

Spring Newsletter 2023





Robots Regional Competition 28/3/2023

The Computing Department took 30 students (a mix of year 9's and year 11's) to London for the First Tech Challenge regional robotics competition.

24 Total teams from across the region.

4 of these teams were from Ferndown Upper School.

The students had to build a robot that could compete in this year's arena.





How did we do?

Our teams did brilliantly and were a fantastic representation of the school.

We brought home a 'Judge's Choice' award for the second year in a row. We also were awarded an 'Innovate Award'. These were due to the group's fantastic presentations and design ideas.

In addition, one of the year 9 teams finished off the head-to-head challenges in 2nd place! They have now progressed to the National finals!



Gymnastics Competition 2023

- On Friday 24th March 2023, Ferndown Upper hosted the First and Middle Schools Gymnastics Tumbling competition. There were 150 school children in attendance and the event was watched by at least 60 parents as well. The event was an amazing experience for the students as about three quarters of them had never had the opportunity to enter a gymnastics competition before!
- Our gymnastics sports leaders were amazing! They helped set up, organise, warm up, run, judge, encourage, support and pack away the huge event. They were a credit to Ferndown Upper School and several teachers from the primary and middle schools complimented them on their behavior and skills. Charlie Tompkins, Lauren Harman and Liv Warner even got to demonstrate their gymnastics tumbling skills by showing the students what they could do on the tumbling mats too!



Rotary technology competition

2023

Well done to all the students who took part especially our Sixthform team who won 2nd place!





Year 12 Work Experience

The skills and experiences they encountered will stand them in good stead for life after Sixth Form and they enjoyed the time they spent with employers.

The Sixth Form team have received many lovely emails saying how valued our Year 12's were.

If you hosted a student, we send our gratitude!





Jon Egging

- The Jon Egging Trust Blue Skies 2 Group have visited several local organisations as part of the leadership programme they are currently on. They have faced some very new experiences such as operating hoists at MoD Boscombe Down where Team Leaders had to instruct their team to lift their pallet to safety, avoiding obstacles. At the Tank Museum, the students learnt about inspiring leaders and also had to build a replica tank. Everyone had a go at being a leader themselves.
- The most recent visit was to Jimmy's Iced Coffee where Jim and his staff explained about being a leader. To emphasise the point, the students took part in two activities. They had to organise a stall where they had to offer coffee samples to each other as if working in a sales team. The other activity was to lead a team to make an advert photoshoot. There were some very creative ideas!



Fleet Air Arm Engineering Challenge



On Friday 10th March – Y10 visited the museum at RNAS Yeovilton to take part in an engineering challenge where they had to design and build an operating flight carrier deck.



HIVE GROUP

The year 9 Hive group went off to Bournemouth University Lansdowne Campus today to talk all things Business!

The aim today was to come up with ideas for a concept that could tackle mental health and bullying in schools – the girls worked together to explore ideas, challenge convention and develop a unique creation!

Watching the girls team up, share ideas and build connections with their Poole High School peers was a pleasure to see! You go girls!

Duke of Edinburgh

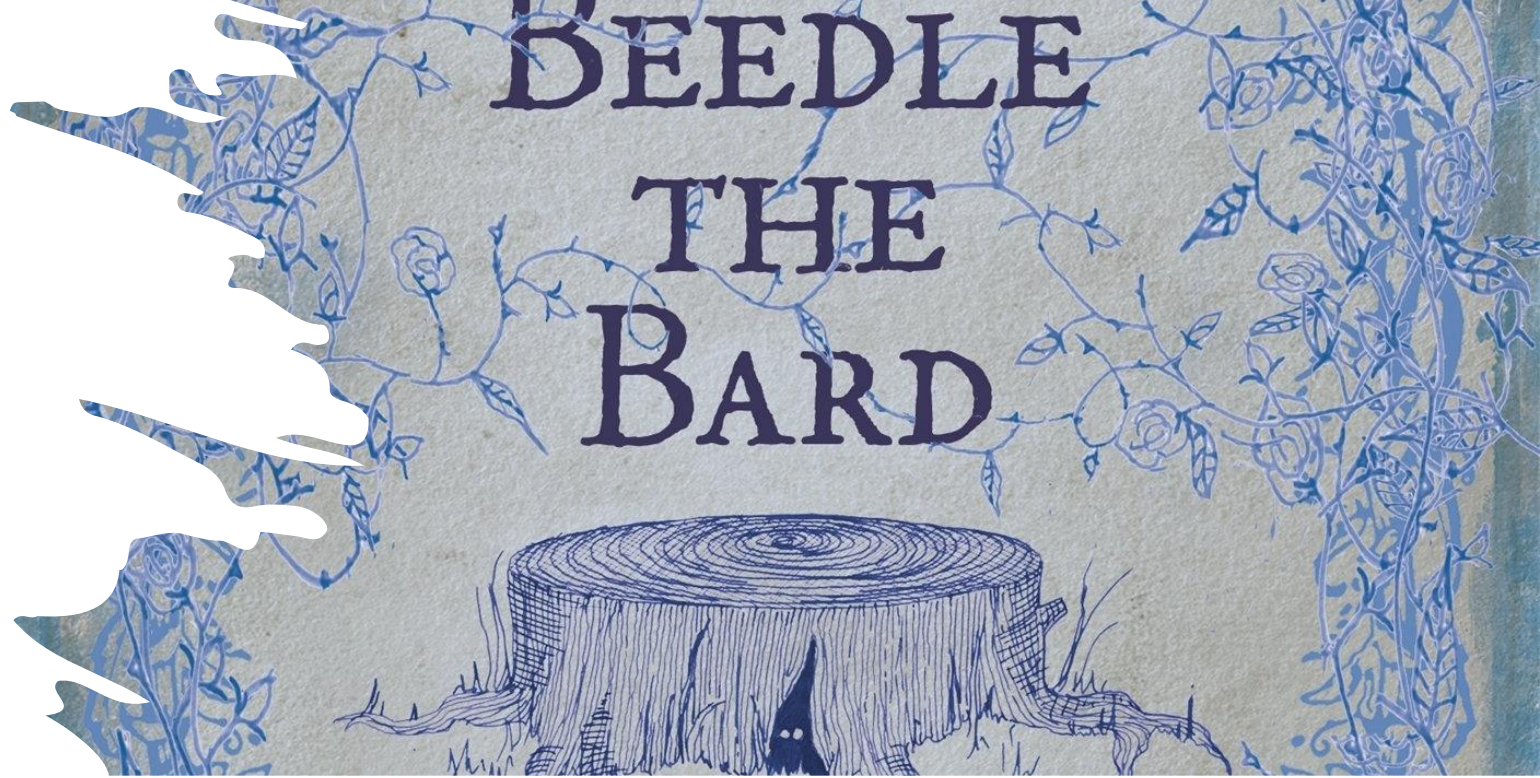
The Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Group have been busy during their after school training sessions getting ready for their first expedition in May. Below is our session on tent pitching (too wet to go outside). The students have been busy route planning, organising their walking groups, using stoves, planning their meals and tent pitching over the previous couple of sessions.

They are all looking forward to their walks across the Purbecks in May and June!



Book in a Day

- In celebration of World Book Day, students were treated to their second book in a day of the school year.
- With the FUS Wizarding Challenge it was only right that we read a magical text, 'The Tales of Beedle the Bard' which features in the Harry Potter books.
- Teachers across different subjects got involved to read a section, which students then listened to throughout the day.
- A magical day of reading!





Wizarding Challenge

Our costume winners

- This term, Cheetham House, Read House and Thornton House competed in a series of challenges to save our school and our teachers from an evil curse in our Wizarding Challenge.
- Week after week, our students put to the test their problem solving, analytical thinking, team-work and mathematical skills to complete the challenges. For our final challenge, students and staff dressed up as wizards and other creatures and we had a fantastic time!

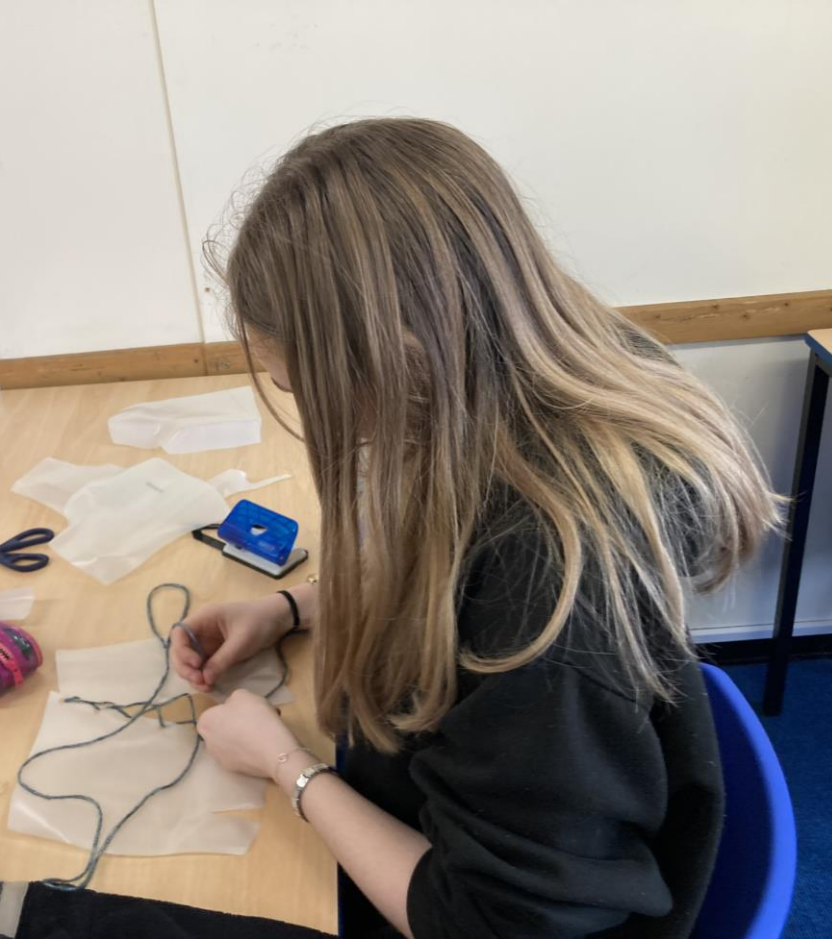




Trip to Stratford to see 'The Tempest'

- Our year 12 and 13 A-level English Literature students visited Stratford Upon Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of 'The Tempest'.
- Students enjoyed a walking tour, visiting Shakespeare's birthplace, his school and where he was buried.
- A fantastic experience and an unforgettable performance of one of their set texts.





Costume Characterisation in A Level English Literature

Year 12 and 13 A level and AS students were able to put their knowledge of the Tempest characters to the test in a costume challenge. Inspired by the use of recycled materials used in the RSC production they were tasked to create their own interpretation of a characters costume using recycled materials. We had some great results as you can see.





Pass with Pizza Evening

There were lots of practical revision tasks, goodie bags full of resources and some delicious pizza and sweets!

On Monday 20th March – 82 Year 11 students attended the English Pass with Pizza Evening.



Recent JAE Student Successes!

- Amelia Carter – in a recent swimming competition at Millfield, Amelia gained 5 personal bests (PB's) and also a medal for her 200 Individual Medley.
- Isabella Cox – has been training hard with her dog agility GB team and has also competed at Crufts 2023 recently.
- Charlie Tompkins – is training hard with the England tumbling squad on various training weekends and camps.
- Charlie Trowbridge – recently became a Bath Rugby development player.



A Level Textiles

Hampshire Wardrobe, Winchester

Characterizing Costume

Students composed dynamic costumes using the extensive Hampshire Wardrobe collection of costumes and fashion used in theatre, film and TV productions. Inspired by the story of Macbeth, costumes were constructed for Lady Macbeth, two of the three witches and Macbeth. Key considerations were showing wealth, status and character through fabric choices and garment styles and shapes.





Textiles at Winchester School of Art

BA Textiles Design University experience

A Level Textiles students visit WSA

Heat transfer press workshops- disperse dyes

Course leader Rose Murray Langdon (MSc) talked about careers in textiles. Print design can lead to interior, fashion, stationery, running a business and success up to six figure salaries. Graduate career destinations include Alexander McQueen, Cath Kidston, Colefax and Fowler, John Lewis, Osborne and Little, Monsoon and Liberty.





On Monday 27th March Year 10 and Year 12 had the opportunity to ask questions to the Many Faiths Together group. This includes A Christian, a Humanist, a Buddhist, a Muslim and a Jew.

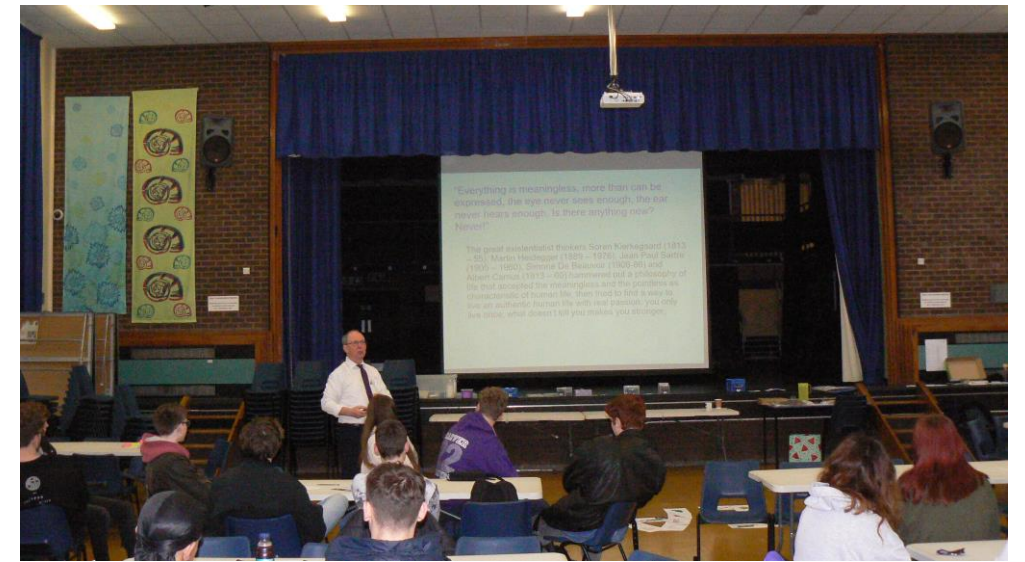
Many Faiths Together

Students were captivated by what they had to say and learnt a lot about a variety of views. Questions from students included: *How can you prove what you believe is factually correct? Do you believe people who don't have the same faith as you can go into the same afterlife? Why does God allow suffering?*

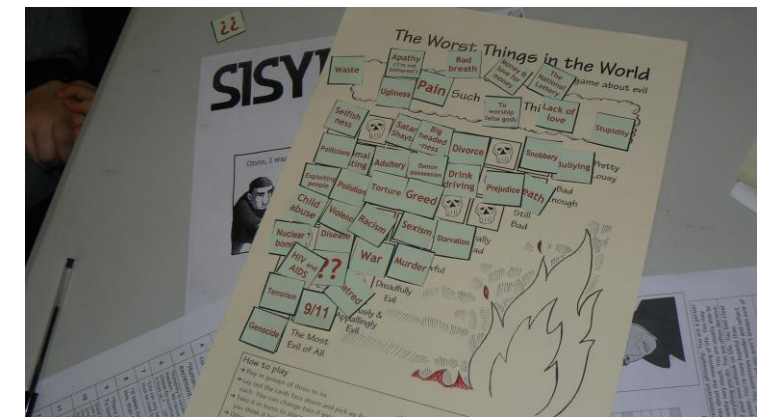
Student responses about what they had learnt included:

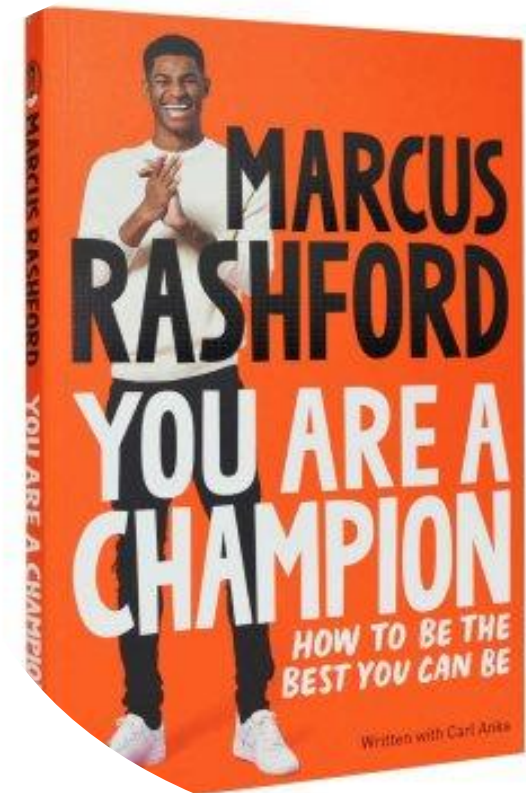
- *"How some people get badly treated because of how they look / dress."*
- *"How they can get daily criticism on stereotypes of their religion."*
- *"I no longer see religion as just a large, far away concept now that I saw people's experiences."*

Year 13 Ethics Day



On 29th March all year 13 students had the opportunity to attend an RE conference with Lat Blaylock – Editor of RE Today magazine. It was called An Evil Day. Students explored Existentialism, War, Judaism, the Holocaust, Islam, Buddhism, Genocide and much more.





Reading at FUS

- We've been busy adding young adult fiction, autobiographies and short stories to our tutor reading books.
- This term, multiple tutor groups finished reading their books including classics like 'Of Mice and Men', the autobiography 'I Am Malala' and the dystopian text 'Scythe'.
- Year 9 are also enjoying footballer Marcus Rashford's 'You are a Champion' after it was recommended by George Marshall in year 10.