



## Ready for European Elections

BY LLOYD HATTON, Student union president and Dorset MYP



THE Thomas Hardy School Sixth Form has hosted its first European Election Hustings.

The five largest parties attended, with MEP candidates Melissa Maynard (Conservative), Emily McIvor (Green Party), Kay Barnard (Liberal Democrat), Gawain Towler (UKIP) and county council group leader Mike Byatt (Labour) on the panel.

The event provided lively debate about international trade, migration, agriculture, the international role of the UK and trusting our politicians.

The audience also played an active role, providing insightful comments and constructive criticisms.

Student Luke Scott summed up the debate by saying: "To meet representatives and hear first-hand what they had to say has proved invaluable."

An audience held afterwards established that 31 per cent 'supported or would vote for' the Green Party, 19 per cent favoured Conservative, 17 per cent supported UKIP, while Labour and the Liberal Democrats received a 9 per cent backing each. Fifteen per cent remained undecided.

After the debate many older students took the opportunity to speak with candidates to understand more about casting their first ever vote for in next month's Euro Election.

Overall the debate proved a huge success as students gained vital information and candidates became more engaged with the concerns of young people in Dorset.

This event marks the beginning of our mock European Election period as students begin to campaign throughout the school before voting day.

Student Union Presidents Lloyd Hatton & Tom Gayton  
The Thomas Hardy School Sixth Form

# It's not a girl thing

STEREOTYPES seem to be becoming fact when it comes to sport; that girls don't want to do anything that will make them look unattractive – like sweating.

There is a dramatic difference between the percentage of girls aged 11-16 and 5-10 doing sport, and I believe it's because once girls reach secondary schools the larger crowds and cliques mean they care a lot more about getting sweaty or dirty because of the way they'll look to other people.

I do understand the aversion, from personal experience, secondary schools become a lot

By NICOLA POWELL



more focused on outward appearances and the way others perceive you.

It is not just age that seems to affect the percentage of people taking up sport, but also gender.

In all years, boys were more likely to complete three hours of PE and extra-curricular sports than girls.

Furthermore, as children get older this gap between genders seems to increase.

There is no conclusive evidence as to why this might be but there is a clear link to the transition from primary to secondary schools.

Not only do appearances matter in secondary schools, but also social lives increase. Within secondary schools and the changes to friendship groups, it does seem plausible that the divergence from organised group sports to just 'hanging out' will occur.

Whereas boys seem to view

sports as their social activities, girls may view it as a chore.

Although there is little to do about this issue, it is a comment on the way some girls are brought up to act in a certain way, look a certain way and talk a certain way.

The cliques that form as part of secondary schooling is a part of the natural adolescent experience.

However, the lack of competitive sporting does mean girls may miss out on an important aspect of life and the bonds that can form while doing sport.

## Construction awards for teen trainees

TWO teenage trainees from Weymouth College have scooped awards in a construction competition.

Ambitious apprentices Henry Walsh and Max Trim, both 18, headed to City College Plymouth to collect their awards in SkillBuild 2014.

More than 100 construction trainees battled it out, but Henry won first place in the place joinery new entrant category and Max won second in the place joinery senior category.

Janette Welton-Pai, CITB's sec-

tor strategy manager for the South East said: "SkillBuild is all about the way that people setting out on their construction career approach their work.

Most of the competitors are still learning so it's not just about the finished article, it's about the whole process that they go through."

The competition is organised and supported by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), the Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for the construction industry.



PRESENTATION: Phil Davies of City College Plymouth presents Weymouth College's Max Trim with his award

Are you a young person with something to say? If so, we would love to hear from you. To get in touch to contribute to this page email youth@dorsetecho.co.uk or call reporter Samantha Harman on 01305 756032. Tweet @dorsetechoyouth