

SUMMER 2023

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turns **30!**

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SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER



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School

WELCOME

On Saturday 1st July we held a 30th anniversary party for current and ex-staff to celebrate 30 years of The Gryphon School. Established in September 1992, with the foundation stone being laid in 1993, The Gryphon School was formed from an amalgamation of three schools: Lord Digby's Girls School, Foster's Grammar School for Boys and St Aldhelm's Secondary Modern School. This landmark event made me reflect on what makes The Gryphon School such a special community to be part of.

Being part of The Gryphon School community can be transformational. Lives are changed and students are equipped to be agents of change. Through our Christian values we are able to embed a perspective of living in a wider world, creating compassionate and reflective individuals, who have the ability to build peace, resource resilience, watch over one another and develop a culture of deep reflection. A sense of belonging helps protect children against mental health problems and improve their learning. Children who feel that they belong are happier and more relaxed. They are also more motivated and more successful learners.

Children develop a sense of belonging through their relationships with their family, their community, the culture around them and the places they experience. Community is so important in creating an identity that a child can really belong to. We encourage our students to engage and impact not just in our school community but also our local community. The Gryphon School contributes deeply and meaningfully to our local community. Our school community is also enriched through our local connections and partnerships. The Gryphon School is proud of its links with our community and the impact of The Gryphon School can be felt throughout the town of Sherborne.

Jim Gower
Acting Headteacher



Second-hand Uniform

We have had a wide range of uniform items donated to our second-hand school uniform outlet.

Items will be available to purchase, or if uniform in a good condition, a chance to swap a piece if a bigger size required and available.

We will have regular dates when items can be purchased, with the next one being Thursday 24th August (GCSE results day) 10:00 - 13:00.

Prices are:

£5:00 for sweatshirts/skirts/trousers/ PE rugby shirt

£3.75 for white/ navy polo shirts, PE skirts and shorts

If donating or swapping uniform can we ask it is in good condition with no damage or repairs.



YEAR 11 PROM 2023

Wednesday the 28th June saw the Year 11 students and staff come together to celebrate what has been an epic five years at The Gryphon. The students arrived beautifully turned out at Haselbury Mill, and were welcomed by staff, their peers and their families. This Year 11 have been particularly resilient during their time with us; navigating a global pandemic and a return to 'normal' public examinations, and

GRYPHON @30!

Earlier this term I took a group of students to the Sherborne Museum to find out more about how The Gryphon School formed in July thirty years go. Whilst there, we were shown some fascinating historical artefacts from all three of the schools that were closed to make way for The Gryphon School. Learning about the history of Fosters, Lord Digby's and St. Aldhelm's gave us an interesting insight into the ethos of each school and how most of this is still encompassed today in The Gryphon School core values.

We saw each school's uniform and logo, of which elements can be found in today's Gryphon logo. We also found out that some of the former three schools even had their own school song! The trip was a great success and the knowledge gained was used by the students to write a feature article in the July edition of the Sherborne Times. Well done to the students for collaborating on this project and huge thanks to the Sherborne Museum for hosting us for the afternoon. Our Head of Art and Design, Mr Fenton-Wilkinson, created an amazing piece of art to mark the anniversary, which you can see on the front cover of this newsletter!

Joe Miles, Head of Year 8

we could not be prouder of them. A fantastic time was had, the students enjoyed themselves on the dance floor and no doubt memories were made for both students and staff. We'd like to extend our thanks to The Gryphon Foundation, without their generous support the event would not have been such a success and so accessible to all.



CHALLENGE PLUS

The Challenge Plus programme for more able students in Years 7-10, ran a session this term on Owl biology. Their challenge was to successfully identify the last meal of a Barn Owl, down to the species level, using clues left behind in the pellets that the owls regurgitate following digestion. The students meticulously dissected the pellets using dissecting microscopes, needles and forceps. They used undergraduate level identification materials and keys to piece together the skeletons of the prey species and successfully identify the digested animals! All students were thoroughly engaged with the session and made some great discoveries. Most notable was the exoskeleton of the head of a large dung beetle within one pellet – a rare find!

Dr Tony Otto, Challenge Plus Leader

DIVERSITY WEEK

Students took part in our non-uniform day on 28th June to celebrate Schools Diversity Week. We are really grateful for all the donations to help us fund our Celebrating Diversity Days next year! Here are some of our students wearing their year group colours - a wonderful rainbow!



YEAR 9 MAYAN ART

Year 9 art students have been studying Mayan Culture over the past term. Students created these wonderful ceramic tiles in the style of the Mayans, then painted antique effects using a limited palette.



YEAR 10 COASTAL GCSE FIELD TRIP TO CHESIL BEACH

Under the bright sunshine and against the backdrop of clear sea views, students from Year 10 embarked on an unforgettable field trip to Chesil Beach as part of their Coastal GCSE studies. Equipped with ranging poles and clinometers, the students delved into a day of data collection and exploration, making the most of their time in the beautiful coastal region.

Upon arrival at Chesil Beach, the students wasted no time in setting up their equipment. Armed with ranging poles and clinometers, they diligently measured angles and distances, capturing essential data that would serve as the foundation for their upcoming paper 3 in the summer exams of 2024.

Throughout the day, the students displayed exemplary behavior, demonstrating their respect for the environment and their fellow classmates. Their positive attitude and engagement were a testament to their dedication and eagerness to learn.

The success of the field trip would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the staff accompanying the students. The teachers ensured that the trip ran smoothly, guiding the students through the data collection process and providing valuable insights into the coastal features they encountered. Their expertise and support fostered an environment of exploration and learning.

The Year 10 Coastal GCSE Field Trip to Chesil Beach in Dorset proved to be a remarkable and enriching experience. The combination of beautiful weather, breathtaking views, and the diligent work of the students ensured a day filled with knowledge, exploration, and excitement. As they returned home, the students carried with them memories and data that will shape their academic journey and contribute to their success in the future.





THE GRYPHON SCHOOL'S BEST TEN TORS CHALLENGE EVER!

The Gryphon School saw five teams over the finish line, over the bank holiday weekend, in the Ten Tors Challenge 2023. For the last three Challenges, the Gryphon School has entered five teams into the Challenge but only managed to get four teams over the finish line. Each year the 5th teams got closer and closer, with last year’s team making their tenth Tor but they didn’t have enough time to cover the 3km to the finish line.

This year The Gryphon School trained 6 teams, including our first ever Year 9 team. The 35-mile team from Year 10, led by Jacob, managed to get home comfortably. All three teams doing a 45-mile distance from Years 11 and 12 completed as full teams captained by Rueben (Yr 11), Maya (Yr 11) and Barney (Yr 12). The 55-mile team led by Ed, completed as a team of 5 due to injury. The team included Ben, who missed out on a 45-mile medal last year. Well done, Ben, for coming back to take on the longer distance.

Whilst the sixth team from Year 9 team didn’t reach the finish line, we are immensely proud of Mae, Alfie, Remy, Tom, Leon & Robert and hope they will come back next year, older, bigger and ready to do the challenge again. If everyone completed it wouldn’t be a challenge but even doing the training is life changing. We watched them all mature and grown in stature, especially our Year 9s, small as they may be, but they have the hearts of lions.

We also had sisters Rose and Alice who completed 45 miles with 874 (Sherborne) Air Cadet Squadron. Ben and Lewis also entered the Ten Tors Challenge with Dorset Army Cadets. That means the Gryphon School had 40 students in Ten Tors and more who trained for the challenge. Not bad for a quiet town in North Dorset!

LEGO CLUB

After the Gryphon School’s Lego Club finished the Sherborne Abbey build, there has been much discussion about what to do next. After a vote, the club decided to keep it local BUT go big, four times bigger in fact! The Lego Club voted to build Sherborne Old Castle as it was in its heyday, knights and all.

We have raised funds from Sherborne Abbey, the Gryphon Foundation, and Sherborne Castle Country Fair which has got us off the ground literally. As the Castle has a moat, we have had to design and build up the ground level to allow for the bank down to the water’s edge. The resultant structure looks like a Roman

BEEKEEPING FOR DofE

My journey into beekeeping all started when I was sitting in the school hall listening to a presentation from Mr Cooke on the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I had to decide what I was going to undertake for the three sections of my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award: Volunteering, Physical and Skills. I have always been interested in nature and wildlife and had a particular fascination with bees and beekeeping, so decided to pursue this for my skills section.

I needed to find an assessor and an expert who would take me under their wing (more bee puns to follow) which was easier than I initially thought. I started speaking to some local people in my village and the word very quickly got around with a local beekeeper, Mr Bunyan, offering to teach me all about the wonderful world of bees.

Mr Bunyan soon started to take me to his apiary. Donning a bee suit and approaching the hives was a strange feeling, a mixture of excitement and the enormity of being faced with tens of thousands of bees. I quickly learnt about the queen, drone and worker bees and what each of their roles were within the hive and then disaster struck. The whole apiary was destroyed by wasps and hornets! Not only did they take all the honey, but they also killed the colony. My bee keeping experience, it seemed, had ended too soon just as I was getting going.

What could I do now? A new beekeeping season was getting closer, and through talking to Father Martin Lee of Sherborne Abbey (who I had got to know through my volunteering section of my DofE award), it turned out that he was also a keen beekeeper! He had a small hive with a colony that he had rescued from a swarm in his garden last year and very kindly offered it to me – a hive and colony of my own! Suddenly this beekeeping season



was looking like it was going to be a great one after all!

We quickly managed to relocate the hive, with a lot of help from Mr Bunyan and got straight to learning about the different parts of the hive. Next came my favourite bit... the honey extraction! I thought it would be nice to share my honey out to some of my friends, neighbours and teachers (including Mr Cooke where this story started).

As time went on, my confidence has grown as has my knowledge which continues to grow as I do more and more. As there are so many parts to the hive and things to remember, every visit to the apiary is different and certainly not what you plan. It’s bee-n (this is the last one I promise) amazing to start my beekeeping journey, kick started by the DofE scheme and is certainly something I will continue to do. It would not have been possible though without the brilliant help (and patience) of Mr Bunyan and the generosity of Father Martin Lee. Thank you so much for this wonderful experience which has not only enabled me to achieve my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, but it has provided me with skills that will last a lifetime! None of this would have been possible without your help and support, a big thank you!

By Tom M



hypocaust system with the green grass tiles sitting on columns. So far, we have almost completed the four large base boards and are working on a colour coded interlocking system. As it is four times bigger, we hope it won’t take 20 years though!

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

2023 is the first really normal Adventurous Training year at the Gryphon, since the you know what (Ed: What Voldemort?) and a busy one. We have over 60 students completing their Bronze DofE Awards as we type, and we have supported three teams from King Arthur’s to complete their Bronze Award too.

Thirty students will complete Silver before the end of term, as they do their final expedition in the New Forest and then give a presentation before the summer holidays. The Gold will then

go out training in the Brecon Beacons before doing their Final Expedition in the Rhinog Mountains in Southern Snowdonia in July. The Gold cohort should complete their award early in the autumn term before going to Buckingham Palace next summer hopefully. After successfully delivering the Assistant Expedition Leaders Award at Level 2 last year, we are now working with our second group of Young Leaders but this time at Level 3. This year has also seen Sherborne Castle Rotary Club fund four places on the Rotary Young Leaders Award. RYLA courses

used to run on Dartmoor in February half-term but have now moved to the Storey Arms in the Brecon Beacons. Hopefully, we will hear more about their experiences in the next newsletter. All of this, and the school entered six teams into the Ten Tors Challenge. What an amazing group of students we have here at the Gryphon! Finally, we are recruiting the next cohort starting in September 2023 – DofE, Ten Tors, RYLA and Young Leaders – do you have what it takes? We think you do!



GOLD DOFE AWARD BUCKINGHAM PALACE

In June I was given the great privilege of visiting Buckingham Palace Gardens to collect my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. It was a wonderful day, spent exploring the grounds, listening to inspirational speakers, meeting the Duke of Edinburgh himself and of course indulging in tea and cake!

I began my DofE adventure all the way back in Year 9 by signing up for the bronze award, completely oblivious to the challenges that lay ahead. I was unaware back then of the determination, teamwork and perseverance that would be required to make it all the way to collecting my gold award. But it is safe to say that it was one of the best decisions I have made. It sparked my passion for such an amazing programme, allowing children and young adults to get out and explore the countryside, to discover skills and talents they did not know they

had and to be an active part of their community. The opportunities that DofE has provided me with, have made the many wrong turns on expeditions and sleepless nights in a cold, wet tent well worth it. It has allowed me to volunteer as a young leader and to help the next cohort through the programme, travel to Space Camp in America as my residential and create friendships that I know will last a lifetime. And of course, the chance to visit Buckingham Palace Gardens.

I could not have made it to the Palace gardens without the incredible people by my side. Thank you to my friends who walked alongside me on every expedition, creating memories that I know we will look back on for years to come. Thank you to my dad, who volunteered as a leader and encouraged me every step of the way and has inspired me to continue volunteering on

The Gryphon’s DofE programme. Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who give up so many weekends of their year, to help out on expeditions and create a fun and friendly experience for so many people. And most of all, thank you to Mr Cooke, who puts in so much effort behind the scenes to make it all possible. None of this would happen without him, and he has made a difference to so many lives. I will never be able to express how much DofE has changed who I am today and the special place that it has in my heart. I feel beyond privileged to have been a part of this award and to have had the chance to go to Buckingham Palace. For anyone unsure of whether to start on their DofE journey, or anyone unsure of whether to continue all the way to Gold, you won’t regret it!

By Alice

MOUNTAIN LEADER TRAINING

In May a dedicated group of adult volunteers from The Gryphon School, working towards their Summer Mountain Leader qualification, embraced an unforgettable four-day training weekend in Snowdonia’s Ogwen Valley. Eager to become proficient mountain leaders and contribute to the Gryphon School’s outdoor programmes, these passionate individuals embarked on a journey filled with challenges and growth.

With their eyes set on becoming qualified mountain leaders, the trainees immersed themselves in challenging sessions on group management, rope work, safety on steep ground and river crossing techniques. These skills would not only equip them for the Summer Mountain Leader qualification but also prepare them for their future roles as supervisors of Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors expeditions for The Gryphon School.

As they conquered demanding ascents, including the iconic Carnedd Dafydd via Crib Lem (Lech Ddu Spur), and refined their navigation skills in the picturesque Cwm Idwal, the Gryphon volunteers were aware of the valuable contribution they would make to the school’s outdoor programmes. Equipped with their newfound expertise, they will be ready to inspire and guide future generations of students, ensuring the safety and success of the Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors expeditions. This training weekend not only solidified their skills but also fostered a sense of responsibility and excitement as they prepared to take on these important leadership roles within our school community.



BIOLOGY

Biology students have once again taken part in two national competitions; the Biology Challenge for Year 10 students and the Intermediate Biology Olympiad for Year 12. Within Year 10, 88 of our students sat the paper, with 43,000 students sitting it across the country. The paper is geared towards knowledge that the students have learnt within Year 9 and 10 however, there is some external content to challenge them.

The students managed brilliantly; whilst they all receive a certificate for taking part, 29 students received a Commendation and 14 students received Highly Commended. On top of this several students received Bronze and Silver awards. Achieving a Bronze were Jaden L, Imogen F, Subhiksha N, Alicia D, Jacob H, Joshua F, Felix L and Lena K. This result puts these students in the top 30% of all students who took part across the country. One student also managed to achieve a Silver award; Ben M. This puts Ben in the top 15% of all the students who took part; a significant achievement.

Within Year 12, 29 students took part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad. This is a taxing paper that takes into account information from Years 11 and 12 as well as external information students will have acquired through extra reading and interest in the subject. Across the country over 14,000 students took part, from more than 700 schools.

Our students did brilliantly! One student achieved a 'Commended' and five achieved 'Highly Commended'. Above this Billy C, Oliver L, Sofia M, Daisy W, Hannah F, Daisy C, Emily N, Olympia P, Sophie L and Shinae S all achieved a Bronze award putting them in the top 30% of students. There were four students who achieved Silver; Aimee H, Madeleine L, Ethan L and George M. This puts them in the top 15%. One student achieved a Gold award; Lydia E. This is an incredible achievement on Lydia's part, not only does she come in the top 5% of all students who participated, but it is the first Gold Award achieved by one of our students. Well done Lydia!



Year 10 Child Development

After a number of years being unable to give students a chance to experience a vocational work experience, June saw students get back out into child care settings.

The students are studying for the L1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care 0-5 years. 21 students went out for three days to see the provision for young children in local nurseries or reception classes in primary schools. The time to see theory in practice is such an important element of the course and it gave the students chance to see the demands of working with this age group.

We are so grateful to local employers for opening their doors to Gryphon students, to aid their knowledge and understanding of child development. COVID put this opportunity on hold, so it is something we hope will develop as we move forward with future cohorts.



Alumni Talk – Grace Ryall

It was a great pleasure to invite former student Grace Ryall back to The Gryphon to give a presentation about her PhD and her learning journey in science post A-levels. Her academic journey since then has involved a Masters degree at York university and she is currently studying for a PhD at Bristol University in Neuroscience, research specifically related to understanding more about neuro-degenerative diseases such as dementia and Alzheimer's.

Grace says "For my PhD project, I am interested in a mechanism responsible for inhibiting gene expression between the stages of transcription and translation. This inhibition is driven by the RNA-Induced Silencing Complex, or the RISC complex, which is a group of proteins working together to bind and target certain mRNAs for degradation or sequestration away from the cytoplasm. Argonaute is a core protein member of the RISC complex that is responsible for its assembly and for directly degrading mRNAs to which the complex binds. This activity can be affected by phosphorylation of Argonaute at one particular residue, which becomes phosphorylated in response to stimulation

of the neuron; I'm interested in how this phosphorylation affects neuronal function. We know that inhibiting this phosphorylation affects the expression of genes involved in regulating the structure of dendritic spines, and this might affect synaptic plasticity and memory which should explain any deficits we see in memory performance."

It was fascinating to hear from a woman at the forefront of the battle against neural disease. Drawing from well-established staining techniques and combining it with her own parameters to measure the shape of dendritic spines, it is possible she will discover a piece of novel science, currently unknown to humanity. Mind blowing!

From a personal perspective, it was incredible to see what wonderful and worthwhile pathways our students can take having been with us and the personal journey that goes alongside it. To be a small part of that journey as a tutor is truly the most amazing privilege.

Fiona Guest
Science Teacher
and former tutor of 7-11FMG

Gryphon pupils prepare for Oxbridge entry

As part of the Oxbridge preparation programme, a group of students had an evening hosted at Sherborne Boys School giving presentations on areas of research that they had been working on this term. On 18th May, working in collaboration with students from SGS and SBS, Gryphon pupils spoke on a range of subjects including Encryption, whether we cannot predict financial crashes, the use of performance enhancing drugs, development of the combustion engine past and future, as well and the development and principles of good law.

They had the nerve-wracking task of presenting to an audience of their peers

and teachers and then taking a range of questions from the audience afterwards. The series of presentations went on throughout the evening with supper provided in what proved a thought-provoking and interesting evening. As ever, this group who have met weekly to discuss and debate in our weekly 'Thinkers' group, acquitted themselves superbly well; speaking with confidence, clarity and conviction. With record numbers showing an interest in applying for the top universities again next year there is no shortage of well-founded ambition at the Gryphon to follow on from the 6 offers awarded this year to Oxford and Cambridge applicants.

Sixth Form

YEAR 13 PROM

On Monday 3rd July our Year 13 students and teachers made their way to Hazelbury Mill for the Year 13 prom. The students arrived in an array of different transport methods, from tractors to E-type Jaguars!

The evening began with a complimentary drink before a sit down two course meal. The students had a great time, the night kicked off when the DJ started the music. It was a great evening and massive thanks go to Mrs Oxford and Mrs Spencer-Smith in organising such a lovely event and was a brilliant way for us to send off the students.



Year 13 Leaving

Our delightful Year 13 students went on study leave at the end of May as their A level exams began. In the lead up to the students finishing we had a series of sporting events between tutor groups. Students competed in a kingball event, rounders tournament and a football match. All these events were mixed with a keen sense of competitiveness and fun between the students.

Our students also had their leaving assembly just before the majority of the A level exams started. It was a great opportunity to thank the students for all they have done over the last two years. They were an absolutely tremendous bunch of students to work with and we are all sure that they will go onto every success, both within their A levels and BTECs and beyond.



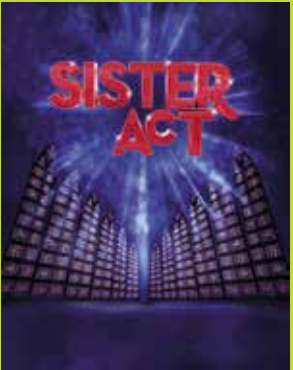
Sponsored Walk

In June we welcomed Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) into the school. Last year the students chose MSF as our international charity so it was brilliant to have Renate to come in to explain the work that the charity does around the world. Renate was also able to explain about the work she did as a paediatric nurse in Afghanistan. Following this talk we were able to launch our sponsored walk. On the 30th September 2023 our sixth form students are invited to complete a 20 mile circular walk from the Gryphon school, going north towards Cadbury Castle, and then west to Yeovilton. It will be great to have as many students as possible to do this, completing about 45,000 steps – the same number of doctors and nurses that work for MSF. We look forward to this event and seeing how much we can raise for this amazing charity.



OUR NEXT DRAMA PRODUCTION!

We're so excited to reveal that our next whole school production is Sister Act! Sister Act is the feel-good musical comedy smash based on the hit 1992 film! We are so excited to get started in September, with auditions taking place in the second week back (dates to be confirmed). All information regarding the process will be shared via our Instagram page, @gryphondrama. This show will be open to any students from Years 7-13 and we hope to see as many people as possible audition! If you have any questions, please email Miss Gabbidon: zpg@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk.



8. P.E.

Sports Awards:

The Gryphon School Sports Awards Evening is an annual event which recognises all the amazing sporting talent that students have both inside and outside of school. This year's guest speaker was Ryan Garnsworthy, an Australian lacrosse player, who not only gained a Bronze Medal at the World Lacrosse Championships being the youngest player on the Australian team, but also currently coaches the England U21 squad. Ryan talked about his journey in sport and how he got into lacrosse after being visited by an Olympian when he was at primary school. From that moment he talked about how he became inspired to be the best sportsman he could be. His words gave the Gryphon students a real sense of what it takes to achieve your dreams and will definitely inspire them to excel in their chosen sports.

Players across all age groups were awarded Players of the Year in the major sports within the school, as well as providing awards for those with representative honours and with dedication to sport as a whole. The final awards of the evening encapsulate everything that the pupils strive to demonstrate where this year's winners showed passion, dedication, resilience and sportsmanship. These included:

Individual Performer of the Year – Aimee C (Year 13) for her exceptional performance in Canoe/Kayak

Team of the Year – Year 11 Football team for their superb performance in the County Cup

Junior Girls Sports Personality – Mae C

Junior Boys Sports Personality – Robert H

Senior Girls Sports Personality – Ronel B

Senior Boys Sports Personality – Louis P

It was a fantastic evening which brought together different parts of the community. Local businesses kindly donated prizes for the raffle and parents were invited to join the award winners to hear about their accolades. We look forward to next year to see who will gain an award in the future!

New Sports Kit:

During 2022, the PE department entered a number of schools competitions in the hope of winning the top prize of more sports kit for students. At The Gryphon School we have fantastic sporting students who regularly make local, regional, and national finals, and we wanted to reward these efforts with new kit for the 2023-24 season. With some fantastic performances and applications submitted, we were lucky enough to win the top prizes, and so have purchased new netball, rugby, hockey and football kits for students to wear for fixtures and festivals.

A special mention needs to go out to the FA and the ESFA competition who chose us as winners to purchase girls football kit, to promote girls football in our curriculum and in fixtures. Also a massive thank you to Mr White for taking fantastic pictures of our sports students and the new kit!

Dorset School Games:

Pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 enjoyed a sunny day out at the Dorset Summer Games at Bryanston. Some of the pupils got to showcase their leadership skills as part of either the events team, helping with the social media coverage for the day, or as young ambassadors leading their activity to younger pupils. The rest of our pupils were able to take part in a variety of other sports, including baseball, football and being put through their paces for the indoor rowing individual and relay finals. It was a

fantastic day out, made even better by meeting Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth medallist Jason Gardener MBE.

Swimming:

Swimming events are few and far between however the North Dorset Swimming Gala hosted by Sherborne Girls School allowed pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 to demonstrate their class, finesse and passion for the sport. All three year groups finished in top three positions which is outstanding, with lots of talented individual performances to achieve this. A particular shout out to Lily and Chloe in Year 7, Lily in Year 8 and Freya and Annabelle in Year 9 who all secured a 1st place finish in their individual races.

Rounders:

The Year 7s have excelled in rounders since joining The Gryphon. They sailed through their league games, only narrowly losing one game by one rounder! The enthusiasm and support they showed to each other continued for the Somerset area finals, where they battled in two close games to finish in 3rd place. For their first season together, they should be extremely proud of the phenomenal progress they have made.

Year 8's have had another great season, playing in some very competitive and close games. They made lots of progress this season, and are beginning to find connections in the field to get the opposition out. Although they narrowly missed out on a place in the finals they played with resilience and determination and are already looking forward to next year.

The Year 9 team have had a phenomenal year, consistently scoring rounders and often getting the opposition out before the end of the innings. The team have great positivity and are a credit to us and themselves. The girls wanted to improve on their 3rd place finish last year, and with great determination and teamwork they came an impressive 2nd place.

Our Year 10 team came into the finals this year still undefeated. They are a fantastically talented bunch who's batting and fielding skills are equally as strong as each other. On multiple occasions this year they got teams out before the end of the innings, and in one game it only took 10 good bowls for this to happen! They went into the finals with confidence and came out on top for the second year in a row!

Girls Cricket:

Girl's cricket has really taken off this year, with lots of our students now playing outside of school. We have entered a number of soft ball competitions during the summer term and the girls have been fantastic, giving it their all and improving every game. With cricket now on the curriculum, and more fixtures and festivals taking place, we are already looking forward to next year and what it may bring on the pitch.

Boys Cricket:

The U13 boys have competed brilliantly, narrowly losing to Colfox in a tense county cup quarter final and the U15s have mirrored their ability, recently beating Blandford to extend their cup run!

With the Men's and Women's ashes in full swing at the moment, we look forward to seeing some of students competing at the highest level in the future!

Cricket Festival:

Mr Fernandez and 7 fantastic students headed into Yeovil on Friday 23rd June to take part in a SASP cricket festival. Coming across a number of different challenges, the group took everything in their stride and completed each task with resilience and positivity. At the end of the festival the group played matches against other schools from Yeovil, and played some phenomenal cricket and taking fabulous catches. It was a fantastic, sunny day of cricket and we look forward to going again next year.



ARCHERY



Year 7 student Toby M recently competed in the Somerset Archery Association Outdoor County Championships. He won first place in the Under-14's Barebow Boys Competition, and also won the Overall Junior Boys Barebow Championship! Well done Toby!