



**Merry Christmas to all our Readers**



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## ART COMPETITION WINNERS!

The talent of Parkstone's artists was evident when prizewinners for the Dorset Art Prize 2015 were announced.

The Dorset Art Prize 2015 is an open submission for visual arts and the organisers encourage all Dorset artists, designers and makers working in all media forms to submit their artworks. The tone, mood and subject matter are entirely the choice of the artist. Artworks can be in any media: drawing, cartoons, watercolours,



*Katie Horton*



*Kirsty Stanton*



oil or acrylic paintings, photographs, three dimensional pieces, textiles, printmaking and the digital art forms, animation and the moving image.

Following the judging, Year 13 student, Katie Horton, was awarded a fantastic first prize in the 14 to 15 category, scooping up the

amazing £1000 prize money.

Additionally, Year 12 student Kirsty Stanton was awarded a Highly Commended in the 19+ category.

Both students received their prizes as part of the presentation ceremony held at The Bournemouth & Poole College's distinctive Digital Design Centre in Poole.



## TARGET 2.0

A team of students from Year 13 recently attended the Bank of England's target 2.0 competition in Bristol.

The students had to deliver a 15 minute presentation on their view of current monetary policy in the UK. The team recommended no change to interest rates, the current level of assets purchases under QE and no new forward guidance.

Competition was tough and although not progressing to the next round the girls delivered a confident presentation and showed a real team based approach to answering questions from staff from the Bank.



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



The autumn term has been extremely busy and highly enjoyable. The Times list of the top 200 state secondary schools in the country was a particular highlight. Parkstone was recognised as the 61st best school in the country and the best school in Poole, Bournemouth, Dorset and Hampshire as measured by GCSE and A Level results. This is an improvement of 34 places from the previous year and is testament to the ethos and hard work of students, staff and parents. We should all be extremely proud to be part of such a community.

We always stress that academic achievement is only part of our work here at Parkstone. We always go the extra mile to support your daughter's physical and mental well-being, as well as providing excellent opportunities to develop a range of skills and help her grow into a confident and articulate young woman. The content of our autumn newsletter is certainly evidence of this on-going commitment.

Highlights this term must include the launch of our school House System. Parkstone has been without houses for several decades and students were very keen to see them return! Following a democratic process students chose Greek Goddesses as their theme and have chosen the names of their houses. We look forward to the rest of the year when students will be voted into positions of responsibility within their houses and compete for the first ever annual House Cup!

Audiences on four separate nights were struck speechless by the quality of the performers, musicians, cast and crew in the joint production of Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber with Poole Grammar School. With professional costumes designed and made for us by Bournemouth University the show was of exceptional quality and a huge congratulations must go to all students and staff involved.

We opened the doors to our fantastic new Sixth Form Hub just a few weeks ago. This custom designed £1.8 million new building provides outstanding learning facilities for our growing Sixth Form. We will be holding an official opening in the New Year.

We have seen a number of trips and visits this term resulting in very memorable experiences. Overseas visits have included Iceland, Berlin and Krakow and Barcelona. Students have also hosted their German exchange partners, competed in a robotics competition, attended Media Studies and Tudor History conferences and visited the Tate gallery. Student events in school have included a Business Game for Year 8 students, the Splendid Theatre Company and charity fundraising weeks.

As Christmas approaches we enjoy this festive period as a school community with many activities including our Carol Service, Senior Citizen's Christmas Party and Christmas lunches. Huge thanks must go to the Parent Staff Association (PSA) who has been very busy organising events to raise money for your daughters. Recent events include the Quiz Night, the Christmas Raffle and the brand-new Christmas Craft Fayre. Please give generously of your time and money to support the PSA – all funds raised contribute to providing opportunities and equipment for your daughters in school.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your family and enjoyable festive period and a happy new year.

Tracy Harris

## OFF TO THE TATE



This term our Year 11s got up very early in the morning one wet Wednesday to journey to London to the Tate Modern in order to gather primary research for their current Landscapes Project.



The huge array and variety of artwork displayed in the monumental spaces of the gallery was thoroughly inspiring.

The girls produced some high quality observational work and the day was enjoyed by all.

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES FAIR

The Clubs & Societies Fair was held on the first Friday of September, as a means of launching the school's many clubs and societies for the academic year. About thirty clubs were on offer, most of which welcomed students from all year groups. Most clubs are run by a mixture of staff and sixth formers, though a few are run entirely by students. Creative Writing, art and jewellery making, handbell ringing, the Christian Union, scientific activities and sports were among the many options available. There was also an opportunity to join Raspberry Pi, a computer programming group, run by Mr Judd, leader of the school's IT team. A particular feature of the event was the presence of several members of AFC Bournemouth who had come to advertise coaching sessions for aspiring footballers to be held here in school (see Sports on back page!).

The Fair was very well attended, especially by the new Year 7 students, some of whom were eager to sign up for clubs on every day of the week! Nearly all of the clubs were able to gain significant numbers of new members, and there was a buzz of excitement in the school hall as those running the stalls made efforts to capture students' attention. This is now the third year that the Fair has been held, and it is hoped to continue the event each September for the foreseeable future.

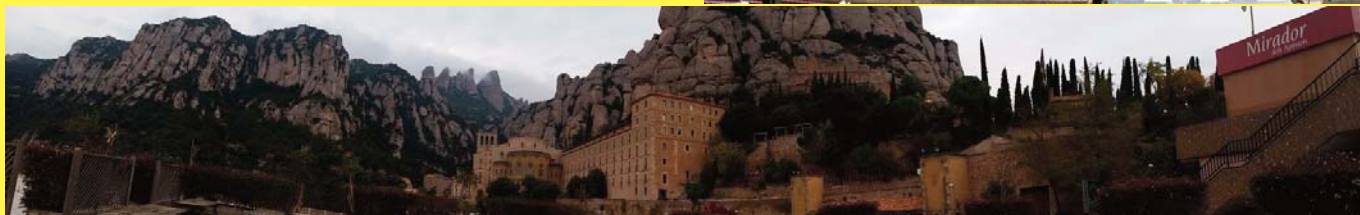
# Hola! Spanish Department Cultural Visit to Barcelona

The annual cultural visit to Spain in October was a huge success. With our biggest ever group of 49 students and 6 staff, we once again stayed in the small seaside resort of Calella which is around a 40 minute journey from the centre of Barcelona.

In Barcelona, we took in the sights of the modern city, the gothic quarter, the Camp Nou football stadium and the magnificent Sagrada Familia and we enjoyed a beautiful, sunny visit to the Park Güell. On the Sunday we had a tour around the world famous Torres winery and then we visited the mountain of Montserrat where students were able to enjoy magnificent views from the top of the almost vertical funicular railway.

Once again the behaviour of the entire group was absolutely exemplary and they were a delight to be with. Thanks go to David Goldsmith for his superb organisation of the visit and to Mercedes Velasco for the study diary that she put together once again. Thanks also to Jenny Ashby, Rania Sabbagh and Bob Hardwick for their invaluable help in ensuring the supervision and safety of the group.

**ALISON LOCKYER**  
Head of Spanish



## Year 12 & 13 London Art Trip



Year 12 and 13 artists ventured on a trip to London to gather primary research and observations for their current projects. The students visited a number of different locations relevant to their final personal projects, from Brick Lane to the National Portrait Gallery.

Despite getting very wet due to horrendous weather, they managed to gather some useful primary photos and drawings. Our Year 12s visited the Natural History Museum, to gather observational work to inform their Textures Project. The Museum offered a wealth of inspiration, from precious stones and gems to animal furs and feathers from fossils and skeletons to blood cells and volcanoes.....the list goes on!

## MUSIC

### PSMA Carol Concert

On Thursday  
3 December,  
Parkstone students  
along with more  
than 400 pupils  
from other Poole



schools, performed to a large audience in the Poole Schools Music Association Carol Concert at Poole Lighthouse. A wide variety of music was performed by choirs, Barbershop singers and orchestra and was a super beginning to the festive season!

### School Carol Service

On Monday 14 December we hold our school carol Service at St Peter's Church, Parkstone. This event is always a joyous celebration and the church is always full to overflowing with students, staff, parents and ex-students! A variety of readings and music will be performed and the church is a beautiful place to hold this traditional service.

# SWEENEY TODD

## SWEENEY TODD



THE DEMON BARBER  
OF FLEET STREET

This Autumn we enjoyed the outstanding musical, acting, technical and artistic achievements of students involved in Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd' our 2015 Senior School Production. This ambitious project was chosen as we knew we had the musical and artistic talent to match. Students certainly rose to the challenge on stage and behind the scenes and made this a production to remember.

The first performance was to a group of Year 6 students from Haymoor School for a Monday matinee. We then had 4 shows in a row from Monday 15 to Thursday 18 October and played to packed houses each evening. Bonnie Schwartz and Harrison Brodie were outstanding as the demonic duo Mrs Lovett and Sweeney Todd, managing to disgust and delight the audience by turns, with many other memorable performers besides.

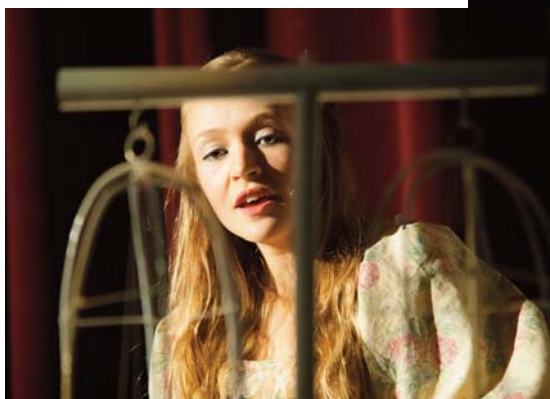
The strength of the show can be seen in the photographs. Everyone on stage

was totally animated in the telling of the tale. The set design and the work of the stage management and technical teams ensured that the show was visually stunning and set the mood and location of the grubby back streets of Victorian London. The wonderful costumes were provided by the Arts University College Bournemouth and really helped actors get into their roles whilst enhancing the overall enjoyment for the audience.

Look out for news of the next show due to be held at Poole Grammar School 2016 or wait your turn in Year 10, 11, 12 or 13 for Parkstone's next Senior Musical in 2017!

Take a final bow cast of 2015 - you were simply amazing!

*Photographs courtesy of Tim Hicks*



# ANTI BULLYING AMBASSADORS



Anti-Bullying Pro is part of the Diana Award, a charity that aims to stop bullying - be it physical, mental, or cyber – in schools across the UK. One of their primary projects is the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors’ programme, which, since its foundation, has trained over 15,000 young people around the UK to lead their own schools in a Nationwide Anti-Bullying campaign. Every year, this movement expands, becoming bigger and better, and each year, the voice of Anti-Bullying gets louder.

At Parkstone, we are lucky enough to have a trained, dedicated team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who, with the extensive help and guidance of equally dedicated teachers, are raising awareness of bullying and how to access the vast network of support available for it. Being an Anti-Bullying Ambassador is about giving – giving your time, giving your energy and your ideas into creating something for other people. As individuals, we can’t expect to change the world, but we are part of something that is so much bigger than one person.

In support of the Anti-Bullying effort, the third week of every November is designated as National Anti-bullying Week. This year’s slogan is ‘Make a Noise about Bullying’ and, in support, we presented assemblies to pupils of all ages, hosted competitions and cake sales,



released balloons, as metaphors for releasing our worries, and created a six-foot-tall ‘A’ embellished with the traced paper hands and support of over 300 of our students. This year, we truly did ‘Make a Noise’.

In the years to come, we plan to expand our activities and efforts in Anti-Bullying Week, as well as all year round, to make each year bolder and better than the last.

Report by Helena Jackson and Jordan Brodie

# GREENPOWER

The teams from last year were successful in getting to the International Final at Rockingham Motor Circuit. They both did extremely well with Team Bruce coming 72nd out of over 200 cars and Team Speedwell coming 23rd out of over 50 cars.

Both teams have worked incredibly hard over the last year with the continued support of our Engineers from Siemens. Team Bruce won the best portfolio award at the international final as well as the first Goodwood heat. Team Speedwell won the IET Engineering prize for their work on the electronics of their car at the Castle Combe heat. Team Speedwell (consisting of two sixth form students) were also asked to give a presentation for the local IET members at Bournemouth University. They did exceptionally well presenting to about 50 professional engineers.

This year we again have two teams: one main school team and one sixth form team. The main school team has 11 members and the sixth form 10 has 6 members. Both teams have just started out so are in the process of learning how to use the tools and starting to think about the key factors in making their car go as far as possible. In the coming weeks we will be looking at aerodynamics and gearing amongst other things.

As well as the engineering and racing side of the project the students must also raise the money to be able to buy parts and then manage this money. The students are in the process of writing to local companies to ask for possible sponsorship. Each car costs about £1500 to build!

Our target is to again reach the international final, but the path to getting there is extremely rewarding.



# ICELAND

The Year 12 & 13 students in the Geography department got an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Iceland during the February Half term.

When first arriving in Iceland, it wasn't the cold or the rain that hit you, but the landscape. The flat and barren landscape of Iceland is very different from the usual landscape of Britain, and after driving away from the airport and through the main city of Reykjavik, we realised just how much Iceland had in store for us!

Day 1 – After sleeping in a very homely guesthouse with welcoming family owners, we set off on the first day of our geographical tour. From a crater created by volcanoes to Thingvellir National Park where a rift valley lies, making the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, there were so many things to see! We visited Geysir (after which all geysers are named), Gullfoss Waterfall, a huge, tiered type waterfall (which can make you feel very, very small in comparison). And lastly, we visited the local hot baths, heated by natural hot springs. However, at the end of the day, we were lucky enough to see the Northern Lights! A very tightly packed day!

Day 2 – Though the weather was less forgiving than the day before, we set off again and first saw another two types of waterfalls; Seljalandfoss Waterfall - which we were lucky enough to walk behind! And Skogafoss Waterfall - which had a stairway all the way to the top, there was much complaining of aching legs... A quick visit to the Eyjafjallajokull Visitors Centre and the Folk Museum, then we were off the main activity of the trip – Glacier Trek! Safe to say, it's something that should be put on your bucket list.

Day 3 – Waiting outside of the guesthouse, we all watched as the four Super Jeeps rolled up outside the front of our guesthouse. The Super Jeeps took us all over Katla Park; up to the black-sanded beaches of the west, to Katla's Glaciers, through rivers, and lastly, to a secret waterfall, where we adventured through the canyon to the waterfall that was creating it.



Day 4 – With none of us wanting to leave, we set off for the last time around Iceland before heading home. We visited the Sulphurous Mud Pools then travelled to the Blue Lagoon Spa, which was also heated by natural hot springs. And finally to a bridge that was between the two continental plates of Europe and America from where we bid our final goodbyes to this astounding country.

The trip was a great success, where you were taught about geography by visiting places that showed you just how much power Mother Nature has. You learnt from the local people that Iceland, though it's a harsh environment, it is one of the most beautiful landscapes in the World - which they closely link to their culture through myths and legends. You can believe in trolls if you want too but the mountains are still an amazing sight to see.



# Trip to Krakow and Berlin

On 22 October 34 year 11, 12 and 13 students departed for a 5-day tour of Krakow and Berlin. The purpose of the visit was to explore sites associated with both the Second World War and Cold War. During our time in Poland we visited Auschwitz Birkenau concentration camp. A poignant and bleak guided tour helped us all to better understand the horrors of the Nazi regime and to understand the duty on our generation to never allow this to happen again. We also had a tour of Krakow including the Wavel Castle and saw the fire-breathing dragon! Students enjoyed local cuisine and the famous cloth market in the market-square. We also spent time at the famous salt mines – a UNESCO world heritage site. Despite the 900+ steps students were awed by the talent of the miners culminating in the beautiful underground cathedral including a freeze replica of da Vinci's The Last Supper carved in salt.

Following a long overnight coach journey to Berlin we embarked on a busy series of excursions. We did a walking tour of the city that included the Brandenburg Gate, memorial to the Murdered Jews, Checkpoint Charlie and the remains of the Berlin Wall. Despite wrong direction we eventually made it to the Stasi prison Museum and learned about the cruel treatment of prisoners at the place as late as 1990. Other visits included the Jewish synagogue and the Reichstag at night, enjoying views of Berlin from Norman Foster's dome. A busy and enjoyable trip.



# THE CRAFTERS

The Crafters is a club at the school where students get together and share their love of making jewellery.

The club started this year and, lead by Mrs Love and Mrs Rideout, they meet regularly and inspire each other in their creations. They use materials such as old, unfinished bracelets, necklaces, keyrings and chains, recycling them to produce new, unique pieces of jewellery.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed their new shared hobby, commenting:

"Jewellery club is a really fun club with lots of friends!"

**Libby Rhodes**

"I had the time of my life being president of this awesome association!"

**Elise Manning**

"I thought that it was great fun!"

**Evie Perkins**

"I loved it and I found it amazing!! I would recommend it to future years!"

**Niema Abeldmageed**

"The club was great fun and an amazing opportunity to make jewellery! The finished products looked professional and I loved being the Bursar!"

**Rosie Parkin**

"I really learnt something new!"

**Freya Perkins**

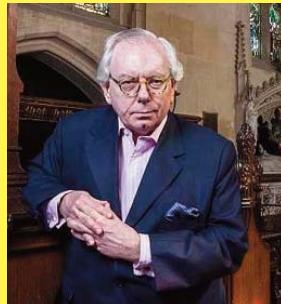
The Crafters took their creations to the Christmas Craft Fayre a few weeks ago, selling the items in aid of Julia's House - and they raised a wonderful £14.00!



# THE TUDORS

On 25 November I was one of a group of History students who went on a trip to London, to see the one and only David Starkey give a lecture on our current AS Level topic, The Tudors. We also heard from John Guy and John Morrill, both specialists in their fields.

Much of the lecture was based upon what evidence has survived, and also many of the most recent findings from these lecturers. With the coach journey there taking a bit longer than planned (thank you roadworks!) I think it's safe to say that by the time Starkey



*David Starkey*

walked on stage, met with veracious clapping from A Level students across the country, we were looking forward to hearing what he had to say. With controversial, tongue in cheek comments made about the late Princess Diana, and a few mentions of ISIS, on top of sly comments made about other historians, we could see that these men were completely comfortable in what they were saying, reaffirming our ideas of History being an 'opinion' rather than 'fact' subject.

It was a new environment for me, but a very welcome introduction into the way University lectures will be geared, and helped me get into making my own notes with little to no PowerPoint aid (shout out to John Morrill for his lovely PowerPoint). I would definitely recommend going to something along these lines, especially if you are a fan of the topics discussed, because it opens your eyes to a number of opinions and gives you a taste for what the working world of history is like.

The trip overall was very successful, and informative. The image of David Starkey walking (or should I say waddling) out of the hall, back to his house in the big city, was something I can tell my grandchildren, as I was absolutely stuck by fame! However a huge shame, for the whole class, was the absence of a stop at the glamorous Fleet service station, which was calling out after our long day, which drew harsh cries out of a number of the coach passengers. Winchester will never compare.

**Minna Eyre**

**Year 12**

# CAREERS



Year 10 have been very busy writing letters, to employers, seeking Work Experience next year from 6 to 10 June 2016. It is a complicated process with 173 girls to help arrange this for.

We are very fortunate that the school Governors and Leadership Group value the opportunity to gain Work Experience. Some local schools have stopped Work Experience and some are down to just 3 days. This year we asked for voluntary contributions towards this process, as have many other local schools. Thank you for supporting us with this. The money pays for the use of a database which the girls have access to. Here they can look for employers who are happy to take Work Experience placements. These employers will have had their insurance checked and verified so that we know your daughter is covered during their placement.

In October we had one of the admissions team from Bristol University Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science attend and give a talk to would be Doctors, Dentists and Vets amongst our sixth form students. We are pleased to say that Penny Dowell who came on that occasion, an undergraduate recruitment adviser, will also be coming into school in January to help sixth form students with interviews.

Talking of interviews, on 14 and 15 January 2016 all students in Year 10 will be having an interview with a local member of the business community. This will be an interview for the job for which they have applied to complete their Work Experience in June. This enables the two areas of work to be linked together and teach invaluable employability skills. We are excited to say that Parkstone Rotary Club are this year supporting us and assisting with the planning, through to interview stage.

As an advance save the date warning the Careers Convention will be held on Wednesday 9 March from 6pm-8pm.

## SWIMMING

Teams from PGS entered the County Relays Swimming Gala back in September and did us proud. The Junior Team attained 5th place, the Intermediate Senior Teams came 2nd. Their times were fast enough for them to qualify for the National Finals in November. The venue was the Olympic Pool, London!!! There were high levels of excitement from the girls when they realised they had made it!



Going into the Finals the Inters were ranked 14th and 9th in the freestyle and medley respectively and the Seniors were ranked 17th and 24th. The competition was of the highest quality with Millfield, Kelly College and Plymouth taking many of the honours. However, the teams competed exceptionally well with the Inter freestyle team attaining a 5th place in the final! An outstanding achievement.

Swimmer, Jasmine McCrea reports :

*My name is Jasmine McCrea and I am in Year 9 and I train 19 hours a week at Poole Swimming Club. In October this year I represented Dorset at Intercounties where we competed against all the other counties in Britain. I raced 100 fly, the medley relay and the canon relay. We came 19th overall. This summer I competed for the first time at the British summer nationals where I raced 50 fly and qualified for the final ranked 3rd but in the end I came 6th with a Dorset record. This season I qualified for short course nationals in Sheffield in winter. I qualified for 50 fly (ranked 3rd) and 100 individual medley (ranked 5th). However I have to compete in the under 16's. In the Parkstone Grammar School relay team, last year we qualified for Nationals (in our team was me, Abbie Quarrie, Olivia Kemp and Holly Trowbridge) and we came 11th. This year with a team of: me, Abbie Quarrie, Izzy Pryce, Jordan Brodie and Allahnah Smithson, we have qualified for Nationals again where we are ranked 9th.*



*My aims for this season are to qualify again for British nationals in the summer and to hopefully bring home a medal! The following year I would like to qualify for British champs/world trials in April.*

*My school has helped me and supported me with my homework with the amount of swimming I do as I find it difficult to fit in time around my training.*

Jasmine McCrea

## NETBALL



The U14 Netball team won against St Edwards, Poole High, QE and Corfe Hills at the U14 Poole and East Dorset Netball tournament, losing by only 1 goal to Canford in the final and qualifying for the U14 County Final. The girls played some exceptional games and were complimented by the coach of Canford School on their skills and sportsmanship.

At the Country Final held at QE on Thursday 5 November the team played extremely well and they will now represent Dorset at the Regional Netball finals on Saturday 30 January 2016 in Camborne, Cornwall, where the top 2 qualifying teams will go through to Nationals!

## CROSS COUNTRY

Both the Intermediate and Junior Teams raced in the first round of the English Schools' Cross Country Cup, at Millfield! Both teams ran well and the Inters achieved 6th place, whilst the Junior Team attained 3rd. The Junior Team progressed to the Regional Finals. This took place on a very wet and windy day in November; conditions were extremely tough. The team gained 10th place.



The Leweston relays were again a great event with 75 teams competing. A fabulous afternoon (except the mini-bus sunk in the car park!). The Inter teams gained 4th and 8th position with Lola Brown-Araujo gaining 6th fastest runner overall. In the Junior event, the teams gained 3rd and 19th, with Fern Kimber, the 3rd fastest runner overall.

## FOOTBALL

A new fixture in our sporting opportunities is the Monday after school club which is run by Bournemouth FC. The links organised have proved most successful, with up to 24 girls from a range of age groups attending regularly. To date there have been no fixtures. We are looking for a member of staff who is keen to support this venture.



## TRAMPOLINING

Two Parkstone students represented the school at the 1st round of the English Schools' Championships recently. Izzy Leigh Warren and Ellie Kay pulled out top level performances and gained 1st and 3rd places respectively.

As a result of their success they now compete at the Southern Zonal Competition in January and we wish them the very best of luck.