



Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust Newsletter, Summer Term 2020

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”



Still Serving Schools through ‘Lockdown’!

On 20th March, school buildings across the country closed down to all but a small number of staff, vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. Just a few days before, following government guidance, we closed the BSCWT office and our staff began working from home. However, while schools have continued to provide education to pupils remotely, so we also have been continuing to serve and support our local schools. We are so grateful to God for providing us with many opportunities to do this.

As we are all well aware, the last few months have been extraordinary and unprecedented in so many ways. But I am thrilled at how our team has responded to the challenge of finding ways to serve school pupils and staff. These ways have certainly been different to our ‘usual’ methods, and you can read about them in this newsletter, but we have found school communities – pupils, staff and parents - expressing their gratitude that we have stood with them during such difficult times.

Finally, please allow me to apologise for the timing of this newsletter being later than usual. Back in May, we decided to delay its publication to give us a bit more time to deal with the circumstances we have all been facing. Thank you for your patience and understanding and for continuing to stand with us. I hope you enjoy reading our news about serving schools during ‘lockdown’.
Ian Kemble, Director of Schools Work

‘Celebration’ Video!

Even if you haven’t seen our previous announcements, you will probably have guessed that we have cancelled our Annual Celebration, which was due to take place on 6th July! We’re really sad to be unable to hold this event, but we are excited to let you know that we’ve put together a short ‘Celebration’ video to share with you some of our highlights of the past year of serving schools.

This video will be available to watch from Monday 6th July onwards at www.bscwt.org/celebration. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for your continued prayers, support and generosity, particularly through these challenging times.

Remember Easter?!

At the end of last term, we had a full 3½-week timetable of Easter lessons booked in primary schools! *Sadness to Joy* is our infants’ lesson which tells the story of Easter through acting, interaction and dressing up; *Easter Cracked* is a workshop aimed at exploring the mysteries of Easter with older Juniors; and the *Easter Prayer Space* provides a reflective space for asking big questions around themes based in the Easter Story.

We managed a week of these projects before government guidance led to schools closing down to most staff and pupils. However, that was not the end of our involvement with schools at Easter: we were able to send out the lesson plans and resources to some schools for their teachers to adapt and use with their students wherever they were!

Sue Evans, Schools Worker



It’s Your Move!

Our *It’s Your Move* project, led by Rosie, looks very different this year! What would normally be a 90-minute lesson with Year 6 pupils in their classes, has been adapted into a digital resource pack, able to be used by teachers with pupils in school or by pupils learning at home.



The resources are available at www.bscwt.org/iym and include videos and worksheets to help pupils explore the Changes, Challenges and Choices they may face as they move to their new school. The pack has been sent to 30 schools, along with nearly 1000 *It’s Your Move* books for pupils (see page 3).

A Year 6 teacher wrote this to us:
“I did the It’s Your Move workshop with my class this morning and it went brilliantly well. Gold stars all round to Rosie and the team! Please pass on my thanks and appreciation.”

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Serving Schools...

Video 'assemblies'

At the time of writing, the 'assembly' messages we have created and posted on YouTube for our local primary and secondary schools have been viewed nearly 800 times! Themes include Easter, Daniel and the Lions' Den, and 'Responding to challenging times'. You can find our new YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMM4YgW283dpcMMCdSEiusw/>.



Fiona's 'lockdown'

During 'lockdown', I continued the administration of the Trust from home. It's been great to stay in touch with our staff, volunteers, schools, churches and supporters, thanks to the wonders of technology! I have sent cards to 6th Form students I was supporting and kept in contact with their Pastoral Managers. Please keep the older students in your prayers, especially those who were unable to sit exams this year. I have been exploring some mental health training for our staff team. I have provided support for *It's Your Move*, the production of the Newsletter and Prayer Calendar and generally kept all aspects of BSCWT in touch with each other!

Fiona Mason, Administrator & Schools Worker

Website Resources

Like us, many organisations have been working hard to create helpful resources. So we've been pulling together links to the best relevant educational and mental health resources we can find, posting them on our website and telling schools about it. You can find the page at www.bscwt.org/resources-2020.

Holly's 'lockdown'

During 'lockdown', I have maintained communication with my contacts in the schools I mainly work in. I have sent video messages and helped to put together 'Explore at Home' resources, which have continued with the themes we were exploring in the primary clubs before schools closed. I have also been able to continue with supporting some individual pupils, safely following the guidance of the school. On top of this, I have been planning ahead for next year's lunchtime clubs programme so that we are ready to dive back in when schools open fully again.

Holly Coleman, Schools Worker



Alison's 'lockdown'

During 'lockdown' I have been keeping in contact with several schools, sending emails and cards to let them know that we are thinking of them and praying for them. I also sent cards to 7 students that I support one-to-one and have maintained some regular contact with 3 of these students, mainly by email. I have had fun dressing up and acting to contribute to one of our primary school 'assembly' videos! I have written some sessions of 'Explore at Home,' which is aimed at children who usually attend our primary schools clubs. I am also planning for a future programme to support groups of pupils struggling with self-esteem.

Alison Carmichael, Schools Worker



Explore at Home

Every fortnight during 'lockdown', we have been creating activity resources for the pupils who come to our lunchtime clubs. We have called this "Explore at Home" and we are grateful that schools have been glad to send the resources on to the pupils at home. Topics explored have included forgiveness, resurrection and the Holy Spirit.

Frances's 'lockdown'

I've been sending cards to schools and individual school staff saying we are thinking of and praying for them. I've had my first forays into YouTube (!), creating an Easter video 'assembly' for primary schools.

I've also been involved in creating 'Explore at Home' resources, which include Bible stories, video links, questions, games and craft activities that can be done at home. One school teacher told me she was really touched by our desire to maintain contact with the children.

Frances Coe, Schools Worker



Supporting school staff

The coronavirus crisis has had a huge impact on school staff, as one group of key workers. We have the privilege of knowing many of those staff members in local schools, so we've been keeping in touch with them to offer support and encouragement and to remind them that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Do you shop online at Amazon? If so, why not use Amazon Smile at www.smile.amazon.co.uk. Select the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust as your charity and Amazon will make a small donation to BSCWT from every qualifying purchase you make.

...during 'Lockdown'

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL CHURCHES

We would like to extend our thanks to all the churches who have sponsored *It's Your Move* books (published by Scripture Union). We have recently delivered nearly 1000 books to local primary schools for their Year 6 pupils. Your help and support is much appreciated.

Gelila Melaku, Project Administrator



It's Your Move

For news of our *It's Your Move* project, see page 1, and Gelila's and Rosie's words to the left and below.

Rosie's 'lockdown'

I have been able to maintain contact with the schools I work in, sharing the resources we have and offering support. I have also worked on creating an alternative way of delivering our *It's Your Move* project, filming and editing videos with green screens and puppets and creating a workbook to support Year 6 pupils moving to secondary school. Having to do things differently has allowed me to look at the project with fresh eyes and I hope this will help develop the project further once we are back in schools physically.

Rosie Graham, Schools Worker



Pupil Support

Despite most pupils being at home, we have still been able to find safe and appropriate ways to keep in touch with some of the pupils we usually support in schools. These have included greetings cards, emails, phone calls and even delivering food parcels.

Sue's 'lockdown'

I seem to be busier than ever trying to rethink how we do things, and learning new ways of doing them! Apart from keeping in contact with and supporting some of the students and staff we know, we've also been keeping the BSCWT team of staff and volunteers praying and planning together. I've organised some planning and prayer meetings, and two 'Quiet Mornings' on Zoom, and I've also attended several online training events. I've helped design and send out activity sheets for the children who come to our lunchtime clubs, and, with contributions from many of our team, I have produced a video 'assembly' on 'Daniel and the Lions' Den' for the primary schools we would have been visiting this term.

Sue Evans, Schools Worker



Feedback on *It's Your Move* from a teacher:

"Thank you for the resources. They look fantastic and will undoubtedly be really helpful in supporting our Year 6 pupils."

Praying for schools

Praying for our local schools is vital, so we have continued to pray during the pandemic. This has included keeping our weekly Team Prayer Meetings going using Zoom. It's been great to have so many of our volunteers and supporters join us for these times of prayer.

Preparing for the future

As we look forward to schools opening up again to all pupils in the future, we have been preparing for when we are able to join them again. We've been making plans for our lunchtime clubs next year as well as preparing group resources to support the many young people and children who may continue to struggle with their mental health in the coming months.



Please note that all contributions from our furloughed staff were written before they went on furlough!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY / EDUCATION SUNDAY is on 30th August or 6th/13th September 2020. This is an even more important occasion than usual given that many pupils have not been in school since March. Please mark this occasion in your church services to pray for pupils and staff as they return to schools. Visit www.prayforschools.org/btswg/ and www.educationsunday.org for more information.

Finance Update from the Treasurers & Trustees

We continue to be thankful to all individuals, churches and charitable trusts for their continued support of the activities of the Trust with the young people in our Brentwood schools.



Peter Embling
Treasurer

We have come to the end of another financial year and we are pleased to report that the Trust finances are in a healthy position. We have been blessed with some legacies which have had a significant impact on our finances. Please pray for wisdom for the Trustees as they consider how the money will be spent. Receipts were £90,058 which included a budgeted transfer from unrestricted funds of £24,109. Payments were £89,129. At the year end there was a surplus of £928.

We were blessed to receive a further grant of £5,000 from the Mulberry Trust and we are very grateful for their ongoing support. We are busy preparing the annual accounts for presentation to our Independent Examiner.



Joe Nunn
Treasurer

Again, many thanks for your prayerful and financial support. Please pray that the current opportunities remain open and that every advantage of the privilege God has given us to communicate with the young people in our schools will be taken.

Peter Embling & Joe Nunn
Joint Treasurers

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

The Spring Newsletter saw Australia suffering from terrible bush fires and the world looked on in sadness at their plight. What a difference 5 months make. Now the world battles the enemy of Covid-19 and this time it is a shared pain. Who would have predicted the effects on lives, economies and the total change to our way of life?



Through all this, I am comforted by the words of Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." God has reminded the world that he is in control, whether it likes it or not.

And so what of the Trust? Schools closure has obviously impacted on our work, but has in no way stopped it. The Trustees are very grateful for the way our staff have adapted to the new situation, working magnificently to support schools and individuals as best they can. Going forward, difficult decisions have been necessary, but showing the love of Christ to the young people of Brentwood prevails. During this time of trial, I pray that, whatever your circumstances, the love of God will shine through and strengthen you. Thank you.

Kevin Gilderson, Chair of Trustees

June Morrison

It was with great sadness that we heard of June Morrison's passing on 17th March, after a long battle with illness. June was a wonderful member of the BSCWT community, having been on our Management Committee and also having served as our Church Rep for St. Stephen's Church for many years. We are so grateful for her significant contribution to our work and our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

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.give.net or send a cheque to our office address (see front of newsletter).
- For on-line banking/standing orders, please contact the BSCWT office for our bank account details.

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 <https://forms.gle/VUjcfbi1QhuSNvFP6>.
- 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.

BSCWT is a Local Mission Partner of



Scripture Union

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.