



Merry Christmas to all our Readers



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PARKSTONE'S GREAT SUCCESS AT THE DORSET ARTS PRIZE

Congratulations to our hard working Parkstone artists for running away with the prizes once again at this year's Dorset Arts Prize!

We are thrilled to announce that: Tia Ensby (Year 12) was awarded First Place in the 14-15 category and received a prize of £1000; Mia Pangilinan (last year's Year 13) was also awarded First Prize for the 16-18 category and was awarded £1000.



Tia Ensby



Mia Pangilinan

On top of that, Amelie Snelgrove (Year 12) was awarded Second Place in the 14-15 category, winning a prize of £500.

Further wonderful news was that the Parkstone Grammar School Art Department was awarded the School's Prize, winning £500!

We couldn't be more proud of our students' hard work and commitment and the incredible quality and diversity of the work they are producing!

Well done Parkstone!



Amelie Snelgrove



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



As we come to the end of a very busy and successful term there is so much for us to celebrate and be proud of. Many of your children will have been involved in multiple activities and events, taking full advantage of all the opportunities offered to them and in doing so they will have contributed towards what makes Parkstone such a special place to be educated.

Our musicians and music department have been extremely active this term and continue to do so as we head into our festive celebrations. The Year 7 concert before half term involving the whole year group was incredible, with over 400 people in the audience. I am sure this experience will be one they talk about when they leave at the end of Year 13.

We also had students who participated in the "Lest We Forget" national event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War performing their own song and they also took part in our own school remembrance assemblies. Students were involved in the Music for Youth proms at the Royal Albert Hall, it was a wonderful opportunity for them and their performance was amazing.

Our sporting teams have also been very active this term; all of the netball teams have done incredibly well with great wins against many of the local state and independent schools. This was topped off by our Under 14 team who were crowned County Champions.

This year Parkstone artists ran away with the prizes once again at the Dorset Arts Prize. Tia Ensby was awarded First Place in the 14-15 category Mia Pangilinan was also awarded First Prize for the 16-18 category and Amelie Snelgrove was awarded Second Place in the 14-15 category. On top of that, the Parkstone Art Department was awarded the Schools' Prize.

A particular highlight of this term has of course been the exceptional performance of Oliver in collaboration with Poole Grammar School. The sold-out performances were simply breath-taking – the quality of performance, music, choreography, costume, set, lighting and sound would not have been out of place in a West End National theatre. Students and staff should be rightly proud of this astonishing show which received high acclaim from audiences and standing ovations every night!

As we look towards the Christmas holiday the school is a hive of activity with our annual Christmas lunches, our Carol Service at St Peter's Church and our ever-popular final day student entertainment!

Can I take this opportunity to wish your family a restful and enjoyable festive season and wish you good tidings for the New Year.

Merry Christmas !

David Hallsworth

CAREERS UPDATE



At the start of term Mrs Wilkinson, Head of Careers and Employability, gave assemblies to all year groups reminding them of the Careers offer and how to go about searching the internet for Career information. It is apparent from students' one to one Career interviews that when they are talking to parents it can be hard to know where to begin looking at Careers if you don't know what you want to do. In order to help with this Mrs Wilkinson has written a leaflet to help. Look out for this coming soon via parents' email and on the school website.

Over 100 students from Years 11 and 12 were all on coaches ready to attend The Apprenticeship Show at the BIC on 26 September. Unfortunately they had to turn back without even entering the event after a bomb hoax. I am pleased to say that 61 of these students are attending a scaled down version of the show at Poole High School on Wednesday 5 December 2018. Anyone who wasn't able to attend and is interested in apprenticeships please be assured that these employers and information will all be available at the Careers Convention here at school on Wednesday 6 March. Further details will follow after Christmas.

On Tuesday 13 November 11 Year 9 students visited Siemens in Poole for a gadget event organised to celebrate the Year of Engineering. Students had a tour of the factory, soldered and made a badge with light up eyes and even programmed their own traffic lights!

Remember you can follow Parkstone Careers on Twitter where lots of information and opportunities are posted. Just follow Careers@PGS.

SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

On Saturday 10 November 12 Parkstone and 2 Poole Grammar Sociology students attended Southampton Crown Court to compete in the National Mock Trial Competition.

The two cases taken to trial were an acid attack at a party and banking fraud. The students took part in three rounds. We successfully defended both cases and won two rounds. We prosecuted one round and narrowly missed a points win, to last year's winners. Although we narrowly missed reaching the regional final, the students presented themselves in a very professional manner, both in and outside of court.

Our four barristers:- prosecution - Beth Bradbury and Hannah Ansell and defence Chandra Powell and Megan McCabe were outstanding. Megan's closing speech in round 3 was particularly praised by the judge for its clarity and confidence. Those students who took on the roles of witness, although a little nervous about being in the dock or taking the stand, rose to the challenge on the day.

The whole event gave the students an excellent insight into the criminal justice system and the complexity of the law. It was also fantastic to see our students, take on roles such as the court clerk and usher, whereby they had to manage the whole court proceedings themselves.

All of the students were fantastic ambassadors for their respective schools.

SWAT SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

This term our Parkstone SWAT Challenge Ambassadors visited the Cyantist Escape Rooms in Bournemouth. Our challenge is to design and create our very own Escape Room here at Parkstone for the Inter SWAT Schools Challenge Day that we are running in February next year so we wanted to get some ideas and inspiration.

The escape rooms were fun and really made us think 'out of the box'... we had to pump water, find and use lasers, decode symbols, use magnets and unlock numerous safes, padlocks and keys to find the 'antidote' that allowed us to escape within the hour! Lots of fun and lots of inspiration for our own ideas for puzzles and problems to use in our own rooms!

Keep an eye out for our request for test groups... we will be asking for volunteers to test our own Parkstone Escape Room once we have designed it and before the big Challenge Day arrives!

MATHS CHALLENGE

The Maths Dept has just competed in the Senior Team Maths challenge. Held at Poole High School 21 schools (including many independent schools) attempted 3 rounds of challenging Maths puzzles.

The Parkstone Team consisted of Anna Fairweather, Laura Munro both in Year 13 and Eve Crocombe and Lizzie Williams from Year 12.

The Team came sixth out of 21 which was an excellent result. All girls received a certificate of participation and really enjoyed the experience!

The next Team Challenge (4 students from Years 8 and 9) will be on the 28 February at the Bishop of Winchester School.

The Intermediate Challenge for Years 9, 10 and 11 will be on the 7th February 2019. The Junior challenge will follow in April.

TAEKWONDO



Year 7 student Mae Rogers took part in the TAGB Taekwondo World Championships recently.

Huge congratulations to Mae as she came home with a bronze medal.

Well done!

BUSINESS NEWS

• Students from Year 13 enjoyed attending a Exams workshop held in the third largest shopping centre in the UK. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the 5 hour intensive workshop based in a high tech cinema with hundreds of other students from around the country to learn vital skills for exam success. A quick shopping opportunity before and after the programme was also highly enjoyed!

• Students in Year 12 are being thoroughly innovative by taking part in the national competition "Young Enterprise". One group is working with Poole Grammar School and together they attend weekly meetings at Barclays House in Poole, while the other is an all girls team meeting at The Bank of New York in Poole. Both teams have raised the necessary paperwork to create a business and each team member has an assigned role to carry out. The meetings are very professional with staff from each bank attending for guidance. Both teams will be sharing their (top secret) ideas with us soon. Watch this space!

• Year 10 Business students have been researching how businesses are responding to plastic pollution. Groups have shared their findings in numerous ways: posters, slide presentations and even an animation! Superb work, Year 10. Let's hope we can soon see some government, business and consumer habit changes!

• Year 8s had a taste of Enterprise last month when they took part in a morning enterprise event. Through a hands-on practical, students 'incorporated' their own companies and learned about supply and demand as they sold products they made using their best negotiation skills. They developed excellent team skills as they marketed and pitched their businesses to sixth form judges. There were some highly innovative presentations!



Young Enterprise Team "Revive"

If you'd like to support Revive, please scan the code on the right which will take you to the team's GoFundMe page



STEM RETURNERS PROGRAMME

Have you taken a career break from an engineering or a technical sector and wish to return? Are you working below your experience in a different sector? Do you have an engineering or technical degree that you aren't using? Do you just wish to transfer sectors but don't have any experience? If so this could be the opportunity for you! We are currently sourcing candidates for the Atlas Elektronik 'STEM Returners' programme, a 13 week, fully paid and supported return to work programme starting in February 2019 in Winfrith. All candidates will also have the opportunity to obtain a permanent role at the end of the programme. No career break is too long, register to return to STEM today! For more information please visit www.stemreturners.com or email hello@stemreturners.com.

More information on the programme is also available here:

<https://www.stemreturners.com/2018/10/24/atlas-elektronik-uk-supports-stem->

COMPUTING CHALLENGE

In November 327 students from PGS completed the Bebras Challenge for computational thinking.

- 110 were placed in the top 10% nationally
- PGS students came top in Dorset in Juniors (age 10-12) and Intermediate (age 12-14)
- Two students from PGS were placed in the top 60 nationally and they have been invited to Oxford University in February for the finals

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

INTERNET SAFETY

Useful Information for Parents & Carers

THE FESTIVE SEASON

As the festive season approaches, many students may be lucky to receive new phones, tablets and games consoles as gifts and so we thought it relevant to remind our readers how to stay safe online. The information below is taken from the Childline website. For further information please visit <https://www.Childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

WAYS OF KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

When you're online it's important to stay safe and make sure you don't share things that could put you in danger. The internet is a great way to connect with your friends and learn new things. But it's also important to stay safe.

There are a few ways you can help make sure you're not in danger when you use the internet :

✓ Be Careful What you Share Online :

- * when you choose a profile picture for a social networking website like Facebook or Twitter, avoid photos that could give strangers clues about where you live
- * check your privacy settings regularly
- * think about what should be shared in public and what shouldn't
- * check your location settings – some sites and apps like Snapchat let you share your location with other users
- * learn about how you can take care of your digital footprint.

✓ Think Before you Post

Don't upload or share anything you wouldn't want your parents, teachers or friends seeing. Once you press send, it is no longer private. You can't be sure who will end up seeing it.

✓ Never share or reveal your passwords

Use strong passwords that are hard for others to guess, using a mix of letters and numbers. Keep passwords to yourself and change them regularly.

✓ Be careful who you chat to

If somebody you don't know adds you as a friend, ignore them and delete their request. Don't share personal information like your address or phone number with somebody you don't know.

Online safety comes down to three main things protecting your identity, not taking risks and being responsible.

- * Protecting your identity is really important online. This means being careful not to reveal too much about yourself. Whenever you need to make an online account that has a public nickname (like your ChildLine account!), choose something that is nothing to do with your real name or where you live. Remember that even small things like the name of your school could allow someone to figure out who you are. The less a stranger knows about you, the safer you can be.
- * Social networks are the biggest risk to your identity. Check your profile doesn't contain anything that can identify you. If you have a Facebook account, make sure it's private so only people you trust can see it and talk to you.
- * Being responsible and avoiding taking risks will also help you to stay safe. Ask yourself if you really need to be talking to a stranger online or whether you can really trust the file attachment in your email. **If in doubt, play it safe.**

TOP 3 TIPS FOR KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SHARE

If you wouldn't want your teachers or parents to see it, it's probably best not to post it. Because once it's online, it's out of your control

DON'T MEET PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Even if you get on with them online, you never know who they really are

USE A COMPLEX PASSWORD

It should be hard for other people to guess your password and it's a good idea to change it regularly.

We are very proud to offer a selection of work from our talented students :



Abbie Gollings



Rhiannon Cummings



Angelin Varghese



Maddy Bowra



Melanie Crocker



Madeleine Iyengar



Phoebe Lovell-Payne

GOVERNORS' NEWS



“Hello again” from the Governors at Parkstone Grammar School !

We like to include an article in the newsletter to tell you a bit more about the work of the Governance Board at PGS.

As you will know, Mrs Harris is currently on leave and she has now written to us to say that, although she will be returning in the summer term, she is resigning as Headteacher with effect from August 2019. Although we will be sorry to lose her, we wish her every success and happiness in her future ventures.

Governors are responsible for the appointment of the Headteacher, and we will be committing our time and energies over the coming months to ensure we appoint a new Head who will lead the school in our continual quest for improvement, while holding our school values and ethos.

Finance continues to be a focus for Governors and the Leadership team. We want to ensure that your children are benefitting from a fully funded school, and we are in constant discussion with government and local government representatives about this. With changes to the structure of Local Government, school funding is being reviewed again, but you can be assured that we are continuing the battle to ensure we receive the full amounts allocated by central government.

Governors recently agreed to the lease of two new minibuses which have already been given a Parkstone makeover! These will provide safe and comfortable transport for students on smaller trips, such as sporting or music events.

On behalf of the Governors, I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Dawn Stark - Chair of Governors

From Science to Gymnastics!

As many of my students know my hobby is Gymnastics and in October I competed in the European TeamGym Championships held in Portugal. I competed as part of the Senior Mixed Team comprising the combined strength of the top 10 TeamGym gymnasts from across the country.

GB set a number of new apparatus records during the Championships and after qualifying for the finals we finished in 5th place, seeing off countries such as Italy, France, Finland, Portugal and the Netherlands.

TeamGym has 3 pieces of apparatus, Tumble, Floor and Trampet. The entire team performs a synchronised floor routine to music with marks awarded for dance, skills and teamwork. On both Tumble and Trampet 6 gymnasts stream one after another performing skills of increasing difficulty. TeamGym is a dynamic sport full of passion and teamwork, and I am excited to see what the future holds for Teamgym Gymnastics when it is taken to World Championship level in 2020.

To watch some of the European Championships look at the link below, see if you can spot me!
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=c39kPWUg-gE>

As the oldest female member of the GB squad I never thought that I would still be competing as an international gymnast whilst also progressing within my teaching career. I would like to thank the entire school community for their support during my Championships and I look forward to the annual student Gym and Dance competition next term!

Miss Long - Science Department



FORMER STUDENTS

It is very touching when former students contact us to share their news and experiences after Parkstone.. This is just the case when 3 leavers from separate year groups sent us a photograph of themselves after meeting up at Oxford University's Matriculation Day..



Pictured are :

Lilian Hartman (left) - 3rd year - studying Medicine
Katie Child (centre) - 1st year - studying History and French
Maddy Forster (right) - 2nd year - studying History

YEAR 7 SUPPORTS LOCAL FOOD BANK



The Year 7 charity committee has been focussing this term on helping others less fortunate than themselves.

They decided to ask for food donations for the Poole Food Bank.

The students were incredibly generous and the food donations were greatly received.

Sport

This term there have been approximately 450 students participating in the 31 extracurricular clubs and 62 fixtures that have been on offer. The girls deserve a massive well done for their commitment to PE at Parkstone. The hard work and determination that they show is fabulous. Keep up the great work!

CROSS COUNTRY

Each week a number of very dedicated cross country runners have been competing in the PEDSSA League.

The girls have had to face some gruelling courses in some adverse weather conditions, rain, wind and minus temperatures, but they have been fantastic.

We have had some great team and individual performances; Poppy Overton who won the Sandbanks Race, the Year 9 team (Georgina Stokes, Sophia Horwood, Erin Horne, Issie Jones and Aimie Quarrie) who are currently sitting in 1st place; and Izzy Rabjohns who won the Intermediate race at Baiter Park and is currently sitting in 1st place.

Gym & Dance

Rehearsals for the annual Gym and Dance competition are well under way. The girls are using every available moment to choreograph and refine routines. We really are in for a fantastic competition, which is being held on Tuesday 22nd January. If any parents or carers would like to watch the Gym and Dance Competition the evening performance is on Wednesday 23rd January tickets will be on sale after the Christmas Holidays.

FOOTBALL



The Year 7 Girls were drawn against Bournemouth School for Girls in the first round of the County Cup.

It was a freezing Thursday afternoon that the girls travelled to BSG for the fixture, however, they played with such determination, and won 7-0. They have now qualified for the second round against Allenborne School.

Good luck girls!

NETBALL

Netball has been hugely popular this first term with over 220 students from Year 7-13 participating in netball each week. We have had a lots of fixtures, where the girls have demonstrated excellent endeavour and prowess, however, there are still many more to come, so we encourage all students to continue to come training.

Particular highlights have been both the U14A and U16A teams qualifying for the County Finals. The U16A captained by Sophie Stoate travelled to Budmouth College on Tuesday 13 November. Unfortunately they narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Regional Finals being beaten by Talbot Heath in the semi-final. The U14A captained by Ellie Bland took part in the county finals at Canford School on Thursday 15th November and were crowned County Champions after a very successful afternoon, the girls were fantastic showing real strength, determination and motivation to beat Canford in the semi-final and beating Talbot Heath in the final. We wish them the very best of luck competing for Dorset in the Regional Finals on Saturday 26 January.



SWIMMING

The Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams were in action in the water in September in the County Schools Relays. The girls performed fantastically well and the Intermediate team qualified for the National Finals at the London Aquatic Centre on Saturday 17 November.

The girls were fantastic, we even saw a number of PB's and managed to place 12th in the country for the 4x50 freestyle and a very impressive 5th in the country for the 4x50 medley.

A huge congratulations must go to Aimie Quarrie, Ella McNamara, Hester Mugford, Tanya Blanchard and Gabby Williams for their successful season.

Has your daughter achieved something wonderful that she'd like to share with the school community? A sport, a hobby, an award, an achievement? Please share it with us! Email office@parkstone.poole.sch.uk. We can't promise to include all articles, but we will do our best!