

Dear DMS families,

What a week to end the half-term! After last week's great effort by Year 6, this week has been bursting at the seams with trips, experiences and awesome opportunities, and every year group has got involved!

Year 5 and Year 6 visited the Poole Lighthouse on Tuesday and Wednesday to work with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in arranged workshops supporting their Music Curriculum; Year 7 went to Lulworth Cove on a Geography field trip to support their work around coastal erosion; Year 8 have visited the Shire Hall museum to learn more about the Tolpuddle Martyrs and if that was not enough they also carried out a field trip around the River Frome to understand more about how a river flows from source to sea – with all that walking, hopefully there was not too much meandering about!

If all of the above was also not enough, Year 7 have also had a visit from BAE systems and their now infamous road show. Pupils were introduced to the magic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how this is applied to industry, robotics and engineering.

To finish the week, we also have a number of pupils involved in a Jane Austen inspired writing workshop that will further promote and inspire their creative juices.

All of this, on top of the usual learning, drama rehearsals and clubs, just goes to show what fantastic opportunities are available at Dorchester Middle School.

Testament and thanks goes to all staff who help organise these events and trips to ensure engaging and enriching learning opportunities happen.

**Mr Murray**

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### Important dates for your diary

26th - 30th May	Half Term
7th June	Community Open Morning for future Y5 pupils (September 2025 intake) - 10am to 12pm
11th June	Workshop for parents: Difficulties with sleep – 4:30 to 6pm, to book contact Mrs Ray
13th June	DMS Community Challenge – Sponsored Run
18th June	Sports Day – refreshments provided by the PTFA
19th June	Y6 meeting for parents/carers - Buddens Residential trip – time TBC
19th June	Y5 meeting for parents/carers (future Y6 intake) - Buddens Residential trip – time TBC
20th June	Non School Uniform Day – Please bring a tombola prize suitable for the Summer Fete
28th June	Summer Fete – Free entry – 12 to 3pm
8th July	'Aladdin' the musical performance at the Corn Exchange – 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)
9th July	'Aladdin' performance at the Corn Exchange - 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)
11th July	SEND Coffee morning for parents/carers - 9.15 to 10.15am

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### MHST Workshop for Parents Supporting your child with sleep difficulties Wednesday 11th June 4.30pm - 6pm

This session is available for parent/carers who are looking to understand and support their child with their sleep difficulties. The session covers the theory around sleep, common difficulties, and key strategies to implement.

Please email Mrs Ray to register your interest [fray@dms.wessex.ac](mailto:fray@dms.wessex.ac)

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## Parent Question of the Week

### Does my child need their own calculator?

We use our school calculators in Year 7 and 8 Maths and Science lessons, but some pupils prefer to have their own calculator, particularly for tests. We have been in contact with Thomas Hardy School and they ask pupils in Year 9 to have the Casio FX-85GT CW model, which has solar power and is suitable for GCSE. (The battery model Casio FX-83GT CW has the same functions and comes in different colours). So, if you would like your child to have their own calculator to use in our school and into GCSE, this is what we would recommend.

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## Pupil Question of the Week

### How do I go about being a Prefect or Head Pupil next year?

If you are in Year 7, you can be an inspirational leader in the school next year by applying to be a Prefect or Head Pupil. These roles require a commitment to living out the school's ethos and our ROARS values. If you are interested in helping lead the school and its vision in Year 8, you should find an application form in your Year 7 homebase rooms. Applications need to be completed, with detail about why you feel you would be ideal for these roles, by the 6th of June. Applications need to be handed in by person to either Mr Palmer or Miss Clements.

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### Our PTFA and PE team would like to invite all pupils to join: The DMS Community Challenge – The Big Run! - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 25

The challenge involves the children running, walking or jogging 200 metre lengths of the school field. For every length they complete they will be awarded a token for their house. At the end of the challenge, the tokens will be totalled and house points awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. During the event there will be a water station manned by PTFA volunteers. The event will take place in school time.

All pupils are invited to help raise money by collecting sponsorship and returning their money and Sponsorship forms to school by Friday 13th June 2025.

Alternatively, we have a QR code for the DMS Just Giving page.



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## **DMS Sports Day – Wednesday 18th June 2025**

### **Save the date!!**

Save the date for our upcoming DMS Sports Day to be held on Wednesday 18th June from 9:00am to 3:30pm.

Parents are welcome to attend after signing in on the day. We will have refreshments available, thanks to our amazing PTFA.

More information coming soon!

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### **Reading News**

The children have been very excited to see our new screen in the library which is showcasing a variety of the books available to borrow as well as some recommended titles. This is a very useful way to tell the children about the diverse ranges of books which we have in the library. We have recently added some more of the very popular books about current and legendary football players as well as *Sea Quest*, a new series by Adam Blade who wrote the *Beast Quest* books. Netflix adaptations of books also really spark the interest of the children and we are introducing both *The Last Kids on Earth* and the *Hilda* series to the library. For older readers, we are adding *The Trials of Apollo* by Rick Riordan which several Year 8s had recommended as well as *Crook Haven – The School for Thieves*.

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### **Important Information for Parents and Carers of Year 8 students attending Thomas Hardy School 2025/2026**

Please see below a message from the Thomas Hardy School regarding key dates for Year 9 transition:

- Tuesday 17th June- Mr Rutherford & Year 9 team visiting Dorchester Middle School
- Tuesday 24th June- Transition information evening for parents. Letter will be sent out in the week beginning 9th June with specific invitation and timings. No students are expected to attend this evening.
- Tuesday 1st July - Transfer day. Students will spend time with their tutor, getting to know their tutor group & attend some curriculum lessons. Students will go to middle school in their normal way in the morning and will return home at 3.30pm from Thomas Hardy School either by walking or taking school transport.

Mr Kelsall - Head of Year 8

## DMS Gardening Club

You may have seen a post on Facebook about the amazing work Miss Sharman is doing with our young gardeners and volunteers. They have transformed a space of the school and turned it into a 'farm to fork' project. They will be able to harvest the first fruits and vegetables in June. We are so proud of them!!



## What is happening in our Community

On Tuesday and Wednesday our Year 5s and Year 6s respectively, had the privilege to travel to Bournemouth to experience a live performance of the Bournemouth Symphonic Orchestra. They had a fantastic time and even got to 'high five' the conductor!



Year 7's turn was on Wednesday, despite the not so nice weather, our pupils went to Lulworth cove to do some fantastic work on Geography. They were very grateful to have been offered shelter from the rain at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, West Lulworth. The rain did not spoil an amazing day of learning outside.



Then on Tuesday and Thursday our Year 8s were able to have a fantastic day on their River Trip, also linked to Geography; and a visit to the Shire Hall in Dorchester. They were lucky with the weather on both trips and really enjoyed their days out. Learning was definitely fun for our pupils this week!!



## 12 And finally...

With all of the events, trips, hard work and enjoyment over the last half-term, especially the last few weeks, we hope you have a safe, enjoyable and well-deserved half-term break.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd June.

**Mr Murray**