

DASP NEWS

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

Issue 11

October 2007

Dorchester's Very Own Last Night of the Proms



Sunday July 1st saw the annual DASP Promenade concert take place in the huge Marquee in the grounds of Thomas Hardy School.

Performances from DASP pupils of all ages kept a packed tent enthralled. From individual recorder players, through choirs and dancers, to rock bands, the music was of a uniformly high standard. As always, the grand finale was led by the Thomas Hardy School Orchestra, with a varied selection, topped by the traditional Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. There was more than music, however, as a spectacular firework display filled the night sky.

The evening was also a chance to present the first DASP Citizen awards. Intended as an annual award, the DASP Citizen rewards pupils who have made a positive contribution to their school and community. The winners were all nominated by their peers, making the recognition all the more appropriate. The awards were presented by Peter Farrington, DASP Director and Head of the Prince of Wales First School and Anne Clark, Head of

Broadmayne First. Every school in DASP was represented by winners, including the Middles and Thomas Hardy.

The DASP Citizen scheme is part of a greater commitment by the Dorchester Schools to give young people a sense of values and responsibility that will stand them in good stead, not just in school, but all through their future lives. Our work with the UNICEF, Rights Respecting Schools' and Pupil Voice, will build on the excellent work of DASP schools in the past year.

BROADMAYNE FIRST SCHOOL MAKES HAY WHILST THE SUN SHINES!

Several years ago our school decided to give back a strip of our large playing field to nature. We left the grass to grow and called it our 'meadow.' We wanted our children to appreciate that even a small gesture like this can contribute towards sustaining the environment.

Over the years, we have carried out a range of projects associated with this area. We have



identified and taken records of the species of plants that grow there and we have planted new plants in the meadow. Our Wildlife Club regularly visits to observe the butterflies and bugs that live in the undergrowth.

Managing the meadow correctly requires it to be cut twice a year and the grass removed. This work has previously been carried out by the grounds men. However, this year, one of our parents who is especially interested in the environment and traditional techniques, cut the meadow for us with a scythe. The weather was sunny and the grass dried well. The children went down to the meadow to turn the hay so that it dried on the other side. A couple of days later the hay was collected by the children and put into bags. Our families could take the hay home for their pets. As you can see from the photo we had great fun down at the meadow. One of the younger children said, 'We are like real farmers, aren't we!'

Anne Clark
Headteacher, Broadmayne First

DASP NQT Summer Away Day

On Wednesday 27th June all DASP's NQT colleagues gathered at the Burley Manor Hotel, set in a tranquil glade of the New Forest, for the partnership's end of year NQT Away Day. The day offered an excellent opportunity for teachers based in all three of DASP's educational phases to compare experiences, discuss progress and consider the future.



The morning session was led by Steve Lloyd (Leadership Development Consultant and Lecturer at Marjon, Plymouth). Using the latest ideas from *The Colour Works* group, Steve used role plays and group activities to enhance self awareness and self effectiveness. This was applied to working effectively as teams with other colleagues and to teaching and learning in the classroom. The

session was dynamic, stimulating and certainly achieved its targets of raising awareness and provoking self reflection.

At midday, the group travelled the short distance through the forest to Moors Valley for a picnic lunch and an afternoon of invigorating 'character building' activities. These generally involved trees, heights, ropes and a very good memory for keeping the correct rope attached to the correct safety line.



The day was a success in every way – in terms of professional development, team building, networking and, most importantly, enjoyment. This was reinforced by feedback from colleagues who attended the event: *"Thank you for yesterday, I really enjoyed it, great experience and a real confidence booster!"* *"Just wanted to say thank you very much for yesterday – it was really good fun! Thanks for putting all the effort in to organise it."*

This Away Day represents just one component of DASP's NQT Induction Support Programme. The newly formed DASP NQT Steering Group, comprising colleagues from first, middle and upper schools, has developed termly programmes of professional studies seminars and day long training events for all NQTs. The group is responsible for overseeing NQT induction across the partnership, including organisation of training opportunities for mentors and production of induction support literature.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas regarding NQT induction in DASP please contact us using the email address below.

Tim Ennion
DASP NQT Steering Group

Incredible Years Parent Courses

DASP in partnership with WDHT, is running a series of parenting courses this year. The first is for parents of children in the DMS pyramid

and is up and running at the Prince of Wales School this term. Nicky Moore is running this course, with Elliot Dunworth as her co-facilitator. Parenting courses are planned for the St Mary's Puddletown pyramid in the Easter term and the St Osmund's pyramid in the summer term. These are high quality, well evaluated and evidenced initiatives and show DASP's commitment to supporting parents and children.

Elliot Dunworth

Young Leaders at Manor Park

During the Summer Term the Young Leaders from St.Osmunds Middle School ran an after school multi-skills sports club, under the guidance of Andrea Williams.

Year Three children at Manor Park enjoyed a variety of activities on the field and in the hall which the Young Leaders organised. Fundamental sports skills were practised, using a variety of equipment and games. The club was a popular extra curricular activity between the two schools and it is hoped that it will happen again this year.

**Robbie Noy
Manor Park First**

Manor Park First School Healthy Schools Week



Monday 17th September saw the start of our first ever healthy schools week. Each day had a different theme from 'Munchy Monday' to 'Fruity Friday'. During the week we were involved in many different activities which prompted healthy eating

and exercise. Highlights of the week included a visit from the life education van, the introduction of 'fit breaks' and the Year 2 trip to Dorchester market. Each Year Group also held sponsored events, such as bike rides, obstacle courses and a sponsored bounce, which



aimed to show the children they could have fun and keep fit at the same time!

**Emily Birch
Manor Park First School**

Milborne St Andrew Health Week

Continuing its impressive support of government guidelines on healthy living, pupils, parents and teachers at the school participated in a health week. Already the holder of an 'Active Mark' and a 'Healthy School Award', the school endeavour for Health week was to promote healthy living in an interesting and varied way.



The children were encouraged to try a whole range of different activities from orienteering to yoga, culminating in a sports afternoon for the whole school and an activity trip to Moors valley. The children were also encouraged to think about promoting healthy eating through the production of videos and posters.



A highlight of the week was a chance to have a go at healthy cooking – many of the children enjoyed making dips and smoothies, which 'were better than anything with sugar in and much better for you' as one child reported to his parent. The whole school were treated to a healthy and nutritious lunch made for them by year four and parent helper, Wendy Holden – the produce being sourced locally. A big thank you to staff, parents and Friends of the School for providing yet another innovative and stimulating week for the children.

Milborne First School

Rights Respecting Schools Launch at Kingston Maurward

The UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award has evolved over the last 3 years. It involves children not only learning about their rights, but also being aware of their own responsibility to their community. It aims to increase their self esteem and how they think about others.



The launch of DASP's Rights Respecting Schools Scheme took place at Kingston Maurward College on 25th September, opened officially by DASP Director, Peter Farrington. Two pupils and a member of staff from each DASP school attended. A special contingent of Year 10 students from Thomas Hardy School led many of the discussion sessions. Children learned about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and how it is relevant to schools. Teachers were asked to think about what makes a good pupil in a Rights Respecting School and pupils were asked to think about what makes a good teacher!

Building on the DASP Citizen Awards, its involvement in the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, demonstrates DASP's commitment to providing a school environment of good behaviour and mutual respect. We want DASP students to develop values that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives, not just their school days.

Pupil Voice Initiative for DASP

October 8th marked the launch of the Dorchester Area Schools' Partnership Student Voice initiative. Whilst many schools have School Council/Student Voice bodies, we believe this is the first time a whole pyramid or partnership of schools have worked together to listen to what young people think about their school community.

The day was opened by David Barrett, Mayor of Dorchester. It introduced young people to the notion of sharing, decision making and democracy. Working within an example of a

local seat of democracy (the Town Hall), they examined the empowerment of young people in schools. The day was jointly organised by the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership and David Powell of the Education Department of Dorset County Council. Each of the 18 schools in DASP sent student representatives to the Conference and there will be further meetings. The idea is to find solutions, not just describe the problem. Typical issues might be Citizenship, Rights Respecting Schools, Behaviour and Bullying.



Notices

Peter Farrington, Head of Prince of Wales First School has taken over as DASP Director.

Contact: Peter Farrington: 01305 257120
p.farrington@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk

Note also new Contact Details for these DASP Staff, who are now based at the DLC at Winterbourne Monkton.

John McCormack – Administrator
Phone: 01305 250749
e-mail: office@dasp.org.uk

Elliott Dunworth-Behaviour Support
Phone: 01305 250749
e-mail: elliottdunworth@dasp.org.uk

Tracey Kinlan-Behaviour Support
Phone: 01305 250749
e-mail: TraceyKinlan@dasp.org.uk

To contribute to this newsletter, e-mail:

rscott@thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk

DASP Website: www.dasp.org.uk

Or post to Richard Scott at the Thomas Hardy School, Queens Ave, Dorchester, DT1 2ET