



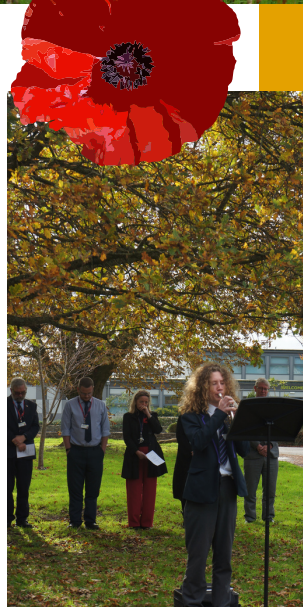
**Wessex**  
Learning Trust  
We Learn Together!

## We will Remember.

Wessex Learning Trust schools along with the local community paused to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

On Armistice Day, Reverend Ruth Motion led a Remembrance Wreath Laying Ceremony for the Wessex Learning Trust, with children from each of the seventeen schools laying a wreath at the Memorial Cross on the grounds of Kings Academy in Cheddar. Gavin Ball, Chief Executive at the Trust said; 'Many people across our community and the Trust will have known of those who served in the World Wars, but this year our young people have further understood the devastating effects of war as thousands of Ukrainian families fled to the UK. I'm hugely proud of our staff and young people who have welcomed Ukrainian children into our schools and embraced them into our communities. Sadly, the devastation of war continues across the world, which has made this Remembrance Day even more poignant but by taking this time as a community to come together to pause and reflect, we will remember them.'

The ceremony was observed by a two-minute silence, with a student from Kings Academy who played the bugle to perform The Rouse to mark the silence. Harry North from the Royal British Legion raised the flag from half-mast to masthead. They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.



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## Chief Executive's Message

As we come to the end of the last week of term at the Wessex Learning Trust and the end of 2022, we reflect on how we have continued to cope through another tough year. The challenges of Covid 19 seem to have raised their heads again,



and also brought with them Strep A and Scarlet Fever infections in our schools. Added to this is the rising uncertainty during the cost-of-living crisis as we head into the colder winter months. We fully understand that these issues are having a huge impact on some of our children, young people and their families so please do reach out to your school if you are in need of any support during these difficult times, particularly as the festive period approaches.

Despite these challenging times, schools across the Trust have embraced the excitement of the festive season and it has been an absolute pleasure to see all the activities across schools including nativity plays, Christmas card design competitions, Christmas fayres, pantomimes, circus visits and of course, lots and lots of Christmas jumpers! I'm confident that all our young people and staff across the Trust are very much ready for the Christmas break!

It hasn't all been glitter and tinsel over the last month though, as two Trust first schools received 'the call' from Ofsted giving them 24 hours' notice that they will be visiting to inspect the school. We have had the report for Axbridge First School Academy and I am delighted to say that they received a rating of 'Good', which is a fantastic achievement particularly as Ofsted changed its approach to grading in 2019 becoming more stringent and harder than ever to receive a Good or Outstanding grade. However, Headteacher Dominic Shillabeer and his team received an incredibly warm and positive report, a true testament to the hard work they have done, and continue to do, to provide a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for our young learners.

During times like this, when we all pull together as a Trust team, I am reminded again of the values and priorities we all share in providing the very best education for all the children in our academies, backed up by providing high quality care, guidance and support to ensure holistic personal development for each child learning and growing in a Wessex Learning Trust school.

As we approach the Christmas break, I hope you can all look back on what you have achieved so far this year and look forward to what you have to come in the remaining school year. I am incredibly proud of everything I see going on in all our schools and I can't wait to welcome you back in January 2023. Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Job Vacancies

We regularly have teaching & support staff vacancies across our Trust schools and the Trust central team, please visit our website to find out more [wessexlearningtrust/careers](https://wessexlearningtrust/careers)

### Operations Officer Vacancy

- Weare & Wedmore First Schools
- Full-time or Part-time (30 hours)
- Term time plus 1 week (see website for full details)



## Community Generosity



East Brent CofE Academy have some wonderful news to share! Sedgemoor Caravans & Motorhomes have generously donated £2000 towards their new Pre-school building (which is not here yet, but they are working very hard to get it!) They are totally overwhelmed by such generosity and such community spirit. Our lovely School Council accepted the cheque from Sean who drove down especially to hand deliver it.

## LIONS ROAR!

Year 6 learners at Fairlands Middle School have been taking part in the ROAR 2022 competition, run by Lions International. The 'Lions Roar' competition encourages entrepreneurial spirit for all pupils with the challenge of making something to change the world.

All Year 6 children had the opportunity to create some fantastic ideas, then three groups went through to the final round before one group was selected for the National Final!



Many Trust schools are towards their Eco Aware Awards this year, and Sandford have been working hard on many eco activities to gain their Bronze Award. Not only have they been making bug hotels, but staff and students have been out on the streets of Sandford litter picking! One Sandford resident contacted them to say 'I would just like to congratulate the pupils and the school for doing an amazing job. Not just picking up the litter but teaching the children a valuable lesson. Very inspirational. Well done Sandford Primary an excellent role model in our community!'

## Get Fit in 2023



If ever there is a time to get fit and healthy it's now!

Find out more about the different membership offers at Kings Fitness and Leisure and start the New Year as you mean to go on,



[www.kingsfitness.co.uk](http://www.kingsfitness.co.uk)



# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



Have a fantastic Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you back to school in January 2023!