Seven Secondary Schools Collaborate to produce PPE for Frontline Workers

Seven local secondary schools have been working together to produce life-saving PPE for frontline workers. Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School, Arthur Terry, John Wilmott, Fairfax, The Streetly Academy, Stockland Green and Plantsbrook have all been collaborating, through the Easter break, to provide essential protective equipment to frontline staff in hospitals, nursing homes and hospices.

The initiative began at Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School, where the Head of DT, Skye Bowen, and technician Andrea Gregory, started printing plastic clips for surgical masks, which are designed to eliminate pressure from the mask’s elastic bands on the ears of those wearing them.

The first clips were produced on the 8th April. Realising the potential scalability of the project, the Headteacher at BVGS, Dominic Robson, asked other Sutton schools for their support. They responded incredibly and have since been working together in various capacities to make the production of PPE possible.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School, Arthur Terry, John Wilmott, Fairfax, The Streetly Academy, Stockland Green and Plantsbrook, the production line has now extended to creating much needed face visors. Since Monday 8th April, 510 mask clips and 244 visors have been produced and distributed out to frontline staff at: Heartlands, Extra Care, Good Hope, Sandwell Hospital, Walsall Manor, Lichfield Ambulance Service and Wyndley Grange Nursing Home.

Each school has played their part in the production of PPE. The printers have been whirring at BVGS, Plantsbrook have donated essential material to make the visors, while Arthur Terry, John Wilmott, Fairfax, The Streetly Academy and Stockland Green have all provided support with a combination of staffing, resources and manufacturing.

It has been heart-warming to see the PPE our schools have created being used on the frontline. Staff have got in touch to thank us. We will remain forever in their debt for the vital work they are doing, and we are thrilled that our collaborative efforts are proving useful to them.

The seven schools have all contributed in other ways too. Many have donated all their lab googles and disposable gloves to local hospitals.
Individuals from the local community who have seen the work of the secondary schools on Twitter have offered their support to provide materials. Judith from Qube Environmental personally purchased 200 sheets of PP to support their production, as did Dave and Jason from Fosco Hayes Hurley Ltd. We are also extremely grateful to Aaron Dane (Old Veseyan) who has donated enough polypropylene to enable the manufacture of 500 visors.

Our school communities are also rallying in other ways to support the NHS and frontline workers. Physical fundraising challenges, sewing headbands for surgical masks to be attached to, decorating the outside of their houses with words of support for the NHS are just three ways grateful pupils are thanking frontline workers.

The efforts of the individuals who have donated, students at the schools and the seven schools themselves show the desire of the local community to pull together to support the NHS and frontline workers, who everyday put their health and lives at risk to take care of our community. Thank you frontline workers. We will continue to support you in any way we can.

Photos left to right: visors ready at BVGS to be distributed, Staff Nurse Julia Alldritt wearing her face mask clip made by the seven schools, Julia wearing her visor produced by us, face mask clips pre-distribution.