



Parkstone News

December 2011



Dame Ellen MacArthur - AND US!

Earlier this year we had the opportunity to take part in the Ellen MacArthur Foundation Project ReDesign at Oxford University. We learnt about the circular economy and had to work as a team on an exercise to re-think and re-design how we might live and work at the end of an era of cheap energy and materials. It gave us the fantastic opportunity to take part in a hands-on workshop about the latest thinking in sustainability and to meet and question industry professionals.

This was an eye-opening experience as we were able to find out about companies' new innovations to combat climate change. We also met Dame Ellen MacArthur!

The day maximised our exposure to the challenges the government face, such as "after landfill, what next?", and encouraged us to pass on our new knowledge to younger students when we helped organise a Rethinking the Future workshop for Year 9 Green Day.

Chloe Matthews & Lauren Saini

Following the day, Dame Ellen MacArthur wrote to Anne Shinwell thanking her for the students' participation, saying:

"When I left sailing behind 5 years ago to focus on the creation of the Foundation it was a big gamble and a step into the unknown. Today though, your students showed that what we are doing at the Foundation is more than worthwhile. They were truly inspiring and gave me great faith in what we are doing. They see re-designing the future more as an opportunity than a challenge and their positive attitudes are truly contagious."



Parkstone's Own Civil War!

Earlier this year the Parkstone Historical Re-enactment Society met on the playing fields with a class of enthusiastic Year 8 students to attempt a re-enactment of the Battle of Naseby (1645).

The actual battle, one of the most important, and possibly decisive battles of the English Civil War, was fought by about 30,000 men. Unfortunately our re-enactment was limited in scope as there was only enough equipment for a class of 30!

The basic infantry weapon of the time was a pike, a 16 foot long pole, tipped with a steel point, with soldiers fighting in close formations called pike blocks. After studying the infantry tactics of the time, each member of the class was equipped with our version of the pike, (a much lighter, and not so lethal, 9 foot garden bamboo pole) and moved to the field to form their own miniature pike block, and practise marching in formation. The students were kept in order with the help of two members of the sixth form, Katherine Bowerman, and Rachel Payton, acting as standard bearer and drummer respectively.



The class performed complicated manoeuvres such as "Charge Your Pike", marching in close formation with the pikes level at head height, and "Charge For Horse", where the group had to move into a hedgehog formation, with the pikes pointing outwards in all directions.

If possible, at some point in the future, the History Department would like to invite a local regiment of the Sealed Knot, or English Civil War society to the school, possibly as part of a living history project, where the students would be able to get a closer look at replica equipment from the time, and get a taste of life in the 17th century guided by experts in the period.

PGS Olympians!



Many schools would be proud to be associated with an Olympian at the London 2012 Olympics. Parkstone, however, is honoured to say that no less than three former students will be participating in the London 2012 Olympics.

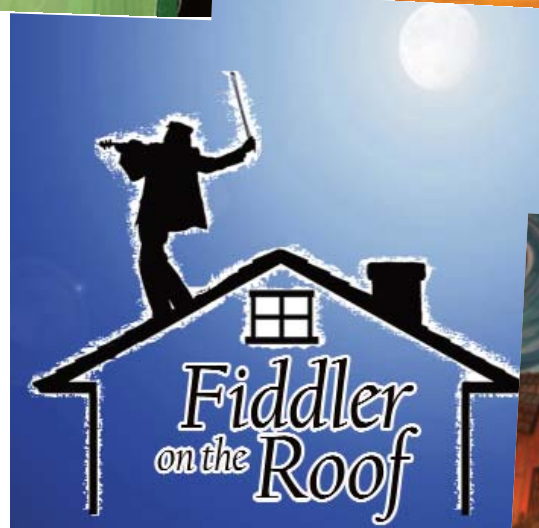
They are :

- Zara Dampney - Beach Volleyball**
- Kate MacGregor - Sailing**
- Lucy Wicks - Volleyball**

Lucy has, in fact, written an article for our Newsletter. Please go to page 4 to read what she has to say.



In October this year there was an excited buzz in the air as the rehearsals and preparations were carried out for the joint production of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. The final performances were played to packed audiences who were in awe of the quality of the production





WathWalk

I did it - I completed the WathWalk - I walked the 630 miles of the South Coast Path!

www.wathwalk.com

Through all the WathWalk fundraising ventures, over £5,000 has been raised to date. Most people are aware I am supporting Julia's House Children's Hospice, Woofability and our own Design and Technology department for funds towards a laser cutter.

Beyond the charities however, I hope I have managed to spark a little inspiration for someone. To anyone who wishes they could have the opportunity to do something they have always dreamed of but no longer believes it is possible or feels they 'do not have what it takes', I would like to say it is possible! Dreams are never out of reach and with a little determination you will succeed... like me, you may have to bear the equivalent of the odd blister and face some tough decisions, but the satisfaction at the end is totally priceless! Thank you to all the students who walked with me on the last day and the welcoming party of family, friends, colleagues and parents at South Haven Point was a wonderful surprise!

To read more about my 630 miles of WathWalk or to donate online through VirginMoneyGiving, please visit www.wathwalk.com



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

As part of the WathWalk fundraising Parkstone students were challenged to take a photograph on the theme of 'challenge'. Nearly 90 entries came rolling in, leaving Miss Wathen scratching her head trying to decide who should win the first prize for the WathWalk competition; an Amazon Kindle 3G! To assist her, Miss Wathen enlisted the help of our very own respected photographer and IT Network Manager, Craig Judd. In addition, she says it was a privilege to have guest judge, Tim Edgar. Tim is a senior lecturer in Photography at The Arts University College at Bournemouth and was pleased to help judge the images.



Congratulations go to Lorna Clark from 11A (pictured), who triumphed with her winning entry 'Sky High', taken at the Windfest in September. As well as receiving the Kindle, Lorna was also given an Animal rucksack, kindly donated by the Animal headquarters in Poole, in recognition of the advertising taking place within her photograph! The following eight students (listed in no particular order) are also commended as runners up:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Laura Tan | Rachel Howarth | Jess Johnson |
| Jessica Girvin | Katie Horton | Olivia Matthews |
| Beth Usher | Amy Porter | |

All the chosen entries, plus one photograph from Miss Wathen's recent walk along the South West Coast Path will feature in the smart WathWalk 2012 desk calendar (CD case style), on sale from 8 December priced at just £5.00. All proceeds will be split between the WathWalk causes.

Twelve images depicting the theme of 'CHALLENGE'

WathWalk
2012
DESK CALENDAR

Woofability



The Glitz & Grammar Ball was a wonderful success. Held in November at The Haven Hotel, Sandbanks, fabulous food, excellent music and a rousing auction kept the 150+ guests entertained.

Guests arriving for the pre-dinner reception were welcomed by Parkstone student Annie Hamilton who sang beautifully, accompanied by her father on the grand piano. The WathWalk Club students spent the evening working really hard with administration jobs, selling raffle tickets and assisting with auction lots. We would like to thank Mark Gallagher, a student at the Arts University College at Bournemouth for giving up his evening to take photos for us. In addition, a Dorset Society photographer was in attendance during the reception, so keep your eyes peeled for familiar faces in the coming issues! We were particularly pleased to welcome Andy and Jenny Clarke from Woofability along with one of their assistance dogs in training who was exceptionally well behaved (but lacked a bow tie!)

Following a first-class three course dinner, the Glitz and Grammar guests were treated to the professional patter of our guest auctioneer, Andrew Robinson. Andrew's usual sales at Symonds and Sampson consist of livestock, so it was perhaps a challenge for him to be facing a room full of posh togs and frocks instead of farmers and wellies! His lively delivery kept us all on our toes however and he ended a forty minute auction having already raised £1,844!

The evening was completed with superb live music from Fareham-based band 'The Magic Tones' who were superb!

Thank you to all parents, friends, staff and students who supported the evening in any way. A special mention needs to be given to all those tutor groups who assisted Miss Wathen by filling hampers, baskets and boxes with goodies to be auctioned or raffled earlier in the year. Your help and continued support is very much appreciated! The Glitz and Grammar Ball, organised as a celebration of Miss Wathen's completion of her charity walk in the summer, raised a total of £2,713. Watch this space however, as we have just received a very exciting last minute donation of a signed England shirt from The F.A.; signed by the squad who recently played against Wales. It came too late to be included in the auction at the ball, so we may have to do it all over again just so it can be auctioned next time instead!!

The Glitzy Committee



LUCY WICKS

Parkstone's "Adopted Olympian"

Lucy Wicks is a former student of Parkstone Grammar School, (1994-2000), and is a full time athlete training with the Great Britain Women's Indoor Volleyball squad in preparation for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The team secured its place in the Olympics, but lost their funding last year, so is raising the money they need themselves in the lead up to London 2012.

Parkstone is delighted to support Lucy, by "Adopting" her as their Olympian and donating nearly £400 to the GB Women's Programme from the proceeds of a non uniform day in the summer term. In return, Lucy is sending the school regular newsletters which allow us as a school community to follow her journey as she prepares for the Games.

Lucy writes: *In less than 8 months, I will be walking onto court in front of a sell out crowd at Earls Court, for my first Olympic match. Even just writing that gives me goosebumps! It's a huge honour, not only to wear a GB shirt, but to also be the Vice Captain of the Team....and to compete at a home Olympics is a once in a life time opportunity that I am going to grasp with both hands.*

My journey so far has had its mix of highs (such as playing in front of 8,000 fans in Peru), and lows, (separate ankle and shoulder operations each meaning several months away from the game). I have played internationals around the world and have taken up professional contracts in both France and Germany. There are sacrifices too and my life is very different to most 29 year olds, but representing your country isn't meant to be easy. It's a privilege that I work hard for every day so that I can keep hold of that GB shirt.

At the start of the summer the GB team had a three week tour of Peru and Argentina and played against teams ranked 14th, 15th and 25th in the world. We then played 10 games at home, including Japan and Holland, ranked 3rd and 12th respectively. At the end of the summer all the players returned to their 'Pro' clubs for the winter. I am with my German club, "Alemannia Aachen". There is still a lot of hard work to be done, both on and off the volleyball court, and I look forward to keeping you updated on how it all goes during my 'Pro' season.

I will return next May, when the GB team will reunite to begin our final preparations. Next summer will be tough with the challenge of putting together another competitive preparation period with no funding! This summer's programme was made possible through the generous support we received from Parkstone, and from other schools, which have supported our "Adopt an Olympian" fundraising scheme. I want to say a huge thank you for your support as it is your donation that is helping to keep my Olympic dream alive.



FILMCLUB



Filmclub has begun again for another year and has a strong following of students. So far this year we have enjoyed 'Ella Enchanted', 'Lost & Found',

'Son of Rambow' and many others. Students are able to suggest film choices for the future and to post reviews of the films we have watched on the Filmclub site.

This is a great opportunity to widen students' interest in film and to give them a chance to watch something that they wouldn't normally choose. We are always happy to welcome new members; just see Ms Lingard for details.

BOOK CLUB

Book group meets in the library at 1.30 every Friday to discuss books and eat cake; new members are always welcome! This term we have read some really exciting books, including:

* Carnegie nominated books: Looking for JJ, Postcards from No man's Land, Sisterland

* Books and poetry associated with World War I for Remembrance Day including autobiographies from Vera Brittain and Harry Patch (one of the oldest survivors from the Trenches) giving us more of an insight into the effect the war had on life in Britain and Germany.

* Classics such as Jane Eyre, The Woman in White, Ivanhoe, The Dubliners and North and South. Some of these were more successful than others!

Recently we tried crime and mystery which for many was a new genre and enjoyed by nearly everyone.



ENGLISH PREFECTS

As a department we were delighted to have a strong field of candidates applying for our first ever Sixth Form English prefects.

As a result we have appointed 19 willing and able students who are going to represent the department, mentor younger students and run a range of subject related activities.

It is really for exciting for us to have students who are really keen and involved in their subject and want to give back to our department and the school community.



Parkstone Students Sing - Now & 75 Years Ago!

On a sunny Friday afternoon earlier this year, members of our Chamber Choir were honoured to perform at a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of 'Eventide Homes' in Bournemouth.

These special retirement homes were originally built for retired people who had been working in service, but today the residents are from a variety of backgrounds. We were particularly pleased to be asked to sing, as a choir from Parkstone Grammar also performed at the opening ceremony all those years ago. The homes were opened by the then Mayor of Bournemouth, and this year's celebration was also led by the Mayor.

The afternoon was a big hit for students and residents alike, and we received a special thank you from the Mayor.





YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Each year students are invited to participate in the Enterprise Challenge. This is a unique opportunity for students, supported by Dorset Enterprise and Skills, to work with students from their own and other schools and engage in the management and running of their own business selling real products, to real people for real money. Two students have kindly shared their experience with us :

VIRIDIS

Having taken GCSE Business Studies, when the opportunity of being involved in Young Enterprise arose I jumped at the chance. The thought of seeing all my studies of the subject 'in-action' was a thrilling proposition, but I ended up getting far more out of the experience than I bargained for!

The first challenge was being placed with a group of Parkstone and Talbot Heath girls that I didn't know particularly well and immediately having to create a functioning business where team work was essential. Setting up the business and dealing with all of its day-to-day runnings was the whole team's responsibility from day one. However there was lots of support around to ensure we were on the right track: Ms Kelly (our link teacher here at Parkstone), and our amazing business advisors who grew alongside the team and business and whom without we wouldn't have got the rewarding experience we did.



Early on we decided upon the name 'Viridis' and jotting down logo and graphic design ideas we started our journey. With product ideas flying everywhere as to what we wanted our business to produce, we finally landed upon vintage gifts. Having meetings every Monday evening, we soon developed a business plan where we'd raise capital by having a preliminary product to fund our final product to take to the competitions. With vintage style being so prominent at the time we managed to source a collection of vintage scarves that we sold within school and at trade fairs in Poole Dolphin Centre. Hours spent selling on stands paid off, with one taking in over 80 scarf sales in just a few hours!

From the money we raised from our scarves we started to develop our final product, sticking with the vintage theme. Realising a team member was making vinyl bowls at home sparked a huge range of ideas of products we could create using old vinyl records with the final cut including bowls, clocks, notebooks, candles, bags and cake stands.

Taking them to the competitions was by the far the most exciting bit! The judging criteria of the competitions consisted of having to construct a trade stand about your company and product(s), a written report about all aspects of the business, and give a presentation in front of a panel of judges and the other teams. Pulling everything together was incredibly stressful but going on to win the award for Best Presentation of the night and the Corporate Responsibility award at the county finals was definitely worth all that hard work! Even though we didn't make it through to the regionals we actually came out of the competitions better off, with an offer to properly launch our business into the vintage industry.

Overall the experience really was invaluable and helped me to develop so many key skills that can be applied to all aspects of my life. If offered the opportunity I really would recommend you take it up – the achievements you can gain from it are endless!

HOLLY DENT - Year 13

KYTE VISION

Our company was called Kyte Vision. We took part in the Enterprise and Skills Challenge, because as a team we wanted to know what we could accomplish by running our own business. We thought this would be a great opportunity as we were supported by many successful business people. We got to spend a lot of time with friends, whilst working on a project we were all passionate about.

Our product was the Weenut Peanut and a variety of other products. Towards the end of the project, we began to sell chocolate hearts and they were a great hit.

Overall we learned the value of commitment and communication. Also we built on our friendship and increased the levels of trust between us. It is a tremendous experience and we would strongly recommend this to everyone if they get the chance to participate.

Chloe Wisely and Sian Loveland - Year 11



Weenut Peanut



SUN RUN 2011

You may remember that in our previous newsletter we reported on three Year 13 students who were planning a marathon run - but with a difference. These three young ladies - now former students of Parkstone - have kindly written to tell us how their experienced panned out :



On the first weekend of July 2011, we three - Charlotte Hussey, Helena Diffey and Emily Taylor of Broadstone Ranger Guides - along with 43 other Dorset Rangers took part in the Sun Run, a cross country, night time marathon over the Malvern Hills.

It was a full weekend event. After a toga party on the Friday night with live bands and a range of fairground activities on Saturday, all runners gathered in the evening wearing fluorescent jackets and ankle bands ready to set off at 7pm.

This was the first time that any of us had attempted a full marathon, and we'd done very little training due to sitting our A Level exams. However, we started well, maintaining a good pace in the middle of the competitors, although the uneven terrain and the rucksacks of safety equipment meant that it was difficult to run! As the hours passed by, the sun slowly set, and the number of marshals seemed to diminish - but our spirits did not fall! There was a series of six checkpoints along the route, and it was at the 13 mile checkpoint that we learned we were the first female team, which caused our competitive spirit to surface, and spurred us on to the next checkpoint.

The last two legs of the marathon were incredibly tough. By this point, we had been walking constantly for over five hours, and our muscles were screaming at us to stop. In typical girl guiding fashion, however, a rousing sing song from the last checkpoint carried us across the rolling hills of a golf course, until even that used up too much energy, and all they could do was tumble and limp the last five miles to the campsite.

After seven hours and 41 minutes, holding hands and almost crying in pain, the three of us together were the first girls' team to cross the finish line - this made the pain and the blisters worth it!

We were lucky enough to be sponsored by our friends and families to raise support for three charities: Poole and District Childrens' Cancer fund, the Worldwide Veterinary Service, and Masule School in Uganda. We would like to thank our sponsors, and hope that the money we have raised will be well received by our charities.

Anybody who wishes to contribute to the girls' fundraising can contact Broadstone Rangers through Sarah Wheeler - sarah.diffey@tesco.net

UCAS

It doesn't seem to be the case that our Year 13 students have been put off applying to University by the increase in University fees. In fact we have processed more applications than this time last year! At the time of going to press this currently stands at 157 applications - which includes 15 from ex-students.

Students will receive offers based on their A level predictions and some will be asked to attend an interview and in some cases show a portfolio of work. Thirteen students have received all their offers - three have already made her decisions and Firmly Accepted her preferred choice with an Insurance choice also decided. Many others have received offers although, as is usually the case, those students who had to apply early for Oxbridge, Medicine etc are usually the last to hear from their chosen Universities!

There are still students who are finalising their application and although the closing date is not until 15 January the school is closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas break and we would encourage every student to try and submit their application before the end of term. Not forgetting of course that it does take time to check all applicant details, finalise the reference and send on to UCAS for forwarding to the selected Universities.

We hope all students continue to receive positive responses from their chosen universities!

GREENPOWER

Starting in September 2010 the Greenpower Team set itself the ambitious target of getting a car to one of the local heats in 2012.

In the event the outcome was nothing short of amazing! The enthusiastic commitment from the sixteen students and their parents helped sustain the project throughout. Not only did the team manage to get three cars to a number of local heats held across the south of England but two cars qualified for the national finals held at Goodwood in October!

As a 'rookie' team the 2011 racing season was an eye opening experience for the students where they learnt a great deal about the etiquette of racing, apexes and black flags.

The team picked up some fantastic awards along the way, including the Spirit of Greenpower Award; the Southampton University Aerodynamic Innovation Award and Siemens Local Schools Challenge Award.

And for the future ... the team has decided to enter the 2012 series with the aim to reach the final again and be placed in the top ten finalists.



Running parallel is an entirely new team of students from Years 8 and 9 who will be working to match, if not exceed, the success of their predecessors.



Specialist Schools



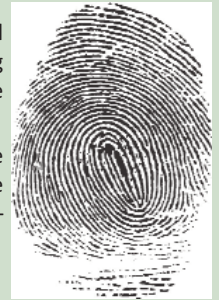
Forensics Day!

Well, what can I say? Forensics Day is a great day full of opportunities to learn new things and new skills. In criminal law, forensic science can prove the guilt or innocence of the defendant. On Forensics Day you go from testing finger prints and blood all the way to testing urine (don't panic, it's not real). You get a list of possible suspects and some information about them; also provided is some information about the victim.

With this information and the work from all your tests you have to pick who the murderer is. You go through steps, one by one, adding a bit of information every time, taking you even closer to finding your murderer. You learn all about the possible things to look out for when looking at a crime scene, such as looking at the clocks to see if they have stopped – this could possibly give a clue as to the time of death.

All in all it is a great way to learn all about Forensic Science and it's a great opportunity for everyone to get involved.

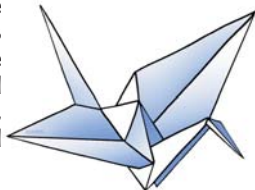
Frankie Chivers 9A



INTERNATIONAL WEEK

As part of the whole-school International Week, the MFL Department hosted a languages day for Year 8. This involved them taking part in Russian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Polish and Italian lessons. In these they learned about the culture and the language of the relevant country.

The day was a great success and students from all years took part in the lunchtime workshops that we offered on the day. These included Japanese origami, Chinese calligraphy and Russian folk dancing.



The week also saw students and staff enjoy international menus on the canteen, a series of themed assemblies and a balloon release on the final day of the week. We hope to expand on this week in 2012.

SMOOTHALICIOUS!

All Year 9 students were involved in this joint day in November. Students were asked to create and promote a smoothie drink in another language.

This involved them producing a TV advertisement for their product and a bottle and coaster design. Our thanks go to the sixth form Language Prefects who were involved in supporting students and judging the entries on the days.

The event proved to be highly enjoyable with students expanding their language skills.



GERMAN EXCHANGE

Parkstone/Poole Grammar Schools & Frankenthal

In November we hosted the 19th German exchange with our Partner school in Frankenthal. This was the second time that the boys from Poole Grammar have joined us in this exchange.

In total 22 students are taking part. The German students stayed with their English families for one week and during that time had a busy programme, including day trips to Stonehenge, Salisbury and Bath, as well as a day in school and a meeting with the mayor.

With their families we know they had lots of fun and experienced the country's tradition of Guy Fawkes night!

We hope the exchange will continue to be as successful as it has in the past and that many long-lasting friendships will be established. Parkstone and Poole students will visit Germany in June next year and can hopefully enjoy the long, warm summer days.

So you Want to be a Doctor?

Parkstone organised this exciting workshop through the company Wiser Words. Previous students found the event to be extremely useful as it offered a different format to other courses.

The course was mainly targeted at students interested in studying Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry. The school also welcomed students from Bournemouth School for Girls to join the workshop. The course covered:

The Role of the Doctor - the responsibilities, character strengths and priorities of a medical practitioner

Medical Ethics - looking at the ethical issues future doctors will have to face

Communication Skills and Professional Conduct - practising people skills needed in a variety of situations

UCAS and Personal Statement - how to write an impressive and convincing application

Current Affairs in Public Health - to raise awareness of wider issues in society

Between Now and Then - to inspire self-motivation and initiative in advance of an interview

Language in the Community

Parkstone is continuing to offer language courses to the local community, this year offering Japanese AS and Japanese GCSE, French and Spanish conversation classes and Spanish GCSE.

This will be the fourth year that such courses have been offered, with staff, students from Parkstone and other schools, members of the business community working alongside grandmothers and community members.

If you missed the boat and still wish to take part, please contact the school.

LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP

Parkstone's MFL Department is working with its counterpart in Bitterne Park school offering support in the development of their languages provision.

This support will include outreach work at the school and members of the MFL Department from Bitterne Park observing lessons here at Parkstone.

We look forward to welcoming them to the school in the New Year!



Specialist Schools



ALIENS!

Earlier this year we travelled to Portsmouth University to the Marine Biology Institute.

After listening to an interesting talk about the Biology courses offered at Portsmouth, we found out that the aim of our first practical activity was to find 'alien' species. For this, we had to go out to a nearby marina, armed with buckets and scrapers, and see what weird underwater life we could find lurking around the pontoons.

After returning to the Institute, we looked at some of our species under the microscopes and identified various species aided by our teachers and Dr Watson from Portsmouth University.

After a windy lunch on the beach we returned to the Institute to do some fun research on the effect that pollution has on ragworms. After sedating the ragworms, we were able to measure and weigh them and make an attempt at extracting a small amount of reproductive cells. This was very tricky, especially as all the worms wanted to do was eat each other!

Finally, we collated our data and concluded that the worms from the more polluted harbour were less healthy in size and weight compared to the other worms. This ended a busy and interactive day.

Alysha Qureshi, Harriet Scott & Katie Wetherall - Year 11



The Courtyard of Time at Greenwich

The Astronomy trip to Greenwich was really fun! We caught the train to Waterloo and then the tube to Greenwich. When we arrived, we went to the Planetarium and had an amazing show.

Next we went to the Courtyard of Time, where we took lots of pictures of our feet on either side of the Prime Meridian. This was exciting because we were on two sides of the world at once!



Afterwards we explored the museum in groups and played with the interactive displays. After lunch we had a workshop on Starlight, we completed some activities with pictures and looked at things through a spectroscope, and we learnt lots.

Before going home, we went back to the Courtyard of Time – this time the laser was on, and you could see the line for miles.

It was a lovely day and we learnt a lot.

Hannah Miles & Jazz Nield - Year 10

LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

This year we are pleased to welcome Thomas Nitsche, Karim El Yauti and Ana Portilla as our Language Assistants.

The three work mainly with Year 12 and Year 13 students in small groups once a week, alongside working in-class with Year 10 and 11 students. Their presence adds a real vibrancy to the Department and their work is much appreciated by colleagues and students alike.

PARKSTONE ENJOYS YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Following on from the success of Year 7 students coming to Parkstone to enjoy Science lessons, the Languages department is now enjoying welcoming Year 7 children to the school to extend their language skills.

The demand from local Middle schools has been high and each term two schools visit on a weekly basis, working on a project entitled "mon zoo extraordinaire". Language Prefects from Years 12 and 13 support and co-teach these sessions, which involves students working towards a final presentation of their work.

It is always a delight to welcome the visiting students as their enthusiasm brings a unique excitement and buzz to the school.

ANDALUCIA



This October half term the Spanish department took a group of 33 Year 10 and 11 students to Spain. After last year's highly successful trip to Barcelona, this year we decided to go further south and had a very enjoyable, if very busy, five day visit to Málaga and the Costa del Sol including guided tours of Málaga, Sevilla and Granada.

Apart of course from the wonders of these historic and world famous cities, one of the highlights of the stay was perhaps the traditional Flamenco evening at the Taberna Pepe Lopez which culminated with all of the girls on the stage dancing the Macarena!

As always the girls were superbly well behaved and an excellent time was had by all who participated. Now all we have to do is decide where to go next year! Thanks very much indeed to Mr Goldsmith for all of his hard work in organising the trip and ensuring that it was, once again, a huge success.





Eclipse.net is here!

Our library system has been upgraded! Eclipse.net can be accessed in school via the desktop/VLE and externally via the VLE/school website or <https://u004551.microlibrarian.net>

You can search our catalogue for resources without it but go to the Library to collect your PIN and Password to make FULL use of all the NEW features.

Parkstone Supports Poppy Appeal



As is our tradition, in November Parkstone supports the British Legion Poppy Appeal by placing charity poppies at Reception for students to purchase with a donation.

We are very proud to say that this year the school's community raised nearly £580 in support of the charity.

The Royal British Legion wrote to the school, thanking everyone who had supported them and also advising that the donation total for the Broadstone area was an amazing £24,970!

Sport

SWIMMING



In Swimming the Junior team 2010/11 - Jade Norman, Emily Clarke, Inez Griffin and Victory Joy - competed at the National Finals in Stockport as County champions and were ranked in the top 16 in the country. In recognition of their achievement, the Mayor of Poole

presented the girls with a Certificate of Commendation.

Following on to this year, the Junior team for this year also made it through to the National Finals held in November, this time in Southampton.

Our congratulations to all our our talented swimmers.

Cross Country

The Intermediate Cross Country team qualified for the regional finals held at Millfield in November. This is the first time the school has had a cross country team reach the regional finals!



Out of 12 teams they achieved a wonderful 5th place with our first runner crossing the line in 11th place out of 72 runners. Congratulations to the team!

UK School Games 2011 – Sheffield

During our summer holidays we were fortunate enough to attend the final UK School Games as volunteers.

The UKSG is a multi-sport event held for elite school-age athletes, with 12 different sports in total. Highlights of our experience included: officiating fencing, being courtside assistants in volleyball, and supporting the athletes.

Also, we met inspirational athletes such as Jason Gardner, Ellie Simmonds, Nathan French and Craig Heap. The key message that seemed to be reiterated was that without hard work and numerous sacrifices, they would not have been able to achieve what they had.

Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our time in Sheffield and were glad we took the opportunity offered. We learnt new skills, and also made many new friends who we still keep in contact with from all over the country. The UKSG clearly showed how passionate young people are about sport and increased our motivation to increase participation in sport leading up to the London 2012 Olympics.

Isla Marsh & Darshni Pandya



FUNDRAISING

We are currently raising money to expand the equipment available to students in our fitness suite. So far we have launched a raffle for a £150 carphone warehouse voucher and students (& staff) will be undertaking a 24 hour sponsored netball match on 9 December starting at 4pm. There are 60 girls involved in this exciting and challenging event and we are sure they'd all be very appreciative of as many sponsors as possible. We have also recently been awarded a grant from the Talbot Village Trust to put towards increasing levels of activity and participation within our school community.

Should you be interested in sponsoring a piece of equipment or donating some much needed funds, please don't hesitate to contact the PE department.

Netball

Parkstone's netballers have excelled this year with some wonderful achievements :

The **U14 team** reached the County finals in which they gained 4th position, closely losing out to Canford St Mary's from Sherborne.

The **U16 team** are both Poole and East Dorset Champtons and County Champions and will now go to represent the County at the Regional Finals in January

The **U18 team** competed well in their County tournament but unfortunately did not qualify for the regional finals.

Volleyball

Following on from our very successful Volleyball Club that runs jointly with Poole Grammar on Fridays after-school , we entered 6 teams in the Poole & District Under 18 Volleyball Tournament.

All the teams played some excellent Volleyball and the overall results were very pleasing!

In the Division 1 Girls competition - our 1st team won their games convincingly with scores as high as 32-8

In Division 2 Girls – our 2nd Team were overall winners And in the Mixed Competition our 3rd Team beat a previously undefeated squad from Arnewood School. Congratulations to everyone who took part!