

DORSET STUDIO SCHOOL

# NEWSletter

MAY 2025



**Dorset**  
Studio School

**LAND & ENVIRONMENT IS AT THE  
HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO**



### Message from the Principal

Dear parent(s)/carer(s)

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. It has been a busy half-term with lots going on across all year groups. We continue to capture some of the experiences students have had and share on our social media. These platforms are thriving with lots of interest in what is going on in the school day and beyond. Indeed, we have had great personal achievements in areas such as pre-uniformed services and tetrathlon. I hope you enjoyed the pictures as much as we did!

Alongside this letter, you will receive a visual reminder of some of the highlights of 'A day in the life of a Dorset Studio School student'. These images show great examples of the whole arc of education, as well as our strong commitment to our Land & Environment specialism. We are extremely proud of our students and want 'Dorset Studio School' to be a real pedigree name for exemplary Land & Environment provision.

### Parents' Consultative Forum

Last time I wrote to you about updates in school, I made reference to a forum that I want to start to give you the

opportunity of sharing our developments and helping to shape policy. With this in mind, we will be holding the inaugural event on 25th June 2025 at the Kingston Maurward site for a 6pm start. The meeting will focus on proposed changes to the Behaviour & Rewards Policy and changes made to the Assessment policy and process. If you would like to attend, please complete this Google Form using the web link or QR code below:

[Confirmation of attendance - Reply Form](#)



The meeting will be limited to one hour.

### Uniform

Thank you for supporting the school with its renewed drive on standards of uniform. Our recent focus has been on jewellery, in particular bangles and bracelets. If your child has one or several of these items, please ensure they are left at home. There is no place for them in school.

With the recent hot weather we have experienced, the rule on shorts was relaxed to allow students to wear plain black shorts. I believe this was a pragmatic decision at the time. However, with half-term approaching we want students to wear a more consistent style of shorts. These are based on a cargo-style which are, or almost, at knee length. There are a couple of examples below alongside retailers that we have found offer good value for money and prompt delivery.



[H&M Cargo Shorts](#)





[Amazon Essentials Men's Fleece Cargo Shorts](#)



[westAce Cargo Shorts](#)



This means students will need to leave their Canterbury shorts at home from Friday 23rd May onwards. Whilst they are the short of choice for a lot of students and have helped us get through a particularly hot period of weather, they will not be allowed from this date previously.

**Curriculum Pathways**

On 18th June 2025 we will be holding an information evening about our curriculum pathways moving forwards. It is an ideal opportunity for us to present our plans to you. Our curriculum will have a strong identity with our land and environment specialism and it has been designed to meet the educational needs and future aspirations of your child.

**Transition Events**

Year 9 students will be gaining invaluable first-hand experience of the Poundbury site between the dates of 30th June - 3rd July inclusive. It is important they visit the site and receive some teaching whilst they're in preparation for Year 10. Over this period, students will gain an insight into the programmes of study they will be undertaking as well as other specific subject details. Students will take part in a 'ramble' plus a visit to the Donkey Sanctuary; more details to follow.

Year 6 students will also be joining us for our induction day on July 1st. We plan to give them a warm welcome to The Studio School and a taste of things to come. Some of our students will be selected to support during the day as ambassadors of the school.

**Other activities**

There are a range of other events taking place over the second part of the summer term including visits to Weymouth College for students in years 9 and 10, Sports Day, Zero Club event, Year 10 assessments, Year 10 work experience taster week and the Year 11 Prom.

Once again, a sincere thank you for your ongoing support of the school. Together really does make things better and has a demonstrable positive effect on the choices our students make.

Kind regards

Jason Malone  
Principal

**Work Experience - a central pillar to learning**

All students who attend our land based school have the opportunity to have hands on experience, learning by doing...thanks to #trinitystreetchristmastrees for sharing them hard at work.





### Dorset School Games event

On the 18th of May, students from Dorset Studio school took part in Dorset School Games, "Can do secondary cycling", held at #moorsvalley. The students had the opportunity to engage in various skills and racing activities both individually and as part of a team, guided by experienced British Cycling coaches. A great experience.



### Ten Tors 2025

Year 11 student Thomas McLaren recently took part in the TENTORS 2025 challenge, completing 45 miles over Dartmoor. Showing fantastic leadership skills and team work by being a navigator and team leader. Well done to Cadet Unit 1032 Yeovil Squadron Air Cadets. He so deserved the silver medal.



### Dorset Careers & Skills Festival

Our Year 9 and Year 10 students attended the Dorset Careers & Skill Festival, in the University Centre of our Kingston Maurward campus, sponsored and supported by the Dorset Careers Hub.

This was a hugely successful event welcoming 38 exhibitors, from FE & HE training providers and universities to apprenticeship providers and volunteer organisations, and everything in between.

Interactive exhibits, insightful questions and engaging conversations - a buzz of activity and excitement filled the building.



### Taking our learning outside of the classroom

Our Year 7s have been taking advantage of the warm weather and the beautiful Kingston Maurward estate in order to explore the topic of coordinates in Maths. There is a cross-curricular element to this as coordinates are also part of the map reading element of the Humanities syllabus.





### Harper Adams University Visit

On the 29th April, we were delighted to welcome Rebecca Housden from Harper Adams University to Dorset Studio School.

Rebecca met with a selection of students from years 9, 10 and 11. Rebecca talked about the different types of degree and also explained the unique nature of Harper Adams University, the style of its courses, the farm that is part of the university and its agricultural and environmental focus.

The year 11 students made excellent use of their time to ask Rebecca a wide range of questions about getting to University and what to expect once there. Year 9 and 10 will have a chance to ask their questions at the Career Fair tomorrow.

Studying at university is an aspiration that many of our students are capable of achieving and hopefully as a result of today's talks more will want to work towards this goal.

At the end of the day Rebecca commented very positively about the knowledge and enthusiasm of our students and that Dorset Studio School seemed to be a similar special place to Harper Adams University.

There is the possibility of Rebecca meeting with parents at a future date to explain a little bit about university and Harper Adams in particular. If you would be interested in such an event please contact me at the school.

Martin Hampshire, Head of Science Dorset Studio School martin.hampshire@dorsetstudioschool.co.uk



### Year 11 Animal Care

Year 11's out on the farm being tested on handling, feeding and health checks with the lambs. All part of the assessment for the land based studies qualification.



### Revision Skills

Prior to the start of the this term, year 11 students enjoyed learning about and practising a range of Revision skills and strategies at Kingston Maurward House. They finished the day with a range of resources to take home as well as sound advice on the best ways to revise, and a timetable to get them started!



### Geography Field Trip

Year 10 travelled to Lyme Regis at the beginning of May to complete their GCSE Geography field trip element





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