The Humanities Specialist status sits alongside our other specialisms in Science and Special Education Needs. This newsletter is published to celebrate the many Humanities activities and achievements that have been going on at The Thomas Hardye School and in the local community.

**Spammers Welcome!**

As part of the outreach for our specialization Gill Copson has been cooking second world war meals, making time capsules and Roman lamps with first and middle school children.

The recreated World War 2 meal featured spam fritters and it was so popular some of the parents asked for the recipe!

**George Green's Twinning**

Our twinned school is in London. George Green’s is in the Isle of Dogs and they visited Dorset last July and hosted us for a return trip in December.

The students really enjoyed meeting each other and discussing similarities and differences in their lives. One THS student involved said “I enjoyed getting to know people of the same age who had different lifestyles to my own. I think it has made me more confident when meeting people.”

A parent agreed that “Living in such a rural area I think these visits were of enormous value to both sets of students.” The George Green students spent a day in school and some Year 9’s will come this year as part of a new group.

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Humanities specialization co-ordinator Anna Killick said “We have many international links but feel it is also important to try to build a sense of national cohesion and community”.

**Home Front Day**

Humanities outreach teacher Charlotte Brown has been working with Rebekah Edge, head of Humanities at Dorchester Middle School to organise a Home Front Day. All students in year 8 will be off timetable on the 29th June and be involved in a variety of activities to further their knowledge and empathy of those living through the Second World War in Britain. They will be activities they will be taking part in: Handling Second World War artefacts; Interviewing Land Army Women; Cooking food from the Second World War; & Experiencing a full sized Anderson Shelter.

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**Seismometer**

The Thomas Hardye School seismometer contributes to the British Geological Survey’s UK School Seismology Project, promoting ‘real science with real data’. It records seismic activity continually, whilst sitting in a robust case. This was made by staff in Design Technology using a donation of 40mm acrylic sheet from local company, Aquarium Technology Ltd.

The seismometer has been the focus of school enrichment activities and a link with QinetiQ’s STEM Ambassador Jim Nicholson and sixth form Geographers and Physicists.
Oxford Professor Christopher Shields lectured on Aristotle’s idea of how to be permanently happy — the theatre was packed with an audience from seven to plus seventy including many Philosophy and Ethics students who had held revision seminars with him earlier. Some were offended by Aristotle’s claim that you had to be adult and keen on fulfilment through knowledge before you could experience true happiness!

Well known historian Richard Holmes described the lives of some of the ordinary soldiers in the First World War, from their rations to their friendships. Again feedback from students and Dorchester residents was overwhelmingly positive.

2009/2010 Programme
WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO CONFIRMING OUR LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2009/10
As soon as we have confirmed our final bookings we will notify everyone on our lectures mailing list.

The speakers at the 2008/2009 lectures have been engaging speakers, offering lectures that were both entertaining and informative. We expect that this year’s programme will be just as interesting in terms of quality and content. As before we will announce each lecture via the mailing list and posters in School and in Dorchester. If you are not on our mailing list you can send an email* to: rcain@thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk with the subject “Please add me to lectures mail list”

*(Your data is only used for communication about the community lectures and is not used for anything else)

Two Thomas Hardye students have been recognised as the winners of the first Western Front Association School Competition on the Great War, both winning a first prize of £100.

Molly Borland in Year 9 and Ben Winsor in Year 12 were among 9 students who took part in the competition devised by the Western Front Association, which gave students the opportunity to research and examine an area of the Great War.

Year 9 students had the opportunity to present their findings as a project and they could choose from a variety of formats including a Television/Radio programme, a piece of artwork, a model or a piece of extended writing. Each project had to show evidence of research and the student’s point of view on the topic. Year 12 students had the opportunity to write an essay on an area of the Great War.

The 9 students who entered all worked very hard and the final projects and essays were excellent. They were all awarded for their efforts at a Presentation Evening at the Bovington Tank Museum on Thursday 30 April where all entrants received a prize of a book on the Great War, presented to them by the WFA Dorset Branch chairman, Martin Willoughby and the branch Education Officer, David Seymour.

The evening was well attended and guests also had the opportunity to listen to a lecture by the Imperial War Museum’s oral historian, Peter Hart who spoke on how historians use oral accounts as evidence. All those who attended also had the opportunity to view the projects and essays produced by the students and receive a guided tour of the Bovington Tank Museum’s new “Tank Story” exhibition by Chris Copson, the Education Officer at the museum.

Following last July’s successful day for Year 9’s the current group are about to learn about the Geography and History of migration. This will culminate in a day off timetable where visiting theatre in Education group Actionwork will perform their play, 33 Skins. Actionwork will also be visiting other Dorset schools. The play is based on a relationship between teenagers from different backgrounds and encourages students to consider how to tackle racism. The British Red Cross are also going to help to run sessions on the day.

Sixth form geographers took part in decision making exercises featuring local issues with the Environment Agency. The students learnt about the use of ICT in modelling flood zones, stakeholder conflict resolution regarding weed cutting in the River Avon catchment and argued about a range of contrasting beach and shoreline management plans along the Dorset coast.