



Dormers Diary

Easter 2018

From the Headteacher...

This half term was scheduled to be a short one and it was made shorter still by the severe weather we have experienced, with school closing completely on two days and early on another. Students certainly enjoyed the snow (right) and it was good to see them doing so, but while I myself am a keen skier, when snow comes to school, safety has to be our paramount concern and we were left with no option other than to close.

Despite the reduced amount of time we've had in school, there has been a lot going on. The GCSE and A Level students have been busy with PPE2 and I am delighted to report that the scores they have achieved suggest that we are looking forward to another summer of strong results.

I am also very proud of the work we have been doing with our Dormers Wells Learning Trust colleagues at the junior school. Some of our Year 7



students have been working with their younger counterparts to help develop reading skills. Our senior staff, meanwhile, will be working with colleagues there on peer review to help drive achievement.

Achievement comes, of course, with hard work. I was therefore pleased to see that our students have been investing time in furthering their maths skills by utilising the Maths Watch programme to which we have provided access.

February saw Dormers Wells logs reach the 17,000 threshold, placing us in the top schools in England for

its usage and providing a reminder that it wasn't by chance that Maths results last summer were in the top one per cent of schools in England.

Another field in which Dormers Wells has been showing itself to be among the very best is computing. I am proud to say that our students have been invited to compete in the UK BEBRAS challenge, an honour conferred only on the top ten per cent of applicants.

I also enjoyed our celebrations for British Science Week in mid-March. This year's event was overshadowed by the passing of the brilliant physicist Stephen Hawking, but I'm sure that if he'd seen our young scientists engaged in our activities he would have been filled with confidence about the contribution to the field he loved so much they will make as they grow up.

Another brilliant mind lost to the world this half term was Dormers Wells alumnus Trevor Bayliss. He was famous as an inventor and a man who widened access to technology. We are very proud to say he was one of us.

**Róisín Walsh
Headteacher**



Students at Parliament to receive awards

Sixth Formers Mustafa Tamimi and Jasmin Popalzai were at the House of Lords to receive awards as part of an Access Aspiration celebration event in mid-March. The event celebrated the achievements of individuals who had shown aspiration despite their social circumstances and demonstrated their determination with their work with the Access Aspiration programme. Ten students from various schools – including Mustafa (right) and Jasmin – were presented with awards.

The event also provided the winners with the chance to network with the representatives of the many large businesses, including Transport for London, who are signed up to Access Aspiration, and to catch up with the other participants they had met during the project.



Year 8s and 9s display gift for persuasion



Year 8 and 9 students have been taking part in persuasive speaking competitions. The Year 8s were tasked with writing and delivering a persuasive speech on why they should be nominated for the role of class president. They gave convincing speeches, putting forward the qualities, skills and experience they possess that would lend themselves to this role. The worthy winners were: Zeeshan Qadeer (first place), Naomi Rogers (second) and Khalid Ali (third). Special mentions went to Guiled Abdi and Warsame Ayanle.

Year 9s were challenged to use a line of their choice from *Macbeth* as a title. They delivered inspired speeches, engaging with the play's characters and themes. Bilan Yusuf and Roopkanwai Sharma came in joint first place, David Myers was second and Asim Butt third.

Lady bids for US uni experience

Year 12 student Lady Ashong has been selected to participate in the Sutton Trust Introductory and Finalist Residential to win a week experiencing University life in the USA. She is one of 175 finalists chosen from 1,000 applicants and will attend the final in London during the Easter holiday. Selected students have visited some of the most prestigious institutions in the USA, including Yale, Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The programme is delivered in conjunction with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.



Hana tastes Cambridge life



Early February saw Year 12 student Hana Hassan at the University of Cambridge to participate in the 2018 Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) Shadowing Scheme. Hana spent three days shadowing Fatima, a medical student at St. John's College, after being selected from 3,000 applicants from across the UK. She attended two lectures and a seminar and joined Fatima for social activities in the evening that included a rehearsal for the Pakistani Society's fashion show. Hana was impressed with the very high standard of education she witnessed and now intends to apply for Oxbridge.

British Science Week celebrations

Dormers Wells' celebrations for British Science Week 2018 engaged students with a series of activities and experiments. Activities included 'The Hotel: A Murder Mystery', in which participants used sets of clues to work their way through a list of 20 suspects to establish the identity of the killer in a hotel-based whodunit, and a mini-researchers task in which students were challenged to research a selected scientist involved in exploration and discovery and prepare a role play task in which others would guess the identity of the person chosen.

Experiments took place across Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and included methane bubbles (right), investigations of colour and diffusion using Skittles, fruit batteries, a building task using Plasticine, marshmallows and chopsticks, erupting fizz, heart dissections, dying flowers, and testing the acidity of rain.

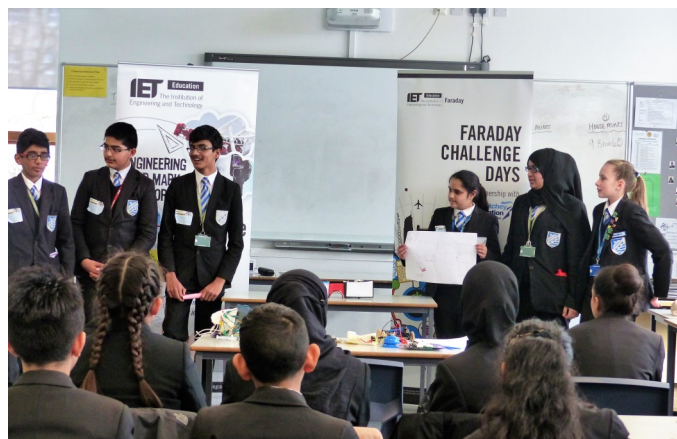


Students step up to Faraday Challenge

Year 8 students welcomed peers from Greenford and Featherstone for a Faraday Challenge Day at the start of March. The days give students the opportunity to research, design and make prototype solutions to genuinely tough engineering challenges, allowing them to experience what it is like to work as an engineer for the day. This year's competition saw students competing to design a new attraction for Thorpe Park, with the winning design to be incorporated for 2019–20.

Dormers students produced two designs, which were praised for their innovative approach. One was a rock climbing obstacle with buzzers and lights alerting the climber if they have gone in the wrong direction, while the other was a virtual activities arcade for those scared of, or prohibited from, entering the attractions in the park.

The competition involved planning, designing, evaluation and presentation. The most interesting part of the activity, according to student Gurshann Sandhu, was spending



Faraday currency to buy materials and using mechanical and electronic materials in the design. Dormers' students came second and third out of the six competing teams from the three schools.

News in brief



The second **Dormers Wells Careers Fair** (below), which took place in February, afforded students the opportunity to meet over thirty exhibiting employers and training providers and to take part in a series of workshops. Exhibitors included Ernst & Young, KPMG, McLaren, and University College London.

Dormers Wells was sad to hear of the **death of alumnus Trevor Baylis OBE** at the start of March. Trevor, famous as the inventor of the wind-up radio and numerous other creations that helped people with disabilities, was aged 80.



Although born in north London, he moved to Southall with his parents when he was two years old.

Dormers Wells House Captains visited their opposite numbers at **Harrow School** at the end of February. The group (above) exchanged experiences of, and advice about, house captaincy, and enjoyed a tour of the historic school, visiting classrooms where statesman and former Prime Minister Winston Churchill was taught and where the 'wingardium leviosa' scene of the Harry Potter films was shot. Maria Williams, one of the House Captains who went on the trip, said it was both exciting and informative and had increased cohesion amongst the visitors.

Monday 12 March saw groups of Year 8 and 9 students watching a visiting production of **Chelsea's Choice**, a play exploring the issue of child sexual exploitation and its prevention.

Social media:

Ask Yourself:

“If I send my friend this photo, what might they do with it one day if we fall out?”

Diary dates

Thursday 29 March: School breaks up for Easter holiday

Monday 16 April: School resumes

Monday 7 May: Bank Holiday (school closed)

Friday 25 May: School breaks up for half-term holiday

Alumnus James Devine-Stoneman's successful run on **University Challenge** has continued this half term, with him captaining St. John's College Cambridge to their achievement in becoming the first team to secure a place in the semi-finals of this year's competition.

Artwork of the half-term



This photo montage was created by year 12 photography student Abbishna Sivalingham on the theme of 'Movement'.

Abbishna completed a photo shoot with her model in the studio capturing the frozen movement of the body in motion while dancing. She then used advanced Photoshop skills to layer the images together to emphasise the feeling of movement.

Inspired by the photographers that she has been studying at A level, Abbishna also added strokes of paint entwined in the figures.

Sporting success



The **Year 10 and 11 rugby team** (above) continued its undefeated streak with a victory against Villiers High School this half term. Captain Janis Khan led the team by example and there were outstanding performances from rookies Bradley Hook, Alizahid Razaie and Sajid Khan. Congratulations to all the boys and coach Ms Blakebrough.

Meanwhile, the **Year 8 football team** (right) beat Brentside 2-0 in their first game of the season. Balaaj Khan scored the first goal, finishing from close range off a corner, and Lemar Paul doubled the lead just before half time. It was a very good defensive performance with Mergim Demiri and Khalid Ali controlling the back line. The man of the match was Waseem Mohammadi, who was a constant attacking threat.

The **senior basketball team** has enjoyed a successful 2017-18 season. Playing in a very strong Wild West league in Ealing Borough, they qualified for the play offs as the third-placed seed. In the quarter finals they

were drawn with Wiseman away from home and lost an extremely competitive game. The league has been run by London United Basketball Club, which has provided professional referees for every game. The quality of the league has been outstanding with many of the games being hard fought. A massive thank you to all the students who played for the team this year, but especially Ruben Monteiro, who coached and led the side.

GCSE PE students took part in the **'This Girl Can'** Sports Day at Uxbridge College at the start of March. They participated in skills sessions coached by Kat Merchant (ex-England rugby player) and Rihanna Dean (England U20 player). Activities included; zoo training, boxing and Pilates. Students also took a deeper look into sports management. The girls ended their afternoon playing rugby, netball and handball against schools from neighbouring boroughs.

Congratulations go to Riymah Mahdi, who received the Star Award and trophy for her outstanding participation and teamwork throughout the event.



Musicians give lunchtime concert



The middle Thursday of March saw school musicians entertaining their peers with a lunchtime recital in the Performing Arts breakout space.

Rayaan Sarauni, Mohammed Miah, Danvir Kalsi and Gurpreet Singh performed Green Day's *Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, which they have been working on in their Performing Arts lessons. Kelly Hill and Oliwia Marcinkowska performed Hozier's *Take me to Church*, which they have been rehearsing in lunchtime music club. Krusha Gohel and Elfleda Akoto performed Justin Bieber's *Love Yourself*, which they learned last year as part of their BTEC music course. Krusha also performed some solo piano pieces that she is learning for her Grade 4 ABRSM exam.