



Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Spring Term 2022

BSCWT, c/o Shenfield High School, Alexander Lane, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8RY
Phone: 01277 249275 E-mail: office@bscwt.org Website: www.bscwt.org

Registered Charity
No: 1172358

BSCWT can be found both on Facebook and Twitter at:
www.facebook.com/BSCWT and www.twitter.com/BSCWT.



"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"



Emerging

As we emerge from the restrictions and challenges of the past two years, we are excited to be getting more and more opportunities to work with young people and children 'in person', although some of our work still involves the creation of new videos and connecting digitally with pupils.

However, the pandemic is leaving its mark in many ways on the lives of children and young people, not least in terms of their mental, emotional and spiritual health. As we 'learn to live with Covid' and engage with the process of rebuilding and recovery, the work of BSCWT remains as important as ever in serving and supporting our local schools on behalf of the local Christian community.

In this newsletter, we are delighted to give you the chance to read about many of the ways we are finding to help schools at the moment, from our assemblies and pupil support work to our lunchtime clubs and seasonal projects and 'prayer spaces'. We hope you enjoy catching up with us and we very much appreciate all your support.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

Schools Work Sunday

Thank you to every person and church who marked Schools Work Sunday on 6th February, celebrating and praying for all kinds of Christian ministry in our local schools. Next year, Schools Work Sunday will be on 5th February 2023!

6 things we are doing in schools this term:

- Assemblies in 25 schools
- 'Love Easter' project with primary schools in local churches
- Secondary school Christian Union
- One-to-one pupil support in 7 schools
- Primary school lunchtime club
- NEW! Secondary school 'Wonder Space' club

We're moving!

After seven great years of the BSCWT office being housed at Shenfield High School, we will be moving this summer! The pupil population at the school has been growing over the last few years and our office space needs to be converted back into a classroom once again.

At the time of writing, we are investigating various avenues for suitable office space to accommodate our team of seven members of staff. If you know of a possibility you think might be of interest to us, please let us know.



Recent feedback from a school teacher:

"We love to have you in to work with the children."

Pray for Schools Fortnight: 8 - 22 May 2022



Pray for Schools Fortnight coincides with the start of exam season in schools. Any church group or individual can organise a prayer event and we can pray in church services, in other groups or on our own. Please use this as an opportunity to keep praying for your local schools, teachers, head teachers, staff and pupils, especially those involved in exams! For more ideas and encouragement on how to pray for schools, please visit <https://www.prayforschools.org>.

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Our seasonal projects with primary schools

As you may know, each term BSCWT provides 'seasonal' projects to local primary schools. We have been busy preparing and booking Christmas and Easter projects in the last few months. It has been wonderful to be back in schools and interact with the children again for our new **Christmas Wonder** lessons. We are now in the middle of booking our **Love Easter** project and also preparing for **It's Your Move** which we take to schools in the summer term. Find out more about these projects below....

Gelila Melaku, Project Administrator



'Christmas Wonder'



Our primary school Christmas project for 2021 was a 'prayer space' called **Christmas Wonder**, aimed at 10-11 year olds. We led 13 sessions, mostly in local churches, with 350 children from 9 different schools.

The sessions involved the children moving around 5 different zones with a leader considering different themes such as 'Life Journey', 'Do Not Be Afraid', 'Good News' and 'God With Us'. Each zone included opportunities for reflection and discussion, as well as practical activities like making paper angels, lighting candles, creating clay figures and scratch-art.

The children engaged positively, asking great questions, with many sharing personal situations. One boy said: **'I liked all of it, the peace and the calm and the chance to really think about Christmas. I thought things about Christmas that I'd never thought before.'**

A teacher said **"Lovely, calm activities giving children time to reflect on both the meaning of Christmas and their own experiences."**

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker



Eager pupils at 'Christmas Wonder'!



'Love Easter'



This year, we have created a new workshop using the Easter story as a springboard for reflection and discussion.

'Love Easter' starts with a brief telling of the Biblical story, moving on to a journey around different zones linked to episodes in the story.

At each zone, the children have the opportunity to explore the story's meaning,

and to share their own ideas and experiences through reflecting on particular questions (see below) and responding through a range of relevant activities:

- **'Who do you follow or adore?'**,
- **'How do you remember special times and people you love?'**,
- **'What creates barriers between you and others you love?'**,
- **'Is there a situation you think needs some love and hope?'**,
- **'What questions do you have about the Easter Story?'**

We are hosting 'Love Easter' in various local churches, where we have room to create an atmosphere of reflection and quiet, set apart from the usual bustle of school life. At the same time, we are also making available to schools our digital 'Easter Cracked' and 'Sadness to Joy' resources.

Sue Evans, Schools Worker



'It's Your Move'

We have been providing our 'It's Your Move' project to Year 6 classes for over 15 years and it has become very well-recognised and highly-valued in our local primary schools. The project is designed to support Year 6 pupils in their transition to secondary school and includes an interactive lesson and the gift of Scripture Union's "It's Your Move" book (sponsored by local churches) for every pupil. For the last 2 years we have offered a digital lesson but we are now excited to be booking lessons to be back in Year 6 classrooms this summer!

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work



Primary assemblies

Since September, we have been wonderfully welcomed back into most schools to take assemblies, and although there has continued to be the occasional disruption (including the chance for Joan and Nina to take a virtual live assembly, beamed through the school over the internet!) we have now mostly settled back into regular visiting routines.

Some of our latest assemblies have focused on **how amazing, unique and valuable each and everyone of us is, and how we find a place of calm when our feelings get unbalanced.** Others have been following the story of the apostle Peter, including the challenge he faced to walk on water. This half term we are exploring what happens when we mess up, through the story of the Prodigal Son and the story of Peter denying Jesus.

As we visit schools, we have noticed that there is now a heightened atmosphere of celebration in the assemblies, even as the youngest pupils are having to navigate sitting quietly with everyone else for the first time. Both staff and children are so happy to be back together, learning, listening and being inspired as one school community!

Sue Evans, Schools Worker



Secondary assemblies

We are glad to be continuing to take assemblies in local secondary schools, some face-to-face and some by video.

This term, Ian and I have created assembly videos for Brentwood County High School on **'Learning from Mistakes'** and **'Faithfulness'**. Frances and Ian are also taking assemblies in person at St. Martin's School.

Holly and I, as part of the ministry team at Becket Keys School, were excited to be able to visit the 6th form to do face-to-face assemblies for the first time. We considered the question **'How important is it to have a mission in life?'**, sharing the Biblical story of Bezalel who built the Tabernacle, as well as the inspiring story of teenager Charlie Abrams, who is turning plastic into bricks for houses for the homeless. It was great to meet the students for the first time, which will hopefully lead to other opportunities to meet and support students in different ways.

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker



Feedback from a school Head Teacher:

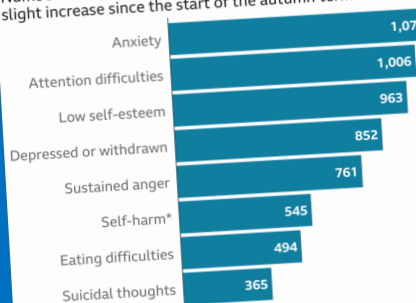
"You have brought calm to us in many storms. Thank you."

One-to-one pupil support in primary & secondary Schools

It continues to be a challenging season when it comes to one-to-one pupil support.

Recent analysis for the BBC shows an increase of 77% in the number of children needing specialist treatment for severe mental health crisis. We know that local services are overwhelmed, and schools are often left to support as best they can, whilst students linger on waiting lists.

Almost all staff surveyed saw increases in mental health problems among pupils
Number of staff who said they had seen a substantial or slight increase since the start of the autumn term



*Self-harm/self-destructive thoughts or acts
Survey of 1,130 teaching and support staff conducted in January 2022
Source: NAHT, Place2Be

Subsequently, the BSCWT Chaplains continue to see high demand in the seven schools where we provide pupil support. We see a wide variety of issues, including a wave of anxiety in regard to exam season, especially for the current year 13's who were unable to sit their GCSE's in 2020.

BBC It is a privilege to be

able to support schools by providing a safe space and listening ear to students in need. We ask for continued prayer for these pupils, as well as our Chaplains, as we encounter these situations.

Holly Coleman, Schools Worker & Fiona Mason, Administrator & Schools Worker



Lunchtime Clubs

Lunchtime clubs are a special time spent with pupils.

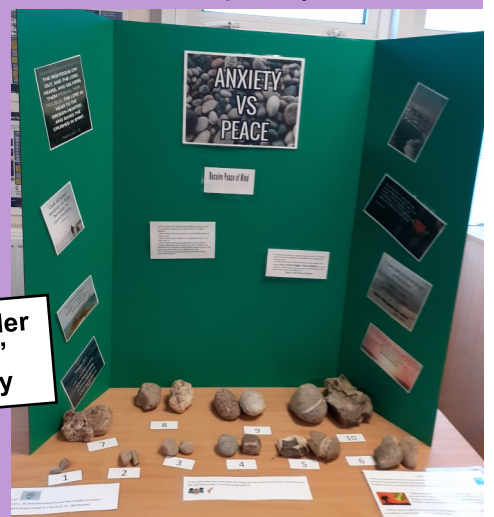
Clubs now: A secondary school Christian Union and one primary school club restarted in person in the autumn term. We are enjoying building relationships with the regular pupils that are attending.

Clubs future: What makes you feel wobbly? How do you deal with the unknown? What BIG questions do you have? These are examples of topics at the **Wonder Space** lunchtime club – on the cusp of launching at another secondary school. It's a place for pupils to reflect on, and discuss important life topics.

We have also been looking for new volunteers to help us relaunch more of our primary school faith-exploring clubs in the summer term.

Frances Coe, Schools Worker

A 'Wonder Space' activity





VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

At the time of writing this article, with the threat of Covid seemingly on the retreat, the world has seen another huge change with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A worrying development with uncertain consequences for perhaps all of us, and we seem to be caught in a procession of such changes of late.

However, I am reminded of God's words in Malachi 3:6: "I am the Lord, I change not," which refers to his promise to the Israelites to always be their God, even if they abandon Him. We too are blessed by the same promise, to those who love and serve him today.

We are grateful that our work continues in the schools, and also for the appointment of Claire Lim, our new Treasurer. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to Peter and Joe for their hard work and dedication.

And to all our supporters, thank you all for standing with us.

God bless,
Kevin Gilderson, Chair of Trustees

Finance Update from the Treasurers & Trustees

The Trust continues to be grateful and thankful to all individuals, churches and charitable trusts for their generous support of BSCWT working with the young people in the schools of Brentwood.

To the end of January, general income was £57,530 and expenditure was £75,059, giving a deficit of £17,529. The deficit is covered by legacies and donations.

Please pray that the current opportunities remain open and that every advantage God has given the Trust to communicate with the young people in the local schools will be taken and expanded.



In my last report I mentioned that I (Peter) was stepping down from my role as Treasurer. We are delighted to report that Claire Lim has volunteered for the role and we are currently working together for the next few months to ensure a smooth handover. Joe will be moving from the Finance Team to become part of our Monitoring Team.

Peter Embling & Joe Nunn, Joint Treasurers



Some feedback from a student we support: "I'm listened to and can easily open up as it's a private environment, and stresses are explained and broken down."

Amazon Smile: If you shop online with Amazon, you can raise money for BSCWT at the same time with 'Amazon Smile'! Visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk, choose the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust as your charity and Amazon will donate to BSCWT with every qualifying purchase you make. Thank you!

How can you be involved?

If you are a Christian with a passion for schools, education, children and young people, and think you might be interested in being involved, please get in touch with us at the BSCWT office. Please join with us to:

GIVE: BSCWT depends on the continued generosity of people who support us financially. If you'd like to support the work financially, please:

- Set up a standing order or a donation via your online banking. Please contact us for a Gift Aid Declaration form, if applicable (or download one from www.bscwt.org/downloads).
- Contact us for a standing order mandate (or download one from www.bscwt.org/downloads).
- Donate online at www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028156 or send a cheque to our office.
- For on-line banking/standing orders, please contact the BSCWT office for our bank account details.

If you no longer wish to receive communications from BSCWT, please contact us via the office at office@bscwt.org to be removed from our circulations.

PRAY: We believe praying for our local schools, children and young people is really important. Please contact us to:

- Request our weekly prayer email, termly prayer calendar and newsletter by email or post. Contact us at office@bscwt.org or 01277 249275 or visit www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent
- Start a prayer group for schools in your church or start/join a prayer group for a particular school.
- Just pray — on your own or with others!

VOLUNTEER: There are over 40 people who give their time and energy to volunteer with BSCWT:

- Our **Associate Workers** volunteer with us in schools, working with children and young people.
- Our **Trustees** oversee the running of the Trust.
- Our **Support Teams** assist the Staff and Trustees by doing important tasks in areas such as prayer, finance, human resources, policy-writing, events, monitoring and publicity.
- Our **Church Reps** help us to liaise with our local churches.
- We are also open to applications from people interested in doing an internship or work experience with us.

