

# THE PRIORITY SCHOOL POST



Supporting  
**IN CHARLEY'S MEMORY**  
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Issue 6, Summer 2020



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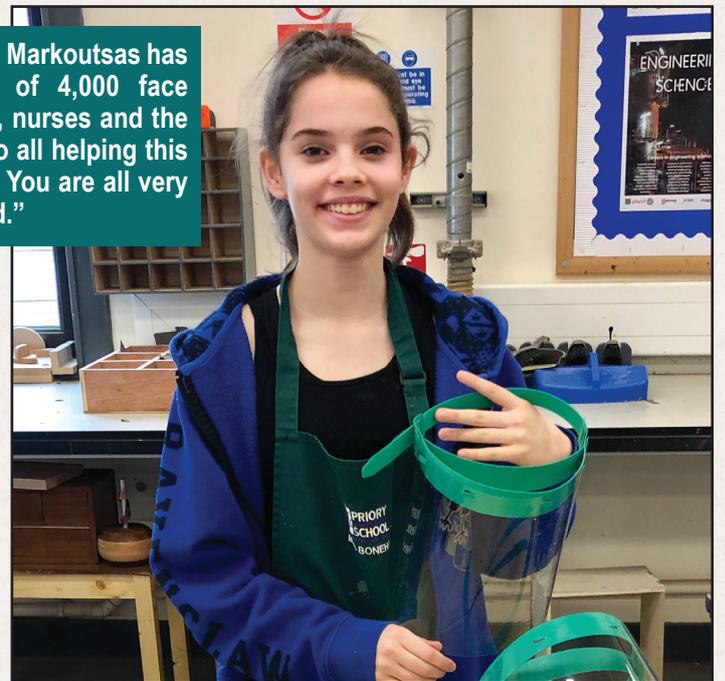
**GOOD NEWS FROM WESTON AND WORLE**  
BY JILL DANDO NEWS CENTRE  
STUDENT REPORTERS  
Supporting Charity • Inspirational young people  
Email : mailbox@pcsa.org.uk Tel: 01934 511411

# THANK YOU

Thousands of students, staff parents and businesses say thank you to those helping to battle COVID-19



Principal Angelos Markoutsas has led the making of 4,000 face masks for carers, nurses and the NHS: He said: "To all helping this fight - thank you. You are all very much appreciated."



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Former Rugby International to be head of Year 9**  
*see page 8*

**Schools make 4,000 facemasks and 100 PPE scrubs**  
*see page 2*

**Students raise hundreds for charity**  
*see page 5*

**Budding Alan Sugars win enterprise awards**  
*see page 4*



**JILL DANDO**  
NEWS CENTRE

**THE POST** editor@theplt.org.uk

This is a unique good news newspaper written by reporters aged 8 to 18

Olivia Finch	Joel Dean
Aimee Braithwaite	Archie Matthews
Poppy Day	Lewis Martin-Edwards
Emma Latchford	Freddie Triggol
Emma Hewson	Jack Maydew
Ruby Owen	Joshua Keyes
Henry Jones	Dawson Panter-Wray
Jack Clark	Josh Lloyd
GJ Bright	Alfie Pocock
Katie Loach	Murphy Lynn
Olivia Montgomery	Sophie MacLennan
Tom Burdge	Harrison Down
Elijah Maxwell	Tamsen Markham
Shannon Kingston	

# THANK YOU



## Dozens of students make up to 4,000 face masks and 100 PPE scrubs for the NHS and care homes

The Academies of the Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) rallied together for 41 days solid to help the NHS battle Covid-19.

Their 50-strong face masks and scrubs teams have also been distributing the items to health workers across the region, from Weston super Mare, Highbridge, Burnham, Taunton and

beyond with the help of the Grand Pier and donating local businesses.

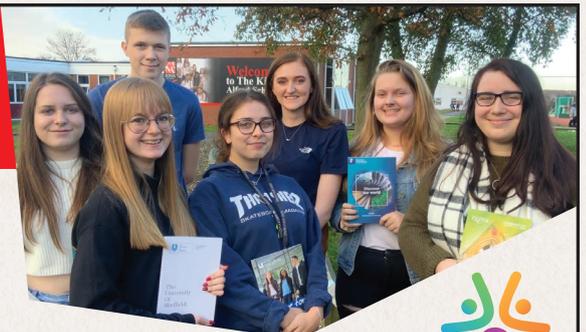
Neville Coles, CEO of TPLT said: "This has been a tremendous effort to help health workers who have been desperately in need. "We wanted to let health workers, the NHS and carers know we are supporting them in the battle against coronavirus."



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# Ex-WCSA student takes on the world's biggest tech company (Google), and wins!



By Olivia Finch

In 2013 Belinda Bradley left Worle Community School Academy. Within just a few years she

campaigned against the biggest digital force in the world and WON!

Now Google Maps have introduced an 'accessible places' option to help wheelchair users to get around, all thanks to Belinda.

Her campaign began when she tried to take a trip to London with her mum who had recently become disabled.

After masterminding a world campaign and visiting Google HQ to meet their bosses, she finally got them to change their whole global system.

Now she has just delivered a prestigious TED talk and is helping students and people at WCSA and beyond to start campaigns to help the world to be a better place. She said: "The whole journey of the petition was about getting representation for millions of people.

"The result has been fantastic, but even more importantly, we've now built this massive platform for change.

"I hope to use it to continue speaking up for all people with alternative needs and

addressing the challenges they face. It takes a lot of determination but it really proves how much you can achieve when you work for it. You've just got to put yourself out there."

Belinda sent her petition to everyone she knew, including her friends and teachers at WCSA.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Everyone at our Academy is delighted and proud of Belinda and her incredible achievements. She is living proof that all things are possible, with hard work, enthusiasm and determination."

**Did you know...**  
We taste most of our food with smell, and our mouths can only sense 5 different types of flavours.

## BBC EMMA WOWED BY STUDENTS



By Jill Dando Reporters

Dozens of pupils and children celebrated the launch of the latest Jill Dando News Centre in sensational early spring sunshine.



Just days before Britain went into lockdown, popular radio presenter Emma Britton from BBC

Bristol launched the latest centre at Pawlett Primary School Academy. Reporters aged 9 to 15 carried out story-writing workshops helped by professional journalists and photo-journalists.

They also officially opened the expansion of Jill's Garden out of Weston-super-Mare town centre into the Pawlett school grounds, with seven apple trees donated by Sanders Garden Centre.

Emma said: "I really love good news, and Jill Dando centres are full of positive and inspiring stories. Well done to all the children who have helped to get this off the ground in Jill's memory."



**Did you know...**  
Our brains have around 100 billion neurons – which is roughly the same amount of Stars in the Galaxy.



# BUDDING ALAN SUGARS CELEBRATE SUCCESS IN ENTERPRISE AWARDS

By Isabelle Lanning and Ruby Griggs, Year 7

A quartet of fabulous PCSA students have all celebrated success in the Inspiring Digital enterprise award.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This is a tremendous achievement. The students worked independently and thoroughly deserved their awards."

Year 9 victorious students (left to right pictured) were Ashton Newman, Alex Mawbey, Tiernan Cook and Charlie Tedder.



## Bella aims for 2021 World Championship

By Aimee Braithwaite, 14

Former PCSA student Bella Febry, 19, has her sights set on taking her team to the World Championships next year after excelling in the industry.

She has gone from strength to strength after setting up her own dance school, BellaTrix Dance Company two years ago and now has over 80 dancers.

Bella said: "We aim to grow even more and are hoping to attend the World Championships in the USA in 2021."



Bella pictured centre with some of her dancers

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INSPIRES TAMSEN TO NATIONAL SHORT STORY SUCCESS



By Aimee Braithwaite, 14

Tamsen Markham, 12, of PCSA won through the first round out of 135,000 competitors to get through to the last 5000 in the Radio 2 '500 words' story competition.

She wrote her story, 'Mercy's Miracle Rescue' after her performance as a Winged Monkey in the PCSA performance of Wizard of Oz last year. Her story is about a group of chimpanzees cared for in a wildlife sanctuary, who ultimately rescue the woman who first rescued them.

In a wonderful show of determination and persistence, Tamsen has entered the competition since the age of five.

## SHAKESPEARE'S GENIUS SEES STUDENTS CREATE LOCKDOWN BOARD GAMES

By Joshua, 14

Students created board games to keep Shakespeare alive with stunning creativity from home during Covid19 lockdown

Amber Christie and Eric Norbutas-Camara, aged 12, of PCSA both designed their very own board game based on The Tempest.

William Stiddard, aged 12, and Olivia Mason-Hardy, 12, both created hanging mobiles to showcase the themes and plot of the play.

Teacher Sarah O' Gorman said: "It so uplifting to see students engaging with Shakespearian stories and getting creative with their time at home."



# SUPERB STUDENTS DELIGHTED TO BE THE FIRST BACK AFTER THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

By Aimee Braithwaite, 14

PCSA students Ollie Andrews and Meena Lowey were interviewed by ITV News and Jill Dando News after the long coronavirus lockdown.

Vice Principal Kirsty Aaron, pictured, said: "The students were delighted to be back and gave excellent interviews to ITV. They got a glimpse of just two of our superb students that we have at this academy. "Ollie is a keen sportsman, enthusiastic and good humoured, and always brings a smile to everyone's faces. Meena is brilliant at drama and dancing, is kind, caring and an all round lovely student."



## Amazing students raise incredible amount for charity

By Aimee Braithwaite, 14

PCSA students Jacob and Finlay shaved all of their hair off for a good cause.

They raised hundreds of pounds for Macmillan Cancer support, with the amount raised continuing to grow higher.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "This is a wonderful thing to do. Well done to both students. Our school loves charity and helping out the community and good causes."



## Budding artist uses chalk to create amazing picture during lockdown

By Liam Drury, Jill Dando News

Shannon Kingston used chalk in her garden to create an amazing picture during lockdown, getting her inspiration from a t-shirt she owns.

Head of Creative Arts James Stanley said: "Shannon's work has been very impressive. It is great to see one of our students working hard to be creative with the resources that they have around them."



## Supermarket donates food for families

By Tamsen, 11

Morrison's have generously donated a large quantity of food to PCSA, to help vulnerable families over the summer.

PCSA used the donation to put together 42 packages full of food items such as pasta, rice, soups, long-life milk and puddings.

The packages will be distributed to vulnerable families who aren't eligible for free school meals.

PCSA's Tabatha Sandy, who organised the food parcels, explained: "A massive thank you to Morrisons for their unexpected but very welcome food donation."



## Pupils and staff thank Sainsbury's and TK Maxx for generous gestures

Sainsbury's gifted St Anne's Church Academy at West Wick 20 big bunches of flowers, one for each member of staff working in the school during the world coronavirus crisis. TK Maxx also gifted them lots of goodies.

Lacey, 13, said: "Thank you to all key workers who are pushing on to make sure children get the best education they can. Thank you on behalf of the world. Make sure you help your communities."

## JOY'S GOOD NEWS FOR NURSES

By Archie, 12, and Lewis, 12



A Weston primary school Higher Level Teaching Assistant is helping Bristol hospital staff to communicate through sign language to each other whilst wearing PPE.

Joy Grimsby of Castle Batch Primary School Academy is helping nurses at Nightingale Hospital in Bristol and her expert Makaton sign language poster is now next to every patients' bed. Nursing staff found they cannot communicate when wearing PPE so needed a way to communicate to each other through sign language - so they turned to Joy.

Lisa Dadds of The Priory Learning Trust said: "We are delighted that Joy has been able to offer her amazing skills."

## Award winning ambitious Worle firm have exciting jobs for local people

Ascot Group, a successful marketing, media and technology company based next to Worle train station has lots of new job opportunities open to local people.

It has become one of Britain's success stories over the last 15 years, winning a range of awards and launching the UK Business Leader magazine, which is now one of the biggest and best around.

They have taken on dozens of PCSA and WCSA students over the years. Now they have opportunities available for web designers, marketing account managers, SCO executives and more.

CEO Andrew Scott said: "We have big plans for the future. If you are enthusiastic and ambitious, we would love to hear from you." See [www.ascotgroup.co.uk](http://www.ascotgroup.co.uk) for more details.

# Top mental health tips from In Charley's Memory

## Smile, walk, deep breathe and more...



Supporting  
**IN CHARLEY'S MEMORY**  
f @ICMCharity

By Environment Editor, Jack Clark,  
Olivia Finch and Aimee Braithwaite



Over the past decade, we've seen a considerable change in how people view mental health issues. We're starting to recognise that people's mental health is as important as our physical health.

But we've also seen a dramatic increase in students with mental health problems. In Charley's Memory is

helping the mental wellbeing of hundreds of 11 to 25 year olds in Somerset, encouraging, training and giving ongoing counselling support for as long as needed.

The amazing charity was set up five years ago by the mother of a former The King Alfred's School Academy student in Highbridge, who sadly took his own life after mental health issues. Nationally, the demand for mental health support has rocketed and In Charley's Memory now find themselves helping on average 145 young people each year in their local vicinity.

Uniquely the charity will never turn away anyone asking for help, the sessions are open ended.

**01278 557490**



Our Jill Dando reporters caught up with the head of inspirational charity, In Charley's Memory to discover her tips to boost mental well-being.

Olivia, Aimee and Jack quizzed Dawn Carey about her general mental health tips for young and old during and beyond COVID-19.

- ✓ Realise a bad day is totally normal. Everyone has them.
- ✓ Regularly just stop for five minutes and breathe deeply. Do really long, slow, deep breaths in through your nose. "I promise you it works!" said Dawn.
- ✓ Turn off social media or stop using it so much. It can be a real time waster and can be bad for mental well-being. Dawn told the reporters that people forget that social media is not real life. She said: "To get the perfect picture, sometimes people would have taken 100 photos and used photoshop. Never ever compare yourself with anyone."
- ✓ Spend at least 20 minutes away from technology
- ✓ Do regular exercise - walking, running, cycling or games such as tennis. "This is a crucial way to relieve stress, short five minute bursts are good."
- ✓ Talk, share your emotions and be proactive with friends.
- ✓ Laugh. It is a good stress reliever.

Dawn told the reporters: "We all need to remember that this COVID-19 and other issues are not going to last forever. This too shall pass."

She added: "Take up any support from friends and family and do a random act of kindness for someone else".

"Saying something kind, or doing something good for others, is a great way to boost our own mental well-being."

## ARISE £33 MILLION SIR TOM



In what is one of the best good news stories of the year during the miserable Covid-19 crisis, Colonel Tom Moore, 100, who single-handedly raised £33 million for NHS charities is to be knighted by the Queen.

The retired army Captain, aimed to raise 1,000 for NHS charities by doing 100 laps of garden using his walking frame – but he ended up raising a whopping £33 million.

His story of optimism, inspiration and hope has given hope to Britain and the world. The plucky World War Two veteran even broke his hip 18 months ago. Now he is to be given a knighthood.

## Inspirational group helps its members through COVID-19



A Worle-based cancer support group has been continuing right through COVID-19 with phone calls to support its members.

'FUCHSIA' meets in the community-based Nightjar Pub outside WCSA to support dozens of people with teas and coffees, support and encouragement.

Julie Crowther, who helps run the group, said: "It's a real shame we have had to temporarily suspend our coffee mornings but it's important to me that I keep in contact with all my FUCHSIA members.

"We can't wait to all be reunited hopefully in the near future so we can celebrate our 10 year anniversary and continue with our fantastic, relaxed cancer support group." FUCHSIA meets every Thursday morning 10-12 at the Nightjar Pub.

Contact Julie - 07896699627 or email her hello@fuchsia.org.uk



# Two schools join together to learn journalism the Jill Dando way

By Castle Batch and Ashcombe Jill Dando reporters



Jill Dando reporters of Castle Batch Primary School Academy, visited pupils from Ashcombe Primary School to share tips.

Castle Batch has had a Jill Dando News Centre for two years, and Ashcombe are now busy planning one. They interviewed

an incredible Ashcombe pupil, aged 8, who is taking a national swimming campaign to the Government. The school's are both excellent. Patron Nigel Dando said: "This is tremendous news. Jill loved a good news story and would love the thought of children writing stories in her memory."

## AMAZING EMMA, 11, INSPIRED BY JILL TO A FUTURE TV CAREER

By Harrison, 10, and Sophie, 10

Emma Latchford is eager to become a news reader on TV - similar to Jill Dando who also made the path from WCSA.

The pupil, of Castle Batch Primary School Academy, is part of the school's Jill Dando News, which trains up children to be positive, aspirational and to find inspirational good news stories.

Emma said: "Jill was an inspiring woman and I would love to follow her news reading path."



## TV JOURNALIST QUIZZED

By Jill Dando News Team & Castle Batch Jill Dando reporters



Amazing child reporters aged 10 and 11 got the chance to turn the tables on BBC TV journalist Tracy Miller.

The pupil's from Castle Batch Primary School Academy met Tracy during her time filming one of their stories at the Academy.

They asked her what it was like to be a reporter on TV, and what she most enjoyed about her job, amongst a host of other things.

Teacher, Jack Chambers said: "The pupil reporters are brilliant."

## Good news for Weston's young footballers and families

By Sports Editor Josh Keyes, 14

Weston-super-Mare AFC has opened up more spaces in their Under 7 and Under 8 age groups after a big expansion.

The Seagulls are 1 of only 22 clubs outside of the football league nationally to be a licensed Academy and the only one in North Somerset. The ambitious club can now produce even more footballing talent, with the hopes they'll progress through to the First Team and onto professional clubs.

"We want to establish ourselves as the number one junior Academy in Somerset" Foundation Phase Manager Matt Bazell said. "We're well on the way to achieving this and now opening up more spaces within our Under 7 and Under 8 age groups is the final step. Everyone at The Club and Academy is pulling in the same direction, meaning there has never been a better time to join Weston-super-Mare AFC, especially in our Under 7 and Under 8 provisions".

Weston AFC have invested in their Academy significantly over the past few years, with a FIFA quality £650,000 3G pitch installed in 2018. They also have a state-of-the-art VEO camera system, allowing Academy matches to be filmed, providing coaches and players with the tools to analyse and improve player performance. The Club are continuing to run free training sessions for all Under 6 children. For information on how to trial for Weston-super-Mare AFC's Under 7s and Under 8s, email Matt.Bazell@wsmafc.co.uk



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# EX RUGBY STAR TAKES UP DREAM JOB AT ACADEMY THAT INSPIRED HIM

By Sports Editor **Josh Keyes**



Jake Caulfield is back at Priory Community School Academy after training to be a teacher at The Priory Learning Trust.

**Jake Caulfield is back at Priory Community School Academy after training to be a teacher at The Priory Learning Trust.**

Jake played rugby for England and Ireland, as well as Bath and Ulster after leaving PCSA where he was inspired by brilliant teaching and staff.

Now he is back to take up his dream job as Head of Year 9. He has been training to be a teacher at The King Alfred School Academy for the past year.

Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "We are delighted to welcome Jake back and this time as Head of Year 9. This role is a vital one at our school."

Neville Coles, CEO of The Priory Learning Trust, said: "Jake is one of the latest trainees to come through our amazing teacher training program. It is wonderful to see him back at the school where he enjoyed five fantastic years."

Please contact [www.theplt.org.uk](http://www.theplt.org.uk) for more details about teacher training within TPLT



## INSPIRATIONAL STUDENT SHOWS OFF DOGS AT CRUFTS

It's her latest success since battling ME and raising thousands for charity

By **Aimee Braithwaite**

**Amazing Priory Community School Academy student Makayla Nunn, 16, took part in the world-famous dog competition Crufts.**

The opportunity arose when she was asked by a sheltie breeder to walk the dogs around the Crufts ring. Makayla handled three dogs, one of which won her class at Crufts in 2017.

The teenager has battled ME since the age of eight, raising thousands of pounds for the cause to help others.

Makayla also had her life transformed by a robot, Daz, which allowed her to continue lessons at Priory. The robot stood in for her at lessons. Daz the robot was specially designed for children with long-term illnesses which sits on her teacher's desk. The use of the robot has led to others being used across Somerset and the

UK. Principal Angelos Markoutsas said: "Makayla has been simply wonderful over the last five years at Priory. We are very proud of her for her determination and courage and her big heart for charity and the community. This is another amazing achievement."



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- Inspirational teaching



**Principal Angelos Markoutsas**

Email [angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk)