

Dormers Diary

From the Head...

While this half-term has been unusually short, it has been packed and we bring you another full edition of *Dormers Diary*.

The visit of 120 students from Tudor Primary March was a great day that reminds us not just of the importance of strong links between primary and secondary education, but also of the joy of young students who are given the chance to step up and stretch themselves. The visit, which utilised our excellent science facilities, is a great example of that joint working.

We also drew great satisfaction from a visit by our Governors. As many of you will know, the Governors routinely carry out visits to the school to check our progress around the nine key learning behaviours we have identified as being important for progress. This visit looked at literacy, with governors meeting students and visiting classes. Feedback was very positive and confirmed the strong progress we are making.

Perhaps most important of all, though, was the welcome we extended to the parents and carers of Year 7 and 11 students for their respective Parents' Evenings. Both nights saw approximately 90% of parents and carers able to

attend; an increase on the attendance at some previous evenings. While we firmly believe that every parent and carer should be coming to this important events, which greatly enhance home-school engagement, the increased attendances do provide an indication that understanding of their importance is growing.

In addition to welcoming many visitors, I have enjoyed the hospitality of another educational body, The Linnean Society. The purpose of my visit was to enjoy an exhibition celebrating the conclusion of the Bio Media Meltdown competition. I was very proud indeed to see the excellent work our Year 7s had created to achieve fourth place.

I cannot end without noting the pivotal stage of the year we have reached with summer exams looming large. Year 11 and 12 students performed strongly in their mocks and must now press home the advantage their hard work has gained them. For some students there will special workshops during the first week of the Easter holidays, and I urge those invited to attend.

I wish you an enjoyable holiday.

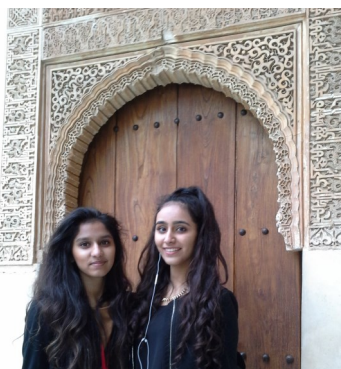
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Headteacher



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Granada visit sees students taking giant Spanish steps



A four-day visit to Andalucia at the end of February earned glowing reviews from the Year 11 students who went on it. The party, all of whom are studying GCSE Spanish, spent time in and around the city of Granada.

They enjoyed a visit to the Alhambra Place, enjoyed a Flamenco show in a cave, visited underground grottoes and played volleyball on the beach at Nerja, defeating the teachers in a students versus staff game.

"Visiting Spain was such a fantastic opportunity for us" explains Ameerah Nehor. "I particularly enjoyed the Flamenco dancing in a cave as it was full of intensity and passion. The Alhambra palace was stunning, with its architecture and amazing carvings. All in all it was such a memorable cultural experience. I have to say a big thank you to Mr Perea for organising the trip, all of the teachers and the other students who all contributed to making this a wonderful experience."

World Book Day



Celebrations for World Book day on 3rd March saw students enjoying a range of activities. The library hosted lunchtime activities including creating designs for bookmarks, matching facts to authors and guessing what books are on teachers' bookshelves from photographs.

Students and staff began every period of the school day by reading sections of Bram Stoker's *Dracula's Guest* and students were encouraged to visit the art department and create their own cover art for the book.

The following day saw a visit by Marcus Alexander, the author of the *Keeper of the Realms* series. Marcus shared advice on careers in writing and journalism with 6th Formers and led workshops that helped students develop characters for their own short stories. The sessions were a big hit, as Year 8 student Sabrina Mann explains: "Marcus's workshop was very interesting because he showed us how to think from another perspective. He also showed us how to brainstorm ideas by his asking of questions and us answering them".

Thespians 'losing it'



Dormers Wells' thespians have had a busy half-term.

Losing It (above) by Suzanne West looks at the challenges faced by the loved ones of those living with dementia and Alzheimers. The four characters – Jack (played by Rome Cameron), Amanda (Sadio Ga'al), Grace (Julia Keck) and Pauline (Jade Cumberbatch) – are based on real people and much of the dialogue comes from real-life scenarios.

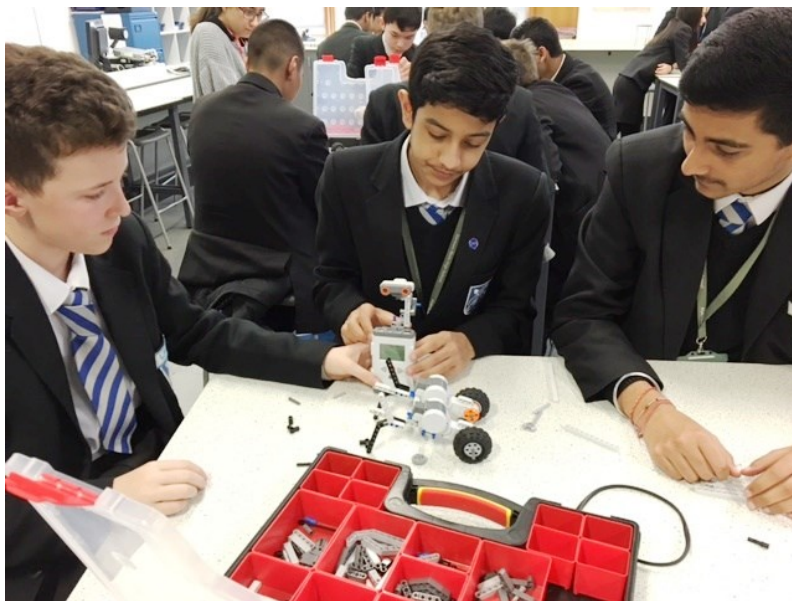
The Drama Challenge Club, meanwhile, explored different storytelling styles with two contrasting productions. Early C20th melodrama *The Perils of Pauline* came alive as an exciting and humorous pastiche with a range of mime and physical theatre techniques and sound effects, while a more traditional telling of *1001 Nights* ended with a whole-cast dance finale.

Robotics Workshop

Students have been building, testing and programming robots from scratch this half-term.

Working in small teams at a robotics workshop, students were challenged to design and construct a stable robot capable of moving without breaking into parts. Helping to preserve their constructions, the groups used their understanding of different types of sensors, including ultrasonic and light sensors, to detect objects potentially in their robots' paths. The robots were then programmed to perform a variety of tasks.

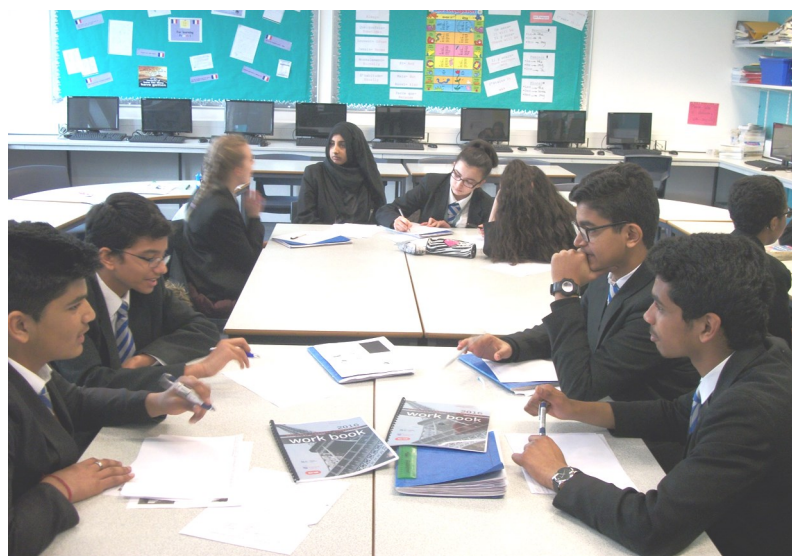
The workshop proved to be a fun, challenging and stimulating session, with feedback from participants underlining how much they had learned: "This workshop inspired us—suggesting ways of building robots without the need for so much technical equipment. It was a wonderful experience." Year 9 students Saghsigo Shanmugalingam, Harnit Palsa and Fatima Kureishi told Dormers Diary. "Although this may have been our first robot building workshop, we hope it won't be the last."



Talking business

A group of Year 10 students has been gearing up to participate in the 2016 Business Languages Competition run by Bouygues Construction by taking part in a sustainability workshop.

The first round of the competition takes place in April and it will challenge students, working in groups of four, to give a ten-minute presentation in French on the things they could do in their everyday lives to maximise their positive impact on the environment.



Trampoliners' free jump

Fourteen students from Dormers Wells' after-school trampolining club enjoyed a visit to the Acton Oxygen free-jumping centre at the end of February. They had one-hour to 'free-jump' across 150 connected trampolines, an obstacle course and foam pit.

The students have been attending the club since September, making strong progress. This trip helped them to develop confidence with their jumps and sequences while challenging their fitness levels. It was, according to Year 7 student Kelly Hill, "awesome".



Artwork of the half-term



Our first Artwork of the half-term since the revitalised Dormers Diary commenced publication at the end of 2015, a mask by Keren Sandi of 8SL. Keren has been awarded the accolade in recognition of her unrelenting commitment to the arts. She spent a large amount of time outside of lessons to improve and develop her work.

Handball bronze



Dormers Wells' Year 8 handball players won bronze medals in the London Youth Games in March. The boys began with a 4-4 draw against Wandsworth's Southfields Academy and a 3-1 win against Barking's All Saints Catholic School, but unfortunately lost their final two fixtures against Islington's St Aloysius College and tournament winners Erith School. Dormers Wells had earned the right to represent West London in the tournament. Congratulations to Mohamed Tanjin, Kayci Bernard, Harmanjot Singh, Habibur Musthafa, Mohamed Sharif Ali, Hanad Ahmed, Azlan Ahmad, Kavi Gill, Ashmit Nangpal and Jamal Diriye.

Yr7 girls' football success



The Year 7 girls made their footballing bow with a strong performance in the borough tournament on 15th March. A solid defensive display ensured that the team conceded no goals, while four strikes from Marwa Nabizada in a single fixture against Featherstone High School secured her the 'Lady of the Tournament' accolade.

Sports round-up

The **Year 8 netballers** finished third out of 10 teams in their annual tournament which took place at Ellen Wilkinson School on 9th March, showing great character and perseverance to give battling performances despite the inclement weather. The **house football** competitions, meanwhile, have seen victories for Fortius in Year 7 and Magnus in Year 8. The **house dodgeball** tournament was won by Citius, with Magnus finishing second.

STEM Careers event



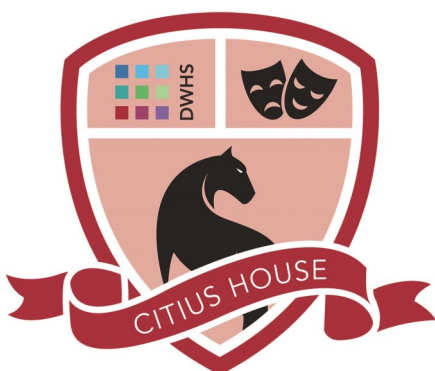
The Science and Computing Science teams collaborated to stage a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths careers event at the end of February. Expert speakers included a Brunel University ambassador explaining student life, placements and internships, a Chartered Engineer talking about careers in the engineering disciplines, and the Royal Society of Biology's Director of Education, offering advice to Dormers Wells' aspiring medics.

Poetry in motion



Dormers Wells' aspiring poets have been drawing inspiration from renowned poet and spoken word performer Adam Kammerling this half-term. The visit began with Adam performing in an assembly for the more-than 200 students who won their tutor group rounds of the school's House Poetry competition. He then led a workshop for the students who had won their year finals, helping them take the delivery of their poems to the next level. The event earned a big thumbs up from participants, as Year 8 student Komal Dirajal explains: "Adam showed us different ways we could perform our poem. We really enjoyed it and had an amazing time".

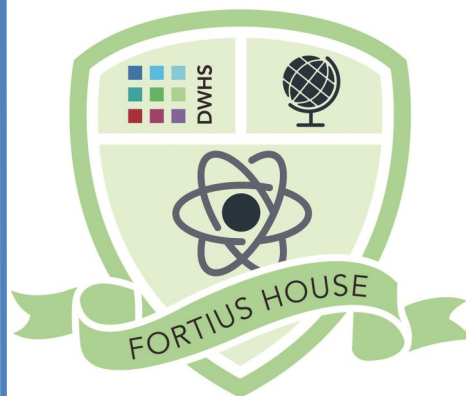
Citius crowned house quiz champions



Citius triumphed in the House Quiz at the beginning of March, with a score of 48 points out of 60. The Citius team earned its victory answering rounds of questions on general knowledge, movie and television trivia, music, geography and science. Second place was taken by Fortius with 41 points and third place went to Laurus with 38 points. Teams included students from all year group, as well as staff. The quiz was led by Magnus house leader Mr Portwain, whose own house finished fourth.

Our house...

Since the introduction of Dormers Wells' house system at the start of the academic year, students have been competing to win the new House Cup that will be presented at the end of the Summer term. *Dormers Diary* talks to each of the houses to find out how they are faring, starting in this edition with Fortius House.



Colour: Green

Motto: Passion. Prosperity. Potential.

House Leader: Ms Chohan

Team achievements: Fortius teams have won competitions including the Poetry Competition and the Memorisation Contest, and came second in the Bake Off. The 9ML and 10OS poetry teams won in their year groups.

Individual achievements: A special mention goes to Joshua Colin D'Souza of 11DH for receiving the highest number of house points, 64 and counting. Also, a huge well done to Shaima Ahmad (7JB) and Jasvinder Singh (11CW) in second and third places respectively.

Our inspiration: As a house, our figure of inspiration is Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Prize Laureate. She helps us understand that anything is possible and that we all have a right to an education. We have also chosen a house song, *Stronger* by Kanye West.

Fortius says: Fortius members have the House Cup within their reach, but that doesn't mean the other houses should give up! It is still anyone's game, isn't it?

Diary Dates

Monday 11th April: School resumes after Easter holiday.

Monday 2nd May: Bank Holiday Monday (School closed).

Friday 27th May: School breaks up for half-term holiday (holiday includes Bank Holiday Monday on Monday 30th May).

Monday 6th June: Summer Term begins