

Dear DMS families,

We were very lucky to be joined last Friday by Josh Young from the Targeted Youth Team who came to speak at our SEND coffee morning about the work that they do with us in school, but also their role in the community supporting our students to stay safe when they are out with their friends.

We were also joined by our Family Help Link Workers who shared a little about their role supporting families. We are so lucky to have such close working partnerships within Dorchester. If you are a parent of a student with SEND, please be aware that we hold get togethers termly and everyone is welcome. Taking on feedback from our last year's survey, our next coffee morning for SEND parents/carers will be Wednesday 18th March at 2pm. I really hope you can join us!!

Tuesday was a really busy day in school this week. We were delighted to host another open day with prospective new parents and carers of students for the next academic year coming to look around the school and learn more about the opportunities that being a member of the DMS community offers.

It also saw a group of our students joining Dorchester Town Council's Democracy Day. The event is run annually and gives students an insight into the role of local government and discusses issues that are important to them, as young people in the town.

As the weather is changing and getting much colder, please remind your children to bring a coat, hat and gloves as we will be outside every break and lunchtime break, weather permitting!!

Ms Layfield

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Important dates for your diary

10th December	Songs around the Christmas Tree – Years 5/6
11th December	Open morning for new parents – 9.15 to 10.15am
12th December	PTFA Disco
12th December	Christmas Lunch – Local Food Links
17th December	Christmas reflection concert at the Dorford Centre – evening
19th December	Inset day – school closed to pupils
22nd December to 2nd January	– Christmas Holidays
5th January	Inset day – school closed to pupils

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PARKING ON COBURG ROAD

Our neighbours on Coburg Road have asked us to please appeal to our parents/carers, and remind you to please not to block access to their properties when parking on this road. Unfortunately, this is causing some stress for residents who have family members with a disability and/or are elderly, as they need access to their drives at all times.

Thank you very much in advance for your understanding and cooperation with this.

Do you do anything to support Young Carers?

We are delighted to be continuing with our Partnership with MyTime Young Carers Charity this year. Their work providing support to our young carers in school is amazing. Their role is to support our students with a caring role to still be successful academically and support their well-being.

We will be holding assemblies next week with all our students to help raise awareness about this important role some of our children have taken on. If you would like to know more about the work of MyTime or if you would like to speak in confidence about support for a young carer then please email or call the school office so that we can then be in touch.

Pupil Question of the Week

How do teachers know what my IEP targets are?

This week all our students with SEND have had the opportunity to learn what their new targets are that they will be supported with by their Individual Education Plan (IEP). These targets are written to support you to make progress in your lessons, and school, alongside your friends. We know that you may sometimes need a bit of extra help. These targets are shared with all your teachers, and parents/carers, so that you get the same support in each lesson and people know what it is that you need.

Your feedback to us about these targets has been very helpful, so that you know what it is you need to work towards and have a voice in what and how you are supported, but also so you know what you can expect. We will keep checking with you through the year to make sure that the target still works to help you. We will then review them all again in June 2026.

Sports News

Last week our Year 7 Rugby team came second in the SW area competition. Their achievement cannot be understated considering that they have not played together as a team before Tuesday's competition. Furthermore, they have only had three training sessions and an introduction to Rugby in PE this year. Their coach has commented how impressed he has been with their attitude and enthusiasm. We, the DMS community, are so happy for you and are excited for your future development!!



Also last week, our Year 8 team came together and showed teamwork, respect and pride for each other, for others and for their school. Mr Roberts was proud to see young leaders on and off the pitch take ownership for their actions and to support others in their team. It was amazing to witness their hard work and determination.

The team played like they wanted to leave their mark and a legacy for others at DMS to follow, and so it was!! On Tuesday, they became SW Area champions second-year running. They were simply amazing!!

Thank you to all the pupils in both teams who competed, and our appreciation also goes to their parents who are so active in the players development and finally a massive thank you to both their coaches, who have devotedly supported and coached them throughout.



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PTFA News

Please be reminded to return monies and stubs for the Casterbridge Rotary Club raffle today. The raffle is to be drawn on Friday 19th December at the Pavillion in the Park, Poundbury, and there are amazing cash prizes to be won. The next event that our fantastic PTFA are already working on, is the final Disco of the year and it will be held on **Friday 12th December**. Last Friday, Quiz night was as usual a lovely fun night for the whole family. Lots more photos of this great night on our Facebook page!!!



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Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Last weekend our very own Riley in Year 7, went to Berkshire to compete on a Kickboxing championship and a tournament. We are very pleased to say that 'Roo' had his first ever Fight night and came Samurai British championship runner up 2025 and also got a silver medal in a very hard tournament!! Very well-done Riley, we are so proud of you!!!



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More Pupils' Celebrations...

Well done to Caitlyn A in Year 7 for competing in the South West baton twirling competition! She came first in a duet for her age category and was a people's choice nominee. She came 4th in her two baton and 3rd in another duet!



We are so pleased for you Caitlyn and we are very proud of how well you are doing!

These are fantastic news of our amazing pupils!



On Wednesday we had our book swap day!! Needless to say, with all the avid readers at DMS, it was a complete success!!



What is happening in our Community

Poppy Appeal

We are pleased to let you know that our DMS community raised **£244.92** for the Roal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you so much for your support to this charity, it makes a real difference to the Armed Forces Community.

Nut Free School

We would like to remind our parents and carers, that our school is a NUT FREE SCHOOL as we have pupils with severe allergies to nuts. Please do not send any food containing nuts or sesame seeds into school. We also request that the children do not share their food with others, to avoid any issues. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.



Democracy Day visit

Some of our pupils had the privilege of attending the Com Exchange as part of a 'Democracy day' training day where they got to learn about our local park and all that's involved in its upkeep, learnt how to budget with council money and where it goes! Then Shire Hall, where they got to look in the cells and read what prisoners were imprisoned for! And finally, the icing on the cake! they met the Mayor (oh, and had an amazing free lunch!)



We are looking for more volunteers

Art, Food and Resistant Materials classes are recruiting volunteers to help in our practical lessons. Can you spare an hour a week to support with practical tasks? If interested, please contact Mrs Gowers: vgowers@dms.wessex.ac, your help will make a big difference!!

Gifts of Love appeal

We are once again supporting Age UK with their Gifts of Love Appeal. Please help us give a gift to older people living alone and to those living in care homes with no family to visit at Christmas time. As a school it is important to us that we support the local community and show those that are not as fortunate as ourselves, that we care by showing some traditional DMS Christmas spirit!! Please feel free to donate gifts as per the letter sent home this week, any small donation will be greatly appreciated. This year each class has a particular item to collect, you will find a list with the suggested items attached to this newsletter. Thank you very much in advance!!

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We are very lucky at DMS to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities to our children. Our TOPS orchestra has met for the second time this week! Pupils are loving these sessions and enjoying playing together. They have been learning an instrument since September and are working towards a Christmas performance with other schools as part of the Wessex Music programme!! Well done to you all, we can't wait to see and hear you perform!! Have a lovely weekend,

Ms Layfield

