



## Newsletter No 18 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

On behalf of The Trust Board of Magna Learning Partnership, I wish you all the very warmest of welcomes back to the new academic year. In particular, to those of you new to the Trust as a member of staff, a new pupil or student and to our new school, we wish you all much success and happiness in the coming year and beyond. I also want to give a really special welcome back to all the children and young people who have not been able to attend school or college since 20th March. We will be delighted to see you all this week and whilst we can't pretend this is a 'normal' start to the year, we want to do all we can to make it a happy one.

Today we welcome Pembroke Park Primary School into Magna Learning Partnership. The school joins us from Salisbury Plain Academies and we are really delighted to provide the school with a very local home. The school is led by Mrs Aliko Constantopoulou; as Interim Headteacher she will be in post until Easter 2021 and we aim to appoint a permanent Headteacher by Christmas.

Most children from Pembroke Park move to Sarum Academy for secondary education and we aim to build strong relationships between the two schools over the coming years, for the benefit of all families.

We also have some changes of leadership in two of the secondary schools from this term. Mr Jonathan Curtis has moved to become Headteacher of The Trafalgar School and Mrs Jennifer Moore, previously Deputy Headteacher, now leads Sarum Academy. We wish them both well as they start the new academic year in their new roles.

Parents, your school or college will be providing you with the detailed information you need for your children's safe return. They will also publish their Covid-19 risk assessments on the school or college website. Please be assured that we have done everything reasonably possible to ensure a safe return for your child. The key to individual safety is, as Public Health England advises, a focus on good, thorough and frequent hand washing.

Routines for this will be well established in our academies.

Currently we are advising that students may wear face masks for movement around the school or college or in communal areas but this is not mandatory. In classrooms, face masks are not advised as they can impede communication and learning. However, should the local health situation change this guidance will be reviewed. Please do pay careful attention to the information sent out by your school and ensure that your sons and daughters understand the guidelines and protocols which are designed to minimise the risk for everyone.

Finally, huge congratulations to all those students who received public examination results last month. We were all relieved and pleased with the government decision to use centre assessed grades for both GCSE and A Level results. As a consequence, there were many happy smiling faces on 20th August when GCSEs were released and finally, much relief for our A Level students who were able to secure their first choice destinations, whether this was university, apprenticeship or employment.

I also want to say thank you to the dedicated staff in our schools and college. Back in May and June they worked exceptionally hard to ensure that their predictions for students were professional and accurate. It has been a pleasure to see that hard work support our young people as they move onto the next stage of their education and working life.

This term, our objective in MLP is a simple one; we want to see all our children and young people back in school and college and enjoying their learning. We all look forward to being able to support your sons and daughters through this academic year.

**Sarah Busby, Chief Executive Officer**



## Bemerton St John

The return of Reception and Year 1 children before the summer break filled the school with sounds of what a primary school is all about with laughter, play and excitement.

The school received some wonderful feedback from parents and an example of that is: "I thank you, and your staff for all the hard, hard work in very challenging times. I would like you to know how much I appreciate your efforts and that we support you, the staff and the school."

From March, the teaching staff provided online learning through the portal and the quality of work received was exemplary as you can see from some examples below:



## Salisbury 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

### S6C Fresher's Day for new students

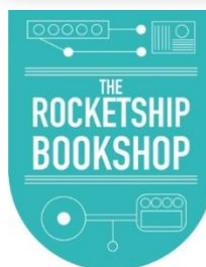
On Thursday 2 July, Salisbury 6th Form College held their first ever Virtual Fresher's Day for applicants who have been made offers to study at S6C in September.

The day started with a video message from the Principal, Simon Firth, and a video tour of the College with images and videos from trips, visits and enrichment activities. The video also gave applicants an opportunity to hear from current and alumni students from S6C who all shared why they love S6C and what student life is like. Watch the video [here](#).

Following the pre-recorded video students then had the opportunity to meet with each of their teachers through live online Q&A sessions. The live sessions were run through Google Meet giving applicants an insight into how S6C's current students have been keeping in touch with their teachers and how live on-line teaching has continued at the College throughout lockdown. Applicants also had access to information about starting College such as travel, IT and the enrolment process.



## Sarum Academy



### The Rocketship and Sarum Academy's Lockdown Book Bonanza!

We all know learning has had to look very different during the Coronavirus crisis, but students do not just need access to lessons and worksheets. With libraries and bookshops also closed for a period young people have been struggling to get access to one of the most important pieces of school kit; a good reading book.

That is why Sarum Academy teamed up with The Rocketship Bookshop to make sure each student in Year 7-10 received a top class piece of fiction.

Owner of The Rocketship, Jo Boyles, says, "We are very pleased to be working with Sarum Academy to provide their students with a book that will keep them company and fire up their imaginations at this unsettling time. A great book is a portal to another world and a physical copy of a book is a sanctuary from rolling news and social media, the benefits on mental health for young readers to access and own books that offer comfort, adventure and representation at times of uncertainty can't be denied and it's the driving force behind the creation of our bookshop."





