

Dear DMS families,

I have been spending time this week beginning to think about the support we offer to all our SEND students during exams times and how we can continue to improve this for them.

This term always brings on the biggest part of planning for SATS and making sure all our access arrangements are in place. I was able to have a very productive meeting with The Thomas Hardy School this week, beginning to understand what access arrangements they use for supporting formal qualifications and how we can bring this in to support our students in KS3.

All these conversations made me reflect on how lucky we are to have such a supportive community and army of volunteer parents and carers. I would not be able to offer the support we do to our students without all of their support.

This week we had the Year 5 book look. This is such a lovely opportunity for us as a school to open our doors to parents and invite them to see all the wonderful work that our Year 5 students have completed. All supported by our PTFA coffee and biscuits!

This Friday saw our winners of the Fragility of Freedom exhibition join the Holocaust Memorial Day at the Corn Exchange, proving that there are no limitations to success; I could not be prouder to see a number of our students with SEND being chosen to attend.

**Ms Layfield**  
**SENDCo**

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### Important dates for your diary

24th January	PTFA Quiz Night
2nd to 8th February	Children's Mental Health Week
2nd February	Junior Park run - more information to follow
7th February	Dress to express - children invited to change ONE item of uniform on the day
8th February	Park run
17th to 21st February	Half term break

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### Information for Parents/Carers

STEM Returners is an organisation that helps people return to a technical, scientific, or engineering career following a career break, which is incredibly difficult through standard recruitment channels.

They are running a returners programme with Drumgrange in Portland, Dorset, which will provide opportunities for people to return and transfer to roles in Wiring Technician. A lot their returners have been referred to them by their children's education providers.

Should you have any questions please do contact them as per the following information:

Karen Clark - Resourcing Team Leader  
[karen.clark@stemreturners.com](mailto:karen.clark@stemreturners.com)  
Ph: 07927586585  
[www.stemreturners.com](http://www.stemreturners.com)



**Are you looking to return to STEM?**

Have you taken a career break of any length from STEM and wish to return?  
Are you working below your capability?  
Do you have a STEM qualification that you aren't using?

**STEM RETURNERS**

STEM Returners opportunities with Drumgrange

**dg** Drumgrange

Technician (Wireperson)

Location: Onsite: Portland, Dorset

We've now helped 500+ STEM professionals return to work across the UK

If so this could be the opportunity for you!

Please contact us for more information:

[www.stemreturners.com](http://www.stemreturners.com) [karen.clark@stemreturners.com](mailto:karen.clark@stemreturners.com)

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## Parent Question of the Week

### What opportunities are there for me to volunteer in school?

We are always looking for volunteers in school to support the work we do. Ranging from support in different classrooms to helping support our children with their reading. Currently we are looking for volunteers to help with our Mock SATS in the week of February 10th and the actual SATS in May. This is really important time of the year for our Year 6 students with SEND and if you feel that you could offer time for the Mocks in the week of February 24th or the week of May 12th, then please contact the school office by phone or by email: [office@dmsschool.co.uk](mailto:office@dmsschool.co.uk)

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## Pupil Question of the Week

### Why are some children using chromebooks in lessons?

All children learn in different ways and there are some children that may struggle to write as quickly as the ideas which come to them. Then, the chromebooks allow them to touch type or use other platforms that make writing easier and that are a great support for them.

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## Diverse Abilities - Dorset's Disabilities Charity

We have received the following information, to be shared with our DMS families, about the wonderful activities planned by this amazing charity for families with SEND. You can find more information on our FB page. They have a service called 'Coping with Chaos', which you can attend as a family. Parents are required to stay and retain full responsibility for their children, but they have various play opportunities, below are some examples:

CWC - Play Opportunities – During school holidays they do activities out and about in the community, which parents can pre book and can request a 1:1 member of support staff should you require it. They do things such a swimming, rock climbing, cinema, bowling, den building, high ropes, cinema trips, craft sessions and lots of other fun things. £9 for the child with additional needs and £7 for each sibling (siblings under 3 years old are free). Staff are full experienced in SEND and the sessions are a wonderful filler for the school holidays. If you would like to book a session, or would like to enquire a bit more, please do get in touch with them:

-  [Diverse Abilities Children's Team](#)
-  [diverseabilities.org.uk](http://diverseabilities.org.uk)
-  [chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk)
-  [01202 855105](tel:01202855105)

Thank you to everyone who entered our DMS Christmas Reading Bingo – we received over 150 entries! We had so many KS2 entries that we are awarding separate prizes for Year 5 and Year 6, rather than one for the whole Key Stage. All pupils who entered have been awarded Achievement Points. Well done to our lucky winners: Lidia in 5TH, Alphin in 6EJ and Aaron in 7RW. We will make sure you receive your prizes next week!

A special mention must go to Eshaal, Neve, Maddie, Binal, Amelia and Felix (Year 5 pupils), and Jack and Kalmitha (in Year 6). These pupils shared some photographs and writing about the different Book Bingo activities that they completed. They have received some extra Achievement Points for being 'Ambitious' and will also receive a special badge.

Look out for further book and reading themed competitions – our next book give away will be on our DMS Facebook page next week, and World Book Day is just around the corner (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March).

## Celebrations

A huge congratulations to our super year 8 Netball team. They have successfully qualified for the County Netball Tournament. Despite the freezing temperatures at Budmouth school our ladies braved the conditions and played outstandingly. A special shoutout goes to the DMS defence who consistently controlled the play throughout their tournament (Isabella D was singled out as one of our top players). Well done ladies!



Congratulations to our fantastic year 8s who represented DMS today at Wey Valley school for a Five-a-side tournament. The team were amazing and won all three of their group matches, they qualified for the knockout round and were beaten in penalties in the semifinals by the hosts, Wey Valley. A special shout out goes to Lucas who saved a penalty against Wey Valley, it was a brilliant decision to react to his right and get his body behind the ball. As a whole the team played cohesively and were in control throughout their matches. The performance will have buoyed them moving in to the Spring term Area Cup season. Well done year 8s!



Another big congratulations to Leo and his partner Chloe, who have been selected to represent Team GB for the Junior Blackpool festival in April!!!! They will be dancing in the juvenile ballroom team match. They are also dancing this weekend at the UK international championships. Well done to both of them!!



## Dress to express - 7th February - part of Children's Mental Health Week

We would like to clarify that during the Children's Mental Health Week (w/b Monday 3rd February) the pupils are invited to 'Dress to Express' on Friday 7th February, by substituting an item of their uniform, for something creative to express themselves, in exchange for £1 per child. This is to support a local Mental Health Charity - Stampede by the Sea, Weldmar Hospice.

This will **not** be a non-uniform day, they are asked to swap just **one** item of the school uniform. Can't wait to see what they come up with!!

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### Introducing this week...

#### Mrs Tracey Harris - Receptionist & Admin Support

Mrs Harris joined us recently in our Admin team full time, but it feels as she had had been at DMS for a long time! She is married and has two children and two cats. Mrs Harris enjoys the countryside and going on long walks. She is also interested in listening to music and watching all sports but football mostly, as her son plays for a team, so she goes and watch him a lot. Welcome to DMS Mrs Harris!!!



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### What's happening in our community?

An enormous thank you to everyone who attended the Year Five Book Look after school on Monday. It was so lovely to see so many families through the door. A special thank you must go to our fantastic PTFA as well as our super prefects, and a special 'Thank You' must go out to the fabulous Year Five Team who pulled the whole thing together magnificently! We wish we had more space for photos here, but you can always see more on our school FB page.



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### And finally...

We have seen a raise in concerns from students and parents in the misuse of social media over the last few weeks. As a parent myself, I am fully aware how much of our children's lives now seem to take place on line and on their phones and I am aware of how overwhelming trying to keep on top of safety online may appear. The NSPCC has a fabulous website and resources for parents and students including those with SEND: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Let's keep talking to our children about the risks, as it also helps to open up their understanding of safety and helps us to stay connected with them and their world online.

Have a lovely weekend!!

*Ms Layfield*