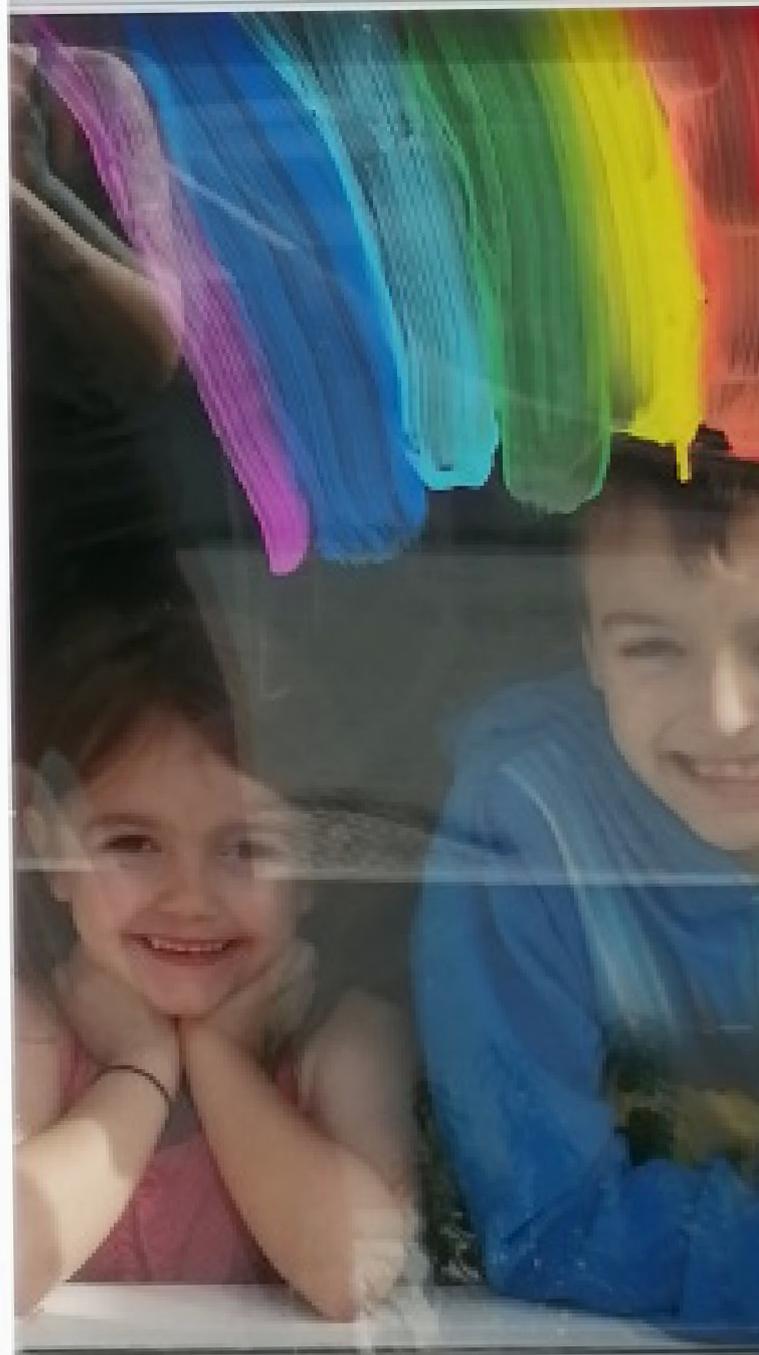




#BESTfamily

NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING YOU

The last few weeks have been a strange and challenging time for everyone. All of us have had to adapt our work and lives dramatically in this situation so we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate and thank everyone in the BEST community for their efforts during this time.

Firstly we would like to thank all of our BEST young people for adapting so well to their new “home schools”. It must be very hard not to be able to see your friends everyday and to stay on task with school work whilst you are at home.

Thank you to all the parents who have taken on the demands of home schooling so well. Many of you are working from home or are key workers and we understand that working whilst educating is very hard!

Langford students have been making the most out of their home-schooling over the last few weeks. Thank you to all the parents at home overseeing maths, literacy, PE, art, science, music and even gardening!

Langford Village Academy
@lva_info



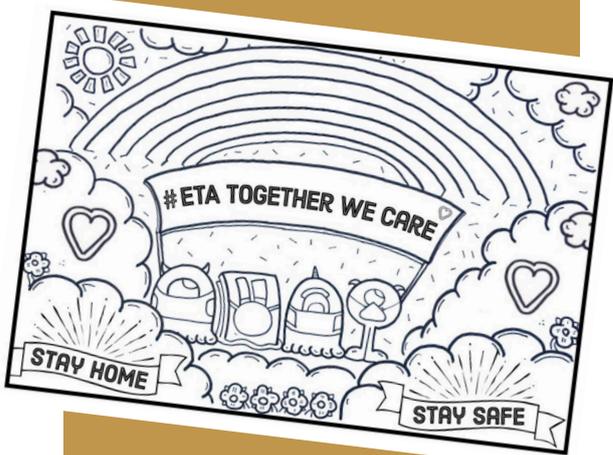
Look at the amazing work the students of Lawnside Academy have been doing at home! Before the holidays some home lessons revolved around Easter activities including baking an Easter cake and decorating Easter eggs.

Lawnside Academy



We would like to extend our gratitude to the local community for all you do. We know that so many different parts of the community have rallied around schools and we thank you for all your support. In particular we would like to thank the following businesses who are supporting those students from Robert Boomfield who are entitled to free school meals by providing them with lunch vouchers that can be used in certain stores.

**Ansell Village Stores,
Stondon Local Stores,
Wilstead Post Office,
Rogers Bakery ,
John R Ford Garage,
Southill Tea Rooms,
Co-op, Silsoe**



Dylan from Etonbury Academy created this rainbow colouring page for students to colour and place in their windows to support key workers.



St Christophers Academy have been working hard over the home school period. Students have been engaging really well in their new home learning environments and have been drawing rainbow pictures for the Nightingale hospital. The community has been well supported with food parcels and cleaning products provided by the school. The PTA donated 50 Easter Eggs to the staff and patients at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

St Christophers Academy

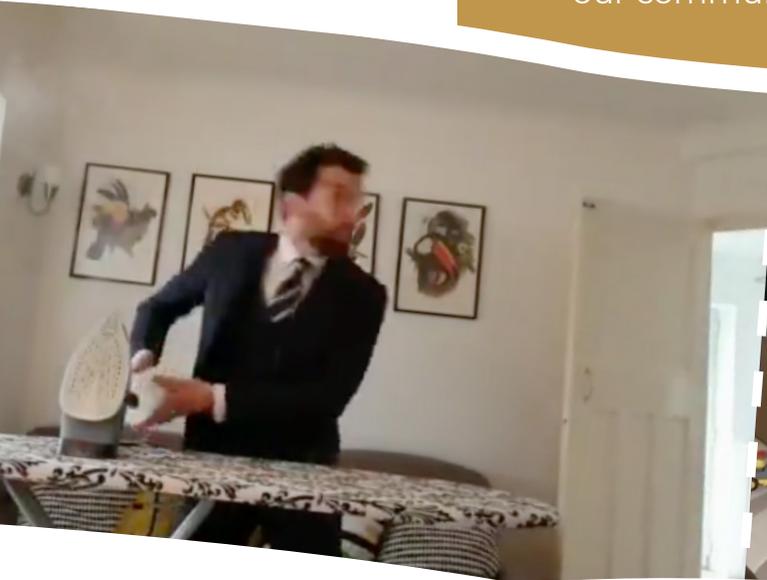
BEST rainbows







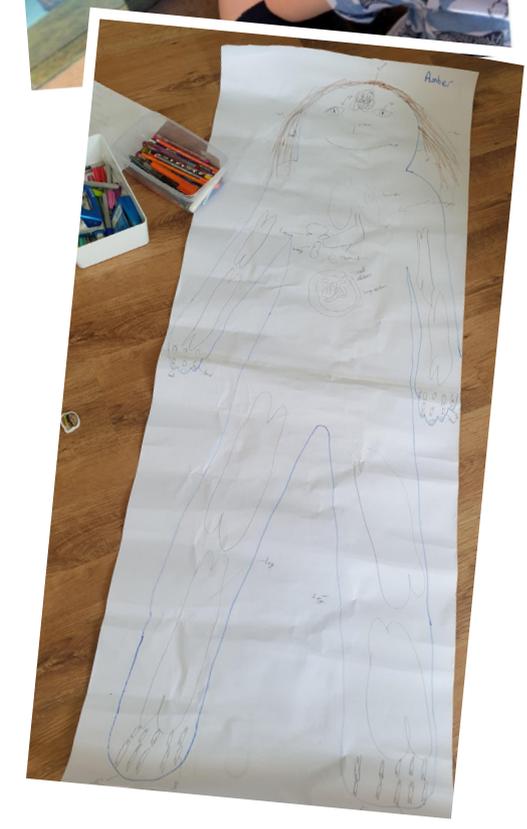
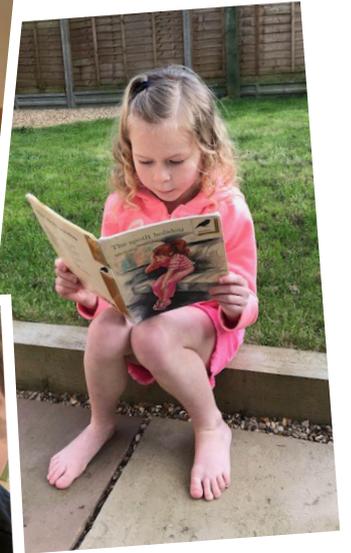
We are extremely lucky to have an enthusiastic, caring and adaptable staff group working for BEST. Our team ranges from teachers and teaching assistants in the classrooms to the Central Team at BEST and the many, often unseen, staff who come together to make schools function be they cleaners, cooks, administrators, site agents, finance staff etc. Everyone has adapted the way that they work quickly and without fuss and have continued to serve those who need provision including all through the Easter Holidays, including Good Friday and Easter Monday. Leadership teams have formulated plans to support every student. Teachers have been learning entirely new ways to do their day to day jobs using Google classroom and Zoom to teach. Support staff have been sending out communications and organising behind the scenes. The BEST Executive Team (Principals and Central Team Senior Leaders) have been coordinating support across BEST schools – sharing best practice and working together to serve our communities.



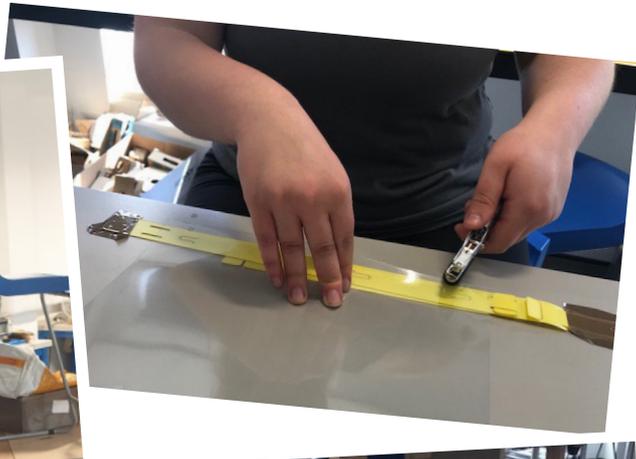
Thank you to Gothic Mede for putting a smile on everyone's face with their toilet roll challenge! You can check out the full video here.

Gothic Mede Academy
@GothicMede





Mr Martin delivered 100th birthday cards to national hero and Bedfordshire resident Captain Thomas Moore. The cards were made by students of Robert Bloomfield Academy, Gravenhurst Academy, Gothic Mede Academy, Samuel Whitbread Academy, Langford Village Academy and Shefford Lower school.



We have been overwhelmed by the way our schools have been supporting each other as well as other key workers. Led by Mr Reeves and the Design Technology team, Etonbury Academy staff have been turning clear plastic into visors for frontline NHS staff. Rolls of clear plastic have been donated by the community and other schools including Samuel Whitbread and Robert Bloomfield as well as others in the local area.

Etonbury Academy
@etonburyacademy

Robert Bloomfield Academy have been supporting the vulnerable of Shefford and the surrounding areas. When it was announced that schools would be closing RBA boxed up and sent over surplus food from the schools canteen to the staff and residents of Meppershall Care Home. Food donations have also been delivered to the old Birches care home which is now a shelter for homeless/vulnerable families.

Special thanks goes to Mrs Pegg and Inese for cooking the food and Mr Mills and Mr Robson for packing and delivering.

Robert Bloomfield Academy
@robertbms

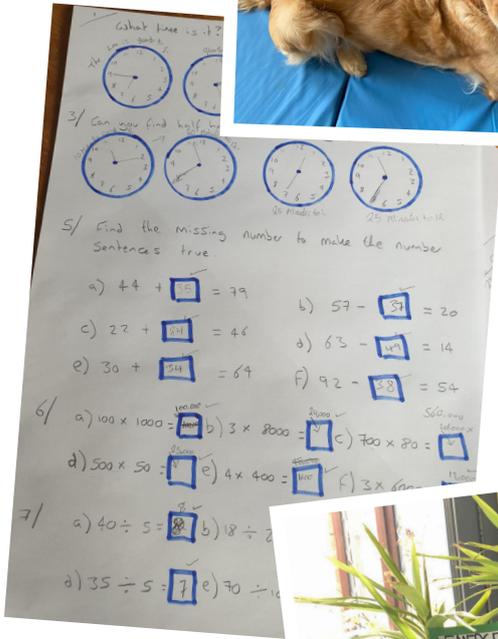




We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for all their support during this time.

- Partnership Education
- Horizons HR
- Sherryl Cousins
- Steve Ellis Insurance Consulting Ltd

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as we celebrate so many positive things going on in the #BESTfamily during this time.





Samuel Whitbread Academy has started a global goodwill trend by donating all their science goggles to the local hospital for frontline NHS staff. They have been on ITV, BBC and Sky news to spread the word.

Hearing that hospitals were short of protective equipment, Mr Martin replied with the offer of 350 plastic goggles, which the hospital were hugely grateful for. Mr Martin took to Twitter to announce the success of the plan. The tweet got the attention of bake off winner Candice Brown and DJ Sara Cox, soon other schools across the UK and even USA and New Zealand have followed suit!



Recently Samuel Whitbread have been producing visors for a number of key workers in the area. Notably, they have donated visors to Neville funerals in Shefford.

Samuel Whitbread Academy
@SamWhitAcademy

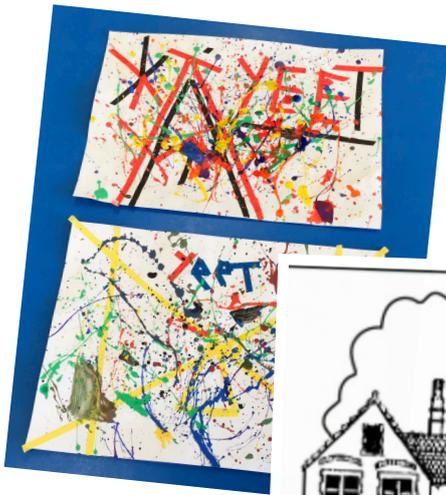
Happy Birthday to Robert Bloomfield's dog Honey! She turned one this Easter!





Although made somewhat more difficult due to the pandemic, work continues on the Pix Brook permanent site, we're excited to see it taking shape. A great deal of work is being undertaken in terms of construction, decisions about fixtures, furniture and equipment, signage, ICT and a plethora of other items that all require discussion and agreement. Having said that the school is really taking shape.

Pix Brook Academy
@PixBrookA

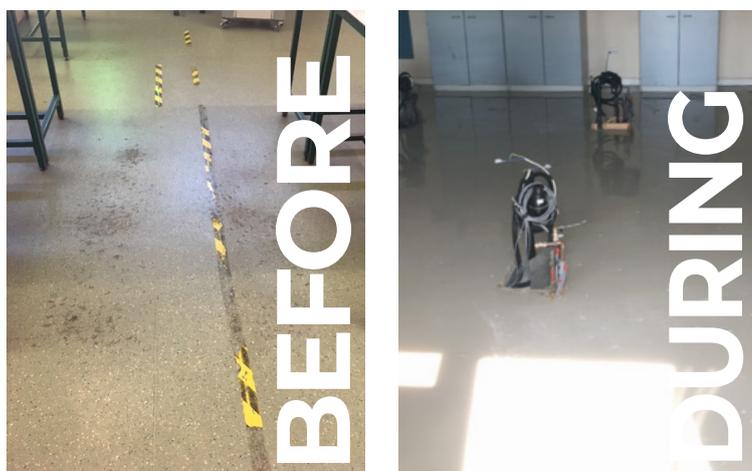


We are delighted to announce that Campton Lower School will soon be joining the trust. We have already begun to work closely together and we are really excited for what the future will bring. Susanne Combe is Acting Headteacher and SENCO Sarah Fraher is Acting Assistant Headteacher.

Staff and students of Campton have been hard at work over the last few weeks and you can follow what they're up to on twitter [@CamptonLower](https://twitter.com/CamptonLower).

Although schools may not be fully open work still continues. Over the Easter holidays important works have been carried out at our schools.

New floors have been fitted at Robert Bloomfield Academy sprucing up four of the science labs. The hazard tape that was holding the floors together has gone and new, safe floors have been laid. Despite the final screed being held up in the Netherlands, it is anticipated that by the time students return to schools the floors will be fully fitted and finished.



At Samuel Whitbread the tennis court fences have been replaced. Recently these fences had become someone delapidated in areas, as everything does over time, and were in need of attention. Although not very glamorous, the new fence is a vast improvement.



BEST STARTERS

We are delighted to provide some updates on staffing – including welcoming new staff members to BEST and some notable promotions within the Trust.

NEW STARTERS

- Bay Morenno, Jo Bavister, Emily Pang as Learning Support Assistants at Gothic Mede Academy
- Steve Brookes Head of Humanities at Pix Brook Academy
- Felix Burton-Cook as Cover Supervisor, Rebecca Creasey as Science Technician, Amber Bailey as a Primary teacher and Rachel Martin as a Science teacher at Robert Bloomfield Academy
- Amy Roe as a midday supervisor at Lawnside Academy
- Sarah Dale as Year 4 teacher at Campton

PROMOTIONS

- Tracy Smyth Director of KS2 at Pix Brook Academy
- Flora Burt and Colin Marshall will become Senior Assistant Principals at Robert Bloomfield Academy
- Rich Sinclair Acting Designated Safeguarding Lead and Vishalie Yadav Acting Associate Principal overseeing Behaviour, Attitudes and Attendance at Samuel Whitbread Academy

SEPTEMBER STARTERS

- Kurtis Vince and Debbie Sharp teaching at Gothic Mede Academy
- Noorma Razhi at Langford Village Academy
- Kirren Rehman as Assistant Head of Maths KS3 and Adam O'Neill will be teaching PE at Robert Bloomfield Academy

We are excited to welcome you all and others as the recruitment process continues. We look forward to working together as the BEST family.