

HEAD TO HEAD AT NO.10



Ms Shinwell (right) chatting to the Prime Minister

Parkstone Grammar Headteacher, Ms Anne Shinwell, was one of a number of headteachers who attended a reception in May hosted by Prime Minister Tony Blair and his ministerial team for education, including newly appointed Secretary of State for Education Alan Johnson.

Ms Shinwell was uncertain as to how she

became nominated to attend the event but considers that the well presented, formal invitation she received direct from the Prime Minister's office, may well have resulted from Parkstone's excellent examination results or possibly the overall success of the school. After a somewhat stressful start to the day (students will recall her delivery - "you are never late until you are late" - during our first assembly of the new term), Ms Shinwell arrived in Queens Road, London, where she was able to direct the driver of her carriage "take me to Downing Street" - an opportunity that most of us will never experience!

During the course of the event Mr Blair delivered a speech to the 150 headteachers present taking the opportunity to thank them for their work in the education system and alluding that, like his own role, they had hard jobs to do. He praised their creativity and innovation and acknowledged that often they were an inspiration to the students that they teach.

Together with a small group of other headteachers Ms Shinwell had the opportunity to speak directly to the Prime Minister prior to his departure to attend another function. It was her impression that he was genuinely interested to hear of initiatives being undertaken at various schools, of the headteachers' views and opinions and of some of the difficulties that headteachers face. She felt that he was sincere in thanking those present for the work they did.

When asked what significant improvement or change she would persuade the Prime Minister to adopt for the national education policy, if she'd had the opportunity, Ms Shinwell said she 'would like to see the introduction of initiatives slowed down to enable schools to adapt to the changes more effectively. And an increase in funding would, of course, also receive a warm welcome!'

Ms Shinwell concluded that she was, "very honoured to be representing Parkstone at this event, and it is rather nice to know that Parkstone is recognised in national circles."

Allana Cutter - 13P

Off to Austria !



Tony Waller conducts the Concert Band

Oompah Night the girls will never forget!

There was plenty of time for visits to the Eagle's Nest with its breathtaking views, to the Liechtensteinklamm Gorge and waterfall, a boat trip across Lake Wolfgang, and a day in Salzburg where a visit to the Hohensalzburg fortress provided a beautiful panorama of Salzburg.

The trip was a fitting finale to the career of Richard Holt, Director of Music, who led the Chamber Choir and who will be greatly missed.

This July the Chamber Choir and Concert Band were lucky enough to travel to Salzburg in Austria.

The hills were alive with the sound of music when they played at the bandstands at Schonau and St Gilden, in the Mirabell Garden at Salzburg, and in an atmospheric setting of a thunder storm in the mountains at Fusch. The trip was organised by teacher and Concert Band Leader Tony Waller whose

CHARLI'S ENLIGHTENING PILGRIMAGE

Year 9 student, Charlotte Watkins, has been busily fundraising in and out of school over the last year to support a trip to Lourdes, France. Here is her story of the trip :

This summer, I went on a memorial pilgrimage to Lourdes (and two days in Disneyland Paris). We travelled on a Jumbulance, a coach that allows disabled people to go on long journeys. It had 8 beds, a kitchen with a fridge and ovens, a disabled bathroom and a lift for wheelchairs.



There were 16 Carers including 5 teenagers who went, looking after 8 young people of different ages with various disabilities. Each VIP received 24 hour attention from two carers they were grouped with. Like me, many of the carers had never done anything like this before, but we didn't do any less work; we just had to be shown how to do it first!

I learnt so much on the trip but most importantly I realised that it's the small things that count. For Rachael it was having her feet un-strapped from her wheelchair and being able to cross her legs. For Alec it was adopting a grasshopper called France. I also learnt about the generosity and love some people show for strangers. At an international mass, a Spanish woman stopped while walking passed Rachael to collect communion. She took her scarf off, showed it to Rachael, and then put it round her neck. Rachael's face broke into a massive smile and she continued grinning for hours afterwards.

It was an incredible experience, and I'm so glad I took the opportunity to go. So many people helped to make it possible and it was definitely worth the effort. The drivers were amazing, the Deacon said our masses every night and kept us all smiling and of course hundreds helped with fundraising. I know you've heard it so many times before, but take every opportunity thrown at you. I'm already signed onto next year's pilgrimage, taking adults instead of children.

Charli Watkins - IIP

PORTSMOUTH AHOY!



On two beautiful days this term, Year 9 students visited the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth in order to understand how the Royal Navy contributed to the development of the British Empire and how the Industrial Revolution transformed the navy.

Girls received very interesting guided tours of HMS Victory and marvelled and groaned at the cramped conditions and the imagined scenes of carnage. Then it was off to

see HMW Warrior and get an idea of how the arrival of steam and iron revolutionised navies.

Finally they spent a short time in the HMS Dreadnought section of the Royal Maritime Museum to understand how even more dramatic technological developments set the stage for a 'clash of the titans' in the First World War.

Shops and cafes frequented, all topped off by glorious indian summer weather!

South African Experience

In July this year, after a short delay and an exhausting 12 hour flight, 30 girls and 4 staff arrived in beautifully sunny Cape Town, South Africa. We were met off the plane and taken to Table Mountain where the stunning weather gave us amazing views down onto the city of Cape Town and over to the distant mountains.

The next day we visited the township of Langa. It was a real eye opener to see how the people lived. We visited St Louis Primary School where the children were so enthusiastic and fascinated by our cameras! They showed us their work and they were really proud and privileged to be given the chance to learn. That night we had our first taste of South African life when we stayed with our hosts!

During our trip we saw some fantastic sights including Hout Bay, Simonstown (where we were banned from taking pictures otherwise our teachers would be arrested!), Robben Island, Boulders Beach, Hermanus Bay for whale watching, Outdshoorn Ostrich Farm, Port Elizabeth and Addo Elephant Park. We even managed to fit in some exciting games of hockey and netball!

In Durban we took off our warm hoodies and jeans and replaced them with shorts and flip flops! Here we enjoyed some exciting games and the netballers were also introduced to Action Netball, a faster version of indoor netball with nets around the court. The hockey players meanwhile were lucky enough to participate in a training session with a South African International!

During our stay in Durban we visited the Zulu village of Hluhluwe where we stayed in mud huts for two nights. On our first day we experienced a traditional Zulu lunch, we were given demonstrations of the native Zulu way of life which was followed by a stunning dance show performed by the villagers. The next day was to be the highlight for many of us – a game drive around a nature reserve where we found buffalo, charging elephants, chasing rhinos and lazy giraffes.

The tour was a stunning experience and all the girls would like to say a huge thank you to all those who made it happen, including all the parents, sponsors and the school. But a special thank you goes to Miss Bird, Mrs Salt and Mrs Jones who made the tour such a memorable trip!

Hazel Wallace - Year 12



The group on Table Mountain, Cape Town

Destination of leavers

Ackroyd, Karen-Cambridge-Natural Sciences
 Adams, Emily-Lancaster-Biochemistry & Genetics
 Allard, Harriet-Reading-Film, Theatre & Television
 Arnold, Lisa-Bournemouth-Business Studies
 Austin, Amber-Charity work in Mozambique
 Badger, Sarah-Lancaster-Psychology
 Badgley, Rebecca-Bath Spa-Drama
 Ball, Alison-Aberystwyth-Environmental Science
 Barker, Sophia-Brunel-Aerospace Engineering
 Barkshire, Charlotte-Southampton-Physics & Astr
 Barnes, Catherine-Bath-Maths
 Barnes, Tania-LSE-International History
 Bascombe, Jade-Winchester-Psych with Ethics & Spirituality
 Beardsley, Helen-UCL-Modern Languages
 Beckett, Jodie-Royal Holloway-Psychology
 Bintcliffe, Hannah-Cardiff-Biomedical Sciences
 Blackaller, Kirsty-OU course -Primary school TA
 Blinkhorn, Rebecca-Manchester-Law with Physics
 Bradley, Helen-B'mth Arts Inst-F.Dip Art & Design
 Bryant, Carly-Employment
 Budden, Fern-Portsmouth-Geography
 Bunn, Clemency-B'mth Arts Inst-F.Dip Art & Design
 Burnett, Laura-Bristol-Applied Microbiology
 Calver, Philippa-Gap year -Plymouth-Marine Biology 2007
 Cass, Emily-Birmingham-Bioinformatics
 Cave, Leanne-Nottingham-Pharmacy
 Chalk, Amy-Liverpool-Geography
 Challice, Dawn-Gap year-Glamorgan-Astro & Space St
 Chalmers, Lydia-Bournemouth-Social Work & Stepping Stones Day Centre
 Chapman, Natalie-Bath-Maths
 Cherrett, Ruth-Bath-Accounting & Finance
 Cheung, Lydia-Southampton-Medicine
 Church, Laura-Warwick-Accounting & Finance
 Clark, Joanna-Cardiff-French & Spanish
 Clark, Kelly-CUWIC-Sports Coaching
 Clark, Natasha-Employment
 Coe, Abigail-Reading-Geography (Human & Phys)
 Coombes, Sarah-Bath Spa-English Literature
 Corbin, Victoria-Exeter-German & Philosophy
 Creevy, Katie-Bournemouth-Business & Mgmt
 Croft, Katie-emigrating to New Zealand
 Crosby, Lindsey-Brunel-Film & Television
 Cummings, Sarah-gap year
 Curley, Lauren-Cardiff-English
 Darch, Helen-Kent-Biology
 Davis, Emma-Bristol UWE-River & Coastal Eng
 Diamond, Catherine-Teaching English in Spain
 Dochniak, Emma-Bath-Architecture
 Dunn, Heather-B'mth Arts Inst-F.Dip Art & Design
 Eggertsen, Alyssa-America & Kenya - hospital work
 Evans, Sian-Banking & Finance
 Everett, Amy-Employment-Trainee Accountant
 Fisher, Nicola-Kent-Applied Psychology
 Forder, Holly-Gap year in S.America then Oxford Brookes-Psychology & Retail Management
 Fowler, Sarah-Bath-Maths
 Freeman, Lucy-Manchester-Medicine
 Frith, Carolyn-Brunel-Business & Mgmt(Marketing)
 Gardener, Samantha-Cardiff-Ancient & Med History
 Gaston, Joanne-Cambridge-Law
 Goodwin, Suzanne-Royal Holloway-English
 Green, Jade-Employment-Trainee Negotiator
 Grisdale, Rebecca-UCL-Mod Lang (German & Romanian)
 Hallos, Charlotte-Kings College Lon-Nat Sci Dentistry
 Halse, Emma-Exeter-Geography

Hardy, Alexandra-Bournemouth-Business Studies
 Hardy, Catherine-Exeter-Geography
 Harrold, Leah-Plymouth, Exeter Campus-Midwifery
 Harvey, Rachael-Portsmouth-Psychology
 Harvey, Samantha-gap year
 Hazard, Alice-UCL-French
 Hebditch, Amy-So'tonSolent-Media & Cult St
 Herring, Lucinda-Gap year in Kenya-B'mth Arts Inst-F.Dip Art & Design
 Herring, Sophie-Nottingham-Geography
 Hewins, Rebecca-Reading-Meteorology
 Heyward, Kathryn-Employment
 Hine, Emma-Nottingham-Law
 Hughes, Gabriella-UCL-Statistics
 James, Cheryl-Bournemouth-Env & Coastal Cons
 Jarratt, Hannah-Reading-English & Politics
 Johnson, Rebecca-Reading-Geography
 Johnson, Sophie-Bristol-Computer Science
 Jones, Sophie-Southampton-Maths & Music
 Kay, Judith-Gap year
 Keeping, Vikki-Round the World Trip-HSBC
 Killen, Kathleen-Southampton-Psychology
 Laphorne, Rebecca-Exeter-Maths
 Law, Chloe-Brunel-Physiotherapy
 Lawson, Jennifer-Plymouth-Psychology
 Lax, Clare-Bath-Civil & Architectural Engineering
 Lilleker, Lois-Exeter-Physics
 Lloyd, Kimberley-East Anglia-English Literature
 Lofts, Mikaela-Lancaster-English Lit/Theatre Studies
 Manville, Jennifer-Sussex-English
 Marsh, Rebecca-Cardiff-Biosciences
 Marshall, Kate-gap year-Reading-Philo & Politics
 Mason, Sarah-gap year-Imperial College.London-Medicine
 Matley, Katherine-Cardiff-Psychology
 Maycock, Natasha-gap year -So'ton Solent-Psychology
 Mazrae, Hannah-Exeter-Accounting & Finance
 McElroy, Sally-Southampton-IT in organisations
 McLaughlin, Sarah-Plymouth-Primary Education
 McLester, Elizabeth-Bristol-Animal Behav & Welfare
 Miller, Siobhan-Birmingham-Modern Languages
 Millett, Emma-Plymouth-Applied MarineSport Sci
 Mitchell, Carly-Plymouth-Psychology
 Mizon, Elizabeth-Bristol-Film Studies
 Money, Lara-gap year in Australia -Surrey-Politics with Citizenship Studies
 Nash, Alice-Aberystwyth-Animal Behaviour
 Naylor, Rachel-Oxford-Law
 Nethercott, Christey-gap year in France then Nottingham-English & French
 Nock, Michaela-Employment
 O'Hanlon, Siobhan-Round the World Trip
 Orpin, Claudia-Manchester-History
 Osborne, Juliet-Kent-Anthropology
 O'Shea, Katherine-Exeter-Biological Sciences
 O'Sullivan, Zara-Gap year travelling
 Owen, Cerys-Bath-Maths
 Peden, Grace-Exeter-Physics
 Petrus, Eleanor-Reading-English & Philosophy
 Pietrangelo, Carmela-Gap year- travel & employment
 Porcher, Catherine-Durham-Business Finance
 Power, Rebecca-Gap year travelling
 Purchase, Rachel-Gap year
 Pyne, Emily-Bournemouth-Accounting & Finance
 Ralph, Alice-B'mth Arts Institute-F.Dip Art & Des
 Real, Natalie-Employment-Air Traffic Control
 Relle, Astrid-B'mth Arts Institute-F.Dip Art & Des

Rimer, Charlotte-Southampton/Royal Navy-Aeronautics & Astronautics
 Roberts, Felicity-Bristol-Chemistry
 Roberts, Lindsey-Royal Holloway-Multilingual St
 Robertson, Adele-Durham-English Literature
 Ruddick, Hannah-Oxford-Molecr & Cell Biochemistry
 Rugeroni, Anna-Oxford Brookes-Interior Architecture
 Sanderson, Vanessa-B'mth Arts Institute-F.Dip Art & Des
 Schweidler, Lara-Royal Sch of Osteopathy-Osteopathy
 Seaby, Eleanor-Long Term Sickness
 Sharp, Anna-Cardiff-Criminology & Sociology
 Sheppard, Rhian-Southampton-Biomedical Sci
 Singleton, Gemma-Warwick-MMORSE
 Snook, Elisabeth-Nottingham-Russian
 Stephenson, Rebecca-Employment-Nursing
 Stuart, Laura-Reading-Meteorology
 Sturgeon, Katie-Southampton-Music
 Sullivan, Laura-Winchester-Psychology
 Tang, Choi Yuei-Glamorgan-Electronic Engineering
 Tapper, Amy-Employment-Media
 Taylor, Helen-Exeter-Maths
 Thomas, Philippa-Plymouth-Business Info Tech
 Thomason, Elinor-Liverpool-Medicine
 Treagot, Eleanor-Bath Spa-Dance / Drama Studies
 Turner, Joanne-Bath-Maths
 Wadsworth, Joanna-Surrey-Nutrition/Dietetics
 Waldron, Cathryn-Employment
 Walsham, Lindsey-Oxford-Physics
 Waters, Kayleigh-gap year travelling - Police force
 Watson, Lara-Southampton-Medicine
 Watson, Zoe-B'mth Arts Institute-F.Dip Art & Des
 Waugh-Baker, Catrin-B'mth Arts Inst-F.Dip Art & Des
 White, Louise-Brunel-Business & Management
 Wikramaratna, Elizabeth-Southampton-Music
 Wilkinson, Leila-Kent-Law
 Williams, Jessica-Gap year and employment
 Wilmot, Hannah-Manchester-Dentistry
 Wilson, Emma-Cardiff-History
 Windett, Helen-Kingston-Midwifery
 Withers, Alice-Reading-Psychology
 Wood, Katie-Bristol-History
 Woodall, Hannah-Bath-Maths
 Wright, Alison-Loughborough-Geog & Sports Sci
 Wright, Nicola-Bournemouth-Business Studies
 Yarham, Jessica-gap year at JP Morgan - Bournemouth-Accounting & Finance-Work
 Young, Sophie-Nottingham-Drama

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