Futura Learning Partnership

Community Newsletter

Issue 9: 15th May 2024



Outstanding – that's Ofsted's verdict on Chestnut Park Primary

Welcome



Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have managed to get some time to relax and enjoy the long-awaited sunshine this May. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful part of England, with many of us having relatively easy access to coast and countryside.

This month marks the start of GCSE and A-level exams and also sees our Year 6 children taking their SATs tests. Thank you for all you do to support your children in their learning, giving them the best chance to achieve the results they deserve. Close partnership between schools and families is absolutely crucial to pupils' success.

At the same time, though, we must work together to make sure our young people know they are valued for who they are and not just for the academic outcomes they attain. As one of the messages circulating on social media this week says:

SATs don't measure sports,
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music.
Or the kindness in your heart.

It's the aim of all Futura's schools to ensure that children of all ages receive an excellent education in the classroom and enriching experiences beyond it. Our pupils have the chance to take part in music and drama performances and sporting competitions as well as trips and camps. This weekend, for example, some of our older students have taken part in the annual Ten Tors challenge on Dartmoor. Such opportunities help develop skills and personal qualities as well as making lifelong memories.

We work hard to remove any barriers – financial, social, or emotional – that might prevent anyone taking up the chances on offer. However, we can only help with issues we know about, so if you need support do not hesitate to contact your child's school. One of the advantages of being part of a strong partnership of schools is that if we don't know the answer to a problem, there is always someone we can ask!

Our trust is developing an enviable bank of expertise; all the Ofsted reports our schools have had this year have commented positively on the support Futura provides.

And, on the subject of inspections, it is wonderful to be able to celebrate the success of both Chestnut Park Primary in Yatton, which was rated outstanding in its first Ofsted since opening, and Mary Elton Primary in Clevedon, which has been deservedly upgraded from Requires Improvement to Good. You can read more about both of them in this newsletter. Many congratulations to Tamara Dexter and Tom Newell and their teams – and, of course, all the children and their families. Onwards and upwards!

For me, this final academic year of my career is whizzing by all too quickly. I hope to get out to as many schools as possible this term and next so I can meet staff and pupils and celebrate their successes large and small. I am confident that Futura is well placed to continue successfully supporting children and preparing them for life in the 21st century.

In the meantime, I wish you all well. Enjoy the half-term break. I hope we all see some more sunshine!

With thanks and best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

In this issue ...



Chestnut Park Primary rated Outstanding by Ofsted

Staff, children and families at Futura's newest school have impressed Government inspectors.

Read more >>>



School puts performance and creative arts in the spotlight

Pupils at Two Rivers CofE Primary in Keynsham have staged their first Eisteddfod.

Read more >>>



Clevedon pupils share ideas on how to save the planet

Clevedon school children are working with the community to highlight the climate crisis.

Read more >>>

A warm welcome to our Director of People and Organisational Development



Ady Tomsa has joined the trust as Director of People and Organisation Development. In the past, Ady has held leadership roles in consultancy while most recently leading HR / People teams in the utilities industry.

Ady will be working hard to ensure Futura is a great place to work that attracts new recruits and provides colleagues with development opportunities and pathways to encourage them to stay.

Life outside work for Ady is consumed by his little whirlwinds, aged three and four, but being a Welshman, he does try to squeeze in watching the odd game of rugby ...

Chestnut Park Primary celebrates 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating



Chestnut Park Primary, Futura Learning Partnership's youngest school, has emerged from its first Ofsted inspection with a judgement of Outstanding in all areas.

Two inspectors visited the school in Yatton in February and gave it the top rating for its quality of education, leadership and management and early years provision as well as for pupils' behaviour and attitudes and their personal development.

Read more >>>

Hard Work Earns Mary Elton Primary School 'Good' Ofsted Rating



The quality of education children at Mary Elton Primary in Clevedon receive has been transformed, inspectors say.

Following a two-day visit in March, Ofsted has upgraded the school to Good in all areas.

The three inspectors said in their report that leaders and staff, with the support of Futura Learning Partnership, had worked hard to make sure pupils could learn well and make good progress.

They also praised the 373-pupil school's work to develop children's social skills and enrich their development.

"Mary Elton Primary School is a safe, friendly school where staff care deeply for the wellbeing of pupils," the report said.

Read more >>>

Andrea Arlidge shortlisted for lifetime achievement award

Our Chief Executive Andrea Arlidge has been named as a finalist in the Lifetime Achievement category in the Pearson National Teaching Awards 2024. We will celebrate Andrea and all our colleagues on National Thank a Teacher Day, June 19th, when all the results will be announced. We wish Andrea the best of luck.

Nurturing approach brings significant benefits



Yeo Moor Primary School has participated in a pilot programme to meet the needs of children with mild Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs (SEMH needs) in school, using a preventative approach.

Nurture UK provided extensive training for the lead teacher and a member of Senior Leadership Team. The training developed an understanding of how trauma affects children, including attachment and how the brain works.

Read more >>>

Pupils enjoy feast of music, art, books and poetry



Two Rivers Primary School held its first Eisteddfod as part of a focus on creative and performing arts.

Pupils at the school, which opened in 2020, took part in art, writing, singing and poetry activities during term 4.

Children created works of art inspired by birds. These were entered into competition in which the best work will feature in an episode of a Sky Arts show in June.

Read more >>>

Children dance with joy after hall floor's renovation



Before



After

The estates team ensure we have the best possible learning and working environment. This includes emergency repairs, maintenance and a rolling programme of enhancements, as exemplified by St Nicholas' Chantry's recent school hall renovation.

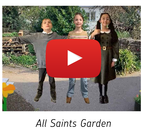
The old school hall floor was a constant issue. In damp weather, it would rise and couldn't be used for PE and after-school sports clubs. This had a negative impact on sports provision and cost the school lettings funding.

Read more >>>

Clevedon children take lead role in tackling climate emergency



Save Our Seas



All Saints Garden

Children from our Clevedon schools are working with the local community to raise awareness of the climate and nature crisis.

Children from All Saints, Clevedon and Yeo Moor schools participated in the Green Shift Festival, which was held at Clevedon's Curzon Cinema at the end of April. The two-day event, coinciding with Earth Day 2024, explored how we can take small steps to make a big impact towards a low-carbon, sustainable future for our planet. The festival included screenings of two films, Save Our Seaside, created by Year 2 and 4 children from Yeo Moor, and a film by children from All Saints about their school garden renovation.

Read more >>>

Find your new fitness activity

Wellsway and SBL sports centres provide a wide range of exciting activities to help you and your family stay fit and healthy. Whether you prefer traditional gym membership or more unique sports like pickleball, there is something for everyone. For more information, please refer to the latest newsletter.



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