

# THE

# POST

News from Worle Community School and Priory Community School Academies in partnership with Weston Hospicecare

ISSUE 2 - WINTER TERM 2019

Weston Hospicecare



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## INSPIRATIONAL STUDENTS GIVE NEW YEAR CHEER



PRIORY Student Aiden Hunt, 11, won a Child of Courage award for his positive attitude and inspiration through five operations for a brain tumour.

And budding Ed Sheeran WCSA student Lewis Edwards, 11, has helped raise £60,000 for people in need with his singing.

They are two of thousands of students in Weston and Worle that have stories to make us proud.

Neville Coles, Executive Principal of The Priory Learning Trust, said:

By Lacey Madge, 13,  
Aimee Braithwaite, 12,  
Olivia Finch, 13,  
and Leah Duffy, 12.

*“Aiden and Lewis are truly inspirational young people. We value kindness, courage and positivity at our schools and these two are brilliant examples of this”*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Jill Dando legacy lives on**  
Thousands of brilliant Weston and Worle students become part of unique Jill Dando News Centre, 20 years after tragic death of former student.

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**Singing Students Shine**  
Arley, Emilio and Kezia map out world singing futures after links with Elvis and Robbie Williams.

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**ME student trains TPLT pup**  
After meeting Olly Murs, Jeffrey PLT is trained by amazing charity-raising student who is schooled by a robot called Robbie.

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# THE POST - publishing astonishing, astounding, awe-inspiring students

By JOSHUA KEYES, 13.

**Astonishing, astounding, awe-inspiring - our Jill Dando News Centres find good news out of students who we often find hard to describe!**

Whether you call them excellent, exceptional or extraordinary, young people are inspirational. The Jill Dando News Centres are designed to celebrate students across our area, and to inspire future reporters and journalists of good news.

This April will be 20 years since Jill Dando died. Yet now her kindness, positivity and enthusiasm to find good news stories is out to thousands of students.

The Post is now out to 10,000 people across the area. It is full of good news - positive acts, inspirational achievements, heroic young people.

Tell us about your own astonishing, astounding, awe-inspiring stories here editor@theplt.org.uk



## Neville Coles - Executive Principal of TPLT

**Once again, I am absolutely delighted to see the positive stories from all our academies. I visit each academy often and continue to be delighted with the conduct of our 5,000 students and 500 staff. Nothing means more to me than to see our staff being positive**

**and optimistic with the students and with each other. We must make sure everyone is feeling motivated and ready to learn and teach. This approach is at the very heart of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT).**

On October 1st The King Alfred School in Highbridge became the third secondary academy to join TPLT. We now refer to them as TKASA. Nathan Jenkins is the forward-thinking Principal at our academy here in Somerset.

We have started the £1.2million re-roofing project at TKASA and all is going very well. So, TKASA is starting to look, and feel like a TPLT academy with a much-improved site. We are also working hard on improving the approach to teaching and leadership. Welcome.

The Trust, therefore, continues to grow wisely. We are happily strong with our finances and outcomes. Some of you may have watched the recent BBC 2 documentary called 'School'? The Trust involved in these programmes painted a picture we do not completely recognise. This may be because we have built, over many years at PCSA, and now TPLT, a team of very financially astute business staff. Of course, we'd all like more funding to go into education, however, the main 'income stream' is the number of students; I'm delighted to say that PCSA is 57 over number on first choices for September 2019 entry and WCSA is up 17% on last year's first choices. So, we hope that both our WSM secondary academies will be at 300 students in Year 7 in 2019 and onwards. Both our primary academies at St Anne's and Castle Batch remain very, very popular with parents / carers.

Charity is very important to us in our Trust. The recent non-uniform day raised over £4K across our academies. This was split between Children in Need and Weston Hospicecare. All other charity events this year will donate to WHC. Many staff, and we hope students, will be taking part in The Mendip Challenge for WHC next summer. A long walk for a great cause.

## Inspirational Worle Student, 12, Gains Prestigious Place in National Youth Choir

By Joshua Keyes, 13, Michael Gordon, 11, Olivia Finch, 13, Elsa Thompson, 11.



**Year 8 student at WCSA, Arlie Hobden, has been offered a place on the National Youth Choir, which hundreds of students from across the country audition for.**

The National Youth Choir consists of students all the way from Year 5 to the end of Year 10, meaning that there are thousands of kids all wanting a space with only a limited amount given.

Arlie has set up his own YouTube channel where he posts covers of music that he loves.

He recently played the part of Dodger in the WCSA play Oliver!

He has many family inspirations such as his parents.

Worle Community School is one of the South West's fastest improving schools, and offers a wide variety of curricular and extra curricular activities including performing arts and sport.

Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Arlie is a fantastic performer and this is thoroughly deserved."

Arlie said: "I love to make people happy and it's nice that people love my voice!"

To see Arlie in performance with the Worle Wind band at Mark Church visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20R\\_MhjZfkE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20R_MhjZfkE)

## Inspirational Priory student wins prestigious award after showing years of courage

By Lacey Madge, 13, and Aimee Braithwaite, 12.

**PCSA student Aiden Hunt, 11, won the Child of Courage category in the Somerset Believe in Yourself Awards, after having an eye operation and ongoing treatment, as well as flying out to America on his own for the operation.**

Aiden was diagnosed with a brain tumour while in primary school and to date, has had five operations as well as still receiving treatment.

Mr. Coles said: "Aiden really is an inspiration to everyone.

Wonderfully positive, determined and kind."

Aiden's teaching assistant Val Kemp said: "Aiden is a tremendous boy."



## Brilliant PCSA Student Scoops Prestigious Drama Award

By Lacey Madge, 13, and Aimee Braithwaite, 12.

**Priory Community School Year 10 student Oliver Taylor-Jones has achieved full marks in the Performing Arts Two award from UKA Dance.**

UKA Dance, formally known as the United Kingdom Alliance (UKA), is a dance teaching and examination board based in Blackpool, England, and operates internationally.

PCSA places a huge emphasis on students performing well in music, arts, drama and sport with ex-students going on to achieve great success.

Head of Drama Jess Hall said: "It's great to see Oliver doing so well. He is a fantastic student with enthusiasm, grit and determination."



## A singer-songwriting Worle student with ambitions to be the new Ed Sheeran has helped raise £60,000 for people in need.

By Lacey Madge, 13, and Aimee Braithwaite, 12.

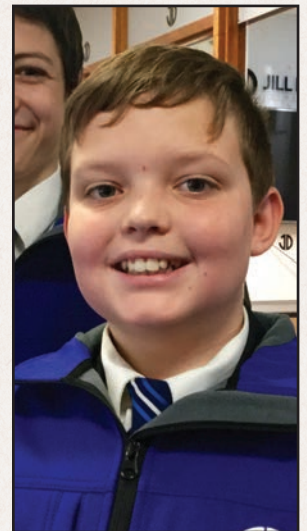
**WCSA student Lewis Edwards, 11, spends his spare time raising money for charities in the UK and abroad by singing, bike riding and hosting fun days.**

The former Worle Village Primary pupil has been singing since he was aged two, and sings in front of up to 2000 people on the Grand Pier to raise money for the Daz Rock4 Charity organisation.

He has already written songs, similar to his hero Ed Sheeran, and aims to use his talent to help others. The money he has raised helps blind people to be able to communicate and other worthy causes.

Lewis said: "I love singing and helping people and want to combine the two. Raising money is a team effort. We do raffle prizes, sometimes even cook food to sell for charity, have bouncy castles, a mini funfair, and Sunday fun days every weekend, and every penny goes to charity.

"My parents are great and Worle Community School have been so supportive. This school is amazing and a great community and settled me in so well. They have offered me their recording studio." Principal Jacqui Scott said: "Lewis is a superb student and a wonderful ambassador to all young people."





# Jill Remembered 20 years on as thousands of children embrace good news worldwide project

By **Olivia Finch, 13** and **Lacey Madge, 13.**

**The legacy of a humble and brilliant Worle journalist lives on 20 years after her death with students across the world gathering good news in her name.**

Former Worle student Jill Dando died 20 years ago this April evoking national shock similar to that of the 'People's Princess' Lady Diana two years before.

The PLT students are now aiming to start an annual World Goodnews Day on 26th April 2019 - 20 years after her death. The Goodnews Day will aim to encourage students and Media across the world to find and cover positive stories and ones that feature good out of bad.

Jill was the 'girl next door' and queen of prime time TV, loved by millions and won BBC Personality of the Year in 1997, before being tragically killed in 1999.

She was kind, generous and compassionate - everything which the nearly 5000 students in The Priory Learning Trust students aspire to be.

WCSA Principal Jacqui Scott said: "It is such a wonderful thing to see so many students carrying on finding good news in Jill's name."

Jill's brother Nigel said: "This scheme is brilliant. It is about children getting good news across the world."



Priory student Aimee Braithwaite, 12, being interviewed for BBC TV. The Jill Dando News Centre gives students real life experience to prepare them for a lifetime of success.

## People across Britain loved Jill

By **JOSHUA KEYES, 13.**

Her friend Alan Titchmarsh told The Post: "Jill was not only a brilliant journalist, she was a wonderful person. She emanated goodwill and fun."

Famous explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes said: "Well done to the students who are bringing her memory alive with a living, breathing news centre to train up young journalists and get out good news."

"Stories of children showing grit, determination and other acts of positive achievement inspire others and fill the Media with much-needed good news."



## Priory teacher helps 17 African students launch their own Jill Dando News Centre in one of world's poorest countries



**Sarah O'Gorman started the centre in Malawi and students are already writing their stories.**

The group is led by Leonard Masauli, who is a writer for "The Nation" newspaper, but he started out as a community journalist

like the new journalists he is teaching. Sarah said:

"The centre has given the other Jill Dando News Centres a huge global link and will give the opportunity for different stories and new subjects to be explored."

**In Africa, the Jill Dando student journalists have been writing stories since their centre was launched in August...**

**Disabled child in Malawi, Africa helped by wheelchair so he can get to school safely**

By **Wezzie Mtonga, Jill Dando News Centre journalist in Malawi.**

A disabled child is jubilant after Zokonda Amayi donated materials to help him get to school safely.

The child said he was happy because Zokonda Amayi gave him a wheelchair which will help him to go to school safely. At first it had been difficult for him to attend school on his own as relatives used to carry him. Now, the wheelchair allows him to travel to school independently.



# Student singing sensations with links to Elvis and Robbie Williams

Story by pupils at **Ashcombe Primary School**, and by **Jill Dando News Centre students**.  
Photos by the **WCSA Jill Dando News Centre**.



## Did you know?

PCSA and WCSA have raised nearly £200,000 over the last 10 years for charities. This years charity is Weston Hospicecare - which is 30 years old this year.

**Year 11 Emilio Santoro of Worle Community School, is one of the world's best young Elvis impersonators, appearing across the world. Meanwhile, Year 11 Kezia Povey of Priory Community School, made Robbie Williams' house on X Factor and is now singing at a charity event for Weston's homeless night this month.**

Emilio said: "My school has really supported me in my passion and has been brilliant. I am eager to do this for a living across the world." Interviewed by Ashcombe Primary School pupils who were visiting the WCSA Jill Dando News Centre, he said: "My favourite Elvis songs are his gospel songs. My favourite place to sing is at The

Benidorm Palace where I sang in front of 2000 people."

Kezia is now singing to help raise money for Weston's homeless and aims to go to a prestigious performing arts college.

Priory and Worle encourage students to help the community, think of others more in need, and to be kind.

Kezia said: "I had an amazing experience on X Factor and enjoyed every second.



## Brilliant Worle and Priory students congratulated after incredible year of success

**Students from Worle and Priory Community School packed onto Weston's Grand Pier to be congratulated on their success after an amazing year.**

They were awarded for a range of areas around academic excellence, music, sport, performing arts and helping the community. WCSA have seen huge improvements over the past two years and are now one of the best schools in Somerset.

PCSA continues to be a school with

sustained excellent results and wonderful curriculum.

Nigel Dando was guest speaker and presenter of the awards and presented The Jill Dando News Centre Journalist of the Year Award for the first time to Year 9 students Olivia Finch, ex-Mead Vale, and Jack Branton.

TPLT Executive Principal Neville Coles said: "We are proud of each and every student and they thoroughly deserved their awards."



## Inspirational PCSA student becomes national boxing champion

By **Aimee Braithwaite, 12**

**Priory student Liam Orme is now a national boxing champion with his sights on becoming the world's best.**



The dedicated Year 11 student won first place in the National Development Championships, competing in the Junior Male Class B 66kg category.

He is now set up for a bright future to follow in the footsteps of Anthony Joshua or David Haye and progress from a national champion to a world champion.

## Popular PLT pooch trained by inspirational ME charity student and her mum



**Jeffrey PLT, the schools' King Charles Spaniel puppy, is being trained by Year 10 PCSA student Makayla Nunn and her mum Michelle of Pet Mania.**

ME sufferer Makayla is a real inspiration. She is taught via a £7,000 robot, Robbie, when she is too tired to get into lessons. But she is also a tireless charity fundraiser, raising thousands and also finds time to win her Kennel Club Gold award and earn hundreds of other dog-training rosettes. Mum Michelle is a former Priory student and works with ex-Worle student Alison Garforth at Pet Mania to train thousands of dogs in a fun and friendly style. Jeffrey is now doing his training and Michelle and Makayla take him through all types of issues dealing with dog behaviour



including learning to sit, settle, stay, and general good behaviour.

Michelle said: "Jeffrey is so cute and is doing brilliantly. Having a school dog is the way forward."

Earlier this year Jeffrey had his photo taken with pop star Olly Murs, who the same week released a song with Snoop Dogg.

He appears at The Priory Learning Trust schools as part of their Jill Dando News Centres.



## Priory teacher reaches final 8 of TV cooking challenge



**Priory Community School teacher Sharon Boneham has been starring on the BBC Two programme Family Cooking, reaching the last eight.**

Sharon said: "I have had a wonderful time on the show. I love teaching at Priory and am keen to share my passion for cookery with students across the school. It has been a massive challenge and fantastic experience."

## Students and families enjoy New Year money off Grand Pier rides and sensational new virtual reality experience

**Families can enjoy money off Grand Pier rides this New Year - as it launches a new state-of-the-art virtual reality (VR) experience.**

The first VR experience centre of its kind in Somerset features six full-motion experience pods where guests wear the latest headsets and are teleported into worlds beyond their imagination.

The technology is far superior to anything found in a 4D ride or home style VR headset with full 360-degree view with incredible detail. Grand Pier director Michelle Michael regularly inspires

TPLT students and gives talks to students at their schools.

Michelle said: "We are delighted to partner with The Priory Learning Trust and schools. I am always inspired myself to meet so many wonderful students with big ambition and talents."

For more information about the wide range of attractions activities and events at the Grand Pier, visit [www.grandpier.co.uk](http://www.grandpier.co.uk)



### Did you know?

Percy PLT is Britain's only 7-foot hedgehog mascot



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# Amazing Priory student whose dad was a professional cricketer aims for England bowling future after making the county squad

Story by **Lacey Madge**, 13, and photo by **Aimee Braithwaite**, 12.

**Alice Bird, age 12, of PCSA represented Somerset U13's cricket squad this summer and played at the prestigious Malvern Festival as a bowler.**

She has been playing for four years after being inspired by the career of her dad Paul - also a bowler - who played for Somerset Cricket Club in the 1990s.

Alice also plays for Priory's boys team. She said: "I really love cricket, and am relaxed and happy when I am playing the sport.

"My dream is to be a professional cricketer and to play for England one day."

PCSA and WCSA are inspirational schools.



## Worle students aim to be Judges

By **Joshua Keyes**, 13, and **Olivia Finch**, 13



**Aspirational Worle Community School students Gabriel Toth and Mark Ordog aim to become court judges after leaving school.**

Both Year 7 students aim to go onto law school and eventually graduate from universities such as Oxford with law degrees. They have an interest in music alongside law and football. Both students have won Student of the Week awards for Year 7 for being among the 5 top students in the year group, in terms of number of positive achievement logs.

## Priory students help local sports company become the best in the business

**Dozens of PCSA students have helped make NK Sports in Worle a tremendous local company.**

Neil and Louise Keeling are joined by ex students Jack Askins, Ashleigh Richards and Jacob Swain. And current PCSA summer staff are Lauren Bromley and Nadine Silva.

Director Neil said: "We always know that Priory students will come to us full of positivity, with great attitude and aptitude."

## Brilliant schools partner with top UK Entrepreneur to launch country's first ever age 10 - 16 leadership academy

By **Olivia Finch**, 13

**Entrepreneur Andrew Scott, who founded the Ascot Group out of Weston-super-Mare, has set up a UK Business Leader Academy out of TPLT schools to start this month.**

His inspirational firm has become one of the country's fastest growing, and his UK Business Leader is now Britain's biggest business magazine.

The scheme will look for kindness alongside aptitude, attitude, talent and determination - all things the TPLT constantly talk about.

Andrew said: "We are delighted to partner with The Priory Learning Trust and its 5000 pupils and students. The schools are full of leaders of the future in all sorts of fields."

## Inspirational woman helping the homeless in Weston

By **Aimee Braithwaite**, 12,

**Hundreds of vulnerable people in Weston are being helped out by a woman who set up Victoria's Kitchen.**

The Post has discovered the inspirational story of resident Pat Cocking who founded

Victoria's kitchen, designed to help those in need in Weston. She designs kits to help support the homeless, vulnerable, lonely and people with mental health issues in Weston.



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# DOG and HOG

250  
WORDS

## SHORT STORY COMPETITION

250  
WORDS



### Become a future Archer, Dahl or Dando and enter our short story competition

By Olivia Finch, 13, Editor.

Jeffrey Archer, Roald Dahl and Jill Dando became some of the world's best writers after going to school in Weston-super-Mare. Now you have a chance to show off your own creativity and writing talent, to help launch your careers in this amazing town.

Our own dog - also called Jeffrey, Percy PLT and Weston Hospicecare are celebrating their 1st, 10th and 30th birthdays this year. To celebrate, The Post is launching an exciting 250 word short story competition. If you're aged 5 to 11, get creative and get writing! Can you use fun, tension, a twist or suspense to create a good news tale involving Weston-super-Mare? Be as creative as you like!

Alternatively you can tell us a true good news story about a child or adult who has done something inspirational in the town.

The winner will have their story published in the next edition of The Post and also win one of the prizes of their choice as listed. There are also great prizes for the runners up!



### RULES

- Only one entry per child
- Stories can be emailed to [Editor@theplt.org.uk](mailto:Editor@theplt.org.uk) or by post on an A4 sheet of paper
- Stories must be your own work
- Include your name, age and primary school on your entries

### PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

- Your story published in The Post and in an ebook
- Family season ticket to Weston-super-Mare AFC
- Grand Pier family pass
- Family All-Inclusive 30 Day Membership at Hutton Moor Leisure Centre (valid for up to 2 adults and 3 children up to 18 years)
- Photo taken of the winner with Percy and Jeffrey
- We will send the best entries to Jeffrey Archer, Nigel Dando and the Roald Dahl Organisation to see.

Send your entries, to:  
Percy and Jeffrey Short Story Competition  
The Priory Learning Trust, Queensway,  
Weston-super-Mare, BS22 6BP  
Alternatively, you can email stories to  
[editor@theplt.org.uk](mailto:editor@theplt.org.uk)

Closing Date: 1st March 2019



## Good News

Jill Dando journalists Aimee and Lacey interviewing ex-Priory student Jack Evison, 17, who was a Priory TV reporter aged 11 and who now has a brilliant future ahead of him at one of Britain's best drama colleges in the West End.

