

It's change at the top as Bryanston head departs

A CHANGE of leadership at Blandford's top independent school Bryanston was announced a few weeks before the end of term.

The board of governors confirmed that the school's Second Master Richard Jones has now assumed interim responsibility for all day-to-day management of the school as acting head, following the departure of Mark Mortimer, head since September 2019.

The appointment of the experienced teacher of economics and business, who also has a master's degree in educational leadership, follows what was described as "a period of reflection by the school's headmaster, Mark Mortimer, on the experiences of the past two years, as a result of which he has made the decision to move on from Bryanston".

In their statement, the governors said the change was being announced so that pupils could be informed clearly and calmly



Richard Jones, acting head at Bryanston School.

before the end of term and their Christmas holiday, to avoid any speculation or unnecessary anxiety.

The search is now underway for a new head of Bryanston to lead the school through the next stage of its development and to help consolidate its reputation as a creative, collaborative and inno-

vative environment for education and personal development.

Julian Greenhill, the school's chair of governors, said: "Richard has demonstrated insight, engagement and affinity with the core values and unique ethos of Bryanston since joining us.

"Working closely with the senior management team as well as the governors and staff in all areas of the school, Richard will now be taking the lead in helping us meet our academic, pastoral and strategic objectives in advance of the appointment of a new head.

"We are grateful to Mark Mortimer and his wife, Anna, for their energy, commitment and service during such a challenging period in the world of education, and we wish them and their children every success in the future."

Questions and answers in the news feed on the school's website reassured pupils and parents that there would be no change in the operation of the school, which recently merged with Knighton House in Durweston, or in its involvement with the local community.

It also gave assurance that Mr Mortimer's sudden departure was not the result of any disciplinary matter.

Fairs aid for Sudan

FOR 25 years, churches in the Tarrant Valley and beyond have been holding a Christmas fair to raise money for medical supplies and training for South Sudan, sending the funds through the Salisbury diocesan charity the Salisbury-Sudan Medical Link.

This year the fair was split into two: a shopping fair and a lunch fair, to try to avoid crowds which might lead to a rise in covid cases.

Despite the difficult situation, over £2,000 was raised for this very worthwhile cause, supporting some of the poorest people in the world.

The organisers have thanked all who attended, giving special thanks to Dr Robin Sadler, who came on both occasions to talk to people about the work done by the Medical Link.

Apprentice schemes launched by internet firm

THREE new apprenticeship programmes have been launched by local internet service provider Wessex Internet as it looks to create the next generation of skilled telecoms professionals in Dorset.

Six apprentices are being recruited this year, with plans to recruit additional cohorts on an ongoing basis, in three potential career paths - as network cable installer, service delivery scheduler or sales/customer service advisor.

The company, which already employs more than 120 people from its base near Blandford, has worked with local training providers The Colleges' Partnership and Skills & Learning to provide a mix of both on-the-job and off-the-job training, full support and assessment so that apprentices can gain qualifications while developing new skilled careers in telecommunications.

Full details can be found at wessexinternet.com/careers or potential candidates can email careers@wessexinternet.com for more information.

Hector Gibson Fleming, CEO at Wessex Internet, said: "As a local and independent business, we're passionate about creating exciting and rewarding career opportunities here in Dorset.

"Our new apprenticeship programmes provide a pathway into the fast-growing telecommunications sector and the many hi-tech career paths available within it. Our goal is to create first-class telecommunications training and careers in the south-west."

Dean Green, business development manager at The Colleges' Partnership, a local training provider with over 15 years' experience delivering apprenticeships, said: "The network cable installer apprenticeship will stretch and challenge the apprentices but also cement required skills for the future to the local workforce to support the local community."

Julia Markus, business and outreach officer, at the local Skills & Learning Adult Community Education, said: "This very successful, fast-growing company is bringing great jobs with training and excellent career prospects."

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