



From the Headteacher...

As I write we are experiencing some very seasonally cold weather which is adding to the Christmas spirit. This has been a very long, exciting and packed term. We welcomed year 7 in September for their first day and they seem to have settled in very well and be enjoying life at the High School. Similarly, we were very glad to welcome year 12, both those returning and new students who have embraced sixth form life with verve and gusto. The sixth form enjoyed a very active day of team building with the Royal Navy and this term also saw A level psychology and sociology students visiting Shelton Mallet prison as part of their course. We were pleased also to appoint the student leadership team and year 11 prefects early this term and I thank them for the tremendous job they are doing. Starting early in the term, students began preparing for the Ten Tors with the Sturminster Expedition Group and congratulations to the thirteen students in the Duke of Edinburgh award who received their bronze. On the sporting front SNHS triumphed in basketball, winning 20-4 and Adam and Roy in year 12 were invited to play in a football tournament in Barcelona.

Both the open evening for prospective year 7 and the sixth form open evening took place this term, along with GCSE Awards evening and a number of students attended Dorset Leadership Academy at Bryanston. Students have continued working hard to support

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charities, raising £762.02 for Children in Need, PA for the Day with the sixth form, conducting the Harvest collection for the Vale Pantry and supporting anti-bullying week with a number of events. Links continue in MFL with our partner school in Germany, with a visiting member of staff due to join us later in the school year. Students have also participated in and led a number of curriculum events this term, including Black History month, a tremendous drama evening with year 13 and 11 and some excellent work with the Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust and Sturminster Mill. In these two subjects, Elliot received a commendation for his work with the Swanskin Seafarers Project as well as a reply from the Archbishop of Canterbury and Thea has been asked to work in technical production at the Octagon in Yeovil.

We also marked some sad occasions this term, conducting our annual Remembrance assemblies with the Royal British Legion and assemblies marking the sad passing of the Queen. The term ends on some high notes however, with a very festive Carol Concert displaying many of our students' and primary students musical and singing skills, the delicious Christmas lunch, for which many thanks to our kitchen staff and the ever popular sixth form pantomime.

My thanks to all students, staff and parents for their hard work and support this term and I hope you all enjoy a wonderful and restful Christmas.





STEM Club

This term our KS4/5 STEM Club have been busy exploring Science and Engineering ideas beyond the curriculum. Students have been working individually or in small groups on projects of their own design based around the criteria of the British Science Association's CREST Award. Highlights have been Eva and Sophie's slime investigation, where they have been trying to design slime that could be used on a film set. Farah has made her own fizzy drink and investigated how to change the fizziness and flavour. Both of these projects will be entered for a CREST Bronze Award. Year 12s Kylah-Beth is going for gold and has been carrying out a literature review in an attempt to answer the question 'can we reverse climate change?' Gold CREST awards can take up to 70 hours to complete, so Kylah-Beth will continue with this quest over the remainder of Year 12.

Next term there will be a KS3 STEM Club during Tuesday afternoon's enrichment session. If you have a question you've always wanted to investigate, we look forward to seeing you there!

The Science Team.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award this Autumn Term. They have shown great commitment and teamwork skills.

Keira, Lucas, George,
Neve, Shannon, Scott,
Tom, Sophie, Jacka,
Wiktorija, Ben,
Georgia, Henry.



Ex STEM Challenge

In Isabelle's words...

During October half term I was awarded a place on the Ex STEM CHALLENGE which is a national week-long Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) event run by the British army.

The aim of Ex STEM CHALLENGE is to utilise some of the Army's advanced STEM technology to demonstrate to cadets how their STEM lessons at school match across to the real world. It is also to enthuse them with a passion for STEM subjects; whilst engaging them to think about how choosing STEM subjects at school can lead to interesting and successful careers. This event could only accept 350 cadets nationally and I and a few other cadet friends were chosen.

We travelled around to different army camps to see what they offered in more depth. We got to make and learn how to use all sorts of equipment.





Young Emerging Artist

Congratulations to Daisy in Year 11 who has recently exhibited a range of her own watercolour paintings at Guggleton Farm Arts - most of the work was animal inspired, based on her visit to a local Artist for work experience (Charlotte England). Daisy's main inspiration for the exhibition was to highlight how young artists create work within their own environments. Daisy has won £100 worth of art materials and has been named 'Young Emerging Artist' in the Isabel de Pelet's Young Artist



Sixth Form Applications

To apply, complete the online application form below by the 13th January.

<https://www.mysnhs.net/applying-for-6th-form>



DIVERSITY GROUP



We would love to hear from you if you....

Would like the opportunity to become a Student leader?

Are good/would like to organising events in School?

Are interested in making a difference?

Would like to meet new people?

Can promote inclusivity?

Would like to gain confidence?

Plan, lead and champion events?

Have ideas you'd like to share?

We can offer...

A friendly place for all, acceptance and respect, a place to feel valued and heard, the opportunity to champion Diversity and belong to a really special team of people! Sometimes we even have CAKES!!

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR TUTOR OR EMAIL MRS BUNGAY TO FIND OUT HOW TO APPLY. WE ARE HOPING TO HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS TO SECURE AS AN ENRICHMENT OPTION FROM JANUARY.



Remembrance Day

We are incredibly proud of how our students conducted themselves during last weeks Remembrance Day assemblies.

Our Head Girls Rosie and Phoebe did an excellent job representing the school along with Mr Davis our Headteacher during the wreath laying in town.

Rosie and Phoebe were joined by students from William Barnes Primary School and Yewstock who also represented their schools impeccably.



GCSE Awards Evening

This term we celebrated the achievements of students who sat their GCSE's during the Summer. The Arts award this year was given to a student who had a fantastic work ethic which led to an increase in ability and confidence., congratulations to Alice for all your hard work. The languages award went to a student who is a dual linguist, has shown a love for language learning since Year 7 and is continuing into A Level. She also achieved 3 grades above her target, congratulations to Ruby, what an achievement.

The Sport award this year was awarded for excellent leadership within sport to Bethan and we cannot wait to see what you will continue to achieve in Sixth Form. This year's technology award for originality and achievement went to Ajay, congratulations on your outstanding work Ajay. It was decided that the IT award would go to a student who has worked hard continuously throughout the whole year impressing his teachers, well done Redzheb, keep up the great work!

The Humanities departments decision this year was particularly difficult which is why two students received the Humanities award for their hard work and outstanding commitment, well done Holly and Ollie, you should both be extremely proud.

This year's Science award for effort and achievement went to a student who always worked hard, achieved fantastic results in all 3 of the Triple Sciences and had gone on to study Physics at A level. This year's Science award for effort and achievement went to Luke. Along with the Science award Luke also achieved the Maths Award for showing exceptional performance in this subject - gaining the highest score in the school of 93% overall and a Grade 9. Well done Luke. The English award for excellent work went to Ellie.

Other awards that were handed out during the evening were The John Scott Vocational Award which went to Izzy, the Volunteering Achievement Award went to Rachel and the Probus Initiative and Endeavour Award went to Kylah-Beth.

The Governors Award was presented Laura and the Headteachers Award went to Sofia.

Well done to all students that sat their GCSE's in the Summer and congratulations to those mentioned above for receiving your awards.





Basketball Win for SNHS

It was the first game of the basketball season for Year 10 last night. Unfortunately the team were blighted by sickness meaning we only had a small team, and in basketball subs are important to keep energy rates up. However, alongside a fantastic atmosphere and with great sportsmanship all round, Sturminster Newton High School finished 20 to 4 winners. Great effort, well done!



Plastic Free School

The Eco Group held a school clean, collecting plastic pollution from different parts of the school including the courts, the canteen and the Sixth Form Centre.

They then gathered the bags of pollution and investigated what they had collected; the types of plastic pollution and the brands that this pollution belonged to.

At SNHS we found a majority of Cadbury's, Coca Cola and Walkers packaging and decided to write to those brands and challenge them about the use of plastics for their products.

By contacting them the pupils were able to put pressure on big businesses to make changes to their packaging and show that consumers care about this.

The group got a response from Cadbury's which made them feel heard and showed them that some big industries are taking them and their concerns seriously.

**PLASTIC FREE
SCHOOLS**
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

**OBJECTIVE
COMPLETE!**





Ten Tors Training Diary

Dartmoor - 26th & 27th November 2022

Well done to all who took part in the Training on Dartmoor at the weekend. We battled wind and rain on Saturday, but managed to cover 10.5 miles. We stayed at Belstone Village Hall Saturday evening which enabled us to dry out our kit. That evening we had a hearty meal of Sausage & Mash with Onion Gravy and finished with Mince Pie and Custard. After breakfast on Sunday we set out for a slightly shorter walk of 9 miles. We had a lovely dry day and it gave the students a



better opportunity to practice their map reading. The photos were taken outside the Village Hall, Sourton Tor, Brat Tor next to the Widgery Cross and at the Ford at the end of the walk.

Dartmoor - 12th & 13th November 2022

Training is going well and the students spent two days walking on the moor. They were split into three groups, two groups covered 27 miles and the third group covered over this distance as they are training for the 45 team event.



We took in many check points including Oke Tor, Dinger Tor, Fordslands Ledge, Buttern, Yes Tor just to name a few. The weather was ideal and stayed dry on both days, although the mist came down on us on Saturday. Well done to all who took part. The next training weekend is 26th &



Ten Tors Training Diary Continued...

Maiden Castle & Hardy Monument - Sunday 16th October 2022

The training group enjoyed a 12 mile walk starting at Maiden Castle walking up and over farmland onto the Ridgeway with great views over the Dorset countryside. Our first stop was the Hardy Monument where the group

took the opportunity to climb the 120 steps to the top. The monument was built in memory of Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy and is only open to the public a few times a year. The walk continued through the beautiful Dorset countryside, with another short stop at St Bartholomew's Chapel in Corton, before making our way back to the start at Maiden Castle.

Abbots Way Walk Buckfast Abbey to Tavistock - Sunday 2nd October 2022

Well done to all 22 students from the Sturminster Newton Expedition Group who were training for Ten Tors 2023 on Sunday and walked the Abbots Way, from Buckfast Abbey to Tavistock. After an initial uphill trek of 2.5 miles the students were on the moor where the route passed the Avon Dam Reservoir, Nuns Cross, South Hessary Tor, Princetown, Merrivale and onto Tavistock covering a total of 23 miles. There were lots of blisters and aching limbs. For many of the students it was the first time walking on Dartmoor, a great achievement, Well done to all who took part.



Dorset Coast Training Walk - 17th September 2022

Students interested in training for Ten Tors 2023 took part in a training walk on the Dorset Coast at the weekend. The students covered around 10 miles taking in the landmarks of Agglestone Rock, and the Obelisk, stopping for lunch at Old Harry Rocks with great views out to sea and finishing the walk at Knoll Beach.





Children In Need



Our annual Children In Need Jail and Bail Fundraiser saw students donating money to see teachers suffer forfeits. The more they donated the worse the forfeits got for Mrs Phipps, Mr Ling, Miss Norton and Mr Pallett. Among many other forfeits they had flour bombs thrown at them, sludge tipped over their heads, eggs cracked on them, baked bean socks, a moo off and the ice bucket challenge! The teachers were great sports throughout and all the students watching thoroughly enjoyed it!

There were various other fundraisers including a Personal Assistant Sixth Form Auction, a Cake Sale, Non-Uniform Day and the ever popular Throw a Sponge at a Teacher!

A huge thanks goes to everyone that donated, the students that organised the activities and those that were brave enough to volunteer!



Geography in the Field

Our Year 12 students headed out to the River Stour to investigate Hillslope River Processes. Geography is great in the classroom, but even better in the field!





Unlocking Potential for Our Community



Sixth Form Team Building Day with The Royal Navy

At the start of this term our Sixth Form Students had a visit from the Royal Navy who throughout the day did lots of team building activities with them. All the students thoroughly enjoyed this and worked exceptionally well together.

Thank you to the Royal Navy and Well Done to our students.

Barcelona Football Tournament

Two of our Sixth Form Students, Adam and Roy, were invited to play in a football tournament in Barcelona, with the Champion group that they train with.

They had an amazing experience, playing teams from many countries including Norway, Sweden, Spain, and then a combined European team in the final. This was a hugely competitive game, ending in a penalty shoot out, which went to sudden death but the boys eventually won!

Roy also captained the team in the final which was fantastic for him. They had an amazing four days, and to come home as winners was the icing on the cake.

Congratulations Boys!





Sixth Form Panto

On the final day of term The Sixth Form put on their annual Pantomime for the lower years, this years offering was 'Cinderella', complete with Fairy Godmother, Ugly Sisters, Prince Charming, Cinders and a horse!

This is always a highlight at the end of term and thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff, this year saw Mr Davis, Mr Henley, Mr Pettit and Mr Ling entertain the students by dancing in fancy dress.

A huge thank you to the Sixth Formers and staff that took part, Mr Dodman for script writing and Mrs Privett for her hard work helping the students pull the performance together.



Carol Concert

This year we were extremely pleased to see the return of our annual Christmas Carol Concert. We welcomed Shillingstone Primary School, Stalbridge Primary and William Barnes to perform on the evening. There were readings by students Elliott, Noah and Reuben, a cello solo performed by Edward and a piano solo by Anna. We also heard beautiful vocal solos performed by Lina and Ava and our school choir. We hope everyone enjoyed the carols as much as we did.





Year 7 Christmas Stories at the Primaries

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

Every year, the year 7 English teachers are impressed both by the effort and talent displayed, and this year was no different. The stories were carefully planned with a range of animal, vegetable, magical and human characters, each challenged by conflicts and obstacles which they had to overcome. Lots of the stories had beautifully drawn illustrations and others made clever use of technology. The stories themselves were thoughtfully crafted: they had morals - with characters learning lessons and with good overcoming evil. Many students made extra effort to please their target audience by making their stories interactive with lift-the-flaps, or pull out letters, or 'spot the Christmas Hat on every page'.

Many congratulations to the winners: Pheeb, Henry, Isabelle, Isabelle, Evie, Elizabeth, Logan, Samantha, Veronika, Poppy, Amy, Amelia, Edward and Daisy. They read their stories to avid audiences in Reception classes at Child Okeford and William Barnes primary schools.

And also very well done to the runners up for excellent effort: sla, James, Ava, Amber, Charlie, Molly, Evie, Ruby, Emily, Brandon, Patryk, Maggie, Lillie, Eve, Izzy, Megan, Chloe, Chrissy, Romeo, Connor, Susie and Ned

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



Psychology and Sociology Trip to Shepton Mallet Prison

Year 13 Psychology and Sociology students visited Shepton Mallet Prison as part of the curriculum.



They looked at how prisons have developed throughout the ages from Victorian times through to the modern day. The students were processed as prisoners and experienced the size of cells. They had a tour of the whole establishment which included the Execution Room. They also discussed whether incarceration works and how in modern times prisons are more revolved around rehabilitation.



History Department and Sturminster Mill

On Thursday 29th September, the History Department teamed-up with representatives of Sturminster Mill to welcome visitors to the annual school Open Evening. This was an opportunity to showcase the animated film and information panels produced by students during last year's Swanskin Seafarers project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Association of Independent Museums.

The visitor experience was enhanced by the rare opportunity to handle artefacts associated with the mill, such as the quern stone for grinding grain by hand and the fascinating collection of Victorian working clothes. Many visitors were amazed by the collection of shoes, as well as the large grain sacks that had to be lifted manually, weighing up to 18 stone when full of wheat. During the evening a competition was held to guess the weight of a cob loaf. Pictured here is Ali and Mia who won a beautiful, handcrafted loaf made with flour from the mill. Other lucky winners have collected free tickets for a Spring tour of the mill, complete with a cream tea. We would like to thank our colleagues from Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust for their ongoing support and generosity with the prizes.



Dorset Leadership Academy

This term our students have attended The Dorset Leadership Academy that was held for the 10th year running at Bryanston school.

Our students were lucky enough to be selected to attend due to their commitment and passion for sport and PE.

Several events that were being held during the day were leadership, young ambassador training, young coaches training and the new FA initiative Barclays Game-on.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially the free t-shirts and food!

Watch out for these leaders creating new clubs here at SNHS.



Year 11 Prefects

This term we have appointed 18 new Prefects from Year 11 applicants. It is really lovely to see how many Year 11 students wanted to step up and take more responsibilities around the school they have been part of for so many years. This year we have a wonderful team of Prefects who will throw themselves into their duties on a daily basis, as well as being excellent ambassadors for the school on our Open Evening. These Prefects will have many opportunities throughout the academic year to contribute to their school community in positive and enthusiastic ways and we thank them for wanting to contribute their time to the school.

Mr Enticknap the Prefects Head of Year said 'We are so proud of these students. They were really impressive at interview. Not just great students but lovely, well rounded people. I really look forward to working with them'

Congratulations to Farah, Thea, Millie, Josh, Nat, Lily, Ashling, Wiktoria, Ben, Freya, Kameron, Olivia, Thomas, Madison, Ed, Liliia, Viktoriia and Chloe

congratulations



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 16th December	Last Day of Term Students Finish 1pm
Monday 2nd January	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd January	Back to School
Friday 6th January	Year 7 & 8 School Disco
W/C 9th January	Yr 13 Exams
Thursday 19th January	Yr 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 2nd February	Y9 Parents & Options Evening
6th - 10th February	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Friday 10th February	Last Day of Half Term
13th - 17th February	Half Term
Monday 20th February	Back to School
Thursday 2nd March	Year 8 Parents Evening
W/C 6th March	Year 11 MFL Orals
Monday 13th March	Inset Day
W/C 20th March	Year 10 Exams
Tuesday 28th March	Year 11 Photos
Friday 31st March	Last Day of Term
3rd - 14th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 17th April	Back to School

