

# **DASP NEWS**

**The Newsletter of the  
Dorchester Area Schools Partnership**

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## **Another successful year for Thomas Hardye and DASP!**

The results season was a great success for the school. A Level results were 36<sup>th</sup> best in the UK and easily the best in Dorset. The system of point scores is very complicated, but suffice to say that THS gained 327 points, which is an average of 1 A and 2 B's.

This is a marvellous result, 'stunning' was the word used by the Dorset Director of Education, David Goddard. It is not only stunning because of the quality of the results, but the sheer number of students who took the examinations – 284 is far more than all the other schools in the top 30. 33 subjects gained 100% pass rates and there were remarkable results in Mathematics, English, Modern Languages, French, History and a host of others.

GCSE results were just as good. The school gained a 5A\*-C pass rate of 83%, placing it 70th in the UK league table. Once again the size of the entry (394) makes this a wonderful result, far above any other in Dorset. Results at Key Stage 3 were also superb with Mathematics leading the way with over 65% of the students gaining Level 6 or above (Not 5!).

Dr Melvin feels that DASP is absolutely key to these results:

*'it is only by watering the roots,  
supporting all the schools in DASP and  
ensuring that all students gain a good  
experience from the age of 5 that we can  
gain such marvellous results – all of  
DASP deserves congratulations'*

**ALL OF THE RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE  
ON THE THOMAS HARDYE WEBSITE**

### **New Buildings at THS**



The photograph of our new Languages building hardly does justice to it. It consists of 21 fully equipped classrooms, 5 seminar rooms and perhaps the 'jewel in the crown' a state of the art central atrium consisting of 50 computers. This area can be accessed from any classroom in the building and is an enormous glassed in area. As this building is used for English and Modern Languages, all students can experience its quality and resources and certainly our new Year 9 have been amazed by it – ask them!

Also over the summer, the only area of the school still in need of development was totally refurbished and re-equipped, for Social Sciences. Three new laboratories were equipped, a Mathematics suite re-located to a new building and other improvements made – fencing, new security cameras, new signage, as well as substantial extra interactive whiteboards, projectors and video conference equipment. The overall project cost was £2.7m.

## The Dorset Teacher Training Partnership

Thomas Hardy school now hosts the Partnership, which is a school-based facility for initial teacher training (SCITT). Twenty five students are now based in the school, training to be teachers. This is a very exciting development for DASP giving us access to, what we must hope, are talented new teachers.

DASP welcomes our new colleagues and hopes that our own Training School will be able to make a substantial contribution to making these people into excellent teachers.

## Race Equality Conference for DASP Teachers.

The start of term saw a major conference for DASP on the theme of Race Equality and Interculturalism. Spread across two venues, the majority of First and Middle School staff attended. With the day divided into two halves, the morning saw Workshops on Race Equality at Damers First School, whilst delegates at St Osmunds Middle School enjoyed a presentation by Roger Watson and Musa Mboob. They are part of a music group known as Boka Halat. This group will be working with DASP schools on the idea of interculturalism and how this can be expressed through song and dance. The programme was then repeated in the afternoon, so everyone had a chance to explore both aspects of the day.



The Conference was drawn together by Norman Schamroth, a teacher who works at Damers First School and a working party of other DASP teachers. Central to the Conference was a pack of Lesson Plans and Support materials, which each school received a number of copies of. Included in the pack was a CD-ROM which included the lesson plans, plus guides to setting up a whole school policy on racial equality. Also on the CD, a

number of videos and audio files were produced especially and provide a rich supply of material to inspire lessons.

Response at the end of the day was incredibly positive and a big thank you to Norman and his co-presenters for providing such an inspiring day. Thanks also to St Osmunds Middle and Damers First for providing excellent venues.

For further information on the Intercultural Project please contact Carole McCormack, Head teacher of Piddle Valley First School.

## Dorchester School Children take part in four day Festival

A giant carnival bird and two Chinese lions led dozens of children through Dorchester in a huge procession for the town's four day festival. The procession was the culmination of the festival's education project, in which artists from Salisbury-based Community Arts group Toozali worked with around 200 pupils from local schools making colourful Chinese lanterns.



Other workshops organised by Dorchester Arts Centre as part of the event included Indian drumming with the acclaimed East West fusion band Shiva Nova - and an opportunity to take part in a performance with them in the Corn Exchange.



Cathy Nisbet, Year Three Co-ordinator at Manor Park said, it had been a great event for schools. "It was wonderful to be approached by the festival and given the opportunity of having an artist working with the children for a day. I hope the huge crowds watching us in the procession down South Street to the Borough Gardens enjoyed the display. While we were making lanterns, the festival gave other schoolchildren in the town a chance to learn Indian drumming or Indonesian puppetry. The four-day event included some great shows from visiting performers, but what has made it special for the children and parents, is that we have all been able to be involved as well."

### **Traveller Awareness at St Mary's Middle School**

David Powell, Head of St Mary's Middle School writes "I wanted to promote awareness and inclusion of Gypsy/Traveller children in our schools. St Mary's has a significant number of these children and a key reason to promote the initiative has been to raise the whole inclusion/ethnic diversity agenda at the school.



As part of the project, the school collaborated with the LEA's Traveller Education team to provide learning activities in the Summer term."

### **Cheselbourne Village School ICT Fish Light Project**

During our recent Arts Week, our mixed years 3 and 4 class used a combination of design and technology, ICT and art and design skills to produce their own underwater themed bedside lamps. During previous ICT lessons the children had used the Google search engine to locate a suitable underwater image. This image was modified into a new design using repeat, cut, paste, rotate, resizing and the magic wand tools. The final image was

then printed using standard inkjet printers, onto acetate sheets (A3 size when possible).



This acetate tube was then sellotaped around a 10cm diameter wooden base. The children had previously prepared the base by wiring together bulb holders and a battery pack, and hot gluing this in the middle of each base. The children had great fun and really enjoyed this project, all abilities were able to produce a high quality end product, whilst combining design and technology, art and design and ICT skills.

**Lynne Walker - ICT Co-ordinator**

### **Cricket tournament**

At the end of June, Broadmayne First School took part in the Dorchester Area Schools Cricket tournament at the recreation ground in Dorchester. The school was represented by Flo, Tara, Toby, Callum, Sam, Luke, Ben and Daniel. They defeated a team from the Prince of Wales school in a closely fought final, to win the competition in the Year 4 age group.

### **Cerne Abbas First School Trip to the Houses of Parliament**

In July, Key Stage 2 pupils from Cerne Abbas First School were able to visit the Houses of Parliament, by the invitation of local MP, the Right Hon. Oliver Letwin. Visits to the House are only available by invitation, so the school were very lucky to have this opportunity.

The children had the excitement of a train journey to get them to London and then a walk past the London Eye and across the Thames. After a short wait, the group was able to tour the fantastic halls of the Palace of Westminster, admiring the paintings and ornate ceilings with the aid of an expert guide.



Then it was time for lunch - and not the usual 'sitting in the park' either. Mr Letwin arranged for the children to eat their sandwiches in a room sometimes used for shadow cabinet meetings. He took time out from his schedule to answer questions from the children. It proved a very enjoyable and informative day for Cerne's Key Stage 2 children.

### **Maths Booklet for Parents**

A group of Dorchester teachers have been funded by DASP to produce a guide for parents, on how Maths is taught in DASP schools. Aimed at parents of Reception children, they will be able to follow their child's progress and support them along the way. This is a major development in how DASP is involving parents in their children's learning process.

### **DMS Awarded 'Investors in People'**

The school was awarded Investors in People Status in July. Assessment for the Award was rigorous and confirmed the School's commitment to Training and Development of all employees. From 43000 Businesses and Organisations in Dorset only 380 have been given the Award. Mr Sutton co-ordinated the schools preparation and application and received the award on behalf of the School, from ITV News presenter, Roger Finn.

### **MANOR PARK ARTS WEEK 5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> JULY**

The purpose of the week was to give the children time to explore and experience different activities within the creative arts. The theme was colour and our overall aim was to produce works of art to improve our immediate environment. There was a wide range of activities from different people with different expertise. Activities included designing and painting large murals, textile wall hanging and tissue and wire fish mobiles, with local artists Jane Foot, Helen Francis and Lal Hitchcock. Also an Alice in Wonderland production with M

& M Theatre Company and Street Jazz dancing with Wise Moves.

The school perimeter fence was used as a framework for weaving and sculpture with the use of materials from the Dorset Scrapstore ~ resulting in a rich kaleidoscope of colour appreciated by local residents, as well as our children! We painted to music and made our own animated movie of "Man's Discovery of Fire. With the help of the Dorchester Arts Centre, we created the Manor Park Rap (sadly, too late to enter the BECTA creative music competition). Thomas Hardy students and staff worked with children of all ages in drama, music, ICT, dance and creative writing ~ this was really exciting to see as everyone, whatever their age, got such a buzz from these activities. This has to be one of the great strengths of DASP - the ability, facility and willingness of everyone to engage in the broadest of educational experience for our pupils.

Of course weeks like this don't just "happen" - thanks must go to the artists, DTHS students & staff, Richard Scott, Alistair Nisbet, Dorchester Arts Centre and especially to our Art Co-ordinator, Lesley Goldsack who worked tirelessly to put the programme together.

Oh yes - we all - children, staff, artists, parents, governors - had a fabulous week. Cool!

**Tony Higgens and Lesley Goldsack**  
Manor Park First School

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**DASP Website:**

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