



Dormers Diary

February 2018

From the Headteacher...

Although this has been a short half term, it has been a busy one at Dormers Wells.

The publication of Department for Education data at the end of January was a source of great pride for the school community. It highlighted the outstanding progress our students made in 16/17 and we are delighted to announce that DWHS has been placed as one of the top five schools in the Borough in this year's Secondary School Performance Tables. The particular excellence we achieve in Mathematics has also been underlined, with our progress in the subject putting us in the top one per cent nationally. The figures put us in a very strong position both locally and nationally.

I was also very pleased to see how successful our Year 7 Futures Evening was, with our next generation of high achievers and their aspirations being well supported by their families at a jam-packed event. The success of any student is based on the triangle of student, home and teachers working together and this event showed that triangle being well-established for this cohort.

Another highlight of this half term was the Age Link UK party, which you can read about below. We were delighted to welcome elderly



guests from the local community and dignitaries including our local Members of Parliament for an excellent afternoon. Our students gave an excellent account of themselves, conducting themselves in a mature manner and rising impressively to the challenge of getting our guests up to dance.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we have also enjoyed hosting guests from two of our local primary feeder schools, Dormers Wells Junior School and Allenby Primary. They joined us for the excellent 'Mathemagicians' event at which our Year 8s performed a stunning show of real Maths magic.

Our older students have also been a significant source of pride this half term. Seeing them in professional dress for the Sixth Form Taster and Tertiary Education Days as they went about the business of ensuring that they are properly appraised of their options for next year was an impressive sight. They are making vital decisions and the maturity, judgement and self-responsibility they displayed gave me every confidence that they are going about that challenge in a way that will enable them to make sound choices for themselves.

I wish you all a happy and restful half term break.

Róisín Walsh
Headteacher

Christmas Party welcomes more than 150 guests

Dormers Wells' Age Link Christmas party for elderly citizens took place on Sunday 28 January. It saw 150 guests from across West London welcomed to school for the afternoon. They enjoyed a traditional three-course Christmas dinner including turkey and Christmas pudding served by Dormers students, as well as a programme of entertainment. That saw some of the school's talented dancers and singers, Shannon Goody-Sheehan, Vinothika Jakathisan, Ameerah Nehor and Alicia Masih, take to the stage. They were joined by students from the Sai School of Harrow and professional compere and singer Atul Radia. The event proved a great success, with the elderly guests commenting on how wonderful the students were and the students remarking on how fun the guests were.

Distinguished guests included Ealing's three MPs – Virendra Sharma, Steve Pound and Rupa Huq – as well as the Deputy Mayor of Ealing and several other councillors. The event was originally scheduled for before Christmas, but had to be postponed because of severe weather. Students raised more than £900 to pay for it to take place.



Basketball, badminton and netball success



Dormers Wells' sportsmen and women have enjoyed a successful start to 2018 with notable victories in badminton, basketball and netball.

Monday 15 January saw Year 7 and 8 teams competing in the borough **badminton** tournament. The Year 7 boys won their league, defeating both Twyford and Villiers, while the Year 8 girls did the same with wins over Villiers and St. Augustine's Priory.

The junior **basketball** team (above) meanwhile, chalked up two notable successes in the space of just three school days

in the first half of January. Despite being four points down at the start of the last quarter against Greenford on 11 January, the boys battled back to secure a 23–17 win with Wai Yan Oo scoring with two excellent shots. They followed that result with a 30–13 victory against Featherstone four days later.

The Year 8 **netballers** have also been earning plaudits, with an excellent 10–1 victory away at Featherstone in their first league game on 10 January. The performance was particularly noteworthy for the strong team ethic the girls displayed and the high number of interceptions they made.

Mathemagicians get tricky with numbers

The end of the Autumn term saw a group of Year 8 Mathemagicians take to the stage to deliver impressive shows to Year 7s and Year 6s. The shows involved the Year 8 Maths scholars showcasing mathematics concepts in exciting ways that seem removed from classroom and text book learning, in order to amaze the younger students and stimulate their creative thinking and problem-solving skills.



Diary dates

Friday 9th February: School breaks up for February half term

Monday 19th February: School resumes

Thursday 22nd February: Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 8th March: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 15th March: International Evening

Wednesday 28th March: Year 7 Parents' Evening

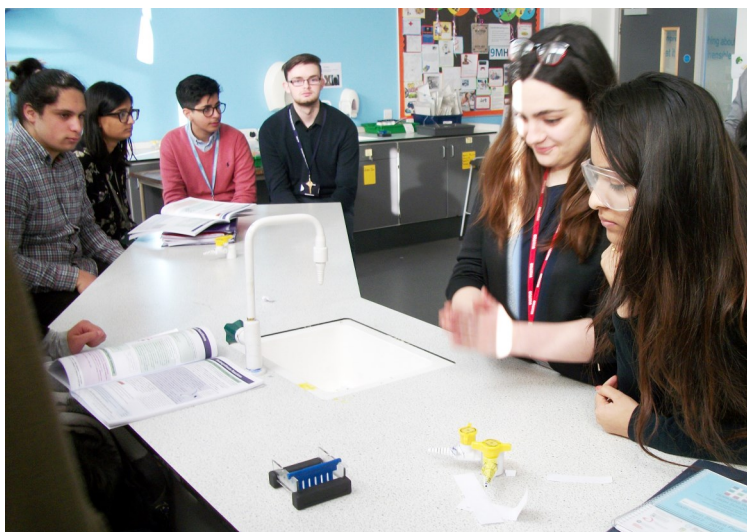
Thursday 29th March: School breaks up for Easter holiday

Did you know?

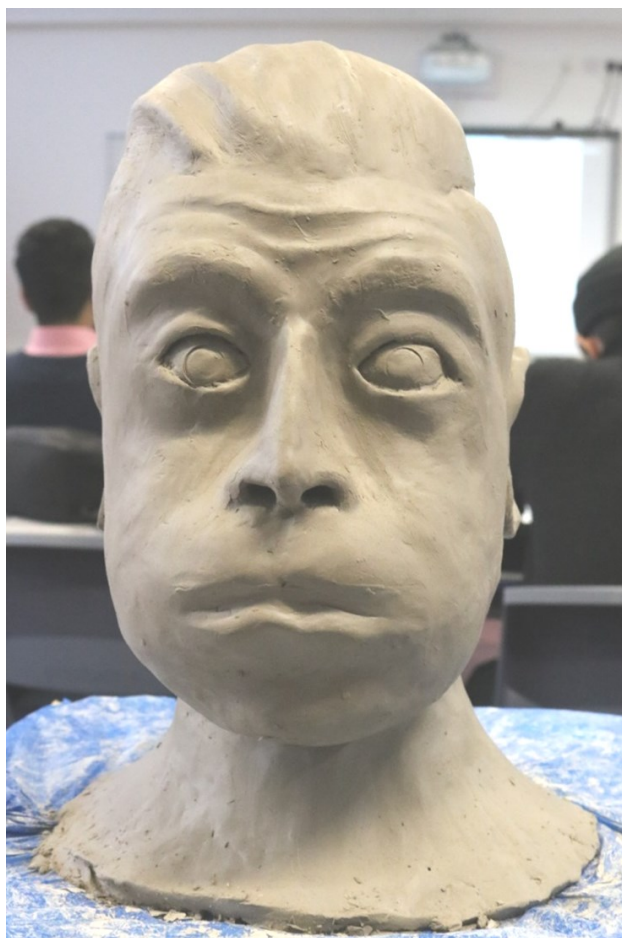
It is possible to get social media accounts of an under-age person terminated. If you are worried about the online activities of a young person, speak to your teacher.

Alumnus returns for Biology practicals

Dormers Wells was delighted to welcome back alumnus Foteini Bifsa for a session with Year 13 scientists at the end of the Autumn term. Foteini, who left DWHS in July 2017 and is now studying Biochemistry at Queen Mary's University, returned to assist the current Year 13s with the gel electrophoresis core practical. Gel electrophoresis is used to study DNA and to help to determine paternity tests and in forensics and is an important element of A Level Biology. Foteini enjoyed her return: "It was so nice to be back at Dormers, I have only been away since July 2017 but it was great to help the Year 13s with their gel electrophoresis, alongside Ms Plaha who was my Biology teacher in Sixth Form. The content I learnt in Sixth Form has really helped at university and I was glad to share my practical experiences. Wherever I go next, I will always be thankful for the help I received from everyone at Dormers." The visit was also appreciated by the Year 13s, as Eshan Selman explains: "We were very fortunate to receive help from Foteini for our biology practical and it was good to know that what we learn at A Level is really helpful when you study sciences at university. We also got an insight into university life."



Artwork of the half term



Our first Artwork of the half term of 2018 is a clay sculpture of a head by Year 12 student Shatis Pun. The piece is based on a series of photographs of the artist's friend taken from different view points. Shatis's sculpture is a response to the work of German-Austrian sculptor Franz Messerschmidt, who is famous for his character heads with contorted facial expressions.

Year 11s get taste of options

Year 11 students have been gaining insights into their choices for next year with a series of taster events this half term. Friday 5 January saw a large number of Year 11s participate in the Sixth Form Taster Day which included an assembly with a visiting speaker on the subject of work experience, taster lessons in a range of subjects and a reminder of the varied extracurricular activities on offer at Dormers Wells. Student feedback about the day was positive, with attendees reporting that it was both enjoyable and educational, as well as making them feel more confident about Sixth Form. A Tertiary Education Day took place two weeks later. The event saw students enjoy an education fair in the hall as well as workshops run by Ealing Apprenticeships and Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College.



Year 7s look to future



The Year 7 'My Future' Evening at the end of January saw a fantastic turnout from students and parents. They were made aware of the excellent opportunities available for them at DWHS and Ms Hughes discussed the importance of participating in extra-curricular opportunities from Year 7 to enable students to successfully prepare themselves for the future. Students and parents learnt about upcoming opportunities such as the Kingston University trip, the Careers conference and the Year 7 apprentice scheme. Students were very engaged and learnt more about the skills needed to stand out when applying for university places and jobs. The feedback was very positive and the students are excited about getting involved in the events coming up. The event followed those for Year 10 and 11 students that took place at the end of 2017.

Mastery Month gets competitive



January saw all students participating in the Mastery Month house competition. Students in each form group competed against each other in house teams after spending a week learning and memorising some fun and interesting material produced by the teaching staff. Many students found practising revision techniques useful and this will help them when completing assessments in the subjects they study.

Talent competition students' theatre visit

Year 10 students Shannon Goody-Sheehan and Vinothika Jakathisan enjoyed a trip to the theatre to see *Five Guys Named Moe* at the end of January. The visit included a 'meet and greet' with cast members and was part of the girls' prize for coming second in the Ealing's Got Talent competition in December 2017. They were joined by members of the judging panel, family members and other prize winners from the event.

Their entry for Ealing's Got Talent, which was held online, saw them choreograph a dance about mental health, record a video of their dance routine and submit it for judging by the Ealing Health Improvement Team. They will go on to perform their dance for an audience at the Ealing Mental health and Wellbeing for Pupils conference at the end of February.



Forensics workshops

Monday 29 January saw Year 8 students participating in a forensic science workshop. It included sections on techniques including fingerprinting, foot prints and fibre analysis. For many of the students it was a first introduction to forensics and they reported learning a great deal.

Feedback from students suggests their interest has been piqued, with some saying they wish to do further study in the area and one even now looking at career options in criminology.

