

## Welcome

A real highlight of the new school year so far has been the Sixth Form Open Evening, a great chance to show the school off to Year 11s and their parents. It is always humbling to see the number of Sixth Form students who volunteer for this. We had hundreds of visitors and look forward to supporting our own Year 11 applicants through the transition to the next stage of their journey. I also want to thank all the departments who have run the first international trips since before the pandemic. History visited Berlin, the Geographers went to Iceland and the Spanish Department were, I'm afraid rather predictably, in Spain! All three trips were great successes. We look forward to the production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the end of the month, and to another great half-term at the school.

Nick Rutherford  
HEADTEACHER

Students from the GENeSis Genetics Club & the Electron Microscope Club would like to invite you to the **3rd Scientific Symposium on Monday 14th November** in the canteen. There will be 45 minutes to view posters followed by a 60 minute presentation. All welcome.

## INVIGILATORS REQUIRED!

Are you available during May & June? We're looking for exam invigilators to provide a calm, supportive atmosphere to help students to achieve their best. If you're interested, come to our **Drop-In Session on Thursday 1st December, 9.30am - 10.30am**. Work is based around school hours and is paid by the hour @ £9.60 (+12% = £10.75). Please email [exams@thomashardy.net](mailto:exams@thomashardy.net) in advance to let us know you are coming.

## DREAMY DRAMA IN PRODUCTION

Since June, The Thomas Hardy Rep Company have been working on an abridged production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Using slapstick and pantomime stylings, the cast whistle through several confusing romances and end up happily every after (mostly). The show is on **28th, 29th & 30th November**, and tickets will be available in reception after half term. Suitable 15+

Miss Higgins

## Musical Notes

The music department has had a fantastic start to the new term, with over 200 students taking part in our co-curricular offer in the first week alone. We'd love to see even more students take up the amazing opportunities we are providing; if you'd like to find out more about what is on offer, please have a look at the co-curricular groups list outside the music department, the rehearsal schedule online [here](#) or speak to a member of music staff.

In September, over 100 students took part in a vocal workshop with professional vocal coach, **Charles MacDougal**. They learnt a range of songs in a variety of styles and raised the roof of the Thomas Hardy Theatre with their 8-part harmony singing. In the afternoon, 100 middle school students joined them in a fantastic collaboration. This joint venture will be repeated on 29th November in the stunning acoustics of Portsmouth Cathedral, with world-renowned Gabrieli Consort & Players as part of the exciting Gabrieli Roar project, a festive celebration of the spectacular polychoral music of Michael Praetorius and Heinrich Schütz.

Closer to home, we held our Autumn Concert at the United Church Dorchester in October, with our sixth-form music students and the Thomas Hardy Singers.

A new performance opportunity starting this year is 'Thursday Live', a regular performance session in room Mu1 on a Thursday lunchtime featuring a range of student performances. All students & staff are very welcome to bring their lunch and enjoy the music.

## Dates for your diary:

- 2ND NOVEMBER – BSO CONCERT TRIP  
LIGHTHOUSE POOLE
- 29TH NOVEMBER – GABRIELI ROAR  
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL
- 9TH NOVEMBER – ROCK & POP NIGHT  
THE THOMAS HARDYE THEATRE
- 7TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
THE THOMAS HARDYE THEATRE
- 15TH DECEMBER – CAROL SERVICE  
ST PETER'S CHURCH

The Music Department



Student **Willow Barnes** has been fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association by taking part in the Great South Run. Read more about her efforts in the Dorset Echo [here](#) and donate to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/serafina-barnes5>

Ms Emadian



## NEWS FROM THE COMBINED CADET FORCE

The Thomas Hardy School CCF underwent its biennial inspection on 7th October with reviewing officer Air Commodore Paul Rose. It was a hugely successful inspection, *see above*, with many cadets receiving awards on the final parade. Maj Kevin Matthews, Capt Gillian Copson, Flt Lt Vicky Nichols, Flt Lt Alex May and Lt Natalie Williams received HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for services to the cadet forces.



The school also hosted the first annual Dorset CCF competition against Bournemouth School, Budmouth College and Milton School on 1st October. Thomas Hardy CCF, *see above*, drew on points with Bournemouth, but Bournemouth won the Normandy Cup after winning one more event. The Normandy Cup 2023 will be hosted by Bournemouth School.

Mr Matthews

## CAKES & BAKES IMPRESS!

In September, the MFL department held their annual languages-themed bake-off to celebrate the European Day of Languages.



The standard of entries was mind-blowing and more than ever we were overwhelmed by the creativity and enthusiasm of our bakers. The cakes were sold at break time (many thanks to the year 13D French class for their help) and the proceeds donated to charity. The overall winner was **Amalia Hallett** of 9KLL with her suitcase cake, see above. She selected the charity Born Free to be the recipient of the £100.31 raised. Thank you, merci and gracias to everyone who baked and bought cake!

Mr Davison

## Library Murder Mystery

Our new cohort of year 9 students have had welcome sessions in the Library and used their new knowledge to work out the THS Murder Mystery. Four members of staff played the possible suspects and most students were able to work out who had carried out the deed! We hope to see lots of the new students visiting the Library and borrowing books very soon.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The school marked BHM with nearly 200 posters displayed across the school showing Black History Makers from over 20 subject areas. Some lower school students also participated in a virtual author talk by David Olusoga, the well-known historian and author.

Mrs Stevens

## D of E Bronze Award

Congratulations to the following Year 11 & 12 students for completing their full Bronze DofE awards:

<b>Phoebe Ayliffe</b>	<b>Emma Johnson</b>
<b>Tom Clifton</b>	<b>Grace Keefe</b>
<b>Oliver Cobban</b>	<b>Olivia Larcombe</b>
<b>Darcie Curtis</b>	<b>Nancy Mitchell</b>
<b>Imogen Dean</b>	<b>Sri Prabaharan</b>
<b>Azalea Egerton</b>	<b>Ellie Riddell</b>
<b>Megan Ellis</b>	<b>Katie Robinson</b>
<b>Malia Gallimore</b>	<b>Ben Sanders</b>
<b>Oscar Hills</b>	<b>Gracie Sutton</b>

There are many more students who are finishing off their sections and the school is very proud of their achievements. Any current Year 10 student who wishes to sign up to take part in the Bronze Award should collect a letter from Mr Norman in the bottom PE office and return their form by **Friday 7th November.**

Mr Hardinge

## SHOREBIRD SCIENCE LECTURE

The first community lecture of the year was very well attended. **Professor Goss-Custard** provided the audience with an insight into the effect that climate change is having on our shorebird populations. The lecture was introduced by two sixth form students, **Beth Ellis** and **Grace Dewey** who both spoke eloquently and confidently in front of the crowd. We collected £213.95 from donations during the evening which will be donated to Professor Goss-Custard's chosen charity 'Smile'. Many thanks to **Mr Munroe** for organising the lecture and making the evening possible.

Mr Walker

## Studying Studland

Year 13 biologists spent two days traipsing through the sand dunes at Studland to study succession – how the ecosystem changes with time and distance from the sea. Large amounts of data and samples were collected by the students to bring back to our labs and analyse. They will then use this to create a report. A massive thank you to **Mr Whitbread** for organising the trip and to all staff who attended.

Mr Walker



## IN HARMONY WITH A NEW DASP CHOIR

A new staff choir is launching for all staff who work in a DASP school. The choir is a chance for staff to come and do some fun harmony singing. If you are a parent who works at a DASP school, please do consider joining us. The sessions will be at Thomas Hardy School on

**Friday 4th November 4pm - 5pm**

**Friday 2nd December 4pm - 5pm** - we'll do some Christmas songs!

Please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/oKVeEJUBYdNAq9qT6>

Or email Mrs Trevorrow: [htrevorrow@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:htrevorrow@thomas-hardye.net)

## DANCE ALUMNI

Former student **Amelia Smeaton** is currently studying at Performers College, Birmingham. In her first year, she was selected as one of 14 out of 250 from auditions held by Birmingham Royal Ballet for a project based on ballet Lazuli Sky. Due to thunderstorms, the outdoor performance was moved into the BRB theatre, which Amelia said was an amazing experience. In her end-of-year show, she was chosen to be the lead for the commercial and lyrical pieces and as part of the ensemble in the contemporary and ballet pieces. She also took part in the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony. Finally, she will be performing on the Hippodrome main stage with the Royal Ballet in the first curtain call of contemporary project History. The director Carlos Acosta asked for this project to be put on stage before a triple bill by the Royal Ballet.

We are super proud of Amelia and wish her well in the continuation of her studies.

Mrs Ncube and Miss Reader