

The  
Thomas Hardy  
School

# Newsletter



SUMMER #1  
2025



# Welcome

In the glorious sunshine, we've packed an incredible amount into this short half-term. Students not even yet at The Thomas Hardye School, (and lots who are), took part in the Wessex Arts Fest earlier this month, and I would like to thank all those who took part and so many of you for attending. We have been inundated with messages praising the ensembles, soloists, workshops and drama performances which ran on the day, and it is always a pleasure to welcome students from other Wessex schools as they showcase the superb talent that is spread across the area.



I must also thank Mrs Glennie, whose efforts in organising our raffle have been nothing short of herculean. Thanks to the generosity of parents, local businesses, staff and other friends of the school, the raffle has raised several thousand pounds towards a new minibus, something which we hope will benefit

all students at the school and protect the brilliant range of extra-curricular opportunities which are one of the hallmarks of the school.

Exams are now well underway, and our Year 11s and 13s have had their final days in lessons. Shirts were signed, ice-creams eaten, embarrassing Year 9 photos displayed and yearbooks and hoodies distributed. Students are approaching their examinations with deserved confidence after their hard work and preparation, and we wish them every success.

There is a great deal to look forward to next half-term, including our production of *The Addams Family*, our end of year Presentation Evening for Years 11 and 13, the leavers' balls (I refuse to call them proms) and transition events for next year's Year 9s and Year 12s.

I would like to thank all staff at the school for their phenomenal work on behalf of the school's students, and all parents and carers for their support. I hope all students have a happy and restful week off.

Best wishes

**Nick Rutherford**  
HEADTEACHER

Newsletter design,  
editing & layout:  
**Caroline Lester**

**COVER IMAGE:** CCF Fieldcraft Weekend -  
more on page 6 - 7  
*Photograph courtesy of Maj Matthews*

**Thanks to all contributors for their help with this issue**    **contact [newsletter@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:newsletter@thomas-hardye.net)**

# Fundraiser

## RAFFLE DRIVES UP MINIBUS FUNDS

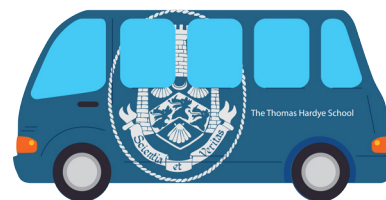
**On Friday 9th May, the school held a raffle draw to raise** funds for the new minibus. We had a huge range of prizes donated from parents, local companies and businesses and former students, including a signed Bath Rugby shirt, DIY equipment from Bradfords, permanent make-up vouchers from Rachael Loco, a beautiful food hamper from the Duchy of Cornwall, £100 cash from SDS Electrical and a veritable cocktail bar of alcoholic prizes! My personal favourite was the 3kgs of cheddar from Open Air Dairy (which I did not win...).

Students from Year 9 and Year 10 drew the winning tickets, and winners have been informed.

In total, the raffle raised £5,000 towards the minibus fund. From donations, the non-school uniform day and the raffle, we now have £11,000 towards our £20,000 target for a new short wheelbase minibus, which can be driven by staff other than those of us who are more advanced in years!

We are very grateful to all those who donated prizes and to everyone who bought a ticket and supported the raffle.

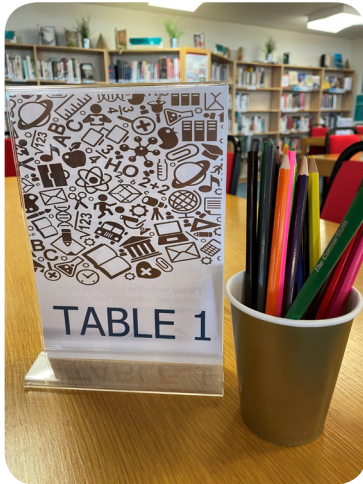
**Any further donations towards the minibus would be very welcome, or if anyone would like to sponsor the minibus, please do get in touch: [rglennie@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:rglennie@thomas-hardye.net)**



**Mrs Glennie**

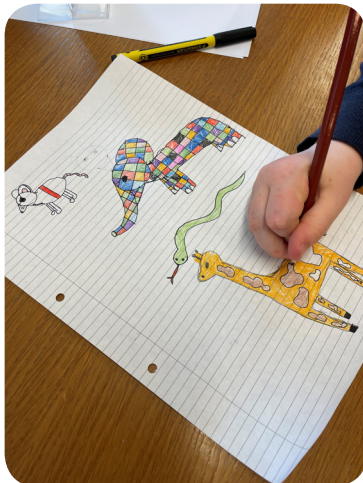


# Library



## COLLABORATIVE WRITING EVENT

**In April, the Library hosted** the collaborative writing event which is sponsored by Wessex MAT and has been running for many years. The aim of the event is for small groups of students from mixed aged groups to work together to create a short story of no more than 500 words set to a theme. This year, the story was titled "The Day I Stopped Being Me". The students were asked to imagine going to bed as one book character and waking up as another; and to think about how this would affect them in terms of their experiences. They had to start with the phrase "When I woke up that morning I felt completely different. ....", they



needed to include the phrase "You must be joking!" and include two items – a trumpet and a butterfly. As you can imagine, this led to some interesting and unusual story lines.

There were over 100 students from 16 schools and each group had a mix of first school/primary students, a middle school student and the group was led by an English student from Thomas Hardy. The morning is a lovely buzz of creativity and collaborative working with students learning from above and below and led to the creation of 22 stories and some wonderful artwork. All the stories and illustrations were collated into a digital book which has been shared with schools.



## VE DAY ACTIVITIES

**For VE Day 80, in the** Library we created an informative and eye-catching large-scale window display all about this important historic event.

The tutor group quiz was VE Day-themed too.

# Science



## **SUCCESS IN CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD**

**We are incredibly proud of the 25 students who** took part in the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemistry Olympiad this year. This challenging competition pushes the boundaries of A-level chemistry and attracts some of the brightest young minds across the country.

Our students showed great dedication, with many attending a weekly preparation club. Their commitment and enthusiasm have truly paid off.

A special congratulations goes to our award winners:

BRONZE:

**Evie Dovey, Abigail Sarfraz, Katie Sugg, Henri Barrow, Sophie Bartlett, Ciaran Godwin, Emily He, Adam Rushton, and Charlotte Trott**

SILVER:

**Ashley Adjare, Isabella Atkinson, Chloe Clarke, Annie Lee, and Joey Markus**

GOLD:

**Tom Hadgett and Declan McDermott**

Well done to all participants for your hard work and achievement – an excellent demonstration of perseverance and passion for chemistry!

**Mr Mules**

# PE



## ATHLETICS

**We have had a great turnout to athletics so far, with two competitions already taking place. 6 athletes have qualified for County Athletics after competing at Yeovil Arena and with over 40 other athletes at Colfox Area.**

Congratulations to the following who have qualified for County Athletics:

**R. Brookes; B. Batchelor; C. Watts; W. Barnes; E. Kirkpatrick and J. Usher.**

| Day       | Lunchtime   | Afterschool   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Monday    | Bottom Sports Hall Only<br>Badminton   ALL Years<br>Gym   ALL Years | Year 9 and 10 Cricket<br>Year 9 and 10 Rounders                                 |
| Tuesday   | Bottom Sports Hall Only<br>Badminton   Sixth Form Only<br>No Gym    |   |
| Wednesday | Bottom Sports Hall Only<br>Badminton   ALL Years<br>Gym   ALL Years | Year 9 and 10 Athletics<br>Year 9 and 10 Tennis                                 |
| Thursday  | Bottom Sports Hall Only<br>Badminton   ALL Years<br>No Gym          | Year 9 and 10 Volleyball<br>Year 9 and 10 Gaelic Football (After May Half Term) |
| Friday    |   |   |

## SUMMER CLUBS

**We've had a fantastic start** this term with all of our Summer PE Clubs. There is no need to sign up, just turn up - all welcome!

**Miss Leatherland**

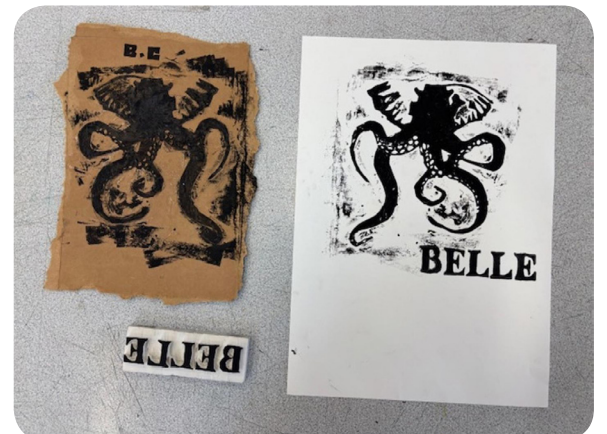
## MYTHICAL PRINTMAKING

**In this project, students explored** the world of mythical creatures through collagraph printmaking. Drawing inspiration from legends, folklore, and fantastical beings from various cultures, each student created a unique mythical creature of their own.

Throughout this project students learnt the process of designing, constructing, and printing their collagraphs, focusing on composition, and contrast. Their final prints also included the use of their own personal 'Hanko' to sign their work.



**Mrs Sanders**



# CCF



## VE DAY 80

*The CCF took part in the VE Day 80 celebrations at Prince of Wales First School on May 8th.*

The CCF supported with the set up and after event admin, but was honoured to led the act of remembrance at the start of the formal proceedings. **SSgt Jessica Rose** (Y12) gave the exhortation address, **Sgt Theo Narraway** (Y12) gave the Kohima Epitaph address and **SSgt Max Thrift-Brothers** laid the wreath. In attendance also were the Rt Hon Edward Morello, MP for West Dorset, the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset and the Mayor of Dorchester.

Maj Kevin Matthews, CCF Contingent Commander, said, "It's always an honour to be asked to attend such events, but this one was very special being at another local school. All the cadets were a credit to the school and the CCF."

## CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

### **CCF Adjutant Captain Gillian Copson**

(see image bottom left) and former **CCF**

### **Contingent Commander Flight**

**Lieutenant Alex May** (see image bottom right)

have been awarded a Lord Lieutenants Certificate for Meritorious Service to the CCF. Both have served with distinction for over 18 years and have changed the lives of countless THS cadets.

Maj Kevin Matthews said, "I am absolutely delighted that Capt Copson and Flt Lt May have been recognised for their service to the CCF. They have been absolutely integral to the success of the CCF and their unwavering commitment to the CCF is an exemplar for others to follow."





## FIELD CRAFT AT BLANDFORD

The CCF's annual tactical fieldcraft assessment took place in mid May. All cadets attending were assessed at their respective training levels, as well as working at troop level. It was an extremely warm weekend at Blandford Garrison, with cadets pushing themselves to find resilience they didn't realise they had. It was also the final tactical assessment for **SSgt Max Thrift-Brothers** and **FS Will Christian**, both of whom have served the CCF with distinction throughout their service.



## COINS FOR EXCELLENCE

*SSgt Jessica Rose & SSgt Max Thrift-Brothers* were presented coins for excellence by Maj Matthews, on behalf of Commander Cadets at Regional Command, for their fantastic fundraising in the Combat Stress 10 mile March. They raised over £1,500 between them.

**Maj Matthews**

## Science

### BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The week was a fantastic success for the school with many students and staff taking part.

A trip to the Manor

Park Primary School

taught the Year 5s

and 3s the exciting

physics of flight.

Groups of students

worked in teams to

build, design and test

fascinating planes.

Throughout the week, the science department

organised lunch time activities to engage students

across all

year groups.

Demonstrations

included fun

with Fossil,

Directions,

Party Physics.

Here or There! (to decide

the fate of Frip Harbour) and

Chemical Circuses.

We were also fortunate to

have external speakers at

the school discussing their

industry. **Tim Dowley**

and **Ruby Vincent** from

Triskelie inspired how the

nuclear industry will play an

important part in addressing

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sustainability and climate challenges. **Natalie**

**Abbott**, Principal Radiologist, Physics at Bart

Health NHS Trust came to speak to our sixth for

regarding uses of radiotherapy in medicine and

services into the profession.

Daily quizzes were given to all year groups. These

were centred around physics, chemistry, biology

and environmental science topics. Congratulations to

the winning tutor groups **99FW, 10TR, 11LL,**

**12NB, 13MC**

On the Sunday, the school ran a stall the Dorchester

Family Science Day as part of the Dorchester

Science Festival. Over 800 visitors were at the

stall. The school set up a chemistry stand with

exciting demonstrations appealing to both children

and parents alike. Huge thanks to our former

staff **Eric Conway, Jess Martinier, Amelia**

**Winthrop, Oliver French** and **Canon Reid**

for giving up your time to support us.

Mr Price

## corrections

With apologies for the following errors in the last newsletter edition, Spring #1:

The Science Week article should have been attributed to Mr Davis, not to Mr Price.

The Florida article attribution should have been Dr Rowe, not Mr Rowe.

## Florida



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Once again Florida welcomed and

hosted our students from during

the February half term break.

After a long day of travel (which

thankfully was largely uneventful

thru you!) the sun shone warm

and bright for us on day one of

the tour and we took the chance

to relax and regenerate on the

beaches along the route of the

Volcano Bay Water Park. To avoid

potential rainstorms in Orlando,

we switched our days around to

visit Kennedy Space Centre for

day 2 and were met by another

hot sunny day as we boarded

the shuttle bus to take us to the

at Apollo Road. However, the

We spent a little longer in this

area this year so that we could

properly explore the awesome

display about the build up to

the moon landings and then

had lunch overlooking the most

lunch pads which are once again

in regular use.

The week included with visits

to the amazing universal studios

and islands of adventure,

including a really atmospheric

and memorable 50th anniversary

Hardy's Grace parade one evening.

The trip floats along with

dance and music displays were

just incredible and everyone was

cheering and jumping to catch

the beads along the route of the

procession.

All our visits went brilliantly as

weve thanks to the planning and

hard work of Steve at First Travel

along the 4 members of staff

(Phil, Mick, the Brucas, Miss

Wilson and myself). Credit for

the amazing success of the trip

must also go to all the students

who once again did the Thomas

Harriet School (and our nation)

pride! These mad friends had

fun, helped each other and grew

in terms of their knowledge,

confidence and experience in

ways that are hard to quantify,

but easy to see the effects of.

We were so proud of them

all and the way in which they

"bubbled up" along the way.

Whether it was talking to the

song of established dolphins,

at Clearwater Marine Aquarium,

spotting alligators and croc lakes

from our air boat ride, laughing

and screaming on the awesome

roller coasters of Busch Gardens

Florida or chilling with an ice cream

on the Clearwater Beach, there

were so many memorable

moments in the action-packed

week. For some, of course, that

even included the shopping at the

Florida mall!

As ever we were blown away

by the incredible atmosphere at

the Solar Bears ice hockey match

and were lucky enough to watch

the historic hockey final between

Canada and the USA live during

our last night celebration party!

It is hard to imagine how this

trip could be improved but that

is our challenge as we plan and

prepare for Florida 2020! Look

out Orlando - see you some

time next year!

"I made so many memories and so

many friends when I went on the

Florida trip and"

**Grace Temple-Brown**

"Best experience of my life! A once

in a lifetime opportunity!"

**Lois Joyce**

"Thank you for the most amazing

trip to Florida. I really loved getting

to see all the sights!"

**Tyler Webster-Harris**

Mr Rowe

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# Dates

## SUMMER TERM

FRIDAY 23RD MAY

LAST DAY OF HALF TERM

MONDAY 2ND JUNE

ALL STUDENTS RETURN

FRIDAY 18TH JULY

LAST DAY OF TERM