



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Back in September, we began the year on an incredibly positive note, with another excellent set of results confirming the progress this school community continues to make.

We have continued in a positive vein, with our new Year 7 cohort settling in quickly and confident predictions of another set of strong results next Summer. Our Year 7 have been embracing the opportunity to learn a new instrument as part of the MISST programme and I was delighted to hear seven students were chosen to play with a full orchestra while on a MISST 'Away Day'. It is not only the students who are learning a new instrument but some of our staff too are learning alongside the students, and we look forward to both staff and students performing in the new year.

It was also a pleasure to see so many Year 11 students at the recent Sixth Form Open Evening. Our current Sixth Form students were in attendance as subject ambassadors on the night and were able to provide a deeper insight into Sixth Form life. The Taster Days taking place in January will provide the current cohort with more information that will help them to make their choices for Year 12. Another source of satisfaction has been the number of Year 11 students that chose Dormers Wells as their sixth form.

I often speak to students about the importance of reading as it improves your focus, memory, empathy, and communication skills. We have really enjoyed the 12 days of Bookmas, an initiative to encourage students to pick up a book for pleasure over the Christmas holidays where staff read their passages from their favourite books. We hope everyone has been able

to find their perfect book match for Christmas.

Our students have continued to involve themselves in a whole range of activities outside the classroom and I am particularly proud of our Year 12 students Alex and Nelson. They have been awarded the Community Award from Southall Community Alliance for their support across our school community. Meanwhile in Year 9 a group of 30 students visited St John's College at the University of Oxford, where they practised interview questions and critical thinking skills, as well as a tour of the university and lunch in the dining hall. Students benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and it is a reflection on the hard work and commitment of our staff that there are so many opportunities for them.

The annual Dormers Wells High School Careers Conference was very successful with the school hall filled with a variety of stalls, everything from HS2, to Queen Mary University London and even London Ambulance. DWHS students asked insightful questions about future options as well as finding out further information about career routes via the apprenticeship programme.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing break and I look forward to welcoming back all our wonderful students in January.



From the Governors

It has been a real pleasure to have been on the Governing Body of DWHS for the last four and a half years since I retired from school leadership in 2019. I have lived in Ealing for more than 40 years and have two daughters who are now in their thirties.

I realised pretty soon after my retirement that I very much wanted to retain links with the education of young people and had something to offer. My particular interest is safeguarding. I have visited the school on many occasions and had the opportunity to meet with students in various year groups. The young people at Dormers are extremely welcoming and willing to share their views and knowledge with me. I always look

forward to speaking to them.

Part of the role of a governor is to look carefully at outcomes for the young people at the school in terms of their academic attainment. As governors we also look at what's on offer to enrich the learning experience. Last week I was able to visit a Year 7 violin lesson as part of the MISST programme with a group of other governors. We also visited several Year 7 classes and the Year 8 and 9 Careers Fair and had a tour of the school library. I always feel welcome at Dormers and am constantly impressed with the calm and purposeful learning environment.

Julia Taylor, Governor

From the Head Boy and Head Girl

As the festive season approaches, we are delighted to make a final return to wrap up the winter term and celebrate the incredible achievements of our DWHS students. Starting with the success of the Sixth Form Open Evening, both parents and potential students were highly enthusiastic about the evening's enrichment, praising its value. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the diligent students and staff who made it a fantastic event. In addition to this success, our recent Careers conference welcomed multiple universities and companies who came to engage with our students. The sessions offered invaluable insights and guidance, broadening our students' perspectives as they considered their future endeavours. Two of our sixth-form students, Alex and Nelson, received the Southall Community Award for their remarkable contributions to the chess club. Their dedication reflects the core values that define our school community. Unfortunately, as this year ends, so does our time as Head Boy and Head Girl. We wish our successors all the best, and hope they feel the same privilege we took in leading by example. We are grateful for the opportunity to have served our community and this experience will undoubtedly stay memorable. We hope that our students, staff, and their families have a restful Christmas break, and an incredibly Happy New Year!



Sixth Form Open Evening

Sixth Form Open Evening was a great success! Both internal and external students were able to talk to course teachers, to get the best idea about what route they want to go down in the near future. They were also able to talk to current students who were on hand all evening and ready to assist.

Our students represented the school enthusiastically and speeches were primarily delivered by them. They were fantastic with answering any questions from students, parents or guardians and spoke with great pride about their learning and the school.

Overall, the evening was very popular, extremely insightful and a fantastic start to many prospective students' journeys. We can't wait to welcome these students to Dormers Wells Sixth Form.



Cost of Living care

We understand that the cost of living crisis has affected many households and we are very aware that some of our families could use some help. Therefore, over the last few weeks, we have been making conscious efforts to do what we can to ease the pressure for our families.

We were so grateful to receive a large food donation from Southall Community Alliance to support parents facing food insecurity. As well as, receiving a large donation of baked goods from Caterlink, to host a bake sale raising money for this important cause. None of this would be possible without the help and determination from our staff, student helpers and our generous donators. Thank you to Ms Fleary for organising the large donation of food with Southall Community Alliance and Ms Wheeler and Mrs Bhagat for running the bake sale. Lastly, the students who helped to organise and distribute these packages to our families as well as handing out bake sale items.



Careers Conference

We hosted our annual winter Careers Conference, where students had the opportunity to engage with a large number of employers, colleges, apprenticeships and universities. They spent the morning discussing future paths, higher education or jobs that they may be interested in. From Pfizer to St Marys University, twenty different companies ensured there was something for everyone. It was also lovely to see alumni returning to Dormers Wells High School, representing their companies whilst catching up with the teachers that saw them through school.



12 Days of Bookmas

This year we started the 12 days of Bookmas, an initiative to encourage students to pick up a book for pleasure over the Christmas holidays. With the same concept as the traditional Christmas carol 'The 12 days of Christmas', everyday brought a new gift. The gift of reading. For 12 days leading up to Christmas break, students watched a variety of their favourite teachers read an excerpt from a book in form time. These books were from a range of different genres, and covered everything from fiction, to graphic and poems too. Students loved seeing their teachers on the screen every morning, generating discussion down corridors and an increase in library activity. We hope everyone has been able to find their perfect book match for Christmas, don't hesitate to ask the library for any help.



Upcoming Dates

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| 8th Jan | Back to school |
| | Year 11 A-Level Taster Day |
| 17th Jan | BTEC Tertiary and Taster Day |
| 18th Jan | Speak Out Challenge final |
| 24th Jan | MFL Theatre Production in school |
| 25th Jan | Year 11 Parents Evening |
| 1st Feb | MFL Theatre Production in school |
| 8th Feb | Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening |
| 9th Feb | Last day before half term |
| 12th-16th | Half term break |
| 19th Feb | Back to School |

REMEMBER!

Curious emails from someone you don't know?

Delete them!! Don't open them: They MIGHT contain a virus.

Students win Southall award

A massive congratulations to Nelson and Alex, who were nominated for the Southall Community Alliance 'Community Award' 2023 and won! This was all down to their hard work in running a 40+ member chess club every Tuesday, as well as teaching many students how to play chess. They have also decided to donate the money they have won to the mathematics department. They would like to fund extra calculators for those who can't afford it in the cost of living crisis or those who don't have one on the day of their exams. They have given so much back to the community. Very well deserved! If you would like to join chess club, you can stop by CPSHE every Tuesday at lunch time.



Wellbeing – Kooth.com

The holiday period can be difficult for many young people without access to their friends and school teachers. If you find that you need support over the break from school then Kooth may be able to help.

Kooth is a free, safe and easy to access mental health service for children and young people. They are commissioned primarily by the NHS and are the only digital mental health service to be accredited by the BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy). They have built a service that puts diversity and inclusion at its heart - ensuring that they remove barriers to great mental health services for all people regardless of race, age, gender, sexuality or socioeconomic situation.

You can go online anonymously and chat to a professional, they have information you can read, videos to watch, discussion boards and a journal activity.

Art of the month

Students in Year 9 have been studying portraiture. In particular, Chuck Close, who suffers from Prosopagnosia (facial blindness). To help with this condition, he started making very close up paintings of the people he knew to help him recognise them. Amy has used his style to inspire her self-portrait.



MISST play day

At the beginning of the year, we launched the Andrew Lloyd Webber Music in Secondary School Trust programme with a special celebration event. Students in Year 7 received a brand new, free classical musical instrument, promoting personal, social, intellectual and cultural development. Year 7 have since been thriving in their music lessons and have been enjoying embracing a new hobby. Seven students were chosen to play with a full orchestra while on a MISST play day at Highbury Grove School. They performed 'Jingle Bells' which you can watch on the "misst_music twitter. We're excited to see what's to come with our talented young people.



Oxford Inspire

A group of 30 Year 9 students visited St John's College at the University of Oxford, where they practised interview questions and critical thinking skills, as well as a tour of the university and lunch in the dining hall.



In the spotlight

Our Performing Arts Showcase allowed students show off their fantastic talents in the spotlight. From Dormers Wells' very own violin ensemble to bhangra dancing, our students truly displayed a variety of talent.

