



December 2019

Cyber Girls
- page 3

Visiting Artist
- page 5

Hairspray
- pages 6

PFSA
- page 7

Students' Artwork
- page 8

Governors' News
- page 9

SWAT Challenge
- page 9

Sport
- page 10

Merry Christmas to all our Readers

PARKSTONE ARTISTS RUN AWAY WITH ART PRIZES

We would like to congratulate our hard working Parkstone artists for again running away with the prizes at this year's Dorset Arts Prize! We are thrilled to announce that: Sophie Phillips was awarded First place in the Year 10 & 11 category and received a prize of £1000; Eloise Mawdesley was awarded Second place in the Year 10 & 11 category and was awarded £500; and



Eloise Mawdesley



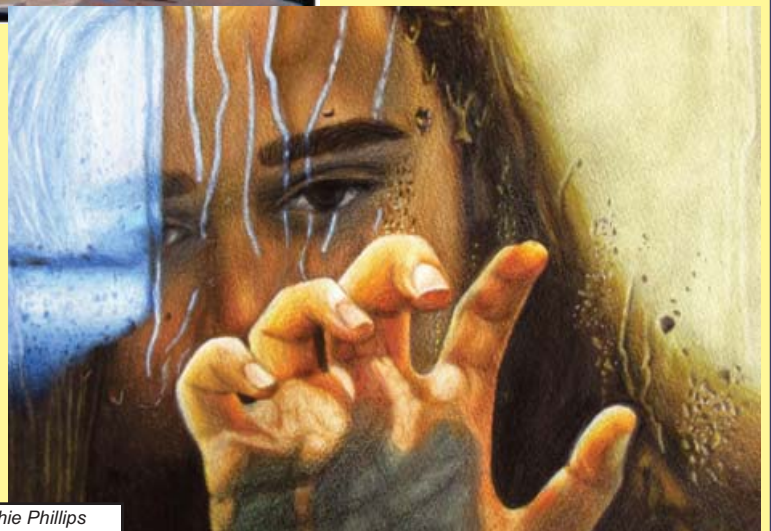
Paulinka Prawdzik

Paulinka Prawdzik was awarded Third Place again in the Year 10 & 11 category, winning a prize of £250.

On top of that, the Parkstone Grammar School Art Department was awarded the Schools' Prize, winning £500 for the second year running!

We couldn't be prouder of our students' hard work and commitment and the incredible quality and diversity of the work they are producing! Well done Parkstone!

Miss Sturdy & Miss Batley



Sophie Phillips



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

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 'Find Your Voice' concert before half term involving the whole year group was incredible, with over 400 people in the audience. It was a real favourite of mine and I am sure this experience will be one they talk about when they leave at the end of Year 13.

Our sporting teams have also been very active this term; they all have done incredibly well with great wins against many of the local state and independent schools across all age groups. The enthusiasm for sport and PE is extremely evident with approximately 600 students participating in sports clubs each week

A particular highlight of this term has of course been the exceptional performance of 'Hairspray' in collaboration with Poole Grammar School. The sold-out performances were simply breath-taking - the quality of performance, music, choreography, costume, 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 and even some audience dancing on the final 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



I'm Rosie, I'm in Year 9 and I was recently on a TV show called **Step Up To The Plate** on CBBC.

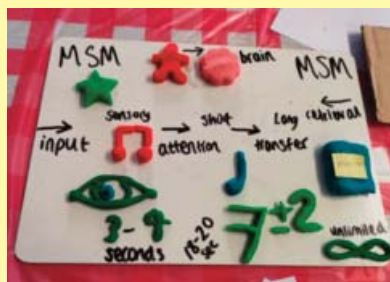
The show was about 8 children per heat competing to win best chef and best waiter. There were four children per kitchen/waiting team cooking and serving for a real life restaurant. This included serving tricky customers and celebrity guests.

When I was on the show I managed to get through to the semi-finals, cooking amazing food for critics, celebrities and guests of the restaurant. It was such an amazing experience as I got to meet so many interesting people and I was able to cook delicious food that I would never dreamed of being able to cook at home!

ROSIE SPRAGG

PSYCHOLOGY & MEMORY

In order to assess the Year 12 Psychology students' knowledge of the Multi-store Model of memory before they attempted an essay on it, they all took part in a 'Great British Bake Off'.



The result was some really great 3D designs of the model which demonstrated their excellent knowledge of the memory theory.



PETER PAN

Year 10 student Belle Hepburn had a wonderful experience when she participated in the Mayflower Theatre Summer Youth Project in Southampton.

Belle played the part of Tinkerbell in Peter Pan and usually principal roles are played by students aged 16+ so as she is 14 this has been a major achievement to be involved at their level.

Well done Belle!



LUCY'S HOSPITAL FUNDRAISING

I have recently been fundraising for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Southampton Hospital. In April I required major surgery in Southampton Hospital, followed by some time in PICU before my transfer to the children's ward.

I don't remember too much from my stay in there; except that everyone was so caring and reassuring to both myself and my family during a difficult time. PICU requires specialist equipment to ensure their level of care for sick children all across the South Coast remains incredible. This is not cheap.



Six months after my operation I ran the Bournemouth 10K to say thank you and raise money for them. In total I raised £3,247.16. This money was gratefully received by the unit and will help fund the new PICU ambulance and many other lifesaving essentials. Thank you to everyone who supported me!

Lucy Harvey.

DRAMA NEWS



- So far this year we have had a trip to see, 'An Inspector Calls' at The Mayflower with GCSE and A Level students. We hosted a theatre visit by the Theatre Centre to include a performance of 'The Border' for students in Year 9 - 13 and a Brecht based workshop for older students. We are going to see 'I Think We Are Alone Now' at the Nuffield in April with Year 11 - 13 and have a further trip to the Lighthouse in mind in the spring. We are also running an afterschool screening of a National Theatre production to help all GCSE students access as much Theatre as possible. The National Theatre will be extending their 'Live' Theatre for school's this year. We are hoping to run a 'Live' Theatre Lounge once a term if the productions are available.
- Our joint school musical, 'Hairspray' was sold out every night with standing ovation and even some audience dancing on the final night! The work of the small staff team was supported by a simply stunning student team. Amy Smith lead the scenic design and painting. Lizzie Williams choreographed the dancing. Paige Bennett Assistant Directed. Abi Crocker organised the costume, Gabe Winsor stage managed and the Tech Team of main school boys and girls was phenomenal. Their organisation and commitment was tested and they met their responsibility with such a professional attitude. It is a mark of the calibre of students at both schools that we can rely on their expertise to this extent at their age. In addition, we had help from a make-up student at AUB and thoroughly enjoyed our first audience with students from Montacute and Winchelsea Schools for our traditional Monday Matinee.
- Our next production is the joint student production led by Ellie Moors and Gabe Winsor who are co-directing the next, 'Lights Over Tesco Car Park' to be performed in Drama 2 here at Parkstone in March. Auditions were in mid November for a small ensemble cast from students in Year 11 - 13.

MS WHELAN

CYBER GIRLS

A group of Year 8 students took part in a day of IT, coding and cyber security activities at a Cyber Girls First (CGT) event hosted by JP Morgan in Bournemouth in October.



The aim was to encourage girls from Parkstone Grammar and other local schools to think about the career opportunities which could open up for them if they chose to take GCSE Computer Studies.

Women make up 50% of the UK population, yet only around 12% of the IT/coding and cyber workforce is female.

CGT is working to change this by demystifying the idea that only boys can succeed in IT, pointing out that companies around the country are

desperate to recruit women into their cyber departments.

Companies, banks, and government offices are under constant attack by hackers who try to break through firewalls, steal information and in some cases hold the companies to ransom for the release of their data.

These organisations spend billions of pounds defending themselves from as many as 200,000 attacks per day by using coding and cyber security graduates and apprentices.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL WORLD CUP!

Year 8 student, Eva Welstead, had an exciting time this summer!

She travelled to Barcelona for the Girls' World Cup with her football club Corfe Mullen United.

The team returned home as Plate Champions and 3rd overall in the tournament !

Well done Corfe Mullen United - a fantastic achievement!



An Interview with an Author

by Lauren Smith

Earlier this year I had the privilege to chat with our very own author, Mr Peter Lord, about his recently published novel, *All That Glistens*. Set in an independent school for young adults at risk of damaging their prospects, a former army captain becomes disillusioned with the powers that be, and soon uncovers dark forces at work. Having raced through the book, I was very pleased to meet with Mr Lord to discuss his ideas and motivations for writing.

LAS: Hello Peter Lord, author of *All That Glistens*. Could you tell me a bit about your background?

PL: I was born in New Zealand. I was brought up there and went to university there. I first started teaching in New Zealand, and then after three years I came over to England and I've been here ever since. Largely my teaching career has been here in England.

LAS: When did you start writing?

PL: Well I've always written but I've never had the time or the opportunity – or the discipline – to actually write a book. I've written articles for university newspapers and I did once have a little magazine that I'd put together when I was working in a campsite after finishing my first degree, so I've had various experiences of writing and I've always enjoyed the creative experience, but it's only in the last few years that I've had the time, the opportunity and the motivation to write the story.

LAS: What kind of books do you like to read?

PL: I quite like dystopian novels, books like *Fahrenheit 451*, *Brave New World*, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, *The Handmaid's Tale*. I also like historical epics – stories that have a depth to them and a historical background.

LAS: What inspired you to write *All That Glistens*?

PL: A number of things, really. I felt that my experiences in a number of schools would be a good way to express my ideas and experiences and create scenarios which were relevant to my years as a teacher, and just to write a story with an imaginative twist.

LAS: What came first – the characters, or the world of the book, or the plot?

PL: I think the world, although it was almost simultaneous, because there were characters that I came across, people that I've met as a teacher, and I've drawn from a broad spectrum of people and places. So it was the world, the independent school world, and there are lots of interesting and funny things that happen in boarding schools, and I just wanted to bring those into the story.

LAS: Would you say there are any similarities between yourself and the main character, Frank Enwright?

PL: I think in terms of what he considers important and right, I think there's a similarity there. The issue of being subjected to a tyrannical regime, which Frank Enwright protests and opposes, mirrors my own attitude to the abuse of power. And he's interested in athletics, which is something I share. The whole experience of him as a soldier – I've got no link to that whatsoever, that is complete imagination, so I had to do quite a bit of research to build that part of his character.

LAS: So why did you give him that background, of an army career?

PL: I thought it would give him a bit more interest because it gives him something fresh to add to the world of the independent school education. He's coming in from outside and so he offers a different insight. He's able to see the machinations of power from his own experience in the army.

LAS: Please explain your choice of title.

PL: Well I went through a few changes on that front. I had thought of a particular name for a school, but it didn't ring true to me, I felt it was not a good title. I wanted something that represented a key idea in the story, that what you see on the outside isn't always what's real. The surface looks great – independent schools look beautiful – but the subterfuge underneath the surface reflects the idea that 'all that glitters is not gold'

LAS: The idea for Hazledene House – an independent school set up with the intention to reform young men at risk of becoming offenders – is introduced with the character of Tommy 'Babyface' Haskell. Is that character based on anything you've experienced in real life?

PL: I've seen adolescents fall by the wayside, I've seen them face difficulties and fall in with the wrong crowd, and these ideas came into the creating of that character. I want him to be quite an important figure, to give that vision – of starting up the school to save people like Tommy from themselves and the forces working against them in society – some depth and meaning. But he is completely my imagination. Every book that I'm selling, I'm giving £1 to a charity which looks after homeless – SleepSafe.

LAS: That's brilliant. When will we see the return of Mr Enwright?

PL: It's difficult when you're working full time, but I'm giving myself a year. I'm going to be picking it up in the holidays, mostly in the summer, and I'm deliberately keeping things pretty free, so I can just write. The sequel will hopefully come at the end of next summer. I've planned a trilogy, so this will be the second book. It's all in my head, I've just got to write it down.

LAS: Thank you for talking to me, and congratulations.



LAUREN SMITH - Library Manager

BUSINESS NEWS

In Economics, we welcomed a senior Economist from the Bank of England to visit us in the Lecture Theatre in September. A Level Economics students from Poole Grammar joined our students in a fascinating presentation about the Bank of England's response to and influence on the UK economy. A fascinating Q&A session followed.

For Business, PGS has formed a new team to enter the Young Enterprise Competition. For this, the team will create a unique business idea and compete against hundreds of other teams in the national competition which holds its finals in London in the Spring. The overall winning team will then meet with European teams in Europe (it was in Paris last year) to crown the overall European winner. Advisors from Bank of New York, Mellon will be guiding students through the process on a weekly basis in their offices which gives students experience of working in a real business environment.

VISITING ARTIST

We were recently lucky enough to have Patrick Morales-Lee come in to School to talk to our GCSE and A level artists about his own work and his journey towards being the successful professional artist he is today.

Patrick is an illustration and portrait artist whose commissions have included work for Faberge, Channel 5, Bentley and ITV. He also recently exhibited a piece in the Pavement Lickers 2018 Exhibition alongside the work of other artists including Antony Gormley, Karl Bielik, Will Martyr, VHILS and FAILE.

It was wonderful to hear Patrick's journey from school towards his current status, we learnt how important it is as an artist to be resilient and to trust in your own ability and your own unique style.

Patrick talked us through his setbacks and successes and he even brought some original pieces of his own artworks in for the girls to have a closer look at. An incredibly successful evening with lots of great lessons for the girls to take away with them. Thank you to Patrick for giving up his time to come and speak to us

ART DEPARTMENT



Our Trip to Paris

In October a group of Year 11-13 French students at Parkstone set off on a languages trip to Paris. We had a bright and early start to the morning, and took a coach to reach the Eurostar which would take us on our travels. Promptly and on schedule, we arrived at the accommodation which was a short walk away. Once the group had settled down, everyone was keen to explore the local area, so we went out to see the traditional shops and neighbourhood in the heart of Montmartre. Personally, it was a privilege to be able to get a taste of French culture. The rustic buildings, the fashionable people, and the delicious food all tied together into a beautiful sight!

The next day, we ate breakfast and met our French Animateur (our French leader and guide on the trip), whilst preparing for the busy day ahead. Our first stop was the Louvre - known for the famous Mona Lisa by Leonardo Da Vinci. However, whilst observing the museum, it occurred to most of us that there was much more inside than just the one painting that everyone always tells you about! As they say, seeing is believing.

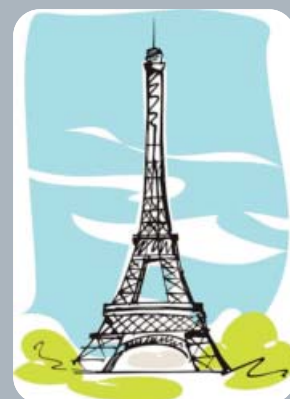
Later, we wandered around les Jardins de Tuileries where we stopped to eat our lunch and admired the natural beauty that Paris has to offer. I was totally captivated in what I was seeing. One of the main highlights was also the food, and on that day we went to a Crêperie to eat both savoury galette and sweet crêpes of our choice for dinner. Not only did we receive excellent service, the food was also delicious!

After a good night of sleep, our next outing consisted of going to, what you've all been waiting to hear about...THE EIFFEL TOWER! It was a tiring walk up the stairs, but thoroughly worth it. Not only for the pictures we got, but for the mesmerising views we could see of the whole city. Aside from this, we had the pleasure of visiting the Arc de Triomphe and Sacré Coeur later on in the day. From my observations, I can confirm that French architecture is some of the best I have seen. Not only was everything intricately designed, it was also beautiful to look at from a tourist perspective.

Finally, I cannot forget about the shopping we did at Champs Elysées and Forum des Halles on Saturday and our last day after another pleasant breakfast. From shops, to bakeries, to souvenirs and restaurants, France had it all, and more. Not only were we able to expand our French vocabulary and knowledge, we were also able to have an amazing time.

The journey back was a sad one, as the 4 day trip had whizzed by so quickly. However, the experience was something neither I, nor my friends will be forgetting. I would definitely recommend Paris to anyone who gets the opportunity to go in the future.

Anusha Hussain 11A



hairspray



Photographs courtesy of Tim Hicks



PFSA

Parents, Friends & Staff Association

The PFSA raises funds for the school through the sale of refreshments and 'New to You' uniform at school events, as well as through fundraising events such as the Bingo Night, Quiz Night and a Car Boot Sale.

Early this term we held a 'New Members' Wine and Cheese Night, welcoming a fantastic number of new parents to the association! Everyone is welcome to join at any time. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Please email us at pgspfsa@gmail.com, if you can offer support.

We have had a busy term of fundraising at school events. So far this year we have agreed to fund:

- New modular staging, which you may have seen in use during the Hairspray performances,
- Entry to French spelling bee and French translation competition this year, and
- A visit from an author, who will also judge a competition while visiting.

Recently, we held our first Bingo Night raising over £1400, thanks to the amazing support of the PGS student community! 140 tickets were sold, a number of students won bingo prizes and many enjoyed pizza provided by Papa Johns.

Our next event is the fun and entertaining **Quiz Night on Friday 28 February 2020, and will include a Raffle**. Please support the PFSA by organising a table. **Student teams will be welcome**, and there will be many teen-friendly questions. In the new year, we will send out a letter to ask you for quiz round prizes, raffle prizes, and any match funding contacts – so keep us in mind for any of your unwanted Christmas presents. We aim to have 150 people attend and raise another £1400!

Speaking of the holidays, you can also help the PFSA raise funds by **joining Easy Fundraising**. Every time you make an online purchase via one of the supported shops (e.g. Amazon, eBay, M&S, John Lewis etc.), we receive a donation at no cost to you. Through this 'Refer a Friend' campaign, we will get a bonus donation of £5 if you raise £5 in donations.

The PFSA (pgspfsa@gmail.com)

BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Year 9 student Ava Walton performed a stunning set at this year's Battle of the Bands at Poole Grammar on 22 November.

Ava's performance was exceptional in both her talent as a singer and guitar player but also as the only student from Parkstone to compete!

Many students from both schools attended to support friends and to hear live music on our doorstep. Nine acts performed in total and raised over £800 for Julia's House.

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



Isabelle Backhouse



Angelin Varghese



Maddie Higginson



Rhiannon Cummings



Melanie Crocker

GOVERNORS' NEWS



The most enjoyable thing about school governance is not that exam results have placed us in the Top 100 schools in The Times' Parent Power tables, or that our students' academic progress puts us in the top 1% of schools nationally. It is the joy of seeing smiling faces of students thriving at school.

At Parkstone, governors and staff care deeply about the personal development and welfare of every young woman in our care, as well as their academic achievements. The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities that help to build confidence and self-esteem. Over the course of this term, it has been my great pleasure to witness some of the amazing talents of our students over a wide variety of interests.

Whether in sports games, arts exhibitions or drama productions, our students throw themselves into their chosen projects enthusiastically. This term, I have particularly enjoyed the huge array of musical performances: from Year 7 'Find Your Voice' through to the joint senior school production of Hairspray.

The lead up to Christmas is always a busy time of year and our musicians and singers take part in many events. I was proud to see Parkstone students leading the orchestra and singing, with students from other Poole schools, at the Christmas concert by Poole Schools Music Association, which involves students from Primary and Secondary schools across Poole. Our girls even returned to the stage to help clear it after the younger students had disappeared. True community spirit!

The final event of this term will be our Carol service at St Peters. For me, listening to the voices, readings and music is a wonderful celebration of Christmas and always lifts my spirits.

On behalf of the Governors at Parkstone, may I wish you and your families a safe and joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Dawn Stark - Chair of Governors"

An Eye on Mercury



Lots of students took the opportunity to come and see the transit of Mercury in November. Mrs Bradstock set up a telescope to project an image of the Sun onto a screen so the transit was able to be viewed.

It was lovely to see so many students and staff come and look during lunch break and huge thanks go to Leah Perrin, Izzy Fry and Benita Broadbridge who gave up their entire lunch break and explained what could be seen and why!

GYM & DANCE 2020

Rehearsals for the annual Gym and Dance competition are well under way. The girls are using every available moment to choreograph and refine routines.

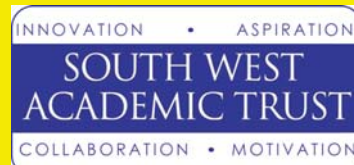
We really are in for a fantastic competition, which is being held on Tuesday 11 February. If any parents or carers would like to watch the Gym and Dance Competition the evening performance is on Wednesday 12 February and tickets will be on sale after the Christmas Holidays.

If any students are still wish to enter the Gym and Dance Competition, please come and collect the forms from Mrs McCalister.

SWAT Challenge

The South West Academic Trust is a partnership of grammar schools in the South West and the University of Exeter. Their vision is to work together to raise achievement and aspiration within our schools and across the region.

One initiative is the SWAT Challenge and involves students working together on a project.



Parkstone's SWAT Challenge Ambassador team have worked hard this year to promote Challenge initiatives throughout the School and beyond!

They have:

- continued to run their very own Parkstone Escape Room
- further developed the Parkstone Challenge Website and this is starting to look very professional indeed;
- begun to design a series of challenge activities that they will be running at the second Annual Parkstone SWAT Challenge Day in February 2020;
- begun to create 'enrichment dashboards' that collate all the possible ways in which students can stretch themselves in every each subject

The girls are looking forward to hosting the next SWAT Challenge Day and we already have 5 other schools signed up to attend this exciting event. Anna Wardley, a famous endurance swimmer who has swum all the way around the Isle of Wight, is coming to give the Key Note Speech.

A very busy, very productive effort from all, with a group of girls whose commitment, imagination and enthusiasm continue to inspire and impress!

The enthusiasm for sport and PE is extremely evident with approximately 600 students participating in sports clubs each week, which shows the girls' outstanding dedication and motivation to do well. 32 clubs have been running this autumn term with 72 fixtures run to date. A huge thank you must go to the students for the extra hours that they have contributed to practising and playing within these fixtures in order to reach their potential.

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; Issie Jones (10K) who won the Sandbanks Race and Izzy Rabjohns (11K) who won the Canford and Baiter Races. A huge well done to all the students for their fantastic performances,



RUGBY

Both the U13 and U15 Rugby teams have been representing Parkstone this term in the PEDSSA Tournament. The U15 girls won both of their games to be crowned champion with convincing wins over Glenmoor and Winton, Twynham and Bournemouth School for Girls. Both teams had the opportunity to attend a coaching workshop run by the RFU and then compete in the afternoon. The day was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to improve their technique and tactical awareness. The improvement that both teams have made over the past term is absolutely outstanding, keep up the fantastic work.



FOOTBALL

With help from the PFSA we now have a Parkstone Grammar School representative kit which is just fabulous.

Our Football has gone from strength to strength with teams in Year 7, 8 and 9 now competing in



both the Poole and East Dorset Cup and the County Cup. Due to the fantastic success of the Year 7 football team last year they were invited to compete in the National Schools Cup. The team has played 3 fixtures against, Gleenmoor and Winton, The Swanage School and The Bourne Academy and are now through to the 4th round where we have drawn St Bartholomew's School Newbury.

We wish all of the football teams the best of luck in the upcoming competitions.

NETBALL

A particular highlight this half term has been with the U16A teams qualifying for the County Finals. The team captained by Scarlett Ainsworth travelled to Budmouth College on Tuesday 12 November and performed fantastically well finishing top in their group. This meant a semi final against Talbot -Heath School. A nail biting semi final saw the half



time score at 6-6. However, an outstanding second half allowed Parkstone to win 13-9 and go through to the final.

The final was against Canford, and after a game that was sharp, dynamic and an all-round brilliant display of netball saw the final score 10-13 to Canford.

The girls have qualified for the South West Regional Finals on Saturday 25 January. We wish them the very best of luck competing for Dorset and have everything crossed for us to progress to the National Schools Final.

NATIONAL SWIMMING FINALS

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 Senior team qualified for the National Finals at the London Aquatic Centre on Saturday 16 November. The girls were fantastic - we saw a number of PB's and managed to place 6th in the country for the 4x50 freestyle and 7th in the country for the 4x50 medley.

A huge congratulations must go to Jazz McCrea, Abbie Quarrie, Ella McNamara, Hester Mugford, Tanya Blanchard 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!