



# MAKING WAVES

News from The Swanage School

February 2021

## In this issue...

### COMMUNITY MATTERS:

Cooking for Swanage residents

### A CLASS ACT: Spotlight on

Geography at The Swanage School

### STEM: Racing to win at Science,

Technology, Engineering and Maths

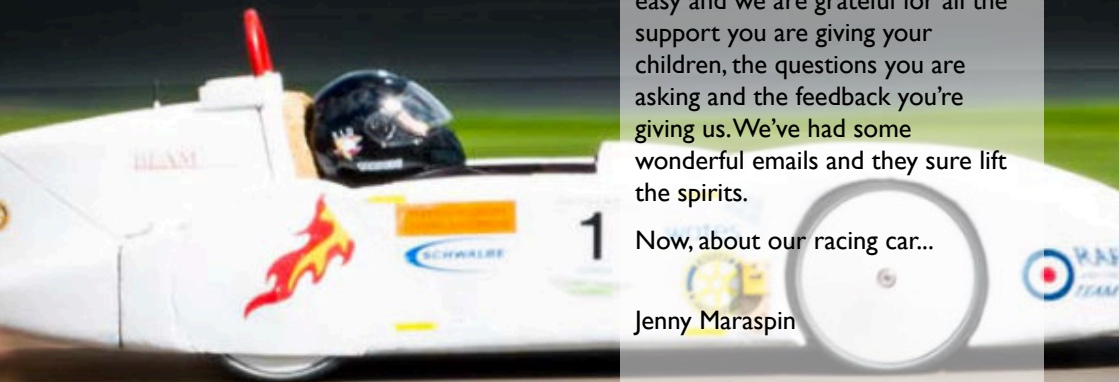
## HEAD LINES

Another whirlwind of a half-term but things have settled into a good rhythm and we are immensely impressed with the engagement we're seeing from almost all students. Attendance at remote lessons is as high as normal, and submission of work is not too bad at all! Well done everyone! Keep it up and remember to let us know if you're struggling.

Parents, our sincere thanks, it isn't easy and we are grateful for all the support you are giving your children, the questions you are asking and the feedback you're giving us. We've had some wonderful emails and they sure lift the spirits.

Now, about our racing car...

Jenny Maraspin



# ABOUT ARBOR

Further improving communication with parents is one of the key priorities of our School Development Plan this year, and Arbor is central to this.

## ARBOR PARENT PORTAL

The “parent-portal” of our new Management Information System (Arbor) went live shortly before our last newsletter and is now in daily use. So far, 87% of parents have created an account which is great news. If you haven't yet done so, please see below for details on creating an account.

From there, navigating your way around is fairly intuitive.

## Create an Arbor account

Head to the [Arbor Parent Portal](#) and follow the instructions shown. When logging in for the first time, it's important to do so from a desktop pc or laptop if you have one. We'd also recommend that each parent creates a separate account. You might want to download the Arbor App too (see image).

## WHAT YOU CAN SEE AND DO IN ARBOR

Once logged into the Parent Portal, you will be able to update contact information and, for example, see your child's:

- timetable
- house points
- behaviour entries
- attendance
- statement of entry for exams, plus “in normal times” mock and exam timetables

## IN THE FUTURE

In the longer-term we will open up the Curriculum Tracking modules for you to see. There is quite a bit of work still to do on this, but when available you will be able to see how well your child is understanding specific

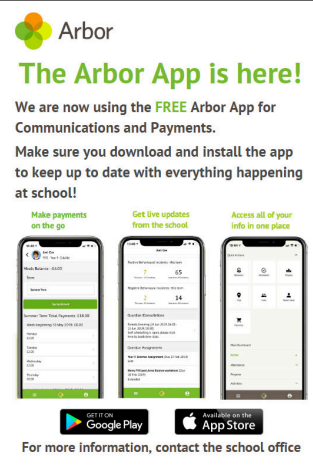
topics covered in the curriculum.

## KEEPING UP WITH WORK SET

A digest email is generated weekly from TEAMS showing assignments allocated and handed-in.

## CONCERNS / ISSUES?

Please get in touch - tutors are usually the first port of call for any issues, such as access for remote learning, or for concerns you have about your child. Tutors phone home regularly to ‘check-in’ and offer support.



Arbor  
**The Arbor App is here!**  
We are now using the **FREE** Arbor App for Communications and Payments.  
Make sure you download and install the app to keep up to date with everything happening at school!

Make payments on the go  
Get live updates from the school  
Access all of your info in one place

GET IT ON Google Play  
Available on the App Store

For more information, contact the school office

# SCHOOL SNIPPETS

## PARENTS' EVENINGS

We hope that those of you with children in Year 8 and 9 found the virtual parents' evening useful. If you have any particular concerns, please get in touch with your child's tutor or teacher. Parents' evenings for other year groups will be announced shortly.

## KEEPING UP WITH NEWS

For important news and day-to-day matters please remember to check our e-mails and texts frequently.

For general news and updates:

- Use our website
- Follow us on Facebook
- Read this newsletter!

**Year 9**  
Please look out for option choice information which will be emailed shortly, along with details of opportunities to talk to all option staff

## PLANET PURBECK

Our eco-reps (The Global Gladiators) are getting involved with the Planet Purbeck Youth Group. This is a group within the larger Planet Purbeck organisation and is focused on becoming the voice of young people on local environmental issues and finding ways of getting peers engaged in projects and campaigns. You can find out more about Planet Purbeck on their [website](#) or [Facebook Page](#)

## SINGER SONGWRITERS!

Music Teacher Miss Stone would encourage all students to consider entering The Song Academy Young Songwriter Competition. Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, this is the leading international songwriting competition for 8-18 year olds, and is for both young songwriters who already have some experience as well as those who want to write their first song. Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 - more info here: [Song Academy](#)



**YOUNG SONGWRITER 2021**  
Now in its 11th year, the leading international songwriting competition for 8-18 year olds

# STEM: RACING AHEAD WITH FORMULA 24

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The Swanage School are very excited to be taking part in the Greenpower IET Formula 24 initiative. This is a wonderful way to bring STEM teaching to life and, as a national initiative, to broaden and enrich students' experiences outside of the local area - which in turn brings opportunities for travel and mastery of skills such as logistics, organisation and team-working.

The [Greenpower Education Trust](#) inspires students around the world to engage with STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths - through the excitement of motorsport, by designing and building an electric car combined with participation in race days on national circuits such as Goodwood and Silverstone. Find out more by watching a few [Greenpower videos!](#)

## INSPIRING A GENERATION

It is anticipated that the initiative will become an important part of the whole-school STEM curriculum. It will provide a

fantastic platform for students to become involved in a range of multi-disciplinary subject areas and is an opportunity to promote and drive up interest in STEM subject content, inspiring potential higher education and career choices.

We envisage the F24 development programme being student-led with a 50/50 mix of male and female students.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

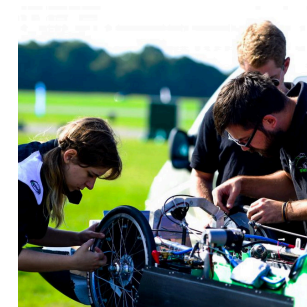
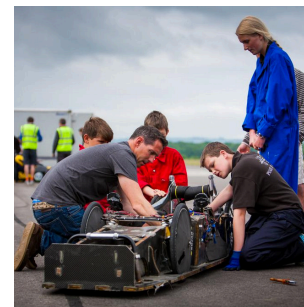
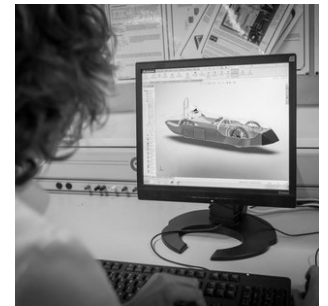
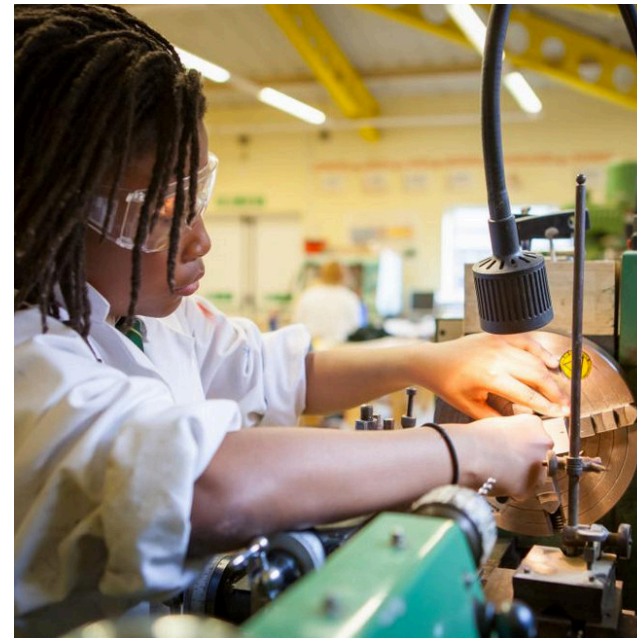
We will work in partnership with local primary schools, inviting them to participate in RACE TEAM days at The Swanage School amongst other exciting opportunities.

We are also looking for businesses to sponsor our RACE TEAM and RACE CAR and for people to help with the technical and logistical aspects of the programme. Please get in touch with Mr Duke if you can offer either financial support or expertise ([alexduke@theswanageschool.co.uk](mailto:alexduke@theswanageschool.co.uk)) or give the office a call on 01929 500599.

## CURRICULUM BENEFITS

The scheme represents a real opportunity to inspire students' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Students will explore practical mechanical design, with consideration to mathematical modelling and scientific methodologies. Where possible development of the F24 programme will be integrated into lessons to illustrate concepts and act as a platform for discussion of topics such as energy storage, drag, mechanical load, fluid dynamics and so on.

[Images courtesy of Greenpower]





# GCSE NEWS

## YEAR 9: CHOOSING OPTIONS

Choosing which subjects to study for GCSE can be a daunting prospect. We ask students in Year 9 to choose options before Easter so we are able to reduce the stress and workload of studying subjects in the Summer Term that they do not intend to take into Years 10 & 11 and instead ease gently into subjects they will be taking.

Many students will already have a clear idea of what they want to study, others less so. Either way, we are here to help and guide students in making their selections.

Ms Maraspin will be writing to all Year 9 parents very shortly and our Options Booklet will be available after half-term to help students make their choices.

You'll also find curriculum and exam information for each subject on our [website](#) (Curriculum > Subjects), along with [subject videos](#) (Curriculum > Key Stage 4 Presentations).

Students! make sure you read the Options Booklet thoroughly and speak to teachers, your parents, and any older siblings to make informed decisions about your choices.

## GCSE Exams 2021

The cancellation of exams is of course a massive blow to Year 11 students, and we will keep you updated when we know more about how the results will be reached this year. The Department for Education and Ofqual are aiming to publish the outcome of their recent consultation on this matter in week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

As last year, assuming centre-assessed grades, we will of course take a thorough, fair and evidence-based approach. Students, who have worked so hard in preparation for their GCSEs, should be rightly proud of themselves and we are immensely impressed with their ongoing commitment and motivation towards their studies when we know full well how difficult this is in the current situation.

If any of our Year 11's are struggling with motivation, mental health or with work, please get in touch and talk it through with us.

# PURE CLASS

This edition: SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON **GEOGRAPHY**

In this edition, we focus on Geography - where we aim to inspire students to understand the world around them by studying the different physical and social patterns and processes that affect the earth and our life on it.

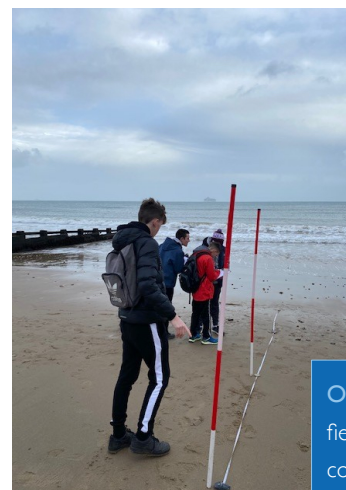
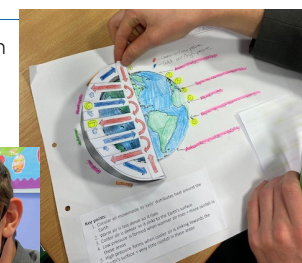
## OUR GEOGRAPHERS

Mrs Drodge (Curriculum Area Leader)  
Miss Barry

**GEOGRAPHY** affects our world in more ways than you might imagine. It explains why some countries suffer extreme weather events and why others suffer extreme poverty. The study of physical

and human geography leads to breakthroughs in finding solutions to the world's problems and it links the past to the present and the future. It is a subject investigated both in and out of the classroom and the skills learnt in both contexts are valued by employers across a range of sectors from business to environmental sciences - investigation, analysis, critical thinking, communication and problem-solving to name a few. We are blessed with our fantastic location and head out on field trips often, making the most of the geographically rich Purbeck peninsula and the Jurassic coast.

**WEATHER WATCH:** The Global Atmospheric Circulation System is crucial to understanding the world's weather but is not an easy concept to grasp. Visualising through models aids learning.



## EARTHQUAKE PROOF:

Learning how infrastructure and building design can reduce the impact of natural hazards.

**OUT IN THE FIELD:** Y10 geographers braved the elements for a field trip to Swanage Beach where they investigated the impact of coastal management on coastal processes and communities.

# YEAR 11 NEXT STEPS

## DON'T MISS THE DEADLINES!

Those of you planning to apply for A-levels at sixth form colleges and for other further education courses starting in September 2021 should have applied by now or be doing so imminently. Don't delay!

### Unsure of your next steps?

Please get in touch and speak to Ms Probert in the first instance

## APPRENTICESHIPS / TRAINEESHIPS

Details of apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities can be found on the "post-16 employment opportunities" section of the [School's Employability SharePoint site](#). It is important that students who are interested apply quickly and to a high standard as opportunities are time-limited and competitive. If you have questions on technical applications, have a chat with Mr Duke. Ms Probert is happy to answer questions on making applications and also to proofread them for you.

## UK UNIVERSITY & APPRENTICESHIP SEARCH - VIRTUAL FAIR

This fair will give students from Years 11, 12 and 13 the chance to explore over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers from across the UK. Live webinars will also be taking place on a range of subject from apprenticeships to writing a personal statement. A great chance to find out more about your future post-18 options - for more information and to register go to their [website](#).



### UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair

Wednesday 17 March | 12:00 - 18:00

# ALL ABOUT ALUMNI

We're starting to gather stories from our past students to share here and within school. It's great to hear what they're up to now!

**Mia Frediani (2016)** has set up a bakery business, La Mia Torta, specialising in bespoke buttercream creations and personalised brownies, and thoughtfully



dropped off a selection of beautiful (and tasty!) cakes for us to sample!

You can follow Mia's business on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#)

**Bethany Taylor (2017)** is an Advanced Hairstylist on a Higher Level Apprenticeship, having studied with the Francesco Group Poole. Bethany works at the Innovation Salon in Swanage.

**Sunny Angel (2018)** is currently studying Aeronautics and Astronautics (MEng) at the University of Southampton, having completed his A-Levels at Lytchett Minster Sixth Form.

**Grace Rowley (2018)** sat A-levels at Parkstone Grammar and is currently taking a gap year to compete with her horse before starting university in September 2021. She's off to Nottingham University to study for an English Language degree.

**Tyler Gauntlett (2018)** went on to study A-levels at The Purbeck School and is now at Winchester University studying for a degree in Sports & Exercise Science.

In the meantime feel free to email the office and let us know what you're up to now and we'll feature you here in the next issue!

We'll shortly be emailing parents of our past students asking you to pass on our **Alumni Survey**. We do hope you will so that we can catch up with all our past students and keep in touch with their new adventures.



# COOKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

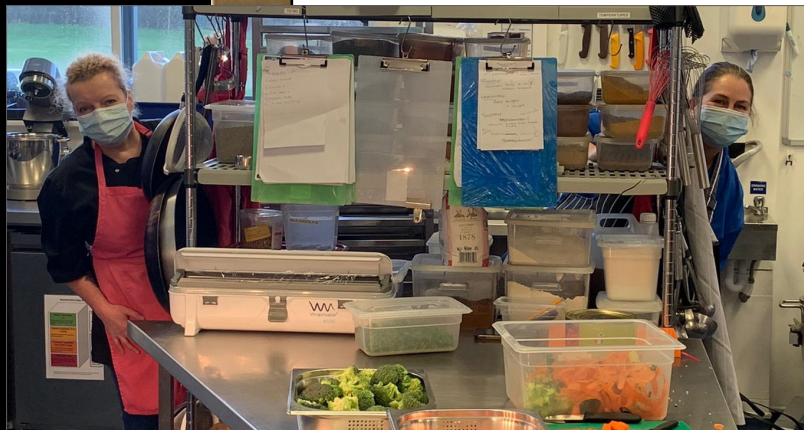


Logo design by Student Council member Rose Starmer.

## COOKING UP A STORM

A special thanks to our super kitchen team, Mrs Oram and Mrs Sharpe, who have not only been catering for staff and students in school, but who have been preparing around 160 meals three times a week for the "Cooking for the Community" scheme.

The scheme was launched back in Lockdown 1, following kind donations from the Dorset Freemasons and funding from the Dorset Community Fund, secured by our PTFA in conjunction with Swanage Primary School. Thanks to additional funding we have been able to cook for the community again during Lockdown 3. The scheme aims to give a little bit of support to those who are vulnerable, elderly or experiencing particular hardships as a result of the pandemic.



# STAFF NEWS

## CHANGES IN THE OFFICE

Many of you will know Miss Knapman well - she has been with us since we opened but has recently moved onto pastures new. She has welcomed every student cohort through our doors and has probably spoken to every parent at some point. Rather than recruiting a direct replacement, we are delighted that Mrs Birch and Miss Taylor will be sharing the role alongside their existing responsibilities. We hope to recruit an apprentice to work with them on Reception.

## SCIENCE

It's a fond farewell to Science Teacher Mr Warriner, who is leaving to pursue new adventures. His replacement will be announced soon - we are currently recruiting.

## A REMINDER OF ROLES

### HEADS OF HOUSE / YEAR

Due to the collapsing of vertical tutor groups this year, each Head of House is also looking after a year group:

**Mr Duke** (Endeavour / Year 8)

**Mrs Humby** (Challenger / Year 10)

**Miss Morris** (Halsewell / Year 7)

**Mr Ringrow** (Victory / Year 9)

Year 11 are looked after by the CALS.

### CURRICULUM AREA LEADERS

**Mrs Drodge** (Humanities, Art, PE, PRE, PBL)

**Ms Everitt** (Maths, DT & Computing)

**Mrs Kerwood** (Science & Catering)

**Ms Probert** (English, French, Music & Drama)

### SENCo

**Mr Dawson**

### SAFEGUARDING TEAM

**Ms Sands** (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

**Mr Dawson** (Deputy DSL)

**Mrs Lawton** (Deputy DSL)

**Ms Maraspin** (Deputy DSL)

**Mr Ringrow** (Deputy DSL)

**Miss Holt** (School Counsellor)

They're here to help. Please get in touch with any questions, worries or concerns.

# ROUND UP

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our sincere thanks to Gill and Martin from the Angling Centre who kindly donated £250 for the purchase of a new Chromebook for us to pass on to a student during lockdown, and to Jane Atkinson for donating a laptop - no longer needed by her but very gratefully received by us.

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### Contact us:

Call: 01929 500599

Email: [office@theswanageschool.co.uk](mailto:office@theswanageschool.co.uk)

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## PARENT GOVERNOR

We are delighted to welcome Catherine Starmer-Howes to the Governing Body, following her recent application. As Mrs Starmer-Howes was unopposed there was no need for an election ballot. A letter will be emailed to all parents with more information about our Parent Governors, and you can find out more about school governance [on our website](#)

## COVID UPDATE

In our last newsletter we were telling you about setting up lateral flow tests for all students and staff at school. Shortly after, lockdown 3 was announced and the government changed tack on daily testing in schools. Staff and students who are in school are being tested at intervals.

We continue to be regularly updated directly from the DfE and via our Dorset Hub, but there is no particular news to share at present. We are hoping students may be able to return after 8<sup>th</sup> March, but it really is a case of “wait and see” at the moment.



Follow us on Facebook

## AND FINALLY

**Term dates** for next year were approved by the Governing Body earlier this week, and will be published on the website shortly. A big change next year will be that we will set work, in line with the curriculum, for students to complete during Inset Days. We will provide further information in the next edition of Making Waves about what staff will be doing on Inset Days and how this will positively impact both students and parents.