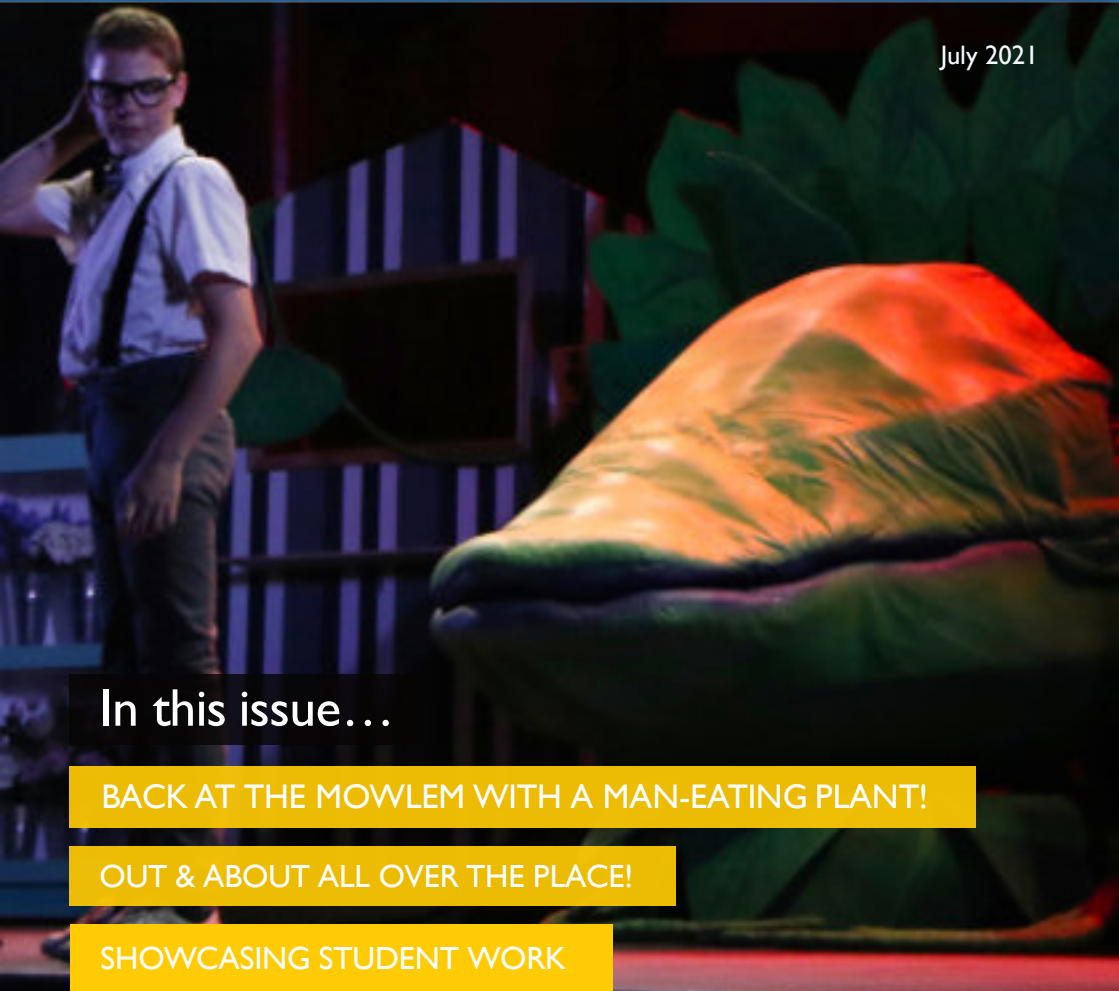




MAKING WAVES

News from The Swanage School

July 2021



In this issue...

BACK AT THE MOWLEM WITH A MAN-EATING PLANT!

OUT & ABOUT ALL OVER THE PLACE!

SHOWCASING STUDENT WORK



HEAD LINES

REFLECTING AND RENEWING

The end of an extraordinary year and a re-set for the next

As you know, I am immensely proud to be the Headteacher of this amazing school, but I know it can be more amazing still and I would like to share with you my vision for the future.

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Before I turn to the future, I want to acknowledge what a crazy year this has been for us all: students, staff and parents. On my very first day confirmed in post as Headteacher, I closed the school (surely the only Headteacher to do this on their first day?) This week, some 16 months later, I have, on the one hand, had to ask another group of students to self-isolate and, on the other, witnessed students returning from Challenge Week trips, enjoyed a fantastic live show put on by our amazingly talented students, and seen students enjoy taking part in sports day. A reminder then that Covid is still very much with us, but also taking heart that some semblance of 'normal' school life has returned. This year has been hard but, as ever, I have been impressed by how well students and staff have coped.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We have spent time over the past months thinking about our direction for the coming years and have renewed our vision for the school.

The fundamental ethos has not changed - we are, and will remain, a school where relationships really matter. We do, however, want to re-embed 'The Swanage School Way' and move forward our aspiration for The Swanage School to be a leader when it comes to innovative teaching and learning, becoming a truly outstanding school. We have big ambitions for students to continually take their work to new heights, whilst growing as resilient, compassionate and skilled young people.

FORWARD THINKING

A summary of what this might look like in practice is below.

Going forward, our aim is to:

- have smaller tutor groups, thinking of them as 'crews' - we are all crew, no-one is a passenger
- further increase our focus on cross-subject project-based learning in Y7 and Y8, giving this a greater breadth and depth, immersing students in learning set within 'real-life' contexts
- truly embed 'real-life' skills valued by employers, to be seen across both subject teaching and extra-curricular activities
- further expand opportunities for learning and experience through cultural trips, explorations, clubs and overseas visits
- strengthen community links and showcase our students' work at every opportunity in the community, as well as at school, making them proud of who they are and what they can achieve
- ensure there is a real authenticity to students' work

So, exciting times are ahead, and we will return in September raring to go. For now, however, we rest for a few weeks!

Looking forward to seeing you all again in September and meeting our new parents; in the meantime, I wish you the best of summers.

With best regards,

Jenny Maraspin

WELCOME NEW Y7!

A very warm welcome to those of you with children who will be starting at The Swanage School in September! We are looking forward to getting to know your child and are confident they'll settle in very quickly. To those of you who are 'first-time' parents of The Swanage School, we also look forward to meeting and working with you to ensure your child gets the most out of their secondary school experience and education. We hope you will find The Swanage School community a happy one.

For information, please keep an eye on text and emails to keep up to date and refer back to the Parent Packs you have been given. If you have any questions give us a call on 01929 500599 or email office@theswanageschool.co.uk. However, please bear in mind things will go quiet for a few weeks as we close for most of August.

If you haven't already, we would encourage you and your child to read the [transition information](#) on our website as this addresses some of the concerns they may have.

FIRST DAY CHALLENGE!



To make up for missing out on Transition Day, we will be taking our new Year 7s to Go Ape on Monday 6th September for an alternative first day at school. They will have the chance to meet new friends in a sociable, fun environment and get to experience a Swanage School style 'Challenge Day' right from the off, taking part in a 'Nets Adventure' and 'Gorilla Games'.



They will need to be dressed in their Swanage School PE kit. Please refer to the email sent on 21st July for full details of this exciting adventure!

COMMUNITY HEROES

The first project our Year 7s will undertake is called 'Community Heroes', through which they will gain an appreciation for their community and the positive contributions they can make towards it. The students will be publishing a book showcasing all their work.

As part of this project, students will watch 'INVICTUS' which tells the story of South Africa's 1995 Rugby World Cup victory, to gain an understanding of the different types of heroism and an introduction to Nelson Mandela's story. The film is rated a 12 but we feel it's educational value merits it being shown. More information has been emailed (see email of 21st July) and includes Mrs Drodge's contact details should you have any concerns or questions about this.

Term dates are
on the back
cover

THE END OF AN ERA!

We'll miss you all! Good luck in your next adventures



GCSE results are released on Thursday 12th August - we will email these to students (via school email addresses) and to parents after 8.30am. A hard copy of results will be available for collection from 7th September. Exam certificates usually arrive at the school by early October and we will contact everyone at the time regarding arrangements for collecting these. A letter has also been emailed regarding this and the process for appeals.



Year 11s donned their glad rags for their prom, held at the Country Courtyard in Kingston.



SCHOOL SNIPPETS

SPRUCING UP THE CANTEEN

Students recently voted on a name for the school canteen, from a shortlist drawn up by the Student Council, and have opted for The Lobster Lab Cafe!

Over the summer, we will be giving the cafe area a lick of paint and it's own branding.



RACE TEAM NEWS

The TSS Race Team are working hard to make racing next year a reality. They have all completed training to secure their positions on the team and are running the whole operation themselves - from the technical aspects to logistics and marketing. The Race Team are looking for sponsorship so if you know anyone who might be interested please contact Mr Duke.

CIRCUS WORKSHOPS

We were delighted to have been able to run 'virtual circus' workshops for local primary school children over the past half-term. We had planned to run these with a view to the pupils showcasing their talents and work at our Festival on the Field event, which was sadly cancelled.



Instead, we have produced a 'virtual circus' video which you can view on our [YouTube channel](#). Pupils from Swanage's three primary schools joined us for sessions in puppet-making, clowning skills, car design, circus-themed poetry, self-portraiture and STEM magic.



Children from Swanage Primary School enjoy a spot of puppet-making, and drawing self-portraits (above).

STAFF NEWS

WARM WELCOMES AND FOND FAREWELLS

Welcome to Kayleigh Ashton, our new Curriculum Area Leader for English, Drama, Music and Languages, and a fond farewell to Sam Probert, who is retiring.

We are delighted that Alex Gordon, who has been working with us over the past year, will stay on to cover Mrs Woodward's maternity leave. We wish her all the best for a happy, healthy end to her pregnancy.

We also sadly say farewell to Aimee Stone, and in her place welcome Ioana Pupazza to the music department.

We also welcome to our amazing team: Robyn Dennis, who will be joining us as a teacher of Maths and Dr Julia Tratt as a teacher of Science.



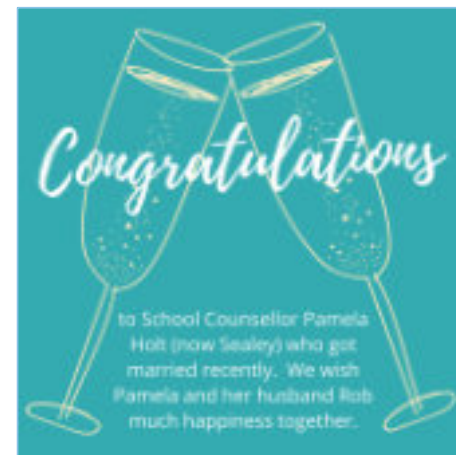
Follow us on Facebook



Tweet with us



Now on Instagram!



A NEW SENCO

We are sorry to say goodbye to Dave Dawson, who has led our SEND Department for many years, and wish him the very best of luck in his new role.

Marie Beresford has joined us as our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator, bringing with her a wealth of experience and passion.

Contact us:

Call: 01929 500599

Email: office@theswanageschool.co.uk

OUT AND ABOUT

Students have been participating in the Dynamic Dunescape project which is a partnership involving Natural England, the National Trust, and the Wildlife Trusts. They have been completing dune transect surveys on the Studland Dunes, the data from which will contribute to an analysis of how sand dunes are changing over time. Year 10 students also visited Monkey World to put their learning on classification and human evolution into context.



CHALLENGE WEEK

During Challenge Week students took part in a range activities: they hiked the South West Coast Path, visited Corfe Castle, adventured at Dorset Water Park and slid around the Mud Trail, they enjoyed time at the beach learning to paddle board and using the pedaloes, and they took part in tag archery, rifle shooting and other activities with Cumulus Outdoors. It was all a bit different to the usual trips we run during Challenge Week, but fun and challenging nonetheless!

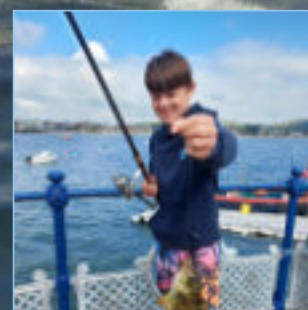
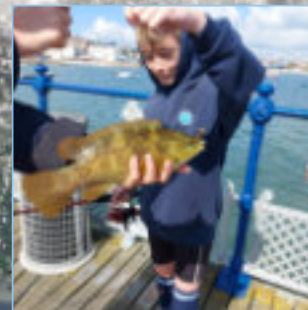
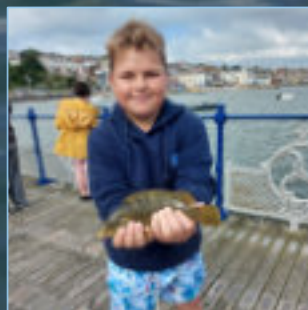
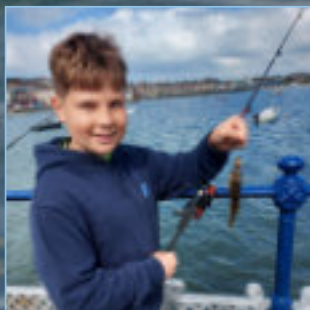
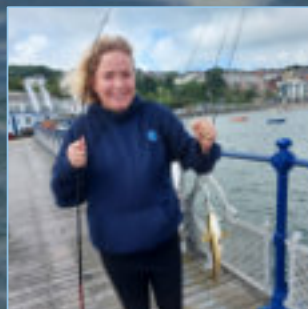




This week has seen a triumphant return to the stage, in true Swanage School style! The cast and crew of our fifth annual production, 'Little Shop of Horrors' have worked incredibly hard to pull off an AMAZING show with just ten weeks lead time! The professionalism and talent of students has been recognised all over social media, with rave reviews coming in straight after opening night!

WATER SPORTS AS PART OF THE PE CURRICULUM

This term, students from across the year groups have had opportunities to enjoy water sports during PE lessons, making the most of our stunning location here on the coast. Year 7 students even did a spot of fishing - very successfully!



SHOWCASE

Eiffel Tower & Hindu Temple Challenges

After learning about how the Eiffel tower was built and many fascinating facts about this iconic building, Year 7 French students challenged themselves to make a similar structure in under an hour with only paper straws. The students' collaborative creations were judged in three different categories: tallest tower, strongest tower and best design.

Year 7 Project Based Learning students made models of Hindu Temples, exploring the key features and their importance. These features included lotus flowers, moats and mandip bells.



SHOWCASE

Design & Make Project: Phone Stands

In Design & Technology, Year 7 & 8 students have been putting their design and crafting skills to good use by making a practical product. Their brief was to design a stand to hold a mobile phone to enable charging and watching films. A variety of shapes and colours were used, creating a fabulous range of unique results.



SHOWCASE

Working Together

Students often work together and with staff on special projects. Recent examples include Year 10 Food & Nutrition students running catering lessons for Year 7 alongside Miss Barry. This benefitted both sets of students: the older ones learning demonstration and instruction techniques and the younger ones learning safe food preparation for a tasty dish. Meanwhile, student volunteers helped Facilities Manager Mr Byrne to repair a wooden set of scales for St Mark's Primary School. They learnt to use a range of carpentry tools and attached the new 'parts' to the delight of St Mark's teachers and pupils.

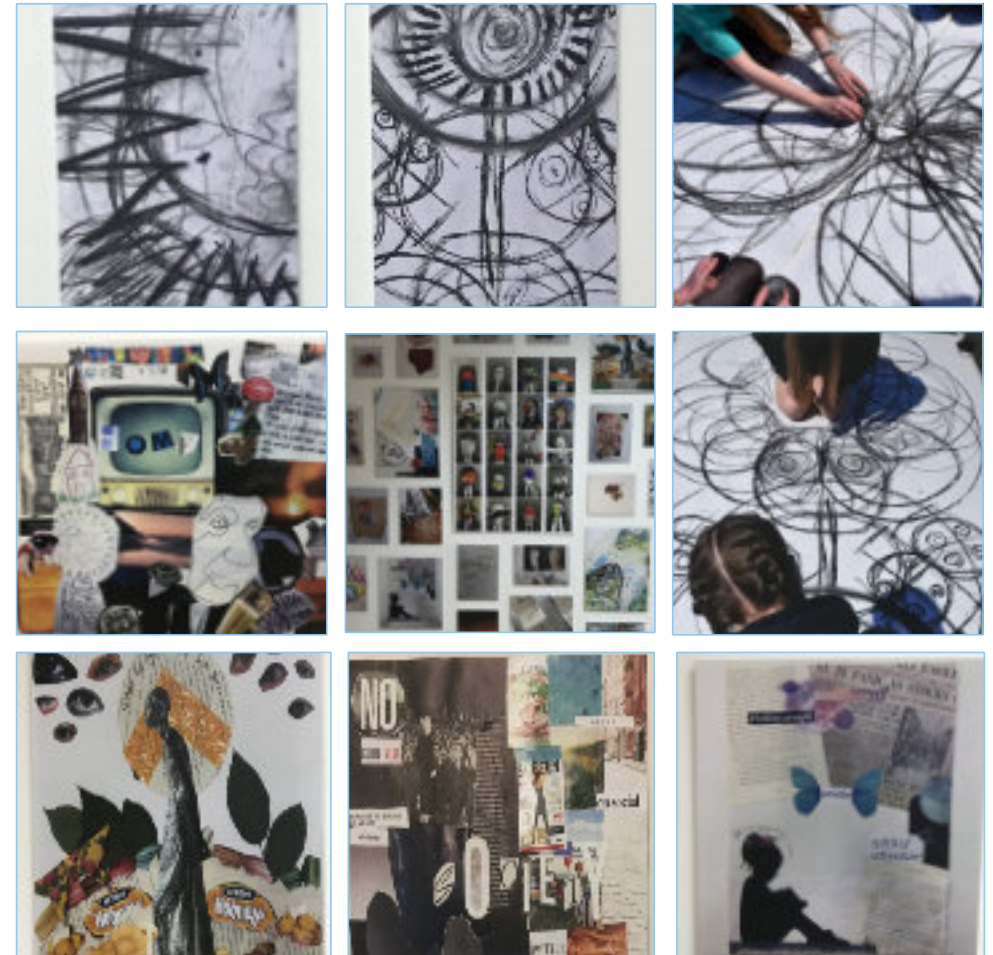


SHOWCASE

Exhibiting at Bournemouth Emerging Arts Fringe

In June, students had the opportunity to see their work prominently displayed at the Bournemouth Emerging Arts Fringe exhibition.

The work was produced for a project run in conjunction with Arts University Bournemouth. Students explored the theme 'I can't draw' through a range of activities that included drawing as a way of collecting information, drawing with the physical self and drawing that expands conceptual understanding.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

GOVERNANCE

School governors are one of the largest volunteer workforces in the country. It is a rewarding role that will give you a deep understanding of the school and enable you to play a part in shaping it.

Governors do not get involved in day-to-day management, but focus on three core functions:

- Setting vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding senior leaders to account for performance of students and staff
- Overseeing the school's finances, ensuring it's money is well spent

Governors are elected annually - please get in touch by the end of August to enquire (see contact details below).

For more information on governance and membership see:

www.theswanageschool.co.uk/governance

Or contact our Clerk to Governors, Sue Fletcher: clerk@theswanageschool.co.uk

ACADEMY TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Any member of the community can join our Academy Trust, Education Swanage, if they share its vision and ethos.

The Swanage School was founded on co-operative principles and being a member of the Academy Trust is one way parents or members of the wider community can be involved in the governance of the school without the time commitment required of governors (trustees).

Members do have responsibilities - they are the 'top layer' of governance at an academy school. Members elect the majority of governors and, at the end of the day, are the body that have the authority to intervene if the governing body is not fulfilling its role effectively.

Members meet twice a year.

To join please see contact details below.

THE PTFA NEEDS YOU!

The Parent, Teacher & Friends Association organise fund-raising events and provide support by lending a hand on special occasions.

New members are needed as existing ones have largely moved on! There is a real opportunity to get stuck in and make the PTFA great again.

The funds raised by the PTFA in the past have been fantastic and have funded, wholly or in part:

- The stage
- 3D Printer
- Laser Cutter
- Equipment for catering
- Book-cases and sofas
- Sports equipment

Quiz nights, bingo, non-uniform days, sports challenges, curry nights and cake sales - they all go down a treat.

£3,000 has been raised simply by setting up a shopping cashback scheme which everyone is encouraged to join! Just sign up to [EASYFUNDRAISING](#), click through when you shop online and the PTFA raises money!



Contact our Business Manager [Andrew Thomas](#) to express an interest in joining the PTFA or volunteering.

VOLUNTEERING

Working with the community and volunteers makes the school special and we are forever grateful that people are willing to give their time for free in support of the school and our students.

Whether it be giving a motivational talk in assembly, helping to run a club or lending a hand in the garden, input from volunteers has been incredibly valuable.

Please get in touch if you can offer your time and skills.

DIARY DATES

2021-2022 TERM DATES (Dates are also on the [website](#).)

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Thursday 2 September 2021	Staff Development Day
Friday 3 September 2021	Staff Development Day
Monday 6 September 2021	Year 7 & Year 11 return
Tuesday 7 September 2021	Year 8, 9 & 10 return
Monday 11 October 2021	Staff Development Day
Friday 22 October 2021	Last day
Mon 25 - Fri 29 Oct 2021	Half-term
Monday 1 November 2021	Return to school
Friday 26 November 2021	Staff Development Day
Friday 17 December 2021	Last day of term (1.30pm)

SPRING TERM 2022

Monday 3 January 2022	New Year's Day Holiday
Tuesday 4 January 2022	Return to school
Monday 24 January 2022	Staff Development Day
Friday 18 February 2022	Last day
Mon 21 - Fri 25 Feb 2022	Half-term
Monday 28 February 2022	Return to school
Friday 18 March 2022	Staff Development Day
Friday 8 April 2022	Last day of term (1.30pm)

SUMMER TERM 2022

Monday 25 April 2022	Return to school
Monday 2 May 2022	May Bank Holiday
Monday 16 May 2022	Staff Development Day
Friday 27 May 2022	Last day
Mon 30 May - Fri 3 June 2022	Half-term
Monday 6 June 2022	Return to school
Friday 8 July 2022	Staff Development Day
Friday 22 July 2022	Last day of term (1.30pm)