

# THE

NEWS FROM WORLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
AND PRIORY COMMUNITY SCHOOL ACADEMIES

# POST

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WESTON HOSPICECARE  
ISSUE 3, SUMMER TERM 2019



**OPEN DAYS**

An Exciting opportunity  
for Year 5 students to  
look around these  
amazing Schools

Open Evening with Free Food  
**Thursday 4th July, 5pm**



**WORLE**  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL  
An Academy

Open Morning with Free Breakfast  
**Saturday 6th July, 10am**

See page 2 for details

Please get in touch for tours at any time: PCSA [angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk) WCSA [jscott@worle-school.org.uk](mailto:jscott@worle-school.org.uk) General [neville.coles@thepit.org.uk](mailto:neville.coles@thepit.org.uk)

# Students First



*“Truly inspirational young people. We value kindness, courage and positivity”*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**TV's Titchmarsh  
Apple Tree Boost**

Thousands of primary school pupils across Weston and Worle are to enjoy free apple trees as Jill Dando's legacy expands.

See page 2

**TV success for  
Jill Dando reporters**

Students star on TV and a Headteacher honoured as former student's legacy is remembered on 20th anniversary since her death.

See page 3

HUTTON MOOR  
**LEISURE CENTRE**

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For any child aged 4 to 15  
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\*Terms and Conditions Apply  
See back page for full details





\* Terms and conditions

1. One voucher per person per transaction
2. Valid for children aged 4 - 15 years only
3. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer/voucher
4. Excludes pool inflatable sessions, usual pool admission policies apply
5. Valid until 31st July 2019

VOUCHER



## STUDENT TEAM

Our Jill Dando News Centre Reporters

**Olivia Finch**  
(Senior Reporter, WCSA)

**Joshua Keyes**  
(Senior Reporter, WCSA)

**Lacey Madge,**  
(Senior Reporter, PCSA)

**Aimee Braithwaite**  
(Senior Reporter, PCSA,  
Social Media Editor)

Leah Duffy

Oliver Sinclair

Kacey Gazzard

Abi Congram

Lewis Martin-Edwards

Oliver Taylor-Jones

Reece Kaye

Milo Zanelli

Kayla Lansing

Ella McPadden

Lauren Burdge

George Ford

Cam Calver

Archie Matthews

Kiera Wilton

Alfie Pocock

Alex Mawbey

Lorenzo Baranello

Leah Clarke

Murphy Lynn



# Yes, Students First is what we are all about

By **NEVILLE COLES** Executive Principal of The Priory Learning Trust



**The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) does a lot of things, but it ALWAYS has students at the centre.**

We are a thriving community of 5,000 students and our 700 staff are committed to ensuring that every single student thrive and achieve. Even more than that, we are a family and One Team.

As you can see throughout The Post, we keep in touch with our former students, teachers and Headteachers.

It was a pleasure recently to honour Donald Brown, Arthur Spencer and Dave Dennis - all former Heads at Worle and Priory. We have buildings named after all three of these gentlemen.

Charity is important to us. This year we have supported Weston Hospicecare, with some 120 staff and scores more connected with TPLT walking or running the 10, 20 or 30 mile Mendip Challenge in June. Next year we are working with another local charity called 'In Charley's Memory'.

## TV Gardener helping children plant trees

By **Lewis Martin-Edwards, 12**



**TV Gardener Alan Titchmarsh is helping children to plant 49 apple trees in primary schools as part of Jill Dando's legacy.**

The apple trees have been donated by Sanders Garden Centre and given to dozens of primary schools across Weston and Worle, where Jill spent her childhood days. This amazing act means that Jill's Garden in Weston Town Centre will now be expanded across the whole area.

Mr Titchmarsh has been giving tips to the students on how to grow organic apples and even the types of tree to plant as well as which soil to use.

Jill's brother Nigel Dando said: "Huge thanks to Alan Titchmarsh, Sanders Garden Centre and the Jill Dando News Centres at TPLT for helping to bring Jill's Garden to primary schools across the area. This is a wonderful tribute."

## You're welcome to Open Evenings and Family Breakfasts

**PCSA - 4th July from 5pm    WCSA - 6th July from 10am**

By **Joshua Keyes, 13**



**Prospective students, parents, and carers are welcome to attend two brilliant Priory and Worle events next month.**



Priory Community School Academy (PCSA) will host an Open Evening on Thursday 4th July with a talk by Principal Angelos Markoutsas at 5pm, followed by tours of the school. There will be free food and a chance to meet students and staff.

Worle Community School Academy (WCSA) has a Family Breakfast on Saturday 6th July from 10am until 12 noon, where children, parents and carers can meet students and staff and enjoy a full English breakfast.

Both academies are high performing with a wide array of extra curricular 'Period 6' activities and sports, music and Performing Arts.

Neville Coles, Executive Principal of TPLT which runs both academies, said: "We welcome parents and carers to view both schools.

If there are any questions email me at [neville.coles@theplt.org.uk](mailto:neville.coles@theplt.org.uk), or [angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk) at Priory, and [jscott@worle-school.org.uk](mailto:jscott@worle-school.org.uk) at WCSA.



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News and photo by Jill Dando reporters including **Kacey, 13, Cerys 12, Leah 13, and Lana, 13**

## Students gather for launch of room dedicated to school's first Headteacher

Wonderful Weston students unveiled a room dedicated to their school's first headteacher alongside a new student-led TV station in Jill Dando's name on the 20th anniversary of her death.

They launched Jill Dando Television (JD TV) in front of the former TV presenter's brother Nigel and other guests at Jill's old school, WCSA.

The school also officially opened the Donald Brown Suite, named after its first headteacher. Donald is a well-known local historian who was headteacher of WCSA from 1964 to 1986 and Jill was one of his students.

# A day I will never forget

By Aimee Braithwaite, 13



**In March of this year, Olivia Finch and I pitched a story idea to the top Editor of BBC Points West.**

Incredibly, only weeks later we did a day's filming for a BBC Points West piece on the 6.30pm evening news, scripting, filming and even presenting.

Once the filming at WCSA was completed we made our way to Jill's Memorial garden in Grove park. We were NOT expecting the sudden change in weather! We waited about

30 minutes for the rain to stop, and then the team decided it was now or never. Remarkably for all of us, we managed this in only one take!

On Friday the 26th of April at 6:30pm I was sitting on the edge of my seat waiting for our feature to be aired.

Afterwards I was so proud to be part of the Jill Dando news team.

This year TPLT will have 7 Jill Dando News Centres including one in Malawi, Africa.

# Buddy is having an incredible effect on students and staff - only weeks after joining the academy

By Lacey Madge, 13

**Buddy the four-month-old cocker spaniel joined PCSA only weeks ago but has already helped dozens of students with emotional wellbeing and mental health issues.**

Students who struggle in one way or another have been helped by spending one-on-one time with Buddy, who has helped to calm the anxiety of multiple students.

He is now in training to become a full-time Pets for Therapy dog.

PCSA is an excellent academy with wide-ranging extra curricular activities and systems in place to help students who are struggling. Jeffrey the King Charles Spaniel is the dog based at TPLT which oversees PCSA.





# Budding mathematicians graduate from masterclass at top university

A dozen Year 8 students from WCSA have graduated from a six-week Mathematical Masterclass programme at the University of the West of England.

During the six-week course taken on Saturday mornings in their own time, some of WCSA's brightest mathematicians investigated topics such as cryptography and matrix transformations.

Head of Maths Sean Wood said: "This was all voluntary and the students did WCSA proud. It gives us immense pride to see how good they are at a core subject at the age of 12 and 13."

By Murphy Lynn, 13, Leah Clarke, 13, Naomi Doolan, 13, Klaudia Wesolowska, 13, and Lewis Martin-Edwards, 12



## Amazing Weston student dazzles in Florida-based World Championship Dance Competition

By Lacey Madge, 13



PCSA Year 10 student Jess Febry jointly captained England in the prestigious Junior Hip Hop team.

High-flying Jess won through rigorous auditions to appear in the tournament.

The former St Anne's Church Academy pupil is an amazing dancer and

competes around the country with BellaTriX Dance Company, and is also a cheerleader with Weston Supernovas.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of Jess."

Jess' sisters are also doing brilliantly in the world of dance. Bella, aged 18, who also went to Priory started her own dance company, BellaTriX Dance Company at Worle. Year 7 student Rosanna also competes in two dance and cheerleading teams.

## Budding Inventors praised after competition

The brilliant WCSA Year 9 students created a wide range of inventions including a sleep machine.

They spent weeks preparing their plans and then building their creations before unveiling them to the rest of the school.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "These inventions were fantastic."



### BREAKING NEWS:

You can follow our latest news on our websites, Facebook and Twitter

## Our Jill Dando reporters want to hear your stories!

Parents, carers and grandparents, please email [editor@theplt.org.uk](mailto:editor@theplt.org.uk) with the achievements and successes of your children



## World-class food is on the menu as students and their families enjoy exciting new cooking club

By Joshua Keyes, 13

WCSA is to get students with a parent or guardian cooking top-class tasty dishes.

Greek lasagne, curries and fish dishes are all part of the cooking assignments on offer.

The club is open to all WCSA students and one parent/guardian accompanying them.

Principal Jacqui Scott said "Food, cooking and eating are some of life's greatest pleasures and this is a special opportunity for families to enjoy all of them."



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# Over 100 staff from The Priory Learning Trust take to the hills to raise charity cash for Weston Hospicecare

By Lacey Madge, 13

TPLT generated a team from Priory Community School, Worle Community School, the King Alfred School Academy, St Anne's Church Academy, Castle Batch School Academy and Pawlett Primary School Academy.



They launched a team of 120 people from around its six schools to take part in the 10, 20 and 30 mile Mendip Challenge.

Among them was Lois Kerrison, head of Maths at PCSA, who broke her back in two places last autumn after being thrown by a horse.

A total of over 200 staff and family members, parents and teachers associations and scouts completed the walk.

Neville Coles, TPLT's Executive Principal, who did the 30 mile walk, said: "This was a superb walk and event, and we are delighted to partner with the brilliant charity and cause Weston Hospicecare."

The hospice's Event Manager Simon Angear said: "We've been blown away by the enthusiasm for this year's Mendip Challenge from all across our community – and in particular by the support from The Priory Learning Trust."

## Did you know?

PCSA and WCSA have raised nearly £200,000 over the last 10 years for charities



## WCSA student recites hundreds of Pi figures in immense memory challenge

Story by Olivia Finch, 14,  
photo by Joshua Keyes, 13

A WCSA student is rapidly becoming one of the world's best maths performers after a stunning machine-gun-speed of a maths Pi challenge.

Brilliant Year 11 student Tom Garlick recalled over 400 digits which is massively impressive, but still short of his personal best of well over 500. Now he aims for Oxford or Cambridge University and to be a world-class physicist.

His feat is even more remarkable considering doctors say he has an Arachnoid Cyst on the right hand side of the brain. It means he has to inject himself



once a day with a growth hormone.

Tom said: "I have aspirations to be a world-class physicist."

Worle and Priory both have thriving maths departments.

## Four hero Worle students come to injured woman's rescue

By Olivia Finch, 14

Good Samaritan WCSA students have been highly commended after helping a lady in distress for three hours.

WCSA students Ben Adams, 14, Eion Austin, 15, Ollie Dolphin, 15, and Joe Iles, 16, all helped a lady in need who had suffered a nasty late night head injury. They called 999, got a blanket and a towel. Then 'applied pressure to a head wound with the towel, and patiently waited with the woman for around three and a half hours until a police car arrived.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "The boys have been a great credit to the school and the wider community, and we couldn't be prouder of them."



## INSPIRATIONAL CHILDREN COLLECT 'AVALANCHE' OF FOOD AND GOODS FOR THE HOMELESS

Inspirational Year 6 students from Ashcombe Primary School collected an avalanche of food and goods to help the homeless.

By Joshua Keyes, 13



It was part of the school's amazing project 'Is home where the heart is?'

Joan Eales of Somewhere To Go said: "The students have been amazing. We are stunned with what they have produced and what they have made themselves by knitting."

Our Jill Dando reporters aim to write stories on amazing children across the town. Get in touch: editor@theplt.org.uk



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# Brilliant big hearted Megan helps the homeless

By Aimee Braithwaite, 13



**Year 8 student Megan Hedges, from PCSA, has been feeding 60 people with food and drink for the 'feed the homeless' charity.**

She spent the evening giving out supplies which had been donated by the community. PCSA is an inspirational community school academy which encourages students to help

the community and charities. This year students and staff have raised thousands for Weston Hospicecare along with other schools in TPLT.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said "Megan has showed her big heart and commitment to help others. She epitomises the spirit of our community school academy."

## ITV singing sensation returns to inspire students at his old school



By Lewis Martin-Edwards, 12

**Harrison Lerner-Main returned to WCSA which encouraged him with his talent, just two days before winning a sing-off battle on ITV's hit show The Voice.**

The 25-year-old full time musician had won through to this round of the ITV Saturday night show. He spoke to hundreds of current WCSA students, before singing duets with music students and inspiring them to go for their own dreams.

WCSA is a fast-improving academy with a fantastic music department. Two of its younger students are in the National Youth Choir and Orchestra.

Harrison told the Jill Dando News Centre: "It is a pleasure to be back. I'm a musician now, full time, and I started playing here at school. If you want to do something, go out and do it. You never know how it feels until you do it. So have belief in yourself and go and give it a try."

## Budding Einstein Worle student breaks 30 year old record by qualifying for prestigious maths exam



Story and Photo By Joshua Keyes, 13

**Year 8 WCSA student Thomas Duford qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad with an incredible score of 122 in the Junior Maths Challenge.**

Thomas is the second student to qualify for the exam from WCSA, the first one being 30 years ago.

Head of Maths Sean Wood said "This is a remarkable achievement. We are so proud of Thomas and he has a brilliant future ahead of him. Thomas is a shining example of how hard work really does pay off."

## Could you help transform the lives and life-chances of 5,000 students?

By Lacey Madge, 13

**A father of two with nearly 50 years in education is stepping down as chairman of a growing multi academy trust - leaving a vacancy for the exciting position.**

John Richardson will celebrate his 75th birthday in September after decades of service to PCSA, and helping to found the successful and expanding Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) in 2016.

Now the search is on for his successor to take on the next phase of expansion with TPLT with its six schools. The Trust are looking for a range of qualities including the person being a networker,



enthusiastic team leader, a strategic thinker positive about expansion, and a passionate advocate for TPLT.

John said: "It is a tremendous pleasure to be able to help out with such a visionary and high-achieving multi academy trust. The schools are doing extremely well. Now it is time for a new person to take on the chairmanship of the board." Executive Principal Neville Coles said: "John has guided the Trust through its early period and steps down knowing that his unflinching efforts leave TPLT in a strong

position to play an important role in local education and further transform the lives of 5,000 students for their lifetimes." For more information email Tricia on Tricia.brabham@theplt.org.uk



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# Delight as mystery donor and others fund £4,000 renewal of charity-inspiration's school robot

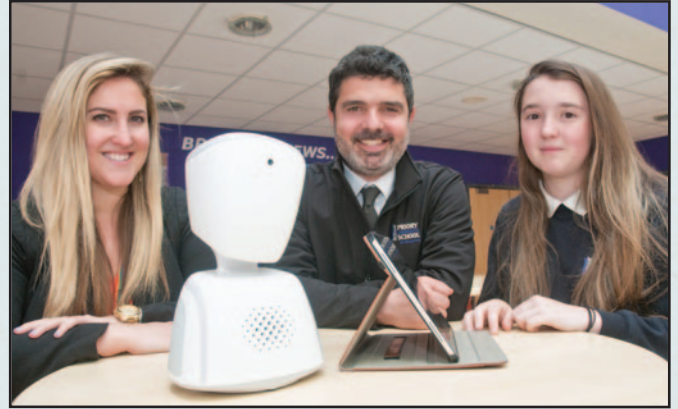
Story by **Lacey Madge**, 13, photo Weston Mercury

**Inspirational charity-raising student Makayla Nunn, 15, of PCSA is celebrating after donors funded a renewal of her school robot.**

Robbie the Robot has transformed ME-sufferer Makayla's life by taking her place in the classroom so she can still study. Makayla has herself raised multiple thousands for charities over the years.

Makayla's story has been featured across the world including in Time Magazine in America after being broke by the Jill Dando News Centre reporters.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This is brilliant news for Makayla. She has raised so much money for charity over the years and inspires us all with her determination and compassion for others."



# International win for Priory student, 12

By **Aimee Braithwaite**, 13



*Pictured are Freya (right), with Jessie Hall (left) who also won a gold medal and Devon Howell who won a bronze.*

**PCSA student Freya Grafton has won in her first international gymnastics competition.**

Freya took the Gold Medal at the 2019 Heathrow Aerobic International Championships after beating 27 other gymnasts.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This is a tremendous achievement, proving that hard work and tenacity pay off."

Tutor Vicky Bush said: "This is an amazing achievement. Freya is also one the most kind hearted students I've had the pleasure of meeting. She is never boastful of her achievements and is always the first to celebrate other students' success."

# Cub Worle student reporter finds ex-newspaper of famous alumni Jill Dando

Story by **Lewis Martin-Edwards**, 12

**WCSA student Joshua Keyes has been doing some investigative journalism to uncover copies of his school newspaper from over 40 years ago.**

Joshua, aged 13, and part of the Jill Dando News Centre, found The Merlin, an old school newspaper which famous journalist Jill Dando wrote in as a student.

The Merlin goes all the way back to 1970 and was once kept in Worle library - and are now based in the Weston Town Hall history section.

Jill Dando left WCSA to join the Weston Mercury and BBC before becoming one of the UK's best journalists. Joshua said: "These discoveries are magnificent seeing as a few days ago, we only believed that one The Merlin copy was around, but now we have found over 50."

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Joshua has been a fantastic student journalist over the last couple of years and this is great investigative work."



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# Free swim and gym passes for wonderful Weston & Worle children



HUTTON MOOR LEISURE CENTRE

By Lacey Madge, 13



**Two visionary health centres have joined forces to inspire children across Weston and Worle to do even more sport outside of school.**

World health experts along with Prince Harry and others have warned that children are increasingly getting addicted to Fortnite and other video games. Now the Paula Radcliffe Fitness Centre (PRC) based at PCSA, and Hutton Moor Leisure Centre, are giving free gym and swim sessions to boost fitness, health and mental well-being. Priory and Worle students are encouraged to do sports during school and in Period 6 activities - and now both health centres are working together to inspire more sport and health in the evenings and weekends.

Hutton Moor Leisure Centre is offering a free swim for any child aged 4 to 15 if they cut out the voucher at the front of The Post and hand it in.

Children aged 11 to 15 from Priory and Worle Community School will now be given free vouchers to use. Head of PRC Vanessa Mawford said: "Students aged 11 to 15 need simply to get a signed sports pass from their Head of Year and we will give them free passes for evenings until 4.30pm and weekends 10am - 12 noon.

**"Sport and exercise are vital for health and mental well-being, with positive knock on effects into other areas."**

## Could this be Britain's best young sports photographer?

By Joshua Keyes, 13

**Will Cooper, age 14, of WCSA recently shot photos pitchside of the England Under-21s match versus Poland at Ashton Gate, Bristol.**

He has also got a glittering array of photos since the age of 12 of football matches, live gigs and car shows.

The WCSA student has also done a feature shoot for national motoring magazine VolksWorld Camper & Bus, with a four page special of his snaps.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Will holds an incredible CV already at such a young age. There cannot be many photographers who have done so much so soon. He clearly has a huge talent and ambition."



## DOG and HOG SHORT STORY COMPETITION WINNERS



By Aimee Braithwaite, 13

**After some ferociously-good entries from primary schools across Weston and Worle, We are delighted to announce the winners of our short story competition.**

Judges including myself, Neville Coles Executive Principal of TPLT and a selection of staff had a difficult time choosing the winners from a top field of stories.

Alistair Dickens, who was aged 6 at the time of writing, won first place after a delightful story about Ducky and the Eel.

Mr Coles said: "I loved the name, picture that was drawn and the lovely ending. Well done Alistair." Alistair won a Family All-Inclusive 30-day membership to Hutton Moor Leisure Centre.

Brilliant runners up were Emily Gill, 7, with Bella's Big Adventure about a cheeky dog. And third place was Amelia Turner, 9, who wrote a charming story about Weston Under Water. They won a Family Season Ticket to Weston AFC and a Grand Pier Family Pass.

*Well done all.*

### DUCKY AND THE EEL

By Alistair Dickens age 6 3/4, Locking Primary School

Once upon a time there was a Duck called Ducky and he lived in Weston Super Mare. One day Ducky decided to go to the beach.

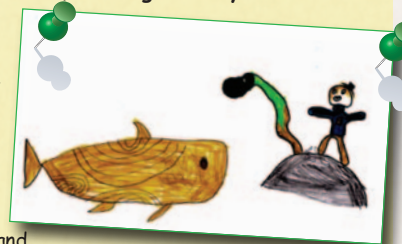
Ducky landed on a sloped rock in the middle of the sea and then a large hole appeared in the rock and an eel popped out and said "Please help me, a giant fish the size of a door is chasing me, help."

Ducky helped the poor eel and tried to pick him up but he was too slimy. Ducky didn't know much about eels but he knew about woolly hats. He looked on the beach and saw a woolly hat that had been left by someone. He picked it up with his feet and flew off to rescue the eel.

The eel wriggled into the hat and Ducky took him home.

He fed the eel every day and looked after him very well. He gave him lots of warm hugs and water before letting him go. The eel swam off and was very happy indeed. The next day Ducky woke up, stretched, yawned, got out of bed and thought about the eel who he missed very much.

If you have ever lost a hat at the beach don't worry! It was probably used to rescue a frightened eel.



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