



## 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 Aliki 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

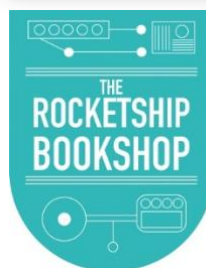
On Thursday 2 July, Salisbury 6th Form College held their first ever Virtual Fresher's Day for applicants who have been made offers to study at S6C in September.

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."

Sarum Academy's Head of English Mike Mineur, says, "We are proud to be teaming up with our fantastic colleagues from The Rocketship. A good local bookshop is an essential part of our community and we are delighted to be working with them during this difficult time."

This latest initiative sits alongside the schools comprehensive core reading programme. It guarantees students will have read a significant number of books at their time in the school. The tutor reading programme is hugely popular at the Academy. Not only do students enjoy reading for pleasure they also explore a number of PSHCE themes across the texts. How many have you read?



Our school family has always been at the centre of the ethos of the school. To promote this, we ran a number of collaborative initiatives to ensure everyone either in

Once we had children back in school in June this message continued. We had over 100 children return to school and they just loved being back. Their smiles told us a lot about how they feel about our school - they just love it and their love of learning has not diminished.

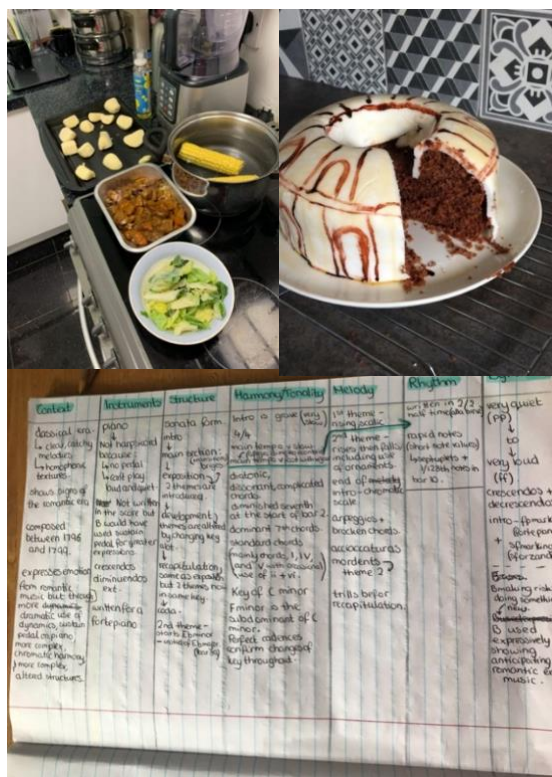


Mental health and a sense of belonging was a really important part of the school's provision to students with weekly tutor group meetings using Teams/Zoom/Google Meets. As well as this there were House Competitions



running each week with prizes to students for the best cakes, monument models, uses for the humble toilet roll and much, much more.

In July the school's PE department coordinated the Virtual Sports Day, with students taking part in daily events and posting their scores.

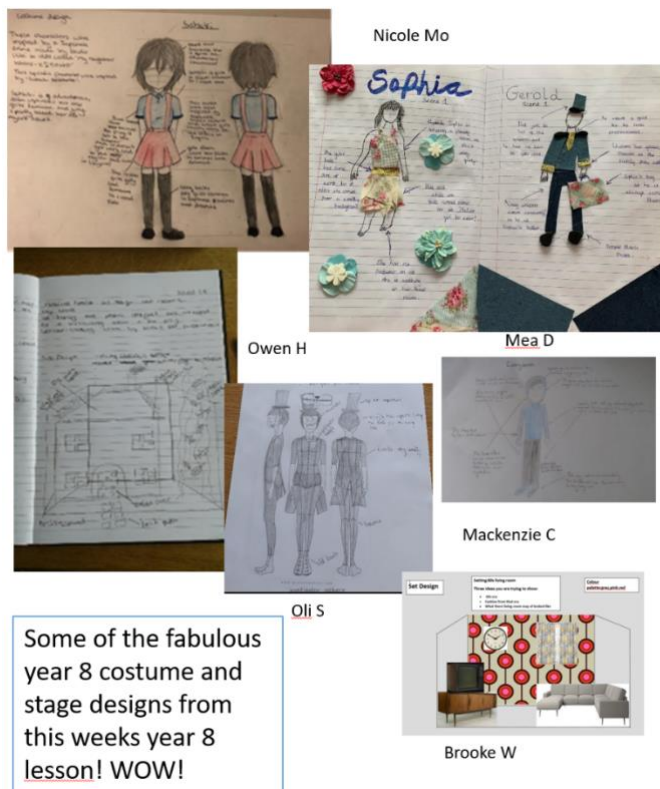


## Wyvern St Edmund's

To give you a flavour of just one subject area's work over the last few months, this is what the Drama Department has been up to:

**Year 7:** The Year 7s have been working hard exploring the writing and performing of spooky stories – some are really quite scary indeed! They have worked hard on annotating them with vocal skills and body language skills for performance and filming. Keep up the good work year 7!

**Year 8:** The Year 8s have been writing their own play scripts and there have been some excellent ideas and scripts coming in. They were asked to design sets and costumes and we had some excellent examples sent in which you can see here. Lots of detail and conscious design decisions being made.



Some of the fabulous year 8 costume and stage designs from this weeks year 8 lesson! WOW!

**Year 9:** Year 9 students focussed on how to write a live performance theatre review in preparation for their next two years of Drama GCSE. They watched the most wonderful and hilarious performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' on National Theatre Live and are now preparing mind maps and organising knowledge organisers on characters and scenes.

**Year 10:** Our fabulous Year 10s have been looking at their set text of 'The 39 Steps' and have been diligently answering practice exam questions. Mr Gregson was full of praise for the answers that were coming in which puts us in good stead for the GCSE exam – keep going year 10 you are doing so well!

## Exam Top Performers

This summer's MLP top exam performers include:

Sarum Academy – Eve B, Mabel B and Ben M  
S6C – Jack S and Thomas H  
The Trafalgar School – Sam R and Yasmin D  
Wyvern St Edmund's – Rachel H and Torin R

Here are some photographs of them receiving their results:

