

DORSET COUNCIL SCHOOLS CELEBRATE LEAGUE TABLE SUCCESSES



Christopher Wadley, head of literacy, Darren Marklew, joint principal, and Sharon Chapman, Year Six teacher, with Year Seven pupils at IPACA Royal Manor Campus celebrating SATS success

SCHOOLS across Dorset are celebrating great results after performing well in league tables.

League table information is based on National Curriculum tests taken by pupils this year.

West Dorset schools did particularly well with Loders Primary, Bridport, Thorner's Primary, Litton Cheney, and Marshwood Primary Academy in Bridport all in the top 10 ranked schools in Dorset.

The government has said schools must ensure that at least 65 per cent of 11-year-olds reach Level 4 – the standard expected of the age group – in reading, writing and maths, and meet national averages in pupil progress. That standard was met by all schools in south and west Dorset.

The national Scholastic Assessment Tests (SATs) taken by 10 and 11-year-olds in English and maths have divided opinion amongst teachers, with some in favour while others say the figures released don't provide a full picture of a school's achievements.

A spokesman for Dorset County Council said: "We aim to give all of Dorset's children the very best start in education and are very pleased with the high standards achieved in our foundation stage and key stage one results. While our key stage two results are good and in line with national levels, we are not complacent and are working hard to improve them."

The spokesman added: "As a local authority we are keen to develop new ways of working with our schools."

"Recently we have been part of a programme of seminars with Ofsted to look at ways we can improve the outcomes of pupils eligible for free school meals and we have further projects underway to target other areas of improvement."

Joint interim principal at IPACA on Portland, Darren Marklew, said they were 'delighted' with the results, which saw 75 per cent of students get Level 4 or above in maths, writing and reading. A total of 90 per cent of students achieved Level 4 or above in reading alone.

Mr Marklew said: "It caps off a lot of hard work from both staff and students."

He added the academy had high aspirations for all its students.

A spokesman for The Chesil Education Partnership, which represents Weymouth and Portland schools, said:

"The Chesil Education Partnership recognises the success of a number of Chesil schools through the KS2 SATs process and is delighted that partnership work is clearly contributing to raising achievement for all our learners."

St Osmund's Middle School in Dorchester had 85 per cent of pupils get Level 4 or above in all three subjects.

Headteacher Jim Williams said: "We were delighted with the effort made by both children and staff alike in maximising the achievement of the pupils at the end of key stage two."

In West Dorset, Marshwood CofE Primary Academy was ranked fourth in Dorset for its results. Students got 100 per cent pass rates across all subjects. Chairman of governors Barry Allsop said: "We are absolutely delighted."