

SUMMER 2022

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The Gryphon is rated as 'Excellent'
after SIAMS inspection

Environmental Award Winners

Sports Awards

SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER
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WELCOME

As we come to the end of another busy year it is a pleasure to reflect that school life is returning to something far closer to pre-pandemic days. During the year we have been able to reintroduce all those things which have enabled us to feel that we live life in all of its fullness.

Visits from SAST central team members, Trustees, Governors, SIAMS Inspectors and the "Good Schools Guide" have ensured that we have clear, unbiased feedback about our school. We were delighted to be rated as "Excellent" by SIAMS, the Good School's guide noted our "impressive capacity to cater for extremely different academic needs in a nurturing environment" and our monitoring visit by the SAST school improvement team reported that "In keeping with the school's Christian values, it is a matter of principle to leaders that equality of opportunity and access are promoted. This helps ensure that students are supported and encouraged to achieve their potential, regardless of need, background, or ability."

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to several members of staff who have given loyal service to The Gryphon School and we wish them well in their new roles, whether that is in "far flung" places like Dubai or just down the road in Wincanton. We will welcome new staff in September to cover our leavers and also those staff who will be on maternity leave at various points in the Autumn Term; when we are expecting 9 Gryphon babies!

As we look ahead to the next academic year we do so with real confidence that our determination to be a school where students and staff thrive is built on strong foundations.

Canon Nicki Edwards
Headteacher



Headteacher Nicki Edwards was honoured this term with an appointment as a Lay Canon by invitation of The Right Revd. Karen Gorham, Acting Bishop of Salisbury.

One of five new canons welcomed into Salisbury Cathedral's College of Canons, Mrs Edwards was chosen for her work in setting up the Sherborne Community hub, as well as being a strong advocate of chaplaincy in schools. Mrs Edwards is committed to Christian education and acts as a Bishops' Adviser in the national Shared Discernment Process, the process by which anyone who believes they have a vocation can test their calling.

Mrs Edwards said about her appointment "I feel very honoured to take on the role of Lay Canon at Salisbury Cathedral. The role is recognition of the life that The Gryphon School plays at the heart of the community of Sherborne and is testament to the hard work of all of our staff in ensuring that we are a school where life is lived in all of its fullness"

The Acting Bishop of Salisbury, The Right Revd Karen Gorham, said "I am delighted that our new canons have accepted our invitation to join the College. It is really good to see parish ministry continue to be recognised in the College of Canons as well as us valuing the contribution of those involved in education. We celebrate the diversity amongst us and the ministry these individuals represent in our schools, rural areas, market towns, and their various areas of specialism."



A Huge Thank You to the Friends of the Yeatman Hospital

The mental health of our young people has been a priority at our school for several years. Back in 2019 we purchased equipment to enable us to develop a project we had in mind to link exercise and emotional wellbeing. The outdoor exercise equipment we purchased has proven to be an excellent resource during the summer. Students have free access to "work off" their frustration and stress if that works for them. However, we soon realised that the surface and area resulted in the equipment not being able to be used all year round as we needed. The grassed area soon

became muddy and not suited to lots of students walking across it, and when raining they had no protection. The need we had previously identified, has only been made more urgent by the effects of lockdown and so changes needed to be made to get this in use all year round.

In October 2021, we put in a bid to the Friends of the Yeatman to enable us to update and improve the outdoor area and we were delighted to hear that we had been successful; and what a difference this money has made to the garden area.

We now have a protective roof to the equipment and an all-weather surface that will make it accessible whatever the weather, to students, aiding their emotional and physical wellbeing. The transformation is amazing and will benefit so many more students who need a calm and relaxing environment, away from the hustle and bustle of daily school life. We cannot thank the 'Friends' enough for their generosity and help in making this area a place that can be used so much more and helping a wider range of students within the school.

THE GRYPHON IS RATED 'EXCELLENT' IN LATEST SIAMS REPORT

We were delighted to be rated as 'Excellent' following a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist School) inspection this term.

The report said The Gryphon has a "broad, inspiring and strongly creative curriculum which allows all learners to explore their personal spirituality" and that "a deeply embedded and transformative Christian vision holistically infuses the life of the school".

We are a 10:10 community referring to the deeply held vision of living 'life in all its fullness'. The inspector found that "the caring ethos has outstanding impact on the flourishing of pupils and adults.... the senior leadership team provide inspirational and caring leadership

exemplifying the vision".

The provision of SEND support was also highlighted as a successful area, and the school's innovative nurture groups help ensure rapid progress in areas such as reading. The teaching of RE is "exceptionally well planned...and the quality and range of theological thinking is impressive".

The SIAMS report praised the variety of ways students can get involved in community projects, including creative fundraising to help people in Ukraine, developing a spiritual garden, and working to reduce waste across the school site. The report says that "Pupils have a real passion and desire to do more as advocates of change".



Headteacher Nicki Edwards said "Our SIAMS report is a wonderful recognition of the hard work put in by all of our staff to ensure that all of our students get the opportunity to experience life in all of its fullness. Our team really goes the extra mile to ensure that every student has not only excellent teaching but a myriad of opportunities to take part in sports, the arts, outdoor adventures, and other enrichment activities."

SAST CEO Colin Sinclair added "We are exceptionally proud of Nicki and her staff at The Gryphon for achieving this outstanding result. We are working closely with the Diocese of Salisbury on their 'Church Schools Flourishing' programme, and Nicki is part of the team that will ensure all the schools within our Trust benefit from their experience and expertise in this area, which supports the holistic development of our students".



The New Bishop of Salisbury

On the 19th of June 2022, I was honoured to join our Headteacher - Mrs Edwards, our school governor - Neil Grenyer, and two of my fellow Gryphon students - Bea G and Nadia C, in being witness to the enthronement of the new Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Reverend Stephen Lake.

I'll be frank – I wasn't sure what to expect. I had visions of being stood at the back of Salisbury Cathedral, peeping between shoulders as those in ceremonial robes lead the Bishop, a distant, untouchable figure to the Cathedra – the seat of his teaching.

How wrong I was.

The enthronement service was holy, beautiful, accented with Latin verse and mesmerising robes – but it was so much more than a spectacle; it was truly spiritual. Children from the Diocese were invited to participate and people from every background came to celebrate. An almost tangible anticipation danced among the congregation – a feeling that what was to come was truly a fresh start and a new beginning.

During the ceremony, bishops are handed a crosier- a large staff shaped like the crook of a shepherd – it is to symbolise how bishops shepherd their flock, to lead the way, just as Jesus,

the good shepherd, did. As soon as the Bishop addressed us, it was clear he too was a good shepherd. What he spoke about was real, meaningful change within the Church – centred around the teachings of Jesus and the idea of love. Love for our planet and the importance of stewardship, community and inclusivity and said that *'Jesus' words are to the whole flock, of all ages, all backgrounds, of all identities and of all places'.*

He spoke of the Parable of the Talents – that God has given us talents to use within our communities and reminded us that *'none of us will flourish without a sense of responsibility for ourselves and for others.'* It was at that point that Bishop Stephen Lake showed the congregation what kind of shepherd he would be – a man who would lead by example. He gave the £10,000 that had been donated to the Church to the congregation, handed out envelopes with a mission and a note enclosed that said, *"What will you do with it? Will you bury it, save it, or make it grow so that good can come from this?"*, before suggesting we donate it to a food bank, buy a meal for someone vulnerable or helping the lonely.

As I left, I felt a real lightness (in spite of my impending GCSE Chemistry exam the next morning) and I noticed

how interwoven the vision that the Bishop had for the Diocese was, with the 10:10 ethos that we have here at The Gryphon School. When the opportunity arose to write this piece, I decided to reach out to Bishop Stephen to ask, "How does your vision tie in with the 10:10 vision that we have at The Gryphon?". Unsurprisingly, Bishop Stephen Lake replied that same evening - personally, thoughtfully and thoroughly.

'My vision, coming in as Bishop, is in tune with the vision of The Gryphon School because it is only in community and in sharing with others and in bearing each other as a responsibility and a joy that individuals can flourish. We only flourish as individuals if we all flourish together. As bishop, my job is to help people to flourish and if we can do that really well, it comes abundantly. I like to think that some of this must have rubbed off on me when I was leading worship at The Gryphon School.'

There's a phrase that I love and strive to live by: 'Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, for as long as you can' – and it truly embodies who the new Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Reverend Stephen Lake, is.

By Liv B (Year 11)



Gryphon Students win Environmental Youth Award

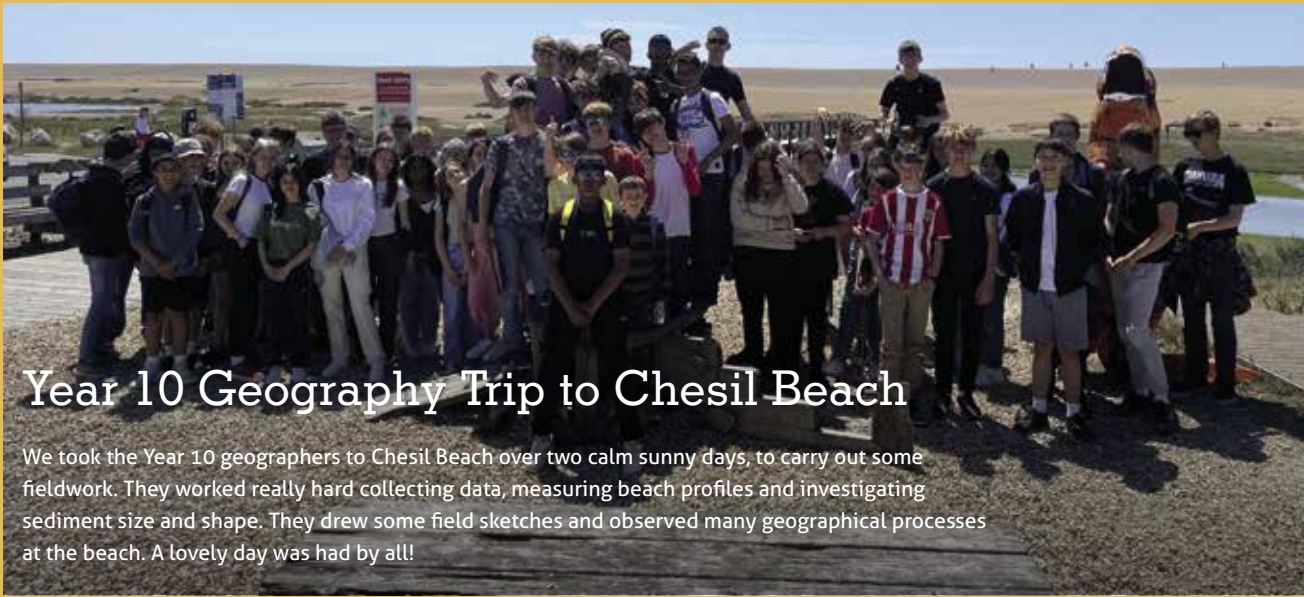
Students at The Gryphon School have been presented with a prestigious Environmental Youth Award from the Royal Bath & West of England Society. The aim of the Environmental Youth Award is to promote a greater awareness and understanding of conservation and environmental matters by encouraging and recognising the contribution made by young people.

The students from Years 7-9 had to make a video showcasing their environmental knowledge and the action they take at school. The other finalists were Ashlands School (Crewkerne, Somerset), Kiwi School (Tidworth, Wiltshire) and Longwell Green in Bristol.

The judges felt that the school was a shining example of environmental awareness amongst the youth of today, as pupils have not only addressed the issues of plastics and non-sustainable use within the school, but have also examined and actioned their own re-wilding projects within the grounds.

The students were presented with a plaque and certificate by Lady Wills and Les Davis MBE, Chairman of the Environmental Youth Awards. Mr Davies said "There has never been a more important time to encourage the next generation to protect and improve the environment, as the youth of today will be the decision makers of tomorrow. My warmest congratulations go to the Gryphon School on their award, and on their highly professional presentation."

Charlotte Cavallaro, a teacher at The Gryphon School who also leads their Eco Committee said "It makes me immensely proud of our students. Young people today don't just demand that more environmental action is taken, they show us how to do it. The Gryphon students involved in winning this award are an inspiration to us all."



Year 10 Geography Trip to Chesil Beach

We took the Year 10 geographers to Chesil Beach over two calm sunny days, to carry out some fieldwork. They worked really hard collecting data, measuring beach profiles and investigating sediment size and shape. They drew some field sketches and observed many geographical processes at the beach. A lovely day was had by all!



Year 12 Geography Trip into Sherborne

Year 12 Geographers have been studying whether the town of Sherborne needs regeneration. They conducted a variety of primary data collection methods such as whether Sherborne has a reliable mobile voice and data connection, and a survey of the types of services which are available.

Ewan H said "It was interesting to go into my local area and really think about the quality of the built environment" We also studied whether the pedestrian flow alters along Cheap Street and if this links to the type of land use and /or its success.



D of E

This year...

2022 has been a busy year for our volunteers who run the programme. 93 students signed up for the Bronze Award, 60 continued on to the Silver Award, 35 returned after their GCSE year to complete Gold and we entered 5 teams in to the Ten Tors Challenge after a two year break. Not to forget the six students who completed the Challenge with other organisations. We are now in the mad part of the year which starts in May with the Ten Tors Challenge, the one time in the year our large tents come out of storage, and we run back to back expeditions almost every weekend whilst enrolling even more students on the programme for 2023. We have just completed the Bronze Final Expedition, locally, the Silver Practice in the Purbeck Hills and the Silver Final in the New Forest. Visiting all the old campsites and some new ones after 2 years has been a great way to get back to normal. There is light at the end of the tunnel for 2022 with only the Gold Practice in the Brecon Beacons and the Gold Final in Snowdonia to go before the summer holidays.

Duke of Edinburgh Award spurs students on to learn new skills

When the late Duke of Edinburgh set up the Award in his name he wanted to develop young people into the citizens of tomorrow, to keep Britain Great. As well as training students to survive and cope alone, albeit in groups, in the great outdoors on expedition, Students have to complete three sections, volunteering, for the soul, giving something back to society: Physical, for the body, keeping fit and healthy; and skills, for the mind, learning something new or developing an existing hobby.

Many students who enrol are already learning to play a musical instrument, so the skills section challenges them to reach the next level. Instruments studied include guitar, drums, violin, and people blowing their own trumpet.

Another popular skill is cooking, a valuable life skill, which students can practice at home with mum, or dad, and then be assessed by our Food Tech Teachers, Mrs Baxter or Mrs Elsworth. Leaders and teachers enjoy sampling the occasional cake when students are baking. Others want to learn or develop their photography skills further outside the classroom so embark on taking pictures on a theme set by Mr Fenton-Wilkinson.

The traditional skills of knitting, sewing and crochet are also popular from time to time. The more sporty students learn to coach, officiate or referee their favourite sport which can lead to a lifelong hobby or even career in football, rugby or other sports.

Students who like the outdoor lifestyle sometimes learn about caring for animals at a rescue centre or join the Assistant Expedition Leaders Qualification run by the school. Some students turn to more technological topics like learning to code or web design, all of which will help them in the IT industry.

This year is the first time 'e-Sports' has been included in the list of suggested options for the skills section and one of our more serious students has decided to learn it as his skill. What is 'e-sports' you might ask? E-Sports turns computers games in to a spectator sport with millions watching professional gamers play online across the globe via the internet. The biggest prize pools in e-sports in 2019 was \$34 million – so we are talking big money if you are good at the games played. League of Legends is the biggest e-Sport game in the world, but it takes months to be decently good at it. Over the last 6 months, Gryphon student Yao Yao learnt how to develop his character and skills in the game. Yao Yao points out that the 'gaming develops hand-eye co-ordination which is important for a lot of careers especially pilots' and the game has developed his reaction time to almost Jedi reflex level. He also spends time playing with his younger sister so e-sports is not always a solitary activity.

Yao Yao hopes to take games up as a career in the IT industry and possibly even become a professional eSports Player with his own twitter following and YouTube Channel. It is great that he has a passion and dream – and remember I knew him before he was famous!

Mr Cooke



THE TEN TORS CHALLENGE 1960s STYLE

Ten Tors is one of the greatest challenges offered to young people in the Southwest. Over 2,400 teenagers take part in walking 35, 45 or 55 mile routes in under two days, whilst being entirely self-sufficient. The challenge pushes the teenagers in teams of six to the limit, it is run across the north of Dartmoor providing rough and boggy terrain, and the teams each visit ten 'Tors' or checkpoints along their routes.

The challenge originally started in 1960 and this year marked the 60th event as well as the first since 2019 due to the pandemic. This year my team walked the 45-mile route having trained for 35 miles in 2020 before the event was cancelled. To add to the challenge, we completed the challenge dressed in, and carrying authentic kit almost identical to that used in the first event in 1960. Our goal was to recreate one of the original teams and discover how different it was completing the challenge 60 years ago. Compared to modern-day kit the difference was significantly noticeable – the empty bags

alone weighed twice the weight of a modern-day bag but lacked the padding and clips found on modern rucksacks.

Our team leader, Mr Cooke, spent countless hours researching and collecting the equipment for us to use. Our outfits consisted of lightweight pale green trousers, black boots, puttees/ gaiters, base T-shirts, army shirts and smocks, and an authentic headdress. The clothes proved to be surprisingly comfortable as well as practical, and we all enjoyed looking the part as well as walking in the gear. However, the rucksacks proved to be painful and incredibly hard work. Two members in my team; Louie and Leon, carried frame carriers which were by far the hardest to pack and carry, as they required endless adjusting and were susceptible to breaking.

Despite the rucksacks we had the time of our lives doing Ten Tors and felt over the moon to cross the finish line after the endless hours of training and planning. It is a moment that will stay with us for the

rest of our lives. We were honoured at the end of the challenge to be greeted by six veterans who took part in the original Ten Tors having just experienced what they had 60 years earlier.

Alongside the '1960s team' there were four other teams from The Gryphon School – making us the biggest school at the event – all of which made it to all ten tors before the end of the challenge. It felt incredible to share the experience with these and so many other teams all going through the same ordeal.

The challenge had pushed every one of us to our physical and mental limits, but it all became worthwhile when we crossed the line. We are incredibly grateful to all the effort that went into organising the event, especially from Mr Cooke our team leader, who provided us with the incredible opportunity, and we now look forward to returning next year for the 55-mile challenge – although hopefully this time in modern kit.

By Ed S





A Level Law

This term in A-Level Law, year 12 students have been busy learning about the criminal law. We have learnt about the basic elements required of crimes, discussed different types of non-fatal offences including assault, battery and ABH and have recently finished learning about murder and voluntary manslaughter. Students have enjoyed learning about the 'mens rea' of crimes and the required level of criminal intention for different offences.

As students are preparing for their end of year assessments, we've been busy revising and this has included solving cryptic puzzles in a murder themed escape room! Students had to solve each puzzle to get a cypher card which would help them solve the mystery of the secret agent and their accomplice! This was a great way of revising key cases and content and developing problem solving skills. Well done year 12!

NEWS FROM MUSIC:

Choir singing at the Yeatman Hospital Commemoration Service 14th May

It is wonderful to be back up and running making 'live' once again since the end of the last lockdown restrictions. Our first musical event of 2022 (after our 2021 Christmas Carol Service) was members of our school Choir singing at a musically varied Commemoration Service in Sherborne Abbey to celebrate seventy years of the Yeatman Hospital. There were a number of student ensembles performing from different local schools, both state and public, with our Choir performing three items in all: 'Bridge Over Troubled Water', 'The Prayer' and 'You Raise Me Up'. We are very grateful to the twenty-four choir members who gave up their time on the weekend to participate, they may have been small in numbers, but they sang beautifully with great commitment and expression - so moving our local M.P. Mr Chris Loder that he took the time to write to the school to express his thanks to our students for their singing and participation in this event. Thank you very much to both the Choir and to Mr McDonald for their dedication to the many extra lunchtime rehearsals leading up this event.

Primary Schools Music Roadshow

On 15th and 16th of June the Music Department took thirty-three students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 around four of our local Primary Schools to give two 50-minute concerts each day (visiting Bishops' Caundle, Thornford, Trent Youngs and Sherborne Abbey Primaries). These concerts involved the Choir, Strings, Recorders, combined Band and range of solos and duet items in a wide range of musical styles / genres, with performers including: Laura J on Flute, Eleanor T on Piano, Sam B solo vocals, Sophia O and Bethany S vocal duet, Ran W and Uriel T Guitar Duet, Danny M on French Horn and Rose L on Tenor Horn.

The Primary School children particularly enjoyed the opportunity to sing a joint item, "I am a small part of the World" along with our choir - a huge thank you to Mr McDonald for leading this number. The standard of music-making was extremely high without the support of our Year 11 and 13 students who were in exams. On both days there was a fantastic sense of teamwork and camaraderie. As ever all students in the 'roadshow' were a total credit to the Gryphon School and the Music Department and we are sure that our students have inspired many budding musicians at

the primary schools we visited to either take up an instrument, start singing or keep practising! Overall it was a timely reminder of how important it is to keep providing opportunities for 'live' music. We are very grateful to Jess H in Year 12 for her additional involvement on the first day and to Mrs Middleton on the second day. Our grateful thanks to our primary school colleagues for once again accommodating these concerts and for welcoming us so warmly.

Summer Soirée Concert

Incredibly, this will be our first 'live' summer term School Concert for three years, with the last two being held online. It will also be our first school concert of this academic year as there was no concert in the Autumn due to 'Chicago' commitments and then very sadly the Spring Term School Concert had to be cancelled due to my catching Covid! So this will be a slightly extended Summer Soirée concert to allow those who were to perform in the Spring to still do so. This concert is free to attend, and all students, parents and staff are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there at what promises to be a concert of a wide-ranging variety of musical styles and genres.

Fond farewells to Year 13 leavers

We say a fond farewell to: Amelia L who has been a loyal stalwart of the School Choir for the best part of seven years - Covid disruptions aside, to Kotaro B for his singing in the choir with the male staff at Christmas carol services, to Mia A (violin) for her dedication to ensembles and show orchestra over the years, to Shaweh K for her dedication to choir, to Esme E (piano) for her numerous performances over the years at school concerts and Open Evening events, and to Holly M (flute), Lily K (trumpet) and Dan J (drums) who were such key players in our Orchestra for 'Chicago'.

Finally a huge thank you to our wonderful team of visiting peripatetic music teachers without whom none of our concerts or performances could happen in the first place; we are especially grateful for them keeping our music lessons going online during the challenging times of lockdown. I am personally very grateful to both Mr McDonald and Mr Miles for their boundless enthusiasm and commitment to the Music Department and our students.

by Val Mizen (Head of Music)

YEAR 7 CHARITY FUNDRAISING



Year 7 students have been busy this year raising money for their chosen charities. The Year Council representatives voted and decided the benefactors would be British Red Cross and Cancer Research UK. The challenge was for each tutor group to empty their piggy banks and rummage at the back of the sofa and collect as many pennies as possible. 'Penny Wars' had begun!

The result was simply outstanding, and students raised just over £250 in loose change. A group of students helped to count the money and bag it up, ready for banking and donation to each respective charity. The charity efforts didn't stop in school – Elsie M held a cake sale outside of her Dad's business in Sherborne and raised £400 for the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis. The efforts of Year 7 students is simply astonishing and I am very proud of their kindness and commitment to these worthy causes. Well done everyone!

Joe Miles, Head of Year 7



AIM HIGHER EVENT

Two small group of students, from Years 9 and 10, were recently invited to attend Bournemouth University, to take part in an "Aim Higher" event over two separate days. The purpose of the visit was to help raise aspirations amongst KS3 and also KS4 students, with regards to potentially attending Higher Education/University Post-16. The students were able to experience a range of different activities, including a campus tour and talks based around student life and why/how to apply for university. The group were able to hear from former and current BU students, who shared their experiences of university life and passed on valuable advice. During the BU campus tour, students were able to visit a number of different buildings and subject areas, including TV and Film, Animation and Sports. Overall, a really positive experience for some of our students, who we hope may well choose to go down the higher education route, when the time comes.

Sixth Form

Aubrey Allan Award



We are delighted to say that Faith S and Ben P were awarded the Aubrey Allan Award by the Sherborne Rotary Club this month. Over the last year both of these students have gone above and beyond in raising funds for causes that are close to their hearts. Faith absailed down Yeovil Hospital to raise money for MacMillan Cancer, and raised over a £1,000. Ben lost his iconic mullet, shaving

his hair and raised over £3,000 for cancer charities. Both students were presented with books that they had chosen from Winstone's Bookshop in Sherborne, and spoke very eloquently about their fundraising efforts. It was a lovely evening and we really appreciate that our students have been recognised for their efforts by the Rotary Club.



Exeter University Partnership

We are really pleased to say that we have become an official education partner school of Exeter University. Our students will benefit from having bespoke talks from Exeter University about their courses, and more importantly, about the benefits of university as a whole, and how to ensure they put together a strong application. It also means we can organise trips to the university, as we are doing before the summer holidays. Our Gryphon students will also benefit from a guaranteed offer for all uncapped subjects, so this is a fantastic offer for our Sixth Formers!



Induction Day

Just after completing their GCSE exams we invited the Year 11s who have applied to the Sixth Form in for their induction day. Students from a really wide range of schools came and got to know their tutor groups and tutors and experienced their subjects that they have chosen for their A levels and BTECs next year. We finished the day with a barbeque outside

before having a really competitive quiz. The students really impressed us on the day with their focus, how friendly and approachable they were and how stuck in they got into the different activities. They now have a well-deserved summer holiday, and we look forward to working with them over the next two years.



YEAR 13 LEAVERS

Just before May half term our delightful Year 13s said goodbye to the Gryphon. Before their A level exams started we had a day of highly competitive benchball and quizzing, before a more chilled out lunch. After this we had a lovely assembly documenting their last two or seven years that the students had been with us. This year group had obviously had a very disruptive Year 12 in particular due to Covid lockdowns. Despite this, the Year 13s have been calm and focused throughout and have been a really lovely group of students to work with. Since then, they have gone on to complete their exams, and given that they have been the first cohort to go through A levels, without having sat GCSE exams, this is a mightily impressive feat! We look forward with confidence to seeing how they do and what further adventures await them, and seeing them all at the Prom at Hazelbury Mill!

P.E. Sports Awards Special Edition

It has been a long two years since our last in person Sports Awards evening, so understandably the PE staff were very excited about the prospect of being able to celebrate the amazing hard work of our students and their sporting achievements.

On Thursday 23rd June, over 80 students and their families were invited to Digby Hall to celebrate and receive the awards they had been given. With everyone dressed up ready to go, the night began.

We were lucky enough to have Ollie Devoto as our guest speaker, a former Gryphon student and current Exeter Chiefs Rugby player. He wowed us with his inspirational speech, talking about his experiences as a Gryphon sports student, how Mr Cummings and Mr Gower had inspired him throughout his time with us, and how he progressed in his rugby career. Ollie talked about his many wonderful experiences playing for Bath Rugby, and how he decided to make the difficult decision to move to Exeter Chiefs, as well as his experience of being part of the England Rugby squad.

With everyone feeling inspired we moved on to the awards. With students being celebrated in a number of sports, from netball, to rugby, and handball to cricket, the awards kept coming. Students were also celebrated for their individual successes, representing their counties, regions and even their country.

As well as celebrating the successes of our students, we also like to thank those teachers who have come and ran clubs and fixtures for us in their own time. It is really appreciated by both staff and students. The teachers we gave thanks to were: Mrs Switzer, Mr Irwin, Mr Taylor and Mr Copp.

In a change to the usual format, the award winners had the opportunity to vote for the Team of the Year. With two very convincing speeches from Mr Burleigh and Mrs Gritt, the Under-15 Football Team pipped the Under-19 Netball team to the post and took the award for Team of the Year.

We concluded the evening by moving on to our individual awards, chosen by the PE team, for going above and beyond to help, support and take part in PE and Sport at the Gryphon School. The winners of these awards were:

Individual Performance: Ruby W

Junior Girls Sports Personality: Lily Y

Junior Boys Sports Personality: Tom D

Senior Girls Sports Personality: Izzy W

Senior Boys Sports Personality: Josh H

We are really looking forward to finishing off this year with Sports Day on Wednesday 20th July.

