



# MAKING WAVES

NEWS FROM SWANAGE SCHOOL

AUTUMN 2016

HAVE YOU  
APPLIED FOR  
YOUR YEAR 7  
PLACE YET?  
See back page

## THE SWANAGE SCHOOL IS TOP OF THE TABLE!

After our first set of GCSEs, our Progress 8 score – the new headline measure for secondary schools – is the best in the county. On average our students did better than they would have done at any other Dorset school!

- 85% A\*-C in English  
*Best progress in English in Dorset LA!*
- 65% A\*-C in Maths  
*Second best progress in Maths in Dorset LA!*

# What is 'Progress 8'?

## A guide to the Government's new school performance measure

The new Progress 8 figure shows how well students have done in their GCSEs compared to all other children in the same year across England. Here's how it's calculated:

- All students taking GCSEs are grouped according to their Year 6 results (SATs)
- Once the GCSE results are in, the Department for Education works out each group's average Attainment 8 score (see right).
- Each student's *individual* Attainment 8 score is calculated and then the *average* group score is deducted. This figure is then divided by 10 to give the student's Progress 8 – their average progress in their top eight subjects.
- To find the school's Progress 8 score, the scores of all the students are added together then divided by the number of students. A Progress 8 score of zero shows the school's

### Attainment 8

This is the total score a student achieves in their best eight subjects. An A\* is worth eight points, an A seven, a B six and so on down to a G, worth one point. But the eight subjects must include the following:

- English (counts twice)
- Maths (counts twice)
- Three highest scores in academic 'EBacc' subjects – Sciences, Languages, History or Geography
- Three highest scores in remaining EBacc subjects or other approved subjects

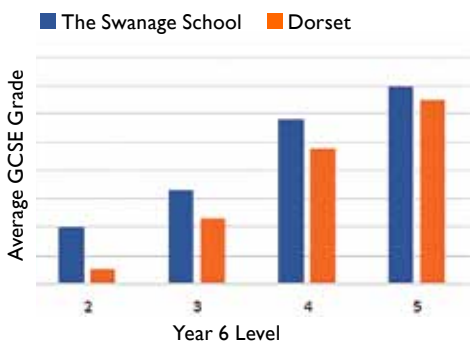
students made average progress overall. A score above zero, like ours, shows they made better than expected progress.

DORSET LA	PROGRESS 8 SCORE
THE SWANAGE SCHOOL	0.45
Thomas Hardy, Dorchester	0.37
Purbeck School, Wareham	0.26
Woodroffe, Lyme Regis	0.24
Twynham School, Christchurch	0.13
Gryphon School, Sherborne	0.1
Blandford School	0.07
Lytchett Minster School	0.04
Queen Elizabeth School	-0.02
Ferndown Upper School	-0.04
Gillingham School	-0.05
Highcliffe School	-0.07
Sir John Colfax, Bridport	-0.09
Budmouth Technology College	-0.22
All Saints, Weymouth	-0.28
Beaminster School	-0.28
Wey Valley School, Broadway	-0.28
Sturminster Newton High School	-0.33
Grange School, Christchurch	-0.38
Isle of Portland Academy	-0.86

### Great progress at all levels

Progress 8 is generally agreed to be a fairer measure of a school than previous methods. However, a single figure doesn't reveal the whole picture.

The table below, based on Dorset Local Authority figures, shows that The Swanage School helps its students make excellent progress no matter what level they are at when they join us, with attainment in each group well above the county average.



## HEAD LINES



We are extremely proud of our first cohort of students to sit their GCSEs. They worked very hard for the grades they achieved and rightly deserved their success.

It was a real team effort, with students, staff and parents dedicating lots of time and energy over the past three years, ever since the school opened in September 2013.

As with any worthwhile endeavour, exceptional results are hard won – they take work, ambition and self-belief. It is these characteristics we foster at The Swanage School and it has been demonstrated – in spades – by our students. We wish our first cohort of leavers the very best in their bright futures.

This summer's results have been a great start and we plan to build on these achievements and take the school from strength to strength.

As you can see from this newsletter, success is not just about hard work in the classroom. Our students gain a broad education and are given the resilience and confidence to cope with the challenges they will face.

If you would like to find out more about the work we do and would like to get involved in the life of the school, then do please get in touch.

With warmest wishes,

*T. Hobson*

Tristram Hobson  
Headteacher



# CHALLENGE WEEK

Every term, students go off timetable to expand their learning and last time we offered a variety of amazing experiences

The school organises around 50 trips a year. We know that travel broadens the mind, but it also adds depth and context to learning, even if it's just popping to the beach. The longest trips take place during Challenge Weeks, when students work on projects and team-building exercises.

Cultural enrichment, confidence boosting and widening horizons are just as important as academic rigour. It is these experiences that stay with us and help us to develop.

## South of France Watersports galore in Lac Mimizan



## Surfcamp Camping and catching waves in Newquay



## The Apprentice Competing to design, make and sell products



**Woodland Art** Students made masks for a photography project in the woods at Rempstone then joined craftsman Toby Hoad to work with green wood and help him make charcoal



**London Theatre** Stage craft and a trip to see *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*



**Bake-Off** After days of trial and error, the students' cakes were judged by local experts

**Ecological Studies** A varied week studying fossils and rock pools in Kimmeridge, then birdwatching and pond-dipping in Arne





# Expanding Horizons

Head  
for  
heights

We want our students to discover a passion that will last a lifetime – which is why, despite being a small school, we offer a huge number of after-school clubs.

This half term, 24 clubs have been running each week, including STEM Club (science, technology, engineering and maths), Choir, Gardening, Netball, Photography, Badminton, Drama, Film, Football, Cooking, Show Rehearsals, Art, Rugby, Chess, Volleyball, Geography Explorers and Holiday Spanish.

All of our students take up at least one club per week and many attend one every day!

New clubs begin every half term, details of which are posted in the first week. Clubs are run by our dedicated staff (including headteacher Mr Hobson, who runs the Mountain Biking Club, pictured) and with the valued support of local experts and volunteers.

If you would like to help run a club, please get in touch.



**JOYEUX NOËL** The French language trip to the festive markets of Lille and Bruges is on 8-9 December.



**MINI ADVENTURE** Year 10 Product Design pupils visited the Mini car plant in Oxford to study large-scale manufacturing. Students were in awe of the 1200 robots building the cars and compared the experience to *Jurassic Park*. No casualties, though!

# FESTIVAL FUN

Although the last week of the summer term was Challenge Week, Design Tech teacher Mr Peacock and the PTA still found time to organise an amazing Summer Festival. There were vintage cars, stalls and games on the field while a stage featured local musicians, the school choir band and student and staff bands. It was also a chance to try out the new wood-fired pizza oven that Catering teacher Mr Crowhurst had built with students in a special after-school club. Over 120 handmade pizzas were sold – and they were delicious!



Student band Hyper Viper play while Parent Governor Nick Brady operates the pizza oven

## Education Swanage AGM

The Swanage School is run by the community for the community so that it is locally accountable and everyone can take ownership of its success. It is managed by an open co-operative School Trust called Education Swanage, whose members vote for the majority of governors.

At the start of the term Education Swanage held its Annual General Meeting and took the opportunity to organise a celebration to thank all of the many businesses, clubs, community groups, charities and volunteers who have helped make the school such a success. It was also a chance to celebrate the school's



excellent first exam results.

Mr Crowhurst's Catering team made canapes and there were speeches from Mr Hobson, Vice Chair of Governors Amanda Rowley, and new head students Jodie Stannard and Matt Dunster. See the website for details of the AGM and how you can join Education Swanage.



# DIARY

THE SWANAGE SCHOOL

High Street, Swanage BH19 2PH

01929 500599 • [www.theswanageschool.co.uk](http://www.theswanageschool.co.uk)

## We ♥ Swanage

After raising funds for a heart defibrillator, our students joined the official launch of the scheme at the railway station. The life-saving machine is now available at the front of the school – yet another example of how attending a local school also helps the local community.



**BY SEA, BY LAND** Year 9 welcomed the Royal Marines for a day of team-building fun.

## Help us help!

Our ethos is based on the idea that 'it takes the whole village to raise a child'. Many wonderful volunteers, businesses and groups bring expertise and support to lessons, assemblies, clubs and activities. If you have an idea for how we can tap into opportunities or how you can help – such as taking sports teams to games in our minibuses – please contact us. The safety of students is our top priority and helpers are subject to relevant checks.

## Sailing success

This month the school hosted a Faraday Challenge Day, a contest run by the Institute of Engineering and Technology that sees students



across the UK compete to solve real-life engineering problems – this year it was the issues faced by an America's Cup sailing team. Six teams from Year 8 competed and the winning group is pictured. Once all the other schools have held their Challenge Days, the best teams will go through to regional finals.

## How to apply for a place at THE SWANAGE SCHOOL

If your child is due to start secondary school in 2017, the deadline is 31 October 2016

- Call the Dorset Admissions Team on 01305 221060
- Visit [www.dorsetforyou.com/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place)
- Email [admissions@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

If you have any questions or would like a tour, please call the school on 01929 500599. You can also email [info@theswanageschool.co.uk](mailto:info@theswanageschool.co.uk)

## CALENDAR

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>31 Oct</b>   | Return to school after half term<br>Deadline for Year 7 applications<br>(see box on the left) |
| <b>10 Nov</b>   | Post-16 information evening   |
| <b>24 Nov</b>   | Year 11 Parent's Evening  |
| <b>2 Dec</b>    | Staff development day (no school)   |
| <b>8 Dec</b>    | French language tour  |
| <b>15 Dec</b>   | Christmas Show  |
| <b>16 Dec</b>   | Last day of term (finish at 1.30pm)   |
| <b>3-4 Jan</b>  | Staff development days (no school)  |
| <b>5 Jan</b>    | First day of Spring term  |
| <b>4-11 Feb</b> | Ski trip to the French Alps   |