



Dormers Diary

October 2016

From the Headteacher...

Welcome to our first *Dormers Diary* of the new academic year. We are delighted to report exceptional GCSE and A level results, the best Dormers Wells has ever achieved. They make us the most-improved school in Ealing. Details are featured in our front-page news story. Our attention now turns to the future and I am looking forward to working with students, parents, staff and governors to deliver another inspirational, high-achieving year. Our priorities include literacy, boosting students' cultural capital, and promoting a leadership ethos, and this edition of *Dormers Diary* is packed full of news highlighting activities being undertaken in support of them. Our Year 7s have made an excellent start to their careers at Dormers Wells and you can read more about a residential adventure trip they enjoyed on page 3. They, along with our Year 8s, have already read more than 10 million words



this academic year, which is an incredible achievement. Meanwhile, working with the John Lyon Trust, we are expanding our formal leadership training programme to develop students as cyber mentors. We are also proud to have launched our new *Behaviour for Learning Policy*. It encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning, equipping them with the mind-set they will need to become successful leaders in the future. Our thanks go to the parents who worked with us in the Summer Term to prepare it for publication. Finally, in another exciting development, we have launched a new, improved website (pictured below). The new site is more user-friendly and easier to navigate. I encourage you all to have a browse. I wish you all a pleasant half-term break.

Róisín Walsh
Headteacher

Best-ever GCSE and A Level results



Dormers Wells witnessed two days of celebrations in August with students achieving the school's best-ever results in both GCSE and A Level examinations. The hard work of Year 13 students was rewarded with excellent results across the board. Eighty-four per cent of A Levels were achieved at grades A* to C, with almost half (48%) at grades A* to B and nearly a quarter (23%) either A* or A. Results in vocational subjects were also strong, with every student taking Vocational Applied General Courses gaining three substantial qualifications. Those results have secured students places at a number of Russell Group and other leading universities including Bath, Bristol, Goldsmiths, Nottingham, Queen Mary, Reading, Royal Holloway, SOAS and Southampton, to read subjects including Dentistry, Economics, History, Management, Mechanical Engineering, Photography, Physics, Politics and Psychology.

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Dormers Wells High School
Opening the door to success



Best-ever exam results



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One student has chosen to study Dentistry in Spain at the University of Valencia and another has deferred entry having secured a prestigious Google internship. The excellence of those results was mirrored in Year 11, with more than a third (36%) of GCSE results at grades A* to B and just under two-thirds (62%) at A* to C. The results were ten per cent better than in 2015, which means that Dormers Wells is officially the most-improved school for GCSE results in Ealing. They also catapult us into a prestigious position on the national stage, with the Fisher Family Trust recognising Dormers as being in the top five per cent of schools for students gaining grades A* to C in English and Maths. Results in Maths were particularly strong, with students achieving results 0.97% better than their starting points suggested they would; the Ealing average was just 0.35%. Outstanding individual performers included Shahir Ahmed (An A* with Distinction, five A*s and five As), Arwar Shahbaz (Eight A*s and two As), Rianna Vaghjiani (seven A*s and four As), and Rabeeha Karim, Natasha Malinevski and Ameerah Nehor (six A*s and five As each). Ameerah is pictured below with her proud mum.

Headteacher Ms Walsh said: "These results are a well-deserved reward for the hard work of students, commitment of teachers and support of parents and carers. They place Dormers Wells amongst the leading schools not just in Ealing, but nationwide. All concerned can be proud of their achievements. With so many of those achieving excellent GCSE results staying at Dormers Wells for A levels, we look forward to celebrating exceptional results from them again in 2018."



Sports round-up

The new **football** season's fixtures are now well underway, with many of Dormers' teams having played games. Notable results include the Year 8 boys (below) running out 6-3 winners against Elthorne High School. The whole team played well, but Shams Mandozi particularly distinguished himself by scoring four goals and providing the assist for another.

A staff versus sixth formers fixture at the end of September saw the staff run out 4-3 winners. Having built a 3-1 lead by half-time, the staff had to fight off a comeback by sixth formers in the second half. Staff goals were scored by Mr Job (2), Mr Gorvin and Mr Mahamud, with Zakeria Hashi of 12PT, Yahye Ali of 12SOL and Shuayb Adam of 12SME replying for the sixth form. Mr Gorvin missed a second half penalty.



Dormers Wells **athletes** have also begun their competitive season, with Year 8 and 9 students running in the borough cross country event at Berkeley Playing Fields on 6th October. The highlight of the afternoon was Mohamed Sharif Ali finishing 30 seconds ahead of his nearest rival to secure victory in the senior boys event. Abdi Mohamed and Hanad Ahmed finished in fourth and fifth respectively.



The Year 11 inter-form **netball** tournament (above) that took place at the end of September was won by 11OS. The team triumphed in a gripping final against 11BT, with Amin Ahmed and Shacquilla Powis Smith winning plaudits for their outstanding performances. The tournament raised £68.50, which will go towards the costs of the Year 11 prom and year book.

Ice-cold snapper



Photography by A Level student Enisha Samra. Inspired by the high speed photography of Harold Edgerton, Enisha has chosen the theme 'Water' for her personal project and is investigating different techniques and processes to capture water in its many forms. This photograph is one of hundreds taken at a number of photo shoots. Using an external flash gun, she managed to freeze the movement of the water as the fruit was dropped into it. Seeing water frozen in such detail encourages the viewer to think about the process of an action as simple as dropping an object in liquid.

Focus Evenings



This half term's Focus Evening events for Years 7, 11 and 12 (pictured above) have seen strong turnouts from parents and carers. Attendees gave the events the thumbs up, noting the useful content, welcoming atmosphere and value of developing contact between home and school. The Year 11 event included a presentation from Ellen Smith of Royal Holloway, a college of the University of London, offering advice on University applications.

Also visiting from the University of London this half term were PhD students Hannah Jenkins and Glorianne Said. Sixty Year 11 and 12 students enjoyed a session with them learning more about studying clinical psychology at degree level.

Garden wins national recognition

Dormers Wells has won third prize in the 'Cultivation Street' awards, a national competition for school gardens. The awards recognise school gardens that have engaged students in creating an inspirational place that helps to teach them how to garden and interact with nature, and are open to entries from across the UK. The gardens entered can be edible or ornamental and new or well-established. The awards are fronted by celebrity gardener David Domoney, host of the ITV programme *Love Your Garden*.

Dormers Wells' garden was established 13 years ago as a project to boost the self-esteem of students struggling in mainstream education. The project has blossomed, with horticulture now available as a subject, many students going on



to higher level study and employment within the industry, and produce regularly made available for sale to parents, carers and staff at school events.

Year 7s' adventurous trip

Year 7 students enjoyed a residential trip to the Longridge outdoor centre this half term. They tried activities including crate stacking, go karting and water orbing. They had a brilliant time, challenging themselves and learning to work as a team. They were also lucky enough to meet Paralympic gold medallist Jeanette Chippington (pictured with them below), who was training on a nearby river. Reporting on the trip, Adsayan Karunaharan, of 7MI, picked out the hard-work and kindness of his team and the water orbing session as particular highlights.



DIARY DATES

Thursday 10th November: Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 17th November: Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 1st December: Year 8 Parents' Evening

Friday 16th December: School breaks up for Christmas

Tuesday 3rd January 2017: Spring Term begins

Year 11s' Prom finale

More than 120 students enjoyed the Year 11 Prom in June. It was held at the Riverside Venue in Hounslow and saw students enjoying a three-course meal, dancing to a DJ, and a boys versus girls dance-off. The evening also witnessed the presentation of numerous awards to students, in categories including the 'most stylish' (Haneeha Zaman), 'most bubbly' (Ayaan Ali), 'best hair' (Mustafa Tamimi), and 'best spokesperson' (Yahye Ali).



Fortius rock the house

More than 200 students enjoyed a trip to a special 'Rock Assembly' at Wembley Arena at the end of the Summer Term as a reward for their efforts on behalf of their school houses. Members of winning house Fortius were joined by the best-performing students from their five rivals. They visited a Futures Fair (right) that featured stalls from organisations including Barclays, Facebook, Nationwide, the Royal Navy, Siemens and *Which?* University, before heading into the venue for performances by Lethal Bizzle, Wstrn, BB Diamond, Sonna Rele, Raleigh Ritchie, Careless Sons, Dixon Brothers and Rebecca James. The event earned rave reviews, with Year 8 student Ibrahim Khalif describing it as "...the best time I've ever had at Dormers Wells."



Meanwhile, the new academic year has begun with two changes to the staff leadership team of the houses. Staff leaders are now (from left to right): Mrs El-Kandil (Laurus), Mr Portwain (Magnus), Ms Manu (Altius), Mr Paine (Citius), Mrs Johnson (Fortius), and Ms Blakebrough (Invictus).



Cake against cancer



Dormers Wells bakers raised £410 for the cancer support charity MacMillan this half-term.

The school was participating in the charity's 2016 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' event on 30th September, which saw schools, businesses and other organisations holding similar events.

Artwork of the Half-Term



Our first Artwork of the Half-Term for the 2016–17 academic year is a self-portrait in acrylics by Arti Naique. Arti produced the piece as GCSE coursework. She is now studying A Levels, including Art, at Dormers Wells. Artists nominated for the Artwork of the Half-term accolade in the 2015–16 year were Navjot Sagoo (Summer edition), Bhumi Umesh (May edition) and Keren Sandi (Easter edition).