THE POST

WORLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
An Academy

The Priory Learning Trust charity for 2020/21
MPS Society
Transforming lives through support, research and awareness

THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST

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Tomorrow will be a good day

Issue 8, Spring 2021

WCSA OPEN EVENING 2021

Into the Light – WCSA Walking Tours

Thursday 22nd April from 4pm to 7pm.

Guided tours of WCSA's brilliant campus with an open air insight into life at the academy.
Booking Essential https://worle-school.org.uk/walkingtours

Miracle girl to sing global song of hope

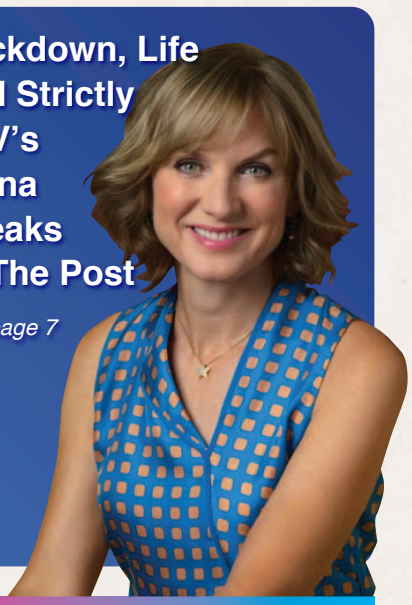
Brain tumour survivor, Lyra, 7, to raise world spirits and boost people's mental wellbeing at Easter with release of third charity single.

See page 3 for full story

Dedicated to
Captain Sir Tom Moore
1920-2021

Lockdown, Life and Strictly - TV's Fiona speaks to The Post

see page 7



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Teens to make world's first student-led mental health documentary
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Generous takeaway delivers free curries to staff and students
see page 5

Look out for Emma's Happiness Hacks
in this issue

JILL DANDO
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THE GOOD NEWS POST
editor@theplt.org.uk
This is a unique good news newspaper written by reporters aged 8 to 18

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Shannon
Poppy
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Samara
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Megan S
Megan B
Sam
Tamsen

Tomorrow will be a good day...

We're all surrounded by a substantial amount of positive and negative news, in the media and on social media.

At Jill Dando News, we highlight the positive news to show that there's a light at the end of every single tunnel. That's why we're focussing this edition on Captain Sir Tom's positive and inspirational words: 'Tomorrow will be a good day'.

Captain Sir Tom's actions lit the way for many people over the course of the pandemic. He was a true inspiration who put a smile on so many people's faces and that's why we're dedicating this edition to him.

Tomorrow really will be a good day.

Olivia, Student Editor

Captain Sir Tom will never be forgotten

The inspirational 100 year old symbolised all that is brilliant about the human spirit.

That's why we dedicate this edition of The Post to Sir Tom, a man whose remarkable charity feats kept everyone going.

As someone said, 'when you walk through a storm, keep going'. And that is what people across Weston, Somerset and Britain have been doing throughout these difficult few months.

Looking at some of the stories in The Post, from Lyra, aged 7, to the miracle recovery of a 106 year old from Covid, we see the courage, kindness, generosity and hope of people of all ages.

Our 5,000 students, families and 750 staff have been a credit to their schools throughout the lockdowns.

Thank you to the NHS and all people of service for their heroics.

In the words of Captain Tom, 'Tomorrow will be a good day'.

Neville Coles, CEO of TPLT

EMMA'S HAPPINESS HACKS

Since Covid-19, record numbers of people have struggled with their mental health. Our own Emma Britton, a Jill Dando News patron, and former BBC Bristol and Somerset presenter, has hosted a Happiness Half Hour podcast for the BBC. You can find it on the BBC Sounds app.

Throughout this issue are a flavour of some of the tips. The key message is - **these tips only work if you do them!**

Emma's Happiness Hacks

LEARN OPTIMISM

Positivity is learned. What you think is a choice. Stop thinking negative thoughts and start the good habit of optimistic thinking.

ONE OF BRITAIN'S BEST SCHOOL-BASED SIXTH FORMS CONTINUES TO SOAR

By **Samara**, 16

Three more students from The King Alfred School Academy in Highbridge have received firm offers to study at Cambridge and Oxford universities.

The successes were alongside offers from the top universities and educational establishments in the UK, including London, Durham, Cardiff and Belfast.

The range of courses to be studied include music, psychology, medicine, maths, sport, history, law, biology, politics, photography and film.

The school-based Sixth Form is one of Britain's most successful, with rapidly expanding numbers, and superb exam results. Some 190 students including 10 from across the world are thriving in their studies.

The Sixth Form is part of The Priory Learning Trust and is attracting students from schools in Weston-super-Mare including Priory Community School Academy, Worle Community School Academy, as well as schools in Bridgwater. Places are still available for next year on a wide range of subjects.

Anyone looking to study A-levels in a high performing Sixth Form is encouraged to take a look at the website https://www.tkasa.org.uk and to make contact with Mr Gaskell via email jgaskell@tkasa.org.uk

Miracle girl to sing global song of hope

By **Aimee,** 14, **Olivia,** 16 and **Jill Dando News Reporters**

Brain tumour survivor, aged 7, to raise world spirits and boost people's mental wellbeing at Easter with release of third Charity single.

The inspirational Lyra Cole is releasing a cover of Toy Story's 'You've got a Friend in Me' on Good Friday to raise money for In Charley's Memory, a Mental Health Charity.

It will be filmed on Weston's Grand Pier and the whole project is being helped by Jill Dando News and TPLT schools.

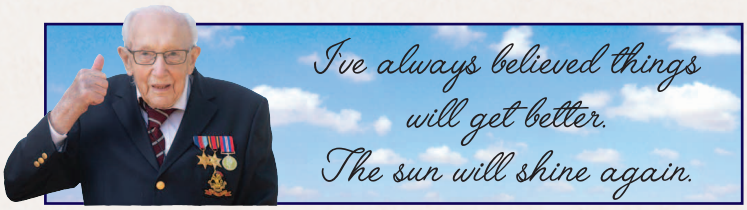
Lyra, who had a brain tumour "the size of an orange" successfully removed when she was a baby, hopes the song can cheer up Britain and the world in tough times.

Her two previous songs, Shakin' Stevens' Merry Christmas Everyone and When A Child is Born reached 120 million people and were both hit singles to raise money for Brain Cancer Research.

The money raised from her latest song will go to In Charley's Memory, a charity formed close in partnership with The King Alfred School Academy in Highbridge, Somerset.

Lyra's auntie, filmmaker Jessie Hawkes, ex TKASA, is again producing and filming the song.

Jessie said: "It has been such a tough 12 months for Britain and the whole world. Everybody's mental health is affected in some way. This song aims to lift everyone's spirits and raise money for a brilliant charity." The song will be available to buy on ITunes.



The Post reporters making world's first student-led documentary on mental health crisis

By **Dawson,** 13, **Jack,** 16 and **Aimee,** 14

Students aged 13 to 18 from our schools are making a unique TV documentary on the mental health crisis affecting UK children.

They are now in production of Our Silent Pandemic to go across YouTube and selected TV outlets later this year.

The one-hour film is a partnership between In Charley's Memory, The Priory Learning Trust, Jill Dando News, Jessie Hawkes from The Digital Ladder, and the Good News Post.

One of the team Olivia Finch, 16, said: "Mental health has become the massive issue of our day. Covid19 has accelerated what was already a crisis."

"It has become The Silent Pandemic. Our documentary aims to show the nature of the problem and call for urgent solutions."

Dawn Carey, Head of ICM, said: "The numbers of young people needing help across the UK has rocketed since the start of Covid19."

"Urgent action needs to be done. This documentary is quite rightly being done by young people themselves."

For the latest news on the documentary see www.goodnewspost.co.uk.

To access ICM's affordable counselling, email: counselling@incharleysmemory.co.uk or call 01278 557490

WORLE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

An Academy

Students are thriving at a Weston Academy

- *Superb large campus*
- *Excellent curriculum*
- *Brilliant sporting provision*
- *Weston's largest performing arts stage*
- *Strong mental health support*

By **Jill Dando News Reporters**

Don't miss our 'Into the Light' event at Worle Community School Academy on Thursday 22nd April.

Prospective pupils, parents and carers can have guided tours between 4pm and 7pm.

The tours will give an open air insight into school life and a chance to view WCSA's excellent campus facilities, including the £400,000 auditorium and sports hall improvements.

The WCSA motto is 'We Challenge and Support to Achieve', resulting in students who thrive in all areas.

Booking essential via worle-school.org.uk/walkingtours

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Generous Indian takeaway feeds dozens of students and staff

By **Tommy,** 11, and **Ewan**, 12

WCSA is the latest beneficiary of AN incredibly kind delivery from Pappadoms.

Principal Jacqui Scott said "We want to thank Pappadoms for this amazingly generous offer. Our students and staff were absolutely thrilled with the delivery."

ACADEMY GIVES HUGE COLLECTION TO FOODBANK

By **Josh**, 14

Generous students, parents, carers, staff and the community have dropped huge amounts of food and items to WCSA for the charity Foodbank.

WCSA raises large amounts for charity each year.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Thank you to each and every person who has donated to this wonderful charity and cause. The demand is even greater this year, and people have really responded to the need."

Thousands of students praised in Lockdown

By **Josh**, 14

Students in WCSA have been receiving 'well done certificates' for amazing work in maths, English, science and across the curriculum.

Just before Lockdown, Louise and Sophie, who are Year 7 students at WCSA, were the latest students to be made 'Students of the Week' for exceptional character and hard work.

The ambitious Academy rewards students across the school regularly for their studies, determination, kindness and other brilliant character traits.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "We are seeing excellent work by students right across the board and across every year group."

Top students win science competition

By **Josh**, 14

WCSA are producing dozens of Tassomai Science Champions, showing exceptional work after completing fun and challenging quizzes and tests.

The champions – who use the online app Tassomai – are selected weekly.

Julian (left) was presented with his £10 Amazon voucher prize after finishing first in the Year 8 competition while Emily, finished runner-up.

Head of Science Martin Davis said: "The students have showed real enthusiasm for these competitions with some excellent work in every year of the school."

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Mighty Mary beats Covid for the 2nd time

-to celebrate her 106th birthday

By **Samara**, 16

Wonder Woman Mary Nicholson overcame Coronavirus for the second time to celebrate her 106th birthday.

She has incredibly survived two world wars and two Covid-19 infections and says she feels "healthier and happier" than ever. Nicknamed "Polly", the centenarian, described the feeling of coming out of isolation as a 'lovely sensation, surrounded by cards and gifts.'

Mary said she ate full fat milk and cream, and her secret to long life was *"Good food and no men!"*

£1100 cash boost for children

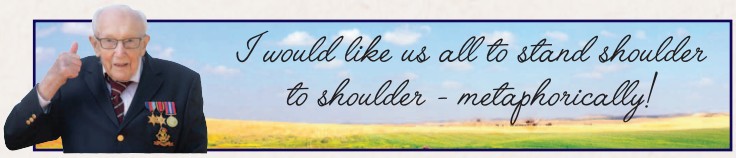
By **Josh**, 14

ROC WSM have provided £1100 for twelve sessions of play therapy to help support vulnerable children at risk of exclusion.

It is the latest project by ROC WSM in their aim to help make Weston-super-Mare and Worle a kinder, safer community.

Leaders Dave and Penny Hynds said: "We are thrilled to support these projects with the aim of making Weston-super-Mare a kinder and safer place to live."

Find ROC WSM on Facebook.



BEST JOB IN THE WORLD!

Popular teacher training scheme surges since COVID-19

By **Olivia**, 16

TPLT are seeing exceptional new teachers join the profession after previously having successful careers in law, banking and sports, to name just a few...

Denise Hurr, Head of Training School Alliance, said: "Teaching is the best job in the world and we are delighted to see so many people wanting to sign up."

Jake Caulfield started at PCSA this year after training to be a teacher at TKASA, also part of TPLT. Jake, pictured, has played rugby for England and Ireland, as well as Bath and Ulster.

Jake said: "I would encourage others with a passion for teaching to take a look – they will not be disappointed."

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

MPS Society

Transforming lives through support, research and awareness

By **Tamsen**, 13

The chosen charity for a Somerset set of schools have been giving their tips on how they stay positive during Lockdowns.

The MPS Society, which provides brilliant support to families affected by rare genetic conditions, is backed by The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT). The charity asked some people living with MPS or similar diseases how they've been staying positive during lockdown.

Amy said: "Take comfort in your furry friends, make use of the care and support available and take on any advice given to you from your general practitioner for alternative ways to stay physically healthy from home."

Jobs boost and UK hotspot could be in store for seaside town

Over 100 business start-ups and ambitious entrepreneurs in Weston-super-Mare could soon have some of Britain's best support and facilities creating over 1,000 jobs.

The Ascot Group, based next to Worle train station is considering three locations – Bristol, Bridgwater and Weston-super-Mare to build the exciting new hub.

The high-flying Weston and London-based firm works with hundreds of world-class CEO's and Europe's best business people.

CEO Andrew Scott added: "We are now going to bring all of this to the South West."

See www.ascotgroup.co.uk/careers for jobs news.

For more on this and all of our good news stories see goodnewspost.co.uk

Train to teach in Weston super Mare and Burnham on Sea - The best job in the world!

PRIORY Community SCHOOL An Academy · Pawlett Primary School Academy · St. Anne's Academy · KS The King Alfred School An Academy · WORLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL An Academy · Castle Batch Primary School Academy

For more information email: tsa@theplt.org.uk or call 01934 529351

‘Strictly? - lovely but not for me’ - impressive students quiz TV’s Fiona

By **Tamsen,** 13, and **Jill Dando News Centre Reporters**

Students aged 9 to 18 quizzed TV legend Fiona Bruce as she appeared in their latest Jill Dando News TV Zoom interview.

The brilliant BBC presenter was asked a wide-range of questions by students in TPLT. Olivia Finch, aged 16, Head Girl of WCSA, hosted the one-hour interview with questions on lockdown, journalism, careers, and more.

Fiona told the students how she turned down Strictly Come Dancing.

“I don’t want to ballroom dance”

She said: “Strictly is a great show but you would have to really love it to want to put your self through it.”

“It is a career move generally, not for everybody but a lot of people do it because they really love Strictly and really love to ballroom dance. I don’t want to ballroom dance so that is not a driver for me.”

She described her inspiration. Jill Dando as the nation’s ‘sweetheart’, adding: There is no reason why you can’t be nice and successful.”

Fiona said: “It was an absolute delight to meet the students who had clearly put a lot of thought into their questions. A few of them really put me on the spot! “And Olivia masterfully chaired it all with the ease of a professional. It was all very impressive and encouraging for the future of journalism.”

Jill’s older brother, Nigel, welcomed Fiona to Jill Dando TV. In previous weeks the students have interviewed the BBC’s LA Correspondent Sophie Long,

formerly of Weston and more.

Olivia Finch said: “It has been a hugely rewarding experience to be a part of the interview with Fiona.”

Neville Coles, CEO of TPLT, said: “Our students are producing top-class standards of journalism with maturity and professionalism.”

For more on the interview and Jill Dando TV see goodnewpost.co.uk

Children are thriving with a brilliant reading programme

By **Shannon,** 12

TPLT introduced its Reading Programme to further encourage a love for reading for its 4 to 18 year olds.

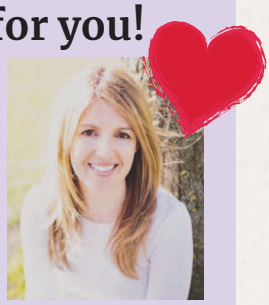
A new library area was opened at Castle Batch, with CEO Neville Coles reading stories to four year old pupils (pictured). He said: “Reading is clearly really important for effective learning.”

Emma’s Happiness Hacks - BE THANKFUL

This is key. Write down what you’re grateful for - however small. The air you breathe, the food you eat, your friends family. Even the very act of thinking of things to be thankful for has a positive effect on your happiness.

Be Kind - it’s good for you!

By **Tamsen,** 13



World kindness campaigner, Jaime Thurston has given a blunt message of hope in the middle of Covid19 – ‘kindness is good for you’.

The founder of 52 Lives charity, told Jill Dando News reporters how to boost their mental well-being. She said: “Being kind is so much more than just a ‘nice thing to do.’ When we’re kind, when someone is kind to us, or even if we just witness kindness, it releases feel-good chemicals in the brain.”

“Kindness reduces stress, relieves anxiety and helps to unlock the happiness inside of us. It’s a very simple way to improve our mental health.” Jaime is the author of the book ‘Kindness and was named Clarins Woman of the Year 2016.

An award-winning environment club at WCSA

By **Olivia**, 16

WCSA has been praised across the world in a competition involving 105 nations. Climate Justice Revolution won a commendation for Social Media Champions as well as being semi finalists in the international Global Social Leaders competition involving over 600 teams.

Chair of the new network, Jack Clark, aged 16, said "We are thrilled with the international recognition. We can only tackle climate change if we work together." WCSA has recently installed two electric car chargers – building on its huge reputation as an award-winning eco-school.

OLIVIA MAKES YOUTUBE VIDEO FOR TOP MATHS SCHOOL

By **Josh**, 14

The Head Girl of a school that is officially one of the nation's best for maths has released a teaching video for younger students.

WCSA was recently named one of the top performing Hegarty Maths schools in the country, ranking in the top 10% for the amount of videos watched by our students.

Now Head Girl Olivia Finch has done a YouTube video to teach younger students how to use the site, which they can access from home. The video will also be really useful for parents and carers.

Olivia, who is also Student Editor of Jill Dando News, said: "Hegarty Maths has been a huge help during my time at WCSA. It has quizzes, tests and helpful advice."

To see the video subscribe to WCSA on YouTube.

YouTube

TERRIFIC THOMAS, 12, WINS COMPETITION WITH STUNNING LIGHTNING PHOTO

By **Josh**, 14

Thomas, in Year 8, at WCSA, won a £10 Amazon voucher for submitting a photo of a big storm in the skies that he took from his back garden.

He beat off dozens of entries in the Christmas art and physics competition launched by the science department.

Students across the whole school were challenged to produce a photo or artwork that captured a startling act of physics in the world this year.

Hollie, Kia, and Abigail in Year 7, and Josh, in Year 10, finished runners-up. Hollie entered a fantastic photo of the Grand Pier, capturing the reflections of light on the sea. Kia's photo was of a red lamp keeping an otter warm, while Abigail took a photo of a tree. Josh took a photo of a sunset on the sea.

New students to benefit from one of Britain's best transition programmes

By **Jack**, 16

Students going up to WCSA in September can enjoy 'The Big Step', where a team of experienced teachers produce a fun and exciting summer week of activities.

The week long programme helps make the transition to 'big school' even smoother, and boosts self-esteem and confidence.

It also familiarises children with their new surroundings, helps them to make new friends and to learn coping strategies for anxiety.

The Academy's pastoral system is one of the best around, and the school's motto is 'We Challenge and Support to Achieve'. Head of Year 7, Rachel Brace said: "This is a brilliant programme and the children who enrol will gain from a superb range of activities to help them to settle even quicker into our Academy."

Their website: https://thebigstep.org has more information about the business.

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