Futura Learning Partnership
Community Newsletter
Issue 10: October 2024

Welcome

Hello everyone,

It's great to have the opportunity to write to you all for the first time as the CEO of Futura Learning Partnership. Strong relationships with parents and carers, other family members, people in our communities, governors and other stakeholders are vital to our schools and our trust. They support us to create vibrant learning environments where every child and young person has the chance to thrive. Our Futura mission is: Building the brightest future for all, enabling every individual to flourish. Our trust has a proud record of success; with your help I am determined to build on this reputation of excellence.

This term has been a new beginning for me, as it has for many of you. Parents watching their children start nursery, pre-school, primary, secondary, sixth form; colleagues, university or first job often recall their own feelings of apprehension when they were taking those same steps. I certainly found many memories – of tough times and of great times – flooding back as I began this role. While I will never repeat experiences to guide me as we go forward together, I did not want to dwell on the awesome responsibility of leading an organisation with 12,000 pupils and 1,500 adults. I chose instead to find out how Futura feels for the children in our schools, especially those who have just joined us.

It's by working together that your children and our schools can achieve the most success.

I have visited all 26 of our schools, and will do so every term. It has been delightful to speak to our new Year 7s (and Year 10s at IKB) about their start in school and their hopes and aspirations. Our reception pupils have settled in well and I see routines being established and happy children playing and learning. At the other end of our schools, Year 12s have made an excellent start. I am always struck by the shift in thinking and maturity that seems to happen between the summer of Year 11 and the start of sixth form.

I've also spent a lot of time talking and, most importantly, listening to our staff. We place high priority on their wellbeing and I know they appreciate the immense support they receive from parents and carers. It's by working together that your children and our schools can achieve the most success.



Futura Sixth students share their A-level results

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that Futura has seen some significant improvements in test and exam results in 2024 and we are hopeful of more progress this year. This term, we have already experienced our first Ofsted visit since changes to inspections were brought in over the summer. Although we can't yet share the findings, we can confirm it was a positive experience. We have also seen the publication of a very pleasing report following the inspection at St John's CofE Primary in Keynsham in July. It is gratifying that all our recent inspections have highlighted the impact the trust is having in building and maintaining high standards in our schools.

As we all know, though, exam results and Ofsted outcomes are not the only measures of excellence. We want everyday to be a positive experience for our children within and beyond the classroom, so it's great to hear about exciting and inspirational visits and visitors in schools and the wide range of extra-curricular clubs on offer in our schools. These activities, underpinned by our Futura values of **Respect, Opportunity, Collaboration and Aspiration**, are so important, especially for those children who might otherwise not get opportunities for enrichment.

Many of our pupils achieve amazing success on the sports field. I wish I could say the same for my football team, Portsmouth, who after being promoted are (at the time of writing) nine games into the season without a win. Some of my friends and family are already foretelling relegation. I'm already tired of the joke 'we'll be spending three seasons in the Championship: autumn, winter and spring.' That's not my view. I think we have struggled a bit with the step up but have shown plenty of signs that we will be fine. Perhaps that could be a metaphor for anyone whose children have found the start of this year difficult, for whatever reason. Crucially, remember you are not alone in your troubles – talk to your child's teachers about them. Our schools are inclusive and caring environments, and we want the best for everyone, but progress is not always linear. Every year, we see children who have faced challenges achieve sudden and rapid success. Witnessing this is one of the greatest rewards of working in schools.

The first term of the academic year always seems long, so I'm sure that, like me, you are looking forward to the October holiday. Thank you for the warm welcome you've given me and for the support you give to your children and our schools. I hope everyone has a relaxing break and returns refreshed.

All the best,

Gary Schlick

Gary Schlick
Chief Executive Officer

Futura Learning Partnership

Your child attends a Futura Learning Partnership school. We are an educational charity with 26 primary and secondary schools located in the South West of England.

Our purpose is:

Building the brightest future for all, enabling every individual to flourish.

Being part of Futura provides many advantages:

- **Collaboration:** our schools learn from each other's good ideas;
- **Support:** education experts help our schools achieve and maintain high standards;
- **Training:** investment in our staff benefits the children;
- **Business support** frees up time for schools to focus on teaching and learning;
- **Economies of scale** give our schools more and better resources.

find out more:

Exams success for Futura students



Wellsway students celebrate their GCSE results

Exam results at our secondary schools and sixth forms saw some significant improvements this summer with many students achieving excellent outcomes in A-levels, GCSEs, BTECs and other vocational qualifications. Congratulations to these young people and the staff and families who supported them. We wish them every success as they embark on new courses, apprenticeships, training and employment.

You can find out more about the achievements of the Class of 2024 at Bedminster Down School, Chilton Trinity Academy, Cleeve School, IKB Academy, SBL Academy and Wellsway School on the Futura Learning Partnership website.

We are equally proud of those who gain the highest grades and those who work hard and make strong progress towards realising their hopes and ambitions. Futura schools are fully inclusive and our aim is to support every student on their learning journey.

Ofsted praises 'Outstanding' personal development at St John's



Headteacher Julia Barnfield and pupils celebrate St John's excellent Ofsted outcome

St John's CofE Primary was one of the last schools to receive an overall Ofsted rating before the changes to inspection came in this September.

The school in Keynsham was visited in July – its first inspection since 2013 – and emerged with a strong Good headline verdict, with pupils' personal development judged to be Outstanding.

St John's was described in the Ofsted report as a "purposeful learning environment", where adults know children and families well and have high expectations of pupils.

"The school's commitment to all pupils taking a full and active role in all aspects of school life is impressive," the inspectors said.

Julia Barnfield, who has been headteacher since September 2023, said: "St John's is a strong school at the heart of its community, brilliantly supported by families and by our wonderful staff team.

"This enables us to help children thrive academically and personally. I am delighted that this Ofsted report recognises the important qualities our children are developing. We look forward to continuing to support all pupils to grow and flourish."

Job Opportunities

We are currently recruiting for several key roles within our schools:

- School Meals Supervisory Assistant at Two Rivers
- Senior Site Assistant at Willowdown
- Assistant Headteacher – SENCO at Bedminster Down
- Data Manager Officer at SBL

If you or someone you know is interested, please visit our careers page for more details and application information: futuralearning.co.uk/careers

Green power! Training will help schools tackle the climate emergency



Senior trust leaders and school sustainability leads completed a training day as part of Futura's commitment to take positive action to address the climate emergency.

This event, led by Two Rivers governor and sustainability consultant Paula Malone, gave participants a thorough understanding of the science and causes of climate change and the impacts that we'll be seeing in Futura schools and their communities. She shared several stories of schools across the UK that had embraced sustainability and decarbonisation projects and presented solutions and resources for participants to take back to their schools.

Participants committed to an action they would take following the training. There were various pledges, including reducing food waste and using Energy Sparks to increase their school's energy efficiency.

Virgin Galactic astronaut visits Clevedon School



Astronaut Colin Bennett inspired students when he visited his old school

Colin Bennett, Chief Engineer on Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic rocket, visited his old school to inspire pupils.

Mr Bennett, who was at Clevedon School more than 20 years ago, told them: "You don't need to be the cleverest person in the class to have an awesome career".

The event was reported by BBC News online, read more ...

Futura boosts the skills and confidence of teachers new to the profession



Early career teachers from Futura schools enjoy the opportunity to share experiences and ideas

We need skilled and engaged staff to build the brightest future for the children in our care. Like all our staff, teachers beginning their careers benefit from Futura's extensive professional development opportunities.

Our first cohort of Futura trainee teachers started in September, marking an exciting new chapter. The 20 trainees are in schools four days a week, and the fifth day is dedicated to training.

If you're interested in training to become a teacher at Futura, please contact teachertraining@futuralearning.co.uk.

In September, we ran a conference for our early career teachers to boost their skills and confidence. They participated in training sessions on expectations, overcoming barriers and worries, and lesson planning. There were also opportunities to network and collaborate. Feedback from participants was excellent:

'Thank you! Super training. I feel much more confident.'

'This is a high-quality programme for new teachers. There's so much support.'

The whole day was a great experience, and I learned a lot.'

SBL and Wellsway Sports Centres Autumn newsletter



For those who live in the Keynsham area, the SBL and Wellsway Sports Centres offer many fun activities to help you stay active.

Please find out more in their latest Autumn newsletter.

Strong community links help Puriton open new sensory room



A selection of equipment available in Puriton's new sensory room

Like many schools, Puriton had a growing need for a space where children could regulate, switch off and explore their different senses. Unfortunately, lack of space or money made this aspiration challenging to achieve.

Now, thanks to the generous donation of time, services, and money from the local community, Puriton has opened its sensory room, which will benefit pupils for many years.

Places where children can eat for free (or for £1) during the October half term holiday 2024

MORRISONS
Spend £5 from the hot menu and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

COCONUT TREE
One child (under 10) eats free every day Monday 21st Oct- Sunday 3rd Nov 2024

SAINSBURYS CAFES
Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11.30am every day.

ASDA
Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK
Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN
Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS
Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS
Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

PRETO
Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

YOI SUSHI
Monday 14th October - Friday 1st November 2024 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS
Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

BILLS
2 kids eat FREE Mon - Fri from Monday 21st October - Friday 1st November 2024

PIZZA HUT
Free Kids buffet Monday 14th Oct - Tuesday 5th Nov daily until 3pm with code **SPOOKY**

BELLA ITALIA
Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS
Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

TABLE TABLE
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ BUNKLM
Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

IKEA
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

HUNGRY HORSE
Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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