob, 9, has already won a British Championships event.

Director of Careers James Wilmot said: "We want to help them achieve all their ambitions and goals."



Ex-student William creates £100 million business



By Tommy, 11 and Ewan 12

Entrepreneur William Beauchamp, 30, qualified for free school meals at PCSA and is now the founder of Seamless Capital which was recently valued at £100 million. After PCSA he won a scholarship to go to Cambridge University and later set up his algorithmic firm trading in sports markets. William encouraged students to think big and to go for their dreams.

He said "In life I like to set huge, apparently impossible goals, and then to go after them with a team of great people. "This is why I get up for work every day at 5am super excited: I can't wait to see how far we get." CEO of the TPLT Neville Coles remembers William from his time as PCSA Principal. He said: "William has shown he is a excellent entrepreneur, creating a world-class company at such a young age. He had such spark and creativity as a student and has used it to tremendous effect in the business world."

Action-man Alex drops 15,000 foot skydive for a hospital - 20 years after it saved his life

By Liam Drury

Former PCSA student Alex Crowther jumped the biggest height possible to raise money for The Grand Appeal, the official charity for Bristol Children's Hospital.



Alex was born with a non-functioning right kidney and received ongoing care at Bristol Children's Hospital for 17 years. Alex said: "I loved every minute of the skydive and I am thrilled to help a charity that helps thousands of people every single year."

HUNDREDS HONOUR LITTER PICKER DAVE



By Jill Dando News Reporters

Scores of school staff lifted litter pickers in honour of an ex Army officer who faithfully picked community litter for 18 years .

David Morrish passed away after serving PCSA since 2003.

He will now be honoured with art inside the underpass.

Neville Coles, CEO of TPLT, said: "Dave will never be forgotten. He was tremendous."



PCSA OPEN EVENING



Join us on Thursday 9th September from 5pm

Hundreds take Mendip Hills charity challenge

By Samara, 16

Teachers, support teams, leaders and students from The Priory Learning Trust staff raised thousands plus by doing the Mendip Challenge.



They walked or ran 5, 10, 20 or 30 mile hikes across the Mendip Hills in the stunning Somerset countryside. The TPLT giving was in the top 1% of the Just Giving statistics nationally for June. TPLT CEO Neville Coles, who did the 30 mile walk for the second time, is also an ambassador of the charity. He said: "This was a wonderful charity event and I was thrilled to see so many of our TPLT staff and students taking up the challenge. It was a brilliant amount to be raised for such a terrific cause."



NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STARTS ROLE

By Olivia, 16

Nathan Jenkins is now in place within the Central Team at The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT).

Nathan previously led TKASA academy, engaging strongly with a raft of TPLT improvements, to make it one of the region's fastest improving schools.

He will now have a strong role in helping to drive improvements at TKASA, as well as WCSA and PCSA.

Nathan said: "These are really exciting days and we are relentlessly driven to make every school brilliant for the benefit of generations of students."

Neville Coles, CEO of TPLT, said: "Nathan is a superb appointment to this role of Head of School Improvement.

He has done an excellent job at TKASA.

"Our schools have been making significant improvements with big vision to get even better, and Nathan's skill, experience and expertise will further help that process."



Get Outside

Simply being in nature can boost our mood. Think park, woods, sea.

Thousands raised for charity of the year



The schools of the Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) have raised thousands for The MPS Society. The charity provides brilliant support to families affected by rare genetic conditions. TPLT have previously supported In Charley's Memory, and Weston Hospicecare.

For more on the charity see <http://www.mpsociety.org.uk/>

For more on this and all of our good news stories see goodnewspost.co.uk



Train to teach in Weston super Mare and Burnham on Sea - The best job in the world!



For more information email: tsa@theplt.org.uk or call 01934 529351

Olivia, Sapphire and 14 more back teaching at their old schools

By Tamsen, 13, and Jill Dando News Centre Reporters



Olivia Elliott is back as a science teacher at WCSA while Sapphire Fortey is back at PCSA to teach geography.

They are part of a long and fast expanding list of 16 new teachers across TPLT who have been students at schools inside the Trust, thanks to the popular Schools Direct programme.

Olivia, also of Castle Batch School Academy, said: "I felt supported and inspired by my teachers at WCSA so I wanted to support and inspire other students like me to achieve anything they want to do in life."

The TPLT popular Schools Direct programme has produced 88 teachers over the last four years.

They include Jessica Crow, Cherry Groves, Georgina Lodge, Oliver Grant, Jake Caulfield, Ellie Brownlee, Charley Williams, Natasha King and Charlotte Biggs.

Denise Hurr, Head of Training School Alliance at TPLT, said: "It is such good news to see our former students becoming teachers in our schools and testament to the success of TPLT and our training programme."



500 FLOCK TO 200 JOBS BONANZA

Over 500 people applied for 200 roles during a 3-day recruitment event at the Ascot Group next to Worle train station in Weston-super-Mare.

The company plan to create 200 high quality jobs in management, digital marketing, web design, software, media and PR, as well as call-centre and customer services.

Ascot Group CEO Andrew Scott said: "We aim to create a brighter future for Weston super Mare and its communities with an inspirational workplace, culture and aspirations."

A new Ascot Academy will train up hundreds of young people into quality apprenticeships and trainee roles in media, marketing and technology. For more details, see ascotgroup.co.uk

Kind and brilliant Liam honoured by thousands and Pep Guardiola

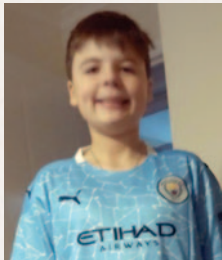
Celebrities played at a charity football match in honour of Liam Shepherd at The Optima Stadium.

The Weston FC Academy Member and Ashcombe Primary School pupil sadly passed away in March this year.

The kind pupil had run a marathon in a week for the NSPCC and was a keen fundraiser for Winston's Wish, which supports grieving children and their families. He also donated food out of his own money for vulnerable people and made cakes for the NHS, police and his teachers.

In the letter to Liam's mum Kimberley and his family and friends, Pep Guardiola said: "My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad and difficult time, as I know how hard it is to lose a family member."

WsM FC Operations Director, Neil Keeling, said: "Liam was an inspiration to so many, We are delighted to be supporting 'Winston's Wish' in his honour."



Liam's memorial is on July 24, at Weston Rugby Football Club to raise money for his foundation.

Positivity Power

Get rid of all negativity. Think positive. Spend time around positive, enthusiastic people. It's infectious!



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Former Priory pupil in sensational England rugby call up



By Tamsen, 13

Curtis Langdon, 24, joined the highflying England squad ahead for their summer tour.

After leaving PCSA eight years ago, Curtis's career has soared.

Now the former Hornets and current Sale Sharks player has achieved his dream.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This is a sensational achievement."

Neville Coles, CEO of The Priory Learning Trust, said: "We are not surprised at the England call up but this is a superb achievement."

Other former PCSA students Jake and Josh Caulfield also became rugby internationals for Ireland and England respectively, Jake is now a Head of Year at PCSA.

Eco-minded pupils pick up huge amount of litter



By Tamsen, 13

Pupils at St Anne's Church Academy are helping to keep their environment clean in their Well-being and Community club.

They are armed with litter pickers and wearing high-visibility vests.

Principal Emma Hardy Smith said: "We were astonished at the amount of litter we collected."

St Anne's Church Academy is a high achieving, happy and caring school.

Jack, 14, gets tips from airline pilot

By Jack, 16



PCSA student Jack spent time with an airline pilot at Gloucester Airport.

He was attending an open day for future Pilots.

He has wanted to be a pilot since the age of 4 and even writes a regular airline blog. North Somerset councillor Mark Canniford met Jack at PCSA. He said: "I encouraged him and wished him all the best on his brilliant goal."

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "We will support him all we can in his excellent dream."

Boost your happiness



As we all know, life can be challenging. Thankfully, there are tips and tools we can do daily to boost the way we feel. Here are a few.
By Dawn Carey, In Charley's Memory.

- 1. LIVE NOW:** Enjoy the moment. Really savour your coffee, chocolate, dog walk. Forget the past. Run the mile you are in.
- 2. GET OUTSIDE:** Simply being in nature can boost our mood. Think park, woods, sea.
- 3 EAT HEALTHILY:** Eat your way happier. Think fruit, vegetables, fish. Cut down the junk.
- 4 BE THANKFUL:** Thankful, content people are happy people. Write down every positive thing you can think of with thanks. It works!

5 POSITIVITY POWER: Get rid of all negativity. Think positive. Spend time around positive, enthusiastic people. It's infectious!

6 BE KIND: It's true - doing an act of kindness makes us feel better! Give to charity, help a neighbour, give a gift.

7 GET GOALS: Set little goals, dream big, vision a positive future.

Dawn Carey runs the mental health charity, In Charley's Memory www.incharleymemory.co.uk. They support young people aged 11-25 in many ways. For help and advice call (01278) 557490.

