



# Dormers Diary



## From the Headteacher

Welcome everyone to the eagerly awaited edition of the Dormers Wells Diary for March. After an interminably long January, followed by a February that sped by in the blink of an eye, March has been the month where 2023 settles down and we can finally shake-off the remaining shackles of winter and look forward to more hours of daylight in the coming weeks and months as the evenings begin to stretch out in front of us.

However, Dormers Wells has been its usual bustling self, regardless of the season! From events such as World Book Day to collaborations with English National Ballet choreographers, trips, and excursions (including Barcelona) to our pupils announcing themselves on the international stage, our school has hardly had a moment to breathe, which coincidentally is how we like it!

World Book Day celebrations are a favourite of mine and our event has grown year on year. This year the staff excelled themselves, kickstarting the week in style with a fabulous fancy dress display. I would encourage you to check out the pictures on Instagram!

Y8 and Y10 students went on fun and fact-filled days to Kingston and Cambridge University respectively where they got a taste of what university life entails which will prove invaluable when it comes to deciding on their future academic options.

In February, 25 students embarked on a trip to Barcelona, which proved a huge success. They immersed themselves in all things Catalan and were able to put their classroom Spanish language learnings into practice in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world.

Closer to home, our Y7 students attended the Stepping Stones Residential, where they faced their fears during

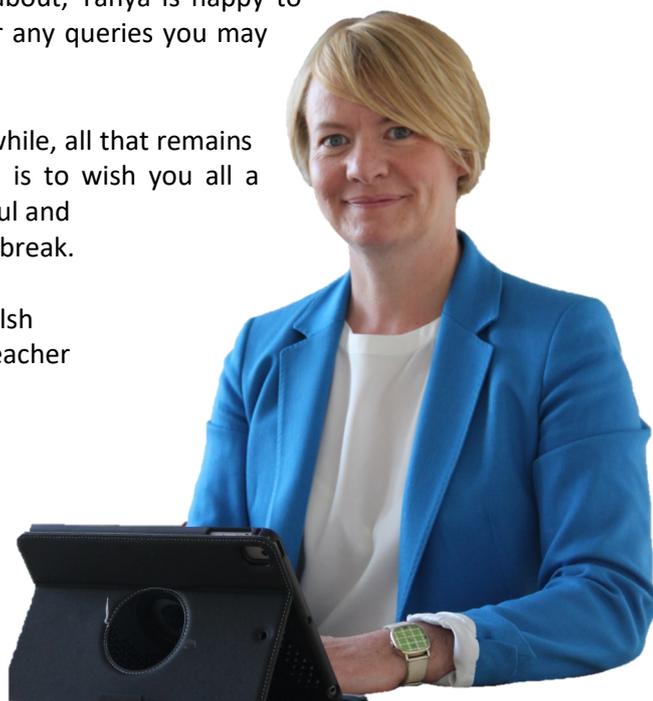
some daunting physical challenges. But I am delighted to say they rose magnificently to the occasion and proved once more that working as a team helps people overcome almost any obstacle. Congratulations Year 7!

We are also delighted to announce an exciting collaboration with choreographers from the English National Ballet where, amongst a host of benefits, Dormers Wells students gain the opportunity to express and explore their creativity via a series of dance workshops.

A special mention must go to Yahya, who applied and was granted a fully-funded Fulbright Scholarship to study at one of America's top universities. An incredible achievement and just reward for all his hard work. If this is something that you would be interested in knowing more about, Yahya is happy to answer any queries you may have.

Meanwhile, all that remains for me is to wish you all a peaceful and restful break.

Ms Walsh  
Headteacher



## From the Head Boy and Head Girl

As another successful term wraps up, we are pleased to share the many wonderful things we have achieved as a school. Recently, we had the pleasure of celebrating our multicultural school through culture day. Students from a range of diverse backgrounds came together and shared what they felt was culturally important to them. This included a fashion show followed by outstanding performances by brave and talented pupils who danced and sang, allowing us to acknowledge the beauty of other cultures as well as to be appreciative of our own. However, this amazing day will not be limited to just the sixth formers but to the entire school with the second cultural day of this half-term!

As you may know, Dormers holds reading at the centre of our hearts and of high regard. Like always, this year's World Book Day was captivating and well-received by the entirety of the Dormers community. Many teachers actively displayed their passion for books by dressing up as characters from their favourite novels. Mary Poppins, Batman, and Little Red Riding Hood are just a few of the characters we saw re-enacted. Furthermore, we have provided wonderful opportunities to our students by helping them top Russell Group universities such as Cambridge and Kingston. This helped motivate pupils to strive for nothing less than excellence here at Dormers as we help 'open their doors to success.' It has been quite thrilling to see how our community has continued to encourage the incredible students here at Dormers to remain as diligent and proactive in the school community as they have been this half term.

We would like to conclude by wishing you all a safe and restful holiday.

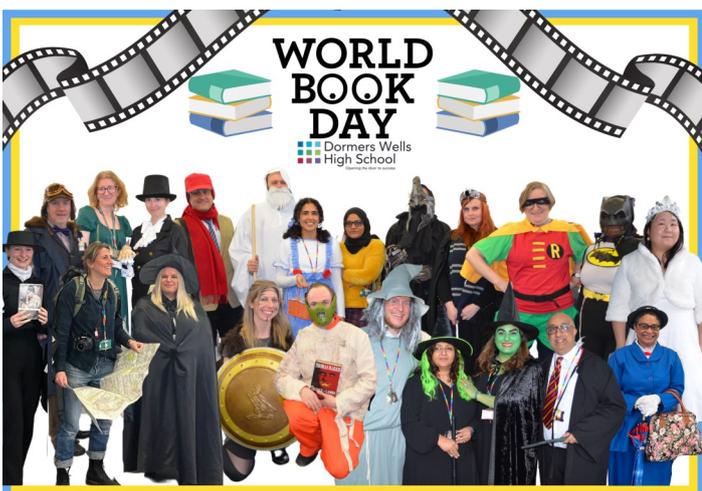


## World Book Day

March saw a real buzz around school with World Book Day and our chosen theme 'Books to screen: film adaptations'. Although last year's World Book Day was one not to be forgotten, we definitely topped it this year.

It was a fantastic week where a range of activities took place during form time, lunch and afterschool. Amongst the favourites were short films, debates, creative classes, quizzes, treasure hunts and manga club. There was something for everyone. World Book Day assemblies were held every morning and led by our librarians and a Paddington Bear competition kept students on their toes, but not as much as the surprise from the staff members that put a smile on everyone's face. Staff members kickstarted the week off in fancy dress and they did not hold back, especially Mr Hidalgo as the Witch King of Agmar, Mr Portwain as Hannibal Lecter and Ms McKay as Mary Poppins, to name a few. You can find all photos on our Instagram.

It was a fantastic week, we are looking forward to next year!



## Trips and excursions

This term has been full of trips and excursions. From universities to schools, theatres and even a different country! Year 8 students went to Kingston University for the day where they took part in some fun activities, finding names of different courses, as well as designing and building a model of their own university. They also had a tour and lunch in the university canteen. On the other end of the school spectrum, Year 10 went to Jesus College, University of Cambridge where they had some workshops on the university explained, an academic taster session as well as a tour of the university. They were able to meet current students and ask them questions in preparation for university life in the future. These are just a few of the many trips around the UK this term.

At the end of last half term 25 students flew to Barcelona for a Spanish trip to enjoy the culture, the landmarks and develop their Spanish fluency in the best possible location. They visited various sites such as Park Guell, La Sagrada Familia and La Rambla. Overall the trip was a great success, the students had a fantastic time and were able to take their Spanish curriculum to the next level.



## English National Ballet

We are excited to be part of a very inspiring dance project with the English National Ballet. Each student involved in the project took part in four in-school dance workshops delivered by choreographers from the English National Ballet, a choreography exchange and insights day on Friday 10th March at The Questors Theatre and were also given a free theatre ticket to watch 'Creature' at Sadler's Wells Theatre! These students are extremely grateful and have thoroughly enjoyed being able to develop physical skills and creative thinking. As well as having the opportunity to express themselves in a supportive environment and explore the possibility of a future in the creative industries.



## Stepping stones

A group of students in Year 7 and Year 10 went on a residential trip to Runways End Outdoor Centre. This was a reward for their consistent participation in the Stepping Stones mentoring project. Students stayed for two nights and enjoyed activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, archery, crate building, low ropes and caving!



## Upcoming Dates

31st March	Finish for Easter break
17th April	Return to school
1st May	May Day bank holiday
8th May	Kings coronation bank holiday
15th May	Y7 & Y8 exams start in class Y11 & Y13 exams start
22nd May	House competition week
26th May	Last day before may half term
5th June	Back to school
31st March	Last day of term

## REMEMBER!!

If you receive nasty, rude or bullying messages, SAVE them as evidence. Show a responsible adult who will help you get it stopped. It is often possible to track down WHO it is.

## The Fulbright Scholarship

Unbelievable news for Yahya as he gets accepted into the Sutton Trust US programme for a Fulbright scholarship! He has worked very hard to achieve this, as a result he will be fully funded to study abroad at one of Americas top universities! Yahya has applied to 13 universities and is in the process of receiving offers and so far has heard back from 4, one being The University of Virginia as a Jefferson scholar. This scholarship is only awarded to the top 1% of people who attend the university. Yahya hopes this inspires others to apply and is happy to answer questions around school.



## Art of the month



This piece is based on the Year 8 architecture project. Students have explored the artist Antoni Gaudi who is heavily inspired by nature. Elizza used these themes to create a structure inspired by natural forms to create a creepy Halloween themed pumpkin building.

## Food envy

Our canteen staff always outdo themselves with the tastiest school dinner options for students and staff members. This half term we were spoilt for choice with themed food days. For Pancake Day, we were treated to either chocolate, syrup or plain pancakes for desert. On Valentines Day, we enjoyed an Italian feast followed by love heart shortbread cookies. World Book Day saw author themed dishes, such as Michael Lawrence Murder & Chips. We also had an Indian theme day where the canteen staff dressed in traditional clothing and served the tastiest Indian cuisine.



## Fish heroes in schools

We were delighted to be one of 250 schools in the UK that received Alaska pink salmon, courtesy of the Food Teachers Centre and Alaska Seafood UK.

This special delivery is part of the Fish Heroes project, which encourages young people to learn about, cook and taste fish. Students also learned about the health benefits of fish in the diet, as well as aspects of sustainability.

Year 11 Food preparation and nutrition pupils cooked Salmon and Tarragon Tart, learning new food skills which they will be able to use in the future.



## Take care of your wellbeing

### Supporting young people through the exams

Exam season is upon us once again and this is a very stressful time for those students in years 11 and 13. We may find that our friends and peers are feeling overwhelmed or that our children are behaving differently at home. These are all signs that someone is feeling anxious about the exams and their future.

What can we do to support our friends and children?

**Talk about it** - Make time to ask how the young person is feeling, listen and validate their feelings.

**Check in** - Regularly check in to see how the young person is feeling, whilst remembering to talk about other things too.

**Reach out for support** - Make school aware if young person you know is struggling to manage their anxiety.

The following websites and helplines may be a good place to start:

**Childline** - 0800 11 11

**The Mix** - 0808 808 4994

**No Panic** - Call 01952 680835 for a recorded breathing exercise to help you through a panic attack (available 24/7). 0330 606 1174

**Young Minds** text 85258

**Parents Helpline** on 0808 802 5544, Monday - Friday 9:30am - 4:00pm.

**Muslim Youth Helpline** 0808 808 2008

## Character values in action

There were some wonderful moments during the Stepping Stones Residential where we saw year 7 and 10 students working together. All of our students took part in some really challenging activities which involved facing their fear of heights (climbing wall and crate stack), of small spaces (caving) and they all worked so well as a team!

From Year 10- Kairo, Rena, Shawna were consistently displaying their service character through supporting the younger students and being star mentors.

From Year 7- Damien displayed his determination by taking part in all of the activities. Mohammed showed outstanding determination when he was injured on the first day during an activity but attempted all the other activities regardless. Sajid showed determination to overcome his fear of heights and climb the tower. Maliha and Noor showed wisdom in their expert crate stacking.

All of the silver Duke of Edinburgh Award students showed determination and wisdom completing their expedition.

Ms Appiah wishes to shout out all of the students from the Adow family due to their service by always being polite and well mannered in their interactions.

