

Welcome to the...

DMS

10th January 2025



1

Dear DMS families,

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. As we step into the Spring term, I am filled with excitement and optimism for the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead. The Spring term is a time of renewal and growth, both academically and personally.

This term, we have several exciting events and activities planned, including the Year 8 'Fragility of Freedom' exhibition; a visit to the Houses of Parliament; a visit to County Hall for democracy day; sports fixtures and a new performing arts club which will prepare pupils for our summer production - title to be shared very shortly but it is a well loved one! These will provide wonderful opportunities for our pupils to showcase their talents, collaborate with their peers, and develop new skills.

I encourage all pupils to approach this term with enthusiasm and a positive mindset. Remember, every challenge is an opportunity to learn and grow. Let's work together to make this term a successful and memorable one.

**Mr Webb**

2

## Important dates for your diary

15th & 16th January  
20th January  
24th January  
29th January  
30th January  
31st January  
17th to 21st February

Year 8 Parents Evenings - face to face in school  
Book Looks for parents - Y5 - more info to follow next week  
PTFA Quiz Night - 6pm for 6.30 start  
Prefects to County Hall - Local Government visit  
Selected Y6/7 pupils to County Hall for Democracy Day  
Student Council to Houses of Parliament  
Half term break

3

## Introducing this week...

### Miss Kelly Rich, Teaching Assistant - PD Base

The lovely Miss Rich started at DMS in 2014 as a Science Technician. She wanted to be more involved in supporting our pupils so she then joined the PD Base team as a Teaching Assistant in September 2023. Miss Rich lives in Dorchester with her partner, three sons and three dogs. She enjoys going for long walks with her dogs in the countryside, beach and woods (with a little stop in the pub on the way home every now and again!!)



# 4

## Parent Question of the Week

**“What topics are being covered in assemblies this term?”**

Pupils now experience a far greater range of topics and speakers in assemblies since the start of the academic year. This term, pupils will revisit the values of our school, learn about Martin Luther King, find out who the Gideons are, engage with safer internet week and listen to a guest speaker from KOOH in recognition of the national mental health awareness week. Assemblies form a big part of our programme to develop the spiritual, moral, spiritual and cultural education that we provide at DMS for all pupils.

## Pupil Question of the Week

# 5

**“Are there more water dispensers being fitted?”**

Yes, at the end of last term, the water dispenser machine was further upgraded to enable bottles to be fitted to it for quick refills and pupils to be able access drinking water should they forget their bottle. The plan is to install two further dispensers. One in the KS3/Year 6 corridor and one at the end of the Tech corridor.

# 6

## Reading News - Mrs James

January has brought some lovely new graphic novels to the library. As always, they have proved very popular with the children and most of them were borrowed on the first morning they were available. More will be arriving over the next few weeks! The PTFA donation for graphic books has really boosted our collection and given all the children access to the latest books. It's been fantastic to see the enthusiasm and excitement about books that they've generated.

In our library lessons, we have talked about making some New Year's Reading Resolutions. The children will be thinking about the books that they would like to read in the coming year: some might want to read a complete series that they've already begun, others might want to try a book from a different genre to their normal reading or maybe they'd like to find out more about one of their interests by reading a selection of books in our reference section. In keeping with our ROARS values, some children are going to set themselves a target of reading more than 50 books!

If you have time in the coming year to come and hear children read in school, we would be very grateful for your help. Please email [ljames@dmsschool.co.uk](mailto:ljames@dmsschool.co.uk) if you are interested or have any questions

Finally, if there are any last minute DMS Christmas Bingo entries, please can pupils hand them in to the library asap.

# 7

## Reminder - Useful information for parents

*Escapeline* is a charity committed to the prevention of the criminal and sexual exploitation of young people by gangs across Southwest England. For years, thousands of children have been exploited through the practice of County Lines, in which highly organised urban gangs take over provincial drugs markets. County Line gangs are increasing their operations to recruit local youngsters from small towns, including Dorchester, rather than the big cities and Southwest England has been particularly targeted.

*Escapeline* will deliver an information talk aimed at parents and carers specifically, and the community generally, from **6:30-7:30** on **Wednesday 05 March 2025** in the theatre of the Thomas Hardy School. The talk is free to attend and booking is not necessary.

For more information email: [kmatthews@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:kmatthews@thomas-hardye.net)

# 8

## Celebrations

This week we have seen brilliant work coming from the DT and Art Classrooms. How amazing are these pieces of work? Well done to all!!



Our talented Year 6 Football team played vs St Mary's Middle with a result of 1-0 to St Marys. Our Year 6's played with heart, technique and at times sheer audacity. The pressure did little to affect their spirit, this was an entirely positive display. Key players in the campaign was the irrepressible Archie (captain) and the never surrender Adam N. Mr Roberts is very proud of all efforts of the team, regrettably St Mary's squeezed a very late goal. Thanks goes to the Yr 8 Sports Leaders: Elsie, Evie, Theo W and William L.



Elsie & Adam from 6MP participated in The Domvs children's writing competition. 20 entries were submitted from DMS and they were invited to attend the awards ceremony held at the Dorset Museum. Whilst neither won an award, out of the 140 entries from schools across Dorset, they came in the top 18! Well done both! We are super proud of you! Keep writing!



# 9

## PTFA News

The next event planned by our PTFA is the Quiz night, to be held on Friday 24th January from 6pm (6.30pm start).

Tickets will be available on the School Gateway app or pay on the door (card payments will be accepted). £5 per team, maximum of 6 per team. Don't forget to sign up your teams!

The PTFA will introduce an option of a hot meal to pre order, more information to follow.

**DMS PTFA Presents**

**FAMILY FUN QUIZ NIGHT**

Join us for an evening of fun with a family quiz, raffle, bar and refreshments!

**Friday 24 Jan 6pm for 6.30pm start**

£5 per team, maximum of 6 per team

Tickets will be available on School Gateway App or pay on the door!

**NEW!!** Hot meal available to pre order - more details to follow! Card payments now accepted

Made with PosterMyWall.com

We are pleased to share with you, that we are looking to recruit two positions at our school, to start as soon as possible:

- Midday Supervisor - Monday to Friday - 12 till 2pm
- Part time Receptionist - Thursdays and Fridays - 8am to 4pm

You can apply for both positions via Dorset Council jobs, but the links are also on our school website.

## What's happening in our community?

**Fragility of Freedom Exhibition - Y8:** As it has become an annual tradition, our Y8 pupils produced the most fantastic work which was showcased in our school today. We had parents, governors, the town Mayor and Town Council officials attending and they were all impressed by the quality of the phenomenal pieces of artwork and thought provoking pieces of writing about many powerful issues around our world-past and present. Well done Mr Greetham for organising this and our Year 8 pupils for going above and beyond and demonstrating our values of being ambitious, original and respectful. Unfortunately, we can't add photos of all the work here, but please go to our Facebook page to see more. Well done Year 8s!!!!!!



## And finally...

A new year brings new opportunities and there are many for pupils at DMS to take advantage of. Whatever you choose to engage in, I hope you all continue to benefit from being a member of the school community.

Have a great weekend.

**Mr Webb**