Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to this autumn’s edition of the newsletter after a busy summer of results and preparation for the new term. It has been fantastic to see so many of our Year 11 students returning back into the sixth form after their record breaking results, and of course we have 180 new Year 7s to welcome to the school. At the same time we said goodbye to our Year 13s who leave with our best wishes and good luck as they enter new and exciting phases in their lives.

Year 7s have certainly hit the ground running as the annual Hooke Court visit took place. Many rafts were built, problems solved, and new friendships forged as the 3 days unfolded. Having been present at the talent show I am certainly looking forward to many Year 7 students being involved in future school productions. Later this term we are fortunate enough and very excited to have secured the Royal Artillery Band to play at the Christmas Concert (keep the 7/12 free!) and tickets will soon be on sale for our very own Christmas production ‘Follow the Star’; students are busy rehearsing already. As well as this our Christmas Fair has been booked for 24th November; this was a hugely busy and successful event last year and we look forward to a similar one this year.

Our students have made a fantastic start to the term: they are looking smart, supporting each other, and focused on their learning. The school continues to go from strength to strength and we would like to thank all of you for your continued support.

At the end of the last academic year the teachers and students discussed which qualities made an excellent learner and learning environment. It became clear that three words summed up what we best wanted to achieve as a school community: ‘Respect, Aspiration, and Perseverance’.

That is the challenge to our students this year: to show excellence in everything they do whilst demonstrating those key qualities.

We look forward to working alongside you this year.

Adam Darley
Examination results: Purbeck students continue to achieve excellence

Congratulations Year 11 Class of 2016 – Best Ever Results... AGAIN!

Students and staff at The Purbeck School have once again been celebrating the best ever GCSE results in the school’s history- 60% 5A*-C including English and Maths– 5% higher than the school’s previous best ever result. Particular praise must go to the English department who achieved outstanding results. English Language secured an A*-C rate of 78% with 86% of students making at least 3 levels of progress between the end of Year 6 and the end of Year 11. Almost half of all students made “exceptional” progress. English Literature also put in a very strong performance with 70% gaining GCSE results A*-C and 75% of students making at least 3 levels of progress. Our Science results were once again excellent this year with Biology securing 92.5 % A*-C, Chemistry and Physics at 94.3% A*-C. Our BTEC subjects were very successful too. In terms of A*-C equivalence Construction again achieved 100%; Sport attained 97% and Health and Social Care secured 93.2%.

We are proud of the achievements of all of our students. There are, however, students who really excelled this year and deserve an individual mention. We were delighted to see that Kirsty Patterson (pictured above left) had achieved an A^ in GCSE Further Mathematics. This very unusual symbol means “an A* with distinction” which is an excellent and richly deserved achievement for Kirsty. She adds 8A*s/ 1A and 1B to her Further Mathematics ‘A* with distinction’- well done Kirsty. Our highest achieving boy, Max Afful (pictured above right) scored 4A*s/2As/1B/3Cs and a distinction* in BTEC Sport.

And it was excellence at A Level... AGAIN!

Purbeck students reaped the rewards of their hard work as they received their A Level results. The percentage of top grades (grades A*/A/B) was at 42% and the percentage of A*-C grades at A Level at 71.5%. Some subjects had an exceptionally successful year. Maths (our most popular A Level subject) secured an amazing 82% A*-B. BTEC Sport, A Level Spanish and Applied ICT achieved 100% A*-B grades.
The Houses of Parliament recognise the fantastic work of The Purbeck School in ‘The Parliamentary Review’

The Purbeck School is delighted and proud to be featuring in the prestigious Secondary Education publication ‘The Parliamentary Review’. We were chosen as one of only 12 schools in the whole of the South of England to appear in the publication. The Review highlights excellent schools and the journey they have been on over the past academic year. It is in recognition of the excellent GCSE and A-Level results that our students have gained in recent years.

Each Government department releases a yearly Parliamentary Review focusing on success stories around the country. The magazine will be distributed across the country to key organisations and other schools so that they can learn and read about the best practice across the nation.

To access the Parliamentary review please visit our website where you can access a pdf of the publication. Then turn to page 49 and enjoy!

Celebrating excellence: Super 7s

As part of our new behaviour policy, every lesson each student is given a score. Students receiving a 7 have exceeded expectations for the lesson and at the beginning of the following week are rewarded. They will each receive a postcard home, a ‘Super 7’ wristband which provides them with queue jumps for themselves and one friend for all break times and lunchtimes throughout the week, and use of the ‘Super 7 Lounge’. Keep a look out on the school website for each week’s Super 7s!

PTFA
Parents, Teachers & Friends Association
gashworth66@yahoo.co.uk

The PFTA was very successful last year in raising several hundred pounds of money to fund projects such as the purchase of a 3D printer for the STEM Club, kit for the sports tour of Greece, new books for students to enjoy in the library and IT software to support the Health and Social A Level course.

If you would also like to lend a hand in any way please email Gill at the above address or contact Assistant Headteacher Guy Swallow.

For all the latest Purbeck School stories please visit the ‘News’ section of our website which is updated daily. And why not follow us on facebook or twitter?
Excellence in everything at The Purbeck School

We are immensely proud of the respect, aspiration and perseverance demonstrated by our students and staff. We would like to share with you pictures from our first month of the term, pictures which show our students hard at work, fully engaged and in excellent learning environments.

School tours: see us at work!

If you a parent of a prospective Year 7 student interested in seeing us at work, please contact our school office to arrange a tour of the school with a senior leader: office@purbeck.dorset.sch.uk