

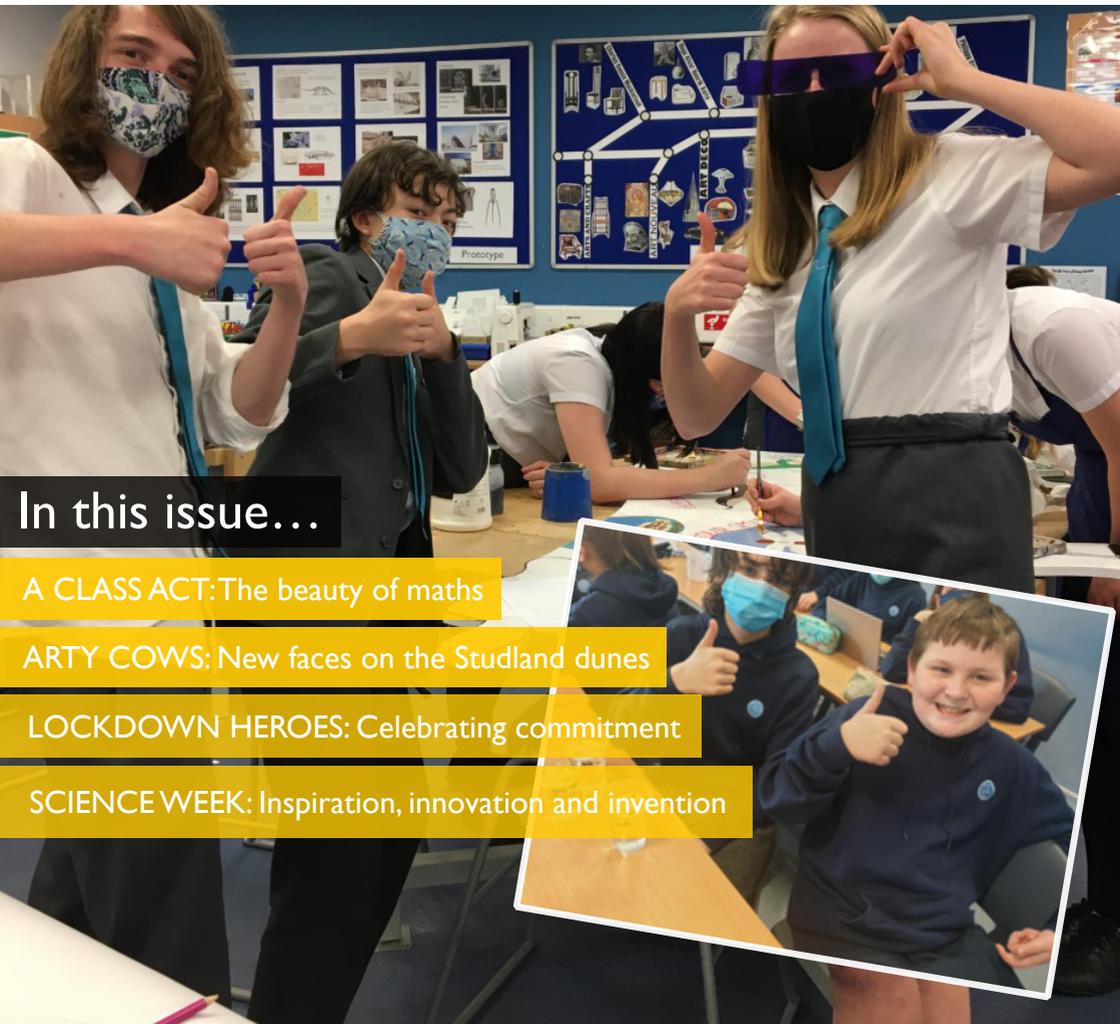


# MAKING WAVES



News from The Swanage School

March 2021



## In this issue...

A CLASS ACT: The beauty of maths

ARTY COWS: New faces on the Studland dunes

LOCKDOWN HEROES: Celebrating commitment

SCIENCE WEEK: Inspiration, innovation and invention



# HEAD LINES



Thank you all for your help and support in making this term a real success in such trying times. It really has been brilliant having all the students back in school.

The mass testing stations have been taken down, the children are back in classrooms, the playground and playing fields are full of noise and activity and the sun is shining. It really is great to be back. We have been busy planning for next term and we are hoping if all stays on track that we will be able to have a scaled down, Covid-safe Challenge Week. We have challenge days planned to address important issues such as healthy minds and healthy bodies. We also have some much needed outdoor team building, creativity and adventures planned.

Everything will of course all depend on how the roadmap out of restrictions continues and most importantly we will never be complacent with our Covid risk management and system of controls. So enjoy the holiday, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming the students back after the holidays.

Jenny Maraspin

## YEAR 9 OPTIONS UPDATE

Following the option process, we have rewritten the timetable to enable Year 9 students to start their option courses after Easter.

Option teachers are very excited to start with their new groups and of course it will give the Year 9 students a head start with regards to Covid-recovery and an additional term of study time for their option subjects.

Students have been issued with their new timetables and they are also available to you to access in the “Arbor App”.

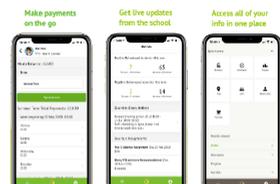
Timetables are in the student calendar section.

(As emailed to Y9 parents: 31 March 2021)



### 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!



Available on the Google Play and App Store. For more information, contact the school office

# LOCKDOWN HEROES

Although assemblies aren't taking place in the hall currently, tutors are sharing assembly topics with their groups during tutor time. In a one assembly earlier this term our “lockdown heroes” were given special recognition. These were students nominated by teaching staff as having gone the extra mile during lockdown to stay focused and committed to their work. Well done all! (\*Nominated by two teachers)

YEAR 7	Jamil Bashar	Lydia Grygiel	Emma Craig	Deniz Demir
	Imogen Fontana	Harrison Bennet	Thomas Rhead	Noah Bayerl
	Aleisha Billington	Harry Spurling*	Seren James	
YEAR 8	Charlotte Finney	Karis England*	Toby Scadden	Gabriel Perryman
	Ellie Burch	Charlie Johnson	Keren Campbell	Nati Stannard*
	Sky Moring	Reuben Marcus	Esme Woodford*	
YEAR 9	Faith Marshall	Olivier Tylek	Amy Robertson	Alfie Williams
	Martha Mittins	Ferdi Rose	Lewis Cook	Pollen Demir
	Ava Muir	Elliott Kelly	Olivia Stevens	Mikey Johnson
	Louis James			
YEAR 10	Jayden Eliyah-Wald	James Alcock	Edie Weld-Davies	Emily Knapman
	Willoughby Coffen	Taisie Follina	Rachel Glassock	Josh Weekes
	Daniel Stange	Nell Craker	Rose Starmer	Oscar Brady
	Oli Moring	Freddie Long	Rosie Goodwin	
YEAR 11	Andrew Hancock*	Oli Mittins	Billy Lepper	Leo Evans
	Olivia Marcus	Grace Perry*	Spencer Brown	Sophie Cuff
	Amelia Robertson	Maddie Pragnell	Milly James	Jake Streams

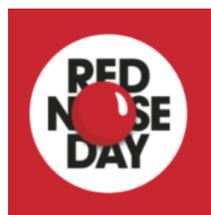
# SCHOOL SNIPPETS

## FREEDOM DAY

The Swanage School choir have added their voices to a song written by local musician David Laphorn to mark Freedom Day. Held in March each year, Freedom Day was founded by American Broadcaster CNN to campaign against human slavery. Here in England, charity Unseen UK work to end modern day slavery and exploitation - the song has been set to their images and dedicated to everyone involved in their work. You can see the video on [YouTube](#).



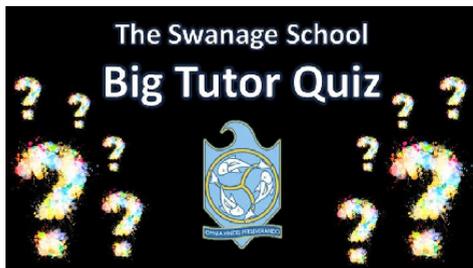
Mr Laphorn said of the students involved: *"They've been absolutely amazing. They had a lovely energy and sang beautifully in tune. I was quite prepared for a few rough edges, but there weren't any. They were just fabulous."*



£445.50 raised for Comic Relief!  
Thank you so much!

## TUTOR QUIZ RESULTS

Congratulations to Mr Peake's tutor group, who were victorious in this term's Friday Big Tutor Quiz, a weekly round of questions designed to get brain cells firing and to provide some light relief at the end of each week. Miss Barry's group came second and Mr Hines' third. Thanks to Miss Morris for organising!



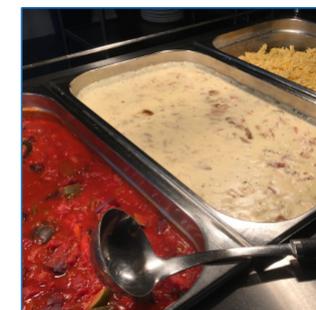
## BABY AT THE BUS STOP!

Well done to Year 11 students Riley and Paige who went to the aid of a lady who had gone into labour just outside the school, and waited with her until the ambulance arrived. The next day, we received a call from the Ambulance Service to pass on their thanks and to let us know how awesome Riley and Paige are (of course, we already knew that!) #theswanageschoolway

It's been a particularly big week for Riley who's just been offered a place at Dorset School of Acting - well done from us all!

# LUNCH MATTERS

Did you know that we offer a main meal option each day (meat and vegetarian alternatives), pasta, salad and a range of baguettes and sandwiches?



Main meals are just £2.50, pasta dishes are £2, baguettes and sandwiches £1.75.



ParentPay works brilliantly, freeing students up from needing cash at school, and making service at lunchtime much smoother.

If your child hasn't yet tried our meals, why not give them a whirl after Easter? We offer lots of variety and healthy options to choose from across the week. Our menu this week included chicken dishes, omelettes,

Let's not forget a delicious dessert of the day, homemade cakes, snacks, fruit and drinks.

chilli, curry and pizza for mains, served with a different side each day - basmati rice & naan bread, chips & baked beans, mashed potatoes & veg and wedges. Our pasta sauces included Turkey Romana, Tuscan Bean, Sweet Chilli Prawn, Quorn Classic, Beef Stroganoff and Vegan Balls in Tomato Sauce. Menus are published in school, on the website and shared on Facebook.

# SCIENCE WEEK: INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

This year, British Science Week had the theme “innovating for the future”. To mark this, over the last few weeks of this term our Year 7 and Year 8 students have had the opportunity to be “Climate Superheroes” and participate in an exciting national STEM competition run by NFU Education - “Farmvention”. Aimed at children aged 5-14, the competition challenged children to think about the problems that climate change poses for British farmers and to come up with innovative ways to address the issues.



Elevated farming for areas prone to flooding.

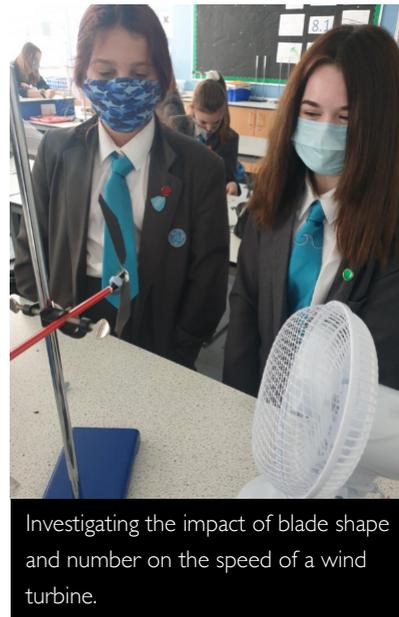


The four themed “hubs” of the challenge were:

- Sustainable food
- Technology
- Renewable energy
- Soil & plant health

## INNOVATIVE LESSONS

Students completed a number of experiments in Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons to explore these topics in depth. They investigated possible solutions to fighting the impact of climate change on farming, inspiring them to innovate by creating an invention to help farmers to continue caring for the environment.



Investigating the impact of blade shape and number on the speed of a wind turbine.



Modelling an eco-village.



Year 7 investigated the salt tolerance levels of pea plants. They also came up with some great ideas to improve farming in light of the threat of climate change including domes to capture the methane gas from cows, developing seaweed as a food crop and planting more trees to encourage foraging of foods.

Some students built models and created slides to present their ideas for watering drones.



## IN BIOLOGY

**YEAR 7** investigated growing plants in difficult conditions:  
**SUSTAINABLE FOOD**

**YEAR 8** explored how sand can be turned into health soil:  
**SOIL & PLANT HEALTH**

## IN CHEMISTRY

**YEAR 7** researched the best material for a polytunnel:  
**TECHNOLOGY**

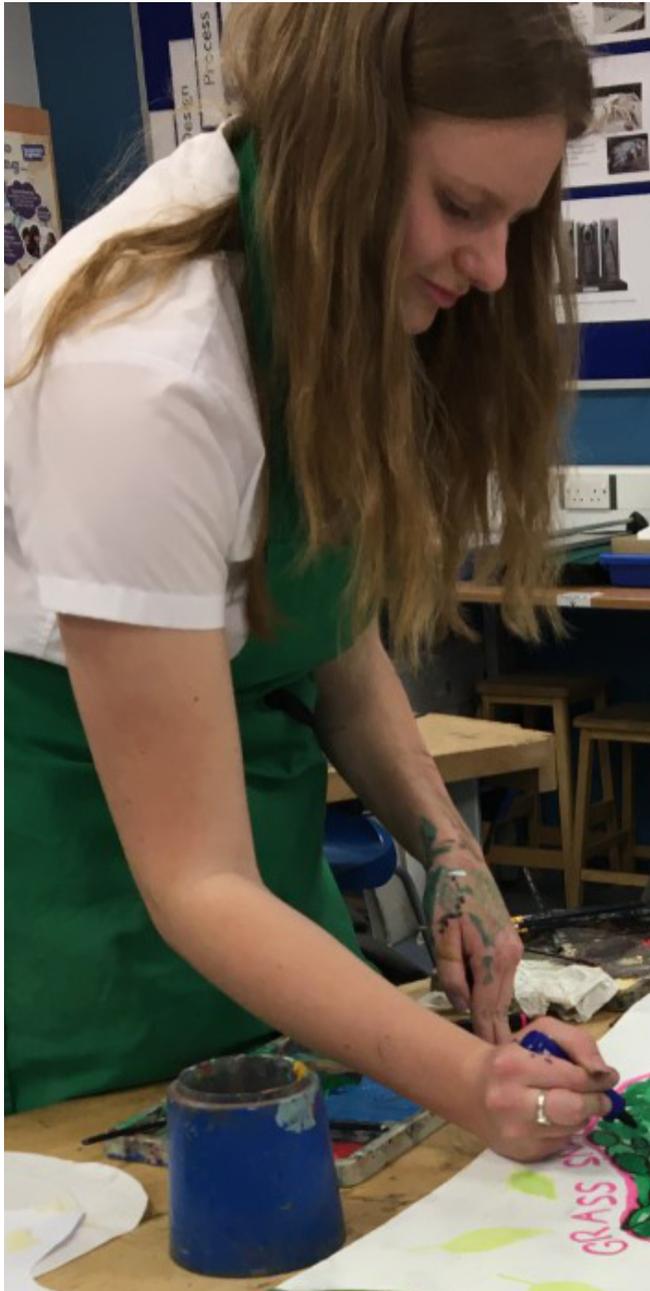
**YEAR 8** investigated straw as a bio-fuel: **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

## IN PHYSICS

**YEAR 7** researched blade shape, size & quantity on turbines:  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**YEAR 8** investigated the best shape for a drone:  
**TECHNOLOGY**

# ARTY COWS!



## THIS EASTER: JOIN THE ARTY COW TRAIL AT SHELL BAY

We were delighted to be approached by the Dynamic Dunescapes Team, who are working with the National Trust, to decorate an "Arty Cow" - and we're sure you will agree our student group have done a great job!

Ten painted cows will be dotted around the Studland dunes over the Easter holidays, representing the real cattle that are coming to Studland Bay this summer. You can pick up information about the trail at Shell Bay. Volunteers will be based just after the board walk from the car park, at the first cow, from Wednesday to Sunday (weather permitting) and can give you a map (or see below).

The cattle are being introduced to graze the dunes to help combat over-vegetation which is leading to a decline in open sandy habitats that provide for rare and special life. More information about the project is available on the [Dynamic Dunes website](#).



# PURE CLASS

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

At The Swanage School we not only want to provide students with a great maths education, but also to inspire them to appreciate the beauty, power and everyday application of mathematics in the real world.

## OUR MATHEMATICIANS

Mr Dawson

Ms Everitt

Mr Hines

Ms Maraspin

Mr Ringrow

Assisted by Miss Gething

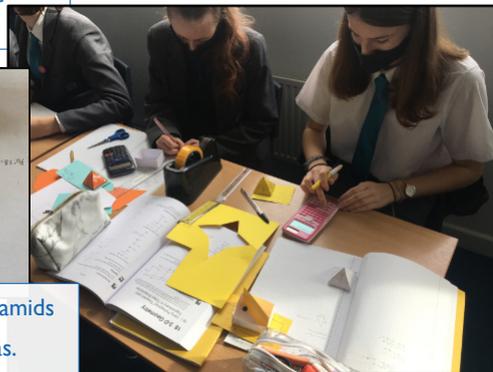
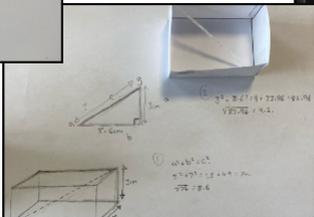
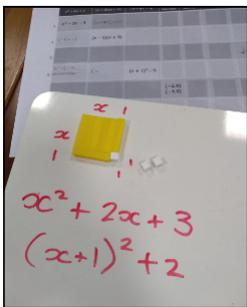
Mathematics is a vehicle for understanding the world. It is essential for everyday life, and critical to science, technology and engineering. It is necessary to understand personal and business finances and needed for most forms of employment. As the real world becomes ever more digital, so too does the need for maths skills. Maths can open doors to a

range of exciting careers and highly skilled mathematicians are highly sought after: business, data science, education, engineering, finance & banking, computing, medicine & health - these fields all reward maths skills.

In learning maths, students develop problem-solving skills and the ability to think critically. Maths should be enjoyable, and we aim to make it so. Not many subjects have “right answers” the way that maths problems do. Overcoming mathematical challenges and

solving difficult equations is instantly satisfying and gives students real-time feedback about their understanding and progress.

Some Year 10 students are working on the **Further Maths** curriculum, which kicked off this term by investigating quadratic equations.



Students crafted cuboids and square based pyramids to solve 3D distance problems using Pythagoras.

## TALK TO US PLEASE

It's been such a difficult year and we know that a lot of students are finding things tough. We are here to help, so please get in touch if you have any concerns about wellbeing or mental health issues.

Students - talk to your tutor, a member of the safeguarding team or Ms Sands (Safeguarding & Welfare Officer) - please don't keep worries or anxieties to yourself, we really can help.

Parents - please get in touch if you are concerned about your child. Phone 01929 500599 and ask to speak to Ms Sands or another member of the team.

# YEAR 11 NEXT STEPS

## APPRENTICESHIPS/TRAINEESHIPS

A reminder that 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 and proofread applications for you.

# ALL ABOUT ALUMNI

Congratulations to **Kyle McCrory (2018)** who has accepted an offer of a place at the prestigious Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Since leaving The Swanage School, Kyle has been studying at Brockenhurst College for his A-levels.

**ROYAL CENTRAL**  
SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PAST STUDENTS!

We love hearing your news.

Please let us know what you're up to now:  
[alumni@theswanageschool.co.uk](mailto:alumni@theswanageschool.co.uk)

# DIARY DATES

## 2021-2022 TERM DATES

Dates for remainder of the current academic year are 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)

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS (INSET)

I would just like to take the opportunity to explain the rationale behind next year's INSET day calendar as it is more spaced out and includes a few more days than in previous years.

As you are hopefully aware we have a new management information system called Arbor and parents have access to school information via the Arbor App. It has many features which have not yet been made available to parents. As part of our continued efforts to make sure communication with parents is the very best it can be, we have been busy working on the assessment features on the App. From September parents will be able to log on to the

# STAFF NEWS

App and track the progress of your child.

INSET days next year will predominantly be focussing on assessment and importantly how we share essential assessment information with parents. We always address these questions when undertaking assessment activities with students – we call them the 'So What' questions. 'So what is the assessment telling me?' 'So what am I going to do about it?'

All our assessment practice impacts positively on student progress. There is no point just knowing what a student can or can't do if there is no appropriate follow up action. We want to involve, inform and include parents in this process in order to best equip you to support your child in an informed manner. You may well have seen our route maps on Sharepoint and soon you will be able to access teaching resources we use in the classroom to support and challenge at home. We will be sending more detailed information and posting how to videos on our website next term.

Jenny Maraspin

## SCIENCE

We are delighted to have Mr Buxton with us teaching Science for the rest of this academic year. Our new permanent Science Teacher, Dr Julia Tratt, will join us in September 2021.

## ENGLISH

Miss Woodward is back from maternity leave, although of course this does mean we have had to say a fond farewell to Mrs Bayerl, who had been with us in the meantime.

## TRAINEE TEACHERS

We pride ourselves on offering excellent placement opportunities for trainee teachers, who work with our existing staff to hone their craft. As we say goodbye to Miss Emadian and Miss Cooper, we welcome two new trainees from Exeter University: Mr Brereton who will be working in the Maths Department, and Mr Gordon who will be working in English and Performing Arts.



Follow us on Facebook



Tweet with us



And we're now on Instagram!

# ROUND UP

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### FORMER BADMINTON COACH WALKING FOR CHARITY

A lot of you will know **Rowan Sutherland**, who has volunteered many hours of his time over the years to coach badminton to our students. Two years ago Mr Sutherland was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma and has since suffered multiple fractures including 90% of his spine, leading to a height loss of 25cm and difficulty walking. With his bones now a little stronger following treatment, he is planning to walk 4 miles along the hills to Corfe Castle, in April, to raise money for Forest Holme Hospice. If you wish to support Mr Sutherland, please make a pledge via his [Just Giving](#) page.



**IT'S AT RISK!**

***What can I do to save it?***

**Sign the online petition**

"Save Swanage Ambulance Car"

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### Contact us:

Call: 01929 500599

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

## AND FINALLY

The Swanage School Student Council are leading a project to design and create a **memorial garden**, where students who have lost a family member or someone important in their lives will be invited to lay a painted pebble in memory of them. If you have any unwanted tools you could donate to help with this, and other gardening projects, please get in touch. In particular, we would love to receive **large hoes, forks and rakes**. A **bench** is central to the students' design so if you have one you no longer need and would be prepared to give it to the school for this project, please get in touch with Miss Morris via Reception on 01929 500599.