

Dear DMS Families,

For my final DMS Dozen, I want to reiterate my thanks for all your support, kindness and good wishes as I sign off as Headteacher at DMS to commence my new role in Dubai.

In two years, a huge amount has been achieved, and I am grateful for the support of wonderful colleagues who bought into my vision and without whom we could not have achieved the progress that has been made – DMS is definitely a great school to send a child to in my opinion. Our SATS results yesterday further confirmed this – record results and the best in the school's history!

From curriculum development, teachers' professional development and enrichment opportunities to improved IT, development of the school buildings and improved SATS results – there is so much for the whole school community to be proud of and build upon.

There is also much I am delighted about in our recent OFSTED inspection report. 'The school is a calm, happy and respectful environment' is one line that I was particularly pleased to read along with, 'pupils enact the high expectations of staff with pride'. For me, these words lie at the heart of a great school, and I very much hope they resonate with you too. If you have not yet had a chance to read our inspection report, I would urge you to do so and it can be found here: [DMS - Ofsted Report - June 2026](#)

In September, Mrs King will be the Headteacher. Her experience, skill set, knowledge and understanding of DMS will ensure that the school continues to move from strength to strength. Although I will be many miles away, I will be following all that you do, and I know that you will all be fully supportive of Mrs King as you were for me.

I wish you all the best in the future.

Mr Webb

Important dates for your diary

17th July

1st September

2nd September

3rd September

24th September

Last day of the academic year

Staff Inset Day - school closed for pupils

Year 5 back only

Whole school back

Y5 and Y7 individual photographs in school

Extra support to our families during the Summer break

As a school we can make referrals to our local food bank at the Dorford Centre over the summer holidays.

We understand that circumstances can change and may have become a little harder than they used to be so please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you find yourselves a little stretched in the lead up to the Summer holidays, and even over the holidays, please email Miss Easton:

seaston@dms.wessex.ac, and she will arrange a Food Bank voucher for you.

DMS can help! Summer Food Bank Vouchers

Did you know we can support you and make a food bank referral?

Our local food banks can provide emergency food and practical support to families who are struggling financially.

We work with food banks to make sure families can get the help they need.

If you are in need of support in the lead up to the Summer holidays, please email Miss Easton our Pupil & Family Support Worker who will arrange a food bank voucher for you.

Please also email throughout the holidays if you require a food bank voucher.

To request a referral, please email: seaston@dms.wessex.ac



What work is taking place over the summer to improve the school?

The short answer – a lot! For pupils there will be an extension to the library, a new Food Tech room, a new IT room, newly refurbished toilets for Year 5 girls, and further classrooms in the KS3 corridor completely re-decorated and re-carpeted.

Pupil Question of the Week

What other school improvement work will take place in the new academic year?

The next area of the school will be the science labs. These have not been updated for at least twenty years and by the end of the next academic year you will have two ultra-modern rooms to undertake all those exciting experiments that you love to do!

New road's layout on Clarence Road/Queen's Avenue junction Information from Dorset Council

Apart from the improvements to the school fabric, there will also be works done during the summer holidays to improve the safety of the roads near the school as per the following:

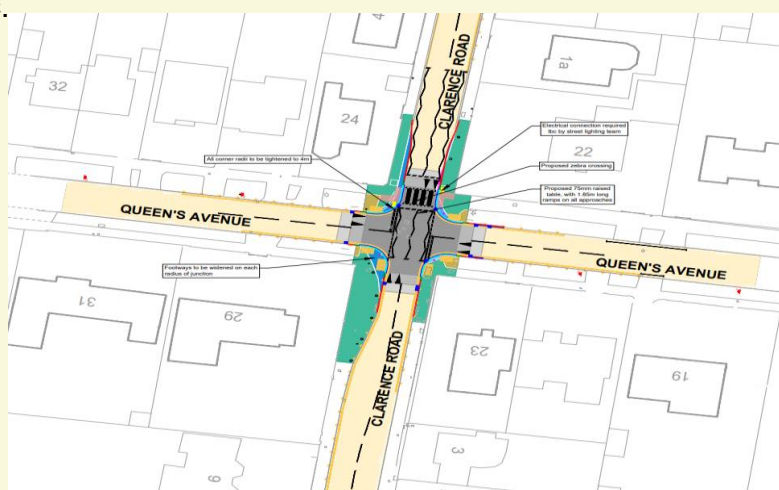
Over the summer holidays, from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August 2026, changes are being made to the road layout at the junction of Queen's Avenue and Clarence Road.

On return to school in September:

- A zebra crossing will be in place instead of the School Crossing Patrol.
- The mini-roundabout will be removed; Clarence Road will have priority, with give way markings on Queen's Avenue.
- The junction will be on a raised table to slow traffic.

These improvements are designed to make crossing safer for students and other pedestrians, with a permanent crossing available at all times.

Further information about the scheme and a plan of the new layout can be found by scanning this QR code.



Last Thursday Mrs Jeffery took 11 members of our KS3 book club to the second Wessex MAT Genre Slam at the Thomas Hardy School. The group had read seven books from a wide variety of genres: a thriller, a verse novel, action & adventure, historical, fantasy and graphic novels and a new category – classics reimaged. Fifty-two pupils met up and discussed the books and each table gave a presentation on one of the novels.

Then pupils then ate from the delicious array of cakes baked for the occasion and voted for seven different categories. Lyra from *Northern Lights* was the clear favourite character while the pupils also rated the plot of *Girl Missing*. The new graphic release of *Lord of the Flies* was also very popular. The Wessex MAT sponsored this year's event and so each of the five schools taking part will receive a copy of the seven books for their libraries.



Houses Leaderboard

Congratulations to Malala!!!! They have retained the trophy for a second year - this is the only name found on trophy thus far.

However, with a points' advantage of only 14 points over Simmonds this year, it's definitely all to play for again next year!

	ATTENBOROUGH	LEBRON	MALALA	SIMMONDS
COMPETITION TOTALS	550	850	900	700
ACHIEVEMENT POINTS	25,611	24,939	25,875	26,061
TOTALS	26,161	25,789	26,775	26,761

End of Term Assemblies and Year 8 Goodbyes

What a fantastic way to finalise an amazing year of learning and activities which have brought our DMS community together. One of the highlights of the week was the Y8 and Y5's 'Buddies' picnic on Thursday, which is the opportunity for them to say goodbye, play games and enjoy some pizza in the school field.



During the rest of the week, we had the end of term assemblies for our Years 5, 6, 7 & leavers' assembly for Y8. We cherish these moments as we are able to celebrate our pupils and have their families join us. We have dedicated posts on Facebook for each year group's assembly, but here goes a sneak peek. Well done to all our pupils, we are so proud of all of you!!!





Under new government rules, your child's entitlement to **FSM STOPS on August 31st**. You will need to re-apply by Tuesday 25th August (scan the QR code) for your child to receive FSM next term.

Good news - anyone claiming Universal Credit can now also claim free school meals for their child, so please also scan the QR code.

If you do not re-apply, you will still be able to order from Local Food Links, however, you will need to pay for school lunches. We are unable to provide free school meals until eligibility is confirmed.

Celebrating our amazing pupils!!!

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Summer Concert

We are super proud of our DMS musicians who showed off their ROARS values with the Dorset Sinfonia at United Church on Saturday evening. In a fabulous evening full of musical treats from films, tv and video games our musicians performed an ambitious medley of themes from Star Wars: The Force Awakens. It sounded amazing! DMS pupils were also ready to get the whole audience playing percussion with 'Mission Impossible' and leading the dance routine for the YCMA finale too! Thank you, Mr Shortman, for creating this incredible opportunity for our young musicians!



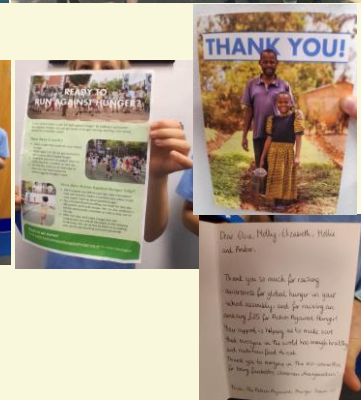
Team Maths Challenge

On Monday a dozen of our Year 8 pupils took part in a Team Maths Challenge competition at THS. They competed against other middle schools solving really tricky multi-step problems collaborative against the clock and the heat! They came 2nd, 5th and 6th out of 9 teams, they worked out that they had more points than all the other schools altogether!! Well done to all, we are so proud of you!!



Plates of Change

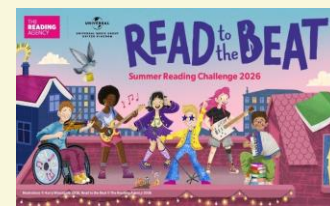
The Year 7 Eco Heroes entered a competition and the children involved rolled out in an assembly for Action against Hunger. They raised money and donated it to the cause, receiving a lovely thank you card, for running the 'Plates for Change' assembly. They have worked so hard at this and have made a real difference!! Well done for being so ROARSOME!



Summer Reading Challenge

We have such amazing readers at DMS that last summer, we had more pupils take part in the Summer Reading Challenge than any other middle school in Dorset!! Let's see if we can beat our own record this year! Find out more here:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>



Don't forget, if you have any questions about uniform, term dates, which week we are on and when all pupils return, you can find everything you need on our website – it is a 'one-stop shop' of information. Goodbye DMS – it has been an absolute pleasure!