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A town centre with no vehicles allowed

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Volunteers from the Community Response Hub donating surplus supplies

How Hub will continue helping people in need

CHELMSFORD Community Response Hub has donated its extra food supplies to charity as lockdown restrictions ease.

The Hub, run in partnership by Chelmsford City Council and Chelmsford Voluntary Service (CVS), has been providing assistance to vulnerable and self-isolating Chelmsford residents in need of support.

Hundreds of volunteers have helped carry out practical tasks

including collecting and delivering food and supplies. The CVS has also supported residents with collecting prescriptions, welfare checks and befriending.

Residents who have been shielding will continue to have access to priority supermarket delivery slots and the Community Response helpline will remain open.

To ensure the surplus food and non-perishable items held in stock at the hub did not go to waste, they

have been donated to support local projects and charities.

Food parcels and hampers were provided for struggling families, and supplies were given to the Chelmsford District of the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service who run a holiday hunger programme during the school holidays to ensure every child has access to a daily hot meal.

Surplus supplies were also given to the Chelmsford Mayor's chosen

charity, Sanctus, which feeds the growing number of homeless, hungry and vulnerable individuals.

Councillor Marie Goldman, deputy leader of Chelmsford City Council, said: "It's been a helpline for vulnerable and shielding residents, enabling people to stay in their homes over the past months.

"The Hub has been able to flex the help being offered as more understanding was gained about the level of support needed."

To help people adjust, Chelmsford City Council will continue to work with the CVS to ensure support is provided for those most in need.

If you feel you may need help, the CVS will discuss your needs with you and direct you to local support services. Individuals concerned about support can also contact Chelmsford City Council for advice.

Find the latest guidance and information at <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

Lockdown challenge for Rebecca in first weeks of new teacher job

WHEN Rebecca Rose accepted a new job at a different school, she had no idea what the first term would turn out like.

As she prepared to join Maltings Academy, in Witham, as second in science, schools across the country were forced to partially close as lockdown was enforced.

It meant she took up her role at a school she could not visit, teaching children she had never met - in a new virtual world.

She said: "At the start, we did lots of pre-recorded lessons, so I would spend Sundays changing into different outfits to film a week's worth, so it wasn't obvious I had done them in the same day! A fly-on-the-wall documentary would have been hilarious!"

Mrs Rose was among six new members of staff to join the academy after Easter half-term.

As all new starters would normally, they attended sessions on health and safety, safeguarding, data protection, the curriculum, teaching

and learning - and how to use the Google suite of online programmes to be able to operate in the new online school.

The new colleagues were able to chat and get to know each other in the virtual world that Google Hangouts gave them access to.

She said: "The reason I wanted to join Maltings was to work with like-minded colleagues; the senior leadership team are second to none. Every week, there has been a whole staff briefing, which has been so positive with examples of students' work and something funny to share to keep us going.

"What I have discovered that is incredible is the wellbeing team; they have been amazing. A couple of weeks in, they sent me a card to thank me for joining and the head phoned me at home to check I had settled in; those little touches mean so much.

"The high standards for teaching and learning and CPD for staff have all continued, but better than in any



Virtual induction for Rebecca Rose at Maltings Academy

school I have been in - but, at Maltings, they are doing it all remotely. The emphasis on driving teaching and learning has been a priority, even during this and it is being done so well. I am so impressed.

"The tag Team Maltings that gets banded about gives me goosebumps

now as I really feel part of that team."

Having now completed her first term and spent some time on site, she said: "I have had to try to make a good first impression, but make it remotely. It has been a really positive move for me personally and, professionally, it will go from strength to strength.

"Children at Maltings are amazing; they are very resilient. They have had to adapt with completely different ways of working, but the engagement from them has been absolutely mind-blowing.

"Every department has stepped up and been so creative. We have done as much as possible to create a sense of community and to give live lessons wherever possible; some have set up their own YouTube channels to engage their classes. Students in every year group had three science lessons a week; we were even able to hold a virtual science day where teachers set themselves alight and dissected hearts and lungs on their kitchen tables.

Students have been given experiments to do at home, from making paper aeroplanes to lava lamps and growing potatoes through a maze.

"It has been a steep learning curve for everybody, but we have done so much more than I ever thought would be possible. I assumed students would be set projects and revision, but at Maltings we have been teaching the curriculum and even set end of year exams.

"I have had to get to know new students and new technology and I've learnt a lot about myself, in terms of what I can achieve in adversity. I have also learnt how amazing students are. We have closely monitored engagement and every week it has improved and improved.

"Every day is a school day. That is very true. You never stop learning."

As the school year ends, Mrs Rose is already contemplating the future. She said: "I am looking forward to September, to working with colleagues face to face and to being in my new science lab."