



Parkstone News

February 2011



PARKSTONE STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO POOLE'S TWIN SAILS PROJECT



Some Parkstone students have been given the unique and exciting opportunity of expanding their learning by using the new construction we have been building on our doorstep – the Twin Sails Bridge.

The school was eager to become involved in the initiative. By incorporating the Twin Sails and all the educational experiences it has to offer into the curriculum, the school's aim is to ensure the students realise that we are not just gaining a new triangular-leaf lifting bridge (the very first of its kind in the world!) but also that the project is going to regenerate the whole of the area and positively impact on the communities, the businesses and the tourists who live, work and play here.

In September the Geography department and Design & Technology department joined forces and took one tutor group from Year 8 into Poole for the day. A Year 6 class from St Joseph's school was also invited to be present. Poole Borough Council had organised many activities for the groups which included a visit to Poole Museum, two workshops at the RNLi on Environment and Place Shaping and a walk to the bridge construction site, complete with hard hats and high visibility jackets for everyone!



The groups rotated around the activities over the course of the day and this culminated at the end of the day with a trip on a boat down Backwater Channel to see the building work taking place at close range.

Both Jim Bright, the Strategic Director at Poole who is frontlining the project, and the Mayor of Poole were in attendance on the day. Photographs were taken for the press and the Council's new Twin Sails website due to be launched later this year. The day proved to be so successful that we hope it will be made available as a trip for the rest of the year group in March.

This is an innovative and highly exciting project and the students are eager to be involved - after all, History is being made!

MEDALLIST LIZ INSPIRES SCHOOL TRACK TEAM

At the end of the Autumn term, a number of willing and enthusiastic athletes from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 were invited to a coaching session with the Olympic athlete Liz Yelling. Liz ran the Marathon for Great Britain in the Athens and Beijing Olympics as well as many other major competitions.



First of all Liz took us through a few fun drills to improve our fitness. This included pace changing, shuttle runs and pace setting. After our drills, Liz was happy to answer any questions we had about her running, for example; *What is your day to day diet?*; *How long do you train for?* and *What advice would you have on trying to reach your goals?* Liz quite rightly said "Everyone has something which they dream about achieving. If you work hard enough, nothing is impossible". Also, a very good piece of advice that she gave me personally was "in order to be the best you can at something, you need to work hard on the things which you are weakest at ...".

Everyone lucky enough to be involved with the session came out inspired by what Liz had told them.

She was very human and very open with us, saying she was just a normal girl like us when she was at school - believe it or not, she came second from last in a cross country race when she was 13 ... and look at her now!

A Budding Athlete



ELIZABETH TAKES OVER!

Year 10 student, Elizabeth Harker, had a great experience recently when she participated in Youth Takeover Day, a national initiative organised locally by Poole's Children and Young People's Integrated Services.



Elizabeth arrived at the Poole Housing Partnership offices in Poole to take over the role of Head of Technical Services for the day, shadowing Mike Harrison. A day of balancing budgets, inspecting kitchen refurbishments and meeting residents awaited her!

Elizabeth was thrilled to experience firsthand the different demands the Technical Team Manager faces on a daily basis. These ranged from considering the cost of roofing works to the potential cost of changing the mobility buggy policy. Elizabeth also went out with a PHP surveyor and contractor to inspect recently completed kitchen and bathroom works carried out across Poole.



Elizabeth said "having work experience at PHP has really made me value the hard work they do and I hope the Council does not see them as simply just another area to reduce funding in."

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BRITISH LIBRARY

INSPIRATIONAL ENGLISH From Runes to Textspeak

The British Library in London is holding a major exhibition (until April 2011) exploring the rich diversity of the English language – an opportunity too good to miss for the Years 12 and 13 A Level English Language students, and one which you may like to take up yourself, if you should happen to be in the vicinity. It is fascinating.

Not deterred by the early Monday morning start, we made good time, arriving at the imposing new buildings in central London with time to spare before the first of the workshops for which we had booked. Linguistic experts on the staff at the museum gave interesting talks on the changes in dialect in the British Isles over the past century and guided us knowledgeably through the amazing exhibition, with a variety of 'hands on' activities.

Students were impressed by the strict rules governing who can access books (of which there appeared to be virtually none available on shelves!) but were able to pore over many treasures in the exhibition. We marvelled at objects such as the only surviving manuscript of Beowulf, Caxton's printing of the Canterbury Tales, first editions of the King James I Bible and Shakespeare quartos, as well as handwritten letters, poems, propaganda posters, lists of slang, the first dictionaries and advertisements. Interactive displays allowed us to listen to recorded speeches by Pankhurst, Churchill and Gandhi as well as dialect and song recordings from around the world, and test our knowledge with quizzes.

A long and exhausting day – but an incredibly rich, once in a lifetime experience for us all.

ADVANCED FIRST AIDERS

Following on from the successful basic first aid course offered to students, some were so enthusiastic about the subject that they chose to extend their knowledge further and take part in the Advanced course.

Sarah-Jane Tarver and Emma Wright report:

The Advanced course was a lot more practical than the Basic course and we learnt everything in much more depth. We learnt skills ranging from resuscitation to dealing with wounds and alcohol poisoning. The instructor, Gavin, was extremely enthusiastic and helpful and he made it a relaxed and funny environment (especially when he was discussing Neighbours with Jess!).

We would both highly recommend taking part in a first aid course as it could not only help you in a life-threatening situation but it gives you general life skills - whilst gaining a highly recognised qualification.

Sophie's a Star Gymnast!



Year 8 student and talented gymnast Sophie Barber has recently achieved two very high accolades in her chosen sport.

Sophie was not only awarded the Elite Girl Champion (for both aged 12 and aged 13), but she was also presented with the Personality Award. This prestigious trophy is particularly special as its winner is voted for by the other gymnasts in the squad.

Sophie's gymnastics career began aged 6 when she joined a local leisure centre and was then picked to join Olga Gymnastics. At the age of 9 Sophie's skills were so advanced that was competing in the South West England competitions.

Sophie currently trains at Dynamo School of Gymnastics in Hamble, training with England and Great Britain girls. She has represented her Club in the British Team Championships, competing against

some of the best gymnasts in the country.

Sophie's achievements are undoubtedly a recognition of the hard work and long hours she dedicates to the sport. She currently trains for over 20 hours a week!



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Students around the country have been getting involved with the Young Enterprise programme. The programme's aim is to build a connected world of young people, business volunteers and educators, inspiring each other to succeed through enterprise. Young Enterprise offers young people an exciting way of making the difficult transition from school to work. It does this by providing senior pupils or recent school-leavers with the opportunity of operating a real-life industrial enterprise, a scale-model company, with real problems, real solutions, real failures and real successes.

A number of Parkstone students participated in the programme. Here Year 13 student Jagjoth Vasir tells us about the team's experience: *Our company, Twenty III, was formed at Procter & Gamble in Bournemouth. To raise funds to design and make a product, we began to sell personalised hoodies at each of our schools – Parkstone Grammar and Talbot Heath. During this time, our company began to brainstorm product ideas. This is when our idea of the Standiii was born. It is a portable stand for smart media phones made from 300 micron opal PVC plastic. It is available in five colours; blue, green, red, pink and white.*

Twenty III achieved first place at the Dorset final. However, we faced strong competition at the regional finals in Torquay and managed a success of second place. At the regional stage of the competition, we were given the opportunity to enter the Daily Telegraph's New Media Prize. Our 15 second advert impressed Richard Tyler from "The Daily Telegraph" and we were so proud when Twenty III was awarded first prize nationally! Our later trip to the London finals to accept our award was fantastic!

The prize also included a visit to the Daily Telegraph Offices in London at a later date and when the time arrived we turned up all really excited. We were in awe at the vast office space and were told it was originally an investment bank's trading floor. We were all given a goody bag containing books, gifts and a photocopy of the front page of "The Daily Telegraph" issue when we were born which was lovely. Twenty III had the opportunity to watch a financial report being filmed and to have a go with the autocue - this was amazing. After our tour our next stop was lunch at Oxo Tower Wharf courtesy of "The Daily Telegraph" and then onto enjoy the London Design Festival. We went to the Bargehouse at Oxo Tower Wharf on the South Bank and saw the exhibition. One of the highlights was "The Hybreed Chair" by Charlotte Kingsnort. This was a crossbreed of furniture and was great to look at. After this we went to Conrans to see the new pencil thin Samsung LED TV and were blown away by the design. Next stop the Dyson offices. Here we were given a presentation by Dyson's engineer Simon Ireland of how it all started and the development of the Dyson vacuum cleaner and the Dyson fan. The talk was innovating and made us realise that with perseverance you can succeed. This was such a fantastic opportunity and we gained worthwhile lessons from current innovative designers.



Thank you to "The Daily Telegraph" for such an amazing day and to Young Enterprise for giving us the opportunity to run our own business and of course to Procter and Gamble advisors Darren and Chris for all their help and support.

We would thoroughly recommend the Young Enterprise programme to any student ... and don't forget to enter "The Daily Telegraph Media Award".

MOCK COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Two Year 13 students from Parkstone recently participated in the Mock Council of the European Union.

Representing Finland, Ellen Logan and Helena Kipling travelled to Lancaster House in London to join other enthusiastic students in putting forward their case and enjoying a vibrant, intelligent and lively debate.

It was a fantastic event and all involved were very impressed with the amount of research, time and energy the students did to put forward their case.

Parkstone's Active Citizens

Parkstone recently welcomed a small group of sixth formers and staff from St. Saviour's and St Olave's school in Southwark.

They came to assist our Year 11 AS Citizenship students with their Active Citizenship Profile project on the nature of being a British citizen. A really useful exchange of ideas and views took place and our visitors also toured the school and enjoyed lunch.

Parkstone students have been invited back to St Saviour's and St. Olave's when they will specifically look at issues surrounding ethnic and religious diversity. It is hoped that this initial contact will lead to greater contact between both schools.

The two schools were brought together by our Deputy Chair of Governors, Ms Ann Simmons, who used to teach at the London school.

Award Winning Volunteer



Congratulations to Year 10 student and volunteer, Sarah Clarke, for receiving the CSV Young Volunteer of the Year award.

Community Service Volunteers recognised Sarah's hard work with **Woofability** - a locally based organisation who trains assistance dogs for disabled people.

Sarah donates much time and energy in helping with such things as walking the dogs, helping with their training and being proactive with fundraising.

Well done Sarah!



Specialist Schools



STRIVING FOR SILVER

Eco-Schools is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life.



Parkstone is proud that it has achieved a Bronze Award and is now looking at applying for the Silver Award. The initiative will be led by sixth-formers and will use the school grounds as the basis for the award and incorporate the work done on the school garden area.

The school has also been really fortunate to have won 15 native trees that we will be planting before half-term and enhance the school grounds for future Parkstonians!

Parkstone Welcomes Poole Middle Schools

Parkstone is proud to continue its links with local middle schools, welcoming groups to Science and Maths enrichment sessions every Wednesday afternoon.

These have gone from strength to strength and Parkstone now has the majority of Poole middle and combined schools attending at some time during the academic year. This term we have just over 60 students from Hamworthy, Oakdale, Mansorise, Bearwood, and St Joseph's schools!

New Frontiers!



Year 9 students enthusiastically participated in the school's annual Frontiers Day.

During the day the students were asked to set up their own leisure centre in either a French, German or Spanish speaking country. They were involved in creating a radio jingle, a television advertisement and a menu for the centre restaurant, along with other tasks.

The work produced by the students was outstanding. They eagerly demonstrated their many talents, creatively producing some fantastic results. The staff involved were very impressed with the level of language produced and also the enthusiasm they showed for the day.

ASTRONOMY TRIP TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH



In November our Astronomy class went to Greenwich to visit The Royal Observatory and Planetarium. We all met up at 7:30am in the foyer and enthusiastically got in the minibus to start our day. The journey went on for hours! Luckily we saw some of London's main attractions, including the London Eye, the Gherkin and the huge Oval Cricket Ground.

At about 10:30am we arrived in Greenwich - but we had a small trek to the observatory in store for us, through the Greenwich Park to the Royal Observatory. At around 11:00am we walked the Astronomy Route to the Astronomy Centre and spent time looking at the Astronomy Gallery. In the Astronomy Centre we took part in interactive activities and also saw things like a 4.5 billion year old meteorite and the 'Astronomy Photographer of the Year' entries which were incredible!

At 12:35pm we registered at the entrance to the planetarium for the show 'Meet the Neighbours' at the Peter Harrison planetarium. The show was visually captivating and provided a magnificent introduction to the mysteries and wonders of the universe, with information from NASA telescopes and the latest terrestrial technology revealing the secrets of pulsars and black holes. The show was hosted by a Royal Observatory astronomer.



After lunch we walked the Meridian route. We had our picture taken straddling the Prime Meridian which was fun. The view of London was spectacular, even if it was raining. After that we walked through the rest of the museum and saw the United Kingdom's biggest telescope. We walked through Greenwich Park Rose Garden and finally got back into the mini bus for the long and tiring 5 hour trip home.

By Rosie Teideman, Abigail Barnes and Leah Morrison



Specialist Schools



INGALIINA SHARES HER LANGUAGE SKILLS WITH PARKSTONE

We are pleased to welcome our new Comenius Language Assistant Ingaliina Seppa who will be starting at Parkstone this month.

Ingaliina is joining the school until May 2011 and will be working with the Physics, Maths and Music Department whilst she is here. She will also be working with both Hillbourne and Haymoor Middle Schools. Here Ingaliina introduces herself :

"My name is Ingaliina. I'm 25 years old and come from Finland. I study Mathematics and Physics at the University of Helsinki. Hopefully I'll graduate as a maths and physics teacher next year. I'm going to work as a Comenius assistant from February 2011 to May 2011. Parkstone is one of the three schools where I'll be working. I will assist in mathematics and physics and run a Finnish club.

Music is very important to me and I play flute whenever I have time. I started to take flute lessons when I was 10 years old. I've always been fascinated by other cultures. That is why I spent my last summer working in the United States. It was also one of the reasons why I wanted to be a Comenius assistant. I'm looking forward to coming to Parkstone next month!"

And for those of you who enjoy Finnish :

'Hei! Minun nimeni on Ingaliina. Olen 25-vuotias ja kotoisin Suomesta. Opiskelen matematiikan ja fysiikan opettajaksi ja toivon valmistuvani seuraavan vuoden aikana. Tulen työskentelemään Comenius-assistenttina kolmessa koulussa Pooleessa maaliskuun alusta toukokuun loppuun asti. Yksi näistä kouluista on Parkstone. Tulen muun muassa avustamaan matematiikan ja fysiikan oppitunneilla sekä pitämään Suomikerhoa. Musiikki on minulle todella tärkeää ja soitan huilua aina, kun minulla on aikaa. Olen soittanut huilua 10-vuotiaasta lähtien. Uudet kulttuurit kiehtovat minua ja pyrinikin matkustelemaan niin usein kuin mahdollista. Viime kesän vietin Yhdysvalloissa työskennellen ja sen innoittamana hain myös Comenius-assistentiksi. Odotankin innolla ensi kevättä ja Pooleen tutustumista!"



JAPANESE FRIENDS REVISIT

Parkstone is pleased to welcome staff and students from Togane High School, Japan for their second visit in March.

The visitors will observe lessons, have a talk on the English school system and also enjoy a tour of the school.

Our Japanese friends say that they very much enjoy visiting us and seeing the differences between their school and our own.

We look forward to building a very successful relationship with this school, alongside our main partner school in Japan, the Kyoto Gakuen High School.

ARMY ENGINEERS VISIT PARKSTONE

Year 9 students were very excited when they were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Army recently

The REME division sent in three soldiers who gave a careers talk about engineering in the Army and then ran a workshop where the girls built model combustion engines. The girls worked with real enthusiasm.

The event was a real eye-opener and inspired a number into considering pursuing Engineering as a career.



Greencar Challenge

Parkstone students were given the challenge to build and race an electric powered car, no easy task! But with the wonderful support of a group of apprentices and managers from Siemens, the group of determined Year 9 and 10 students are doing just that - all as part of the Greencar Challenge. The project involves the girls learning new skills in Engineering as well as team work, communication and fundraising.

The group has been hard at work raising sponsorship. The finance to buy the material and equipment and needed is vital. They have already received sponsorship from Breeze Volkswagen - which is fantastic - but they still need more! If you can help in any way please contact Mrs Triplow in school.

Additionally the Greencar team visited Siemens and offered a presentation to the MD of Siemens Traffic and Control Systems. The MD and his colleagues were very impressed and as a result the MD has agreed to further sponsor the team so that they will be able to purchase the overalls and helmets that they will need for racing.

Meanwhile, the hard work with designing and building the car continues. The team are working extremely hard and hope to have a working car in time for the final stage of the Challenge - competing in a greencar race against other schools.

