



James Hall Kings of Leon to release a clothing range? Are they serious? telegraph.co.uk/blogs

Virtual tour of Hardy country

Dorchester launches its own 'street view'



Clockwise from top left: on the Thomas Hardy trail; The Keep military museum; The Keep's exterior; town crier Alistair Chisholm



The market town of Dorchester has launched its own internet street view service after deciding it could not wait any longer for Google's popular version.

Visitors to the website are able to tour the town and visit locations that featured in the novels of Thomas Hardy, the Dorset town's most famous son. The virtual tourists can

also wander in and out of public buildings, such as shops, museums and schools, taking in a 360-degree view.

The town crier, Alistair Chisholm, is featured

ringing his bell on the main shopping precinct.

The website – the first of its kind in the country – was set up because local officials decided they could not wait any

longer for Google Street View to go live for the town.

Virtual Dorchester can be viewed at www.dorchesterdorset.com/virtual_dorchester.php

Pupils to have say on school rule changes

By Graeme Paton
Education Editor

TEACHERS will be forced to ask pupils' permission before altering the curriculum and length of the school day under new plans.

State schools in England and Wales will be legally obliged to seek children's views on major policy changes to make them feel more valued.

The rules, which will come into force in September, will cover secondary and primary schools – forcing head teachers to consult pupils as young as five.

The new duty will cover changes to the curriculum to ensure lessons are more "relevant" to their lives, as well as moves to restructure the timetable and reforms to school equality rules.

Teachers have criticised the plan, claiming it would be "open to abuse" from malicious pupils.

A leading academic has also said that an increase in

children's rights risked a deteriorating "crisis of adult authority".

Dennis Hayes, professor of education at Derby University, said the "obsession" with consulting pupils over issues such as homework undermined the power of adults.

He suggested that it also encouraged bad behaviour among children because teachers and parents no longer used their authority to impose clear moral guidelines.

The Government insisted that listening to the "pupil voice" increased the bond between children and the school, meaning they were more likely to behave and work hard.

Baroness Morgan, the Children's Minister, said: "Many heads and teachers have already discovered that involving children and young people appropriately in decisions that affect them has a positive impact on learning and behaviour."

Students stay alert for just 10 minutes

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

month for Olympus, the tech-

Older graduates snap up extra jobs