



December 2021

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Sturminster Newton High School

From the Headteacher

Look at our website for weekly student bulletins
www.mysnhs.net



It has been another long but very productive term at SNHS. Students and staff returned in September looking forward to a hopefully more normal year and threw themselves with energy into lessons, sports and enrichment activities.

Over the summer the courts were refurbished and the Art and Science rooms refitted, which has been very positive. Students have worked extremely hard to get back into learning routines and the swing of school and Year 11 applied themselves admirably to their mocks. Year 13 have been working hard on their personal statements and university applications and at the time of writing the Sixth Form are undertaking the final rehearsals for the annual Sixth Form Pantomime on the last day of term.

Unfortunately increasing restrictions and illness have led to some disruption, but Year 7 have done a tremendous job with the primary school Christmas stories which were delivered virtually again this year and can be viewed in the links later in the newsletter.

A number of reward trips have taken place at the end of term as a way of saying thank you to students for all their efforts this term and seem to have been greatly enjoyed. Well done to all students and staff for their hard work and dedication this term and I wish everyone a restful, festive and safe Christmas with their families.

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CELEBRATING OUR STUDENT SUCCESS

During this term we were pleased to be able to recognise some of the students who sat their GCSEs last year. In lieu of our traditional annual awards ceremony, usually carried out in November, we held a special assembly to award GCSE certificates and present shields to those chosen students. We also congratulated shield winners that are now in our Sixth Form. Shield winners were chosen for a variety of reasons from most improved, highest grades, volunteering work and sporting achievement.

Well done to all students, not only those recognised with shields, but to all that put in so much effort throughout their GCSEs, in such challenging times.



STEM PRESENTATION

This week Year 10-13 students, interested in STEM careers, were invited to attend a presentation by Chemist, Dr Dan Stewart from the University of Southampton.

They were treated to an inspiring and passionate talk about the role of Chemistry and STEM subjects in business and industry, and were given an insight into Dan's amazing invention.

He has developed a catalyst that can turn waste CO₂ into polymers (plastics), reducing the need to use fossil fuels and at the same time capturing waste CO₂.

His company was showcased at the recent climate change summit, COP26, in this video which was watched by World leaders:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_WWYTe2yzA

Following his presentation Dan spoke to staff about outreach opportunities for SNHS with the University of Southampton; these include trips to the university labs which we hope to be able to organise in 2022.

Exciting times ahead for STEM at SNHS!





TEN TORS

This half term the Ten Tors group have been busy training and they have been lucky enough to visit some truly beautiful locations.

In September they began their training with the Maiden Castle & Hardy Monument Walk. Starting at Maiden Castle in Dorchester they walked the South Dorset Ridgeway to Hardy Monument, then onto Portesham Farm following the footpath to Corton Church, picking up the Jubilee Trail and then back onto the South Dorset Ridgeway, finishing back at Maiden Castle. They covered a total distance of 14 miles.



Following this the group completed the Abbots Way Walk which was a huge 36km! The training group had travelled down to Dartmoor Saturday afternoon and stayed at Belstone Village Hall where students enjoyed a hearty evening meal. It was an early rise on the Sunday and after breakfast travelled down to Buckfast Abbey for a 07:30hrs start. After an initial uphill trek of 4km they reached the moor where the route passed the Avon Dam Reservoir, Nuns Cross and South Hessary Tor, arriving at Princetown 24km later at 13:30hrs. They experienced heavy hail and rain showers during the morning. On the second leg of the walk, after a 15 minute break, they followed the route from Princetown to Tavistock covering another 12km. Several members of the team were suffering from fatigue and blisters but a tribute to them, they continued and finished the route just after 17:15hrs. For many of the students it was the first time walking on Dartmoor - a great achievement, well done to all who took part.

The next walk saw students driven down to Portland through torrential rain and flooding. Miraculously it stopped and the sun came out. Strong winds did not deter our walkers on the out leg to Portland Bill from Chesil beach. Greeted by spectacular scenery with the waves crashing in, it was a sight to behold. Then, walking up the more sheltered side via Church Cove (allegedly the first landing site of the Vikings in this area), time was taken out to find the "pirate's" grave in the church ruins there. Marked by a skull and crossbones it seemed appropriate for this Halloween walk. They finished by descending the merchants' incline from the Verne back to the starting point via the Tudor Castle. In total 18km/11 miles was covered.

The weekend of the 13th and 14th November was packed with activity of which walking was a part. An early start at 6am on Saturday enabled the group to arrive in good time on Dartmoor to conduct a micro navigation exercise. Everyone had a chance to practice walking on bearings, pacing and timing distance as we sought out Bronze Age hut circles, standing stones and other ancient features on the landscape.

On 28th November, with Storm Arwen having passed and temperatures very low, the group was blessed with glorious sunshine, little wind and above freezing temperatures for our Dorset walk. This was a map reading exercise taking in small legs to reinforce the pacing, time and distance work previously undertaken. Starting at the National Trust Car Park above Ringstead Bay they headed inland and, via Owermoigne Down and Winfrith, arrived at Lulworth Bay. Views inland were great with visibility crisp and sharp in the clear air and providing some fun breaking ice on the occasional puddle along the way! They returned to Ringstead via the inland coastal path taking 6 hours to cover the 21Km (approx.13 miles). This may seem a little slow, however, walk time was 4.75 hours with the balance made up of map reading, discussion and breaks. Well done to all students that have been taking part in Ten Tors this term.



Sturminster Newton High School

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Once again this year, due to the current situation, we were unable to commemorate Remembrance as we usually do with large presentations that are supported by veterans from the Royal British Legion. This year instead saw a smaller assembly take place with most year groups viewing it from their tutor rooms.

Students once again focused on creating Remembrance windows around the school to show their respect for those who served our country. There was an amazing response by both tutors and their tutees.

We were also able to have our Head Boy and Head Girl join Mr Davis in the town for the wreath laying service.





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ENRICHMENT

Following the disruption of the last two academic years where extra-curricular activities could not take place due to restrictions, in September 2021 SNHS introduced the enrichment programme to expand opportunities for students. Covering a wide variety of areas including sport, academic, wellbeing and creative pursuits, these activities are designed to enhance the enjoyment and welfare of students, provide additional learning and study opportunities and broaden their experiences. We believe that school is about far more than achieving exam results and aim to give all our students the chance to expand their horizons, develop extra skills and meet new people in new situations. The enrichment programme runs from 2.30-3.30 on Mondays and Wednesdays and involves different community partners off site as well as taking place in school. Students select activities on a termly basis and activities will vary according to demand and the offer from local partners.





Sturminster Newton High School

ENRICHMENT CONT.





COMPETITION WIN

Sturminster Newton High School are extremely pleased to have won the Surfers Against Sewage WUKA competition. Entering the competition prompted students to talk about the impact of the school on the environment and what the school could do to improve and become more planet friendly. Staff and Students were excited by winning the competition not only for the fantastic prize their menstruating students will be receiving, but also because it has led to the revival of the school's Eco Group.

Sturminster Newton High School have not had an Eco group for a couple of years now, as the lead teacher retired and COVID disrupted school life. Although changes were made around the school to become more environmentally friendly (no more laminating of resources, recycling of stationary, crisp packets, milk bottle lids, no more plastic cutlery being used in the canteen....) the momentum certainly had slowed down.

When the opportunity to enter the competition arose, quite a few of the school's students and staff were excited by the idea of potentially receiving a pair of period pants, an eco-friendly reusable sanitary product, which is currently outrageously taxed at 20% as it is deemed 'non-essential', something both students and staff felt strongly about.

To enter the competition, Sturminster Newton High School had to register with Plastic Free Schools - Surfers Against Sewage. Their website is very user friendly and has lots of resources and tasks to carry out, to help become a Plastic Free School.

The school are looking forward to working towards becoming a Plastic Free School and are feeling energised about facing the challenges ahead. Emily van de Geer, Surfers Against Sewage Education Manager said, "We are delighted to have been able to partner with WUKA to run this competition. We were so impressed with all the entries but our winners, Sturminster Newton High School, put together 2 incredibly strong letters to government on removing the tax from period pants and on the amount of single-use plastics in schools across the UK. We particularly loved the pupil's incredibly powerful poem and we hope they recognise just how powerful their voices are in helping to drive this necessary change."

This competition has opened up a discussion within the school about their role within the environment, as well as discussions about periods and sanitary products. These are all topics the staff and students feel open discussions about are important to have.





SPORTING NEWS

NORTH DORSET BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 25th November SNHS hosted the North Dorset KS3 Badminton tournament. SNHS were represented by 2 boys' teams and a girls' team of Year 9 students. Teams had 4 players who played a combination of singles and doubles games, against teams from other schools.

The SNHS team of Harry, Ethan, Ryan and Jake finished 2nd and the other team of Danny, Scott, Ewan and Tom finished 3rd. The girls' team finished 4th overall and were represented by Gracie, Layla, Martha, Rosie and Scarlet.



ENGLISH TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Three of our students, Finlay, Lauren and Jasmine, took part in the English Taekwondo Championships at the weekend and we would like to congratulate them on their success.

All three students train with SDMA-Dorset. Finlay and Lauren are both one belt off gaining their black belt and Jasmine is now a second degree black belt.

Finlay took bronze in his sparring category and Jasmine took silver in her sparring category. Lauren won both a bronze in sparring and a silver in her patterns category.

The club said 'All three students were very determined yet respectful to their opposition and were a great example to our club and your school. I was very impressed by their efforts.'



WHEEL CHAIR RUGBY

We would like to congratulate two of our students, Emily and Caleb, who play for the Bournemouth Lions Wheel Chair Rugby Team.

They played their first game on Sunday and both played amazingly, Caleb won the tip off, and scored 3 tries over 2 games. Emily played for both the womens' team and the junior team and scored 10 tries over 3 games.

A brilliant achievement, they both should be very proud. We look forward to hearing more from them!





VALE PANTRY DONATIONS

After our success last year collecting donations for The Vale Pantry, The School Council were keen to collect again this year. Students brought in a variety of different items and once again the amount received was brilliant. Thank you so much for everyone's generosity.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Sturminster Newton High School students thoroughly enjoyed raising money for Children In Need. There were various fundraisers including a Personal Assistant Sixth Form Auction, a Cake and Sweet Sale, Non-Uniform Day and the ever popular events Throw a Sponge at a Teacher and Jail and Bail (which sees teachers being covered in things such as flour and honey, drinking mystery drinks and having cold water thrown on them).

A huge thanks goes to everyone that donated, the School Council for organising the activities and those that were brave enough to volunteer!

We are really pleased to announce that we have raised over £800.00 and there are still donations coming in.





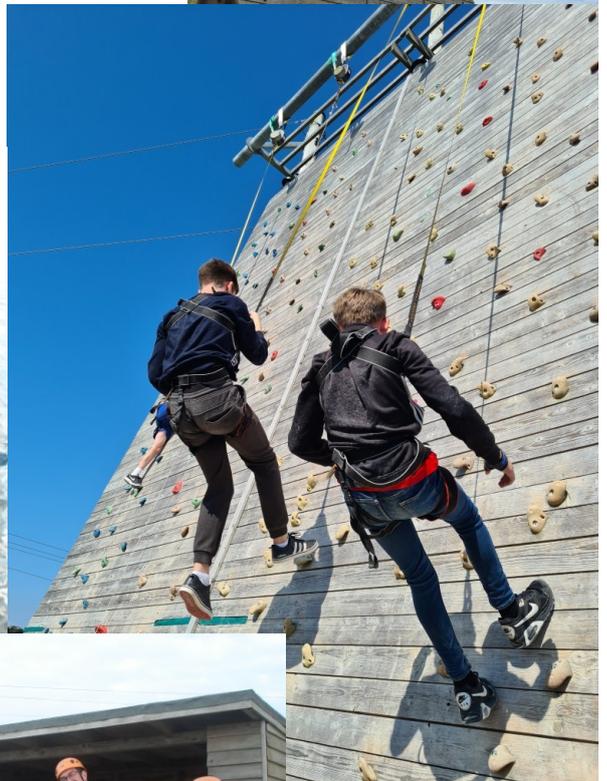
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OSMINGTON BAY

Year 8 and 9 students, along with some very excited staff, enjoyed a fantastic programme of adventurous activities at the PGL site in Osmington in September.

The weather was wonderful and the glorious coastal setting provided a perfect backdrop for Sturminster Newton High School's first residential trip in over 18 months.

Students had the opportunity to challenge themselves on land, sea and flying through the air as they took part in activities such as climbing, abseiling, raft building, rifle shooting and orienteering. The opportunity to work in teams, make new friends and try new things was seized upon by students and staff alike. Hopefully this was just a taste of things to come, as we embark on our new programme of enrichment at SNHS.





GEOGRAPHY TRIP

On October 11th and 12th, we took the GCSE and A-level geographers to study coastal processes at Swanage. The A-level students gathered data for their NEA, and the GCSE group looked at longshore drift and landforms.

The weather was excellent and allowed for a lot of good data collection. The students were excellently behaved, showing a mature attitude to their studies. They finished their data collection early which allowed time for a quick ice cream.



YEAR 9 SPYRAL TRIP

As part of our PSHE programme, Year 9 students watched SPYRAL, a performance designed to highlight issues surrounding cannabis use and mental health, raising drug awareness.

The aim of the performance was to highlight the effects that cannabis can have on a person's brain and their mental health, how a person's life could be negatively impacted and how no one knows what effects the use will have on them at any age, regardless of the strength of the cannabis.

We hope that Year 9 students found this thought provoking and informative.





SIXTH FORM - SAFE DRIVE, STAY ALIVE

In the normal course of events we are fortunate to welcome a wide variety of speakers into school to provide guidance and advice and to enrich the Sixth Form experience. Much of this input has gone online this year, however, we were able to invite the Safe Drive, Stay Alive team into school this term. In an effort to educate the young drivers of Dorset about their actions and the possible consequences whilst they are on the road, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and their community safety partners delivered this hard-hitting presentation to students in the Sixth Form.

The presentation was based around a video reconstruction of a road traffic collision, interspersed with real life testimonies from serving members of the emergency services along with a parent of a young person who lost their life in a road traffic collision.

Given that an alarming 20% of drivers crash in their first year of driving, the presentation is hard-hitting, making young drivers aware of their responsibilities on the road and the potentially lethal results of failing to do so. Some students found this distressing, but we hope that the support on hand and time for discussion following the talk helped students to reflect on the issues raised and provide a positive conclusion.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thank you to our wonderful Kitchen Team for putting on a lovely Christmas lunch for our staff and students. Everyone enjoyed their food and certainly started to feel festive.





SIXTH FORM PANTO

The sixth form worked hard to produce the traditional quick pantomime for the last day of term, no mean feat this year as due to restrictions there had to be three separate assemblies and performances!



Taking the basic story of Aladdin, a combination of Years 12 and 13 have worked really hard over the final few days, sorting costumes, creating scenery and of course learning their lines in order to entertain the rest of the school as we head towards the Christmas break.

Zoe took the title role with Billy a memorably blue genie and Reuben spending quite a while selecting his exact dress to play Widow Twankey. All the actors took on their roles with zeal and good humour. Many thanks to the stage management team lead by Caitlin and to Mrs Privett for keeping everything on track. It's always worth the wait to see which members of the Senior leadership Team will delight the crowds with their teacher dancing!



TEN TORS VIRTUAL EVENT JULY 2021

Due to the Ten Tors Challenge being cancelled for the second year running, the Army HQ South West gave the opportunity for groups to take part in a virtual event. Out of the 15 students who initially put their names down for training, only 3 students took part in the virtual event back in July. They walked a total of 30km which qualified them for the 25km award covering Hambledon, Hod and Okeford hills and surrounding area. The walk was recorded on an app called Strava to confirm the distance walked. Congratulations to all three students Sofia, Dyllon and Daniel, who were awarded with a medal and certificate.





CHRISTMAS STORIES

The annual Christmas Story Competition has resulted in another fantastic collection of stories written by Year 7s to be read to Reception and Year 1 classes in our local pyramid.

Once again, the year 7 English teachers have been highly impressed both by the effort and talent displayed. The stories were carefully planned with a range of animal, vegetable, magical and human characters, each facing jeopardy and dilemmas. Lots of the stories had beautifully drawn illustrations and others made expert use of technology. The stories themselves were thoughtfully told: many stories had morals - with characters learning lessons and with good overcoming evil.



Also this year, lots of students had made an extra effort to please their target audience by making their stories quite interactive with lift-the-flaps, or pull out letters, or 'spot the star on every page'.

It was almost impossible to pick the winners - so we had lots of runners up too! Very well done to the following who were selected as winners: Zac, Honey, Connie, Caitlin, Hazel and Erin. And also very well done to the runners up: Darcie, Rachel, Alice, Gracie, Becca, Morgan, Verity, Harry, Jacques, Martha, Kezia, George, Antonia and Jessica.

Unfortunately this year, due to Covid, the winning students were unable to visit the schools in person - so we sent recordings of them reading their stories instead.

A massive well done to all the Year 7s: you wrote fabulous stories - brilliant work!

Becca - <https://youtu.be/KVZGUiiOWyo>

Caitlin - <https://youtu.be/0MhAjGZY8oU>

Connie - <https://youtu.be/l3CcXurt7Qc>

Darcie - <https://youtu.be/-oZOLkret4o>

Gracie - <https://youtu.be/zK1xoawEOiM>

Harry - <https://youtu.be/QfSbMcFKGr4>

Hazel - <https://youtu.be/x3XgHfD3vbI>

Honey - <https://youtu.be/lXgORJBmPEc>

Jacques - <https://youtu.be/64nRBXZihLI>

Martha - <https://youtu.be/LgFvOW5WkFs>

Morgan - <https://youtu.be/cBU8YKmUWuU>

Rachel - <https://youtu.be/eO-lx4jfNfk>

Zac - <https://youtu.be/URXXs1eSKdk>





PREFECTS



This term we have appointed 20 new Prefects from Year 11 applicants. It was really lovely to see how many Year 11 students wanted to step up and take more responsibility around the school of which they have been a part for so many years. This year we have a wonderful team of Prefects who have thrown themselves into their duties on a daily basis, as well as being excellent ambassadors for the school on our Open Evening in October. They were busy throughout the whole evening, showing prospective parents around the school or demonstrating some of the skills and talents that could be developed in specific subject areas. Let's hope these Prefects will have more opportunities through the rest of the academic year to contribute to their school community in positive and enthusiastic ways.

THANK YOU FROM DOTTIE AND NIBBLES

Dottie and Nibbles, our resident guinea pigs, would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone that has donated items this term to support setting them up in school and their on-going care.

Students have really enjoyed having them in The Hub and have been keen to take responsibility for the care and upkeep they require.





ART

Year 10 GCSE Fine Art students have been focusing on 'Natural forms' for their Principles and Art practice project. Students have studied the work of Peter Randall-Page & Kate Malone, to gain valuable ideas about sculptural forms.

The group were challenged to produce designs for a 3D pod - based on the theme- 'Fruit from the mythology tree'.

They then had to realise these final designs in clay, problem solving as they constructed, in order to achieve the response that they originally created.

Designs ranged from skulls and pumpkins to snake wrapped beehive eggs.





SOCIAL MEDIA



Find us on Facebook

Keep up to date with school news, events, sports fixtures, notices and everything else you need to know on our Facebook and Instagram page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Sturminster-Newton-High-School-571299693043661/>

<https://www.instagram.com/sturminsternewtonhighschool/>



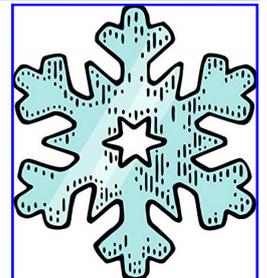
EMERGENCY CLOSURE PROCEDURE

From time to time, especially in bad weather, situations can arise when it is necessary to close the school. If such a decision is taken we will do our best to inform parents by using the school website www.mysnhs.net and the Dorset school closure website <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices> or

<https://www.facebook.com/Sturminster-Newton-High-School-571299693043661/> There will also be a message left on the school answerphone as soon as practically possible. This information can also be found in the student planners.



The decision to close the school is never taken lightly. The main factor affecting this decision is that of the transport operators deciding not to run due to road conditions. This is supplemented by an assessment of the safety of the site and the ability of staff to safely travel to the school. At all times the safety of students and staff has to be our main priority.



In bad weather if buses do not collect students in the morning, they will not run in the afternoon even if the weather improves. If there are any disruptions to school transport you can find this information at:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/school-transport/school-transport-updates>

Nobody gains by winter closure, since work has to be made up sooner or later. Students can access some of their work from home via RM Unify or from revision websites and text/exercise books.

Above all, the safe arrival and departure of the children and staff has to be paramount when deciding whether to close the school.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Term dates for the whole year are in both your child's Planner and in the Essential Information Booklet for Parents and Students, please note that these dates are subject to change)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Friday 17th December | - Last Day of Term Students Finish 1pm |
| Monday 3rd January | - Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 4th January | - Back to School |
| W/C 10th January | - Yr 13 Mock Exams |
| Thursday 20th January | - Yr 11 Parents Evening |
| Friday 28th January | - Non-Uniform Day |
| Thursday 3rd February | - Y9 Parents Evening & Options |
| 14th - 18th February | - Sixth Form Work Experience Week |
| 21st - 25th February | - Year 11 Mock 2 Core (tbc) |
| 28th February– 4th March | - Half Term |
| Thursday 3rd March | - Year 11 MFL Oral Week |
| Friday 4th March | - Year 8 Parents Evening |
| Thursday 10th March | - Quiz Night (tbc) |
| 21st - 25th March | - Y13 Parents Evening |
| 28th March - 1st April | - Year 10 Mock Week |
| 4th - 7th April | - Year 11 Mock Week 3 (tbc) |
| Thursday 7th April | - Year 9 Assessment Week (non core) |
| Friday 8th April | - Last Day Term |
| | - Inset Day |