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Dear DMS Families,

It has been another busy week here at DMS – let me give you some of the highlights! On Thursday afternoon, we welcomed Kat Jones from THS, who delivered an assembly to our Year 8 students about GCSE options. While this may feel early, it forms an important part of our careers programme, helping pupils to begin thinking about their future pathways and ensuring they feel well informed and prepared when the time comes to make these important decisions. Also, on Thursday, our Year 7 pupils took part in 'Medical Mavericks' sessions within their science lessons, arranged by Mrs Whiting. These sessions provided a fantastic, hands-on insight into careers in healthcare and helped to bring their learning to life.

We are also keen to continue developing leadership opportunities across the school. On Tuesday, Miss Clements launched the Year 7 Prefect application process in preparation for Year 8. We encourage all Year 7 pupils to consider applying, as this is an excellent way to build confidence, responsibility, and leadership skills. Please do support and encourage your child to take part—the deadline for applications is Thursday 4th June.

Finally, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils, who took their SATs this week with such a positive mindset. It has been a real pleasure to see them arriving each morning smiling, calm and ready to do their best.

The SATs take a huge amount of organisation behind the scenes including timetabling staff and volunteers to make sure every pupil is in the correct place with the right level of support so they can do their best. A big shout out to Mrs Leeming, Mrs Mudge and Miss Layfield for their hours of work to get all the plans in place. Our PTFA supplied a special breakfast for the pupils every day, so they were full of energy, and Mr Plamer organised early morning PE sessions so that some pupils didn't have too much energy and were feeling calm and relaxed!

Most importantly, thank you to our families for your encouragement at home, to those parents/carers and friends of DMS that came to help with invigilation, we couldn't have done it without you!! and to our dedicated teaching team, whose hard work over the past two years—both in lessons and through targeted interventions, has ensured our pupils were so well prepared.

This truly has been a fantastic DMS team effort.

Mrs Hammonds



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Important dates for your diary

20th – 22nd May
25th – 29th May
3rd June
6th June
8th June

Y7 Residential trip to Exmoor
Half Term Break – School closed to pupils
Y7 Lulworth Trip
Community Open Morning – Saturday 10am to 12pm - (future Y5 pupils and parents)
MHST Workshop for parents, Supporting children w/anxiety - 4:30 to 6:30pm

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PTFA News

Our fantastic PTFA continues to work behind the scenes on the next upcoming events. Today it's DISCO night for the whole school, but it is special for our Year 6s who are celebrating the end of SATs!!!

- From 5 to 6pm, for Years 5 & 6
- From 6.30 to 7.30pm for Years 7 & 8

This is one of the children's favourite events!! Get your tickets for only £3.00. Tuck shop with drinks and snacks available on the night. Please bring cash!!



DMS PTFA DISCO Friday 15 May
Yr 5 & 6 – 5pm – 6pm
Yr 7 & 8 – 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Tickets £3

Scan QR code to buy, or use link
<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q4KRYBDV>

Enter child's name and class in full name box

Tuck shop with drinks and snacks on the night – please bring cash

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Parent Question of the Week

My child receives free school meals. What other support do they get from DMS?

We use Pupil Premium funding from the government to support all those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

We provide financial support to enable pupils to join extra-curricular clubs which have a cost, provide free books following author visits, and cover the cost of food tech ingredients. Uniform vouchers are available in every key stage, and we have a supply of pre-loved uniform, in great condition, which we can supply you with at any point in the year. We fully fund instrumental lessons and membership of ensembles to support our young musicians.

All curriculum trips are fully covered, and we provide significant financial support to help cover the cost of the annual residential trips.

We check engagement with parent consultation evenings, and extra-curricular club bookings so might contact you to help you navigate Arbor and book places. We make sure pupils can access interventions to help with learning and encourage pupils to put themselves forward to be leaders within the school as prefects, subject ambassadors, and school council members. If you can think of any other ways we could support you, or you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Hammonds.

Pupil Questions of the Week

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I'm not sure whether I should apply to be a Prefect. What does it involve?

Miss Clements would love every member of Year 7 to apply to be a prefect. She told us in assembly that she wants to spend the entire weekend after the deadline reading 137 applications!

To apply you must be currently in Year 7 – sorry Year 5 and 6 pupils but your time will come! A prefect will be loyal, demonstrate our ROARS values, be polite when talking to pupils, staff, parents, and visitors to the school, and be smart and presentable in our school uniform.

Prefects have many roles around school, for example running the lost property and giving tours to visitors. Mrs Hammonds works with the prefects to run the parents' evenings and to host open evenings. Prefects are often the first members of the school that new parents meet!

We would love to develop the prefects' role further and would value your input in moving forward. If you need help with your application or have any other questions speak to Miss Clements.

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Reading News

We are proud to introduce our new Reading Ambassadors! 📖 ✨

These pupils will help promote a love of reading across the school, share book recommendations, and Inspire others to discover the joy of a good Book.

We can't wait to see all the brilliant ideas they bring to the role!

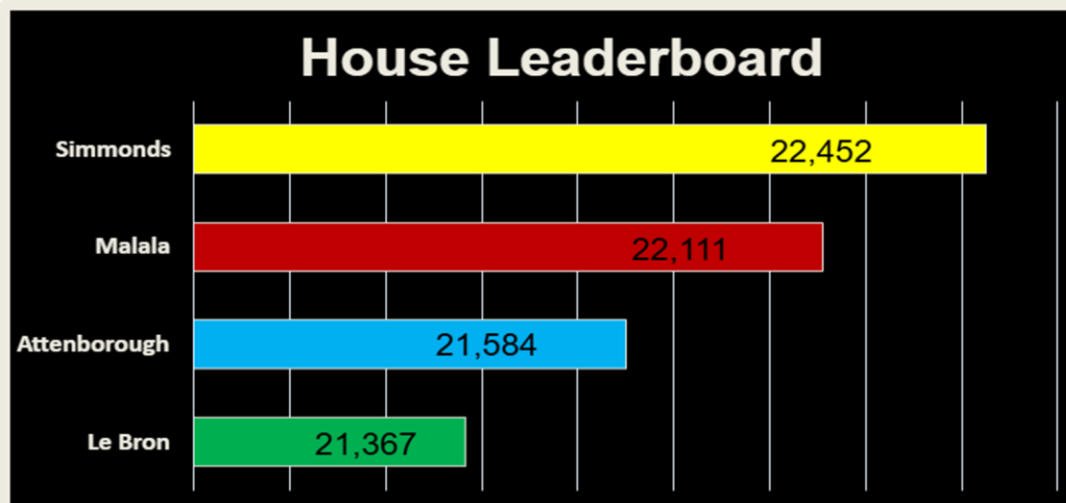


Gardening Club News

Our fantastic Gardening Club pupils have been working hard and the planting is now in full swing!!!! We wonder what amazing fruits and veggies will they produce this summer?

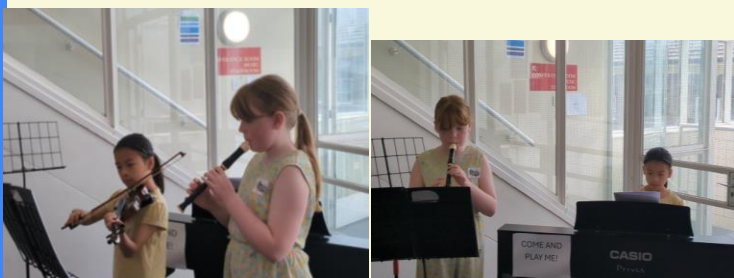


DMS Houses – Updated Leaderboard



Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Another amazing weekend for our talented pupils!!! Roo in Y7 took part in a home tournament In Charlton Marshall last Sunday, and once again he did amazingly, bringing home 2 gold medals, one for sparring and one for long kick. He totally smashed this with his determination, courage, strength and never giving up on his dream of becoming a pro!! He has fantastic instructors at IMA Rising Stars and support from all his family.



Charlotte and Evie from Y5 participated in the Wessex Music Festival last Saturday and they executed a lovely duet!! They did very well performing together, with only a couple of practices beforehand! Well done to both of them!!



Also, last weekend, Ellis in Y6 Ellis was awarded an IMA Rising Stars Kickboxing Student of the Year!! This was an incredible achievement, and it was given to Ellis in recognition of his continued dedication, hard work, perseverance, and technical ability. You can see Ellis here and the not so small trophy!!

At DMS we are so proud of all of them, and love to celebrate their successes. We are here cheering them up every step of the way!!!

Year 8 Residential trip

As you would have seen in our FB page, our Year 8s had a fantastic time on their recent PGL residential trip. The pupils showed great enthusiasm and resilience as they challenged themselves with a wide range of activities, including climbing, axe throwing and raft building. It was lovely to see so many students step out of their comfort zones, support one another, and develop their confidence. Staff were incredibly proud of the positive attitudes and teamwork showed throughout the trip. Alongside the activities, there were plenty of opportunities to build friendships and create lasting memories.



What else has been happening in our Community?

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. The 2026 theme is 'Courage'. Pupils from DMS and Damers school have been invited to submit their entries on the theme of courage. The pupils in Year 8's could submit their 'Fragility of Freedom' Artwork if it is 2 Dimensional. The max size is A1 however smaller work A4/A3 would be fine. The winning artwork` will be displayed in Dorchester Town centre and there are vouchers to be won. Please bring your work to Mrs Gowers, Miss Willey or Miss Gardner by **Wednesday 20th May**. They will photograph the work and send the entries to the organisers.

Refugee Week Art Competition

REFUGEE WEEK:
15TH -21ST JUNE
**COURAGE!
COURAGE!**

What does courage mean to you?

Bravery, kindness, helping others, freedom?

Create a piece of Artwork on the theme of Courage. You can use any media such as paint, crayons, mixed media, textiles or even a photograph to celebrate Refugee Week 2026.

The winning art will be on display in Dorchester Town Centre.

- Vouchers to be won for Hobbycraft and Loved by Nature.
- Write your full name, school and parent/carer contact number on the back of your art work.
- Hand it in to the Art department teachers by the deadline date (for school entries)

Wednesday 20th May.

Have Fun!

On the **8th July from 7pm**, Casterbridge Canter has organised a fundraiser to support the DMS PTFA. This is an exciting new trail running event near Dorchester on private land. This is a unique opportunity to run around areas that are not open to the public. It promises to be an enjoyable evening with bar, BBQ and lots of cake!!! Entries are now open at: www.casterbridgecanter.co.uk



**CASTERBRIDGE
CANTER**

CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR
DORCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL PTFA

Wednesday 8th July at 7pm
10K & 5K trail race

Exciting new trail running event near Dorchester on private land - a unique opportunity to run around areas that are not open to the public. It promises to be an enjoyable evening with bar, BBQ and lots of cake! Find us on Facebook for more information.

5K - MINIMUM AGE 13 ♦♦♦ 10K - MINIMUM AGE 16

*** Discounted entry price for teenagers ***

CHIP TIMING ♦ FULLY OFF ROAD ♦ PRIVATE LAND ♦
BAR ♦ BBQ ♦ CAKE

ENTRIES NOW OPEN AT
www.casterbridgecanter.co.uk



And finally...

This has been an action-packed week, but we've got even more planned for next week!

On Monday, 15 pupils from Years 6, 7 and 8 are heading off to Bletchley Park with Mrs. Hyde. On Tuesday Year 5 are off to The Lighthouse in Poole to enjoy joining the BSO in concert. They have been busy learning their songs in lessons and assemblies with our new Head of Music, Mr. Shortman. Then, on Wednesday pupils in Year 7 are heading off on their three-day residential trip to Exmoor. We will all be ready for the half term break by then.

Have a super weekend everyone!!

Mrs Hammonds