

# **DASP NEWS**

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

Issue 6

February 2006

## **Next Generation of Spielbergs make educational videos.**

Last May, Mark Richardson, a Design and Technology Teacher and Assessment for Learning Manager at THS, submitted a bid to the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA - [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)), for financial support to develop a film making project called 'Films for Learning'. The bid was successful and since then THS has been working with a creative learning consultancy called Toolkit ([www.toolkit.uk.com](http://www.toolkit.uk.com)). The school is currently working with Dorchester Middle School and St.Osmund's Middle to further develop a model for students and staff to make films about areas of Science and Technology, which teachers find difficult, tricky or dangerous to explain. In addition to making the films, a web site has been designed to enable students and teachers to share their films across the internet, ([www.filmsforlearning.org](http://www.filmsforlearning.org)).



Last July, six teachers were the clients of 27 students who produced ten films for them. The films explored a diverse range of subjects from Yeast (which required a 5am shoot at the bakery in Maiden Newton!) to the 'Doppler Effect' (requiring James Kimber, Science Teacher, to be suspended from a 100 foot cliff on Portland Bill clutching a video camera

whilst dodging a dummy being hurled off the cliff top!)

The Leading Edge National Collaborative, (of which we are one of twenty member schools), have asked THS to develop Films for Learning further, with students undertaking KS3 this year. In November, a further workshop was organised for staff from THS, Dorchester Middle School, St.Osmund's Middle School as well as St.Ives School Cornwall, Woodroffe School Lyme Regis and Davison High School in Worthing. Many participants have already started commissioning their students to make films for them. Their films will also be accessible to all via the internet. The project has been identified for its importance in connecting science to the real world in NESTA's research report 'Real Science' which was launched at the National Science Centre in York and has also been exhibited at the BETT 2006 Show at Olympia this January.

### **Prince of Wales First visit Thomas Hardye School**

One of the many strengths of DASP, is its ability to pair children of different ages, from different schools and allow them to learn from each other. The following two accounts by students, detail a collaboration between Prince of Wales First and Thomas Hardye in the application of food technology.

'My class, 3DM, from the Prince of Wales School, were invited by Mrs Jay to spend the morning in Thomas Hardye working on 'Food Technology'. The morning was organised by Year 13 student, Christine, as part of her coursework. We walked up the fields to Thomas Hardye School, where we were met by Mrs Voss, Mrs Jay and their students. We

went to a classroom where we were split into two groups. One group baked Christmas biscuits and the other group tried pizza and fruit salad and gave marks and comments. Then we swapped over and after that we went to the canteen for refreshments. When we went back to the classroom, we found our biscuits had been cooked and were on a plate ready to be iced and decorated. (Yum yum!)



When we had finished we all ate one of the biscuits and they were delicious! Mr Scott took photos of some of our biscuits and I gave some left over biscuits to Kelly and Christine, who had been very kind and helpful. Our class really enjoyed the visit and I wished that we could stay all week.

We would like to say a special thank you to Christine, Kelly, Lisa, Patrick, Tess, Kirsty, Chloe, Zoe, Mrs Voss and Mrs Jay.'

### **By Isabella – Yr 3 (Prince of Wales)**

'For my A2 Food Technology coursework my initial thoughts were to design a meal for children. This led me to the Prince of Wales First School, where Kelly and I met 3DM, and worked with them to design some possible products. I considered all the ideas designed and then decided on one that I would then trial on my target group. I invited them to visit our school for a day, to not only taste the product, but also experience cooking in a bigger environment and the procedures taken in making a product.

This is an on going piece of work, so Kelly and I will be visiting them again towards the end of January, to use their new computer suite, when completing a sensory analysis with them. We both hope to keep in contact with them and would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr MacBean, 3DM and the teaching assistants for letting us work with them. It is more unusual for a Year 3 class to be helping Year 13, but they have been a great asset to my coursework and

I have enjoyed working with them very much and will continue to do so.'

### **Report by Christine and Kelly - Yr 13 (THS) Off to University on his 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**



A student at St Mary's Middle School, Puddletown has spent his twelfth birthday studying his favourite subject at Bristol University. Edward Godfrey, who celebrated his birthday in December, joined the Thomas Hardy School's Maths enrichment course at the university, where he was taught by one of Britain's leading mathematicians. Ed, who attained a grade A in AS-level Maths when he was just 11 years old, shows a real gift for the subject. He regularly attends Sixth Form Maths lessons at the Thomas Hardy School.

The Sixth Form Enrichment Programme provides an opportunity for the school's year 12 students to visit Bristol University on three occasions during the year to complete courses in Maths, English, French and Science. The students are taught by leading experts in these subjects. He had a superb experience in Bristol, not only did he have the opportunity to study his favourite subject in a really inspiring environment but he also saw the sights of Clifton, including Brunel's suspension bridge, and enjoyed lunch out on the town. He certainly spent his birthday with a beaming smile on his face! It is very important that the individual educational requirements of students are recognised and provided for. The Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP), of which both St Mary's School and Thomas Hardy School are members, is ideally structured to achieve this. Ed was already a familiar face at Thomas Hardy; when in Year 5 he attended enrichment sessions organised by DASP in various subjects at the upper school. The partnership approach allows us to provide superb opportunities such as this for our students and we aim to expand this provision.

**Dr Tim Ennion - Sixth Form Enrichment Programme Co-ordinator**

## DASP NQT Away Day Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, DASP held its very first 'Away Day' event for Newly Qualified colleagues in the partnership. The day provided the NQTs with a superb opportunity to meet other colleagues from schools across DASP. The morning was based in the relaxed surroundings of the Poachers Inn, Piddletrenthide where, following an introduction to DASP by Rob Davies (DASP Executive Director), Steve Lloyd (Lecturer at Marjon, Plymouth and director of Effective Schools Ltd) led an excellent session on developing personal and team effectiveness.



Using the latest ideas from *The Colour Works* group, Steve demonstrated practical strategies 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, well presented, very stimulating and certainly achieved its targets of raising awareness and provoking thought.

Steve left the group with a digital video camera which will be used by the NQTs to record examples of their own teaching. The aim is to place the video clips on Marjon's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where they will be accessible to all DASP NQTs. A discussion forum will be established which will be used as a medium for feedback and comments on the videos posted on the VLE.



After lunch in the Poachers restaurant, the group headed the short distance up the Piddle Valley to Alton Pancras and *Henley Hillbillies* for a truly memorable afternoon of fantastic outdoor activities. Two teams competed on quad bikes, rallied minis and shot clay pigeons. By the end of the day we had all had a great opportunity to get to know each other and to find out what has been happening in each others schools.

This Away Day represents just one component of DASP's NQT Induction Support Programme. NQTs also benefit from regular twilight professional studies seminars (Peter Farrington, Headteacher at the Prince of Wales School, leading the programme for NQTs teaching in first and middle schools) and a summer term conference at the Springfield Country Hotel near Wareham. The 'away day' concept develops the highly successful use of similar events in the business world. The opportunity to develop as an individual in a new, stimulating environment has huge benefits and the potential of the idea was clearly demonstrated on that day.

**Dr Tim Ennion**  
DASP NQT Induction Co-ordinator

## Damers First School 'Pop Artists'

One of our Year Four classes were learning about the artist Andy Warhol. They had looked at his screen prints of Campbell's Soup and noticed the impact that repeated images have and the subtle differences between each can. The pupils had also looked at his prints of Marilyn Monroe and were interested in the effects of colour change on a single image. We decided to incorporate the colour change into a series of repeated images on the computer. Initially the children used a program called Colour Magic to draw a picture of a single can using the brush and fill tools. They then repeated this image on the screen. Having arranged their cans the pupils used the fill tool to change the can's colours and fill in the background.



We developed a more realistic image by using digital photographs. The pupils each took a

photo of a can and saved it on the hard drive of their computer. They then used the program's freehand select tool to cut it out of the photo background. They pasted the 'cut out' into a new page.

I explained that the fill tool could change areas of exactly the same colour and that photographs contained many shades and tones of a colour that were difficult to see with the naked eye. We looked at a photo enlarged many times through the data projector to make this more apparent. The pupils used the software to 'posterise' (creating the colour effect you see) their photos and repeat the image and change the colours as they had done in their previous work.

**Sally Limmer**  
**ICT Co-ordinator Damers First School**

## **DASP First Schools get thumbs up from Ofsted**

'Outstanding personal development' and 'excellent relationships throughout the school', 'excellent attitudes' stemming from the 'breadth of rich and relevant experiences which motivate' the children 'very well', 'outstanding provision for pupils in the Early Years classes' where the children make 'excellent progress' – these are just some of the comments in the recent very positive Ofsted Inspection Report for Piddle Valley Church of England First School.

Headteacher Carole McCormack says: 'I am absolutely delighted that Ofsted have recognised the dynamic and forward thinking ethos of the school which always aims to put every child at the heart of all we do. I was not surprised when Inspectors reported that children interviewed said that they wanted to change nothing about their school. They love coming here; and because they are enthusiastic and enjoy their education so much they learn from the wide experiences and rich curriculum which we provide for them. My Staff are all fantastic: a committed, highly-qualified and highly professional team who genuinely love their work and care deeply for the children.'

Mrs. McCormack, an Ofsted Inspector herself, is delighted at the recognition of the quality of early years practice developed at Piddle Valley, based upon nurture and ensuring that the children's attitudes to learning are positive right from the start of their education. The school's curriculum was graded as outstanding overall, as was Personal Development and Well-being. The school gained Artsmark 'Gold' last year and the unusually high quality of the

Art work and the excellent opportunities to become involved in the wide range of extra-curricular provision (in Dance, Drama, Art, Football and Gardening) was highly praised by Ofsted. We all feel full of anticipation for the year ahead, with opportunities for continually developing and deepening the quality of our children's education at Piddle Valley. We could not have had a better Christmas present!

**Broadmayne First** also had a very successful OfSTED Inspection, just before Christmas. However, their report takes the form of a poem!

### **ODE TO BROADMAYNE**

Now here's a jolly little ode  
For all the staff to hear  
About our life at Broadmayne  
With Christmas coming near.

We all work hard together  
A happy little bunch  
Always having lots to do  
And often missing lunch.

The staff are all so busy  
With lots of Christmas stuff  
All glitter, shine and sparkle  
Except Brian who's feeling rough.

But then right in the middle  
All full of expectation  
The dreaded phone call comes  
And now its desperation.

So now the school is ready  
For scrutiny and analysis  
No time for cake and biscuits  
We've gone into paralysis.

And so the verdict does come back  
Our school has turned out good  
An extra day off now we'll have  
Don't you think we should?

But wait our head has hidden skills  
DASP may not be aware  
She can 'weld' people together  
So watch out if you dare.

A happy place is Broadmayne  
For our children and the staff  
And when we're not rushed off our feet  
We do have time to laugh.

**Elaine Clarkson - Reception teacher**

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