



Dorset
Studio School
Newsletter
Autumn 1 2023

Naturally supportive of new potential

Autumn at Dorset Studio School has been an exciting time
as we welcome new members of our community to our campus



▼ Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you after what has been another busy but 'record breaking' half term in school.

In September we held our best ever attended 'Open day,' with approximately five hundred visitors on site. As we become firmly ensconced in what is the tenth year of Dorset Studio School, we continue to prosper, now having more students enrolled than has ever previously been the case.

We have also enjoyed four (record breaking attendance) parents' evenings this half term, those being 'curriculum information evenings' on both sites, a 'new parents' evening' and a wonderful 'celebration evening' held in the Kingston Maurward house just last

week. Fifty-eight awards were presented to students who had achieved particularly well last year. Well done to all of them!

We have been working hard to garner the thoughts of parents, carers and students. Thank you to the many all of you who have completed the parent survey for us. The results have provided some really useful insights into school. Thank you so much for your very warm comments. One of the key findings was that you wanted to know even more about the school. We have taken note and hope that you have found the increase in information through 'ParentPay' to be useful but not overbearing.

I have recently introduced a weekly 'Principal's Clinic.' This is intended to add to, rather than replace any other lines of communication! Please do go through normal school channels should you have any questions. However, if you do find that you would like a brief fifteen-minute chat, appointments are bookable weekly through the online 'School cloud' booking system. Instructions for logging on are attached to this newsletter. I will vary the appointment times each week.

Our new behaviour policy means that we have all been able to experience a truly calm,

orderly and purposeful start to the school year, with students responding brilliantly. Increasing attendance remains a key priority, with students only being able to benefit from our wonderful provision, and the opportunity to build lifelong friendships, if they are in school. Every day missed is six hours of lost learning.

As we look towards another busy half term (not least with Year 11 Mock exams but weeks away) I wish you all students a relaxing half term break and hope that you all keep safe and well.

With kind regards

PA Green
Principal

▼ Land and Environment



Year 9's started their BTEC Technical Award in Animal Care qualification at the start of the



autumn term. The first topic is teaching them the Safe Handling, Moving and Restraint of animals. To keep operators and animals safe, animal behaviour must be fully recognised and understood. Help develop knowledge and understanding, animal observation and handling skill are practiced using a range of species on the Kingston Maurward Estate

▼ **"I'm a Student –Get me out of Here!"**



Year 8 students have been introduced to sustainable woodland management by visiting to Puddletown Forest. They had to select site and materials. In small teams of 2-3, students respond to survival scenario - 'we're stranded and we need shelter'. (Design and build, review and dismantle to leave no trace.) This will give them an awareness

of impact on woodland ecosystem (Spatial awareness, material selection, construction, teamwork).

▼ **Greening-up Poundbury**



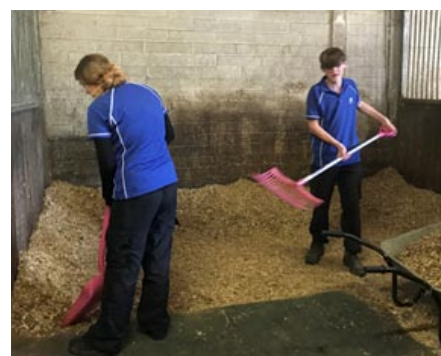
Head of Land and Environment, Maddy Irvine, uses the new (but overgrown) vegetable plot at Poundbury, to demonstrate to year 11 students, the difference between monocotyledon and dicotyledon plants.

▼ **Exotic Behaviour**



Miss Rees introducing year 9 to bird behaviour. Students listening to "Cookie" the Kookaburra, using a video of pre-recorded Kookaburra call in its natural environment (Australia).

▼ **Year 10 Work Experience on the Kingston Maurward Estate**



Stables being prepared for horses at Manor Stables. Students are taking the opportunity to show off their skills and knowledge by ensuring the specialist indoor accommodation meets high welfare standards.



Sustainability - Times and attitudes have changed for the better. It wasn't that long ago that seasonal foliage was burnt resulting in carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere, adding to greenhouse gases and therefore climate. Nowadays waste from the estate is either chipped and used for mulch or composted and used for plant nutrients.



Year 10 students taking care in milking freshly calved cows. Their high quality milk is then sold to Marks & Spencer at a premium price.



End of season grounds maintenance taking place at the Farm Animal Park. This extremely popular tourist attraction provides a great day out for visitors who enjoy the well-kept gardens as well seeing the large range of animals

▼ Alumni Success

We are hugely proud of all of our young people as they make their way forward to the next stages of their education, whether it be to college, sixth form or apprenticeship.

It has been great to hear about the ongoing successes of one of our class of 2020, Jacob, who went from Dorset Studio School at the end of Year 11 on to Kingston Maurward College, where he completed his advanced extended technical diploma in agriculture.

Following on from this, he then secured a coveted apprenticeship with CLAAS, one of the world's leading manufacturers of agricultural machinery. Passing his GCSEs and BTECs at grade 4 and above was key to this journey.

Jacob is currently one of 22 apprentices nationwide, selected from over 400 applicants. Not all are CLAAS employees, Jacob is. It's a 4 year apprenticeship with block release at the Academy at Saxham in Suffolk, 3 x 3 week blocks then study and on the job learning in the workplace.

Learning while earning!



▼ Forest School

It has been a joy to welcome our new year 7s to our woods and their forest school programme. Already there are firm friendships being formed and some proactive, responsible young people sharing their experience and expertise.



Alfie and Luke are showing themselves to be the type of young men who any employer would be proud to have as their staff.

Announcements

Please can all students be fully prepared for the changing weather with warm winter coats, thick socks, hats and gloves so we can all continue to learn out in our beautiful countryside.

Forest school has just successfully introduced camp fire cooking. It would be really helpful if students could bring in a spare vegetable or (ring pull) tin of something to help us create delicious camp



fire cuisine. Any donations of pasta, flour or rice are gratefully received.

Year 7 Land & Environment

Year 7's have been burying themselves in the berries of autumn. Using hawthorn, apples and blackberries they have been learning how to preserve these powerhouses of vitamin C by making them into a hedgerow ketchup.

Year 9 Land Based Studies

Year 9 students have been getting their hands dirty with seasonal jobs on the farm. They have been learning that this time of year is when the farm are preparing the livestock for another round of production. Here year 9s are giving the rams their yearly check, running through the five T's for toes, tone, teeth, tags, and yes, testicles. Some expert handling here by 9W.



Year 7 forest school have been busy with learning and gaining appreciating boundaries of using our woodlands. Many feet make a substantial impact on the earth, and so keeping to the paths allows the young trees to grow.



This message instigated a rescue mission for a young oak which was spotted growing right next to our fire pit. Mission was accomplished by repurposing a snack carton.



Harry is aided and abetted by Hector and Denny to give the group a superb presentation on his wildlife skull collection.

In a fantastic example of child-led learning the discussion covered terms such as carnivore, omnivore, predator prey, culling, diseases and non-native species. Cracking preparation work for later Land Based curriculum.

▼ Community feedback

The Land & Environment team were so proud of our student stewards at this year's county show. The feedback we received by the livestock owners who benefitted from the help of our students was simply phenomenal. A fantastic start to the year for our Land Based students.



Dorset Young Farmers hedge laying competition

Both Logan and Enya took part the Dorset Young Farmers hedge laying pairs competition. They worked really hard within their teams to get their part of the hedge laid correctly in the Dorset Style.

Logan and his partner ended up winning the trophy -



Logan has now won this competition 4 times! Although Enya didn't get placed she had a great competition and we are very proud of her effort.

▼ Maths

Congratulations to Crystal C, who has received the most achievement points in maths this year so far.

The top students for each year group in maths are:

Year 11: Ella P
Year 10: Jasmine M
Year 9: Crystal C
Year 8: Mia P
Year 7: Madison D and Darcie E

▼ Physical Education

Our students have got off to a fantastic start with the PE curriculum in both key stages. Years 7-9 have been outside enjoying the last of the sunny weather studying Tag-Rugby

whilst students in years 10-11 have been studying Table Tennis.

After half-term years 7-9 will remain outside as they are studying football and will require studded boots in addition to their trainers for every lesson. They should wear a base-layer or extra t-shirt underneath their rugby or PE tops and be prepared for all weather conditions. Long black socks and shin pads are advisable.

Years 10-11 will be studying Badminton and require the same uniform as this term which consists: PE top or Rugby shirt, black shorts or leggings, black socks and sports trainers. They are welcome to wear a base-layer or t-shirt underneath their rugby or PE tops should they so wish.

Hall of fame

Well done to our students who made pledges to ride their bikes to school last week for Cycle to School Week organised by Bikeability UK.



Mya Green in Year 11 had travelled the furthest each day and in all weathers with her journey involving not only riding her bike but also catching a train. Mr Burton who is also a keen cyclist had been in touch with Mucoff who kindly donated some cleaning prizes to get those bikes shining again!

Cross Country

We have attended our first Cross-Country event turning up with 16 runners across years 7-10. The weather was fantastic and the course not too demanding for the first race of the year. There was a huge turnout from Dorset schools and our students did us proud. A special mention in the Juniors (1580m) to Ollie Gillman placing 5th out of 46 which is an outstanding debut result against some very tough competition!



Key dates and useful links

Area XC Race 2 postponed: Date to be confirmed – Colfox
Area XC Race 3 is on 30th November – Budmouth



Taekwondo success for
Tia and Jake

Tia won 2x Gold's (Poomsae & Sparring) and Jake won Silver for his Poomsae. Tia is in the Red Hogu in the fighting photo



A number of our students across years 7-10 took part in the Dorset Leadership Academy at Bryanston on the 17th October. This included a range of workshops and seminars, along with a presentation from a Paralympic swimmer.

School PE Uniform supplier:
<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/dorsetstudio>

Parents, we love to hear about your child's sporting efforts outside of school. Please do email in details and photos.

▼ Arts

Students in year 7 have been enjoying the late summer in September drawing plants at the walled garden at Kingston Maurward as part of the art curriculum in year 7 and the start to the academic year. Students have experienced the differences of drawing outside 'in the field' and in the classroom to build up their shape, form and line drawing skills. On return to the classroom, students have been practising their watercolour skills focusing on blending colour with water on different types of



paper ready to produce a flower design postcard. Next stop for year 7 in art: the work of Georgia O'Keeffe.



Remember to follow @dorsetstudioschoolart on Instagram to see your work on there

Instrumental lessons are available including singing, guitar, keyboard. Please see Mrs Harris for more information or contact directly WessexMusic@wessex.ac and ask for Kate for more information.



STOP PRESS: DRAMA lessons are available from Kelly Hunter from The Artori Academy. Please see the letter sent out on ParentPay if you are interested in having some additional drama lessons.



▼ Celebrating Achievement

It was a pleasure to hold our recent 'celebration evening' in the Kingston Maurward house just last week. Fifty-eight awards were presented to students who had achieved particularly well last year. Well done to all of them! Congratulations to Grace who received this year's Principal's Award.



▼ Free School Meals

Have you checked to see if your child may be eligible to receive free school meals? Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your

household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child qualifies for free school meals, not only will they receive a healthy meal on every school day, they'll also get,

- access to free holiday clubs
- extra money for their school towards more teachers and activities

It's easy to find out if you qualify - complete the confidential checker at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals>

▼ Online Safety

Young people are so connected to the world through their devices that, by now, the vast majority of them will be aware of recent events in Israel, even if they're not quite old enough to comprehend them fully. Many children will have watched or read potentially distressing online news items covering the violence – and will possibly need extra reassurance from trusted adults in these unsettling days. This month's guide has practical advice on broaching upsetting subjects with young ones, allowing them to express their concerns and helping them to avoid becoming overwhelmed by their fears

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable half term break,

Paul Chapman,
Assistant Principal and
Designated Safeguarding Lead

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.

2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-5047606> | <https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/> | <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/how-talk-your-children-about-conflict-and-war>