

THE PRIORY COMMUNITY SCHOOL POST



Supporting
IN CHARLEY'S MEMORY
f @ICMCharity

Issue 5, Spring Term 2020



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GOOD NEWS FROM WESTON AND WORLE

BY JILL DANDO NEWS CENTRE
STUDENT REPORTERS

Supporting Charity • Inspirational young people

Visits to see our fantastic academy are welcomed. Please contact Stephanie Munro on 01934 511411 to arrange a tour of the school.

Simply Brilliant



By Lacey Madge, 14, and Aimee Braithwaite, 13

Fantastic Priory students are blazing a trail in their GCSEs, sports, performing arts and amazing acts of kindness.

Big hearted Lauren Hanson raised £400 for Foodbank as PCSA broke giving records, while students represented the

high-achieving school across the world in their sports.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "The students are simply brilliant. We have hundreds of heroes at school every single day."

See inside for more....



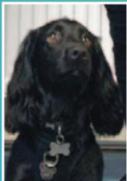
- Excellent GCSE results
- Wide GCSE course choice
- Dozens of after school activities
- Happy, friendly, caring school
- Inspirational teaching



Principal
Angelos Markoutsas

Email
angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



POPULAR PRIORY PUP HELPS LAUNCH AWARD
See page 5



WESTON'S BEATLES' - AMAZING BAND PLAN TOUR
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RECORD DONATIONS TO FOODBANK
Big hearted Priory students break Foodbank donation record with 1 tonne of goodies
See page 3

Why Good News?

The Post is a positive newspaper for Weston and Worle, covering inspirational stories written by Jill Dando reporters aged 5 to 19. Their inspiration is former WCSA student Jill Dando. Jill was a positive, smiling, kind and compassionate person, and stayed humble despite being Britain's best TV journalist.



Our Jill Dando reporters above interviewed the Prime Minister in Number 10 and left him with a copy of The Post.

Send us your good news. Email us stories of amazing children (or adults), acts of kindness, or general 'uplifting' deeds.



Send us your stories
editor@theplt.org.uk

JILL DANDO NEWS CENTRE

Our Jill Dando News Centre Student Reporters

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Olivia Finch
(Senior Reporter, WCSA) | Milo Zanelli |
| Joshua Keyes
(Senior Reporter, WCSA) | Ella McPadden |
| Lacey Madge
(Senior Reporter, PCSA) | George Ford |
| Aimee Braithwaite
(Senior Reporter, PCSA, Social Media Editor) | Archie Matthews |
| Leah Duffy | Alfie Pocock |
| Kacey Gazzard | Lorenzo Baranello |
| Lewis Martin-Edwards | Murphy Lynn |
| Reece Kaye | Ruby Griggs |
| Kayla Lansing | Isabelle Lanning |
| Lauren Burdge | Tamsen Markham |
| Cam Calver | Gracie Davies |
| Kiera Wilton | Madison Taylor |
| Alex Mawbey | |
| Leah Clarke | |
| Oliver Sinclair | |
| Abi Congram | |
| Oliver Taylor-Jones | |

Did you know... IN CHARLEY'S MEMORY helps hundreds of 11 to 25 year olds in Weston and Burnham?

IN CHARLEY'S MEMORY
MAKING MENTAL HEALTH MATTER

Thousands of young people help inspirational mental health charity

By Olivia Finch, WCSA, and Lacey Madge, PCSA



Over 5000 students, staff, parents and carers marked World Mental Health Day by launching their inspirational new charity of the year.

The six schools of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) are helping boost the mental health of thousands of 11 to 25-year-olds in Somerset by supporting In Charley's Memory (ICM) as its official charity of the year.

ICM is a rapidly expanding charity which helps the mental wellbeing of hundreds of 11 to 25 year olds locally. It gives encouragement, training and ongoing counselling support for as long as needed.

ICM will now be helped by all schools in The Priory Learning Trust, just over five years since former The King Alfred School Academy teenager Charley Marks took his own life aged 18.

Neville Coles, Executive Principal of TPLT, said: "In Charley's Memory is a wonderful charity and we are so excited to be able to partner with it in this way. Last year we raised £20,000 for Weston Hospicecare and we hope this year to once again raise large amounts of money for a brilliant cause."

If you need support from the charity call 01278 557490
www.incharleymemory.co.uk



Want to help?
As a charity, ICM rely on donations and fundraising. On Somerset Day, Sunday 10th May, The Priory Learning Trust are planning to do a circular 12 mile walk to raise funds. If you are interested in joining the walk check out @ICMCharity for news and details.

IN CHARLEY'S MEMORY
MAKING MENTAL HEALTH MATTER

Big-hearted Priory students raise record 1 tonne of Foodbank goodies in one week

By Lacey Madge, 14



PCSA packed hundreds of items for Foodbank into two vans.

It broke all records of school giving across the area. And student Lauren Hanson, 16, (pictured) also raised £400 to help the charity at Worlebury Golf Club. The brilliant teen is also now the Junior Captain at the club.

Frederique Wigmore of Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust network, said: "This was an unbelievable amount, just breathtaking. Thank you to everyone who donated."

PCSA and WCSA have raised over £100,000 for charities over the last few years.

WESTON STUDENTS FLOCK TO HIGH-FLYING TPLT SCHOOL-BASED SIXTH FORM



by Jill Dando reporters

Priory and Worle students are pictured during their 'taster day' at the school based TPLT sixth-form

Students from PCSA and WCSA are attending the high-achieving, caring and smaller school-based Sixth form The King Alfred School Academy in Highbridge - just minutes away on the train.

The sixth form enjoys excellent results, inspirational teaching and a school style friendly community atmosphere.

Two students have just been offered a place at Oxford University and scores of others have places at top universities.

It also has six A Level students from overseas, all who are staying with families in Weston.

The sixth form is part of The Priory Learning Trust and welcomes students from any secondary school in Weston and beyond.

Head of Sixth Form Jonathan Gaskell said: "Our small school-based Sixth Form is proving to be a popular choice for Year 11 students looking to study prestigious A Level subjects in a friendly and supportive school with high expectations and high aspirations."



AMAZING STUDENTS: Some of the Weston-based international students at the school location sixth form at The King Alfred School Academy

For visits or information about applications to the sixth form email jgaskell@tkasa.org

BRILLIANT YOUNG CARER HAILED A HERO

By Joshua Keyes, 14



Lewis with fellow student Archie at the Jill Dando News Centre

Lewis Martin Edwards, 12, won Champion Young Carer of the Year award out of 3800 carers in the south west.

The 12-year-old cares for his mother Jo and helps with her medication, cooking, checking blood pressure and other jobs.

On top of this, Lewis was described as an superb student at Worle Community School Academy, raising thousands for charity, and inspiring younger students.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Lewis is a superb student and a credit to our academy. He is kind, thoughtful, positive and is quite clearly overcoming challenges with his tremendous attitude and resilience."

At an award ceremony for young carers in the South West, judges praised Lewis for being kind and positive all the time and for having the attitude of never giving up.

He is also a big part of the Jill Dando News Centre at WCSA, and trains up pupils in primary schools.



TPLT SCHOOLS PUT STUDENTS FIRST

A MESSAGE FROM PCSA PRINCIPAL, ANGELOS MARKOUTSAS

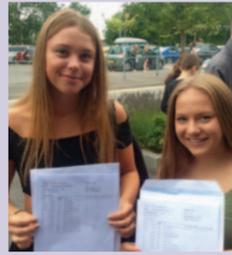
Every single day I am inspired by the amazing attitude, talent and achievements of our fabulous students.



There are hundreds upon hundreds of heroes right across PCSA.

The generosity and outstanding character of these students should be known about and celebrated across our community and beyond. That's what The Post is all about.

In just one week of running Foodbank we broke all records of giving from students and staff. One student, Lauren Hanson in Year 11, raised a staggering £400 for the Foodbank.



Look also at the achievements in academic success with some excellent GCSE results once again.

And we have constant brilliant talents on show in performing arts, music, drama, sports, to name just a few.

Year 7 student Megan Sargent took part in the Evolution Show at the Playhouse before Christmas and Freddy Jones in Year 8 was an extra on the BBC One Show 'His Dark Materials'.

Keep up the great work.

Visits to see our fantastic academy are welcomed. Please contact Stephanie Munro on 01934 511411 to arrange a tour of the school.

Weston's Beatles plan charity tour



By Lacey Madge, 14

An incredible new Priory student band plans a charity and venue tour after belting out tunes similar to legendary pop band The Beatles.

Harlee Brown is lead vocalist in the new band at PCSA, and his singing is remarkably similar to John Lennon.

With Jack Isgrove on Lead Guitar, Haydn Greaves on Rhythm Guitar, Ewan Watts, Bass Guitar, and Grace Williams on drums the new band is wowing students and staff. Now they are planning a tour of venues including a charity raising event for In Charley's Memory, The Priory Learning Trust charity of the year.

The students are all in Year 10 studying the new RSL level 2 course and have been wowing students and staff with their songs. Head of Music Richard Wassall said: "This band are quite simply brilliant. Everyone has been amazed at how much they actually sound like the Beatles. Harlee on vocals sounds spookily like John Lennon."

PCSA has thriving music and performing arts faculty to develop, encourage and release the talent of students.

Incredible Priory students celebrate in spectacular evening of awards success

By Aimee Braithwaite, 13

Talented, hard working, innovative and big hearted students from PCSA were commended for a range of successes during a wonderful night on Weston's Grand Pier.

The inspirational Academy gave awards for excellence and hard work in areas including sport, maths, English, science, languages community and attendance.

There were also special prizes given for outstanding character and attitude, as well in work experience and journalism.

Ex-student and England Under 21s rugby international Josh Caulfield was the guest speaker alongside Exeter Chiefs colleague Max Bodilly.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This evening is one of our most special of the year with a chance to give amassive 'well done' to so many students from across the school and in a range of areas. We are so proud of them all.



Students enjoy sensational trip to Spain on exciting international exchange

By Ruby Griggs, Grace Ford, Isabelle Lanning & Tamsen Markham, Yr 7

The lucky 20 students from PCSA embarked on an international exchange to Baza in Granada.

They stayed with local families and learned about their culture, enabling them to build relationships and speak Spanish throughout the trip.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "We are eager to give excellent opportunities across all our subjects."

PCSA offer incredible learning trips away including to Italy, France and Belgium.



Priory BBC TV star aims to follow in Jill's footsteps



By Lacey Madge, 14

Aimee pictured centre, with Lacey, right and other members of the Jill Dando News Centre.

Aimee Braithwaite, 13, is aiming to follow in the footsteps of Jill who grew up just metres from Priory.

Along with Lacey Madge, she is editor of the centre, getting out dozens of good news stories.

Amazingly, she did a recorded piece for BBC Points West on the 20th anniversary of Jill's death.

Now the talented student, who also excels in drama, is planning more TV work and a possible career in the industry.

She said: "I am so proud of the Jill Dando News Centre and all that we do. I really enjoyed my TV work. Priory have really supported me in every way on this."

Buddy the Cocker Spaniel gives his name to a weekly 'Buddy Award'.

By Lacey Madge, 14

A new school pup has just celebrated his first birthday by being on hand to reward the achievements of sensational students.

Buddy the cocker spaniel joined PCSA in the summer and has now given his name to a weekly 'Buddy Award'. Students that have gone 'above and beyond' are rewarded by Principal Angelos Markoutsas, while Buddy is around to join in the celebration of success and effort. Buddy is also having remarkable success working with students with emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Buddy's owner and staff member Tab Sandy is training him as a Pets for Therapy Dog. Angelos said: "We want to celebrate the success and effort of every single student. Buddy loves spending time with students and really enjoys being part of the award photographs. He is well rewarded for his work with plenty of treats." PCSA is an excellent academy with wide-ranging extra curricular activities.



Top rugby players train to be terrific teachers

COULD YOU BE A TEACHER AT A TOP LOCAL SCHOOL?



By Dawson Panter-Wray, 12

Ex-England and Ireland international Jake Caulfield and Dan Lomax are well known local rugby players and now training to be teachers within The Priory Learning Trust which operates six academies across Somerset and North Somerset.

Jake is current Head Coach at North Petherton RFU having been at PCSA. He has played rugby for England and Ireland, as well as Bath and Ulster.

Dan is the Weston super Mare RFC player-coach and an ex-student at Worle Community School Academy.

Neville Coles, centre, CEO/Executive Principal of The Priory Learning Trust is pictured welcoming Jake (left) and Dan (right) to The King Alfred School

Academy in Highbridge.

Neville said: "Our teacher training school is thriving and we are seeing people from all walks of life becoming excellent teachers. It is a pleasure to welcome Jake and Dan to train to teach in our schools."

Please contact www.theplt.org.uk for more details about teacher training within TPLT.

Did you know...

The Priory Learning Trust is a successful teacher-training school, awarded the rare and prestigious National Teaching School status.

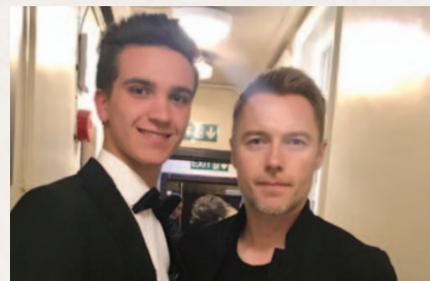


Excellent Jack thriving at world-renowned drama college

By Lacey Madge, 14 and Aimee Braithwaite, 14

Jack Evison left PCSA and is now at the world-renowned Mandy Ellen Performing Arts College in Maidstone in Kent after successfully completing his first year of studies at CPA Studios in London.

Jack has just had his first ever professional role, appearing in the Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and he also recently appeared on the BBC TV programme The Greatest Dancer.



Jack is pictured with Ronan Keating

Free football for Under 6s

By Liam Drury



Children under 6 have an hour of free football at 5pm at Weston-super-Mare AFC's £850,000 FIFA quality 3G training pitch at The Optima Stadium in Winterstoke Road.

Weston's expanding academy is going places as it's now an Official Licensed Academy. Now they plan to bring local Weston, Worle and North Somerset children right though from the Under 6s to play in the first team.

Foundation Phase Manager Matt Bazell said: "This is free football for children of all abilities. Our coaches are top-class and make football fun. We are eager to become the best academy in the region."

Email foundation.phase@wsmafc.co.uk for more information or visit westonsmareafc.co.uk/Academy

Did you know...

Weston AFC Academy is one of only 22 clubs outside of the football league nationally to be a licensed Academy



HELP FOR MENTAL HEALTH

In Charley's Memory helps hundreds of young people every year.

It was formed in 2014 by the mum of former TKASA student Charley who took his own life after years of

mental health struggles. His mum wanted to make a difference to make sure there others get the help they need as early as possible. Charity leader Dawn Carey said: "Children's and young people's mental health services are incredibly stretched yet the numbers of young people wanting help continues to rise across the country. "We stand in that gap. If you are a young person needing help please get in touch."



To donate to ICM, for advice and tips or to access their Counselling service, call 01278 557490 or visit our Website <https://www.incharleymemory.co.uk> or see or Facebook @ICMCharity

SMILE, WALK, BREATHE

Some simple tips to boost your mental health

Dawn offers these five simple tips to people wanting to help boost their own mental wellbeing.

- ✓ **Turn off your phone as much as possible.** (There are clear links between social media use and mental health problems.)
- ✓ **Walk every day.** (Exercise boosts key happiness hormones in the brain)
- ✓ **Do a random act of kindness for others.** (This simple act boosts our own happiness and that of other people)
- ✓ **Talk about your problems** (Everyone has them - sharing them with a trusted friend or counsellor is powerful).
- ✓ **Take minute breaks to deep breathe from your diaphragm** (breathe in slowly for 5 seconds, hold for 5, breathe out for 5).

WORLE STUDENTS TAKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BY STORM

By Archie Matthews, 12

Four students Ruby Lightfoot, Sienna Pitts, Ebony Taiwo and Lauren Baird of WSA have excelled in nationals and the world championships in baton twirling.

The students currently compete with several different clubs including Pom Pom Corp and Parade Corp.

One of the girls, Sienna, recently competed in X Strut, which is an international competition for the best of the best.

WCSA Principal, Jacqui Scott, said: "We are absolutely delighted by the girls' success. They have done exceptionally well."



WCSA and PCSA students are enjoy some of Britain's best careers provision

By Lewis Martin-Edwards, 12

With mock interviews, university taster days, CV help, employability help and real-life experience, students are prepared extremely well for the wider world.

Students for example, helped to write a PCSA best selling christmas ebook which reached number 3 in the amazon christmas book chart.

And they get inspiration talks for world-leading experts in their fields, including from ex students who have gone onto great things.

Head of Careers James Wilmot said: "We want to give every single student the very best advice, experiences and to inspire with visits and talks."

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Terrific Priory Team GB students win sensational silver

By Aimee Braithwaite, 14, and Holly Lewis



WINNING SUCCESS:
Pictured is Year 8 PCSA student Freya who won a silver medal representing Team GB as a gymnastics trio in Bulgaria.

Year 8 students Freya Grafton and Molly Brown of PCSA narrowly missed gold in Bulgaria representing Team GB at the Plovdiv Aerobic Cup.

The pair, who attend Weston Aerobic Gymnastic club, are just two of numerous sporting stars at Priory.

The achievement is even more amazing considering there were 550 participants from 21 nations competing in the prestigious competition.

It was Freya's first time competing internationally for Team GB and she joined team mates Katie Ferris and Lola Lawrence to compete as a trio against 30 other groups from across the world.

PCSA encourages its students to participate in sport and follow their dreams. Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "We're delighted to celebrate the success of Freya and Molly.

"Winning the silver medal is a wonderful achievement and they did their school and Britain proud."

High-jumping Josh, 12, in PCSA basketball boom

By Anna Barrett, 14



Josh White, aged 12, and already 5'7" is part of a basketball revolution at PCSA.

He is aiming to become a world star in the sport and is practising hours every day before and after school, and during lunchtimes.

He's been joined by up to 60 students in the schools' Period 6 after school club. He also plays for North Somerset Stars. In the Paula Radcliffe Centre where they train, Michael Jordan has one of his famous quotes in reception to inspire students.

Josh said: "Since I joined Priory my basketball skills have improved; this is because of Period 6 basketball clubs on a Monday and Friday, and having the chance to play on the school basketball courts at break and lunch.

Girls football team wow Weston

By Lacey Madge, 14



PCSA Under 16s team beat Milfield School's elite team.

The students had not played with each other before and have several players who could go on to play professionally.

PCSA is a brilliant school with a fantastic sporting tradition and faculty alongside a wide array of other subjects and extra-curricular activities.

PE teacher Louise Spence said: "The students are brilliant and enthusiastic, and play lovely football."

Amazing Amelia, 11, wins 11 swimming medals

By Mark Ncube, & Isabelle Lanning, Yr 7



Incredible Priory student, 11 lines up future Olympic success after winning stunning 11 medals in one day.

Amelia Smart, of PCSA won the awards out of 18

swimming races she competed in. She won 4 golds, 4 silvers and 3 bronze in the Weston-super-Mare gala contest. One of her Gold Medals was in the 100 metres butterfly.

She told our Jill Dando reporters: "I want to get to the Olympics and Internationals and become an Olympic swimmer. I have been inspired by Michael Phelps".

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This is a fabulous performance and Amelia clearly has a wonderful future in swimming ahead of her".

Number 1 book for creative Kiera

By Lara Raza & Alisha Robson 13



Brilliant PCSA student Kiera Wilton, 13, was stunned after reaching Number 1 as an online author after uploading her story books.

Her books Raven Fulls had 64 reads and Goddess of Death had 15.

Kiera has been part of the Jill Dando News Centre for two years.

English teacher Sarah O' Gorman said: "This is a tremendous achievement".