



## All Positive News

Here at Jill Dando News, we focus on positive news stories.

Our talented student writers and reporters cover the stories that will make you smile.

We interview the ordinary hero in the community to the famous - like BBC TV's Fiona Bruce.

There are so, so many inspirational people all around us in Weston and Worle - literally everyone we've had the pleasure of talking to!

Enjoy your summer.

Tamsen, 13, Jill Dando News

**JILL DANDO**  
NEWS CENTRE

**THE GOOD NEWS POST**

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## Hi there!

Welcome to the Good News Post.

In my four years in Jill Dando News, I have interviewed incredible people such as a real-life NASA astronaut.

I expect more positive news stories in my year to come as Student Editor. They cheer us up and make us all feel that -

'Tomorrow is going to be a good day'.

Send us your news at editor@theplt.org.uk

Happy reading.

Joshua, 15, Jill Dando News

## HEROES OF KINDNESS, CHARITY AND COMPASSION



**Liam Shepherd was a massive real life hero.**

He has rightly received massive praise from the whole town, celebrities and even the Manchester City Head Coach. As we see on page 7, his remarkable kindness and charity fundraising for Winston's Wish and others will never be forgotten. We teach all our students - and make all our great staff aware - that it is really important to think about others. We must, and we need, to look outward from our community. We do have a civic responsibility.

In my now 20 years working in and around North Somerset I have always been truly inspired by the courage, kindness and compassion shown by

students, staff and others in our community.

We are all about putting Students First, Cherishing Staff and Serving the Community. Helping others is part of what we do and will encourage others to do this as well. Amazingly through our 'charity of the year' approach our schools and communities have raised over £130,000 for local and national charities in recent years.

I was delighted to join well over 120 staff and students in The Mendip Challenge for Weston Hospicecare - around £8K was raised.

We have also recently supported another great local mental health charity 'In Charley's Memory' and also The MPS Society. In 2021-22 we will support

Brain Tumour Research.

Our good friend in the police, Jim Murray sadly died of this terrible illness in December 2019. He was our community policeman for many years, helping hundreds of people. He too was a real life hero.

winstonswish.org

braintumourresearch.org

*Neville Coles, CEO,  
The Priory Learning Trust*



Liam Shepherd



Jim Murray

## SIXTH FORM STUDENTS RAISE £2000 IN JUST FIVE DAYS



THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL  
An Academy

It ended a year where the school-based Sixth Form at The King Alfred School Academy in Highbridge continued to soar.

Some 36% of this Year 13s have offers from Russell Group universities with a three year rise in offers from Oxford and Cambridge.

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

They also have a flourishing community and charity work, and host an inspirational political question time.

The TPLT Sixth Form attracts students from Weston-super-Mare, Bridgwater and beyond.

Head of Sixth Form Jonathan Gaskell said: "We would love to meet prospective students."

Apply today - see [www.tkasa.org.uk](http://www.tkasa.org.uk) and make contact with Mr Gaskell via email [jgaskell@tkasa.org.uk](mailto:jgaskell@tkasa.org.uk)



# Theresa May backs students' aspiration and good news stories

By Joshua Keyes, 14

Former Prime Minister, Theresa May congratulated WCSA students on their ambitions and aspirations via video message.

Last year's Head Girl, Daisy Dennett, is joined by this year's Head Boy, Jack Clark, in wanting to be Prime Minister, along with current Year 9 student Virginia Rulli-Gibbs.

Theresa May said: "I think my own journey to Downing Street shows that we can all can succeed. I wish you all the very, very best.

"Set your ambitions high and go for those goals, and with high ambitions, with aspiration and hard work, you too can be a success."

Mrs May added: "I am also really pleased to hear that so many students are writing and publishing good news to the media in the name of their former student, Jill Dando.

"Jill, of course, got to the very top of her profession. She did so with warmth, humility and kindness. And so can you."

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Thank you to Theresa May. We believe that our students will go on to achieve huge success



## Five students nominated for prestigious Anne Frank Award

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



Jaydon Done, 14, Oscar Munslow, 14, Rose Millard, 14, and Jessica Selwyn, 16, of PCSA have all helped to make a more positive, kind and inclusive society. Katy Adams, 9, of CBPSA (pictured left), received an award for her amazing community litter picking. This includes taking a stand against prejudice or promoting greater social inclusion.

The awards are named after diarist Anne Frank, who was one of around six million Jews to be murdered in the Holocaust.

Director of Careers James Wilmot said: "We are delighted to have so many students nominated. It is a wonderful achievement."

Principal Angelos Markoutsas, pictured with Oscar, said: "Well done to all these brilliant students. The story of Anne Frank is vital for our times and all of the students have been demonstrating something positive, kind and inclusive."

**Be Kind**

It's true - doing an act of kindness makes us feel better! Give to charity, help a neighbour, give a gift.

## Thousands to enjoy new wildlife boosting nature walk

The 'Jill Dando Walk' will be enjoyed by the 1400 students of WCSA, the entire community and thousands of local primary school children, families and residents. Students will help in the design and gardening. It will give a forest-school style entrance, boosting mental health and the environment. And also it follows on from the dozens of Jill Dando apple trees planted in schools across Somerset before lockdown - provided by Sanders Garden Centre. The Jill Dando Walk is being designed by a former student of the school, Matt Davis, 30, who trained at the world famous Eden Project in Cornwall and now runs his own Somerset garden design and maintenance company [ygsm.co.uk](http://ygsm.co.uk).

To help with the project get in touch [editor@theplt.org.uk](mailto:editor@theplt.org.uk)



## Virginia, 13, donates her lockdown locks to charity

By Joshua, 15

Big-hearted Virginia had more than half of her 60cm-long hair cut off to raise money for The Little Princess cancer charity after learning about the devastating disease in school.

The ambitious and kind-hearted Virginia is passionate to make the world a better place - starting with helping charities.

She then aims to embark on a legal career before becoming an MP, then Prime Minister one day.

She said: "I wanted to do all I could to help people."

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Virginia is an inspiration."

Virginia is now part of Jill Dando News.



## FAMILIES FLOCK TO VIEW AMBITIOUS ACADEMY

By Joshua, 15 and Archie, 14



Dozens of families have been viewing one of the fastest improving schools in the south west.

WCSA hosted its latest 'Into the Light' event for families to tour their excellent facilities.

Students joined Academy Principal Jacqui Scott, leaders and teachers to show prospective students, parents and carers WCSA's superb campus.

This includes the £400,000 auditorium, tremendous performing arts stage, state-of-the-art toilets, sports hall improvements and spacious sporting areas.

Students also enjoyed superb food and refreshments at the restaurant.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "With the latest big improvements to our campus, these are very exciting days for our Academy and community."

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

## Thank You Heroes

By Joshua, 15

Thank you to everyone who has helped charities, all key workers, the NHS and kept the country running.

In 2020, the world was hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

But in response heroes rose up across Weston, Worle and beyond. Heroes such as Liam Shepherd on Page 7.

I reported for Jill Dando News on his charity football match at Weston FC dedicated to his memory. We remembered his work to bake cakes for NHS key workers, donate food to vulnerable families and much more. Thank you.





## AWARD-WINNING ACADEMY WIN PRESTIGIOUS GREEN ECO-FLAG

By Josh, 15

Students at WCSA are celebrating after their school won the prestigious green eco-flag for their breathtaking environmental work.

The flag is now flying high at the school.

WCSA is blazing a trail for its futuristic eco-work and award-winning student-led eco work including electric car chargers, bikes, travel to school changes and communications. It recently installed 1,132 solar panels.

Last year's Head Boy Jack Clark drove the changes.

He said: "This award shows we are truly on the way to becoming the greenest school in the South West."

WCSA is part of The Priory Learning Trust.

## The Big Step

By Josh, 15

'The Big Step' will see teachers produce a fun and exciting week of activities during the summer holidays at WCSA.

It will help 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 learn coping strategies for anxiety.

The Academy's transition and pastoral system is already one of the best around and the school's motto is 'We Challenge and Support to Achieve'





An Academy

# WCSA OPEN EVENING 2021

## Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Join us from 4 - 7pm





We are pleased to welcome prospective students and their families to our annual open evening. A relaxed evening where students and families can get a wonderful feel of the fantastic atmosphere at WCSA.

 [www.worle-school.org.uk](http://www.worle-school.org.uk)

 @WorleCSA

# Hundreds take Mendip Hills charity challenge

By Samara, 16

Teachers, support teams, leaders and students from The Priory Learning Trust staff raised thousands plus by doing the Mendip Challenge.



They walked or ran 5, 10, 20 or 30 mile hikes across the Mendip Hills in the stunning Somerset countryside. The TPLT giving was in the top 1% of the Just Giving statistics nationally for June. TPLT CEO Neville Coles, who did the 30 mile walk for the second time, is also an ambassador of the charity. He said: "This was a wonderful charity event and I was thrilled to see so many of our TPLT staff and students taking up the challenge. It was a brilliant amount to be raised for such a terrific cause."



# NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STARTS ROLE

By Olivia, 16

Nathan Jenkins is now in place within the Central Team at The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT).

Nathan previously led TKASA academy, engaging strongly with a raft of TPLT improvements, to make it one of the the region's fastest improving schools.

He will now have a strong role in helping to drive improvements at TKASA, as well as WCSA and PCSA.

Nathan said: "These are really exciting days and we are relentlessly driven to make every school brilliant for the benefit of generations of students."

Neville Coles, CEO of TPLT, said: "Nathan is a superb appointment to this role of Head of School Improvement. He has done an excellent job at TKASA.

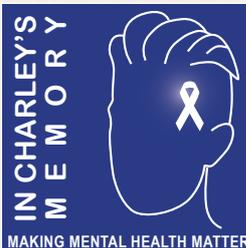
"Our schools have been making significant improvements with big vision to get even better, and Nathan's skill, experience and expertise will further help that process."



**Get Outside**

Simply being in nature can boost our mood. Think park, woods, sea.

## Thousands raised for charity of the year



The schools of the Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) have raised thousands for The MPS Society. The charity provides brilliant support to families affected by rare genetic conditions. TPLT have previously supported In Charley's Memory, and Weston Hospicecare.

For more on the charity see <http://www.mpsociety.org.uk/>

For more on this and all of our good news stories see [goodnewspost.co.uk](http://goodnewspost.co.uk)



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## Olivia, Sapphire and 14 more back teaching at their old schools

By Tamsen, 13, and Jill Dando News Centre Reporters



Olivia Elliott is back as a science teacher at WCSA while Sapphire Fortey is back at PCSA to teach geography.

They are part of a long and fast expanding list of 16 new teachers across TPLT who have been students at schools inside the Trust, thanks to the popular Schools Direct programme.

Olivia, also of Castle Batch School Academy, said: "I felt supported and inspired by my teachers at WCSA so I wanted to support and inspire other students like me to achieve anything they want to do in life."

The TPLT popular Schools Direct programme has produced 88 teachers over the last four years.

They include Jessica Crow, Cherry Groves, Georgina Lodge, Oliver Grant, Jake Caulfield, Ellie Brownlee, Charley Williams, Natasha King and Charlotte Biggs.

Denise Hurr, Head of Training School Alliance at TPLT, said: "It is such good news to see our former students becoming teachers in our schools and testament to the success of TPLT and our training programme."



## 500 FLOCK TO 200 JOBS BONANZA

Over 500 people applied for 200 roles during a 3-day recruitment event at the Ascot Group next to Worle train station in Weston-super-Mare.

The company plan to create 200 high quality jobs in management, digital marketing, web design, software, media and PR, as well as call-centre and customer services.

Ascot Group CEO Andrew Scott said: "We aim to create a brighter future for Weston super Mare and its communities with an inspirational workplace, culture and aspirations."

A new Ascot Academy will train up hundreds of young people into quality apprenticeships and trainee roles in media, marketing and technology. For more details, see [ascotgroup.co.uk](http://ascotgroup.co.uk)

## Kind and brilliant Liam honoured by thousands and Pep Guardiola

Celebrities played at a charity football match in honour of Liam Shepherd at The Optima Stadium.

The Weston FC Academy Member and Ashcombe Primary School pupil sadly passed away in March this year.

The kind pupil had run a marathon in a week for the NSPCC and was a keen fundraiser for Winston's Wish, which supports grieving children and their families. He also donated food out of his own money for vulnerable people and made cakes for the NHS, police and his teachers.

In the letter to Liam's mum Kimberley and his family and friends, Pep Guardiola said: "My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad and difficult time, as I know how hard it is to lose a family member."

WsM FC Operations Director, Neil Keeling, said: "Liam was an inspiration to so many, We are delighted to be supporting 'Winston's Wish' in his honour."



Liam's memorial is on July 24, at Weston Rugby Football Club to raise money for his foundation.

### Positivity Power

Get rid of all negativity. Think positive. Spend time around positive, enthusiastic people. It's infectious!



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## Boost your happiness



As we all know, life can be challenging. Thankfully, there are tips and tools we can do daily to boost the way we feel. Here are a few. By Dawn Carey, In Charley's Memory.

### 1. LIVE NOW

Enjoy the moment. Really savour your coffee, chocolate, dog walk. Forget the past. Run the mile you are in.

### 2. GET OUTSIDE

Simply being in nature can boost our mood. Think park, woods, sea.

### 3 EAT HEALTHILY

Eat your way happier. Think fruit, vegetables, fish. Cut down the junk.

### 4 BE THANKFUL

Thankful, content people are happy people. Write down every positive thing you can think of with thanks. It works!

### 5 POSITIVITY POWER

Get rid of all negativity. Think positive. Spend time around positive, enthusiastic people. It's infectious!

### 6 BE KIND

It's true - doing an act of kindness makes us feel better! Give to charity, help a neighbour, give a gift.

### 7 GET GOALS

Set little goals, dream big, vision a positive future.



Dawn Carey runs the mental health charity, In Charley's Memory. [www.incharleymemory.co.uk](http://www.incharleymemory.co.uk). They support young people aged 11-25 in many ways. For help and advice call (01278) 557490.

## "Fantastic" Ash 14, sets sights on Euro 2028

By Olivia, 16



Star WCSA student Ash Ozua, 14, is receiving accolades for his happiness, kindness and enthusiasm.

He is also an excellent left wing footballer with a dream to emulate the fortunes of Ollie Watkins.

Head of PE, Callum Thompson, said, "Ash is a fantastic young man and a great footballer.

"He has improved at such a rate that he has become one of our team's most outstanding players. He is a skillful, quick left sided midfielder and likes to use his skills and tricks to get past opponents.

"But for me one of his stand out characteristics is his personality. He is such a happy, kind young man who will help anyone when needed."

## THOMAS, 14, WINS PRESTIGIOUS UK MATHS INVITE

By Josh, 14

Thomas Duford of WCSA is one of only 120 students across the country to be invited to a Virtual United Kingdom Mathematics Trust summer school.

The impressive student was invited to the event after scoring a remarkable 111 in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Intermediate maths challenge.

Thomas is now achieving in the top 1% of UK students.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Thomas is showing real maturity and excellent determination on top of his outstanding mathematics talent."



WORLE  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



An Academy



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