



# Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Summer Term 2023

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**"Serving school communities by providing Christian learning and support"**

## Changing the Future!



If you're familiar with the classic "Back to the Future" movies, starring Michael J Fox, you'll know that it's not easy to change the future (at least, not in a good way)! Nevertheless, that is what the work of BSCWT does as we serve our local schools and seek to make a positive impact on young people for their future lives on this earth and beyond!

This term, we have had the privilege of providing our 'It's Your Move' lessons to hundreds of Year 6 pupils to help them in their transition to secondary school (see page 2). We will also be delivering our 'LifeSpace' project to make a difference to the futures of hundreds of Year 10 students (see page 2 also). And our other lessons, clubs, pupil support, prayer spaces and assemblies (see pages 2 and 3) are planting seeds that we believe God can use to change the future, in a positive way, for so many young people.

Please be aware that we are still on the lookout for wise and godly Christians to join our team of Trustees (see page 4 for more news from our Trustees), as well as new volunteers to help us in schools. And, if you can, please join us for our End-of-Year Celebration and Open Morning on Friday 14th July — we'd love to have you with us (see details to the right).

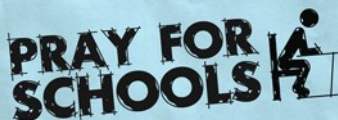
Thank you so much for your interest and support.

Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

## Back to School Sunday / Education Sunday

The start of September is a great time in our local churches to pray for everyone who will be going back to school, moving to a new school, starting school for the first time or leaving school to start college or university. Please encourage your church to take this opportunity on 27th August, 3rd September or 10th September.

Ideas and resources are available via [www.prayforschools.org/](http://www.prayforschools.org/) btswg and [www.cte.org.uk/education-sunday](http://www.cte.org.uk/education-sunday).



## YOU ARE INVITED

to our End-of-Year

## CELEBRATION & OPEN MORNING

on Friday 14th July 2023

from 9.30am to 12pm

at the **BSCWT Base**

(49 Coxtie Green Road)

From 9.30am to 10.15am we'll have a time of worship, thanksgiving and prayer (including some short updates on our work). Then there'll be some lovely refreshments available while you can visit various 'zones' representing our work in schools this year.

Please join us at any time for however long you can. We'd love to see you!

## Our **NEW OFFICE PHONE NUMBER**

is **01277 523522.**

Please note that our old phone number will be phased out soon!

## 10 things we are doing with schools this term.....

- 25 'It's Your Move' lessons with Year 6
- Assemblies in 31 schools
- One-to-one pupil support in 8 schools
- Weekly lunch time clubs in 5 schools
- New 'Curiosity Trails' in a primary school
- 'Pop-up prayer space' for sixth formers
- 'LifeSpace' for over 200 Year 10 pupils
- Support group for girls in a specialist school
- 10 'OT/NT Mini' lessons in primary schools
- Supporting a careers day for pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10.

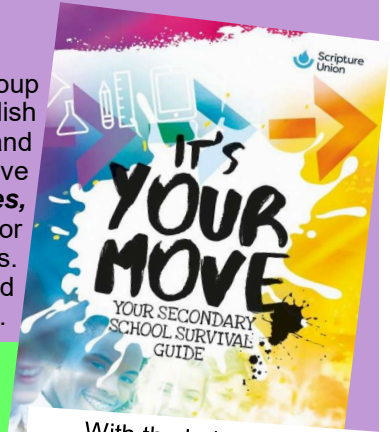
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# IT'S YOUR MOVE.....

Moving to secondary school is a big transition for pupils. With group work, props, videos and Jesus' parable of the 'Wise and Foolish Builders', our 'It's Your Move' lesson has been taken to 25 schools and nearly 900 Year 6 pupils this term. Through this project, we have helped the pupils to explore some of their upcoming **Changes**, **Challenges** and **Choices** and to consider how to start preparing for these now. The Bible story theme is about building your life on strong foundations. We have invited pupils to identify their most important values, and we have shared Biblical principles to help influence their choices as they go through secondary school.



With the help of local churches, we've given out nearly 900 'It's Your Move' books (published by Scripture Union) to Year 6 pupils!

Frances Coe, Schools Worker

### Some comments received from pupils:

- "It helped me to be less worried about starting secondary school."
- "I liked how they linked the topics to other circumstances to make them easier to understand."
- "Thank you so much for an inspirational and instructive session."

### Some comments received from teachers:

- "Excellent as usual, it got the children to really start thinking about their transition to secondary school."
- "Very useful information to help them with some of their worries."



A 'pop-up prayer space' in school!

## Pop-up Prayer Space

Alison and I, as part of our role on the ministry team for the 6<sup>th</sup> form at Becket Keys, decided to create a 'pop-up prayer space' to

expand on the themes of our assemblies at the school.

In situ for a week, there were opportunities for praying for the wider community, where individuals could place ribbons on a tree, each colour representing a different theme: red for war, yellow for cost of living crisis, blue for equality, purple for human trafficking and green for climate issues. There was also a prayer wall, where students could write private prayers, posting them through the cracks, like the wall in Jerusalem, and finally 'battery operated' candles, which could be lit to represent prayers for other people.

By the end of the week a total of 110 prayer ribbons were placed on the tree and many personal prayers had been posted in the wall.



Holly Coleman, Schools Worker

**Thank you!** - to the local churches for sponsoring the 'It's Your Move' books once again this year, and to all our volunteers for helping us to deliver these projects for schools. We are very grateful for your help and support.

Alison with Year 6 pupils at 'It's Your Move'



Frances with Year 10 students at 'LifeSpace' last year

## LifeSpace

We have been invited to run our 'LifeSpace' event once again in Shenfield High School. We have held this event in the school for 5 years now. 'LifeSpace' forms part of the school's Careers Day for Year 10 students. Throughout the day, students will explore zones prompting them to think and reflect on big questions of life: Who are you as a person? What is important to you? What are your gifts, skills and talents? What direction is your life going in? What would others say about you? What would you like to change? What are your hopes and dreams? And how can faith feature in this area of your life? In each zone, students engage with activities to help prompt thoughts and our team helps them to explore areas of life they may not otherwise get the chance to think about, especially at this key time of their lives.



Fiona Mason, Operations Manager & Schools Worker

## Pupil Support / Girls' Group



Pupil Support is currently happening in 8 of our local schools, involving 6 staff members and 3 associate workers. We provide one-to-one support in all of these schools and it is amazing to have the opportunity to be a significant adult in the lives of young people who need a listening ear and pastoral support for a variety of reasons. This term, some of the students we see are taking exams and leaving school, so even though it is sad to say 'goodbye', there is also a chance to review and celebrate what has been achieved in the past sessions (over a number of years for some students).

Our pupil support also involves small group work. This term, we have started to lead a **Girls' Group** in one local school, with the aim of building confidence and self-esteem, as well as discussing a variety of relevant topics including emotions, puberty and friendships.

*Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker*

## Primary School Assemblies

We have almost completed our year of assemblies in primary schools, following the theme of 'God's Second Greatest Rescue Plan!' We have seen Moses rescued as a baby, challenging Pharaoh to let God's people go, the 10 'horrible happenings' and the crossing of the Red Sea into freedom.

This term we've been exploring what happens next: having rescued them, God doesn't abandon his people, leaving them to get on with finding a new life on their own. Rather, he stays with them, providing for them both physically (the pillars of cloud and fire, as well as water, manna and quail) and spiritually (the 10 commandments and the tabernacle). Through the year we have considered what this story might teach us today, inviting the children to reflect on the belief that God invites all of us to be involved in his plans, that we can trust Him, and that he promises to always be with us.

*Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker*



## Secondary School Assemblies

As pupils were arriving for an assembly we took recently at a local secondary school, one pupil saw that we would be speaking and really turned up the pressure as we overheard him saying to a friend: "Oh, this'll be a good assembly!" I do hope it lived up to expectations!

This term we have had the privilege, once again, of speaking in various secondary school assemblies, inviting students to consider huge questions such as "What does it mean to be successful?" and "What's your purpose in life?"

It is amazing to have these opportunities to help young people engage in pondering these important spiritual questions.

*Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work*

## Easter Feedback

Sue with Year 6 pupils at 'Love Easter'



Last term we were able to provide 24 sessions of our Easter projects ('Love Easter' and 'Sadness to Joy') with over 900 pupils. Here are a few comments we received from pupils and school staff:

*"I enjoyed spending time really thinking about Jesus."*

*"We liked how interactive this session was. It was great that the children got to move around the church and join in with interesting activities."*

*"Another brilliant workshop. Very informative, interesting and thought-provoking."*

*"I enjoyed having a chance to think about my own personal reactions and thoughts."*

*"Thank you. Really good educational and inspiring activities."*

## Lunch time clubs

Over this year we have been able to build up our voluntary school clubs. Clubs are a wonderful way to establish and build connection, offering the young people an opportunity, and space, to learn and explore Christian stories and beliefs, as well as having fun and making friends. They are also places where young people can talk about themselves and their ideas, as well as share problems or challenges they are facing.

This term:

- Shenfield School Christian Union has been using the *Good News For Everyone* HOPE magazine to read and discuss Scripture;
- Wonder Space at St Martin's School has been asking questions about Christianity and life after death;
- Our primary schools clubs have been exploring the work of the Holy Spirit, as well as some of the Biblical stories that take place after Jesus' resurrection;
- A 'Curiosity Trail' has been launched in Long Ridings Primary School, with playground activity zones set up for the children to explore, during playtimes, the theme of 'Wonderful World'.

*Sue Evans, Lead Schools Worker*



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

As we come towards the end of another academic year, I look back with thanks for all the schools that the Trust has been able to go into to share God's love with both pupils and staff. I also am thankful for all our supporters and associate workers who help us, both financially and practically.

The Trust has managed to increase its staff and expand what we do in schools in the last four years because of legacies left to the Trust and a large gift from a local church. Over much the same period the Trust has seen a reduction in regular income from both individuals and churches, very likely because of the covid pandemic and the financial pressures in recent years. As a result, we are using these reserves at a faster rate than originally planned. If the Trust's income from regular giving does not increase within the next two years then we will have to reduce our expenditure, which will inevitably mean reducing our staff, to keep the Trust operating.

Please pray for the Trustees as we consider our next steps.

*Mick Bastable, Chair of Trustees*

## News from the Trustees .....

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev Paul Hamilton as a Trustee of BSCWT. Paul has been a supporter of the Trust for many years and we welcome him as a Trustee, where his many skills will be greatly valued. Paul is currently the Rector of St Nicholas' and St Stephen's churches in Ingrave.

On a sadder note, we would also like to announce that Christine Drew will be stepping down as a Trustee at the end of this academic year. Christine has been involved with the Trust for many years, the last 13 years as a Trustee and for three and a half of those years as the Chair of Trustees. Her knowledge and experience in HR and as a Head Teacher and Governor will be greatly missed.

We thank her for her many years of faithful and wise service and wish her well as she spends more time with her family.

## Finance Update from the Treasurer & Trustees



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

To the end of March, regular income was £62,618 and expenditure was £126,265 giving a deficit of £63,647. The deficit is covered by previous legacies and one-off larger donations as well as money received from the Mulberry Trust. In order to continue the work of the Trust we are dependent on donations from individuals and churches alike. If you are not currently a regular donor and would like more information on how to become one, or would like to make a one-off donation, please see below or contact me at [treasurer@bscwt.org](mailto:treasurer@bscwt.org).

Please continue to pray that the current opportunities remain open and also for new opportunities so that every advantage God has given the Trust to communicate with the young people in the local schools can be taken.

*Claire Lim, Treasurer*

## 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](http://www.bscwt.org/downloads)).
- Contact us for a standing order mandate (or download one from [www.bscwt.org/downloads](http://www.bscwt.org/downloads)).
- Donate online at [www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20028156](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@bscwt.org) or 01277 523522 or visit [www.bit.ly/BSCWTconsent](http://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.



In association with

**Scripture Union**