



## Welcome from our Chief Executive



Welcome back to the start of term 5. I hope you and your families remain well and safe. WMAT had a busy Easter running our key worker child care bases and getting ready for the launch of our remote learning packages. I particularly enjoy seeing photos from our childcare bases showing the children having fun and we have included some here for you.



At SBL there was cricket - at a social distance with each student has their one named bat and an egg rocket challenge! The pictures were taken by a Year 10 photography student who them every day since the closure.



Children at Cheddar Grove created an amazing piece of work inspired by the Chinese artist Wu Guanzhong. It's so long they had to take three photographs to get it all in!



While other children have been getting green fingers and planting pansies, marigolds and geraniums.

It was a busy St George's day at St John's with the children working on DoodleMaths, creating art, making and flying St George's day kites and watering their newly planted trees.



I know that everyone's circumstances will be very different but I do hope you are coping with home learning and have the support you need. Our staff have worked hard to getting everything in place for term 5 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. I would also like to thank the many parents who have emailed in messages of thanks and support. These are very much appreciated.

**Andrea Arlidge**

## Virtual Assemblies

The first virtual secondary assembly was launched last week, with staff in each school 'customising' it for their students. We were pleased to hear it went down extremely well according to the many emails of thanks received. Here are two examples:

*"Many thanks for your fantastic assembly, really great! Good to 'see' you. I really hope that you and your family are safe and well and that you and your amazing colleagues are managing this challenging time"*

*"I would just like to say very big thank you for the assembly video. We watched it as a family tonight and all of us found the advice and general message useful and uplifting. We look forward to more of these assemblies and would like to say thank you to all of you staff for all your hard work and for the calm you are maintaining for our children in these difficult times"*

The assemblies can be viewed via each school's website.

## Updated guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings

The Department of Education's guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings has been updated with additional information on the resources available to parents to help them educate their children at home, eligibility for device and connectivity at home, and keeping children safe online. For more information please see the [DfE guidance](#).

## Advice for Parents /Carers on supporting home learning

We would like to share an article from Parentkind that gives helpful advice to parents and carers on supporting their child's learning at home during the coronavirus outbreak, please see [supporting learning not home schooling](#).

## Eligibility for Free School Meals

These are new and uncertain times and it is important that families receive as much support as possible to enable them to navigate through the challenges that we all face. If your situation has changed recently and you think you may be entitled to free school meals please follow the link below. It will direct you to the DfE free school meals eligibility website. From there you just need to type in your postcode and you will automatically be re-directed to your local authority's free school meals application page: [apply for free school meals](#).

## Warning of potential fraud

Periods of instability, such as during the coronavirus pandemic, bring an increased risk of fraud. Fraudsters will actively exploit these difficult times and will target vulnerable areas for financial gain.

We have been informed that some learners and parents have received a letter from Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) asking for personal learner bank details in relation to the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund. The ESFA will never ask for personal bank account details. This is a fraudulent letter – please do not respond.

Similarly, if during this period of schools closure you receive any communication from your school or Wellsway Multi Academy Trust asking for any personal data, please treat with caution and contact your school if necessary to check authenticity.

## Emergency Contact Form

We would like to share this [emergency contact form that has been sent through by Bristol City Council](#) (Docx). We think it is a good idea for families to have this in place during this time.

## Community Support

Doing our bit to support our communities at this time is very important to us and we would like to share some of the ways our fantastic staff and pupils are lending their support to the wider community:

### Making PPE



Well done to Lil, in Year 10 at Wellsway School, who has been making scrub bags for the NHS.



Well done to Catherine Singleton (pictured), one of the teachers at St John's, who has been making scrubs for the RUH.



Rachel Shand and Emma Johnson from SBL have been busy making over 90 scrub bags and many headbands which have gone to the following places; BRI's emergency department, St Michaels hospital, RUH, a Lloyds Pharmacy and Grimsby Manor Care Home.



Many thanks to Fiona England from BDS (pictured) who has co-ordinated a donation of unused 3D printing filament to local organisation, [3DCrowdUK](https://www.3dcrowd.co.uk/), to be distributed to people who are able to 3D print masks for the NHS. She was in school herself over the Easter holiday making surgical masks and has now distributed 180 laser cut masks to four surgeries all around Bedminster, both surgeries in Keynsham and the South Bristol Community Hospital – some of which will be passed on to the BRI.

## Distributing food

- The Easter provision team at SBL had a significant surplus of sandwiches that were nearing their use by date following the Easter weekend and were able to send them to the Juice Project at Cadbury Heath Community Centre who are supporting vulnerable/low income families in the local community. They were incredibly grateful.
- Well done to Bev Smith and Hannah Whittaker for making food parcels for those families in our MAT community that needed them over the Easter break. Bev is in regular contact with [FareShare SW](#) to get fresh and ambient food items each week, which ensures food parcels last a few days. Thank you also to Dean Anderson and Hannah Dyer who helped deliver them to the pupils of SBL Academy.

## Supporting the Keynsham Community Response Team

The printing resources at Wellsway School have been put to good use this week and 1000 leaflets were recently printed for the Keynsham Community Response Team. Thank you to Helen Neal at Wellsway for carrying out this important service.

## And finally,

I hope all our children and young people remain safe and well during these strange times. We are working on our plans to re-open our schools, once we are instructed to do so, and hope it will not be too long before we welcome you back to school. In the meantime, work hard and make the most of the support and advice coming from your teachers.

Take care everyone.

**Wellsway Multi Academy Trust**