

Covid-19 death toll rises again

ANOTHER death linked to coronavirus has been recorded in the Braintree district.

The fatality happened in hospital in the week ending on July 17.

Data from the Office for National Statistics shows there have now been 118 deaths in the district linked to Covid-19.

The figures are correct as of July 17.

Meanwhile, the number of positive coronavirus tests carried out in the district has now hit 501.

Tendring has overtaken Braintree when it comes to the highest infection rate in Essex.

It now has an infection rate of 10.2 cases per 100,000 people, while Braintree's rate is 9.2.

But the number of new cases in Braintree in July now stands at 89, significantly higher than the 17 that were recorded in June.

County Hall has blamed the spike on an outbreak in a care home which it says has been controlled.

Residents have been reminded to follow all social distancing and hygiene guidance to ensure there are no further outbreaks in the district.

'We've been teaching pupils we've not met'

Teachers dissect hearts in kitchens for virtual lessons

A SECONDARY school teacher says she is looking forward to meeting her students face to face for the first time – despite having taught them for the past four months.

Maltings Academy science teacher Rebecca Rose will finally get to meet her pupils face to face to when they return in September.

Most students were unable to get back into the classroom before the summer holidays after being forced to learn from home since March because of the pandemic.

Rebecca took up her new role at the Witham school in April and despite spending a few days on site, she has had to settle into her new surroundings and greet the majority of her new students online.

She said: "At the start, we did lots of pre-recorded lessons, so I would spend Sun-



NEW JOB: Rebecca Rose became science teacher at Maltings Academy in April but has been teaching online

days 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.

"I have had to try to make a good first impression, but make it remotely.

"It has been a steep learn-

ing curve for everybody, but we have done so much more than I ever thought would be possible."

Rebecca continued to teach her students throughout the summer term and helped them prepare for exams which were set up by the school.

She has paid tribute to her

"amazing" pupils for remaining motivated throughout the lockdown and completing tasks set for them each day.

She said: "We have done as much as possible to create a sense of community and to give live lessons wherever possible.

"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. We have closely monitored engagement and every week it has improved and improved."

She added: "I am looking forward to September, to working with colleagues face to face and to being in my new science lab."

Artists put show on to the internet

A SCHOOL will host a virtual art exhibition to show what its students have been up to during the coronavirus lockdown.

New Rickstones Academy is staging the gallery so pupils can show their work to family and the community.

A yearly exhibition is held to display the work of art students but it has been moved online due to the pandemic.

New Rickstones head of art Kara Morton said:

"On our virtual gallery, you will see what our fantastic staff and students have been creating over the past few months.

"We are very lucky to work with wonderful students who have had to be very creative and inventive with their art pieces, without specialist art rooms and one-to-one teaching.

"Every year, we are lucky enough to host our own art exhibition in the gallery at school so, we are pleased that this tradition can continue, even if in a new format."

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