

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems just a short time ago since we were basking in hot sunshine and enjoying one of the hottest summers on record, and now, we fast approach the festive season with the real prospect of a white Christmas here in Dorset; where has that time gone!

Here at Compass we have certainly been busy and it is my pleasure to showcase, via this newsletter, a small selection of the key events of the term. Just to highlight a couple, the links with Dorset Marvels and Cosmic Cactus should really help our older students focus on their all-important next steps and careers planning journey.

The off-site curriculum options, like Max Events, Key Stage 3 Outdoor Education and the Maritime Programme have got off to a great start and I am hearing fabulous things about how well our students are engaging and achieving in them. Long may that continue?

We're also starting our 'Reading at Compass' initiative, designed to promote the importance of reading, and in particular, reading for pleasure, as a skill for life across all of our age groups and ability range. Recently Mark, our Deputy Head has written to you to explain this. If you can help us to recycle appropriate reading material for which you no longer have a need, donations gratefully accepted.

A couple of gentle reminders from me please: it is unfortunate that on occasions our 'old and fragile' building suffers from some abuse and vandalism at the hands of some, and thankfully only a very small minority, of students who break things, sometimes deliberately. When this happens I'm required to send a letter to parents / carers asking for a voluntary contribution to the cost of repair. Please can you talk to your child about this if this situation arises and remind them that every penny spent on repairs is money that cannot be spent elsewhere, like, for instance, on the activities in the enrichment programme.

Directed verbal abuse, again, from a tiny minority of students seems to be increasing, which, I hope with your help, will be just a temporary spike and not a trend forming. It might be worth reminding your child that staff have chosen to come to work in this school with its children, some with challenging behaviour, to help those very children to succeed. They do not deserve, nor should we tolerate, verbal abuse from anyone. I hope with your continued support, together we can crack this.

/continued

Our Teacher and Teaching Assistant 'September New Starters' have settled in really well and are making a substantial impact with our learners and within our existing team. If you haven't had time to meet them in person yet, the Parents Evening on Thursday 2 February will be a good opportunity for that.

The Teachers are: **Alison G** in Maths, **Sian S** in Art, **Kate J** in Life Skills / RSHE and **Bex K** in Science

We said a fond farewell to Harry M, a TA who left to take up a post which allows him to follow his passion for Cricket, as a coach in a local school, and Bradley H, our Engagement Team worker, now working with the Emergency Services in Dorset.

To replace them **Josh G**, **Henri C**, and **Aidan L** have joined as Teaching Assistants and **Louise B** has joined the Engagement and Reintegration team.

Mindful of the economic downturn that we as a country find ourselves in now and knowing that even at the best of times, Christmas can bring families great pleasure and sometimes a huge amount of stress and strain, I have enclosed some offers of help (and a request for help) from Dorset Council. Please just follow the links included. Additionally, there is also the Winter in Dorset programme on offer too. May I urge families who qualify to take up this offer of support please. (see page 8)

Energy Price Cap: **[Find out more information](#)**

Support for local families **[Find out more](#)**

Volunteer Centre Dorset: **[Volunteer Centre Dorset](#)**

Finally, as a parent of a young person in Dorset, or even just a member of the community please take a moment to read about the recently launched Pineapple Project. It helps us all to participate in building a safer community in which our young people can thrive.

For more details see the report from the Dorset Echo via

<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/23101095.community-project-aims-make-women-weymouth-safer/>

All that remains is for me to send, on behalf of everyone at Compass Learning Centre, very best wishes for the Festive Season and the New Year.



**Alison Glazier
Headteacher**

Life Skills, PSHE & Careers

In **Life Skills** this term Key Stage 3 classes have been working on looking after their Health and Wellbeing. This has included work on being aware of the effects of alcohol on the developing adolescent brain.



We have used the online course at <https://online.smashedproject.org/uk/> to help us with understanding of this topic. We have also been using the film Inside Out to help talk about emotions.

Years 9 and 10 students have been focusing on the topic of relationships: building a support network, conflict resolution and understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships. Meanwhile Year 11 students have been learning about their Post-16 options and making decisions about what they will do at the end of this academic year.



All year groups had the opportunity to commemorate Remembrance Day and our students can be proud of the respectful way they discussed the issues involved. We even made poppies which can be found around school.

Careers and Skills for the Future



National Rail Week saw students across the school showing off their engineering and design skills in spaghetti bridge building. We learnt about the different jobs the rail industry brings to our area.



We also took part in the first ever **National Green Careers week**. Year 10 students took part in a live link up with the RSS Sir David Attenborough, Britain's state of the art polar research ship and met leading polar scientists from the British Antarctic Survey, live from Antarctica, as part of Protecting our Planet Day. Year 9's learnt about skills they could start developing now that will help them be a part of the job market of the future.



Penny from the **Dorset Marvels** project is helping and supporting our young people in Year 11 with their transition to Post-16 further education, apprenticeships and traineeships and we are also excited to be working with **Cosmic Cactus** Careers Advisors who have come into school this week to meet students in Years 9 and 10. Jules and Maria are going to be working more closely with our young people this year to help them develop skills they will need for their futures and to identify what they might like to do for their next steps. <https://www.cosmic-cactus.com/>

Kate



Max Events

Students have made a fantastic start to the year at Max Events.

The Year 10 group have concentrated on building their own camp in preparation for the winter months. They have so far built the fire pit and we have done some outdoor cooking, the fire walls to protect us from the wind, a kitchen area to prepare food and seating.

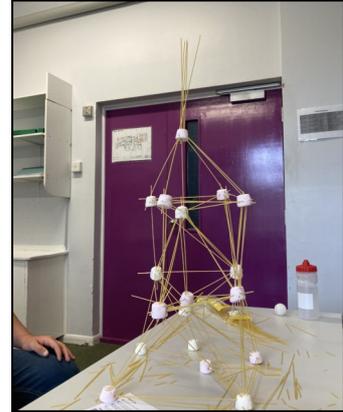
Students have been polite and respectful while using all the facilities. As a reward, they have been able to do activities including axe throwing and archery so far, and are looking forward to being able to ride the quad bikes in the future. **Mark**



Spaghetti & Marshmallow Tower Challenge

The end of the summer term seems a long time ago now, however we must celebrate the winners of the Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower Challenge.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dan and Zach who created a free-standing tower of a massive **76.1cm!!**



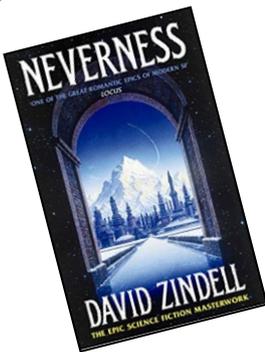
Year 11 Mock Exams - January 2023



Year 11 students will be undertaking GCSE Mock exams **week commencing 9 January 2023** for two weeks.

As in previous years, we will be making adjustments to the school day to accommodate the exams. **More details will follow.**

Reading at Compass



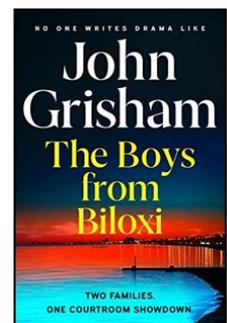
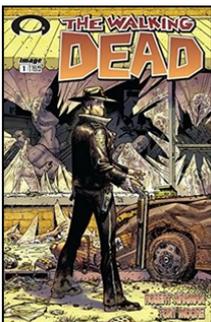
Compass are currently looking to inspire our students to engage more with the written word across multiple genres and media types.

We have set aside three sessions a week when students can hear staff read, research online reading opportunities or spend time interfacing with text types of their choice.



If any parents / guardians have any unwanted books, magazines or comics they are able to donate to broaden the opportunity to read, then please feel free to send them in.

Simon



Friend of Compass

Friends of Compass is made up and supported by the staff and friends of Compass Learning Centre. Friends of Compass exists to raise money for the benefit of all the children at Compass.

Through our fundraising we have been able to provide equipment and resources for use by students within the school; provided funding to help with the development of the sensory garden and Summer School activities; and helped our Year 11 students to celebrate their time with Compass.

Our fundraising activities have been impacted by COVID restrictions, but we are now back up and running.... our latest fundraiser is detailed below.

In the meantime if you, or someone you know, would like to support Friends of Compass then please do contact myself, Paula Doyle, Chairperson.



Tel: 01305 - 206530

email: office@compass.dorset.sch.uk.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.

Paula



Cryptic Quiz Sheets **£1**

Prize £25

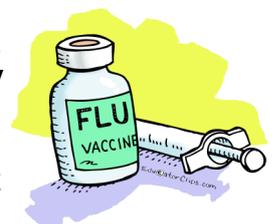
Closing Date 31st January

Available from the school office.

Flu Vaccinations - Years 7-9 Students

Letters are going out inviting students in Years 7 - 9 to take up the offer of a Flu Vaccination. These are taking place at Compass on **Friday 6 January 2023** during the morning.

If you have any questions regarding these, please do not hesitate to contact us.



My Family Coach

My Family Coach is a free online tool created and managed by Team Teach available to parents / carers providing expert support for every parenting challenge.

It can help with a broad range of topics including Friendships, Calming Down, Screen Time, School Life, Healthy living, Bullying, Relationships, Communications, Mental Wellbeing, At Risk Behaviours.

There are free online classes available, and a whole host of resources to support families and children of all ages.

www.myfamilycoach.com



Key Stage 3

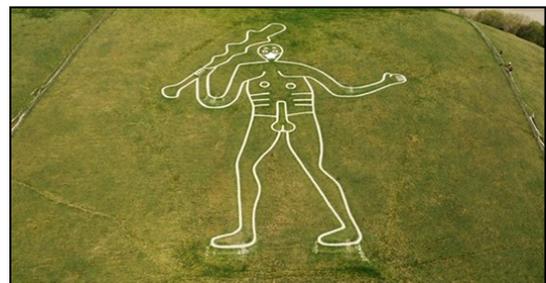
Key Stage 3 students have enjoyed numerous trips since the start of September, showing us what our surrounding areas have to offer. From testing the students orienteering skills around Portland with the 'Chip Run' and Thorncombe Woods, to seeing the history Hardy's Monument and Maiden Castle have to offer.

Our latest trip was to the 'Cerne Abbas Giant', which provided a great walk and history around the 'Giant' and Cerne Abbas. These trips have allowed the students to also work on their fitness, with a lot of walking involved up steep and tricky inclines.

Thankfully, the weather has also been on our side, which has made these trips a whole lot more enjoyable.



Maiden Castle



Cerne Abbas Giant

Callum



Find out more:
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/winter-in-dorset

Winter in Dorset

Get ready for...

Festive sessions and events such as sports, arts and crafts, cooking, live shows and much more.

Lots of exciting experiences to enjoy with friends and family.

Tasty meals at activities and tips for how you can eat well from home.

'Tis the season for fun, food and festivities!
With high quality, accessible and affordable holiday activities for children in Dorset



All Winter in Dorset activities are free for children who are eligible for benefit based free school meals.

Register for your Winter in Dorset passcode by visiting:

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/winter-in-dorset

Contact us 01305 221157 or

winterindorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Important Dates for the Spring Term 2023

As you will be aware an additional Bank Holiday has been announced for **Monday 8 May 2023** in recognition of the Coronation of King Charles III. This means the school be closed on this day.

Spring Term dates are as follows:

Tuesday 3 January 2023	Spring Term begins
Friday 6 January 2023	Years7-9 Flu Immunisations
Monday 9 January 2023	Year 11 Mock Exams week
Thursday 2 February 2023	Parents Evening
Friday 10 February 2023	Students finish for half term holiday
Monday 20 February 2023	INSET Day No: 4
Tuesday 21 February 2023	Students return from half term holiday
Friday 31 March 2023	Students finish for Easter holiday
Monday 17 April 2023	Students return from Easter holiday

