

**July 2015**

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## HENGISTBURY HEAD



What a beautiful day for Year 7 recently when they visited Hengistbury Head and Mudeford spit as part of their Geography lessons.

The year group split into groups and visited the sites over a number of days during the week. They were looking at the impact of people on the area. During the visit they completed a number of litter counts, footpath transects to measure erosion and a land use survey.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the views from the top of the head and were amazed at the distances they were able to see. They all chose their favourite beach huts on the spits, dreaming of a lottery win to buy one, and finished off with hot drinks, ice creams and cakes in the cafés.

## AND THE OSCAR GOES TO ...

On the evening of 24 June, Parkstone held its 11th Annual Media Oscars Awards Ceremony!



This is a very special occasion and a highlight of the year for us as we get 'glammed up' in order to celebrate and showcase the achievements of our A level Media Studies students in great style. Following a very glitzy 'Grand Premiere Red Carpet Experience' outside the hall, guests were ushered to their tastefully candlelit tables where they enjoyed refreshments, indulged in the latest Hollywood gossip, and watched a showreel of films made by ex-Parkstone Media Studies students.

Screenings of this year's excellent film productions by AS and A2 students ensued, and the audience were invited to vote for their Star Film of the Night.

Our special guests, Jan Weddup (a screenwriter himself and former lecturer on screenwriting at Bournemouth University), and Andrew Burn (a member of our Governing Body, and Head of Projects at Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra) had undertaken the very difficult job of judging the films in different categories and awarded the winning students with the coveted golden Oscar statuettes.

Our congratulations to all the Oscar winners this year - the standard of film-making was very high indeed.

Many thanks to everyone involved in making this once again a very enjoyable and rewarding evening.



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



In our final Newsletter of the year it is with great joy and pride that I reflect on what has been an extraordinary term. External and internal examinations have dominated the months of May and Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students have all been working extremely hard to prepare. I have been so impressed by the dedication and resilience of our students through this period and wish them every success with the results!

A highlight of the term has certainly been Activities Week which you can read about in this edition. Students have fed back on this new venture and we will be making changes to the activities offered next year based on their comments. So they were not missed out Year 10 also experienced a rewards day in July following their exams with some students visiting Thorpe Parks and others dance and art workshops in school.

Sports Day was again blessed this year with beautiful weather as students competed with great sportswomanlike behaviour and were well supported by their peers. The Year 7 Science Fair was a fantastic event where students showcased their scientific investigations to parents and visitors. Geographers in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been busy carrying out fieldwork at the coast and in the New Forest while Year 8 students also enjoyed their Citizenship Day at which they designed and pitched their own political parties with clear manifesto promises that focused on issues such as university fees, mental health issues, sexuality and discrimination.

As we now look towards the end of term I would like to say a huge well done and thank you to all our students for their wonderful contributions over the year, and to your family a wonderful summer.

Tracy Harris

## SOPHIE'S CHARITY HAIR CHOP!

There was great excitement in the school recently when Year 9 student Sophie Manns volunteered to have her long hair cut short for charity.

Sophie's long tresses were cropped in front of a lunchtime audience, who enthusiastically cheered and supported her brave gesture.



Students and parents have been incredibly generous in their support with the outcome that, once all donations are in, Sophie will have raised over £1,500 for the Teenage Cancer Trust - double Sophie's original target! Sophie also donated her cut hair to the Little Princess Trust to be made into wigs for cancer patients.

Sophie (and her parents) would like to send a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who has generously offered donations and helped Sophie with this fantastic achievement.



Year 7 student, Alicia Hannam has had a wonderful time competing in the Teenstar 2015 National Singing Competition.

Teenstar is the UK's biggest singing competition with over 9000 entries.

Talented singer Alicia made it through to the semi finals, representing the South of England - a fantastic achievement!

Whilst unfortunately she didn't proceed to the next level of the competition, she did win a Silver Level Award Certificate and a recording studio session which she will do over the summer holidays.

Alicia really enjoyed the whole experience and is even more determined now to carry on singing. A group of her friends in Year 7 came to Southampton to support her in the semi finals. She was so grateful for their support.

## Geography Fieldwork

Year 10 Geographers had a great day out this year when they collected data for their controlled assessment in Swanage.

The students collected data on noise and the visual impacts of tourism on Swanage and completed a land use survey to see how many of the shops there were tourism related.

They also conducted people counts to try and map where the most people were located.

Students are now writing up and presenting their findings.

## Engineering Education Scheme

Students interested in Engineering have embraced the opportunity of working with the RNLI on a project under the Engineering Education Scheme.

A team of four students from Year 12 have designed and made a prototype for a rig to enable the RNLI to remove a 140kg gear box from a Shannon class life boat. They have been supported throughout their project by their teacher mentor Jo Scopes, and their Engineer mentor Martyn Pitman for the RNLI.

After months of hard work, the end of the project is fast approaching with the Celebration and Assessment Day. The students are in the processes of finishing their report and putting together their presentation as well as putting the final touches to their test rig.

The students have been working on this project since the end of October and have learnt many Engineering skills as well as: team work, communication, resilience and a realisation that things don't always work out straight away!!!

Their celebration day is at Bristol Rolls Royce. On this day they will have to give a 15 minute presentation to a panel of assessors from a range of engineering backgrounds and set up a display stand at which they will be asked questions to assess how their project progressed. Both these activities are daunting for the students (and teachers) but we are confident our team will as usual impress the assessors with their dedication and enthusiasm.

We wish them luck!



On Thursday 9 July, 84 Year 12 students plus members of staff took part in our annual 'Walk4Water', to raise money for 'WaterAid'. We set off from Swanage sea front at 4am, headed off over Ballard Down and saw the sun rise as we walked into Studland. From there we walked along the beach at Shell Bay to the chain ferry and caught the first ferry of the day at 7am. We were met on Sandbanks by Andy our caretaker and the school minibus, from which we collected banners and collecting buckets and much-needed bottles of water. As we then walked along Sandbanks, through Lilliput and into Whitecliff Park our students merrily chanted about our fund-raising for WaterAid, speaking to members of the public, carrying banners and waving at drivers on the way.

From Whitecliff we went through Poole Park, up past the 'Shah of Persia' and then along Wimborne Road to school. The 'Daily Echo' came to take photos, people gave us cash donations and on arriving at school we all tucked in to a hearty cooked breakfast. Our Year 12 students have been very helpful in organising press coverage, banners and pennants and raised £95 from a cake sale in school to add to our sponsorship money and donations.

The event was a lovely occasion which brought our Year 12 students together to raise money to help to provide fresh water to remote parts of Africa.



Twenty two Year 10 students successfully undertook their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice expedition in April and their assessed expedition in July.

They walked for half a day with a member of staff on their practice expedition and were shown how to identify the features on the map with their surroundings as well as how to navigate successfully. They walked for a further half a day by themselves into the campsite before cooking their own dinner. They then walked for another day independently.

On their qualifying expedition they walked in their teams independently for two days and were assessed on their navigation skills and their teamwork by an independent assessor. They have also been busy undertaking a volunteering role, have committed to a sport and are learning a new skill.

## KINGSTON LACY ATTRACTS ARTIST

Recently, our Year 10 GCSE artists visited the stunning grounds at the Kingston Lacy National Trust Estate in order to gather primary observations towards their new project on 'LANDSCAPES'.

Girls were asked to experiment with a number of different media and techniques within their observational work including mono-printing, continuous line drawing, quick sketches, rubbings etc. and extended drawings.

The sun shone and the grounds were simply beautiful, some very creative and high quality work was produced and the girls' behaviour was exemplary, as always. A very productive and enjoyable day for all!



## GREENPOWER

We are extremely fortunate to have the continued support of Siemens in the Greenpower Project. We have had a new team of Engineers this year working with us and they have been coming in to school every Thursday afternoon to build and develop their cars ready for racing.

The Year 9 and 10 team have been designing and building a car from scratch. They now have the chassis pretty much complete and the bodywork cut and ready to attach. The team are very excited about this first race at Goodwood Motor Circuit. They will have two races on the day, each of 90 minutes long. During the race they will have to change drivers three times so their pit-stopping skills will be vital. The aim of the race is to travel as far as possible on the two 12V batteries they are allowed to use before they run out.

The Year 12 team of two students have taken a previously made car and are adapting it to make it better. This has involved adjusting the streamlining of the car as well as the weight distribution. They have done a lot of testing and measurements to find out where they can change things. They are also going to measure the current draw from the batteries during the next race by using data loggers that we have kindly been lent by VBox (thanks to our IT Technician John Holman) that are used in the real world of motor racing. We have also been promised a data logger to borrow from McLaren! The software that goes with this will enable the students to analyse exactly what current draw is taking place at different parts of the track (GPS included) and so will help the students to develop their car further to reduce power consumption, through adjustments of the car and adjustments of their racing lines etc.



# ACTIVITIES WEEK

Parkstone's inaugural Activities week was held in June for Years 7, 8 and 9 - and it was a huge success! A vast array of activities, events and trips were organised and students enthusiastically embraced all the opportunities offered to them. Over the next few pages we are pleased to provide you with a small taster of the week :

## NORMANDY

During the trip to Normandy students enjoyed the Opal Coast region of Normandy in France. The girls were given lots of opportunities to make good use of the French they learned in class as they visited a range of museums, attractions and other sites of historical interest in the region.



Shona Harrison, Year 9, kindly wrote a report for the Newsletter :

***On Monday 8 June, we went to Lille and Boulogne, France.***

***Firstly, we visited a traditional Patisserie. We were taken to one of the rooms underneath the shop where they prepare the Croissants. This man told us that there are 8 ingredients used to make croissants. He would say them to us in French and the got us to repeat them. He rolled out some pastry, teaching us how to cut and roll to perfection.***

***After, we were shown how they make bread (or 'pain' in French). Then we were given tasters, which were delicious.***

***The second morning we visited a sweet shop and got to taste some amazing sweets that we watched being made. Everyone spend a lot on sweets. After that we headed to the Sea Life Centre (Nausicca) and we saw some amazing fish and some Sharks! Plus some sea lions and penguins.***

## Reassuring the new students ...

During Activities Week groups of Year 8 girls accompanied Mrs Partridge and Mrs Carter on their visits to the new Year 7 pupils.

The Year 8 girls enjoyed reassuring the anxious Year 6s and were able to give girls tips to help them in their first weeks at Parkstone. One Year 8 pupil said, 'I loved helping the Year 6 girls and it was really rewarding to see how excited they had become'.

We visited 22 schools during the week.

# SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

As part of Activities Week, every Year 7 student had the opportunity to see an original Magna Carta, one of which is housed in the beautiful Chapter House at Salisbury Cathedral. They learned about the practical process of creating the document and explored the far-reaching global implications on human rights and justice. The girls enjoyed Drama and Graphics activities - evaluating the effectiveness of protest posters by organisations such as Amnesty International and looking at acceptable types of protest in recent history.

They also gained expertise and enhanced their key vocabulary during an excellent presentation on sacred and secular architecture; they learned about flying buttresses, Norman and Gothic arches, towers and spires, early methods of large-scale construction and the reasons for the original bright paintings inside religious buildings. They explored the reasons for the relocation from Old Sarum to the present site of the town of Salisbury and were introduced to the basic geology of the area.

On a lighter note, students were able to relax and reflect whilst eating lunch in the shady cloisters, having discovered the alleged 'truth' about the poisoned rat on display. Ask a Year 7 student for further details!

Sketches and photography produced during the visit will inspire some of the entries for this year's 'Spirited Arts' competition run by NATRE.



# CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY

Year 7 students had a great time walking together along the Castleman Trailway to Upton Country Park. A leisurely lunch was shared at the Park before the enjoyable trek back to school.

The walk took place for 4 days during the week and the weather was glorious ... all except the final day when the walk was shortened due to bad weather.

But the girls took it all in their stride - LITERALLY!



# GLOBE THEATRE & THE TATE MODERN

Year 7 students had a busy day when they visited both the Globe and Tate Modern. In the morning, students travelled to London by coach and enjoyed a guided tour of the world-famous reconstructed Globe playhouse. Globe Theatre employees then led active drama workshops for students on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Following a picnic lunch by the Thames, in the afternoon the group then toured a range of galleries at the Tate Modern where they made drawings and personal written notes of the artworks that inspired them.

Year 7 student, Amber Correia, shared her experience with us :

*On the 11 June, the pupils of Year 7 embarked upon a trip to The Globe Theatre and the Tate Modern in London. It was a fascinating experience and we had lots of fun! Our day went as follows:*

*We all had to wake up extremely early as we had to be at school for 6.45. Eva Garrity says, "It was difficult waking up but it was worth it for the amazing day we had". 2 hours into the coach drive, we stopped at the services and had Starbucks before we travelled another 2 hours into London.*

*When we arrived at the Globe Theatre, "we were shocked by the size of it!" says Katy Clarke. We split into two groups and attended separate workshops. We viewed the stage and did "Midsummer Night's Dream" scenes with a drama coach. We recited lines from Shakespeare's plays including, "I love thee not therefore pursue me not" – Demetrius.*



The Globe Theatre



At the Tate

*Therefore pursue me not" – Demetrius.*

*Lunch followed at the Tate Modern and we were treated to a brilliant exhibition in the Art Gallery including pieces from Robert Delaunay. We expressed our creative talents by copying a chosen art work in the gallery.*

*"It opened my eyes to the aesthetic value of abstract art. I particularly appreciated Anthony Caro's 'yellow swing' which was placed straight on the floor rather than being elevated on a plinth establishing a more direct link with the viewer." Mr Lord In the end we all had an amazing day, but we got delayed in traffic and ended up getting more Starbucks! We got back at 8.30pm and we were all very tired.*

*Ending this report, I would like to say huge thanks to all the staff who helped.*

# BUGSY



Year 9 really showed great team spirit and individual talent on stage and behind the scenes of Buggy Malone as part of Activities Week . It was an epic achievement given the limited timescale and would not have happened without the support of all involved.

All of Year 9 were allocated 3 days in Activities Week to rehearse, design and ultimately take part in three performances of the show. The students were involved in a wide range of activities: performing; technical management; stage management; prop and set creation; display work; research work; programme creation and videoing etc.



All rehearsals took place during Wednesday and Thursday, with the challenge of a first performance on Thursday evening. Further performances were on the Friday evening and a Friday matinee to younger students from Haymoor and Broadstone Middle Schools. They enjoyed it so much that they followed up with lovely letters of thanks! Comments included :

*"Everyone has been talking about how much they have enjoyed the show"*

*"If I was going to give it stars out of 10 I would give you 10!"*

*"My favourite part was Blousy singing, the actresses were amazing and sang perfectly."*

*"My favourite part was when Mrs Spratt and Mr Salisbury sang 'twinkle twinkle little star'"*

*"My favourite parts were when the people got splurged."*



# BARTON HALL

Year 8's trip to Barton Hall in Torquay was packed full of fun for the students to do. The multi activity break included raft building, a giant swing at a great height, a trapeze and quad bike riding - all led by fully qualified instructors from the centre and with the aim of promoting team building, planning and communication skills. The raft building was particularly popular, and for many girls it ended up with the requisite dunk in the lake!



# Year 8 Technology Day

During Activities Week Year 8 enjoyed an exciting Technology Day. They listened to a talk by artist, graphic illustrator and paper sculptor, Sam Pierpoint. She showed them the array of work she has created and some of the companies she has been commissioned by, including Nokia and various record labels. Following this, they were given the opportunity to work in three workshops throughout the day, rotating around each session every hour and forty minutes.

Sam Pierpoint inspired the students to build a large-scale sculpture out of paper and card, based on the theme of Dorset. Sam's own work, 'Paper London' was the starting point for the sculpture and the girls, in teams, set about creating a feature of our Dorset landscape. Corfe Castle, Swanage Railway, Kingston Lacy, Brownsea Island and the Lady Wimborne cottages were just a few of the structures that were built in a very short period of time.



In addition, our own resident artist and staff member in charge of displays, Andrea Hook gave her time to setting out an extensive line drawing on both walls of the staffroom corridor that represented Dorset. The students were given the task to use Sam Pierpoint's technique of 'paper cut-outs' to fill an A3 tile with a creative blend of paper, wallpaper and colour. The final effect across the frieze 'Paper Dorset' proved highly successful with each tile presenting striking differences to its counterpart, yet merging imaginatively across the space.

At the end of the day, students were keen to photograph their work and commented on how they wished they had longer on the sessions.

Congratulations in particular go to the students within Group 3C for creating the winning logo in the third workshop. The design, offered by Katy Jack, Holly Pitman, Olivia Sedgwick, Beth Sims-Tyers, Amelia Torok, Katy Philips and Erin Rhodes was used in our recent Technology Showcase promotional material and programme and comments on how original and inventive this has been made to staff.

Enthusiasm for innovation and the clear resourcefulness shown within each of the Design and Technology sessions during the day was very much apparent and we look forward to further opportunities of designers working with the students on future events.



## PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

As part of the Psychology Conference held in school on 23 June, Year 12 Psychology students from Parkstone had the opportunity to hear from experts currently carrying out exciting research in various areas of the subject. Parkstone also had the pleasure of welcoming students from other schools to share the experience.

The Conference offered a wonderful opportunity for students planning on attending university to experience a lecture situation. The speakers for the conference were:

- \* **Dr Sarah Bate - Bournemouth University** - "Face Recognition & Prosopagnosia"
- \* **Prof Kim Bard - University of Portsmouth** - "Attachments - Development in non-human primates, chimpanzees and orangutans compared with humans."
- \* **Dr Catherine Gilvarry - University of Roehampton** - "Combine presentation on Health Psychology and Addiction"
- \* **Professor Nicholas Donnelly - University of Southampton** - "Visual Cognition - including detecting threats in real world environments"

It was a fascinating series of lectures that not only linked to some areas of the syllabus they are currently studying, but also showed just how big a subject Psychology is and how it is linked to all areas of life outside the classroom.

## FUTURE STUDENTS GET "A TASTE"

24 June saw the second annual welcome and "Taster Day" for the new students who are planning to join the Sixth Form at Parkstone from other schools this September.

A delightful group of enthusiastic future students came to be entertained by members of our present Year 12 and the Sixth Form Team.

The students had a talk on Parkstone life, met their tutors for next year and had a sample of our Enrichment programme in a session of Mindfulness. Year 12 then gave the students a tour of the school and, well informed and thoroughly chilled, the future students attended 2 taster lessons of their choice. Over lunch the girls met many present students in Year 12 and got to know each other.

We enjoyed the company of the visiting students and look forward to welcoming them in September.

## CAREERS

### Work Experience

Careers have been busy with nearly the whole of Year 10 out on Work Experience from 8 to 12 June. Students enjoyed placements such as Harrods, the Purbeck Gazette, Lush, Poole Citizens' Advice, Siemens, RNLI, local farms and a vast selection of large retailers - to name but a few.

On returning to school and chatting to the girls it was clear that they had all learnt a lot regarding not just employment but also about themselves. They definitely seemed to have enjoyed their week.

### Futures Day

On Friday 12 June Year 12 enjoyed "Futures Day".

The day started with an introduction to the UCAS procedure. Kevin Betts from Sussex University gave a lively talk on the dos and don'ts of personal statement writing. This was most insightful and will hopefully help our students being accepted to their chosen University.

This was followed by breakout sessions that the students had individually signed up to: Kevin Roberts from BAE, Helen Price regarding student life in London, Alicia Gibbs on studying Politics, Hannah Best on studying medicine, JP Morgan apprenticeships, Katherine O'Shea on Biochemistry and Patent Law, Jennifer Lydiatt on interview techniques, Laura West a student at Bournemouth studying Adult Nursing on Nursing and Midwifery, Hannah Palmer on studying Psychology and Criminology, Jane Yeadon on careers in Accountancy, and Simon and Rebecca Pride from Bournemouth Arts University. Excitingly the vast majority of these are former students!

After lunch some girls attended an Oxbridge presentation whilst the rest of us were entertained by the motivational talk by Gill Donnell MBE. Gill talked about women being successful in the work place and her top tips for achieving this.

# German Exchange to Frankenthal : 1 – 8 July 2015

I am happy to report that our 22nd German Exchange with our partner school, the Albert Einstein Gymnasium in Frankenthal was a huge success.

As we stepped off the plane on Wednesday evening we were welcomed by a wall of heat which stayed with us throughout the entire visit with temperatures between 37 and 40 degrees.

With plenty of water, sun protection and hats we managed to cope with the heat and the girls thoroughly enjoyed going to the outdoor pool every day to cool off. Even the teachers enjoyed swimming in the lake at the weekend.

We had fabulous day trips – including Mannheim and the Luisenpark with its relaxing boat trip around the lake on Thursday, Heidelberg with its iconic castle and beautiful old town on Friday and the stunning River Rhine with its numerous picture-postcard castles on Tuesday.

At the weekend the group enjoyed various activities with many visiting theme parks, swimming and shopping. It was a welcome relief to be in the air-conditioned 'Rhein-Galerie' shopping mall!

Our evening party was very relaxed, with a live music set performed by Lewis and his German partner and lots of delicious food – sehr lecker.

As always the week was over far too quickly but I am pleased to report that some people plan to visit their families again soon, especially Megan Bourn who is spending three weeks with her German family in the summer holidays – FANTASTISCH!

FRAU BIRD



## SUMMER ARTS EXHIBITION



On 6 July we saw the return of our Annual Parkstone Grammar Summer Arts Exhibition. The Art corridor and art rooms were adorned with some of the wonderful and incredibly high quality work that our Year 11, 12 and 13 artists have produced over the last year. The exhibition attracted many students past and present, peers, parents and member of the public to come in, take a look, and be awed by the huge variety of artwork on show. A wonderful chance to celebrate the girls' hard work and a very successful evening.

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE



Six Year 12 business students recently attended the first SWAT schools ICAEW challenge.

The opportunity enabled students to take on the role of a chartered accountant analysing a business problem and presenting their recommendations to a team of judges.

Parkstone student Maddy Cullen was part of the winning team however all the students involved performed at a very high level.

## STUDENTS' STORIES PUBLISHED!

Short stories, written by 52 students at Parkstone Grammar School, have been published in an anthology entitled 'Grim Tales', produced by Young Writers, a national organisation which aims to encourage creative writing in schools.

The stories were required to be under 100 words in length and to provide a twist on a traditional tale, such as 'Goldilocks' or 'Red Riding Hood'. Titles by PGS students included 'What Really Happened to Sleeping Beauty', 'Cinderella's Socks' and 'Don't Kill Your Gran'.

The anthology will be published in August and a copy sent to the school. One of the stories accepted for publication is below:

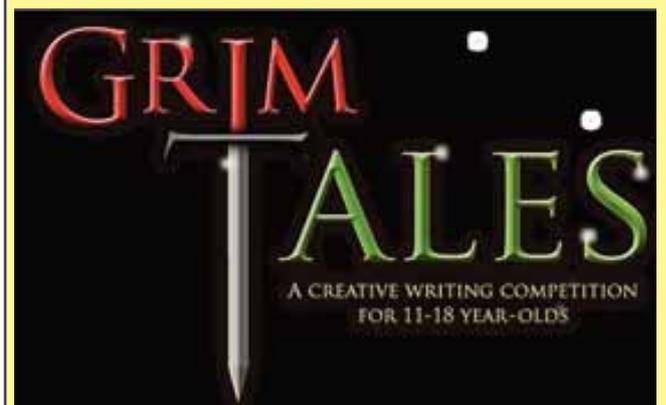
### **'The Pea and the Princess'**

**by Nadia al-Soufi and Ella Sanchez Maurer, Year 8**

*The Pea knew that something was wrong the moment she got into bed that evening. Lying on top of her 27 mattresses, she just couldn't manage to fall asleep. There was something underneath her mattress, pushing up against her back.*

*Calling in one of her maids, Pea tried to figure out what it was. Just as the maids and the Pea were about to give up searching, they heard a noise. It was a squeaking noise coming from underneath the bottom mattress.*

*Peeling the mattress away, they were shocked to find a human princess, barely alive, almost squished to death!*



# SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was rewarded with glorious weather this year - the sun shone all day and certainly helped cheer an enthusiastic group of athletes, classmates and spectators! Among the sunhats, the suncream and the flags and banners, the competitors put all their efforts into their events - and the spectators cheered and encouraged them along.

The atmosphere was wonderful, with the school community enjoying the event together.



## FRENCH EXCHANGE “WAS AMAZING”!

In early 2015, myself and about thirty other students from Year 9 were involved in a French Exchange.

On 18 March, our partners came to live with us for a week. This was an experience like no other. Having someone else in the house who speaks another language was a very new thing for me, but I really enjoyed it. I found that I got on really well with my partner and, even on the first day, we had long conversations (both in French and English) about ourselves and our families. Although we didn't get to go on the trips with them, we all knew that they had had wonderful days by the speed in which they fell asleep at night! I was really sad when my partner left, but it did leave me even more excited for when I went over to France!

4:00 am on a Friday morning, and we were all at school feeling a mixture of nerves and anticipation for what was to come. Although the coach trip was long, it was actually really enjoyable and got us all ready for the evening ahead. As we all went our different ways with our new families, we were all really apprehensive, but everything turned out fine in the end. Most of us all had very English meals, such as fish and chips, or pizza. Our families were very accommodating and really nice, so we got on really well with of them.

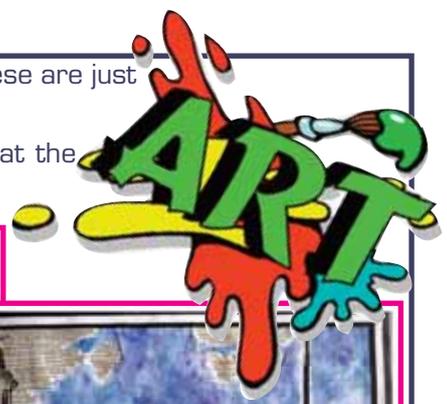
Getting up to go to school on a Saturday morning was a bit annoying, but we still enjoyed a fun day in the market place, and then with our French families. Every day was really exciting, with a different place to visit every day, my favourite being Paris. I had always wanted to go to Paris, and now I can say that I have. Standing next to the Eiffel Tower was stunning, as was climbing to the top of the Arc de Triomphe!

By the time Thursday came round, we were all sad to go. We said one last goodbye to our new friends and set off back to England. By the time we arrived back home, it was late, but we were still buzzing from the excitement.

Going to France on an exchange was a completely new experience for all of us, but I know that I for one would definitely do it again. It was amazing!

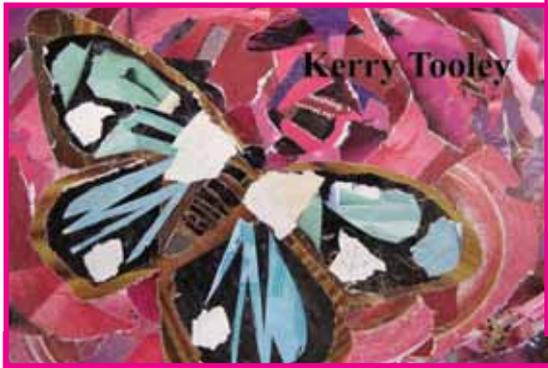
**Shona Harrison, Year 9**



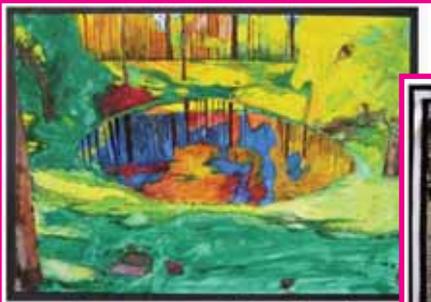


We are very proud to offer a further display of our students' artwork. These are just samples from a range of talented artists in Years 7 to 13.

For further viewing follow the link on the school's website - it can be found at the bottom the Art Department's page, accessed via the Subjects tab.



Kerry Tooley



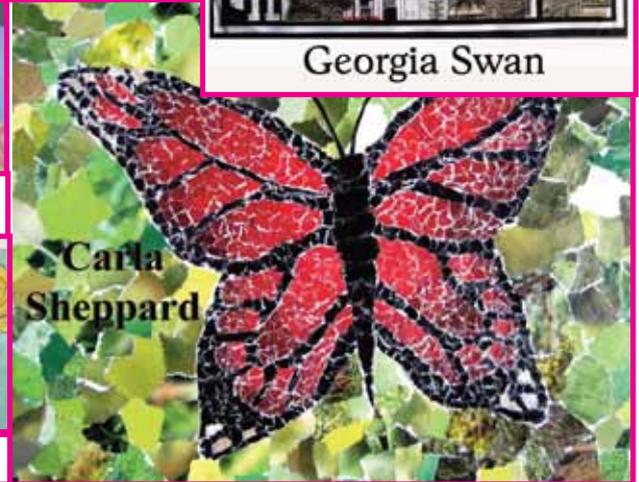
Lauren Malloch



Georgia Swan



Xin Wen



Carla Sheppard



Bethany Primmer

## YEAR 7 SCIENCE FAIR

Year 7 students have been enthusiastically working on their Science project this half term and had the opportunity to display their hard work at the Science Fair opened to the rest of the school and parents.

Classes were split into groups and each group was assigned a remote destination and assigned a Science topic within that destination. Each group was given a destination and assigned a science topic within that destination. For example, an expedition to the Gobi Desert - students had to plan everything they needed for the expedition including how to harvest water, the clothes for the climate, the best food for energy, etc. At the Science Fair the students presented their investigations through displays, interactive models, videos and pictures. Everyone who viewed it commented on the high quality of the work and were impressed by the enthusiasm of the students.



## CRICKET

Another busy year for the cricketers at Parkstone with both U13 and U15 entries to both indoor and outdoor competitions. Wednesday lunchtime Cricket Club continues to receive the support of Rob Newton, a professional cricket coach funded by the Chance to Shine charity.



U15 team

Recently, the U15s finished as close runners up at the Dorset Schools Cricket Association hardball festival held at Canford

School and also as county runners up at the Finals of the Chance to Compete soft ball competition held at Dean Park.

The U13s have also performed well reaching the Finals of the Dorset School Games and finishing 3rd having only lost one match. Following this, the U13s went on to represent the school at the DSCA U13 Softball Festival at Dean Park on Wednesday 1 July and came away as the proud winners! Wonderful!



U13 team

We are currently investigating the possibility of entering a team into the National U17s competition next year.

## WATER POLO



Talented Year 9 student Abbi Smith has been accepted into the Great Britain water polo squad.

Goalkeeper Abbi will train monthly with the squad in Cardiff with a view to being part of a GB team which enters the 2017 European Championships.

Abbi, who has represented her county and the south west at the sport, is the only female of her age in Dorset to be included in the squad. A member of Blandford Swimming Club, her current home club is West Dorset Warriors in Dorchester.

## TRAMPOLINING

Congratulations to Lucy White 8P on her Bronze Medal success on Double Mini Trampoline (DMT) at the Peterborough Regional Finals in May where she represented the South West.

Lucy has had a great season after returning to compete at DMT after injury, and qualified with a terrific score in her very first competition.

Following Lucy's fantastic achievement at Peterborough, she qualified to compete at the National Finals in Telford where she achieved a magnificent silver. Well done Lucy!



## GAMES CAPTAINS

Huge congratulations to the newly appointed Games Captains :

Head Games Captain:	Sophie Barber
Deputy Games Captain:	Jade Norman
Deputy Games Captain:	Sophie Torok

The Games Captains play an important role within the PE department helping with clubs, inter-form activities and most importantly being ambassadors for sport.

## ATHLETICS - Track & Field Cup

The Junior and Intermediate Track and Field Squads performed brilliantly at the English Schools' Track and Field Cup First Round, at Kings Park this year. It was a clear win for the Junior team. As a result they travelled to Millfield in June and competed in the South West Regional "A" Final. Their preparation was focused and they went in to the competition ranked third in the south west. There were some outstanding performances and the team gained a fantastic 396 points. Only four points behind the winners, Ivy Bridge, and 4 points off a national final!

The Intermediate Team gained second place at Kings Park and qualified for the Regional B Final.