



## WELCOME!

Since 1st January we have changed our status from a single academy trust to become a multi-academy trust. This has not changed the way we run the school but it will mean that we have the capacity to work more closely with other schools, including DASP schools, if we choose to do so. Our status as an outstanding school means we have an obligation to support other schools and to improve education right across Dorset. You may already be aware that we have been working with Ferndown Upper School over the past 8 months and both schools have benefitted from the close collaboration. Ferndown are now following a consultation exercise to apply to join the Thomas Hardy MAT later in the year; we will keep you informed of any new developments.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the college system has been the vibrant programme of sports competitions. This term, the college football competition has attracted large crowds of spectators at lunchtimes. It has been wonderful to see the way students themselves have come forward in leadership roles, including officiating. The games have been played in a really good spirit with plenty of encouragement from the sidelines.

My thanks to everyone involved in the school production of Alice in Wonderland. An unbelievable amount of work goes into a production on this scale and there were several outstanding performances over the two nights. I would also point you towards the **theatre events programme** available on the website. There are some exciting evenings planned for the remainder of the school year, often involving nationally recognised acts and performers.

Have a good half-term break,

Mr. Foley



## MODEL UN DELEGATION

Last week, 20 Sixth Formers from Thomas Hardy were stood outside the school gates at 6.00am on a Sunday morning, in full business dress. This spectacle was a result of their decision to represent the school at the Bristol Grammar School 8th Annual Model UN conference, representing their assigned nations (Iran, China, Poland and Kenya) on various UN committees.

Committees were in session most of the day, with students working on resolutions to problems from religious extremism to deforestation, questioning other nation's proposals and trying to reach agreements on actions the UN could take.

Congratulations are due to Year 13 student **Oliver Weaver**, who was awarded 'Best Delegate' for the Human Rights Council. The students had an enjoyable day engaging with global politics, and their 'most professional' appearance was praised by organiser Dr Robert Massey. See more online [here](#).



## Sixth Form Now On Facebook

The Sixth Form Team have recently set up a Facebook page as an extra resource to help share achievements and relevant information with students, staff and parents.

Take a look and please like, follow & share!  
[www.facebook.com/thomashardyesixthform/](http://www.facebook.com/thomashardyesixthform/)

## YEAR 11 EXAM PREPARATION: PARENTS' SUPPORT EVENING

**Thursday 10th March**  
*Drop in at any time between*  
**5:00pm - 6:30pm**  
**Thomas Hardy School Library**

- Pick up practical ideas and tips to help you support your child
- Talk to students who have successfully completed their GCSEs
- Guidance material available
- Ask teaching staff questions

For further information, please email or call Dr Tim Ennion:  
[tennion@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:tennion@thomas-hardye.net)  
**01305 266064**



## ALICE IS WONDERFUL!

The recent performances Alice in Wonderland were very well received. One audience member wrote, "We were all laughing the whole way through. Just captured the absurdity and surrealism that Carroll intended... LOVED IT! Can't wait for the next production."

## Keeping in touch

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Please contact:  
[admin@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:admin@thomas-hardye.net)

## Exam Invigilators Required

Do you have some free time during the months of May and June?

Have you ever considered being an exam invigilator? We are seeking individuals who can promote a calm and supportive atmosphere for our students so that they achieve their best.

Hours can be flexible, so are equally suited to parents of school age children as well as the retired and those looking for extra income.

If you are interested, please email [exams@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:exams@thomas-hardye.net) by **Monday 29th February** for further information, or look online [here](#).

## UNIVERSITY OFFERS SUCCESS

Over 300 students applied through the UCAS system this year and we have had an outstanding response, with many now holding excellent offers from a wide range of universities. These include a good number of unconditional offers, which universities reserve for the highest calibre candidates. We are delighted that seven of our students received Oxbridge offers despite facing tough international competition. All of our applicants should be pleased that their hard work and determination has been recognised.

It is a genuine privilege for us to work with so many talented young people at Thomas Hardy. See additional coverage in the Dorset Echo [here](#).



## STEM: ROBOTICS & 3D ANIMATION

The ICT and Computing department hosted two excellent STEM workshops delivered by Bournemouth University, aimed at widening participation in STEM subjects and redressing the shortage of women choosing STEM careers.

The first session, a Robotics Challenge, involved 40 students in Years 9 and 11, and focussed on programming skills, using problem-solving to make Lego robots navigate tasks. In the second workshop, 29 students learnt how to animate using Clara.io software.

After an introduction in the range of jobs available in the computing and animation industry, the group created snowmen animations and their own 3D animations. Students found the day enjoyable and fulfilling.

## news in brief

**NETBALL SUPER LEAGUE** 23 students, accompanied by Mrs Biddle & Miss Bright, will be going to Bath University on March 4th to watch Team Bath V Loughborough Lightning in the Netball Super League.

**YES CHEF** Last month, Mrs Voss took 10 Food students to Bournemouth & Poole college to compete against 20 other students in the second round of the Yes Chef competition. They produced their own individual chicken dish and chocolate fondant dessert in under two hours, all with a cheerful attitude, calmness and optimism. **Emma Challoner** will now go through to the semi-final in a few weeks' time.

**INVESTOR IN CAREERS AWARD** The school is working towards attaining this quality standard for excellent provision in this area of work. Raising students' awareness of opportunities, aspirations and working with them to help them achieve their full potential is very important to the school.

## A GOOD READ...

Thank you to all parents and carers who came to the recent 'How to help your child with Literacy' talk and Learning Resources Centre visit. The presentation and the library leaflet is online [here](#).

Questions asked by parents included 'How does a parent know if their child is reading good quality fiction?'

In response, a recommended reading list for students, put together by school librarian Mrs Heinrich, is available on the school website [here](#). Other lists created by the school and tailored to different categories and age groups are available at [www.lovereadng4schools.co.uk](http://www.lovereadng4schools.co.uk).

Parents will need to create a simple account to access the lists, which are printable.

## key dates

**half term:** Monday 15th - Friday 19th Feb  
**end of Spring term:** Thursday 24th March  
**start of Summer term:** Monday 11th April  
**Bank Holiday** Monday 2nd May  
**half term:**  
Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June  
**end of Summer term:** Wednesday 20th July

The school calendar and term dates sheets are available online [here](#)

## RYLA SELECTION FOR CCF CADETS

After a lengthy selection process, Sjt Hugh Love and Cdt Athene Marston have been selected to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Award on Dartmoor during the forthcoming half term break. OC Army Section, Capt Kevin Matthews, said 'we are delighted that Sjt Love and Cdt Marston have been selected by the RYLA committee, it is a valuable learning experience that will have a very positive impact on them.'