



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

A warm welcome to this, our first Dormers Diary of 2022-23. I am both delighted and proud to yet again lead with news of extraordinary exam results from our students. 83% achieved a 9-4 grade in English and mathematics. Considering the National average figure for 2022 was 71% and the Ealing figure alone was 76%, this is an outstanding achievement. Similarly, 63% of students achieved a 9-5 grade in English and mathematics. The national figure for 2022 was 52% with the figure in Ealing being 60%. At DWHS a trend of year-on-year improvement has now been firmly established, which is just reward for our students hard work and determination to not rest on their laurels but continue to raise the bar when it comes to exam results and in the process confirming that we as a school are on the right path.

While I am immeasurably proud of all our 6th form students, I feel a special mention must be made for Queen Mary University London bound Salma, off to read medicine, and Amal who is going to read chemistry at Imperial College London having gained straight A* in their final exams. Amal will be joined at Imperial by brothers, Harman and Harveen who also gained A* A* A* A* and who will be reading Mathematics with Statistics.

Like it or not, exam results are the most visible yardstick of a school's progress. However, they are but one aspect, albeit an important aspect, of the student's journey. And while we here at Dormers Well, students and staff alike, rightfully rejoice in that success, we are also aware that a bigger picture exists, a picture that encompasses the whole holistic journey of the student and includes other significant achievements. Skills such as social interaction with peers, friendships, high self-esteem, critical analysis and thinking along with the skills and confidence to articulate and defend these opinions. These are essential skills to possess in today's world if our students are to build on their excellent exam results and continue with their personal and professional self-development after they leave Dormers Wells High School.

I was delighted to see record numbers of Year 6 families come to visit us on Open Evening where a lot of information was shared in what was a very enjoyable and engaging evening.

The work our student ambassadors are doing travelling to local primary schools to spread word of our successes is another source of pride to me.

In the more immediate future, the current Year 11s have made a very promising start to 2022-23. It was standing room only at their Focus Evening and students are embracing the revision sessions that commenced recently.

I am also very encouraged after viewing the most recent statistics for the use of GCSEPod, a resource that provides podcasts to help with studies (we have now broken through the 5,000 thresholds).

The character values of Dormers Wells High School are an integral part of our daily life at school, so I was really pleased to hear our Year 10 students embodying the character value of service as they helped support a younger student who had lost their mother (read about it in the Dormers Diary). I know that it is still early in the school year but already there is much to celebrate. It would be re-miss of me not to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of staff and students that makes it all possible. Without it, this would be a noticeably short newsletter!

The school's Governors have also asked me to convey their appreciation of the continuing hard work they see. By maintaining the focus and application with which we have begun the year, the school community gives itself every chance of enjoying yet another summer of celebrations in 2023.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher



From the Head Boy and Head Girl

As the first half term of this academic year comes to a close, we are delighted to be able to reflect on the numerous successes and joyful events that the whole school community have been able to achieve and enjoy.

Our annual Year 6 Open Evening was a great success, with many of our students proving to be excellent school ambassadors, demonstrating to prospective students and their parents what a wonderful environment our school is. Other exciting events that have taken place include the year 9 trip to Oxford University, the year 13 residential to Cambridge University where students were prepared for university applications and given an insight into university life, Bhangra dance classes and focus evenings. It certainly has been a busy half term with Year 7 blossoming in secondary school and our new Year 12s adjusting well to the rigour of Key Stage 5 studies.

We would like to close with a quote from the late Queen Elizabeth II: "Whatever life throws at us, our individual responses will be all the stronger for working together and sharing the load." This truly highlights how imperative it is for all members of our school body to continue to work together and further contribute to the warm sense of community that we have fostered here, even in light of many changes in the world around us.

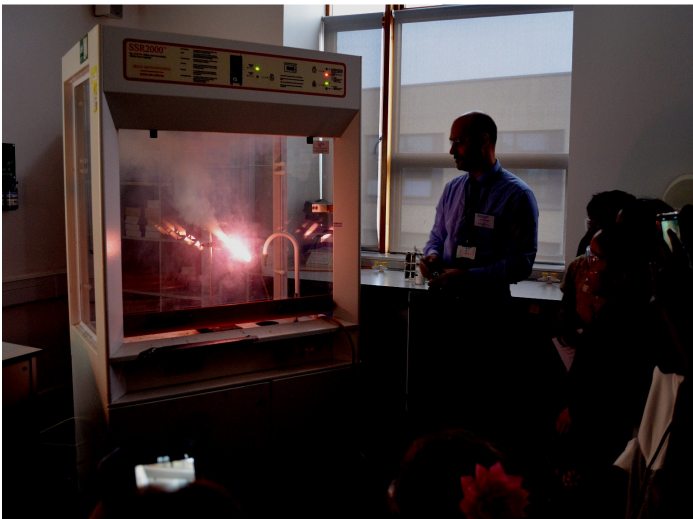


Open Evening success!

September saw a lively and well-attended Open Evening, which proved an enormous success.

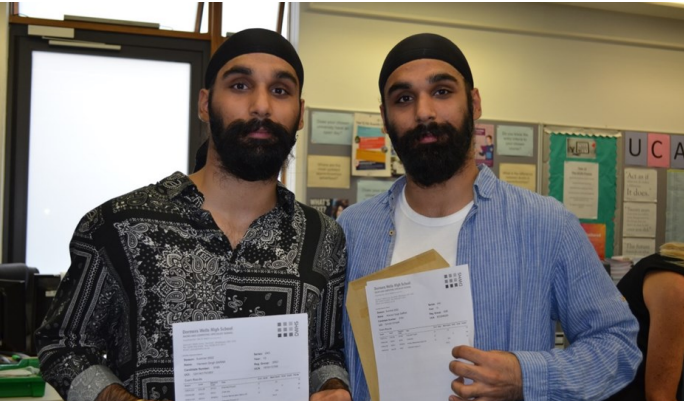
Our departments went above and beyond to show Year 6 students how just how fabulous Dormers Wells High School is. We have had fantastic feedback from those who attended, as they spent the evening being entertained and informed on everything from science explosions and electric currents to tasty dishes and musical treats.

We are more excited than ever to welcome our new cohort next year. A big thank you to all of the families who attended, as well as our speakers, helpers and entertainers who made the evening even more memorable.



University Destinations

We are so proud of our students who applied to Higher Education Institutes (HEI) or apprenticeships and were successful in securing places. With such fantastic results, students were able to get into top destinations such as Kings College London, Queen Mary University and Imperial College London. Harveen and Harman impressed all of us when they received 4 A* and secured a place at Imperial College London studying Mathematics with Statistics. We wish all of our Dormers Wells Sixth Form graduates great success in their chosen pathways.



Year 6 Activities Week

During Year 6 Activities Week, students from a range of different primary schools in the local area spent the morning with us at Dormers Wells High School. They were able to experience a variety of lessons they would typically experience at secondary school such as English, mathematics, PE, drama, art, music, business studies and many more. The Year 6 students from Dormers Wells Junior School, Blair Peach Primary, Tudor Primary, Allenby Primary, Lady Margaret Primary, Hambrough Primary, North Primary and Durdan's Park, thoroughly enjoyed their mornings, gaining confidence in moving from Year 6 to Year 7.



Upcoming Dates

31st Oct	Back to school / Year 11 IAGs start
8th Nov	Occasional Day
7th Nov	INSET Day - half day
10th Nov	Year 9 Parents' Evening
17th Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
21st Nov	INSET Day - half day
24th Nov	Year 7 Parents' Evening
15th Dec	Enrichment Day
16th Dec	Last day before Christmas break
3rd Jan	Return to school

THINK!

Use strong passwords:

1w2g2C

(I want to go to China)

TAx2ss2m

(Te Amo (twice) she said to me)

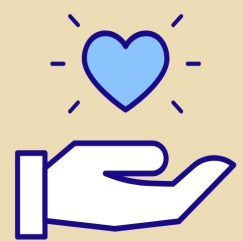
Character values in action

Eight of our Year 10 students were on their way home and saw a little girl running around who was distressed and had lost her mother. The students went over to the child comforted her and brought her back to school. The students arranged for the back gate to be opened and then took the child to the main reception and then out to the main entrance where she was reunited with her mother. Both mother and child were extremely thankful. Well done for embodying our values of service: Gurleen, Anaya, Manparit, Helina, Malaykia, Rena, Joana and Faveha!

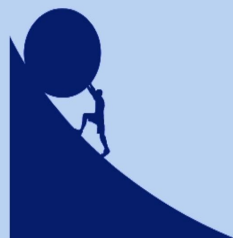
HONESTY



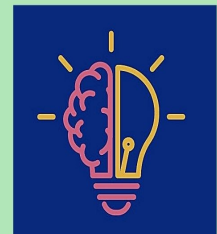
SERVICE



DETERMINATION



WISDOM



Wellbeing message

At the start of a new academic year, we are reminded that transitions can be difficult for some children and young people. Starting at high school, moving onto GCSE, A Level or BTech courses can feel exciting but also come with worry or upset. Change can be difficult when a young person does not want it to happen or does not feel ready for it. Change can be difficult because it is new and unknown, and they need time to let go of something that has ended; it may feel that they are not in control of what is happening. Change can feel more difficult when they are already struggling with other things.

If you feel that your child is struggling to cope with change have a look at the practical tips to help you support them on the Young Minds website. <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/transitions-and-times-of-change/>

Trip to Oxford

A group of Year 9 students went on a trip to the University of Oxford. They were taken on a tour of St John's College, spoke to current alumni and had lunch in the canteen. They also visited the Ashmolean Museum of art and archaeology where they saw everything from art to real Egyptian mummies!



Men's Mental Health

Brentford FC will be running Terrace Talks, a new men's mental health Talk Club running every Monday 5:30-7:30pm at the Brentford FCCST Office adjacent to the Gtech Community Stadium.

Whatever is on your mind; cost of living, kids, relationship, job, money worries, your physical or mental health, even politics or how bad your football team is playing, it's always good to talk.

The team at Brentford FC CST, partnered with A2Dominion, truly believe a problem aired is a problem shared so come along and meet the guys, tell us how your week has been, and let's get talking.

What's in it for you?

- A chance to share the load
- Regular check-ins with yourself and other men: "How are you? Out of 10?"
- Helping yourself, while supporting others, to be mentally fit
- Being part of a talk club

If you have any questions regarding this, please email ce@brentfordfcst.com or head down to Brentford FCCST on Mondays.

Art of the month



"I have created a response to the work of Sarah Graham who makes large scale photo-realist paintings of sweets. I produced my own collage, which includes my favourite sweets, and then I created a tonal drawing. I have tried to make my drawing as realistic as possible, which involved using a variety of tones." Amandeep Thiara 11PK

High Achievers

Well done to our Year 7 students who were invited by the Headteacher for a 'Hot Chocolate morning' to celebrate being the highest achieving students. They sat down and spoke about what they're reading, enjoying and their overall experience so far. Keep up the fantastic work!

