



Corfe Hills Newsletter

Learning today for a better tomorrow



A word from Sara Jones, Deputy Headteacher

Oct 2025

It has been a fantastic start to the school year for our students, who have truly made the most of every opportunity. As always, we are extremely proud of them for their continued commitment and dedication to their learning.

During the first few weeks of this half term, we organised 'Meet the Tutor' evenings for all year groups. These have been exceptionally well attended by parents/carers and I would like to thank you for your continued support. In September, we were lucky enough to welcome Vikki Slade, MP for Mid Dorset, to Corfe Hills. Students from various year groups met with her to hear about her personal journey and the challenges that she had faced and overcome.

At the end of the summer term, a group of students from Years 10-12 visited Zanzibar with Mr Stone and Mrs Plannells to undertake some voluntary work in local schools.

Our Reading Mentors group was established at the start of term and has been a huge success. Year 12 students have been volunteering their time to mentor some of our Year 9 readers in a kind and supportive environment. It is a lovely way to start Friday mornings! We are really proud of our Little Free Library which you will be able to see when you visit reception. It is a fantastic initiative that provides students and adults with access to free books. Our friends from Lockyer's Middle School popped up for some hot chocolate and a chat about reading before they officially opened it with some of their students.

If you have not yet added our school show to your dairies, please do so quickly. Our students will be performing 'Chicago' (the teen edition) on 26, 27 and 28 November; we are extremely excited and looking forward to it immensely! In October, a group of our Year 10 students watched a performance of 'Blood Brothers' at The Lighthouse. Students and staff found it inspiring and captivating – it's a show that never disappoints.



Corfe Hills Connection

Learning today for a better tomorrow



A word from Sara Jones, Deputy Headteacher continued

Oct 2025

Our sporting successes have continued this half term. Our under 15 boys finished second in the Dorset final – well done, lads. Mia in Year 11 has competed in the ISTD National Dance Championships in Guildford and our netball teams have been phenomenal. Further details can be found inside.

Please remember that our Corfe Hills Carol Service takes place on 15 December at Wimborne Minster.

We would like to wish you all an enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 3 November.

Dates for Diary



Careers CONVENTION

27 Oct – 31 Oct

3 November

3-30 November

17 November

19 November

19 November

21 - 25 November

26 - 28 November

15 December

19 December

Half term

All students return to school

Hope for Food Collection

Parents' Book Club

Early finish at 12.15 except Year 11

Sixth Form Open Evening and Careers Convention.

Iceland Trip

School Show 'Chicago – Teen Edition'

Carol Concert at Wimborne Minster




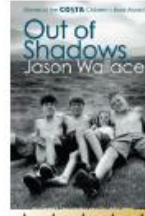




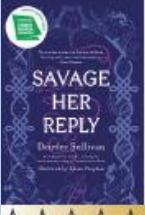
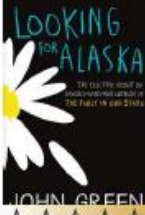






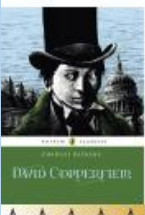



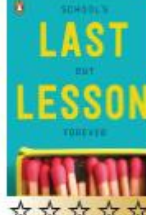



Last day of term. Early closing at 12:20



Reading Lists




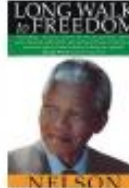
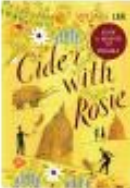


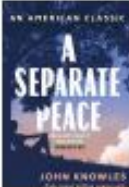















With the importance of reading being paramount for our students, we would like to share these recommended reading lists for Year 9, 10 and 11 students, taken from schoolreadinglist.co.uk Many of these books can be found in our LRC and are worth a read!

Year 11

 ☆☆☆☆☆ Belladonna by Adalyn Grace	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Birdsong by Sebastian Faulkes	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Out of Shadows by Jason Wallace	 ☆☆☆☆☆ #MurderTrending by Gretchen McNeil	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Dune by Frank Herbert	 ☆☆☆☆☆ They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera	
 ☆☆☆☆☆ Savage Her Reply by Deirdre Sullivan	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Looking for Alaska by John Green	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Maus by Art Spiegelman	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Flowers For Algernon by Daniel Keyes	 ☆☆☆☆☆ When Shadows Fall by Sita Brahmachari	 ☆☆☆☆☆ War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Baby Teeth by Meg Grehan
 ☆☆☆☆☆ David Copperfield by Charles Dickens	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Last Lesson by James Goodhand	 ☆☆☆☆☆ HappyHead by Josh Silver	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Silver Chain by Jion Sheibani	 ☆☆☆☆☆ You Think You Know Me by Ayaan Mohamud

Reading Lists

Year 10

 ☆☆☆☆☆ Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Great Expectations by Charles Dickens	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Cider With Rosie by Laurie Lee	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck	
 ☆☆☆☆☆ A Separate Peace by John Knowles	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Almond by Ian McEwan	 ☆☆☆☆☆ I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith	 ☆☆☆☆☆ All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy by John le Carré	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Paper Butterflies by Lisa Heathfield	 ☆☆☆☆☆ We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nelsen
 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Fault in Our Stars by John Green	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K Dick	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Every Day by David Levithan	 ☆☆☆☆☆ A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness	 ☆☆☆☆☆ 18 minutes: A Novel by Sarah Pinborough	 ☆☆☆☆☆ After Life by Gayle Forman	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Pieces of Us by Stewart Foster	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Red Flags by Sophie Jo

Year 9

 ☆☆☆☆☆ King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessorre	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Let's Play Murder by Kesia Lupo	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume	 ☆☆☆☆☆ This Book Kills by Ravena Guron	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Giften by Leyla Suzan	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Lionheart Girl by Yaba Badoe	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Every Line of You by Naomi Gibson	
 ☆☆☆☆☆ Four Eids and a Funeral by Farrah Aboe-Tymide and Afifa Jaegerar	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Brighton Rock by Graham Greene	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Brave New World by Aldous Huxley	 ☆☆☆☆☆ One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Secrets Act by Alison Weatherby	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Midwich Cuckoo by John Wyndham	 ☆☆☆☆☆ You'll Be the Death of Me by Karen M. Molmanus	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
 ☆☆☆☆☆ Dracula by Bram Stoker	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Thief by Malorie Blackman	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Frankenstein by Mary Shelley	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Call by Peadar O'Guinn	 ☆☆☆☆☆ Future Hopes edited by Lauren James	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Blue Book of Nebo by Manon Steffan Ros	 ☆☆☆☆☆ The Balloon Thief by Anessa Marufu	 ☆☆☆☆☆ I, Claudius by Robert Graves

Charity

Update - Our Hills Hike charity event last term raised an amazing £1830. The Hills Hike was not only a fantastic way to promote physical activity and wellbeing, but also a meaningful opportunity to raise awareness and funds for a vital cause. CRY works to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research, and we are proud to support their mission.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, donated, and helped organise the event.



Our Macmillan cake sale at Parents Evening and at our coffee morning raised an amazing £229.67. Thanks to everyone who helped support this great cause.



Youth Workers



Corfe Mullen Youth Trust (CMYT) is excited to begin a new partnership with Corfe Hills School, offering additional support to students through regular youth work in school.

From next half term, CMYT youth workers will be in school every Monday (except on bank holidays or INSET days, when the session will be replaced). During break and lunchtime, our team will be around the school — in social areas, the canteen, and outdoor spaces — to provide informal support. This could be a friendly chat, a listening ear, or guidance around friendships, wellbeing, and everyday challenges.

There will also be opportunities for students to access one-on-one or small group sessions focused on key topics that affect young people today, such as confidence, managing stress, and building positive relationships. These sessions can be requested through the pastoral team, ensuring that support is available for those who would most benefit.

This new partnership aims to give students an extra layer of support from trusted youth workers who understand the pressures young people face and can offer encouragement, advice, and a safe space to talk. CMYT is looking forward to working alongside school staff to help make Corfe Hills a place where every young person can thrive.

For more information, please contact Laura Vincent, Senior Student Support Manager, at lvincent@corfehills.net.

AJ Fewtrell – Lead Youth Worker

Design & Technology Trip

This term, GCSE and A-Level Design and Technology students embarked on an exciting educational trip to the **Natural History Museum** and the **Science Museum** in London. The visit was designed to deepen student's understanding of key curriculum areas through real-world applications and interactive exhibits.

At the **Natural History Museum**, students explored the **carbon cycle** and **material properties**, gaining insight into how natural processes and resources influence modern design choices. Exhibits on biomaterials and sustainability sparked discussions around environmental impact and ethical design—core themes in both GCSE and A-Level specifications.

The **Science Museum** offered a hands-on look at **microelectronics**, including the use of **silica in circuit design**, and showcased the evolving role of **technicians** in engineering and manufacturing. Students were able to connect classroom theory with cutting-edge technology, reinforcing topics such as systems and control, smart materials, and career pathways in STEM.

This trip not only enriched students' knowledge but also highlighted the relevance of Design and Technology in solving global challenges. It was an opportunity to see the curriculum come to life and inspire future innovators.



Visit from MP Vikki Slade

On Friday 19 September, we were lucky enough to welcome MP for Mid Dorset, Vikki Slade to Corfe Hills School.

Students from Years 9, 10 and 12 formed a focus group and spent half an hour with Mrs Slade, learning about her journey from school girl to Member of Parliament. She talked about the challenges she had faced, what she loved most about her constituency and the day to day running of her role.

Students asked Mrs Slade a variety of questions covering her opinions on Reform UK and Nigel Farage, US President Donald Trump, former US President Joe Biden, Gaza, climate change and flying the Union Flag. Mrs Slade was happy to answer all of these questions fully and truthfully, which the group appreciated, and was incredibly complimentary about our amazing students as she left.

We're sure the talk could have gone on for much longer but Mrs Slade was due to appear on TV later that day and had to get going (although she spent a lot longer with us than her communications advisor had intended!).

We are very grateful to Vikki Slade for giving up the time so that a selection of students were able to get a glimpse into the often secret world of politics, ask questions and inspire their own ambitions.



Little Free Library

We are excited to have opened our CHS Little Free Library in the school grounds by the Reception office. This is a brilliant initiative to give students and adults access to free books all year round! We couldn't resist inviting some friends from Lockyer's Middle School to join us for hot chocolate and book chat in the library before opening the Little Free Library and taking a book home to read. Thanks so much to our Sixth Form Literacy Ambassadors, Esther and Matilda, to our Reading Ambassadors James and Lisa and to our brilliant caretaker, Roy for this wonderful new outdoor library! #readwhereyouare



Things have been looking spooky in the LRC in the lead up to Halloween!

We've got a fearful selection of ghosts, vampires, murders and mysteries for you to unravel from classic authors like Stephen King, Darren Shan, Stephanie Meyer and of course Bram Stoker!

Half Term is the perfect time to read for fun and give yourself a few scares along the way. Grab a pumpkin, a hot chocolate and a good book!

Books can be borrowed from the LRC for 3 weeks at a time and there's no scary late charges!!





Ghana Trip 5-13 July 2025

Following on from our successful participation in a similar trip to Zanzibar (July 2023), nine of our students (Years 10-12), accompanied by Mr Stone and Mrs Planells, joined students and staff from five other schools on an African Adventures trip to Ghana. After a 6 hour flight, we stayed overnight in the capital, Accra, before embarking on a 4 hour bus journey along the coast to the south-east corner of the country to a small town called Woe (pronounced 'Way'), which was our base for the week. We stayed in a hostel known as Volunteer House, which was part of a charity called The Young Shall Grow that helps orphaned Ghanaian street children. During the week, the British students were split into groups and went to undertake voluntary work in schools around the area. This work fell into 3 categories: teaching (or assisting) lessons, sports coaching and construction. This last proved to be popular with our students, enthusiastically rising to the challenge of mixing mortar, shaping bricks and helping to build new perimeter walls around the school buildings. At the end of our stay, we left donations for the schools that students had brought with them, including clothing, educational resources and sporting equipment. The week had its challenges, both physically and emotionally, but our students adapted superbly and made a difference.





Ghana Trip continued

The week concluded with a (very long) trip back along the coast to the other side of Accra where we took in two tourist experiences. First, a trip to the Kakum National Park, and a canopy walk through the rainforest treetops 300 feet above the ground! Then, onto a more sobering visit to the castle at Cape Coast, once used by the British as a holding bay for West African slaves being transported to the Americas. The visit to Ghana was a life-changing experience for all involved, something that none of us will forget.



Reading Mentors



The Autumn Term always signifies new beginnings in the LRC as we set up our Reading Mentors group.

Every Friday, a group of Year 12 students volunteer to mentor some Year 9 students and to share reading a book.

This programme has had great success in previous years and offers a kind and supportive approach to improving skills together.

Often, once students have read together they become a good listening ear and a good role model, in spite of the age gap. Our older students have shown great commitment to this responsibility and have found it's an excellent talking point in University and Apprenticeship interviews.

We provide a variety of contemporary and some classic stories as well as the occasional morning snack! It's a really positive part of our Friday mornings.



Netball



Congratulations to our Year 11 Netball team (Ava, Nyla, Suzie, Ruby, Mia, Sophie, Violet, Sophie, Beau and Isabel) who have grown year on year: from losing most games in Year 9 to reaching the Year 10 SW Nationals for comprehensive schools. This half term, they finished runners-up in the PEDSSA league, winning 8 of their 9 fixtures. They've also qualified for next month's County Championships and will proudly represent Poole and East Dorset in November.

They are superb role models, showing that hard work, resilience and togetherness pay off. They volunteer their time to support our younger teams and many now play for clubs outside school, with several competing at regional level too.

A heartfelt thank you to our assistant coach, Kelly Mulcahy, who tirelessly gives her time to coach and support the squad, and to our wonderful parents who turn out to support them. Thank you to our wonderful Mr Evans who drives us everywhere too.

Netball

Year 9 have only been playing netball for a few weeks and already we have taken 3 teams to QE. They were excellent ambassadors for Corfe Hills and played so well. We are so proud of you! It was wonderful to have so many parents there to support. Well done and thank you.



Blood Brothers

On Thursday 9 October, a group of Year 10 Drama students visited Poole Lighthouse to watch 'Blood Brothers' on stage. Having played in the West End for over 24 years, this well-established touring production offered students the rich opportunity to see the text and characters studied in Year 9 come alive on a professional stage. The thoughtful and imaginative lighting design was highly atmospheric and really enhanced the joy and sadness of the story whilst the costumes clearly communicated the time period and social divide between Edward and Mickey. Sean Jones was excellent in his depiction of Mickey and his loss of hope as the play progresses. Although there were a fair few tears in the audience at the end, the cast received a well-deserved standing ovation from the packed auditorium.

'I liked how it shows that the strongest of bonds can break.' Joseph

'Absolutely captivating... it inspired me.' Ryan

'I loved how my emotions changed throughout; it was definitely worth going.' Poppy

'I loved it.' Hannah



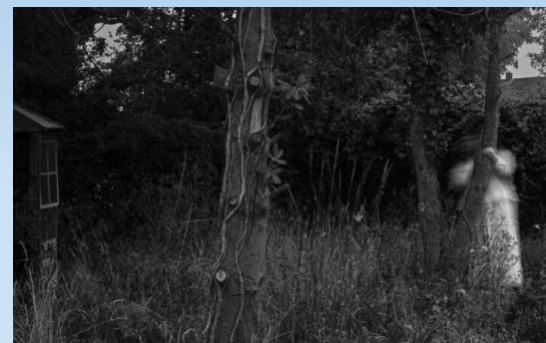
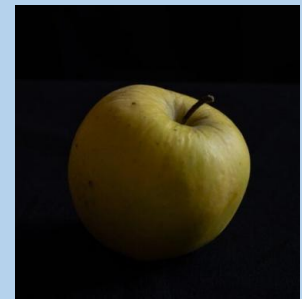
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD
Brothers



Photography



The photographs above are taken by the Year 10 photography students who have been looking at FORMAL ELEMENTS as their starting point.



Our Year 13 students are deep into their Personal Investigations and have been looking at a range of topics including Ghosts, The Impact of Lighting on a Subject and the Urban Environment. They have produced a fabulous range of outcomes.

Tennis

Well done to the under 15 boys tennis team: Jude, Connor, Noah and Seb who finished second in the Dorset final vs Sherborne School. They played brilliantly and should be very proud of their achievement.



Dance

Mia from Year 11 competed in the ISTD National Dance Championships at Guildford on the weekend of 11-12 October. She came third in the individual competition, second in the duo and first in the team event. Huge congratulations on such an amazing achievement!



**Imperial Society of
Teachers of Dancing**

Carol Concert

Come and join us for a very special evening of festive music and readings celebrating the theme of Joy.

Corfe Hills Carol Service
Wimborne Minster
Monday 15th December
7pm

Join us for a heartwarming evening of festive music and uplifting readings, all celebrating the joyful spirit of the season.

Save the date!



School Show

Dates:

**Wednesday 26 November:
Student Matinee 2.15pm, Evening
7pm**

Thursday 27 November 7pm

Friday 28 November 7pm

Tickets Available: £8 (£5 Year 11 and below)

Click on the link below

[Corfe Hills School event tickets from TicketSource.](#)



'Chicago Teen Edition' features adult content and themes, parental discretion is advised for audience members under 12 years of age.

In “Roaring Twenties” Chicago, ambitious chorus girl Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap... until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the "American Dream": fame, fortune, and freedom. Featuring show-stopping tunes, ‘All That Jazz’, and ‘Cell Block Tango,’ we welcome you to a ‘Razzle Dazzle’ world of deceit, cunning and manipulation.

CHICAGO: TEEN EDITION is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Based on the play by Maurine Dallas Watkins

Script adaptation by David Thompson

Dorset Mental Health for Schools Team



NEW
podcast
from Dorset MHST

TEA TALK + TEENS

Let's make
mental health
conversations
part of
everyday life.

**LISTEN NOW -
AVAILABLE FREE
ON SPOTIFY**

BIT.LY/MHSTPODCAST

**PODCAST
LAUNCH**

The graphic features a blue background with orange and white text and graphics. At the top, it says 'NEW podcast from Dorset MHST'. Below this is a large orange circle containing a blue mug with 'MHST' on it, surrounded by the text 'TEA TALK + TEENS'. To the right, a circular inset photo shows two women sitting on a couch, one holding a mug. At the bottom, there is a green button with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'BIT.LY/MHSTPODCAST', and a circular logo with the text 'PODCAST LAUNCH'.

Dorset Mental Health Support Teams in Schools have launched a brand-new podcast: Tea Talk + Teens!

Episode 1 explores how simple conversations can make a big difference to your teen's world and why talking really matters.

Listen now on Spotify 👉 bit.ly/MHSTPodcast

Parent Champion Sessions

Please come along to our Parent Champion Session on 6 November at Corfe Hills run by SENDiass4BCP. This is a drop in session and you are welcome anytime between 10am-12pm.



PARENT CARERS TOGETHER



Bournemouth Christchurch Poole

6th November 2025

Parent Champion sessions are coming to your school

Drop-in session any time between 10am - 12pm

Ever felt lost in the world of SEND and wish you had someone to talk to in confidence?
Would you like to know more about local services in your community?
Do you need support in finding the right place for advice and information?
Would support understanding processes and wording be helpful?

Our Parent Champion is here to listen and find the best way to support you.

Any parent/carer can access the drop in if they have worries or concerns that their child may have an additional need that is not being met by existing resources. A diagnosis is not required.



All volunteers are subject to enhanced DBS checks



Every volunteer completes an induction programme



Supervision

Each volunteer receives ongoing supervision from an experienced supervisor.

Social Media



@CorfeHillsSchool

@CorfeHillsSchool



@CorfeHills



Keep in the loop of what is going on at Corfe Hills School!

Spread the great work CHS students and staff do by sharing CHS posts on social media or/and letting friends and family know of our school events!



Corfe Hills School

High Expectations | Exceptional Individuals

Friends of Corfe Hills – PTA Second-hand uniform to buy



Blazer	£10.00
Hoodie	£7.00
Jumper	£5.00
Trousers	£2.00
Skirt	£2.00
Sports shorts*	£5.00
Sports tops *	£5.00
<u>Girls</u> leggings*	£5.00
<u>Boys</u> tracksuit bottoms*	£5.00
White shirts	Free
Socks	Free



For enquiries, please email pta@corfehills.net

Uniform Donations

If you have outgrown uniform items, please recycle them by donating these to **The Friends of Corfe Hills - PTA**
(Please ensure it is washed beforehand)

Money raised will be put to good use by the PTA!

Uniform will be sold via social media, email and second-hand uniform sales at school.

***Please note that only current Year 10 and 11s can continue with the existing PE kit.**

If you would like to enquire about second-hand uniform, that the PTA already has, please email pta@corfehills.net

Dorset Futsal

JOIN DORSET FUTSAL CLUB TODAY!



Looking to supplement your football skills?
Wanting to try a new sport?

Dorset Futsal club is passionate about spreading the amazing sport of futsal to as many children as possible, whether it is introducing people to a new sport, or developing their football skills and abilities.

Dorset Futsal club's youth sessions are back underway at Corfe Hills school and St. Mary's Middle School after the school holidays. Dorset Futsal men's team play in the national futsal series, recently winning the national cup, south west play off division and earning promotion to the second tier of the England futsal pyramid, playing against top teams across the country, with the ladies team also playing at a national level.

Futsal is an adapted version of football and a fantastic tool for development because



the smaller pitch and faster pace give them more touches, boost their confidence,

and sharpen their skills, helping them become more creative, skilful, and prepared to excel in football and a future futsal player. It acts as a great way to learn a new sport, or for players looking to enhance their football development, with some of our players recently being recommended to the national stage.

We are also establishing a pathway into our men's team which plays in the national league, playing against international level players with ties to the England futsal performance programme looking for the next best talent. Could this be you?

We are offering free taster sessions for the following age groups.

Monday – 6-7pm – U8's up to U13's – Corfe Hills School, Poole

Wednesday – 6-7pm – U8/9's up to U11's St. Mary's Middle School, Puddletown, Dorchester

Wednesday – 7-8pm – U12/13/14's St. Mary's Middle School, Puddletown, Dorchester

Friday – 6-7pm - U8's up to U13's – Corfe Hills School, Poole

Friday – 7-8pm – U14's and U15's – Corfe Hills School, Poole

If your child enjoys the session, then they can sign up for £7.50 per session every week.

Please get in touch with youth director, Callum Moss either at callum.moss@live.co.uk or via whatsapp/message at **07582 534068** about signing up for one of our sessions and further information should you wish to sign up to the youth sessions going forward

If you know anyone who may also be interested, we would love to hear from them