

The
Thomas Hardy
School

Newsletter



SPRING #2
2026



Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter, which celebrates the achievements of our students and the school after another brilliant term.

Into the Woods...

The annual school musical has been announced — Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. The cast has been selected, and rehearsals are already underway. After the incredible success of *Shrek* two years ago and *The Addams Family* last year (selling out our large theatre for four nights), expectations are high for this fantastic showpiece.

When I took up my post at the school, five years ago next month, the music department in particular had been affected by the Covid school closures. Fewer students were joining us with experience of learning an instrument, and the school's orchestra and ensembles had

dwindled. To see them now fully restored, and putting on musicals of this scale and quality, is a testament to the resilience and talent of our students, the support they receive from you at home, and the indefatigable work of our staff.

Good luck to all students taking public exams next term

For our Year 11 and 13 students, this is it: the last full holiday before the end of their respective journeys. Staff are looking forward to supporting them through their final weeks of lessons and the examination process itself, and to congratulating them at the end of this important rite of passage. Whilst they will still want to revise and prepare over the break,

it is also important that they rest, spend time outside, and relax.



Farewell to Mrs Pullen and to Mr Moore

I would like to finish by paying tribute to two departing members of our community whose names may not be instantly recognisable, but who have made an immeasurable contribution to the success and ethos of The Thomas Hardye School.

Newsletter design,
editing & layout:
Caroline Lester

COVER IMAGE: Dance Show, image courtesy of **Miss Reader & Mrs Ncube**
More about this year's Dance Show on page 12.

Thanks to all contributors for their help with this issue

Mrs Anita Pullen has been the school's senior administrator since 1998, and personal assistant to all three headteachers the school has had in its current form. Many parents and carers who were themselves students at the school will remember her as the driving force behind our reception and front office. Her kindness, professionalism, efficiency, and devotion to the school and its students will be difficult to replace, and she retires with the best wishes and gratitude of everyone at the school.

Her association with the school takes some beating for longevity, but it is surpassed by

Mr Anthony Moore, whose five-year term as Chair of Governors comes to an end this term. Tony was a senior leader at the school from the 1980s, through its transition to its current form in the 1990s, and was Head of

Sixth Form and briefly Interim Headteacher in the 2000s. He joined the governing body as Chair five years ago and has been a constant supporter of the school, its students, and its staff.

With a wealth of experience in schools across the county, in roles ranging from governor to trustee and consultant, there can be few professionals who have made such a sustained contribution to education in the county.

Governors are volunteers, yet they provide crucial expertise, as well as critical challenge and support to schools — often unseen or unknown by the wider community. I therefore wanted to publicly recognise Tony's contribution to the development of the school. Thank you, Tony, and enjoy your retirement.

Smartphone-free school

Next half-term will be the last

before we move to becoming a smartphone-free school. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the online meeting, and for the many messages of support we have received. Any substantial change requires us, as the adults in the lives of our children and students, to work in partnership, and I am looking forward immensely to the positive impact this will have on your child's experience in school. More details around implementation will follow next term, and please do contact the school with any questions or concerns. write this as two of our most popular annual trips – the ski trip and the science trip to Florida – set off for their adventures. These and all trips and visits are such an important part of school.

With all best wishes

Nick Rutherford

HEADTEACHER

World Book Day



World Book Day has become a highlight on the THS calendar and this year was no exception. Our amazing staff can't wait to get dressed up as their favourite book characters and this year over 60 people were involved. Luckily the weather was in our favour and the fun, smiles and laughs across the school was brilliant. This year our theme was 'Literary Heroes and Villains' and we had visits from Cruella and her puppies, Dracula, Gandalf, Frodo and Bilbo, a complete Alice in Wonderland group, Matilda and Miss Trunchbull, Glinda and Elphaba, the White Witch of Narnia, Paddington, the Hulk the Joker plus loads more.



The purpose of the charity, World Book Day is to champion the fun of reading because it seriously improves children's lives. With young people's enjoyment in reading at its lowest level for many years, we want our students to be talking and hearing about books across the school. Our staff are great readers and share their reading both on a subject and personal level.

In addition to the day itself, there was a whole school quiz, with prizes, of book covers which had been turned into Lego, plus a display of staff reading across the globe (New York, Abu Dhabi, Canada, Paris, Lisbon and Florida).

If you have any queries about your child's reading and would like suggestions of books to try, the Library is open every day from 8.30am – 4.30pm (4.00pm on Friday). Or speak to your child's English teacher or myself and we are more than happy to help.

Mrs Stevens

World Book Day



Music



FURTHER VICTORY FOR YOUNG MUSICIAN

Huge congratulations to Mia Wright from Year 13, who performed at the district round of the National Rotary Young Musician Festival in Taunton at the weekend. She achieved this place having progressed after our own festival (in collaboration with Casterbridge Rotary Club, Dorchester, Dorset) in November. She performed brilliantly on clarinet and won! She now goes through to represent the district (Dorset/Somerset) in the South-West and Wales area final. What an amazing achievement!

ROCK AND POP NIGHT

On the 10th March, we hosted our annual Rock and Pop Night concert featuring many of the school's fantastic Rock Bands. Each group performed a small set of between one and three songs and the event was packed out with friends and family watching. The quality of the Rock Bands gets better each year.



For more news and information on the music department, visit:
<https://music.wessex.ac/thomas-hardye-school-music-department.html>
or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ths_music_dept

Music



LEGALLY BLONDE MUSICAL TRIP

In February we took 50 students from Years 9, 10 and 12 to watch a fabulous performance of Legally Blonde the musical at The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton. Every aspect of the show was fantastic, and we were even treated to a Q&A session with six members of the cast.

CONCERT FOR YOUTH

In March, The Thomas Hardy School Orchestra joined forces with the semi-professional Dorset Chamber Orchestra for their "Concert For Youth", which included the following pieces:

Mendelssohn - Konzertstück No.2 (featuring year 13s Mia Wright and Freya Murray as the two clarinet soloists.

Mussorgsky - Pictures at an Exhibition (featuring year 9 Jo Ansell on principal trumpet).

The actor Martin Clunes delivered a specially written narration for the Mussorgsky and spoke afterwards at how impressed he was by the students.

Conductor of the Dorset Chamber Orchestra Walter Brewster said "Congratulations to all your young musicians for Saturday. I received so many comments of appreciation immediately afterwards and doubtless more will follow." Click [here](#) for a summary video.

DORSET CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
MUSIC DIRECTOR:
WALTER BREWSTER
LEADER:
JANE BULTZ

CONCERT FOR YOUTH
MUSSORGSKY -
PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION
NARRATOR: MARTIN CLUNES
THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
CHABRIER - JOYEUSE MARCHE
MENDELSSOHN - KONZERTSTUCK NO. 2
FOR TWO CLARINETS AND ORCHESTRA

WITH SOLOISTS
MIA WRIGHT AND
FREYA MURRAY

14TH MARCH • 4.00PM
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, DORCHESTER

TICKETS: ADULTS: £13, UNDER 19: £1
ONLINE - WWW.DORSETCHAMBERORCHESTRA.ORG
CALL - LINDA RYALL ON 01305 269069

PE



NETBALL

The Year 10 Netball Club has gone from strength to strength with many girls regularly attending club.

Notable successes included wins against Canford and Bryanston. The U15 squad also won the Netball Area Tournament and progressed to the County Tournament where they had great success only missing out on a place in the semi-finals by one goal.

A successful season for all!



BADMINTON REGIONAL WIN

Four Year 9 students travelled to Bath University for the Regional Badminton Championships, after winning the County Tournament. The team placed 4th in their pool, giving THS their best result ever within Badminton. Well done to

O. Mealor, A. Saji, J. McNeill & Z. Shapland.





U14 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

After a great win in the quarter finals of the County Cup, the U14 girls' football played their next opponents in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, a loss meant that they narrowly missed out on a final spot however, a great start to their football journey here at THS!



U16 BOYS' FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the U16 boys who have made it to the Area Cup Final for the third-year running. The final will be played Thursday 26th March. Good luck to all involved!

U15 BOYS' FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the U15 boys' football team who convincingly won their Area Cup Final for a second year in a row, see *image left*.

U14 BOYS' FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the B Team who narrowly missed out on a spot in the Area Final where they would've been playing the A Team. The A Team went onto win the Area Cup Final – congratulations! The A Team also narrowly missed out on a spot in the semi-finals of the County Cup, due to a penalty shoot-out loss – a great start to your football here at THS.

Fundraising



NEW MINIBUS

A huge thanks to all the parents and carers who helped to support our raffle last year in aid of a new minibus. We now have short wheelbase minibus that more of our staff will be able to drive, which will allow us to offer more trips to students.

Once again, thank you for your contribution to our community: we couldn't have done it without you!

Mrs Glennie

RED NOSE DAY

Our school enthusiastically joined in the national effort to raise money for Comic Relief, taking part in a variety of fun activities to raise money for this brilliant cause. Thanks to the fantastic generosity of our school community, we raised an amazing £221.16.

Staff volunteers bravely stepped forward for the ever-popular wet sponge throwing, which quickly escalated into full buckets of water being poured over their heads, much to the amusement of everyone watching!

A delicious cake sale kept everyone well supplied with treats, and both students and staff brightened up the day by wearing something red to show their support.

A huge well done to everyone who took part, donated, baked, or helped in any way. Thank you for your ongoing support — it truly makes a difference.

The Year Teams

Science



ROYAL INSTITUTION VISITS IN SCIENCE WEEK

With support from Bournemouth

University, Dorchester Town Council, and Wessex MAT, the Royal Institution, a charity dedicated to connecting and inspiring people with the world of science, was invited into the school.

They delivered engaging “Explosive Foods” workshops to over 300 Year 4 pupils from Manor Park, St Mary’s Charminster, St Mary’s Dorchester, Damers, and Prince of Wales schools, as well as more than 250 Year 8 students from St Mary’s Puddletown and Dorchester Middle School. The Institution also hosted an evening event open to members of the public, extending the excitement and learning beyond the school community.

The live demonstrations and exciting science practicals showcased the incredible amount of energy contained in the food we eat. This action-packed show combined chemistry and physics in a memorable way, sparking curiosity and inspiring students to see science as dynamic and full of real-world relevance



Mr Davis

STEM



FLYING START FOR YEAR 9

Twelve year 9 students participated in the Flying Start Challenge, a STEM competition run and sponsored by eight aerospace engineering companies: Airbus, Atkins, BAE Systems, GKN Aerospace, Leonardo, MBDA, Rolls-Royce and Safran Landing Systems.

Over two workshop days with Leonardo, students developed their knowledge on aerodynamics and engineering processes and built gliders to compete in the Regional final, at RNAS Yeovilton, against 40 other school teams.

The day consisted of engineering quizzes and challenges, a poster presentation, STEM activities and the glider fly-offs. Teams competed extremely well with all teams ranking 16th or above in the competition. “Cirrus Business” reached joint first place in the engineering quiz, “Team Name Pending” received first place for their poster presentation, and “High Fliers”.

Mrs Dunford

STEM



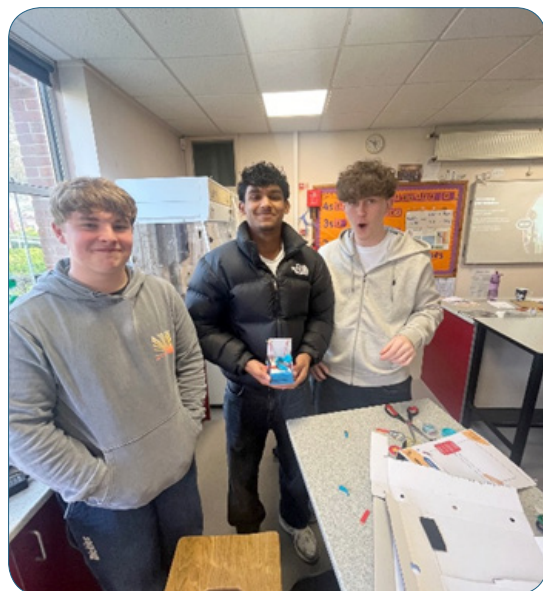
SAMSUNG SOLVE FOR TOMORROW WOKSHOPS

Following the success of the Protective AI project reaching the semi-finals of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition, Samsung visited the school to showcase the design process and highlight the importance of prototyping.

During the visit, students designed and built prototypes based on problems they had identified themselves, gaining valuable hands-on experience in innovation and problem-solving. The workshop not only developed their practical skills but also inspired STEM students to think creatively, collaborate effectively, and see how their ideas can have real-world impact.

It was a fantastic workshop and a great source of inspiration for the STEM team at Hardy's.

Mr Davis



Dance

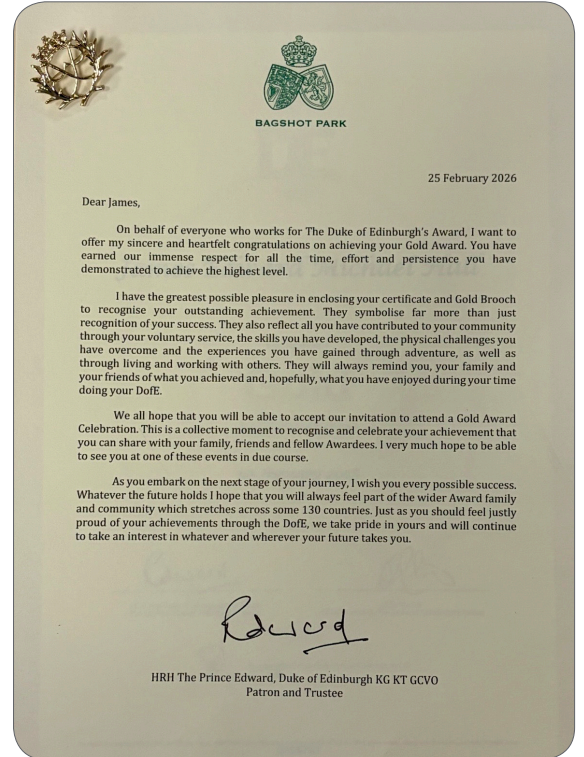


DANCE SHOW CREATIVITY

The Dance Department had their annual Dance show on Thursday 19th March and students didn't disappoint! Over 80 students from Year 9 - 13 performed exceptionally, showing off the creative dance talents of our students.

Work choreographed by Year 11 for their exam coursework, curriculum work performed by students from year 10, fun pieces from sixth form Performing Arts students and extra-curricular work from Year 9s made the 2026 Dance show one of the very best. Congratulations to all students involved.

Miss Reader & Mrs Ncube



D of E GOLD FOR JAMES

Congratulations to James Hall on his completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. This is a momentous achievement and follows 6 months of a physical and skills section; 12 months of volunteering with a local gliding club; a gruelling 4-day expedition on Dartmoor and a residential in the Lake District in which James was described as a natural leader thanks to his support of younger students.

Mr Walker

CCF

CADETS TRAINING SUCCESS

The following have passed the Army Cadet Syllabus (ACS) Basic training award and will now begin either the ACS One Star training syllabus or the RAF Air Cadet First Class Cadet training syllabus.

Congratulations to all!

ROBIN BOND 9RB

ELIJAH CUH-ING 9AB

EVAN CULLEN 9AB

LAUREN CUNLIFFE 9CW

MARTHA CURTIS 9RN

FERNAN DAGDAG 9ER

HAMISH FISHER 9ER

JACK GIBSON 9AB

ALFIE HAAGENSEN 9RN

GWENDOLINE HUMPHRIES 9RN

DARSHAN JAMES 9RN

PHOEBE JONES 9CW

IMOGEN LUCAS 9LD

FIYIN ODETOLA 9ER

DAISY BOYD-PATTON 9ER



MARATHON FUNDRAISER FOR MAJOR MATTHEWS

Outgoing CCF Commander Maj Matthews will be running the 270 km Marathon Des Sables (Mds) Easter holidays. The Mds is a 6-stage ultramarathon in the Moroccan Sahara, considered one of the toughest footraces on the planet. Participants carry all equipment and food (except water and tent) whilst dealing with soft sand dunes, dry river beds and rocky jebels in 40 degree temperatures.

Maj Matthews is raising money for two charities, Combat Stress, which supports service personnel suffering from PTSD and Dorset-based mental health charity Brave and Determined Company, or BAD Co., which provides funding for early-intervention lifesaving counselling.

Just Giving page links below. All donations are greatly appreciated.

[Just Giving Combat Stress](#)

[Just Giving BAD Co](#)

Maj Matthews

English



TEAM REACH DEBATE REGIONAL FINALS

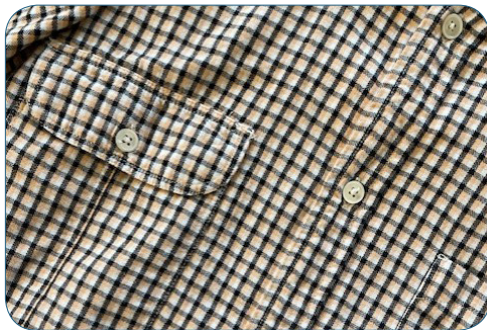
In March, three students from Year 12 took part in the regional finals of the English Speaking Union debates at Badminton School in Bristol. It is an incredible achievement to have proceeded this far in a national debating competition. They had debated against other schools twice previously and were the only state, non-grammar school team who had progressed this far.

Harry, Isabel and Mia were debating whether the government should ban private healthcare procedures in the UK. Their arguments were sophisticated and thought-provoking, and we are incredibly proud of their development as debaters over the course of the competition.

Whilst they did not advance to the national final, they were given excellent feedback by the judges. Well done to all!

Mrs Glennie

Textiles



SEWING SUSTAINABLY WITH SHIRTS

Year 10 Textiles students demonstrated creativity

and sustainability by transforming pre-loved adult shirts into children's garments. Students developed practical skills including pattern cutting, lay planning, bias binding, setting sleeves, pocket placement, hemming, and finishing seams, see *images above*.

Through thoughtful design and construction, they gave new life to materials that might otherwise be discarded. The final pieces showcase strong technical ability and a commitment to environmentally responsible fashion. Congratulations to all students for their impressive and inspiring achievements throughout the project process!

Mrs Ridout
Photos: Emily Burnham, Heather Sayers,
Isabelle Watson & Kate Garner

THS Award



VOLUNTEERING AT RSPB ARNE

Year 10 students have been carrying out

nature conservation work at Arne over the last two months, with tasks of tree pulling, cutting gorse bushes and planting oak trees with protective fencing.

The work is part of their John Muir 'Wild Places Guardian' Award.

Year 11 students have been making bird boxes.

The students have also been thinking about their mental health and wellbeing and the benefits of being in nature.

**Mr Oliphant
Thomas Hardy Award Co-ordinator**

Year 10



ROWING CHALLENGE

Year 10 students recently took part in an indoor rowing competition, representing their tutor groups as they raced to record the fastest time over a set distance.

The atmosphere was fantastic, with students cheering each other on and showing real determination and team spirit. Our teachers also stepped up to the challenge, creating a lively and competitive students vs teachers element that everyone enjoyed!

The overall rowing times were impressive, with a huge congratulations going to **Leo Hallett** of 10GB, who achieved the fastest

time of all the students and secured a box of chocolates for his tutor group.

A big well done also to **Mr Price** of 10FP, who claimed first place among the teachers with an outstanding row of his own.

Well done to all students and staff who took part — a brilliant event full of effort, energy, and friendly competition! Thank you to **Mr Rolph** and **Mrs Bunker** for organising and PE for supporting.

Miss Samways
Head of Year 10

Communication & Support

Tips for effective communication

Contact the tutor first.

For most academic and general/social concerns, the child's tutor should be your first point of contact. Email addresses follow the format of last name and then initial, no space, e.g.

jbloggs@ths.wessex.ac

Please be clear, concise and respectful.

Respect staff's working hours:

Parents should be mindful of teachers' workload and should not expect a response to emails immediately. Many staff are part-time, and teachers are not expected to respond to emails outside of the usual working day.

- **Family support and advice line** - 01305 228558
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/family-help-in-dorset>
- **Samaritans** (116 123) -
Free, 24/7 support line for anyone struggling
- **Shout Crisis Text Line** - Text "SHOUT" to 85258 (24/7)
- **YoungMinds Parents Helpline** (0808 802 5544) -
For advice on supporting your child
- **Connection** - Dorset's 24/7 Mental Health Helpline
- **Call 0800 652 0190** (free, open to all ages) -
This NHS service offers round-the-clock support for anyone in Dorset experiencing a mental health crisis, including parents concerned about their children

Safeguarding & Guidance Leaders

Year 9 Mrs Kelly
ckelly@ths.wessex.ac

Year 10 Miss Gosling
jgosling@ths.wessex.ac

Year 11 Mrs Morgan
cmorgan@ths.wessex.ac

Year 12 & 13 Miss Tinsley
atinsley@ths.wessex.ac

***If your concern is urgent,
please contact the school office:***

**Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm**

admin@ths.wessex.ac
01305 266064

Report an absence from 8.40am:

<https://www.ths.wessex.ac/for-parents/report-an-absence>

Mrs Noble

Library



NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS QUIZ

In March, two teams of students from Year 9 took part in the SW regional heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz organised by the National Literacy Trust. During February and March, there are 23 regional heats for the senior quiz delivered across the whole of the UK hosted by quizmaster Mr Dilly. The eight rounds of questions are based on fictional titles and involve book titles, characters, authors, brain teasers and story details. The books can range

from picture books right through to recently published Young Adult titles. Multiple genres are included such as comedy, horror, graphic, LGBTQ+, historical, classic, crime, diverse and sport to name a few and the teams need to have multiple reading interests.

Our two teams did brilliantly placing 2nd and 10th. The team in 2nd place won £80 of book tokens between them. It was a fun morning for all involved and they particularly enjoyed the snacks and sharing their team mascots with the other teams.

COLLABORATIVE WRITING

The THS Library hosted the collaborative writing event again for 13 schools, on behalf of Wessex MAT. The event aims for over 100 students from mixed aged groups to work together to create a short story of 500 words maximum, set to a theme. This year the story was titled "A Journey to Another Land". They had to start with the phrase, "I first realised something was different when...", include "I don't understand what you're saying" and mention a canoe and a worm. As you can imagine, this led to some interesting and unusual story lines.

Each group had a mix of first school/primary, middle and Year 12 students. The morning is a lovely buzz of creativity and collaborative working. It led to the creation of 22 stories and some wonderful artwork. All the stories and illustrations are collated into a digital book which has been shared with schools.

Library



WESSEX AMAZING BOOK AWARD

Every year, the Year 9 Book Club takes part in WABA along with 8 other Dorset schools. This is an interschool book award set up by Dorset school librarians. At the start of the Autumn term, each school selects a book. This longlist is cut down to a shortlist of 6. We read the shortlisted books from November to February, with the prize-giving morning held at the school who nominated the previous year's winning book. This year, the celebration was held at THS in the Library.

Over 70 students joined us to champion their choice of book. Discussion is followed by short presentations, then voting. The highlight of the morning is talking about some wonderful books, but also eating cake with your friends! This year, THS canteen produced the best cake we've ever had. Whilst the votes were counted, we heard virtually from Kathryn Foxfield, the author of last year's winning title.

The winning title this year, 'Keep Your Friends Close' by Cynthia Murphy, collected a third of the votes and was nominated once again by our school, so we will be hosting again in 2027.

Year 9 Book Club takes place on Thursday 3.30 – 4.30 in the Library. New members are always welcome

Mrs Stevens

Religious Studies



TASTER DAY AT WINCHESTER

Our Year 12 Religious Studies students spent an inspiring day at Winchester University for a Taster Day, giving them a valuable insight into life as a university student.

They began the day with a religious artefact handling session, then took part in a "Moral Mindcraft" workshop with Dr Elizabeth Mackintosh and Dr Christina Welch's lively "Religions in Britain" quiz. A tour of the university library with student ambassadors gave the chance to ask questions about study life. After lunch, the group joined Dr Fionn O'Donovan for a "Plato, Superpowers & Morality" session.

The day concluded with a UCAS personal statement workshop and Q&A session, with Winchester staff and students giving practical, first-hand advice.

Our students represented the school brilliantly.

Religious Studies

BUDDHIST CHAPLAIN INSIGHT

John Bayley, the Buddhist chaplain from

The Verne and a representative of Angulimala, the Buddhist Prison Chaplaincy Organisation visited the school to give a wide-ranging talk exploring how his work aligns with his Buddhist beliefs and the ways these principles guide his engagement with the world.

During the session with Year 13 Religious Studies students, John shared his perspectives on environmental issues, war, and the prison system, offering a deeply reflective Buddhist viewpoint on these pressing modern concerns. He addressed common misconceptions about Buddhism, speaking about the stigma he has encountered and the challenges of practising Buddhism in the West. His honesty and clarity helped students understand the lived reality of being a Buddhist practitioner in contemporary society.

A highlight of the talk was John's account of meeting the Dalai Lama, which offered students a rare personal insight into one of the most influential figures in global Buddhism.

John's talk enriched many areas of the A Level curriculum. It was a valuable opportunity to hear from someone practising Buddhism in such a meaningful and socially engaged way.

Miss Samways

A bit about our speakers

Ven. Dhammananda
Venerable Palvatha Dhammananda Thero founded the Bristol Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara.

Prof Rupert Gettin
My main research interest is the history and development of Indian Buddhist thought in the Nāgārjuna and Abhidharma. I have been teaching Buddhist Samatha meditation for the past 25 years.

Dr Rita Langer
My research focuses on Buddhist ritual and its origin (particularly Sri Lanka) and Buddhist material culture and food. My approach combines textual studies, field work, documentary film making.

Dr David Leach
My principal research interests lie in the philosophy of religion, including religious love/ the heart; religious experience; psychology and religion; philosophical atheism; Buddhist philosophy.

Dr Yoel Shiri
My research focuses on the history of ancient Indian Buddhism; Indian religious narratives (literary and visual); their function as a vehicle for ideas; a tool for religious agency, identity, and religious polemics.



Where to find us
Department of Religion and Theology
School of Humanities
University of Bristol
7 Woodland Road
Bristol BS8 1TB

Directions from the M32: Follow the M32 southwest into Bristol, continue onto the A452, continue straight onto Road Street/A404, at St James Barton round about take the 2nd exit onto Marlborough Street/B4051, continue to follow B4051, turn right at Woodland Road. If traveling from the South & South West, the A4, A28 and A27 provide access to the city centre.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY VISIT

Recently, Year 13 Religious Studies

students visited Bristol University for a full day of Buddhist Studies. During the visit, students attended lectures delivered by leading scholars in the field, gaining valuable insight to support their A Level Buddhism course.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity to meet and engage with Venerable Dhammananda, a Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka, who offered thoughtful perspectives on Buddhist practice and philosophy.

The students represented the school impeccably throughout the visit, demonstrating maturity, curiosity, and enthusiasm. It was a highly enriching and informative experience for all involved.

Governors' Update



NEWS FROM THE SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR

I am vice chairman of the local

governing body, responsible for safeguarding. I became a governor in 2018 as a parent governor, motivated by my belief in quality education for young people.

As safeguarding governor, I regularly meet with the designated safeguarding lead to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and the school is a safe place for students. I have also in the past met with the guidance teams about pastoral support and spoken directly with students to gather their perspectives.

I have always been impressed by the school's excellent extra-curricular activities, I helped with the school's production of *The Adams Family* and witnessed camaraderie across year groups, creating lasting memories and friendships.

More recently I visited the school library, a wonderful resource. Mrs Stevens' work to promote independent reading is inspiring. I look forward to supporting the school in the years ahead.

Rachel Turberville-Smith

Community



THIRD YEAR FOR FOOD BANK

The THS Food Bank is now in its third year of operation, thanks to the efforts of our staff, students, and parents/carers.

Each January, I launch the THS Food Bank with the help of **Mrs Stevens** in the school library. We ask staff, students, and their families to donate non-perishable items, including tinned and dried goods, bottled foods and carton drinks, and toiletries. These items are sorted into cardboard boxes and then delivered to 5 local food banks across Dorchester, Blandford, Weymouth, and Portland.

My thanks go to **Mr Orchard** and **Ms McGowan** who have helped in previous years with these deliveries.

Mrs Russell

Dates

SPRING TERM

last day of term:

Friday 27th March

SUMMER TERM

INSET day:

all students return:

Bank Holiday:

half-term:

all students return:

last day of term:

Monday 13th April

Tuesday 14th April

Monday 4th May

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June

Friday 17th July