



Parkstone News

February 2009



MP's Political Treat



Last Autumn local MP Annette Brooke generously offered a political insight to a group of Parkstone's Politics and Citizenship students by arranging a visit to the Houses of Parliament.

On the day Annette not only met the group on the tour but she also very kindly arranged for tickets for each member to go into either the House of the Lords or the House of Commons.

Year 12 student Alice Shaw-Ingham says, "We visited all the main sites, including the Chambers. My group learnt a lot about past historical events such as the last time a monarch stood in the House of Commons and it also offered us an insight into the preparations of the Queen's speech."

Later students split between the Houses. Alice continues, "I was in the House of Lords. It was extremely interesting to see how a debate took place, how they took turns in speaking and how each peer had something different to offer. **As if to offer us just a bit more excitement, towards the end of the session I looked down and noticed somebody new had joined - it was only Margaret Thatcher herself, the Iron Lady!!**"

The trip proved to be highly successful. Alice comments, "We learned a lot about our British Political System and we all had a terrific day."

A big thank you has to go to Annette Brooke and her staff for organising such a great day.

PARKSTONE LEADS

Parkstone is proud to have just learnt that the school is to become the Lead School to support Modern Foreign Languages teaching in the Borough of Poole.

In partnership with Joe Crocombe, the Primary Modern Languages Advisor in Poole, Parkstone will be supporting other schools in Poole towards their 2010 primary language entitlement.

This will involve Parkstone hosting training for Primary and Secondary colleagues and also providing support and resources for Primary language teaching.

We are extremely pleased that our school will now act as a hub centre for Primary language teaching in the Borough, building upon the work already being undertaken with Hillbourne School and Nursery and Canford Heath Middle School this academic year.



Annette Brooke, MP, meets the party at the Houses of Parliament

A SEA SWIM ... in December??

Would you go swimming in the sea at Sandbanks in December - AND THEN STAY IN THE WATER FOR AN HOUR?

Well, that's exactly what a group of Year 12 girls did as a fundraising exercise to support Jambo Jipya School in Africa. One of the brave girls, Olivia Bhattacharjee, tells us all about it: It's December 21st, a still but cloudy day at Sandbanks and the temperature of the sea is approximately 13 degrees centigrade. A group of five Year 12 girls, kitted out in multiple layers of wetsuits, diving hoods, booties and flippers, await the chilling task ahead of them. After a very large countdown(!), we ran frantically down the beach and splashed into the icy water. We'd set ourselves a target to stay in the water for an hour! After a series of warming exercises and aerobics, we couldn't believe only 15 minutes had passed. Our hands and feet had lost all colour and any sense of feeling, making it quite a challenge to stand. Very gradually the time passed and after a lot of huddling and motivational screaming, the hour was up and we ventured out of the sea shivering and elegantly waddled up the beach into our towels, which seemed softer and warmer than ever before!



As we dressed and warmed up we discussed our achievements of the day. We raised over £250 for Jambo Jipya, enough to provide 300 children with school bags! The satisfaction and sense of achievement we felt from the knowledge that we are changing someone's life for the better is incredible. This is why we would urge everybody to get involved with fundraising or just give some time to help people that are worse off than we are.



INCREDIBLE AUSTRALIA

"At the very mention of the word 'Australia' I can't help but smile. It was incredible." That was the reaction of Year 12 student Emma Toms following the school's highly successful trip to Australia last year.

"The memories I have from the trip will stay with me forever," she said. "We visited Sydney - including the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge - and from Sydney we travelled to Manley. Imagine surfing in the UK; now add a golden beach, attractive looking surfers, a cloudless sky, about 28 degrees of sun, and intensify the experience a hundred times. Brilliant! Following this we travelled north of Manley, to a place called Cape Tribulation ... the rainforests! In small groups we were allocated individual huts that were quite literally in the middle of the rainforest! Once we had triple checked for any unwanted creepy crawlies, we were straight into a boat trip on the Daintree River looking for freshwater crocodiles. We also met the Tjabuki aborigines who were fantastic; they had a completely different approach to life and were set on sharing it with us. Then we travelled to Cairns, enjoying an exhilarating visit to The Great Barrier Reef where we grabbed a snorkel and spent most of the day swimming amongst exotic corals, turtles and fish the size of Year 8s! Every minute was breathtaking!"

Year 11 student, Holly Rich, described the tour as "quite literally a trip of a lifetime". She says, "The trip even included a three day stay in the middle of a rainforest, proving trickier for some having to deal with spiders bigger than our hands and sharing rooms with geckos." Even though a suitcase went missing, a passport was left on the plane, we had to cope with applying sunscreen every single morning and lunchtime due to the scorching weather, the whole trip was a complete success". And Holly felt she just had to mention the Bondi Beach life guards ... in her own words "Oi, Oi, Oi!"



photograph courtesy of smile@boomerangphotos.com

FASHION QUEEN

Congratulations to Year 13 student and Deputy Head Girl Mimi Winsor who has recently been recognised with an award for her studies in Textiles.



As part of the positive partnerships between local secondary schools, Mimi has been studying A Level Textiles Technology at Corfe Hills and has been awarded their Certificate for Outstanding Fashion Work.

One of Mimi's creative designs is photographed above.

JAMBO JIPYA

Following on from the report on our previous Newsletter, students have very much continued with fundraising for the school.

Jambo Jipya (Swahili for "new beginning") was originally set up to create a sanctuary for children in Mombasa, Kenya, many of whom had parents dying of Aids. These children were in need of help, support and compassion or, in many cases, just a hot meal. Their school had only two mud huts, 1 teacher and 30 pupils with no real school supplies, but did provide breakfast, dinner and medical help. Lessons were often taught outside where they were frequently interrupted by passing goats and chickens.

On hearing the plight of the children, the former IOT and then IIT students embarked on a major fundraising campaign and to date they have raised over £1900! Over this time the students have been able to see the school in Kenya change and transform into something quite different. There are now 9 cement classrooms, 185 children, 45 boarders, 10 teachers and a security guard. There is now a large kitchen area to store food and cook, whilst a new water butt provides fresh water for the children. In addition they have four toilets, two showers and a dormitory that can sleep 20 children.

Whilst the school has changed dramatically, the population of the school is also growing and they are currently trying to fund a move to a new location on the outskirts of Mtwapa where it can expand and become self-sustaining - so they still need help.

Now in Year 12 the original fundraisers have split into different forms - but this hasn't dampened their spirits for helping Jambo Jipya. A Jambo Jipya Club now meets regularly and the fund raising is already in full swing. A very successful cake sale raised £90 and the Christmas 'Smartie Saver' Campaign - selling Smarties and saving spare change in the tube in an effort to send more money out to the project for Christmas.

In conjunction with our three 'Reach for the Stars' Assemblies this term we are keen to raise awareness and are now hoping to pass on our enthusiasm to the lower school so that, when we leave in 2010, Parkstone's connection with Jambo Jipya can continue.



Top Debaters

Parkstone's Debating Club attended the Dorset and South Wilts round of the ESU Mace debating competition held at Poole Grammar School.

Our team, Melissa Elsworth and Emma Hawkins, steeled their nerves to open the evening in the first debate against the challenging South Wilts Grammar School on the motion: "This House believes the Olympic spirit has died." Our team were opposing the motion and after an intense, lively debate, the girls were glad it was over! The debating then continued with four other schools battling against each other, hoping to proceed to the next round.

After all the debates had taken place, we all waited anxiously for the judges' verdict. The standard of debating was very high throughout the night and therefore the decision was extremely tough. Unfortunately the Parkstone team wasn't successful on this particular occasion, however they did overwhelmingly win their debate with the floor vote. The two victorious teams were Twynham School and Bournemouth School for Boys who will both go on to compete in the next round.

Overall, the evening was enjoyable, educational and a fantastic opportunity to see the debating standards of the other schools.

Olivia Bhattacharjee



PJs & Teddies



Students and staff caused a bit of a reaction last November when they came to school wearing their pyjamas, carrying their favourite teddy!

It was all part of Pyjama Day and was organised by a group of students in aid of Children in Need.



HOLA ... BONJOUR ... HALLO

This year Parkstone is lucky enough to enjoy the skills of 3 Language Assistants. The Assistants introduce themselves below ... but with a twist ... they've written in their native tongue. Enjoy!

Je m'appelle Marie Beaune, je suis l'assistante française au collège Parkstone. J'ai passée mon baccalauréat en 2007 puis j'ai décidé de partir a Bournemouth en voyage linguistique pendant 6 mois. J'ai commencé par travailler dans un hôtel et je prenais des cours d'anglais une fois par semaine.



Puis j'ai décidé de m'inscrire a l'université de Bournemouth par étudier la psychologie. Cela fais 2 mois que je travail au collège Parkstone, et je trouve que le niveau de mes étudiantes en français est bien meilleur que le niveau des étudiants en France qui apprennent l'anglais. Le rythme de travail est différent en Angleterre car les étudiants n'ont cours que de 9h a 15h15 et ils peuvent choisir les matières qu'ils veulent étudier alors qu'en France on travail 8h jusqu'a 18h et on n'a pas le choix par rapport a nos matières. Je suis ravie de travailler dans cet établissement et j'espère y rester jusqu'à la fin de mes études.

My nombre es Antonio Uzal Fernandez. Tengo 31 años y soy de Gijón, en la costa noroeste de España. Mi padre es policía y mi madre trabaja en una tienda para niños. Tengo una hermana mayor que también es policía.



Vine a Inglaterra en 2004 para mejorar mi inglés. Tras mejorarlo mucho he estado estudiando un doctorado en ecología durante los últimos dos años. En mi tiempo libre voy al gimnasio, voy a correr (corrí una maratón en 2007) y también buceo. Tengo muchos amigos en Bournemouth y me gusta salir con ellos. También me gusta mucho cocinar. Me encanta viajar y he viajado por Filipinas y Australia. El año que viene quiero ir a visitar mi familia en Brasil y Cuba. Trabajo como asistente de idiomas en Parkstone Grammar School desde Septiembre y me encanta. Las chicas son muy simpáticas y tienen muchas ganas de aprender, ipor lo que es fácil charlar con ellas!



Mein Name ist Laura Struefing. Ich bin in Hamburg geboren und habe die letzten Jahre in Stuttgart - Musik und Englisch studiert. Neben meinem Studium habe ich als Geigenlehrerin gearbeitet. Ausserdem habe ich bei den unterschiedlichsten Musikproduktionen partizipiert, vorallem Klassik, aber auch Pop und Jazz. Diesen Sommer habe ich mein Musikstudium abgeschlossen.

Ich werde nun von Oktober 2008 bis Ende Mai 2009 German Language Assistentin in Parkstone Grammar School sein.

Meine Tätigkeit besteht darin, den Schüler, die den Deutschunterricht besuchen, deutsche Kultur und Sprache aus meiner Sicht zu vermitteln und die Sprechfaehigkeit zu verbessern.

Hier in Parkstone Grammar School hatte ich bisher einen sehr schoenen Einstieg, da ich sehr warmherzig von den Kolleginnen aufgenommen wurde.

Ausserdem verbringe ich meine freie Zeit damit in verschiedenen Orchestern in dieser Region Geige zu spielen. Ich spiele auch im Orchester der Parkstone Grammar School.

Enterprising Students

Last year 41 Year 12 students eagerly participated in the Young Enterprise Company Programme and five of the groups (linked with another school) progressed to the regional finals to represent Dorset. Team Iconic, won two trophies, and Team Eden and Team Scintilla both won a trophy each. Hannah Owen was a member of Team Scintilla and tells us about her experience :

I decided to do Young Enterprise in Year 12 because of the interesting experience it offered. I was placed at JP Morgan, and every Monday, from September to the end of April, I met with my team for 2 hours. We were called 'Scintilla', the inspiration coming from the Italian spelling of 'spark'. As a team we set out to try to get as far as we could in the competition, winning as many awards as we could. Unfortunately the group wasn't as proactive as we hoped, and we soon began facing problems, mostly based around the lack of communication amongst the group. This resulted in a disastrous club night in Bournemouth when only about 30 people turned up!

However, despite such setbacks, we managed to produce a final product, a child's play beanbag. We won an award for it! Although this was our only award we felt we deserved it because of all the effort we had put in. We also managed to reach stage 2 of the competition. This was held in a hotel in Bournemouth with plenty of free food!

My group didn't make a lot of money through the company. However I think that every group member left with a greater understanding of what is needed to successfully run a business. Young Enterprise was definitely a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone. Although it can be hard, when you get to the end you feel like you've achieved so much because you have successfully run a business for the last seven months.





Specialist Schools



QUEEN MARY 2



In October the school was lucky enough to be invited to take five students to visit the Queen Mary 2 at Southampton for a day of Marine Engineering.

Once through the endless security protocols the group was taken on board this amazing ocean liner to the on-board Planetarium. The size of this vessel cannot be fully appreciated without a visit. It is absolutely enormous and the engineering involved to produce such a ship is extremely impressive. The students were privileged to be given a talk by the Chief Designer of the Queen Mary 2 who talked through the engineering and design processes involved in putting together such an immense piece of engineering. To put the size into perspective, the Queen Mary 2 has four propellers underneath her. Each of those propellers with their housing has the weight of a Boeing 747, in other words it is as if the Queen Mary 2 has 4 Boeing 747s strapped to her belly! Unfortunately due to time constraints we did not get to see as much of the vessel as we would have liked, but the students did get the chance to imagine what it would be like to take a transatlantic trip.

In the afternoon the students were then given an engineering challenge of designing and building a mechanism to safely transport an egg across a bottomless chasm of 1m across. Both teams produced innovative and unusual ideas which, although successful, did not win the prize.

MATHEMATICIANS TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

Mathematicians at Parkstone have enthusiastically participated in Maths competitions recently.

Lower school students achieved record results in the Junior Mathematics Challenge gaining 21 Gold Awards, 40 Silver Awards and 46 Bronze. Erin Carlton (9P) achieved a particularly high score, qualifying her for the next round, The Junior Mathematical Olympiad. She did so well in this that she was awarded a Bronze medal: the first time anyone can recall a student from Parkstone doing so well.



Senior school students also excelled when they were given the opportunity to represent the school at the regional heat of the Further Mathematics Network Senior Team Maths Challenge. Sarah Lothian, Hannah Wray, Claire Hall and Chloe Jones proved their mathematical skills in the 3 rounds of the competition which consisted of group questions, a crossword and then a further question round answered in pairs. The girls finished in 3rd position - a fantastic achievement.

SLOVAKIAN FRIENDS

Last term Parkstone was proud to welcome two Slovaks to the school. Tatiana Hudecova and Iveta Boratkova, who teach English and German in Slovakia, write :



The project Opening the Gates provided us with the excellent opportunity of staying at Parkstone Grammar School for two months. It was a unique experience for us from both a professional and personal viewpoint.

Observing a wide range of lessons and teaching the lessons in English and German gave us a chance to improve our teaching, as well as our language skills. It was really enjoyable to attend various extra-curricular activities and take part in school events such as Open Evening, the International Day of Languages, staff meetings and assemblies. We gained an insight into how the system of education works and what the differences are compared with the Slovak system of education.

We are truly thankful to the Headteacher Ms Shinwell, to all the teachers and students for their friendly approach and cooperation.

This mutually rewarding partnership was highly successful, opening to staff and students a fantastic insight to another culture.

Parkstone joins Rafi.ki



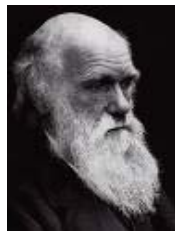
Parkstone is now a member of this online international community which allows us to link with schools from around the world. Rafi.ki is the Swahili term for friendship.

Students will soon be receiving a username and password that will allow them to create their own homepage to introduce themselves to other students around the world. We will also be asking students to help create the Parkstone homepage for other schools to find out about us.

We hope that this link will allow our students to complete cross-curricular projects with other schools, as well as finding out about young people's cultures and experiences in an international context.

Watch this space for future developments!

DARWIN DAY



Charles Darwin was born on 12th February 1809, and 50 years later he released what is possibly the most important scientific text ever written; 'The Origin of Species'.

To celebrate this monumental bicentennial Parkstone is having a Year 8 cross-curricular Darwin Day.

The students will have the opportunity to study, analyse and discuss a wide range of issues from the social, moral, ethical and scientific implications of this book, with specialists from the English, RP, History, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology Departments. There will also be the opportunity to learn to use some of the modern media ICT facilities and also contribute to an original piece of Art work celebrating the work of Darwin. This will culminate in each Year 8 tutor group working collaboratively to produce a piece of work covering some or all of the aspects covered in the day. There will be prizes awarded on the day for different aspects of the work.

A NEW LOOK

At the start of the new academic year, students and staff were greeted with a "new look" foyer in the Modern Languages block.

The former gloomy space, crowded with lockers, now has wall-to-wall carpets, armchairs, computers and a departmental office. It has been brightly decorated with relevant displays and articles relating to languages.

The entrance to the department has been transformed into a warm and welcoming place for the school community to meet and work.



Specialist Schools



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



Mrs Love talks about her native Russia

On the 24th September Parkstone celebrated the European day of languages, involving students, staff and governors in the day.

Our two visiting Slovakian teachers gave an introduction to their language and culture. In addition, Mrs Love introduced Russian and Mrs Spencer introduced Italian to Year 9 students. We ran a European flag quiz throughout the day and three staff as well as 12 students successfully completed the challenge.

At lunchtime students and staff sampled a European themed menu courtesy of Mr Durnell (Catering Manager) and his team. This consisted of French onion soup, Spanish tortilla, Italian Lasagne and German Black Forest gateau.

Every student and member of staff also wore a badge stating which languages they could speak. One girl was spotted with 6 languages to her name!

This annual event is aimed at celebrating Europe and our knowledge of European languages and culture. In September 2009 it will be even bigger and better!

LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

Sixth form students were eager to volunteer their help when it was announced that the school was planning to integrate with the students at a local primary school to further the younger students' language skills.

Two students were keen to tell us all about their experiences:

A fantastic opportunity arose when Dr Riding asked her AS Level French class to assist her helping teach French to the young, energetic Year 3s at Hillbourne Combined School.

Two at a time, we stroll along to the school each Thursday lunchtime. Confronted by a sea of curious, yet excited faces, we join in with educational songs and conduct simple conversations with the eager children and a collection of finger puppets!

I have found the experience very rewarding - it's great to see the children learn and their French vocabulary increases each time I see them. It is also lovely to see them having fun and their eagerness, as they all strain with their arms high in the air in the hope of being picked!

In my opinion, it is very important for children to learn another language and it is truly a great opportunity for them to learn French from such a young age.

The whole experience has made me think about my future and the possibility of a career in teaching.

Even though the repetitive songs do remain in your head for days on end, to see the children learn is incredibly rewarding!

Olivia Bhatarcharjee

Although the students were only learning basic phrases, we got the chance to make the classes more fun and interesting for the children. This included taking part in short role plays with them, to give them the chance to practice what they had learnt. We also used finger puppets and songs to help them remember!

I have really enjoyed this experience and it has been so good because the children are so enthusiastic about what they are learning and respond so well when you ask them to get involved.

Emma Toms

First Aid

Last term the school offered a valuable life skill to some of the students by hosting a First Aid course.

During the six weeks of the course I learnt basic first aid including the recovery position, CPR, bandages and how to deal with a variety of real life situations including heart attack, strokes, epilepsy and fainting.

I completed twelve hours of training, both practical and theory and after I had completed a quick test I was awarded my qualification.

The test was very relevant as it imitated real life situations; including a disco where one of the students pretended to have an epileptic fit and I was required to give treatment as I would in a real situation.

Overall, I found the course very useful as it allowed me to become confident in first aid and learn a variety of new skills. Rachel Burnett - Year 12



LECTURES & ACTIVITIES

Parkstone is proud to report on the wide ranging and exciting lectures and talks that have been offered to the school community recently :-

~ In October, Dr David Read of the Faculty of Chemistry at Southampton University visited the school to give a talk to all of our Year 8 students and also to the middle school students who visit us regularly. His presentation was full of lively demonstrations involving freezing a banana in liquid nitrogen and then using it to hammer in a nail. Colourful flame test demonstrations really excited the students but unfortunately also set off the sensitive heat detectors in the Lecture Theatre, prompting an unplanned fire drill!

~ Dr David Read returned to Parkstone in December to talk to Year 10 students about biofuels. Again, the lecture was made very interactive, this time by the students' use of 'zappers' which allowed them to answer quiz questions on the topic throughout the presentation. This was a particularly useful talk for the year group as biofuels are on the core GCSE Chemistry syllabus.

~ Dr Gordon Watson from the Institute of Marine Sciences at Portsmouth University came to talk about the importance of environmental controls and biodiversity. His talk was further enhanced by some specimens of marine life that Dr Watson brought with him.

~ Dr Robert Bowles of the Royal Society of Chemistry also visited to offer a talk to students about the diversity of careers available to Chemistry graduates. This was highly interesting and offered the students valuable information for their future decision making.

~ Nick Capon of Portsmouth University visited in November to offer a talk entitled 'Maths for Special Events'. This unusual perspective on Mathematics made students think about the impact of Maths in their lives by inviting them to plan a party. The exercise clearly showed students just how Maths was involved when it focused on the logistics, timing and planning - all requiring Mathematical knowledge.

Forthcoming events include:

~ A talk on 'Extra-solar Planets and Life' - 6 February

~ A talk on 'The Chemistry of the Human Body' by a speaker from Surrey University, date to be confirmed (provisionally Wednesday 4 March)

~ A talk on 'Mobile Technologies' - 27 March

~ March: the Salters Challenge at Southampton University for four of our Year 8 students

~ March: 14 of our Year 12 students will have the opportunity to carry out chemistry practicals at the Faculty of Chemistry at Southampton University



Science



Specialist Schools



Squirrel Flies In!

In the autumn term we were visited by a Squirrel Helicopter.

Students who were interested in a career in the Forces or Engineering were given the chance to talk to the pilots and take a close look at the helicopter.



This was an excellent opportunity for students to get a feel for Engineering on a relatively large scale in a context that they would not have been able to do in the past. One of the crew explained how the various parts of the helicopter worked and how the helicopter actually flew, which we were then able to see in action when it took off.

Farnborough Air Show 2008

In July a group of Year 12 students were invited by Cobham plc in Wimborne to visit the Farnborough Air Show as part of the International Youth Day.

On arrival the students and Mrs Triplow were directed to Cobham's corporate chalet overlooking the exhibition where they were introduced to the world of the aerospace industry by the Chief Executive of Cobham. We were then given a tour of Cobham's display area to get a real feel for the extremely varied field of the aerospace industry from refuelling aircraft whilst in flight to unmanned spy aircraft.

As if they hadn't felt spoilt enough, the group was then treated to a lovely three course meal in their corporate chalet during which we had the opportunity to talk with people working in various aspects of the industry.

At the end of the lunch the group was invited to stay in Cobham's chalet to watch the amazing air displays.



Engineering Education Scheme

This year's team for the Engineering Education Scheme is being sponsored by the Royal Navy. The school's Engineer is, in fact, from the Royal Canadian Navy and the school project is an Army based one. This year's design brief was to look at the brake fluid reservoir in a Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle (CRARRV) as its current position does not allow easy viewing. As a result there have been a couple of occasions where the level was not read correctly and the braking system failed.

The team were lucky enough to get the opportunity in November to visit the Bordon Army base in Hampshire to actually see the vehicle. To the team's surprise (and delight) they were allowed onto and in it. This took a bit of doing as it is very large (68 tonnes worth of armoured vehicle is quite a lot!). The girls were able to take many photos and measurements and ask questions of the drivers and the engineers who maintain it. The students' guide was very impressed with the team and the questions they asked although he did at one point say that he had never seen anyone manage to get into the positions that the team did whilst they were taking photos!



Inside the CRARRV

In December the team went to Southampton University for three days to participate in the residential part of the project. They worked in the University Engineering workshops with the help of their Engineer and the University technicians to develop the team's ideas and make some prototypes to test them. The students were able to make excellent progress and have a near final solution to the problem. They now need to build their final designs, write a report and prepare a presentation for April.

The team consists of Charlie Staples, Ellie Shead, Faye Bond, Emily Collett and Emma Toms.

Languages - Diary of Events

SPRING TERM 2009

4-8 February

Year 12 and 13 cultural trip to Paris

11 February

Sony Virtuoso Upskill Day for languages staff

12 February

Visit by Specialist Schools' Academies & Trust Advisor Neil Turnstall

2 April

Deadline for Year 8 French Brittany trip payments

SUMMER TERM 2009

20 May

Parkstone hosts training with Poole partner secondary schools on "ICT in MFL: Promoting Good Practice"

June 1 INSET Day

Language staff to deliver language taster sessions in feeder primary and middle schools (Italian-Spanish-German)

3 June 2009

Parkstone hosts training with Poole partner secondary schools on "Year 7-8 transition".

16 June

Year 10 Regional Language Network entitled "Languages Talk in Business" talk with James Piriou

20 June

Year 8 Brittany trip departs (5 days)

25 June 2009

Year 8 European Citizenship Day with input from the Poole Twinning Association focusing on :

* Perspectives on Europe from France, Germany and Spain

* What does it mean to be British/European?

* What are the advantages and disadvantages of being in the EU?

29 - 30 June

Year 9 Frontiers Day (Marketing British Products in Europe/ Joint Enterprise and Languages Day)

2 July

Europapark event involving pupils from Hillbourne School & Nursery (Year 3) and Canford Heath Middle school (Years 6/7)



Media Mogul



Year 9 recently enjoyed a day off timetable to participate in the Media Mogul project. The programme is aimed at helping students prepare for employability including teamwork, decision making and marketing.

Students worked in groups to form a media company. Each team recorded a radio jingle, produced a television trailer promoting a 'forthcoming production', created articles for a magazine and designed a tabard.

The groups then showcased their achievements in a gala performance and screening.

Parents' Course

Parkstone is pleased to host another set of its successful parenting courses.

The courses are planned for the week commencing 23 February. Participation is free and will cover a number of topics, but spaces are limited.

Please watch your daughter's school bag over the next few weeks for a letter launching the course or contact Elayne Morris at the school.



We're Off to London ... but to See the Queen?

Who would have thought we would see the Queen on our visit to London?! It wasn't listed on our itinerary and we definitely didn't include it in the cost of the trip – but sure enough, a car carrying the Queen and Prince Philip passed our coach – and perhaps unnoticed by most students (many of whom were still snoozing after their early start!)



Once in London, we were dropped off at the Victoria and Albert Museum in order to see the 'Cold War Modern' exhibition. It was clear the students would have liked to spend longer wandering around the galleries, sketching and reading about the innovative ideas that led into a political war of inventions, design and one-upmanship - but we had a busy schedule.

A short tube ride led us to Notting Hill. Portobello Road was an eye-opener for the students. A small area, packed tightly with quaint and quirky little shops selling everything from vintage clothing to old military buttons, mirrors to retro advertising signs and everything that you could never imagine in your wildest dreams... and more! I was especially intrigued by the silver-lidded jar of Marmite (laced with Champagne!) I found in a shop window – at £55 each. Buildings painted brightly, with creepers and climbers scrambling their way up the façade and the odd celebrity thrown in for good measure too; Portobello Road is worth a visit to appreciate how unlike the rest of London it is. It is more like a small village community, cocooned in its own little bubble that protects it from the hectic and demanding streets of central London. **Ms Wathen, Technology Department**

FAB FILMS & FROCKS

The annual Media Studies Oscars took place again last year and was another great evening of fabulous gowns and engaging films!



Jan Weddup, lecturer in Media Studies at Bournemouth University, again had the unenviable job of judging and presenting the awards to students in Years 12 and 13.

We are already planning for the 2009 event which will be bigger and better than ever.

A Youth's Opinion

- Students of Parkstone are certainly taking their opinions to a high level. Year 9 student, Vicky Olive, is a member of the DCSF Children and Youth Board and she was recently part of the group that met with the DCSF Board Directors to discuss the Board's achievements over the previous year. To their surprise, Ed Balls (Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families) joined the meeting for a while, keen to listen to the students' views.
- The group's views and opinions have been well sought after in many different projects, often being considered as part of decision making processes.
- Their projects included; Healthy Lifestyles, Diversity and Citizenship, The Byron Review, Road Traffic, Green Spaces and the Environment, The Children's Plan and Extended Schools
- Vicky is enjoying her work with the group and her next meeting is a weekend residential in July.

A Great Height!



Congratulations to Year 12 student Chloe Jones who completed the fantastic feat of reaching the summit of the world's highest freestanding mountain near Killimanjaro, Africa.

Chloe and her father trekked through rainforest, savanna and volcanic scree for 3 days before reaching basecamp Kibo Hut at 14,500 feet.

After just a few hours sleep the group left base camp at 1 am with only the light of their head torches to guide them. Chloe proved just how brave she was by battling on even though her father was forced to stop due to altitude sickness.

Sail, Steam and Empire

Members of 9S were keen to recall their experiences of a Year 9 History trip last autumn. Becky Gibbs and Alice Handley write, "We went to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard so that we could get a better understanding of what life was like on the ships, how they developed and improvements that had been made over the years, and the importance of the Royal Navy in the nineteenth century. This information helped tremendously with the writing of our related assessment". Kathryn Coombes and Emily Stewart explained that, "We had a guided tour around HMS Victory, had a look around HMS Warrior and we also saw H.M.S. Ark Royal being towed out the docks!"



The highlight for Priya George and Robyn Selby was, "... when we got to see the original painting of Horatio Nelson's last moments, and when we got to see the table at which he sat to eat". For Becky Stockley and Lorna Trent, "The most enjoyable moment of the trip was when we had the chance to relive what it would have been like to be a sailor aboard the largest and most powerful ships in the world in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries".

Alice Caithness and Anna Warwick said, "The best bit was when H.M.S. Ark Royal, Britain's largest aircraft carrier, set sail to defend the empire secretly! It wasn't very secret though because it made a lot of noise and smoke!"

CLOVER CLUB



The members of Clover Club (the school book club) enjoyed shadowing the short-listed titles for the Carnegie Book Award last year.

They were rewarded at the end of term with a visit from well known author, and former member of English staff, Andrew Butcher who wrote the Spy-High series for young people.



PARENT STAFF ASSOCIATION

The PSA has been busy this year, organising a number of fundraising events.

In November we held another of our hugely popular Quiz Evenings. Quiz Nights are frequently oversubscribed and this evening was no different with a packed hall. A marvellous £1500 was raised for the school! A wonderful achievement.

The Christmas Fayre held on Saturday 6 December was very well attended. At the Fayre the draw took place to find out who had won prizes in the PSA Christmas Raffle. From the proceeds of the raffle and funds raised on the day a magnificent total of over £5000 was raised and we are very grateful to everyone who helped to make this event such a success.

The money from the Fayre and all the other fundraising events this year will be going towards the purchase of equipment for the new Art and Technology Block.

Our next event is the Easter Bingo Evening on Friday 20 March. We look forward to seeing you there!





THE OLD PARKSTONIANS' ASSOCIATION



Since the last time I reported in this newsletter we have had a busy year. Our Annual Reunion Dinner for 2008 was held on March 8th and, as usual, it was very interesting to meet and share memories. This year the date is March 28th. All past pupils or staff of the school are welcome – for information and to book, call the Chairman. If you would like to contact members from your school year and arrange to sit as a group, please let us know and we will help you to organise this.

We hosted the Leavers' Evening in September. This year it was held in the 6th Form Common Room and the girls clearly felt relaxed in familiar surroundings – the chatting went on until quite late and we were pleased to be part of an evening which gave them such pleasure.

We held our first social event, a Quiz and Buffet, at the Kiwi Hotel last February. It was a fun evening enjoyed by everyone. In fact it was so successful that we are repeating the event on May 8th. Members and non-members are very welcome – just put together a team and come along. Tickets (including an excellent buffet supper) are £10.00 and must be booked in advance. Contact the Chairman, Denise Mallender, on 01202 515673.

Finally, in response to a request from members who prefer to meet in the daytime, we have arranged a lunch at The Canford Magna Golf Club on Friday, June 19th. This is open to members and guests and we hope it will prove to be the first of many such occasions. Details are available from Pat Cowdroy on 01202 722549 or from the OPA website.

Denise Mallender – Chairman

Sports News

Football

2008-2009 has so far been a successful season.

The U18 team, captained by Louise Griffiths, won an inaugural Dorset FA 6-a-side competition. The U13 squad have progressed to the final of the U13 County Cup by beating Poole High 5-0 in the semi-final and The U14 squad are through to the County Cup quarter final.



The U15 squad are in the semi-final of the County Cup, and have also reached the last 16 of the National ESFA Cup after a 7-0 victory away at Chipping Sodbury – an amazing achievement. At the final whistle Chipping Sodbury's coach complemented the team, saying that it was rare to see an U15 girls team play such a high standard of football.

The U15 squad

NEW TO YOU

Do you have any items of spare school uniform?

Has your daughter grown out of some of her uniform and it's just hanging in the wardrobe?

If so then WE NEED THEM!

We would be most grateful for donations of any items of unwanted good quality school uniform to boost our "New to You" stocks.

"New to You" school uniform is sold for a small profit during the school year and is particularly popular on New Year 8 Parents' Evening.

It's All Fiction!

Did you know that the school library has about 4600 fiction books and that students have borrowed over 3000 of them since the beginning of this school year!

The top ten authors, in alphabetical order, since September, are:-

1. Meg Cabot
2. Anne Cassidy
3. Mary Hooper
4. Cathy Hopkins
5. Sue Limb
6. Karen McCombie
7. Robert Muchamore
8. Terry Pratchett
9. Louise Rennison
10. Jacqueline Wilson

SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

Sixth forms games activity afternoon has taken on a different format this year. Year 12 students have the option to remain on site to engage in a range of activities such as Thai Boxing, Street Soccer, Capoeira, Yoga and Street Dance, or to utilise their time doing voluntary work. At present we have over 30 students in the community working in a range of places including charity shops, care homes and schools.

Sarah Hayes tells us of her choice of activity:

"For my Sixth Form Enrichment I was given the opportunity to do voluntary work.

I decided to ask Montacute School for children with special needs if I could visit and help them. They accepted me and now I go every week and help with Primary 1' which is for 5/6 year olds. I help with such things as playing games with the children and I also do a lot of singing!

I really enjoy going and am so glad that I was given the opportunity - my week wouldn't be complete without it!"



Offering support at a local care home

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The Borough of Poole has recent advised of revised free school meal eligibility criteria.

On October 27 2008 the Employment and Support Allowance (contribution based and income related) was introduced. Parents who receive income related ESA will be entitled to free school meals for their children.



Therefore, children whose parents receive one of the following will be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £15,575 (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Children who receive Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

Application forms for free school meals can be obtained from either:

- www.boroughofpoole.com 'Apply for it'
- Children and Young People's Integrated Services
- The school office
- Telephoning 01202 261949

GB VOLLEYBALL PLAYER VISITS

In November GB Volleyball player Lucy Bolton ran an inspirational training session for Parkstone students.

Over 100 girls attended the exciting event, advancing their skills and gaining enthusiasm for the sport. Overall there was an excellent standard of play and all the girls had a thoroughly enjoyable time.



OUR PE DEPT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Owing to the incredible usage our facilities receive on a daily basis, our equipment and playing areas are in strong need of updating or replacing. These facilities are our link to the world of fitness. They encourage our students to lead an active, healthy lifestyle and it would be a great loss if we were unable to afford to modernise our resources.

Would you, or your company, consider sponsoring a piece of sports equipment? We would be most grateful for any help or support. Please contact Claire Bird on 01202 605605. **Thank you!**