



Easter 2022

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## Sturminster Newton High School

### From the Headteacher

Look at our website for weekly student bulletins  
[www.mynhs.net](http://www.mynhs.net)

It seems incredible that another term has passed so quickly as it only seemed a few weeks ago that we were welcoming everyone back after Christmas. Clearly time passes faster when such a lot is packed in, as is the case this term. It has been a term full of events and some particularly intense learning, especially for years 11 and 13 who have been busy preparing for the first exams in two years.

Red Nose Day, led by the student council, raised in excess of £650.00 for good causes and separate fundraising raised £316.00 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and in donations for Ukraine. On a similar entrepreneurial note, we had the Young Enterprise Launchpad event for year 9 which was a great success and memorable experience and the sixth form team attended the Company Programme Dragon's Den event at Clayesmore, with their company 'Qwepsil' winning the 'Most Financially Aware' award. The History Department have had a busy term too, twinning with a school in Newfoundland investigating Canadian roots in Sturminster and with links to Sturminster Mill and speakers visiting the school. We were also visited by the High Sheriff of Dorset, who came to award Shaun Weeks, who runs the boxing club in Sturminster Newton and boxing enrichment for the school, with an a well deserved award in recognition of his long running and substantial commitment to young people and the community.

World Book Day was celebrated in style, with beautiful book themed artwork in tutor windows. Our annual hard hitting drama, Chelsea's Choice was enacted in PSHE and our outdoor and enrichment activities have included some hard Ten Tors training and Campcraft for Duke of Edinburgh as well as the very successful ski trip to Austria during half term. Continuing the active theme,

sporting events this term have included the Year 7 rugby tournament, the North Dorset Dodgeball Championships and football tournaments for years 11,9 and 7. With all this going on, no wonder the term seems to have passed quickly!

We welcomed two new staff this term, Mrs Jenkinson who is Year 7 Leader and part of the pastoral team and Mr Hunt, who joins us a site manager. Unfortunately we also said goodbyes this term to Mr Custard, Ms Samson and Mrs Vining, who are all going on the new endeavours and we wish them all the best for the future.

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable Easter, with the additional Jubilee Day on Friday 8th and good luck to year 13 and 11 who will be settling down to revision over the holidays. I look forward to seeing everyone back on 25th April in summer uniform, blue polo shirts and blazers, for the beginning of the summer term.



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## Enriching History

Sometimes a school-based experience can be life changing. On Wednesday 2nd March several groups of KS3 History students heard such a story from Roger Guttridge, an accomplished journalist, local historian and author of over 20 books.

Roger kindly visited the school to share his insights about the historical links between Sturminster Newton and Newfoundland. He explained how a local history project at primary school awakened an intellectual curiosity which eventually led him to Newfoundland. Roger spoke about the importance of the fulling mill in Sturminster Newton in the manufacture of swanskin cloth for the fishing industry in Newfoundland. His talks highlighted the migration pattern from Sturminster Newton to Newfoundland, with the town of Twillingate having particularly strong links to Dorset families. The students had an opportunity to ask their own questions and the discussion ranged far and wide, incorporating the ancestry of New Forest and Newfoundland ponies as well as formula one racing and the development of the internet. Year 7 students were quite amazed to discover that Newfoundland had internet connections before Dorset.



Roger's visit forms part of a very exciting community project spearheaded by Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust. Working in partnership with the County's Archive and Museum Advisory Service and a Dorset-based arts company, KS3 students will have the opportunity to explore local history through archive work, filmmaking and music. The project is financed by the Association of Independent Museums (Aim) and the Heritage Lottery Fund. It entails a twinning link with a school in Newfoundland as



well as visits to the Dorchester Archives and Sturminster Museum, with our young curators helping to stage an exhibition at Sturminster Mill and Museum in July 2022.

One of our keen young historians, Elliott, observed the history talk made connections to one of our previous topics we have studied at school: the trans-Atlantic slave trade. 'Mr Guttridge helped build upon my existing knowledge about this era and explained a whole new trading concept that was taking place at the time of slavery: the cod trade.'

It is very pleasing to see the project enriching the existing History curriculum. Perhaps in decades to come, some of our students will be relaying stories of our local history to future generations, revealing how a passion for the past inspired their own endeavours and adventures.



## Science Update

### British Physics Olympiad

Earlier this term eleven intrepid Year 11 students took part in the British Physics Olympiad. This national competition saw almost 4500 entries from around the country. The students had to answer forty questions based on the physics GCSE curriculum but also testing their real-world knowledge. The questions were incredibly challenging, causing even the teachers to scratch their heads!

The students from SNHS came away with 1 Gold award (top 20% of all entrants), 2 Silver awards, 6 Bronze awards and 2 commendations. Every student who entered should be very proud of their efforts.

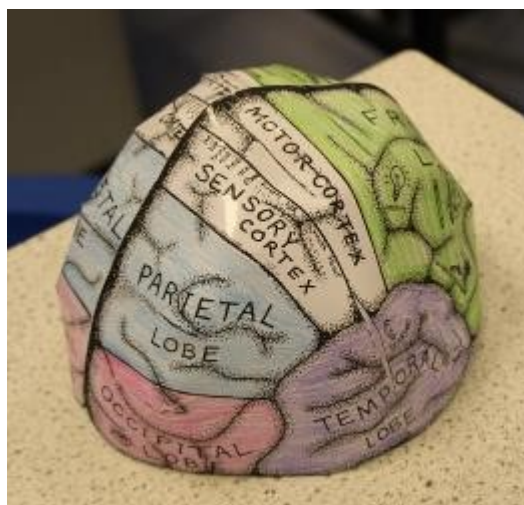
### Science Week 2022

This year's national science week was on the theme of 'Growth'. Students in Years 7 and 8 had a chance to investigate the conditions needed for the growth of seeds. Students grew seeds in the dark, in acidic or alkaline conditions and even in the fridge. The groups growing kidney beans were particularly successful and the plants will now be heading home to continue their growth. Starting next term there will be a STEM enrichment club where students can continue to explore an area of science that interests them. They will have the opportunity to submit their work to be assessed for the CREST Bronze award.



### Brain Hats

Year 10 Triple Scientists enjoyed making Brain Hats to support their Triple Science course...so much so, some of them wore them for the rest of the day!





## Ten Tors

The first training session of the New Year started in earnest with students carrying full packs for the first time. An early start enabled the group to enjoy maximum daylight hours. A light but cold wind with clear skies gave great visibility. Some of the toughest walking so far with much off the beaten track and across the boggy high moor; the National Park are doing well with their rewetting efforts. This led to some very wet feet, but that's Dartmoor! A good 20k was covered from the start at Okehampton Camp to the eventual exit on the west side at Prewley Moor.

After an overnight stay indoors at Belstone our group set out again on day two, more track based walking south and a good test for our wet weather gear, encountering some rain with low cloud affecting visibility. Although easier underfoot, we did have fords and rivers to cross putting into practice techniques to safely overcome these obstacles. Heading south and with the



rain clearing we turned to the east and used the remains of iron age settlements and standing stones as check points. A shorter but harder day, as that rucksack always seems heavier on day 2. As the walk ended on Cosden Beacon the rain and cloud arrived again resulting in a wet, yet interesting descent following a compass bearing. Another 20k, making it a good 25 miles covered over the weekend with a tired but content group returning home.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the planned Dartmoor weekend was shortened to one day in Dorset on 30th January 2022 . With a reduced compliment of 10 students and leaders we set out on Sunday for a day on the coast at 7am. Starting at Lulworth the group split into two teams, walking independently with full kit and only being met at checkpoints by the leaders. The first group started at 8:15am in glorious sunshine and only a light westerly breeze for company. The second team set off 15 minutes later. Fantastic views were to be had wherever you looked, inland towards Poole and the north or out to sea and back towards Portland.

The route saw some significant height gain through the Lulworth Ranges via Radar Hill, Arish Mell, Flowers Barrow, Worbarrow Bay, Kimmeridge, inland to Steeple Ridge and on to Corfe Castle, approx19K, which amounts to just over 12 miles of arduous walking and completed by 2pm for the first group and 2:30pm by the second following a minor navigation error.



## Ten Tors

On the 12th and 13th February the Ten Tors training group set out braced for some poor weather and a first wild camp on Dartmoor. Saturday started well, with dry and reasonably bright conditions, however, there was a strong gusting breeze from the south west. Walking with full packs and being shadowed by the leaders, our students were having to make their own decisions as to direction. The weather came in about 1pm with stinging rain and walking into the wind made life difficult. However, all came through to complete day 1. With a forecast for more heavy rain and inexperienced students a decision was taken to retreat to a safe haven overnight. Belstone Village Hall became our virtual camp. Mimicking outdoor conditions as best we could, there would be no lights, no power, no heat and we would still rise at 4am to get walking by 6am. Tents were pitched in the hall to provide the experience of putting up and taking down the tents in the morning. We eventually managed to get going on Sunday and had to drive back to Princetown to take up where we had left off the day before. Rain was very heavy but with the planned route mainly on tracks it was shortened to compensate, but only by around 4km. The group set out under supervision and were check pointed along the way as visibility deteriorated. Amazingly at each check point there was no refusal to carry on; only one student dropped out and this was not due to weather



conditions but a physical one. After 5 hours of walking and 18km covered, the task was completed. In total the group had walked 22 miles in the two days in poor conditions,; this will hold them in good stead for future walks, as we know the weather on Dartmoor can be unpredictable!

On Sunday 27th February the group had a great day in the sunshine starting at Haytor CP and walking via Widecombe to Hameldown Beacon and on to Grimspound, an ancient bronze age site. Hound Tor was next, passing the remains of a medieval settlement then we traversed the Becka Valley returning to Haytor, crossing the stone tramway en route. With a lot of height gain it was slow going and also the first walk with the group navigating on their own, although being shadowed by the training team. Only 12 miles covered but a good distance nevertheless.



## Ten Tors Training

On the 12th & 13th March the Ten Tors group started in glorious sunshine on Saturday with a light wind from the south at Venford Reservoir and crossing the south moor following a westerly route marked by stone crosses. As the wind strengthened during the day it became a race to finish before the heavy rain set in and the amber weather warning from the Met Office prevailed. Misery Cross may have proved to be well named if caught out! Having beaten the rain, camping out had to be abandoned and for the second time we fortunately had the use of Belstone village hall for shelter. Much of the heavy rain passed over during the night and Sunday saw us start at Burrator Reservoir walking back across the south moor via Down Tor, Nun's Cross and Bellever Tor finishing in good time at Postbridge. Strong winds remained from the south west although this time largely at our backs with some very heavy showers too. A tired but happy group returned home celebrating one student's birthday, a birthday we are sure he will remember for being just a little bit different from the norm! 22 miles were covered over the weekend.



On the 26th & 27th March the group headed to Dartmoor and expectations for camping out were high. Saturday started on the West Moor at Nodden Gate walking east in two groups. With full kit and glorious sunshine the group started out only to find themselves walking into a very strong easterly wind, this was hard across the high moor and took its toll, with sore feet and a few tears, with everyone finishing at Postbridge and replenishing water before camp. As a first camp it went very well. Day two took them across the south moor from Princetown to Buckfastleigh via the Abbots Way. A bit more cloud but lighter wind, still easterly, so cooling. The training group completed 31 miles over the weekend, a great achievement.





## Ski Trip



There was much uncertainty leading up to the ski trip and with the addition of Storm Eunice travel plans were initially delayed. Following a lot of hard work from various staff, parents and members of the community, the ski trip group were finally able to set off.

It was a long journey for the group but they arrived safely in Obertauern, where they immediately enjoyed breakfast and headed off to have their ski kit fitted. After no time at all they were hitting the slopes for their first day's skiing.

All of the students quickly got to grips with being on their skis and really enjoyed their lessons. The weather at times was trying, reaching -20 with the wind chill, but they all embraced the experience and showed real improvement throughout the week.



Aside from skiing they went swimming, played football, played board games, had multiple snow ball fights and even enjoyed an evening playing Bingo!

The students continued to enjoy the beautiful scenery around them especially when the sun came out. There were groups flying up and down the mountains and Bob the snowman came to life.

On the final evening they all enjoyed bowling, before an early start on the slopes and then the long journey home. Thanks to all those that made this trip happen, and be such a success!



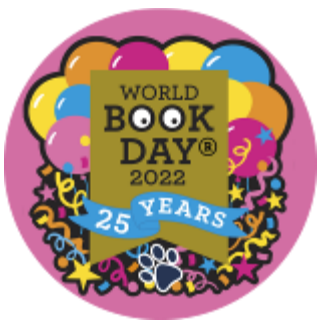




## World Book Day



Beautiful window decorations, a book cover design competition and the launch of our book swap table made World Book Day a special celebration at the beginning of March. Amelia, Alex and Ruby received prizes for their book cover creations and all the commended entries were on display for the rest of the term.



The Book Swap Table is now a permanent fixture in the Library; students and staff are encouraged to bring books they no longer read and swap them for new adventures. This relies on people actively participating so that the choices are constantly changing; have a look at your shelves and see what books you can bear to part with.

We have been very pleased to introduce a range of new books to the Library stock, from reprints of classics such as *The Time Machine* and *The Wizard of Oz* to new fiction by popular authors such as Sophie Anderson and Tom Palmer. There are 'dyslexia friendly' publications and stories based on true life tales which provide background reading for various

subjects including History and RE.

The new Library software, AccessIT, has been up and running for a term now. Students can access their Library accounts and search the catalogue. AccessIT is particularly useful in the



search for titles at the appropriate accelerated reader levels for those students in KS3 following that programme. Anyone wanting a tour around this software, please ask Mrs Fitzgerald. The AccessIT interface offers dashboards for different subjects which



is still very much a work in progress but the History and Science pages can be viewed, in addition to the Library homepage, and any constructive suggestions for content can be made to Mrs Fitzgerald.





## Sporting News

### YEAR 7 RUGBY

On Friday 18 March Year 7 rugby were invited to take part in the President's Trophy hosted by North Dorset Rugby Club. A squad of 15 boys, the majority of whom were playing their first ever games of rugby, represented SNHS. The 10 aside games were played under floodlights on the main NDRFC pitch.

All of the boys played extremely well and recovered from the disappointment of losing their first game to enjoy their evening of rugby. Alex was voted by the officials as player of the tournament.



SNHS squad: Jacques, Callum, Alex, Ethan, Corey, Alfie F, Finley, Dontae, Jordan, Alfie P, Ryan, William, Tom, Jaden, Linden.

### DODGEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday 15th March a group of year 8 and year 10 boys travelled to Gillingham school to take part in the North Dorset Dodgeball championships. This competition had been an annual event but due to the lockdown it has been on hold for 2 years.

The competition consisted of matches against other schools with each match contested over 5 games of 3 minutes. The winners of each game was decided by the team with the most players left at the end.

All of the boys did their best to dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge in every game. There were also lots of catches and hits. Both of the competitions were won by Gillingham with the SNHS teams finishing third overall. Well done to all of the boys who participated Jack, Kameron, Luke, Will, Tom, Calum, Ed, Sam, Oscar, Jake, Oliver, Rob, Luke and Ivo.

### YEAR 11 FOOTBALL

In the penultimate floodlit football tournament of the year the Year 11 team tried to retain the title won by SNHS Year 11 in 2020.

The first group game against Gillingham B ended in a 0-0 draw. In the second game versus Blandford Alex assisted the winning goal for Roy for a 1-0 victory. Against Gryphon the team took an early lead with a goal from Alex assisted by a long ball from goalkeeper Finn. Despite some excellent defence from Harrison and Freddy a break away attack lead to an equaliser. Final score 1-1. These results were good enough to see the team qualify for the semi finals where they faced Blandford's A team. Blandford scored either side of half time through good team play. A late SNHS rally brought an individual goal from Roy but the team could not get an equaliser. In the third/fourth play-off SNHS were beaten 3-0 by a strong Gillingham team who had surprisingly failed to reach the final.

The team played some really good football and worked hard for each other. In the end a fourth place finish with the added bonus that Roy was voted as player of the tournament by the match officials.

SNHS team: Roy, Alex, Jasper, Rueben (Asst Manager), Harvey, Jack (Manager), Finn, Harrison, Freddy and Ellis.





## Sporting News

### YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

The year 9 boys took part in the annual floodlit football tournament at Gillingham on Thursday 27th January. The team played Blandford and Gryphon in the first two pool games drawing both 0-0. The final group match pitted SNHS against Gillingham with both teams needing a win to stand any chance of progressing. In a push to get the win Sturminster were hit by a counterattack and the Gillingham striker one on one with the SNHS keeper scored the only goal of the game. Next week year 10 have two teams competing.



Year 9 squad: Luke, Gabriel, Danny, Jaden, Tom, Oscar, Freddie, Peter and Ewen.

### YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

After a year's hiatus the Annual Floodlit Football tournaments at Gillingham resumed on Thursday 13th January with the Year 7 event.

SNHS were in a group with Blandford A, Shaftesbury, Gryphon B and Gillingham C. In the first fixture against Blandford a last minute penalty scored by Valentin secured a 1-0 victory. The games with Gillingham and Gryphon were both 0-0 draws.

Going into the final group fixture with Shaftesbury a victory would guarantee the team passage into the semi-finals. An early goal scored by Alex looked like being the winner until Shaftesbury scored a late equaliser. All was not lost, however, as the teams +1 goal difference saw them qualify for the semis.



In a closely contested game Port Regis came out on top 1-0 to put the SNHS team into the 3rd/4th play-off. This game proved to be one too many and the team were well beaten by the better side. In the end Port Regis were the overall winners with the SNHS team coming a very creditable 4th.

A great effort from all the boys who played.

SNHS team: Finley, Alex, Valentin, Toby, Harry, Jackson, Corey and Dylan.



Duke of Edinburgh

Students doing their DofE had a campcraft session where they practised pitching a tent and cooking their own dinner on a Trangia. A great time was had by all.



**Governor Update**

Another term of hardwork and inspirational commitment by staff and students alike in these difficult times. Easter is now with us and a chance for rest and to recharge batteries in time for the Summer Term.

We hope that all students and staff will achieve the success they deserve at the end of this academic year. You should all be proud of your efforts.

Governors

**Have you seen our new website?**

**[www.mysnhs.net](http://www.mysnhs.net)**

**Do you follow us on Facebook?**

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



# Sturminster Newton High School

## Young Enterprise 'Launchpad Event'

Year 9 spent March 9th off timetable and taking part in a Young Enterprise "Launchpad" event. In teams, students had to select a local business, plead with bankers for investments, design corporate logos and signage and put together business plans to support their ideas. The students also created social media marketing campaigns, pitched their ideas to the board of directors and even designed staff uniforms for their companies. Many thanks to Cath Jacks and the Young Enterprise team as well as our local business people and volunteers for delivering such a successful and fun-filled day for our students.





## High Sheriff Visit

On Tuesday 18th January the High Sheriff of Dorset, Mr Michael Dooley MMs. FRCOG, visited Sturminster Newton High School to present a High Sheriff's Award. This award was presented during an assembly to Shaun Weeks for his long standing support of the young people of Sturminster Newton and the surrounding villages. Shaun is a huge asset to the young people of the area and, despite having a family, he donates significant proportions of his time to local young people in a number of ways.

In 2001 Shaun started up the boxing gym; it has since produced several National Champions and currently has one boxer on the England pathway. As a school we are very fortunate for Shaun to have supported the school in many ways; Shaun has worked to support, mentor and guide students and their families and encouraged young people into youth sports. This has developed their confidence, trust and self-esteem which has in turn served to remove barriers within school and enabled them to be more successful in their education.

Most recently Shaun has been one of the community volunteers as part of our enrichment programme, where he runs an introduction to boxing for beginners at the gym during school time. This has led to several students becoming part of the main club as well as expanding the opportunities, expectations and horizons of a great deal more. In addition, Shaun has also sponsored a PSHE programme 'The Fight Against Knife Crime' aimed at our older students as part of the Sturminster Newton Boxing Club which is delivered during the PSHE lessons at school.

Shaun has supported the local community in many other ways, being a key member of Stalbridge Youth Football Club. He regularly fund raises for the organisations with whom he is involved and recently raised over £2000 for Julia's House by coming out of retirement himself and boxing two matches with local people. We are extremely fortunate in this community to have so many local people who are prepared to freely donate time and effort to the school and local projects for young people. We hope everyone joins us in congratulating Shaun on his award.





## Fundraising

On Friday 28th January SNHS held a charity day in school. Students came in non-school uniform and were asked to bring in textiles and money donations for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. So far they have raised £316.54 and there are further funds to add. They also managed to collect over 100kg of textiles! A big thank you to everyone that donated.

During this term SNHS have also collected many items for Ukraine. We are all saddened to see the war in Ukraine and the effects on the citizens. There are over 160,000 refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries and in order to support them students brought in a variety of items that were needed.

A group of Sixth Form students helped transport these items to The Exchange and then helped the many volunteers with sorting and loading the donations ready for transportation.



## Red Nose Day

This year the school were very pleased to raise in excess of £650.00 for Comic Relief. There were Red Noses for sale, a cake sale at break and lunch time and a non-school uniform day. As such an incredible amount was raised, school staff suffered a forfeit day where they had to have their faces painted or wear a funny mask all day.

Thank you to everyone that donated and got involved with the fundraising events.





# Quiz Night Information



FRIENDS OF  
STURMINSTER NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

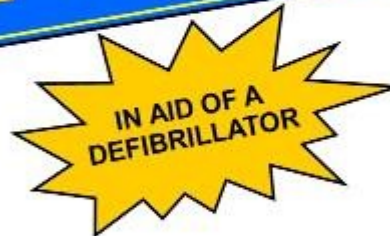


present



# Quiz Night

FRIDAY  
6th May 2022



Doors open 7pm, Start 7.30pm

Tickets £5 per person to include nibbles

Maximum of 6 per team

\*\*\* LICENSED BAR \*\*\*

\*\*\* RAFFLE \*\*\*

*Please purchase tickets in advance  
to guarantee a table:*

Tel 01258 472642 or email [office@mynhs.net](mailto:office@mynhs.net)

## Chelsea's Story



This term we had Alter Ego Creative Solutions in school performing 'Chelsea's Story' to Years 7 – 11. 'Chelsea's Story' is an internationally renowned, hard-hitting Applied Theatre Production that has proven highly successful in raising awareness around the issues surrounding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The play is followed by an actor facilitated post-show talk exploring the issues raised.

The play studies what makes a relationship healthy or unhealthy, safe internet use/sexting, the definition of consent, the grooming process, child sexual exploitation & the differing methods, avoiding victim blaming and where to go for help & advice.

If any students would like to discuss, or were affected by any of the issues raised during the performance please let the school know.





**Dates**

<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Back to School - Week 2</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Y10 Parents Evening</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>MFL Orals</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>HPV Vaccinations Y8 + 9 and Y10 + 11 catch up</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Ten Tors</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Non-Uniform Day</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Quiz Night</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Y7 Parents Evening</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Yr12 Mock Week</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Yr7, 8 and 9 Core Assessment Week</b>
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Yr10 Employability Day</b>
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Sports Day</b>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Yr11 Prom</b>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Reserve Sports Day</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Y10 Work Experience</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Y12 Geography Field Trip to Swanage</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Step Up Day Y4</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Sporting Challenge Day Y5, 6, 7, 8</b>
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Arts Day Y5</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Y6 Induction Evening / Day</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Activities Week</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>D of E Expedition</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Inset Days</b>