

DASP NEWS

**The Newsletter of the
Dorchester Area Schools Partnership**

Issue 16

March 2010

Another Outstanding DASP School

Congratulations to Headteacher Ann Herridge and Deputy Bob Duffin at Cheselbourne Village School, for achieving an Outstanding judgement at their recent OFSTED Inspection. The school, set very much in the heart of Dorset and local rural community life, was rated 'outstanding' in 27 out of 28 separate assessments made by OFSTED, as well as in each of three overall categories of 'Overall Effectiveness', 'Capacity for sustained improvement' and 'Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils'. The school, which celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, was commended by OFSTED who reported that its 'Outstanding relationships between staff and pupils, together with the high quality provision, mean pupils love coming to school.' OFSTED go on to say 'Pupils work exceptionally hard and do especially well in both their academic and personal achievement.'



Commenting on the results, Head teacher Ann Herridge said 'It's such a thrill for everyone associated with the school to get such great feedback and endorsement from OFSTED. We all know how important the early years of learning are and we are blessed at Cheselbourne with a really friendly, hard working and skilled team of staff who together with volunteers, parents,

governors, and the local community combine brilliantly to provide a great learning experience for the children'. Mrs Herridge went on to say 'We may be a small school, but we are able to make a real virtue of this. Through strong links with the local community and the valuable resources the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership provides, we are able to create a flexible, diverse and nurturing learning environment, which belies the size of the school. For example, we're able to cater for all children's needs including for example through extensive pre-school, music, sport and after school club activities. This, coupled with the individual attention we can provide in our small class sizes helps ensure every child has the best possible chance to make fantastic progress at Cheselbourne and importantly as they move on to St Mary's Middle School, Puddletown and then Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester.'

New Head for Milborne First

Following Tom Leach's retirement, Milborne First have appointed Anne Purdy as new Headteacher. We asked her to tell us a little about herself.

"I joined Milborne St Andrew First School in September 2009 from a large community primary school in Norfolk where I was Deputy Headteacher. I am originally from Yeovil in Somerset and am married with three grown-up children and one grandson. I also previously worked at Emneth Nursery School where I was Assistant Headteacher and Head of Inclusion specialising in Early Years Communication.

I have been a SENCO since 2003. In 2006 I led an Inclusion Project - linking with a Special School in the neighbouring town. I value and very much enjoy taking part in research and

have been involved in projects such as taking eighteen Y10 & Y11 students on a three week working visit to Malawi, as part of a project carried out with Malawi Education Link. I also worked on a Transition Project aiming to improve the transition from Nursery into Reception and then KS1; where I interviewed pupils on how they would like moving between schools to improve (2005 - 6). I also worked on the ICAN Project (which supports children with communication difficulties), and in November 2005 I succeeded in assisting the Centre to achieve the ICAN Accreditation. .

Last year, I set up a forum for cluster Early Years Practitioners. I am therefore pleased to have the opportunity to work closely with 'DASP' and to be extremely supportive in its aim of providing a seamless education with the benefit of shared expertise.

Mrs Anne Purdy

What happens at a DASP Student Voice Meeting?

DASP takes the way young people look at their education very seriously. Our Student Voice programme is comprehensive and runs from the First schools right through to Thomas Hardye. To give you an idea of what happens at a typical DASP student voice meeting; the following describes what happened at the St Mary's Puddletown Pyramid meeting on 22nd October 2009.

Schools present were:

**St Mary's Middle
Broadmayne First
Piddle Valley First
Puddletown First**



The meeting was chaired by Hamish and Tara from St Mary's, helped (as it was their first meeting) by Mr Martin from Broadmayne. The minutes were also taken by a student from St Mary's directly to a laptop. These were distributed, via e-mail, to all schools involved by

the end of the same day! The meeting began by getting everyone to discuss 3 things they like about their school. They then shared these thoughts with the other school representatives. The sort of things that were mentioned were the school library, teachers, good children(!), good equipment, school lunches and trips. Also, St Mary's wanted to especially mention their Activities week and Anti Bullying Campaign. They then had to pick what their favourite thing was. One school said that it was the school meals that were delivered, because they had a choice from 3 hot meals (including vegetarian).

This discussion was a good way to get people talking about the things they cared about in school. They then talked about how what was discussed at these meetings got fed back to their own schools. There was variation in how reps were selected. In most schools it was by election. Sometimes, with younger children selection was by teachers or drawn from a hat.

As is to be expected in DASP, there was serious discussion of environmental issues in schools. Lots of really good ideas were shared and you could see reps busily scribbling down the ones they wanted to take back to their school! These included composting, a 'bug hotel' and a music garden with playable instruments made from discarded items. A couple of schools took leftover food from school meals to be used as chicken feed locally. One school collected unwanted clothes and shoes for a textile collection, for which the school got paid. Paper recycling was also a popular activity. Not to mention turning off lights, using energy saving light bulbs and making use of scrap items. All the children showed a great awareness of how schools can make a difference to our environment.

Soon it was time to get back to school, but everyone left with ideas for their own school. The meeting's young 'Chairs' did an excellent job of keeping the meeting lively and on track. All realised that these meetings were a great chance to bring up the concerns of young people and to share the positive. Across all three of DASP's mini pyramids, these meetings are a indication of the power of the Student Voice.

Thomas Hardye and Dorchester Rotary lead way in Haiti Appeal

The Thomas Hardye School, Dorchester Rotary and Wessex FM have partnered together to co-ordinate the town's efforts to raise money for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Thousands of pounds have been raised, but lots more is needed. Thomas Hardye teacher of Design and Technology, Andy Popkin, has launched a co-ordinated joint fundraising campaign focused not just on the school, but on the wider community in Dorchester.

All sorts of fund raising events took place, including a sleep out on a cold February night by some staff and students, with just cardboard boxes for warmth.



Check out the special page at the Thomas Hardye School website for more information.

Cerne Abbas First School Achieves BECTA ICT Mark

DASP is very pleased and proud to announce that Cerne Abbas First School have been awarded the BECTA ICT Mark. This prestigious award is given to schools and recognises them for their achievements in "reaching a standard of maturity in their use of technology". This is not just about owning technology or even just using computers regularly. It is only awarded when a school shows that ICT is at the heart of what it does, is used when appropriate and that all staff are comfortable in making the most of ICT with their students. As well as rigorous self assessment and audit the school must satisfy an external assessor that they have reached the required standards.

Congratulations to Headteacher Helen Williams and ICT Co-ordinator Jill Cochrane for their achievement. Not forgetting the staff and children of the school for their hard work.

Thomas Hardye School aims to be Rights Respecting

With every DASP First and Middle School now a Level 1 Rights Respecting School (the UNICEF Award scheme), Thomas Hardye School now begin the process to get to Level 1. With almost two and a half thousand students and near to two hundred teachers, it will obviously be a demanding task to achieve this. However, they got off to a brilliant start when students from Year 9 to Sixth Form, took the lead in a staff Inset Day session in February.

Having planned the day carefully, the students organised workshops and discussions on what rights really entailed and what our responsibilities

were to other people's rights. The session concluded with a presentation from Mike Hillary, County Inspector for Humanities, Citizenship and PSHE who praised DASP for being the first Partnership in the country to take on the Award as a group of schools. First and Middle schools are now looking at moving to Level 2.



St Mary's Puddletown - OfSTED Report praises school.

'A good school which is taking the right steps to become outstanding'

This is how Ofsted described St. Mary's CE Middle School, Puddletown in the school's recent Ofsted Report.

During the two day inspection in January, the team of four inspectors observed several lessons and looked at all aspects of the school's work.. The following areas were identified as 'outstanding'

- The outcomes for all children
- The care, guidance and support provided for the children
- Achievement and the extent to which children enjoy their learning
- Behaviour in lessons and around the school.
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Governance
- The effectiveness with which the school deploys resources to achieve value for money.

The attainment of children by the time they leave the school was described by inspectors as, 'exceptional', with the vast majority of children achieving levels in English, Maths and Science well above age expectation.

Headteacher Carl Winch commented, 'I am very proud of the staff and the children and I am pleased that the hard work of all at St. Mary's and within the DASP partnership has been recognised. The Lead Inspector made it clear

that the school was very close to an overall 'Outstanding' judgement, which is something only 8% of schools have achieved under the new inspection framework, introduced last September. We are already working on a plan to further improve the quality of our provision and I look forward to the continued success of the school'.

St. Mary's, as a Church of England School, was also inspected by the National Society, which described the school as, 'consistently outstanding in all respects' and 'an environment where children thrive both academically and personally'.

Lights, Camera, Parliament!

"If I could make one law" is a competition organised by the Parliamentary Education Service. Students make a video on what law they would like to make and then upload for judging by Lord David Puttnam. The winners will be invited to the Houses of Parliament to receive their prize.

Year 11s from Thomas Hardye were given the task of producing their videos in just one morning. They started with a storyboard and then quickly moved on to filming. With no time for editing, they needed to plan carefully and shoot their scenes in the right order. The videos will be uploaded to a website called Radiowaves, which is only accessible by schools. However, we will put some of the best videos at the 'Films for Learning' website when the competition is over. Judging will take place in April.



John McCormack Retires from DASP

Just before Autumn half term, John McCormack retired as DASP Administrator. As Head teacher of St Mary's Puddletown, John had been involved in the early days of DASP. On his first 'retirement' John took on the role of Administrator to the Partnership. In this role he has been responsible for everything from organising our Conferences, managing our NVQ trainees and secretarial roles in Heads and Chairs meetings, to keeping a check on the DASP minibuses. John's enthusiasm for

DASP will be missed by all who know him and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

BBC School Report

Thursday March 11th saw a number of students from Thomas Hardye and Dorchester Middle School working together to produce a news report for the national BBC School Report Project. Hundreds of schools across the country took part, with the BBC linking to the reports from their website.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/school_report/

Some students were also interviewed during the day by BBC Dorset and Radio BBC Solent.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Thomas Hardye student wins national science award.

Each year the British Science Association and Young Engineers, in association with Crest Awards, run the National Science & Engineering Competition. We are very excited to announce that the senior age group, UK Young Scientist of the Year is **Tom Hearing** from the Upper Sixth of the Thomas Hardye School.

Tom wins:

- a cash prize
- a trophy
- a framed certificate
- a once in a lifetime trip to the NASA Space Centres in Florida and Houston with the International Space School Educational Trust
- opportunities to represent UK youth science and engineering at events and visits in the UK and abroad.

Congratulations to Tom on this fantastic achievement and best wishes for an exciting future in science.

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