



As we approach the half-way point of the year, I am delighted to share some good news from the Trust before we take a well-deserved week off for half-term.

Our family of sixteen Wessex academies is soon to become seventeen as we welcome Crispin School in Street to the Wessex Learning Trust on 1st March 2023. Crispin is a very popular secondary school which is well regarded for its academic achievement, wider opportunities and care for its students. It brings 1053 students and 127 talented members of staff to the Trust family, who, like all our academies, deliver high-quality education to our young people. The partnership with Crispin is a true alignment of values, as we are deeply committed to providing a modern academic curriculum alongside the development of students' skills and personal development for future life. We are very excited to begin this rewarding, productive and efficient journey with Crispin who will soon be part of the Wessex family!

With Crispin imminently becoming part of the Trust, naturally we are approaching and building relationships with other schools in Somerset around the areas of Street, Frome, Shepton Mallet and Wells. Joining our Trust, provides schools with a wealth of opportunities such as vast collaboration between Trust schools to share good practice, knowledge and staff, as well as leadership support and development. Schools benefit from central services including school improvement, safeguarding, welfare, finance, HR, estate management and marketing. With our centralised team supporting schools, this enables school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on their core business - teaching and nurturing our young people.

In the last Trust newsletter, I mentioned that we had the 'Ofsted call' to Axbridge and Weare First Schools. We have now had the Ofsted report for Weare and we are delighted to share that they have also received a 'Good' rating. The report stated that children and pupils thrive at Weare Nursery and First School, students are proud to wear their school uniform and they are excited to go to school every day. One parent commented that 'the school is a fantastic asset to the local community' which is a real reflection of our Trust values of being strongly anchored in our communities, as we believe, it takes a whole community to educate a child. Well done to the whole team at Weare First School!

Looking ahead to next term, I for one am looking forward to the days lengthening, seeing the leaves return to the trees and the start of the Spring weather. Hopefully, with this brings fresh Spring energy to see us into the new term but for now, have a fun and restful half-term break.

Gavin Ball
Chief Executive

Follow us on social media @wessextrust





Future Careers



Students in Year 9 at Crispin School (above) enjoyed visits from EDF, Thales, Wessex Water, Kier Construction, Envolve, Stantec and Bath University for their Careers Day!

Trust schools have been providing Careers Days or Careers Weeks for our learners from first schools through to secondary. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to find out more about different professions, and find inspiration for their potential future career. Children at Lympsham First School (below) met a Pilot, an Air Steward, Vet, Banker and Dairy Farmer, as well as the Trust Director of Maths!



GO ECO!



Shipham First School Eco Committee have been active with this years topic to work on for the National Eco School Award. So far a rota has been created for litter picking and energy monitors to ensure their grounds are litter-free and electricity is not being wasted. They have big plans to do a beach clean, have an energy free day as well as raise money for a bike shelter!

Meanwhile, Axbridge First School Eco Team has been awarded with the Axbridge Civic Award!

In the past, the team helped develop the eco garden by St Johns Church, plant hundreds of trees by the reservoir, take part in litter picks and support the school in reducing energy consumption through recycling and turning off lights around the school. Congratulations to Mrs Emery and the Axbridge Eco Team for having an impact beyond the school walls!



Students from Crispin School have been working hard in the VEX Robotics after school club since September building two robots to compete in the regional competition. The competition involves 2 drivers from each team navigating their robots around an arena, using features they have built to dispense discs from various devices. These dispensed discs score points and can be pushed into a scoring zone to earn further points.

They were delighted to find out that one of the Crispin teams has qualified to take part in the National Competition in Telford at the beginning of March!





East Brent First School has been given the go-ahead from the Secretary of State for Education to lease an area of land adjacent to the school playing field to increase the playing field area.

This is great news for East Brent school because not only will they have more outdoor space, but this means that the Trust can now pursue the purchase of a new modular building to be used as a new Pre-School building. Moving the Pre-School from it's current location in the main school to it's own home, will give the school itself more much needed space!



Encore!



Performing Arts students at Kings Academy enjoyed a tremendous success of their Annie production which took place over three evenings this week, the performers have worked so hard through rehearsals and the performance and are looking forward to some well-deserved rest time over the half-term break!

The performing doesn't stop there as Year 8's at Hugh Sexey Middle School have been performing their annual musical - The Addams Family. With a cast and crew of over 70 pupils, the Year 8s have performed to Trust First schools as well as shows to KS2 and KS3, and two evening performances for families. Students have been working so hard, rehearsing, learning lines, and practicing songs and dances - their dedication has been admirable!



Rooted in our communities

Another lovely example of how our community comes together to support our schools. Coop Axbridge chose the Axbridge First school as their recent donation beneficiary, and the school's PTA have been successful



for the next round of funding from the Coop which all contributes to providing extra enrichment activities and treats for for the children!

If you'd like to donate to a fantastic fundraising cause, ten members of staff from Lympsham First School are raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support by hiking a full marathon along the Gower Peninsula in July! They need to raise a minimum of £250 so anything you can donate would be very much appreciated! You can donate through their Just Giving page here:

[Donate Here](#)





CyberFirst Girls Competition



Year 8 students from Fairlands Middle School travelled to the Defence Academy, Shrivenham to take part in the final of the CyberFirst Girls' competition. Here is an account written by the students:

On Saturday, we took part in the finals of the NCSC's CyberFirst Girls' competition. We came twelfth out of 8700 who entered in the country. It was a great experience as we got to see a rough image of how a day could be as a career. This competition has challenged us in many ways and we especially enjoyed seeing some of their state-of-the-art equipment and using their amazing computers. The people at the Defence Academy provided some demanding questions for us to solve. It really tested our abilities of cyber security and coding, however, we are very proud of how far we have come.

Ellie, Sydney, Freya and Marcie (pictured left)

Kings Fitness are excited to announce the complete refurbishment of the Fitness Gym, which is taking place during this half-term break. A temporary gym will be assembled in the sports hall, while brand new equipment is set up including some new additions like a new Functional Rig, Hammer Strength Air Bikes, Concept Ski Ergs and

Concept Rowers! You can find out more, as well as information about joining on their website:

www.kingsfitness.co.uk



Work for us

Wessex Learning Trust are always on the look out for talented staff who can help us deliver our vision of outstanding education across our schools. We have some vacancies listed below, but keep an eye on our [current vacancies](#) page on our website for new posts.

Teacher of Mathematics - Kings Academy

Closing Date: 20 February 2023

Trust Employability Lead

Closing Date: 19 February 2023

Early Years Practitioner - Cheddar First School

Closing Date: 20 February 2023

Learning Support Assistant - Kings Academy

Two positions available: Closing Date for both: 20 February 2023

Have a great half-term break, we look forward to welcoming our learners back in Term 4!