



Trust Offers Messages of Hope

Staff from across the Trust have, despite lockdown, come together to spread rainbows, smiles, and joy to all their students!



Left: Lympsham, Draycott & Rodney Stoke, Earlybirds Cheddar
Right: Axbridge and Brent Knoll



Chief Executive's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your hard work and dedication in ensuring that your child's education has continued at home to the best of your abilities, often in inspiring and creative forms, and for continuing to support our students in the Cheddar Valley during what have, and continue to be difficult times.

Following the Government's announcement, you will have by now received a letter further outlining our plans, strategies, protocols and systems that will be implemented for a partial re opening on 1 June 2020. Please do look out for this, a copy is available on the Trust website.

The Trust is dedicated to ensuring that our plan for a partial opening from 1 June 2020 is gradual, and most importantly, keeps our learners and staff safe. These are our two core priorities. The Trust continues to work collaboratively with Professional Associations to ensure that we are basing our plans on the most current, up to date information and guidance. This is enabling us to be assured in making the right decisions, giving us the confidence to form a failsafe plan.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding.

#ThankATeacher



With the world as it is at present, the Trust has been encouraging everyone to take part in this year's thank a teacher day and offer a 'shout-out' to some of the incredible staff

who are keeping schools going despite everything!
Find out more at www.thankateacher.co.uk

Staff Spotlight



Fran Bowler

Trust Inclusion Manager



This term we're trying something new and giving a space to showcase some of the amazing staff across our schools. This term: Ms. Bowler!

Hi Ms. Bowler! What is it that you do in the Trust?

Hi, I'm Ms. Bowler, and I am the Trust Inclusion Manager, my role is to look at inclusion and alternative provision for vulnerable students in the Trust, in addition to managing Kings' alternative on site provision – Aspire.

So what made you choose this particular career?

My biggest passion is to make a difference to students and their prospects when they leave education, to see them turn things around and put them back on an even keel. I started my journey after university working in Mental health which I found fascinating. This led me to work in alternative provisions in secondary schools and to see how they functioned and the students and families that needed support. I then set up my own provision and ran a PRU.

I have also made great contacts that I can now use ... guest speakers, enriching experiences, and qualifications students can be accredited for. This exciting opportunity has allowed me to work across all schools in the Trust to establish a continuum of support to ensure that all students needs are met and that we can offer an "alternative" curriculum for them. I also feel it will bring all schools together and use every skill and experience within staff which we have within the Trust.

What's been a particular highlight of what you do?

One of my biggest highlights was seeing a student who came from a difficult background succeed. We supported him in achieving 5 GCSE'S and then going on to college to study an apprenticeship. He's now is a designer for Vauxhall, has bought a house and just had his first child. A real success story!

What are your goals for your role? What do you hope to do?

My goal for this role would be to branch out with Aspire and create a whole Trust provision that all schools in the Trust can access. This would involve a bigger space and provision for life skills, cooking, and practical skills so students can gain qualifications and access to onsite mental health support.

That's brilliant! Finally, how are you finding working from home right now?

I do feel that this time has been a blessing in disguise as I have managed to get SO much done (as I'm sure many staff can relate!) Being motivated can be difficult some days, but zoom calls with my team and social distancing meetings have been a great way to bounce ideas and stay positive. I do miss the students though!

Key Dates

22/5/20	Last Day of Term
23/5/20 - 31/5/20	Easter Holidays
1/6/20	First Day of Term

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On Behalf of the Trust, please stay safe and well during these strange times - we look forward to welcoming you back to school as soon as possible!

Be sure to share what you're up to at home by tweeting [@WessexTrust](https://twitter.com/WessexTrust) so we can share it with our Trust family



Four New Schools Welcomed into the Trust



April 1st this year saw the Wessex Learning Trust expand to welcome on board four new schools: Fairlands Middle School; Cheddar, Draycott & Rodney Stoke and Shipham First Schools. The Trust has historically worked closely with these schools, however to bring them on board offers us unparalleled opportunities for co-

operation and working together to help advance our vision and ethos. The addition of these four schools also puts the Wessex Learning Trust in a unique national position of having all the schools within its catchment within one Trust. Again, this enables coherence and strategic planning which will directly benefit our students and staff. We very much look forward to what this partnership will bring.

Trumpets Continue to Sound Despite Lockdown



Lockdown may have forced a pause in their regular Wednesday rehearsal, but for Trust students in the Cheddar Valley Music Club Brass

Bands this did not mean an end to their playing! Using the wonders of technology, they put together a virtual recording of themselves playing 'Brazil' by Barroso. With this being the club's 40th Anniversary, and their celebration concert also cancelled, this went some of the way to making up for the loss - not to mention we loved seeing our students engaging in their passion for music, even if it had to be from home! Watch the Video here: <https://youtu.be/OXhKVI3zK68>

VE Day Anniversary Across the Trust

Kings Student Spreads Joy on VE Day

Year 10 Avalon Student, Matilda, did the Kings of Wessex proud this term as she sought to bring some joy to the residents of Winscombe Hall Care Home with a beautiful a poem, recording of her playing her flute and VE Day themed drawing which she sent to the residents. Head of House, Matt Rigg called Matilda "a shining example of really seeing the very best in humankind during these difficult circumstances and thinking of others". The Home said the gesture brought a tear to all their eyes and called Matilda's work "wonderful and heart-warming" and "a credit to Kings".

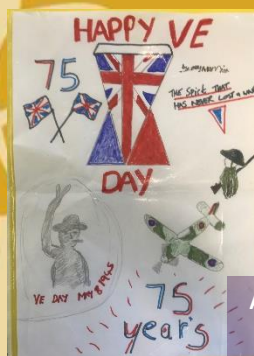
You can read her poem [here](#) and her picture below.



A 'Street Party' at Mark



Dressing Up at Lymsham



A Beautiful Drawing from Lymsham



The Party at East Brent



Matilda's Drawing from Kings



Decorations from the Children of Axbridge



Celebrations at Lymsham



Well done to everyone! Some wonderful celebrations – we hope you had a lot of fun!



The Lockdown Lowdown

Vol. 2

As we continue in this strange world of lockdown and home schooling, we wanted to bring you a bumper edition of all that our children have been getting up to while working from home!



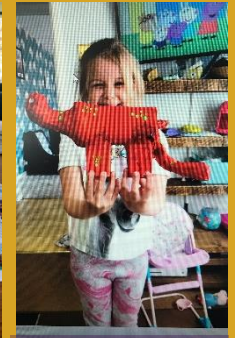
Unusual exercise at Hugh Sexseys!



Year 6 Lunch Challenge at Hugh Sexseys!



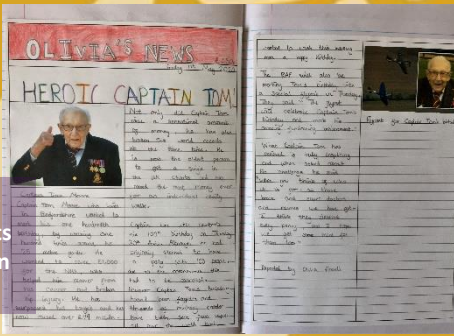
Not just the students working hard at Hugh Sexseys!



A dinosaur model from Lymsham



Lymsham Lego club home modelling



Budding journalists at work in Mark



An out of this world poster - LYM



Learning about the Oceans at Mark

Cooking something yummy at Mark



Some great Art work at Kings



Trees being planted at Fairlands



Brilliant Baking at Brent Knoll



Artist at work at Brent Knoll



Models being created at Brent Knoll



Something fishy at Axbridge



Benefits of living in the country at Axbridge



Axbridge Children ready for anything



Everything erupted at Axbridge this term!