

# Land your perfect job in a fantastic Environment

## Newsletter

April 2017

Spring term was very busy at DSS with students taking external exams in January for Animal Care and Travel and Tourism, followed by mock exams for year 10 and 11.

The results were encouraging and we are pleased to report that 83% of year 11 gained Pass or higher in Animal Care; 74% gained Pass or higher in Travel and Tourism.

We raised £111.56 for Comic Relief in March when we held a non-uniform day. Many thanks for your generous contributions.

During the Spring Term we invited two further visits from the Safe Schools and Communities Team to talk to our students. This follows the extremely useful session delivered to the Year 11s previously on remaining safe when they are out in the community. Our Year 10 students received a presentation called 'FAKE' (Firearms and Knife Education). Students were very excited to see the TASER that the Police team brought with them and were even more keen to use it. Fortunately it was a dummy device! Students learned how to keep themselves safe and how to avoid difficult situations.

Our Year 9 students received a presentation on the worrying prevalence of 'Sexting' in youth culture. They were made aware of the consequences and once again how to keep themselves safe. As ever, it is always fascinating listening to the experts who are able to paint a very real picture of the harm that can be done.

The school nurse team came in this week to give sexual health talks to all year groups separately. This is another planned aspect of the PSHE Personal Development course. It is pleasing to note that the government are recognising the importance of this in schools and are making it a statutory part of education going forward.

All year 9 and 10 students have carried out some CPR practice as part of their PSHE Personal Development lessons. The school applied for some free resources provided by the British Heart Foundation. Students should all know about the 30:2 rule and how to do it. Hopefully they will never have to.



## English

In English, Year 11 students have recently been encouraged to teach one another, with selected students taking full responsibility for whole lessons. They planned and delivered an hour lesson, including making and laminating their own resources. It was a positive experience for all involved. In year 10, students are exploring texts in a practical way. Recently they have staged a trial to explore the end of 'An Inspector Calls' and acted out the Wordsworth poem 'Prelude' by the lake.



## Exams Ahead!

Easter revision sessions were attended by many year 11 students. Sessions attended included maths, English, science, geography and travel and tourism.

Good luck to all of our students taking their external exams in the Summer term.

Look out for our **Land-Based** Specialism Update Newsletter in the Summer term ...

## PE and Outdoor Education

The Physical Education department has developed a new PE curriculum, enhanced extra-curricular offer and opportunities for students to represent the school in sporting events.

The curriculum incorporates traditional sports such as Basketball, Rounders, and Badminton, fitness lessons within the Gym and outdoor & adventurous activities such as Mountain Biking, Archery and Orienteering.

The extra-curricular offer has proved very popular with trips such as Caving in the Mendips, Rock Climbing on Portland, Mountain Biking in Puddletown Forest and an amazing Track Cycling lesson experience on the Bournemouth Velodrome.

Three students in Year 11 are embarking on a sailing voyage aboard the Tall Ship 'Pelican' at the end of April and further opportunities are in the pipeline with sailing the Junk Yacht 'Boleh' during June.

Students from Years 9 and 10 will be representing us in the Dorset School Games in the Mountain Bike event at Moors Valley and the Equestrian Event at Bryanston.

See the PE Frog page for more photos and details of future events, fixtures and student reviews of extra-curricular trips.



## Collaborative Projects

Eleven Year 8 St Mary's Middle School students worked with four of our most able Year 10 students who led them through a project based on designing an eco-friendly school. The students worked closely over a four-week period which culminated in the Year 8s giving some fascinating presentations to a group of very impressed governors and dignitaries.

## Reminders

**Car Parking** – Parents please do not park between the roundabout and animal science building as it stops the buses getting through.

**Absence** – Please contact the school before 9.30 to advise of any child absence, quoting name and reason.

**Frog** – Remember to check the Frog Parents site for the latest prep set and photo gallery.

## Key Dates:

**29-30th April:** Pelican Tall Ship trip  
**5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May:** Core D of E Training (Kingston Maurward)  
**15<sup>th</sup> May:** Year 10 External Exams begin  
**19<sup>th</sup> -20th May:** D of E Training (Bagwell Farm)  
**22<sup>nd</sup> May:** Year 11 External Exams begin  
**30<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** Half Term holiday  
**16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> June:** D of E Assessment (Bere Regis)  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June:** End of Term sports event; Work Experience briefing and Year 11 Celebration event  
**26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Year 9/10 Work Experience Week  
**30<sup>th</sup> June:** Last Day of term for Students

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