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Dear Parents and Carers

Our **Year 10 Design Ventura team** had a fantastic day in London, presenting their product concept of Nature Inspired Stencils to an esteemed panel of judges at Deutsche Bank. They received very positive feedback following an extended pitch and questioning, with a proud Mrs Da Costa looking on. Congratulations to Bobby Ashton, Nathanael Webb, Ben Sloper, Lewis Grinter, Marley Sims and Alfie Bellows who return to the Design Museum in April to hear the results! You can see details of all those shortlisted on this link: [Design Ventura 2024-25: this year's shortlist \(and our shortlisting judges\) - Design Ventura](#)

The **Year 8 Flying Start** teams enjoyed their day in the Regional Finals at RNAS Yeovil on Wednesday with Mr Crossland. Each group undertook four engineering challenges, including a presentation of their design to Royal Naval Engineers and testing their gliders in the huge hangar. The best presentation, from 75 teams, was given to Emily Allen, Harry Curtis, Elih Hallet and Illyana Wells and we are now waiting for feedback on the flight distances and scoring. Well done to them all!

The **Spring Concert** was, as always, an impressive evening of music and performance from students across the ages. After an energetic welcoming half an hour from the Year 10/11 band, Jawes, we were spoilt with over thirty performances from instrumentalists, singers, the School Choir and the Jazz Band. My thanks to so many of you for attending, to all the performers, the wonderful BSPTA for refreshments and, of course, to Mrs Edwards for putting it all together.

The **BSPTA have their next meeting on Thursday 24th April**. The AGM will be at 6pm with a meeting straight afterwards so do come along and support them if you can.

We had another fantastic day of sport with Basketball and Football **House Matches** on Tuesday. There was an outstanding number of competitors who saw Lewesdon stretch their lead at the top, although Waddon have now overtaken Pilsdon to sit in 4th place. Well done everyone, and a final shout out to the Year 11s who competed brilliantly in their last ever house matches.

Our **Year 8 Football team**, supported by three Year 7s, battled bravely to victory in their Area Semi-final match on Tuesday. A quick break meant Dylan Longden got the better of his man before being brought down by a defender, leading to Harry Mansfield looping a long strike over the goalkeeper and into the top of the net! With lots of resilient defending, and Oz Harwood proving unbeatable in goal, it was a great team performance. Thank you to the Moore Scarrott Group for sponsoring our kit and black coats for the substitutes. Grateful thanks also to Leon Francis who refereed the game incredibly well, he is on track to be the next Howard Webb! **Next stop, the final against Budmouth at Weymouth Stadium!**

Our **Basketball teams** have also had a cracking week in the SW Dorset Championships. Year 11 contested 4 matches on Tuesday in the Group A half of the competition, winning all four of their games and beating Colfox A, Colfox B, Budmouth and Wey Valley. The following day the Year 9 team won every game in their tournament! The whole team showed an excellent attitude and great work ethic throughout, cruising to victory in the final by over 15 points against Colfox. Well done to both teams! There are photos of all the teams on our Facebook page.

It was a very busy end to Wednesday with the **Year 8 Consultation Evening**. Thank you for the many positive conversations and do contact your child's Tutor if there are any issues that require following up.

Looking ahead, we wish our **GCSE Drama** students well on Monday as they have their practical examination with an external moderator. Well done, as well, to Year 10 who completed their first performances this week.

On Monday and Tuesday next week we have **HPV Immunisations and Teenage Boosters** taking place with our colleagues from the NHS. Wednesday is our final **Mock Results Day** for Year 11 as they head into the Easter holidays with a clear focus on GCSE revision. It was a pleasure to hand out their **Leavers' hoodies** a little early as a small congratulation for all their dedication this term.

Wednesday also sees Mrs Rychnovsky launch **The Royal Society** STEM project on freshwater invertebrates in our local streams. We were delighted to hear that our bid, working alongside Dr Mathew Hill, has been successful and will be sharing more information over the coming months.

The **GCSE trip to Berlin** departs on Wednesday for a fascinating insight into world History and we wish them all a safe and engaging trip. **A Level Photography** students are off to Lacock Abbey and Bristol Museum in preparation for their final examination pieces on Thursday, whilst Sixth Form **Philosophy and Ethics** students have a revision conference day over at Corfe Hills.

Details of fully funded **Online School Support** courses (levels 1, 2 and 3) for parents and carers are attached for those who may be interested. Courses are designed to aid parents with their learning as the live webinar sessions are run within school hours and in term times only. No previous experience is required, all that is needed is access to the internet and a laptop or tablet. Extra spaces are now available for the next course starting on 22nd April. Places are limited and will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

A reminder that this term's **SEN coffee morning** takes place on Wednesday 2nd April from 9.30-11am. A therapist from Dorset Speech and Language Service will be attending to give a short talk from 9.30am with questions afterwards.

This week's **cyber safety information sheet**, encouraging healthy friendships, is attached, together with details of free creative activities in Lyme over Easter, and the Busking Festival in May.

As we head towards the weekend I hope that you all enjoy some family time for Mother's Day, but don't forget that the clocks "spring forward" on Sunday as well!

Mr Hales

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