

Dormers Diary

February 2017

From the Headteacher...



Welcome to the first *Dormers Diary* of 2017. The first half-term of the new year may have been short, but it's certainly been very busy. Students' performances in their pre-public examinations have been very encouraging and suggest that we may have much to celebrate this summer. There is, of course,

no room for complacency, and a great deal of hard work must be done between now and the beginning of final examinations. By maintaining the application they have demonstrated thus far though, students appear on track to fulfil their undoubted potential. Year 11 students deserve a

special mention in this introduction. The maturity and thought they have demonstrated, both at the Sixth Form taster days (see page 2) and completing applications for sixth form study, has been a pleasure to witness. I wish also to congratulate the Year 13s, who have secured a very impressive array of university offers. As you will read inside, students have been offered places to study at a plethora of the UK's leading universities including Cambridge, Imperial, KCL, Leeds, Liverpool, Southampton, UCL, Warwick and York. This is an excellent achievement and I wish the year group every success as

it takes its final steps towards securing the results students need to clinch their places.

Another result I was particularly pleased with this half-term was our place in the Progress 8 league tables. Dormers Wells was rated fifth out of 13 high schools in Ealing and, with a score of 0.39, above both the London and national average figures. The success that reflects, the significant progress our students

are making across the board, is something of which the students themselves, staff and families can all be very proud.

I wish you all an enjoyable half-term week.



Róisín Walsh
Headteacher

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Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge triumph



Year 10 student James Makepeace (left) triumphed in the Ealing regional final of this year's Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge at the end of the Autumn term. James saw off competition from 17 other students representing 13 schools from the borough to clinch the title, trophy and prize that his triumph earned. James' speech focused on the role of seemingly-irritating behaviour such as the cracking of knuckles in helping people deal with stress and the contribution it makes to preventing people venting their frustration and anxieties in other ways. Congratulations also go to another Year 10 student, Roopal Joy, whose performance at the in-school heats saw her competing as Dormers Wells' second representative in the final.

University offers flow in

Year 13 student Avnish Grewal (right) has been offered a place to study Psychology at Jesus College, Cambridge. She is on course to join DWHS alumnus Zahira Butt at Cambridge. Zahira, who left Dormers Wells in 2014, is reading Law.



Avnish's offer is just one of many that students have received from leading universities including Imperial, KCL, Leeds, Liverpool, Loughborough, Nottingham, Reading, Royal Holloway, Southampton, QMUL, UCL, Warwick and York. The offers have been secured in a range of subjects including Archaeology, Civil

Engineering, Film Production, Geography, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering and Pharmacy. Applicants to read Medicine were preparing for interviews as this *Dormers Diary* went to press.

Sixth Form taster days

Year 11 students whose pre-public examination results and tutor predictions indicate they will achieve the grades required for Sixth Form study at Dormers Wells were invited to participate in A Level and BTEC taster days in January. Attendees were asked to choose a selection of subjects in which to experience sample lessons and enjoyed Sixth Form privileges for the day.



Diary dates

Mon 20th February: School resumes after half-term holiday

Mon 20th & Tues 21st February: Year 9 IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) interviews

Thurs 23rd February: Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thurs 16th March: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thurs 30th March: Year 7 Parents' Evening

Fri 31st March: School breaks up for Easter holiday

Photographers in dreamland

Year 11 GCSE Photography students have been developing their Photoshop skills with a project based on the theme of 'Dreams and Nightmares'. They began by researching and analysing surreal photography, drawing inspiration from the work of figures including Jerry Uelsmann, Tommy Ingberg and Lara Zankoul.

The final works, including *Loving Bullets* by Tehreem Naz, *Letting Go* by Tania Dina and *The Growth of Intelligence* by Christian Teodoro Rodriguez pictured below, were created by meticulously digitally cutting and pasting different elements into imagined compositions.



Mastering knowledge

Students have been using newly-created knowledge organisers to boost their attainment of key knowledge in English, Maths and Science. The organisers are available on FROG or from subject teachers.

The organisers are being used to promote Mastery Learning and every student's revision techniques and core knowledge was tested in a quiz in early February.

Additionally, 80 Year 11 students and 80 sixth formers have attended Mastery Learning workshops to help them improve their revision technique and enhance their confidence.



Year 10s taste City life

Year 10 Business Studies students have enjoyed a day inside leading international audit and consultancy business Ernst and Young at one of the company's EY Foundation Employability Workshops. The sessions support young people in preparing for employment by developing their transferable skills, building awareness of career options and connecting them with employers.

The day involved team building activities and afforded the Dormers students the opportunity to quiz Ernst and Young staff on their own careers.

The event proved popular, with attendees citing the ice-breaker activities, opportunity to spend a day in an inspirational busi-

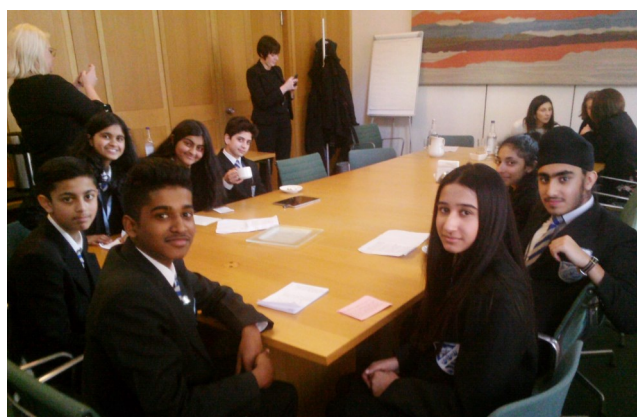


ness environment in the heart of London and acquisition of new skills for interviews and self-motivation as being particularly valuable.

Year 9s take debate to Parliament

Year 9 students' public speaking and debating skills took them to Parliament at the end of the Autumn term for the final of the WIT Schools Debate 2016.

Eight students – Wania Ahmed, Abdurahman Al Tawel, Sheroz Bhatti, Priyanshu Grover, Fiza Jivan, Sabrina Mann, Keren Sondi, Mathesh Wicknarajah – pitted themselves against a team from the Sacred Heart RC High School in front of a panel of judges from Transport for London. Despite much hardwork and preparation, the team narrowly missed out to their rivals on the day.



High achievers inspired



Thirty Year 10 students and their families took part in a High Achievers' Programme event at the end of January. Participants were selected on the basis that their grades, application and commitment indicate they are on course to win places at top universities. Attendees enjoyed a presentation from Annamarie Linnell (above, right) of The Brilliant Club who works closely with the universities of Oxford and Exeter. The students have now been invited to participate in the scheme. They also had the opportunity to meet current and past DWHS students with strong academic records, picking up tips on how they can emulate their success.

Did you know?

When you create an Instagram account it is automatically set to *public* unless YOU change it to *private* in the settings.

Anyone can see your photos and because images often also carry location data, everyone will know where you were for that last pic!

Altius Y7 football champs

The end of the Autumn term saw Altius become the proud holders of the Year 7 football champions title. In a final that generated a great atmosphere, the boys defeated Laurus 4-2.



Acclaimed author to visit

Author Chris Bradford (right), renowned for his Bodyguard and Young Samurai series, will visit school on Monday 27th February. During lunchtime, he will sign copies of his books and details of a special offer for those who buy three titles have been distributed. The deadline to order from school is Monday 20th February. Students may also bring books in.



Artwork of the Half-Term



Our Artwork of the Half-Term is by Year 13 student Muna Ali. Working with the theme of architecture, Muna's piece is inspired by a 3D form she created in a workshop – 'The Big Draw' – that she participated in. The piece was developed by studying other artists' work and the artist's own photography.

Sports round-up

The success of **cross country** runners Mohamed Ali (right) and Hanad Ahmed continued this half term, with the pair shining in county and national competitions. The national Cardiff Cross Challenge saw 13-year-old Mohamed finish second in the under-15s competition, while Hanad finished seventeenth. As a result of his performance, Mohamed has been selected to represent Great Britain. The boys also shone in the Middlesex championships, with Mohamed winning the under-15 competition and Hanad finishing ninth.

As *Dormers Diary* went to press the under-13 **handball** team was just one game away from the London



Youth Games finals. The boys won their first regional qualifying tie against a strong Southwick Academy team 16-14 on 10th January.

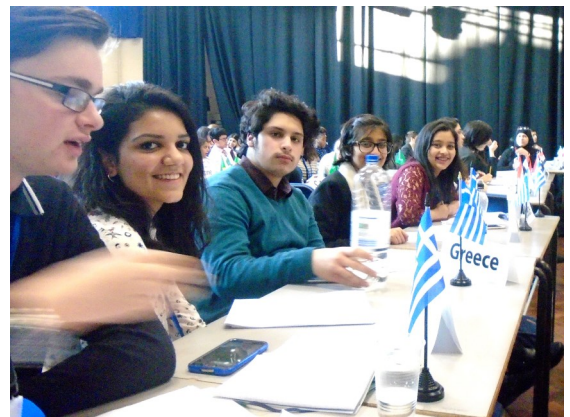
This half-term has also seen Dormers' **netball** players showing that they are a force to be reckoned with. The Year 9 team (left) performed strongly at the Ealing borough tournament on 24th January, finishing as runners-up in the eleven-team competition. The girls were undefeated in the pool games, winning against Greenford, Elthorne and Acton High and drawing with Ellen Wilkinson, before beating Twyford in the semi-final. A closely-contested final against Drayton Manor was lost 4-2.



UN reps UCL-bound

Three Dormers Wells students have been selected as London International Model United Nations scholars and will attend the international conference at University College London at the end of February. Daniel Ward, Rebecca Pebble and Maria Williams were selected following their participation in a model UN event at King's College London in November 2016. Further details are available at www.limun.org.uk/Conference.

Meanwhile, Daniel was one of eight Sixth Formers to represent the school in a further Model UN meeting at Woodhouse College at the end of January. The students acted as representatives of Greece (below) and Iran. Lucas Melo was awarded the prize for the best delegate in his committee.



Blood Wedding drama

Year 12 students' passion for drama saw the staging of the first-ever Sixth Form extra-curricular production in January. They chose to put on *Blood Wedding*, the tragic tale of a love triangle written in the 1930s by Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca. The cast featured seven Sixth Formers (Ameerah Neehor, Chloe Carter, Leonids Jefimovs, Lucas Melo, Navjot Takhar, Zahid Qureishi and Aayush Alkesh) and two specially-invited Year 10s (Emily Forbes and James Makepeace). Mr Batten was asked to direct.

Year 9s Shannon Goody-Sheehan and Vinothika Jakathisan performed a Flamenco dance during the interval.

