

Newsletter No. 29: 6th June 2022

Welcome back to the final term of the academic year. It's always a busy one with public examinations in full swing for the next few weeks in the secondary schools and the college. This year the examinations are spread over a longer period than was the case in 2019, so our young people need to have tremendous staying power. We wish them well.

In this edition you will see plenty of evidence of MLP academies celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There were some wonderful activities across the Trust and if you were in Salisbury yesterday morning you may have seen Pembroke Park Primary Choir opening the Jubilee celebrations in the market place.

This term is, of course a time of focus on transition; as we prepare to say goodbye to our Year 11 and 13 students moving on, Year 6s transition into the secondary phase of education and we welcome the very youngest members of our education community into nursery and early years in the schools. There are events planned this term in all academies to support a smooth and easy induction for new pupils and students and in addition, the secondary schools and the college schedule visits for prospective students in Years 5 and 10 to visit. If you are a parent of a child in one of these year groups I do encourage you to take advantage of these early opportunities.

Having appointed the Headteacher for Wyvern St Edmund's in March, we had a vacancy for a new Head of College for S6C. I am pleased to tell you that Mr Ben Hillier, currently Deputy Headteacher at Shaftesbury School has been appointed. We look forward to welcoming him to the MLP team in September.

We also hope to welcome a new school to Magna Learning Partnership. Old Sarum Primary School is currently going through the process of joining; we held a stakeholder consultation meeting before half term and if all goes to plan the school will be part of MLP from the 1st August.

Wishing you all a happy and successful term – and a great summer holiday at the end of it.

Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer



Pembroke Park Acting Headteacher, Mrs Hayzen, conducting the choir singing the national anthem

Amesbury Archer



Amesbury Archer had a superb time celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. First, we had a crown competition which created a really tricky judging situation for Mr Crabtree and Mrs Donnelly! We were really impressed with some of the original designs. Congratulations to our winners and to everyone who took part.

In the afternoon, the classes joined together on the field to sing some of the Queen's favourite songs. The choir then sang 'Sing' to the whole school which was really super.

At the end of the celebration, we had a special picnic with food that we brought in on a non-uniform day, sandwiches made by Year 6 and cakes decorated by EYFS. We loved celebrating this special piece of history with our school community.



Bemerton St John



Term 5 was very busy with our Year 6 and Year 2 children completing their Key Stage SATs. Well done to all the children for their efforts in finishing them to the best of their ability.

River Study

Year 5 have recently been studying rivers and spent time on the River Nadder, at the bottom of the school field, as well as Harnham Water Meadows. The children discovered a lot of information about the creatures and plants that live near the river.



Healthy School Status

As part of our drive to encourage more children to live healthier lifestyles, each week the children are taking part in 'Skip to be Fit' where they skip for two minutes and try to beat the number of skips from the previous week. The children also have the opportunity during break and lunchtimes to practice.



Jubilee

On Thursday 26th May, we celebrated the Queen's 70th Anniversary on the throne by wearing red, white and blue. We arranged activities throughout the week leading up to the street lunch party on the playground. The children played old-fashioned games during lunchtime and our parent association (FOBS) helped to decorate the playground and offered parents a cup of tea and cake at the end of the day. FOBS also donated the Jubilee coins to all children across the school, a memorable coin for the children to keep to mark the occasion.



Pembroke Park



Term 5 was short but certainly busy! Years 2 and 6 completed their SATs showing incredible determination and resilience with everyone trying their best. We are very proud of them for their efforts. Bacon sandwiches were the highlight of the week for Year 6 we are told!



Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the National Art Gallery in London, where the children had great fun looking at the paintings and enjoyed a colour workshop. The journey into London was equally exciting, with children marvelling at the height of buildings and the city feel.

Our Play pod is now in “full swing” and the children are thoroughly enjoying the space and resources to play co-operatively and imaginatively. We are so incredibly lucky with the grounds we have at Pembroke and it is lovely seeing the children make good use of the space.



We now offer a great range of lunchtime clubs to our children, including Yoga, dance, football and Music! It is a great way for children to discover and develop interests and talents and the feedback from the children has been incredibly positive!



Our weekly Hot Chocolate Friday children never fail to impress us with their exemplary approach to learning and relationships with others. One child from each class joins Mrs Hayzen, Acting Head, for music, hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows and a KitKat followed by a certificate and recognition in our weekly celebration assembly.

Preparing for the Summer Exam Session at S6C

Revision has been our teaching and learning thread during Term 5. This summer is the first full examination session for over two years for many of our Year 12 and 13 students taking A Level and Level 3 Vocational qualifications, these are the first external examinations they have sat. For S6C preparation has been crucial, the senior leadership team have worked closely with staff to develop a programme of revision that supports our students through a period of significant academic and personal challenge.

Many of our students will have taken part in 'Revision Blasts', short sharp inputs that focus on retrieval practice and developing examination technique. Staff have also been providing small group workshops to focus on developing our students' skills in terms of analysis and evaluation when tackling an extended answer. We have also been running 'Energisers' half an hour prior to each exam, to focus our students on examination strategy and ensure they feel ready and prepared for the task ahead.

Underpinning this work, we have a Pastoral Team who are focussed on securing the Wellbeing of our students. 'Student 1 to 1s' have been at the heart of this, with tutors focussed on ensuring the students are prepared. Alongside this our 'Life Skills' programme provides practical support and help to reduce stress and anxiety at what is a challenging point in any young person's life. Our families have also been provided with a booklet on how best to support their young adult during the exam sessions.

We are very proud of how all our Year 12 and 13 students have responded. They have worked hard to overcome a very difficult period in their lives after two years of much uncertainty. They are a credit to their families, staff and college. We look forward to celebrating their results with them on Thursday, 18th August for A level/Level 3 BTEC/CTEC and on Thursday, 25th August for GCSE.

Beyond the exam period, we already have a number of S6C students who have secured their next steps at top Russell Group Universities such as Liverpool, Exeter, Cardiff and Manchester. Students will study a range of subjects at degree level, including Forensic Investigation, Environmental Science, Nursing, Biomedical Science, Law, Politics, Philosophy and Architecture.



Sarum Academy



Likonde School, Malawi

Over the past few Extended Learning Days (ELD) students have spent some time painting and designing fabric bags with a theme of Tanzania and the UK for our partner school. Students decorated them with fabric paint and enjoyed creating fun, bright, colourful pictures that last month finally got delivered to Tanzania and our link primary school (COVID stopped the charity visits for nearly 2 years). The bags were given to the children to keep belongings in or use at school. As well as the bag delivery, our students all wrote the primary school students a postcard telling them about themselves and their lives here at Sarum Academy. The postcards and bags seemed to be well received and it was lovely to be sent some videos and photos which we received this week. Thank you Edukaid for delivering our snippet of life at Sarum all the way to Tanzania.



Sports Reward trip to O2 Arena

On Sunday, 8th May the PE team treated some of the Year 8 students to a day at the O2 Arena watching the UK Basketball finals. Mr Hindle, Mr Praoline and Ms Durk were impressed with the attitude of the children who attended and all children had a fantastic day watching some high level basketball.

The New Forest School

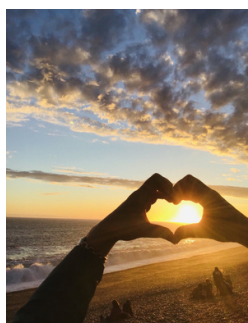
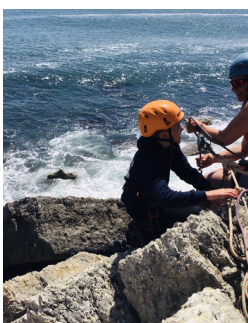


Our Year 6 children had a wonderful trip to Portland for their end of year residential and post-SATs celebrations. It was an amazing experience - coasteering, abseiling, weaselling and raft making were some of the activities we took part in.

These opportunities are so key to their preparation for secondary school and growing up. They all had a wonderful time, faced challenges they found hard, for some slept away from home for the first time and certainly developed and strengthened their relationships. Here are some things they said...

“ *I sit and look at the sun and it helps me reflect about what I am grateful for
Hanging out with different friends and finding out we get along really well and have a good laugh
I don't normally talk to some children but we have now become closer friends
I thought the rock climbing was dangerous. I trusted the instructors and it was fun.
Abseiling was brilliant but karaoke was the best (especially Mrs Whittaker's rendition!)* ”

We hope they take these memories with them as they grow up. It is the best part of being a teacher - seeing young people challenge themselves and not give up. Well done Year 6!



The Trafalgar School



The Trafalgar School
at Downton

Year 7s recently enjoyed a trip to Corfe Castle. Always a successful day out taking in the Castle and village history and geography with Mr Whitelock, Miss Churchward and Mr Brice.

Mr Brice took the Eco council students to his old school to experience the first 'Looking Forward' event, a climate symposium hosted by Shaftsbury School, with over 200 primary and secondary students attending workshops and talks including Climate Change, Sustainability, Regenerative Farming, Marine Ecosystems and whale poo! They have come away with an Eco project to put into action at Trafalgar, documenting it by video to feed back to the course leaders.

Mr Curtis and Mrs Faulkner carried out a mini road trip to deliver GCSE certificates and trophies to last year's Y11 students, due to presentation being covid-cancelled, which made for a very happy few hours of surprises and smiles. Our current Y11s are showing great focus for their exams and have really benefited from the after school revision sessions (fuelled by donuts) and pre-exam toast.



A short but sweet term packed with enthusiasm and hard work, culminating in a Jubilee Grand Picnic with Downton Primary, Giant Steps Nursery and some elderly local residents via the Baptist Church. Thanks to Debbie Ford for organising the event and Mr Charlton for bringing together a showcase of all the musical talent we have, with performances from all the schools and the Hyde Band (including Mr Cole & Martin Easterbrook). Thanks too for all the technical support from our Oakford IT chaps.

The standard of cakes, coins, crowns & flags for the event competitions was remarkable making the judging very tough for Mr Curtis and the 'royals in attendance'!

Wyvern St Edmund's



Wyvern St Edmund's
Learning Campus

It has been a short but very busy term here at WSE – not least because year 10 and 11 have started taking their GCSE exams. We are very proud of how all of our KS4 students have conducted themselves throughout this period.

The first weekend of this term saw 84 year 8 and 9 students travel to Ypres on the Battlefields trip. Students visited the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge and a range of cemeteries to understand the different ways that Allied soldiers have been commemorated. The trip also included a visit to the Passchendaele Museum, the poignant Menin Gate Last Post ceremony and the In Flanders Fields museum. The students all very much enjoyed their first school trip abroad and were a credit to the school with their enthusiasm, curiosity and empathy.

Over 80 students from years 7-10 competed in the 88th Salisbury Area Athletics Championship at Godolphin School at the start of May; many of our students were competing for the first time. Students exemplified our school values through their conduct including supporting one another across the year groups and conducting themselves with professionalism and fortitude. We are very proud of every single athlete who represented the school on the day. The overall team results were incredible which saw Wyvern St Edmund's podium in almost all age groups.



On Sunday 8th of May, the WSE Greenpower team competed in their first race at a national heat at Goodwood race circuit alongside 120 teams from all over the UK. The WSE team prepared the car well and passed all scrutineering tests for safety first time – without any advisories – which is no easy feat. There was a tremendous team spirit from the team who demonstrated perseverance and determination despite the odds stacked against them. In the opening laps of the race, the WSE racers showed great awareness and evaded several crashes fighting through the field to finish a commendable 57th and 55th having started at the back of the grid for both races. The team returned with a revitalized commitment to improve and develop their machine ready for the next race – we are looking forward to continuing to fly the WSE flag with pride at a national level.

This term also saw 82 year 9 students complete their qualifying expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award which saw them put into practice everything they have been learning since January. The expedition section is just one of four sections that students take part in for their Bronze Award. Once they have completed each section successfully, the award will go to be verified before receiving their certificate and badge.

We are very grateful to all of the staff who give up their time to provide WSE students such rich experiences beyond the classroom – the kind of things that form life-long memories.