

Dormers Diary

From the Head...

It has been another amazing year. December's OFSTED inspection is an obvious highlight of the year. The report that followed the inspection underlined what good progress we are making, highlighting students' pride in the school, the good relationships that staff have with students and the ethos of achievement and hard work that is at the heart of what we do.

I'm also very pleased with the introduction of our House system. Seeing students galvanised to work together across year groups and embracing the spirit of friendly competition has given me such enormous pleasure, that even having to present the inaugural House Cup to Fortius hasn't diminished it. I remain a proud member of Laurus and can assure we'll be making a fighting comeback next year.

Competitiveness is just one of the traits we aim to encourage at Dormers Wells of course; we seek to provide to each student an education that nurtures the variety of skills and attributes they will require. An important part of that experience is what I call 'Cultural Capital', exposure to some of the wealth of what life has to offer outside school. I am enormously proud to be able to say that we have invested heavily in our students' cultural capital this year;



at the most recent count we had facilitated more than 2,000 trips for students in 2015/16. Events in school have given me equal cause for pleasure, and the end-of-year Awards Evening and the Year 11 Prom are cases in point. The former, on Thursday 14th July, saw us celebrating the achievements of students across the breadth of subjects and activities we offer and provided reminders of what can be achieved by the application of hard work and talent. The latter glowed with the spirit of friendship and community that has flourished amongst our Year 11s. I look forward to welcoming many of them back to our Sixth Form. They will be joined in the school community by the new intake of Year 7s. It was a pleasure to welcome those students to our Induction event and we look forward to developing the obvious talent that cohort will bring with it.

Arrangements for the re-commencement of school in September have been communicated to parents and carers in a letter. Year 7, 10, 11 and 12 return on Friday 2nd September; Year 8, 9 and 13 students return on Monday 5th. I look forward to welcoming everyone, refreshed and ready to embark on the next chapter of their learning careers.

Róisín Walsh
Headteacher

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Looking good for the future

A Mock Interviews Day held at Dormers Wells on Thursday 30th June saw Year 10 students practising their skills with local business people who had kindly given their time. The day has won strong praise for the year group, with the CVs they had prepared and their very high standards of personal appearance both winning acclaim.

The participants can also be proud of their performances during the interviews, with approximately 30 individuals highlighted as having given starring performances. Meanwhile, 24 Year 10s have visited the University of Warwick for the launch of the 'Brilliant Club', a programme which will involve them working with PhD students from

the world's best universities. The students are attending tutorials and will be writing a university-style essay on their work. Additionally, five of the year group have undertaken a medical work experience placement. They experienced life in a busy



London hospital, met research scientists and took part in a range of activities designed to build their confidence and equip them to pursue careers in the field, including careers advice sessions and activities helping them to understand University life. Also undertaking medical work experience are seven of Dormers Wells' Year 12 students. The students – Karishma Jani, Sawmya Thiruchelvam, Muhammad Umer, Sehnampreet Viridi, Kessiya Varghese, Yasmine Maalin and Wajeehullah Mahmood – have secured places at institutions including the Royal Surrey Hospital, King's College London, the Blizzard Institute and BARTS Cancer Institute.

Students make waves



This half-term saw a group of Year 8 and 9 students enjoy a rewards trip to the JB Ski watersports centre. The trip was designed to push participants outside their comfort zones and promote Dormers Wells' positive growth mindset. Students had a fantastic time enjoying the water, while at the same time developing determination and resilience.

Medal Haul for athletes



Dormers Wells' Year 7 and 8 athletes enjoyed a successful day at the Borough athletics meeting at Perivale on 21st June. Gold medal winners included Shams Mandozi (300 metres), Harveen Sandhu (Long Jump), Mohamed Sharif Ali (1500 metres), Abdi Mohammed (High Jump and 300 metres) and Hanad Ahmed (800 metres). The 4 x 100 metres relay team finished in fourth place.

Exploring KidZania

The end of June saw a group of 30 Year 7 students visiting KidZania, the role-playing activity centre at Westfield Shopping Centre at Shepherd's Bush.

Students worked in groups on activities including film production, ice cream and smoothie making, learning to fly an aeroplane, jewellery making and putting on a theatre production. The students earned money for some activities, while having to pay for others, using the Kidzos currency of their KidZania bank accounts.

They also earned plaudits from KidZania's Director of Education, who remarked upon how well they conducted themselves.



Capital handball playing

Year 10 student Adrian Dusznik represented Ealing in the handball event at the London Youth Games in mid-May. The team finished as champions and Adrian (back row, third from right) and his team mates are pictured below with their gold medals.



Fortius win House Cup

Fortius have won the inaugural Dormers Wells House Cup with an impressive 7,553 points tally. They were presented with the trophy in their Assembly on 1st July. Students from the winning house were rewarded with a trip to Wembley later in the month, visiting a Futures Fair and enjoying a rock concert in Wembley Arena. Fortius finished almost 800 points ahead of nearest rivals Magnus, who accumulated 6,768 points. Citius came third with 6,752 points.



Dickens Museum visit



Year 9 students have been gaining an insight into the life of Charles Dickens and his world with a trip to the Charles Dickens Museum in Bloomsbury. Student Sara Nasir (9ML) said afterwards: “We saw the place in which Charles Dickens wrote many of his famous books. We found out how amazing he was and we got an insight into the 19th Century and a day in Charles Dickens’ life”. The visit builds on students’ study of 19th Century fiction they have been undertaking in English classes.

Students’ animal instincts



The Year Seven Additional Literacy group had a fantastic time visiting London Zoo in June, seeing for themselves some of the animals native to the continents they have been studying in their Geography component and the adaptations they have made to their ecosystems. They enjoyed talks by staff, including one on the family of tigers, a penguin display and created artworks depicting the creatures they had



Illustration by Si Rondon.

seen. Despite the hot weather, the 27 pupils were keen to see as many animals as they could. In addition to regular favourites such as giraffes and zebras, the group named the snakes, frogs and crocodiles of the Amphibian House as their favourites.

The students showed an impressive level of interest and engagement, discussing both the animals and the role of zoos.

Abdul Tara (7PR) captured the conflicted feelings of the visitors, expressing admiration for the many different types of animals and birds they saw, including the majestic fish, delightful birds and grinning monkeys, but arguing “it is a pity, however, that these animals are not free to go wherever they like”.

End-of-year exhibition

Dormers Wells end-of-year exhibition took place in the school’s Long Hall Gallery after school on Friday 8th July.

The event saw guests, including parents and carers, governors, staff and students, enjoying a selection of work created by art and design, textiles, design and technology, photography and media students during the year.

Exhibits on display ranged from large items of furniture, including desks, down to smaller works, including paintings.



Watching the boys play

Dormers Wells welcomed students from three other local secondary schools—Cardinal Wiseman, Greenford and Villiers—for a performance of the popular French play *Les Garçons*. Staged by On-atti productions, the comedy was performed by two native French speaking actors and is pitched at the language competence of students in key stages 3 and 4, aiming to demonstrate to students how much they have picked up during their studies.



Student Librarians praised

School Librarian Ms Vidgen has been paying tribute to the hard work of the 2015/16 Student Librarians. “They have been the heart and soul of our Library this year”, she said. “They have helped during break and lunch times when the Library is at its busiest, assisting peers with printing and editing and recommended books. Many were also actively involved in our World Book Day celebrations.”

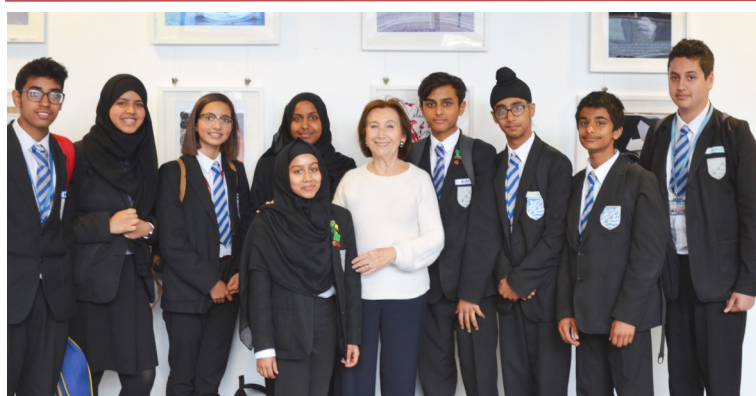


Artwork of the Half Term



The Summer Artwork of the Half Term is Formal Elements by Year 7 student Navjot Sagoo (7DA). Created using paint and oil pastels, the work takes Zentangles as its theme and uses complementary colours to create a beautiful work. Navjot used the work to inspire Year 6 students on their induction visits to Dormers Wells.

Holocaust testimonial



On Wednesday 29th June, Year 8 and 9 History students had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Hannah Lewis, who was born in Poland and lived through the horrific events that later became known as the Holocaust. Hannah spoke very bravely about her experiences and answered questions from students that she later said were some of the most perceptive she had been asked. Many students commented that the morning not only helped deepen their understanding of the Holocaust, but also prompted them to consider wider world events and their role within their communities.

Learning celebration

Dormers Wells' teaching staff attended a celebration of learning event this half-term. The event was the culmination of a year-long programme that had seen teachers attending workshops and putting what they had learnt into practice in the classroom. This final event saw them sharing successful outcomes from techniques including flipped learning, questioning, assessment and mastery teaching.



Encouraging aspiration



Year 7 students had an early taste of higher education, thanks to a visit to Kingston University in mid-June (above). The students enjoyed a tour of the campus, learning more about being an undergraduate, and took part in a craft activity building models of their own fantasy universities in space and underwater.

Meanwhile, Year 8 students and parents, have enjoyed a visit to the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies for a one-day University experience. They were given a campus tour, met students, and learnt some basic Japanese language. The day proved very popular, as Ibrahim Deen explains: "The trip to SOAS was very inspiring because while I was there I learnt how different people have got to where they are now. One thing that stood out was the Library because it was very big."

We are also pleased to report a further new development for the 2016/17 year, with the school poised to partner with Debate Mate to give Year 9 and 10 students the opportunity to participate in an after-school programme that enhances influencing skills, encourages aspiration and develops teamworking and leadership skills. Look out for further news next year.

That will build on the work already being done to develop debating skills at Dormers Wells. The school was proud to host the borough finals of the London Debate Challenge, attended by Greenford, Northolt and Twyford High Schools, in early June.

Basketball champion Eddy



Year 7 student Eddy Colley's (far right) basketball skills have propelled him to the status of a national champion as part of a team representing the South East.

Following trials in Brighton that began whittling 80 players down to a final squad of 10, Eddy and his teammates went through the hardest training he has ever attended in the run-up to the weekend tournament in Sheffield. The side played seven fixtures over two days. They went unbeaten in their four group games on the Saturday, winning their pool fairly easily. The first game on the Sunday, the quarter final, was also comfortable. However, the team were losing at half-time in both the semi-final and final and had to make spirited comebacks in both to become champions.