



# LINX

Termly News  
Summer 2020  
May - August

This Issue:

- GSUS Live
- School Focus
- Elevate 2020
- Covid-19 response

# LiNX Celebration Evening 2020

There's still so much  
to be thankful for!

Even though schools are currently closed there's still lots that God has been doing through the LiNX team in our secondary schools, over the year so far. I'm also confident that when we eventually look back at how our community has pulled together through this difficult time, we will have so many stories of how God has been working in the midst of the challenge!

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we're unable to commit to a venue, but please note the following dates as possibilities for LiNX's 2020 Celebration.

**13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
November  
7-8pm**

We'll hopefully be able to confirm further details in the summer time.



# COVID-19 Impact on Schools



I truly hope this newsletter finds you well, in good health and with enough provisions to get through the coming weeks. This pandemic is unlike anything the world has known in modern times, and the true impact of it isn't fully known yet either, including the impact on the well being of young people in our community. Please do be praying for young people at this time, for increased resilience, practical support wherever needed, and the confidence to call on God for his help at this time.

In line with current guidance (at the time of writing), we have closed the LiNX office and are working from our homes, each with differing family circumstances. How we support the secondary school communities is understandably quite different now and we are seeking God for wisdom and creativity to address the constantly shifting landscape. Please pray for inspiration and creativity as we walk this new path together as a team. Where possible mentoring sessions with students are continuing online via school networks and we are seeking to create virtual resources that can be accessed by schools and young people online, and where appropriate we will support schools practically.

Finally, please do pray for the generous individuals and local churches that make what we do possible, month by month, year by year. Over the coming months we are praying that resources continue to come in to make LiNX's important work in supporting Torbay young people and reaching them with the love of Christ possible.

Thank you,

Tim Funnell



# GSUS Live

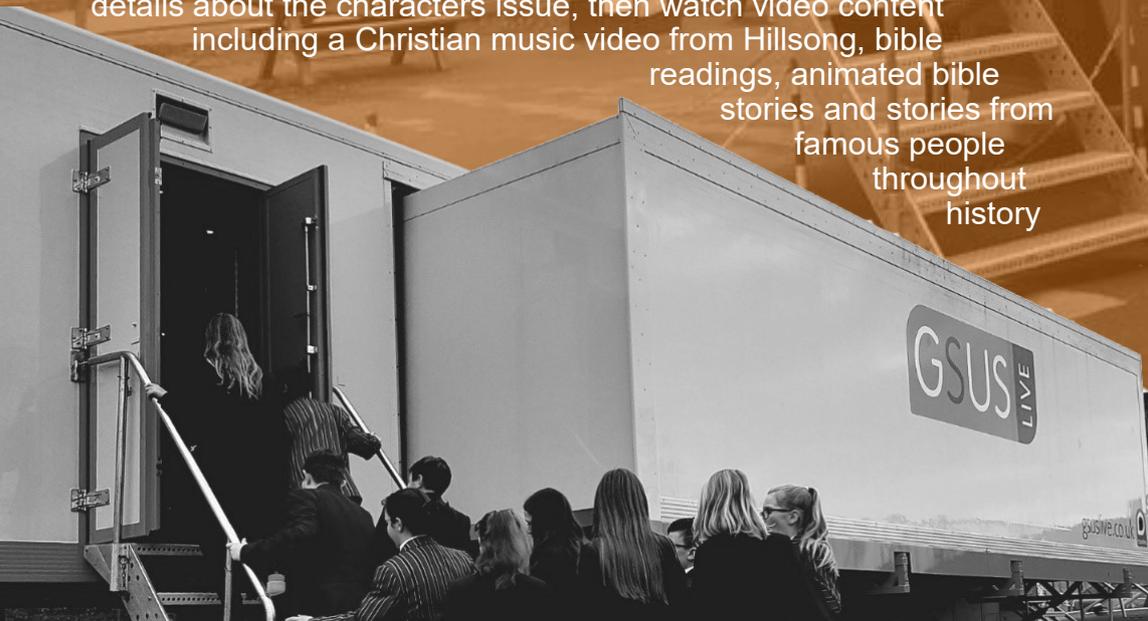
This past half-term has been crammed full to the brim with time in secondary schools with brilliant young people across Torbay. We've had the privilege of hosting GSUS Live for a week at a time at Torquay Boys' & Girls' Grammars, Torquay

Academy, St Cuthbert Mayne, and finally Brixham College. We were also due to have a week at Churston Ferrers Grammar School but with the school closures around the coronavirus pandemic

we were unable to. Over the five weeks we had over 1700 young people take part in the interactive multimedia session, where they got to choose between three characters all facing different struggles: "Jack" was being bullied and felt rejected by his friends at school; "Sophie" was afraid that her friend in hospital might die; and "Ben" had been let down by his brother and needed to forgive him. In each situation the students would hear more details about the characters issue, then watch video content including a Christian music video from Hillsong, bible readings, animated bible stories and stories from famous people throughout history



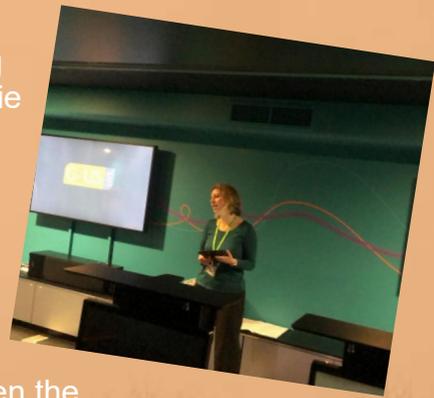
including a Christian music video from Hillsong, bible readings, animated bible stories and stories from famous people throughout history



who had dealt with similar issues including Martin Luther King, Mother Theresa, Corrie Ten Boon and Malala Yousafzai.

The sessions ended with the explanation that, as Christians, whilst we don't believe our problems just go away, we do believe God is always there to listen to us, and helps us when we call on him. It's been great to see so many engage well with the content and ask some good questions when the opportunity arose. Please pray that all the spiritual seeds of good news that have been spread across Torbay come to take root in hearts and minds, with many people coming to call on God for themselves, especially when facing hard times.

A big thanks to all the schools that changed timetables so that the young people could experience the GSUS Live trailer. Thanks to Counties that manage and maintain the GSUS Live programme. A big thanks to Alan, the truck driver extraordinaire from The Blue Seafood Company that moved the trailer between schools. Finally, a huge thanks to Dan, our fantastic volunteer from Moorlands bible college who joined us for the five weeks and without whom we would've struggled to make all the sessions possible!



We really hope you're enjoying this term's newsletter and we hate to interrupt but could you help support LiNX right now!

To give £5 towards the work of LiNX\* using your mobile phone simply text the word LINX5 to 70970.

Thank you for all your support.  
The LiNX Team

\* Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme (Charity No: 1149800), operating as DONATE. Texts will be charged at your standard network rate. For Terms & Conditions, see [www.easydonate.org](http://www.easydonate.org)

Find us on  
Facebook



# Elevate

27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020



LINX

£85

Family  
discount  
available

The logo for 'Elevate' is written in a stylized, colorful font. The letters are white with a blue outline and are set against a background of splattered paint in shades of purple, blue, and red. The word 'Elevate' is slanted upwards to the right.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

There is currently a lot of uncertainty around the summer and what will be possible. At the time of going to print we are still hoping to run Elevate 2020 though some activities may have to be changed. In the event of having to cancel we will be offering full refunds and looking at what we might be able to run in the future. In the mean time...

### We need you!!

We're looking for volunteers to help make Elevate the best it can be for the young people of Torbay, giving them every opportunity to make new friends, experience new things, grow in confidence, get to know God and encounter Jesus. The success of Elevate relies on people volunteering their time to help cook a meal, wash plates, drive a minibus or stack chairs. These are essential and valuable jobs, without which Elevate cannot operate.

If this is something you'd like to be part of and you could help us in one of the roles below for all or just part of the week, get in touch with the office or email [charlie@linxyouth.net](mailto:charlie@linxyouth.net)

### We're looking for...

**Team leaders** - Those with experience of working with groups of young people, you'd need to be available all week.

**Minibus drivers** - You must have a clean licence with PCV D1 category.

**Kitchen helpers** - To help with preparing food, washing up, etc.

**Set up and pack down crew** - Particularly at the following times:

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 3pm onwards;

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 7am-8am;

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 9pm-11pm

# LiNX Prayer Diary - Summer 2020

**Rather than prayer points for each week, below is a list of prayer needs over this time. Please pray for as you feel lead.**

- Pray for your local school, staff, students and their families.
- Pray for each of the schools LiNX work in...
  - ⇒ Brixham College
  - ⇒ Brunel Academy
  - ⇒ Burton Academy
  - ⇒ Churston Ferrers Grammar School
  - ⇒ Medical Tuition Service
  - ⇒ Paignton College
  - ⇒ St Cuthbert Mayne School
  - ⇒ The Spires College
  - ⇒ Torquay Academy
  - ⇒ Torquay Boys Grammar School
  - ⇒ Torquay Girls Grammar School
- Pray for the vulnerable young people that school is often their safest place to be, that they can still be at school to experience that safety, and if they can't, that their home life improves during this difficult time.
- Pray for the young people that LiNX workers are still communicating with through their school pastoral network, providing ongoing mentoring support.
- Pray for the young people who have key worker parents/carers, that they don't carry unnecessary worry or stress about their parents doing vital work toward the national effort.
- Pray that young people begin to pray again, or maybe for the first time, to call on God for help at this time.
- Pray for the young people and families in our communities that already have little and are struggling financially and/or practically for food and basic supplies.
- Pray for those that are unwell, that they recover quickly and are able to rest in safety.
- Finally as and when the current situation comes to an end please pray for LiNX as we re-establish our connections in schools and seek God's best plan for what comes next.

## The LiNX Team

Please continue to pray for the team in the work they do.

From left to right:

Philip Eley  
Charlie Haywood  
Tim Funnell  
Chris Carter  
Matt Turner  
Jordan Williams



## LiNX's regular weekly activities in schools

These activities are suspended whilst schools remain closed

<b>Monday</b>	Paignton Academy, Christian Union with Philip
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mad Moo's Milk Bar, at Paignton Baptist after School.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Team meeting in the morning
	Paignton Academy, Upper School Christian Union with Philip
	Torquay Academy, lunch club with Jordan
	Hele Drop In, at Hele Road Baptist after school with Jordan. 'RE:Fuel', after school drop in at Brixham Baptist
<b>Thursday</b>	Torquay Girls Grammar School, Christian Union with Charlie
	Churston Ferrers Grammar, Christian Union with Philip & Matt
	Torquay Academy, Basket Ball club with Tim
<b>Friday</b>	Brixham College, Lunch Club with Matt
	The Spires Lunch Club with Charlie

## LiNX Virtual Church Visits

In line with current advice LiNX has suspended our church visit dates but are now offering a virtual visit with regular video updates from members of the team that can be shown to churches either online or through social media if you are interested in this please contact us by email at [info@linxyouth.net](mailto:info@linxyouth.net)



# Schools Focus Brixham College

It's been nearly 13 years since I first set foot in Brixham College as a schools worker for LiNX, and by this August I'll have seen 10 cohorts of students come through that school, from their first day in year 7

through to last exam in Year 11. It's almost quite intimidating knowing that everyone of the 1,000(ish) students in that school know my name. Also that at some point in their school career will have seen me either eat dog food, smash something with a hammer, electrocute their class mates, play pass the parcel, incite war, or one of the many other Philosophy and Ethics lessons I've taught over that time.

It's also been a great privilege to talk to these same students about the Christian faith, and why it plays such an important role in my life and the lives of millions of other Christians across the world. It's been great to have the support of the staff of the school's Beliefs and Cultures faculty, who continue to see value in what LiNX delivers both academically, but also as an important opportunity for students to understand world views different to their own.

Alongside the great opportunities to be part of the Philosophy and Ethics curriculum, LiNX has also, over recent years, become an integral part of the school's PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) curriculum delivering our Self Esteem, Healthy Relationships and Emotional Health courses to various year groups, and taking part in the delivery of other session on religious diversity as part

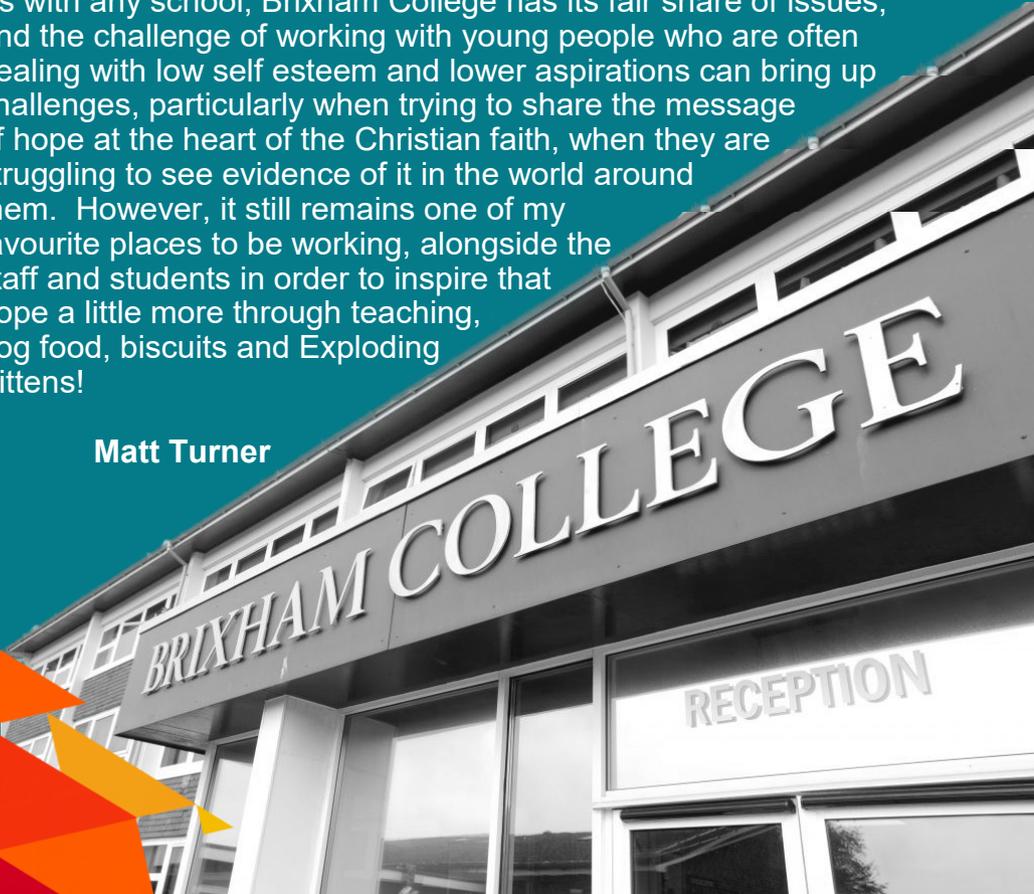


of the school's "Flexible Learning Days"

The final element of the work I do at Brixham College has been different lunch clubs that have taken place over the years. There have been a number of different versions of the clubs, but when we eventually ended up with a Christian Union with no Christians in it (except myself and a volunteer) we've changed things up a bit. What we have now is a group of nearly 30 students who meet every Friday, (and in fact most other lunch times without me), to chat, discuss and sometimes argue about difficult questions, support and look after each other, eat biscuits and play overly competitive Uno and Exploding Kittens, (yes that's an actual game and no animals are harmed). These are students passionate about big issues on politics, the environment, culture and justice, with an interest on how faith and belief, from a variety of perspectives, influences and shapes these things. It has lead to some really interesting discussions and certainly challenged and inspired me to be better.

As with any school, Brixham College has its fair share of issues, and the challenge of working with young people who are often dealing with low self esteem and lower aspirations can bring up challenges, particularly when trying to share the message of hope at the heart of the Christian faith, when they are struggling to see evidence of it in the world around them. However, it still remains one of my favourite places to be working, alongside the staff and students in order to inspire that hope a little more through teaching, dog food, biscuits and Exploding Kittens!

**Matt Turner**



# Meet Dan

My name is Dan Owen, and currently, I am a student at Moorlands College on a five-week block placement. So far had the opportunity to observe lessons and in the coming weeks be helping lead RE lessons, I have taken part in the running of after school drop-ins, Christian unions and leading sessions on the GSUS Live trailer. All of these have given me a great insight into what fulltime schools work looks like. I have also been given opportunities to grow in my leadership and my delivery of content within the schools.

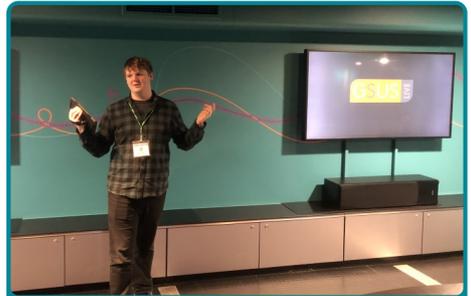
As well as working in the schools I have also been able to immerse myself in the working life of the team, seeing how all the team work together to bring God to young people in a fun and relevant way. I have really enjoyed seeing the heart behind the team and how all of them have different styles which enable them to reach different young people.

While I have been working with the whole team, I am being supervised by Tim who I have been able to question about more in-depth points of ministry and leadership which has helped me understand how to lead teams better. At the time of writing, I am halfway through my five weeks, and I have really enjoyed the time and valued the opportunities I have been given and I'm looking forward to what is to come.

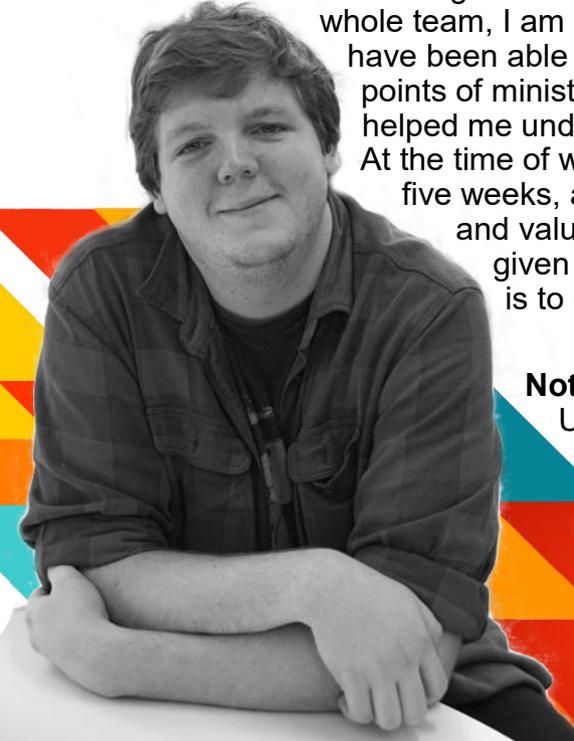
**Dan Owen**

## Note:

Unfortunately Dan's placement with us was cut short due to the school closures but we are really grateful for all the work he did with us and wish him all the best for the future.



Dan teaching on the GSUS Live Trailer.



Each year as a team we try to attend a conference together to be inspired, encouraged to learn new skills and approaches to our ministry.

This term we were due as a team to attend a conference in Bristol. Being the super organised team we are (thanks Tim and Chris) we had fully booked our accommodation and then unfortunately the conference was cancelled. We were disappointed but took the opportunity to retreat, spend time together and with God.

This was a brilliant 36 hours where we had time to reflect in our personal time, dream and pray together as a team and enjoy good food and the beautiful countryside. It was so good to get away from the busyness of life and ministry and hear from God for our future.

I was reminded that in the creation story God made man on the sixth day and the first full day of mans existence was a day of rest. In our world we seem to work for rest but God's intention was for us to work from rest! That we are more effective from him when we rest in his presence and draw the strength we need for the opportunities that are in front of us. We were so grateful for this opportunity to rest and now are excited to continue sharing the good news in the schools of Torbay.

# Team Retreat



The traditional team selfie!



# Torbay Prayer Walk for Schools

For a while now I've been thinking about how we could pray more effectively for our secondary schools. I started toying with the idea of prayer walking around the various sites, simply praying a blessing on them... so it certainly seemed a 'God thing' that shortly after that my friends at Pais launched a global Thru-Hike project, inviting me to consider registering a Torbay walk to pray for schools!

We recruited local walking legend Jerry Cook (if you know him, you know what I mean!) to help plan a route starting at St Cuthbert Mayne, stopping at every secondary school in Torbay to pray and ending at Brixham College. Ultimately prayer remains an important part of the strategy for LiNX, and the other youth work happening in our community, to reach and support young people

## COVID-19 amendment

Originally, the second half of this article was an invitation to meet the walking group, on a date in May, at each school along the route to pray together. Sadly, that can no longer happen. With the current guidelines as they are, I still plan to do the walk but on my own, sharing social media posts and taking photos along the route. If guidelines become stricter still, then this will also not be able to happen and I'll reschedule for another date, perhaps in September.

**Tim Funnell**



Do check out Pais' global vision to encourage Christians to pray for their local schools ([thruhikeforschools.com](http://thruhikeforschools.com)) - Paul might have to postpone his coast to coast walk too, please pray for the complex logistics involved in his plans.

We would like to be able to stay in contact with you and keep you informed of future LiNX activities and information regarding the wider work of LiNX. If you would like to receive this information please complete and return the form below and we will contact you:



NAME

(tick as appropriate)

NEWSLETTER  
(by post)

ADDRESS

NEWSLETTER  
(by email)

MONTHLY  
PRAYER EMAIL

VOLUNTEERING  
OPPORTUNITIES

REGULAR  
GIVING

EMAIL

One off donations can also be made online by visiting  
[www.easydonate.org/LINXGIFT](http://www.easydonate.org/LINXGIFT)

Return completed forms to:

LiNX Christian Youth Trust,  
1a Clifton Road, Paignton, DEVON, TQ3 3LN

You can unsubscribe at anytime by contacting the LiNX office.



## GIVING BY MOBILE PHONE

To donate to LiNX Christian Youth Trust now  
please text "LINX5" to 70970 to give £5



(Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme (Charity No: 1149800), operating as DONATE. Texts will be charged at your standard network rate. For Terms & Conditions, see [www.easydonate.org](http://www.easydonate.org))

# LiNX Finances



**£11,300**



**£11,800**



\* Average monthly finances from Sep 2019 - Feb 2020

**Could you help fill the gap?**



To raise money for LiNX everytime you shop online visit [easyfundraising.org/causes/linx](http://easyfundraising.org/causes/linx)



To give £5 towards the work of LiNX\* using your mobile text the word LINX5 to 70970.

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**Elevate** 2019  
The Cost

Total Cost - £6,400



Total Income - £8,479



Payments Grants Gifts

All surplus funds are reinvested in supporting young people at Elevate.

**Thank You for all your support**

LiNX Christian Youth Trust  
1a Clifton Road, Paignton,  
DEVON, TQ3 3LN  
01803 557044  
[info@linxyouth.net](mailto:info@linxyouth.net)  
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**LiNX**