

School's printers put to good use

IN BRIEF

College 'open' despite virus

BOURNEMOUTH and Poole College has managed to remain 'open' despite coronavirus restrictions.

Thanks to investment in software, the college is able to teach classes online, following the closure of its sites on March 18.

Principal Diane Grannell said: "At this difficult time, the education and safety of our students is paramount and we remain dedicated to their development, despite the current global health crisis.

"Even in these unprecedented times, we had a contingency plan in place for our students which meant that within a matter of days we were teaching online.

"Teaching has continued without disruption thanks to our team of 600 dedicated staff. We understand that this is a deeply upsetting time for students who were due to take their A Levels and GCSE exams this summer."



Design and technology teacher Martin Bolton and his daughter assemble the face visors made via 3D printing, above

SCHOOLS across Dorset have attempted to answer the call for more protective equipment for frontline workers by donating and making PPE for NHS staff.

Greg Luckhurst



to Blackmoor Vale Surgery in Shaftesbury, which will then distribute equipment to doctors and nurses, as well as GPs doing home visits and other medical staff.

Staff from the school have produced 60 visors from scratch. However, with demand for the equipment seemingly increased every day, the school is looking to step up its manufacturing with the help of students.

Chris added: "We have four 3D printers but only three of them are in use at the moment. It is not as fast pace as we would like.

"At the moment we have been striking a balance by working from home, but we are running out of supplies.

"When we have used up

our supplies, we might have to use the safety equipment ourselves and begin working from the school grounds.

"I urge any school, company or family with a 3D printer to use it to make this much needed equipment."

The school, a major employer in Blandford, has around 100 volunteers that are driving minibuses to help deliver food packages and medication, and the catering department has been making meals for vulnerable individuals in the area.

Meanwhile Corfe Hills School Academy Trust has donated nearly 1,000 pieces of protective equipment to the NHS.

The Broadstone-based secondary school has provided 300 sets of goggles, 300 plastic aprons and 300 sets of plastic gloves to hospitals, surgeries and health centre across the conurbation.

Watch out for pests

HOUSEHOLDERS in Dorset are being urged to be vigilant to pest infestation during the Covid-19 crisis.

National trade body the British Pest Control Association is advising people to carefully manage their household rubbish.

Although waste collectors are continuing to operate in the Dorset area, the increase

in household waste due to people being isolated could lead to an outbreak of pests.

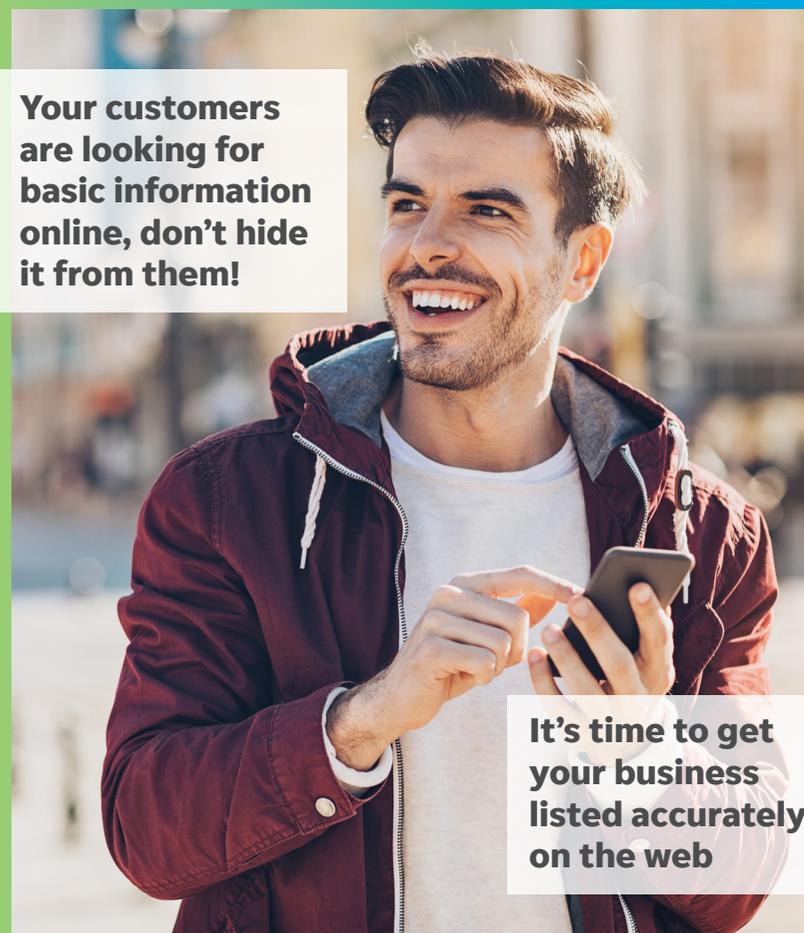
Association technical manager Dee Ward-Thompson said: "Householders should be mindful of what can happen by failing to take simple preventative measures. Pests like rats, flies and urban foxes feed on the leftovers in our bins. Rats in particular carry

many diseases which can be easily spread to humans.

"The last thing the country needs right now is a plague of rats."

The trade body has produced some basic precautions, including keeping bin lids sealed, leaving food waste away from direct sunlight to reduce smells and keeping food waste in a wheelie bin.

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