



MAKING WAVES

AUTUMN | 2020

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SCHOOL PLANNING

How your feedback helps shape our development



FIELD TRIPS

Back out! Learning on the Coast with the National Trust

HEAD LINES



Welcome to our new look half-termly newsletter! It's been a very busy half-term, as you might imagine. We've welcomed our new Year 7s and it's been lovely to see our other students again post-lockdown. Our focus has been on support, both educational and wellbeing, in addition to our usual teaching. Students and staff have responded fantastically well to new procedures and routines.

The leadership team has also spent time focusing on our priorities and plan for the year ahead, on which there's more information inside.

I am delighted with the development of the Student Council - more news from them on p.3 - and urge you to consider their request for joining our PTFA!

With my best wishes,
Jenny Maraspin

GCSE SUCCESS

We were again extremely proud of the results achieved by GCSE students in 2020. Yes, it was the strangest of times without the exams being held, however that must not detract from the success of students who worked hard and fully deserved the results attained.

The process for awarding grades was an extremely thorough, evidence based system with several rounds of moderation. We were therefore absolutely confident in the decisions made and subsequent grades awarded.

There were some truly outstanding individual stories with our top performing student achieving an incredible 11 GCSEs of which 9 were grade 9.

MOVING ON

Best of all, every single 2020 leaver left with an exciting next step to further their education. Many have started college for A-levels or vocational courses, and several were embarking on apprenticeships.

Wishing all our 2020 leavers the very best of luck in their new adventures.

Keep in touch!

#TSSAlumni

KEY STAGE 4 INFORMATION

Our year 10 students have now made a great start to their two year GCSE courses. It is important that you have some knowledge and understanding of the different courses being studied by your child, but as you know we were unable to run our KS4 Information Evening. Instead, our teachers have put together presentations for their subjects which will provide an insight into the content of the courses and what you might be able to do to support.

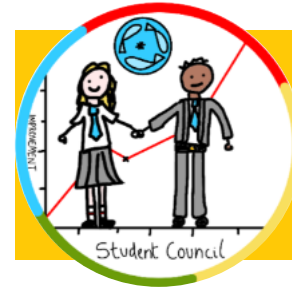
As always, we are happy to answer any further questions that you might have.

You'll find the presentation videos on our website at:

www.theswanageschool.co.uk/keystage4

**YEAR 10
PARENTS!**

Video
presentations
online



STUDENT COUNCIL

NEWS

Parents and Carers of The Swanage School

Hello again! This is the second newsletter from the Student Council, and we're going to update you on what we've been doing since the last newsletter.

Firstly, you may remember that we were planning on doing a pen-pal project with some of the elderly residents of Swanage in care homes. Some of the Council members got our first replies last week, which was very exciting! The replies we got were all extremely lovely and we are expecting more from the other two care homes soon. Also, on a similar note, if any other students are interested in getting a pen-pal from one of our local care homes, tell them to let Miss Morris know, and she will try to pair them up with someone!

Another thing we would like to tell you all about is that four members of the Student Council met our MP Richard Drax last Friday. It was a great opportunity to ask him some questions – to which we got some interesting answers. It was a very educational experience as we were able to learn a bit more about our Government and the man who is representing us all the way up in London!

Another task the Student Council is working on is recruiting a new PTFA team. If any of you would like to apply to that, could you please email eleanormorris@theswanageschool.co.uk? Thank you very much! We're looking forward to seeing you on the team!

One final note to parents of Year 7 students, if your son/daughter is interested in joining the Student Council – we have two spaces waiting for them! If they would like to be a part of team, please invite them to either email or speak to Miss Morris or you can always talk to a member of the Student Council at school.

Thank you very much for reading, I look forward to updating you all on what we do in the future!

Rose Starmer - Student Council Public Relations

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

HOW YOUR PARENT SURVEY RESPONSES HAVE SHAPED OUR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

I know it seems a while ago now, but I want to thank you again for taking the time to complete the parent survey back at the end of last year. As I stated at the time, we are very keen to make sure your opinions and views are heard and acted upon. There is a link to the full survey results on our website.

I was genuinely delighted with the level of response and outcomes. The feedback was relevant, incisive and so useful that we have been considering how to further develop parental partnerships.

As such we would like to set up a forum where parents can feedback to senior leaders on a more regular basis. If you would be interested in meeting, online initially, once a term, to discuss what we do well and aspects to improve please email office@theswanageschool.co.uk expressing an interest to join the parent forum and we will be in touch.

Jenny Maraspin

FEEDBACK TO CELEBRATE

The survey revealed numerous really strong themes to celebrate and be proud of. There were so many highlights it is difficult to choose which ones to showcase. If you would like to see the full questionnaire breakdown please see the [Parent Feedback](#) page of the website.

92% agree or strongly agree that the quality of teaching is good, with teachers checking levels of understanding and providing clear feedback

94% agree or strongly agree that the school provides high quality-pastoral support and as you know this is at the heart of our ethos and value set

92% agree or strongly agree that the school supports children to be confident, resilient and independent

97% agree that the school has high expectations of behaviour, and 98% agree that any issues are dealt with in a timely fashion

97% agree that the school is effectively led by senior leaders and governors

3 COMMON THEMES emerged as to the things we need to improve. We have incorporated these into our development plan.

1. Keeping parents informed

What we are doing:

- **Newsletter:** this newsletter each half term
- **Headteacher emails:** an update from the Headteacher every 3 weeks
- **New management information system:** this enables teachers to directly communicate to parents in various ways
- **Direct Text Messaging** from class teachers
- **Phone App:** so we can call you from the school line from anywhere
- **Parent Portal:** full features coming online very soon
- **Tutor phone calls:** half-termly

2. Reports

The reports are changing! The first reports will be out w/c 23rd November. We will also be holding virtual parents' evenings during the next half-term – details of the year groups and dates will be confirmed shortly.

3. Extra-curricular provision

Unfortunately this is on hold until the national Covid-level decreases but be rest assured we have plenty of great clubs lined up.

LUNCH MATTERS



SCHOOL DINNERS HAVE NEVER TASTED SO GOOD!

Nutritious food is fuel for the body and the brain, particularly for teenagers. Our delicious new menu is full of hearty, home-cooked meals that raises the bar for school dinners! Each day there are main meal choices, plus a pasta bar, salad bar and baguettes. Snacks are also available daily for morning break.



TUESDAY
Main (£2.50):
 Cumberland sausages served with dauphinoise potato, roasted vegetables & gravy

Vegetarian (£2.50):
 Onion & rosemary sausages served with dauphinoise potato, roasted vegetables & gravy

Pasta Bar (£2.00):
 Cheese or Cream of Asparagus

FRIDAY
Main (£2.50):
 Battered cod served with mashed potato & peas

Vegetarian (£2.50):
 Cheese & onion quiche served with mashed potato & peas

Pasta Bar (£2.00):
 Chicken & mushroom or Tuscan bean

Not tried them yet? Ensure your ParentPay account is topped up and then your child simply purchases with their thumb! No cash needed and no need to pre-book. More information on the school menus is going out weekly by email and can be found on our website:

www.theswanageschool.co.uk/Lunch-Menu

Sample menus

SCHOOL SNIPPETS

Tuned In

Year 10 and 11 have really enjoyed using their new headsets to be fully immersive in their language learning. They also started to get the full benefit of the new software "This is language" which gives them access to lots of real video clips from which to learn through fun activities.



Remote Parents' Evenings

Information on parents' evenings for this year will be coming out soon. Please keep an eye on your email.

Year 10 Mid-Term Reports

These will be coming out in mid-November.

Book Reviews

The Student Council would welcome all students submitting book reviews for us to share with the wider student body via our website and Facebook. Please send book reviews to Miss Morris.



Follow us on Facebook

FACELIFT



The Sports Hall was treated to a facelift at the end of the summer, brightening the space outside the entrance and in the corridor. The graphics were designed by our very own Art Technician Miss Lardner and were inspired by Da Vinci's drawing "The Vitruvian Man" which represents the beauty and symmetry of the human frame and is often interpreted as being an embodiment of health and fitness.

OUT AND ABOUT

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIPS with THE NATIONAL TRUST



The first of the National Trust biology field trips have taken place with Year 8 taking part in an insect survey along a 100m transect of the dunes at Shell Bay last month.

The students were given a tour of the dunes and learnt about the importance of this very fragile ecosystem. The data that each group collected has contributed to the national 'Dynamic Dunescapes Project' looking at the rejuvenation of our sand-dunes in Studland.

This month, Year 9s have been completing a fungi survey across the dunes and have also spent some time clearing some invasive plant species and doing a litter pick.

National Theatre

connections

Make Theatre

PERFORMING ARTS

We are very proud to have been accepted to take part in National Connections 2021!

Each year the National Theatre commission 10 new plays to be written for young people and hold a national competition, with over 300 youth theatres and schools taking part. The process then culminates in a week of performances at the National Theatre in London.

Last year our production of 'Dungeness' wowed audiences at The Mowlem Theatre, but unfortunately our journey was cut short by Covid-19.

We hope this year to go 'all the way' and show how much talent we have here in Swanage!

Audition dates will be announced shortly!

Wizard of Oz news:
Sadly we have had to postpone our 2021 annual school production as rehearsals are not practicable at present with the Covid mitigations we've got in place. We will do all we can for the show to go on at a later date!



The cast of 'Dungeness' at the Mowlem Theatre last year



STAFF NEWS

Geography

The Humanities Department are happy to welcome Ben Keen, who is training as a Geography teacher with us at The Swanage School. Mr Keen has been working at Leeson House for 7 years, so we feel very lucky to have his expertise within the department until Christmas. We will fully utilise his skills in this area to give our students the best opportunities to carry out field work investigations.

English

A warm welcome to Rosie Bayerl who is with us in the English Department covering Miss Woodward's maternity leave.

Maths

We are delighted that Elaine Gething is continuing to work with us to support students with Maths. Miss Gething is an experienced maths teacher with a Masters in Mathematics Education. She is supporting students with post-lockdown catch-up as well as teaching some of our Further Maths classes.

Teaching Assistants

We have two apprentice Teaching

Assistants working with us this year. Lucy Battrick and Lauren Collins will primarily be supporting students with SEND.

Catering

Our new Catering Manager Nicky Oram comes from Harrow House with a wealth of experience and has introduced an exciting range of delicious new dishes.

Ex-student Joins the Staff Team

It's lovely to have Jamie Langtree back with us as an apprentice IT Technician. Jamie completed his GCSEs with us in 2018 and is now working with Mr Walling in the IT Department whilst completing his apprenticeship.



GET INVOLVED

THE PTFA

Under the stewardship of Miss Morris and the Student Council, our Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) is being re-launched!

We would love you to get involved in supporting the school whilst having some fun along the way. You'll find more information in the Student Council News section of this newsletter and a helpful video explaining the relaunch and benefits of getting involved at: www.theswanageschool.co.uk/PTA

INSPIRE OUR STUDENTS

Do you have an exciting career, run a business, have an interesting hobby? Or other skills and experience you could share through volunteering?

Over the years many wonderful volunteers, groups and businesses have provided expertise and support to lessons, assemblies, clubs and activities. If you could help inspire and challenge our students (remotely at present!) please get in touch via office@theswanageschool.co.uk

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

Our Board of Governors has a vacancy for a parent governor (a parent, elected by parents) and invite you to apply.

Apply by
Friday 6th
November

Being a school governor can be personally very rewarding as well as being important for the school by making a positive contribution to the education and experience of pupils.

Further information has been emailed to parents this week. You can also refer to our website: www.theswanageschool.co.uk/governance or contact our Clerk to Governors, Sue Fletcher, if you have any questions or wish to stand for election: suefletcher@theswanageschool.co.uk

*Parent includes natural or adoptive parents, and individuals with parental responsibility or who have care of a pupil on a full time and settled basis.

MESSAGE FROM DORSET POLICE



To protect the vulnerable this year, police and partners are asking teenagers to get creative and find alternative ways to celebrate at home. Due to the 'rule of six' which applies indoors and outdoors, gatherings that exceed this limit, such as traditional Halloween parties and social events, cannot take place this year.

Five eerie alternatives for Halloween at home:

■Virtual fancy dress party

Arrange a party online via Skype or Zoom and invite your friends and family. Nominate a DJ to put together some terrifying tunes or put together a Halloween play list and see who has the scariest moves.

■Wicked window decorating competition

Invite your neighbours, friends or family to see who can create the spookiest window.

■Virtual horror quiz

Ask everyone to write ten questions each and read out in their spookiest voice. Turn off the lights and use a torch to set the scene. Throw in a music round of guess the horror movie theme tune. Extra points for the best fancy dress!

■Create your own scary cinema

Decorate your living room, dig out some truly terrifying classics and enjoy a scary movie marathon.

■Make some spooky snacks

How about hot dog 'fingers' with tomato sauce, or creepy cakes with sweets such as 'eyes', 'worms' and 'teeth' for decorations.

COVID UPDATE

We have been fortunate to have reached half-term without a positive case in school and to have been able to remain fully open during this time. New procedures for students and staff are now well embedded in daily routines.

Please remain vigilant, as ever, for symptoms and alert us immediately if you have any concerns. Our thanks to you for the support you have shown.

We are delighted to report that attendance is significantly above the national average at present.