

Futura Learning Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



WELCOME TO THE FUTURA LAUNCH SPECIAL

Welcome to our Futura Learning Partnership Launch Special!

Throughout term 1 our schools were working on the launch of our new trust name and values. This included a launch ceremony in each school where we planted an oak tree to symbolise new beginnings and our hopes and aspirations for the future. Our primary schools also buried a time capsule that the children had put together, to be opened by the children at the school in 2041.

The re-naming of our trust to Futura Learning Partnership is a significant step for us as we move away from being named after our founding school to adopting a new name. Our new name shows that each of our thirteen schools is of equal importance and value.

The name – Futura Learning Partnership – has a subtle reference to our founding school, Wellsway, through using its Latin motto Futura Aedificamus, which means 'We build for the future'. This is exactly what we do in educating children and young people to be responsible citizens and caring individuals.

Our new trust values are central to the launch of our new name and sum up what is important to us as a family of schools working together for mutual support and benefit. They are:



Our over-riding purpose as a trust is school improvement, seeking to ensure that each of our schools is providing a first class educational experience that helps children to develop as well-rounded, confident individuals. Our staff are our greatest asset and we put staff well-being and professional development front and centre of everything we do.

We are very proud of our schools; each retains its unique identity and is truly reflective of the community it serves. Collaboration and partnership working across the trust means we can develop and share the very best practice and make sure it is embedded in every school. Essentially it means that through working together, we are able to offer opportunities and experiences for pupils and staff over and above that which an individual school can provide.

Our partnerships extend beyond our schools and we value the strong links we have with the local authorities and local communities our schools are part of. It was lovely to be joined at our launch ceremonies by parents, carers, members of the community and representatives from the local authority, some of whom kindly took on the job of planting the tree. We were also pleased to welcome representatives from local churches and the Diocese of Bath & Wells. We are very proud of our partnership with the Diocese that benefits all of our schools, not just our three church schools in Keynsham and Saltford.

This term we will complete our launch ceremonies, as the one at Saltford School had to be postponed. We have also decided to hold the ceremony at Two Rivers School once the new site and building are ready but the children have been engaged in lots of launch activities.

Each of the ceremonies were **fantastic** and we have included lots of photos in this edition of the newsletter to give you a flavour of what took place. I am very grateful to each school for hosting the launch ceremony and many thanks to the staff and children who took part. Each ceremony was as unique as its school yet they all shared the same sense of excitement for the future as we continue to develop our identity and impact as a family of schools working together as Futura Learning Partnership.

So, we start term 2 having well and truly launched our new name! This term is traditionally a very busy one, particularly for students preparing for summer tests and exams, and of course there is Christmas to celebrate! Despite the continuing challenge of Covid-19, our schools have welcomed being able to get back to normality but we know there are still challenges ahead, particularly as we move into winter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their on-going efforts in helping to keep our schools safe for all during the pandemic.

I wish all our pupils, students and families all the best for the new term and many thanks for your continuing support.
With thanks and best wishes,

With thanks and best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge Chief Executive

FUTURA OFF TO A FLYING START

Our new identity as Futura Learning Partnership has been celebrated with a launch ceremony in each of our schools. It has been a joy to welcome dignitaries and members of the local community in person after the various lockdowns, and the students involved in the launch events have done themselves, their schools and the trust proud. An oak tree has been planted at every school and our primary schools are also burying time capsules, to be opened in 2041. During the term there has also been a focus on establishing and understanding the trust values.

ASPIRE ACADEMY



The Aspire launch ceremony was held on 4th October in the dining hall amongst the building work taking place for Aspire's expansion. Staff and pupils were joined by members of the school's governing body and representatives from the local authority's SEND team.

During the ceremony, the primary children's hopes and dreams were read out and it was wonderful to hear their aspirations for their adult life.

Local Labour councillor and ex-governor to Aspire, Liz Hardman said a few words as she marked the occasion, planting an oak tree and burying the time capsule.



BEDMINSTER DOWN SCHOOL

South Bristol MP Karin Smyth planted the tree at the Futura launch event at Bedminster Down School.

Guests were welcomed by the principal, Matthew Woodville, and the school choir beautifully performed *Sing* by Gary Barlow and The Commonwealth Band.

Students Ellis, from Year 7, and Destiny, Year 11, then shared their hopes for the future. Ellis hopes to go travelling and see the world after leaving school, and Destiny will continue her education at university.

The event was well received by all and was a touching milestone in the beginning of Bedminster Down's journey in the Futura Learning Partnership.



CHANDAG INFANT AND JUNIOR

School council members, pupils and parents from Chandag Infants and Juniors celebrated the Futura launch together, with speeches from Mrs Smart and Mrs Savory and singing from Chandag Junior Year 6 choir and a combined group of Year 6 with Year 1 and 2 from Chandag Infant School. It really was collaboration in action.

Representatives from Avon Fire Brigade, PCSOs, Waitrose, Keynsham Rotary Club, attended along with Chandag Infant Chair of Governors Sarah Church, Vice Chair of Trustees Marlene Morley and Chief Executive Andrea Arlidge. B&NES councillor Dine Romero planted the oak tree. Time capsules for each school will be planted next term.





CHEDDAR GROVE PRIMARY

Two poems written by teacher Amanda Greipl were read out at Cheddar Grove Primary School's Futura launch ceremony.

Entitled *The Tree* and *Tree Planting for the Future*, they were composed for the event by Miss Greipl, who has been at Cheddar Grove since 1998, and performed beautifully by these Year 4 children: Quinn, Myla, Sonny, Zachary, Poppy, Ronnie, Isla, Olly, Rio, Joshua, Jake, Poppy-Mae, Carter, Fionn, Kady, Emily, Henry, Frankie, Harlo, Millie, Demaree, Louie-Jamel, Ava, Archie, Freddie, Louis, Elsa, Ava, Sofia and Muhammad.

An oak tree was planted by Andy Lewis, a former pupil, current governor and local historian.

IKB ACADEMY



Guests at IKB's Futura launch ceremony were greeted by students before being shown into a science lab, where they were treated to a lively demonstration of 'the elephant's toothpaste'.

Gabby, Kieran, Zöe and Ray from years 10 and 11 presented confidently and performed the catalytic decomposition experiment which resulted in two large streams of foam in the Futura colours, green and pink. After the performance Andy Wait, Chair of Keynsham Town Council, planted a particularly tall ceremonial oak tree at the front of the school and gave a heart-warming speech.

SIR BERNARD LOVELL ACADEMY



Principal Dean Anderson welcomed school governors and other guests including Chief Executive Andrea Arlidge and trustee Jaideep Barot to the SBL Futura launch ceremony.

Two talented Year 9 music students performed, watched by their proud parents. Evan Gard performed Blue Bossa by Kenny Dorham and Caitlin Drummond Never Forget You by Noisettes.

An English oak tree was planted by the Student Principals, Joe, Bella and Jack, the Student Vice Principals, Ben, Lauren and Grace, and Mr Stephen Skidmore, who is not only a Co-opted Governor at SBL but Oldland Parish Council's Specialist for Youth and Community Development.

SALTORD COFE PRIMARY

Saltford School pupils have written their hopes and dreams for the future on slips of paper that will go in their time capsule. It will also contain the 'Saltford Stood Together' badge, as a symbol of the collaboration of the school community during 2021.

The school has been looking at the Futura value collaboration and how it overlaps with the Saltford values of respect, honesty and kindness. The assembly theme in term 1 has been respect and in term 2 pupils will be focusing on aspiration.

Guests at the launch next term will include local councillors Duncan Hounsell and Alistair Singleton.





ST JOHN'S COFE PRIMARY

The Futura launch ceremony at St John's was the perfect time to demonstrate some of the school and trust core values.

The school council shared the aspirations for their class for the future and a group of Year 6 pupils demonstrated how they collaborated to produce a performance of 'Join With Us'.

Reverend Stephen M'Caw planted an oak tree and buried a time capsule that contained the school's hopes and aspirations.

During term 1, St John's pupils focused on the value of respect, looking at the environment, creativity, spirituality and morality. This was showcased in classroom displays.



THE MEADOWS PRIMARY



Year 6 pupils at The Meadows impressed guests at their Futura launch with a poem they had written themselves, called *What will I be?* This was followed by some Year 1 and 2 children talking about their hopes for the future and speaking about the time capsule. The school welcomed Councillor Erica Williams, South Gloucestershire's cabinet member for Education, Skills and Employment, who planted the oak tree and buried the time capsule with members of the school and local community.

WANSDYKE PRIMARY



A video of the Futura launch at Wansdyke Primary is being shared with parents and carers and the local community.

Malcolm Broad MBE, Chair of Trustees, planted the tree at the event, which helped re-ignite community links that had been established before the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ceremony was part of a programme of activities throughout the term aimed at celebrating the trust's new identity and understanding the values.

Rehearsals of the school song led to discussion of the strong link between the trust values and the school values and ethos and Year 6 House Captains worked hard on ways to share this understanding.



WELLSWAY SCHOOL

Andy Wait, Chair of Keynsham Town Council, planted the oak tree at Wellsway School for the Futura launch. He was joined by Principal Rob Pearsall, student representatives from Year 7, Year 11 prefects and head students from the Sixth Form. Also at the event were Futura Learning Partnership Chief Executive and former Wellsway School Principal Andrea Arlidge, B&NES Council Chair Lisa O'Brien, Chair of Governors Dawn Drury and Chair of Trustees Malcolm Broad. The ceremony continued inside where parents, carers and other invited guests listened to Year 12 musicians perform What a Wonderful World conducted by Ms Ingrid McClean, Director of Music.



MUSIC BRINGS US ALL TOGETHER

We're delighted to announce the first Futura collaborative music performance, which will take place in July 2022. We have commissioned a local composer, Phil Dixon, to compose a 30-minute oratorio for orchestra and choir. The composition will evolve after three workshops with Year 10 Music students across the trust. Every student from Year 3 will be invited to take part in either the junior or senior choir, with each school choir rehearsing from late March. We are also hoping those in Early Years up to Year 2 will have an opportunity to hear a performance from some of the musicians who take part. Our orchestra will be made up of students across the Trust who are Grade 3 and above - we're delighted that a number of Trust staff have already offered to also play or sing with our students! More details to follow, but this promises to be an exciting, aspirational and memorable opportunity for our students across the Trust.

Ingrid McClean, Director of Music

WE'RE OFF TO OXFORD'S DREAMING SPIRES

Futura Sixth have scheduled an early visit to Exeter College at the University of Oxford for the Year 12 students participating in the Futures Programme. This builds on the work Mr Wilkinson has been involved in with 36 students across Wellsway School, IKB Academy and SBL Academy, who are aspiring to apply for highly competitive universities and courses offered by Oxbridge and other top universities in the UK.



FUTURA SIXTH FOOTBALLERS FIND THEIR WAY TO A WIN - EVENTUALLY

Travel disruption meant that we arrived at the wrong ground initially! Thankfully we were given a lift from another school in their minibus around the corner to the correct venue. We had limited time to warm up before kick-off and, looking at the playing surface and feeling the wind, we knew it could be an interesting first 15 minutes. Sure enough, we started sluggishly and within the first five minutes had conceded a poor tap-in goal. It proved the wake-up call we needed and from then on we took the game to Bristol Cathedral Choir School. Oli Adams equalised after some brilliant improvisation from Kevin Zyberi. A second soon followed from Kevin and from then on we were in cruise control. 2-1 at half-time could have easily been 4 or 5. With the pitch worsening we adopted a new approach, overloading the midfield and pressing the ball much higher. This proved an effective switch as after the first 20 mins of the second half we had added another two goals, courtesy of a cool finish from Alex Garland and a rocket into the top corner for Kevin's second. A fifth was added by Joel Arthur with five minutes to go to seal the deal.

Not a vintage performance by any means BUT, we'll absolutely take it. On to Round 3 at Home vs. either a Stroud or Gloucester City team.



TEACHERS IN THE RELEGATION ZONE

As we approach the end of term 1, the Futura Sixth fantasy football league is building momentum. In the lead is Kai Johnson followed closely by Lewis Haycock and Flynn Britton. Mr Wilkinson, Mr Shiells and Mr Laverick occupy 3 of the bottom 4 places of the league. We guess the teachers are struggling at the moment, but we believe it's a marathon not a race?

BIG TURNOUT FOR FUTURA SIXTH OPEN EVENINGS



Face-to-face open evenings have taken place this month at IKB Academy, Wellsway School and SBL Academy, giving parents and students the opportunity to visit and see what we have to offer as a Sixth Form provision.

We can deliver a range of subjects at both A level and Level 3 vocational qualifications that is unrivalled by our competitors. Following our social media and press releases in the local voice magazines, our open evenings were very busy. We welcomed students from all around the local area as well as those from our own secondary schools.

I anticipate another bumper year of recruitment in September 2022 as we continue to go from strength to strength.

Year 11 will be making their subject choices for Futura Sixth via the 'Insight' portal, there is no need to complete an application form on the website, this is for external applicants only.

Danny Wilkinson, Director of Post 16

TRY A YELLOW RIBBON



Wellway School ran tutor time activities promoting the importance of positive mental health following World Mental Health Day. These included an inter-house poster competition. Staff and students have been wearing yellow ribbons supplied by the inclusion team to show their support for positive mental health. Wellway staff are raising money for Young Minds charity by donating spare change to wear their yellow ribbons. Students can access this website for support: [CAMHS](https://www.camhs.nhs.uk/).

AUTUMNAL WORK IN ART



Year 10 students at Wellway School have been getting into the autumn season by drawing pumpkins. This has helped build up skills in preparation for coursework and they have produced some fantastic drawings.



BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Aspire year 10 and 11 students studying a vocational construction course had the opportunity to visit the National Self Build and Renovation Centre in Swindon. They learned about the importance of ground work and the use of different types of foundations to start the building process. The students explored the centre to see what new technologies were available within the building sector. Many of them wished they had features such as finger print opening doors in their own homes.



HOCKEY ACADEMY

Secondary Academy (for those in years 7-11)

Wednesday 5.30-6.30pm during school terms 1-4

Friday 3.20-4.20pm during school terms 1-6

Primary Academy (for those in years 2-6)

Friday 4.30-5.30pm during school terms 1-6

Hockey Heroes (for those aged 5-8)

8 week introductory programme running once or twice a year. Dates published on club website as and when available.

**ALL SESSIONS HELD AT WELLSWAY SCHOOL
SPORTS CENTRE ON BRAND NEW ALL-WEATHER PITCH.**

**New members welcome at
any time of the year.**

We are happy for new players to come along and give it a try for a week or two before committing to joining.

**Membership subs currently £65 for the
entire winter season (terms 1-4) including
all training and match fees.**

**50% discount for those joining
after Christmas.**

**£35 charge for those wanting to continue
training during terms 5-6.**

Please see club website for further details.

www.keynshamhockey.club



**England Hockey Level
3 coach with over 25
years of experience**



**Friendly,
community-based
hockey club**



**Dug-outs for
parents to sit in
during sessions**