



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

A warm welcome to this, our first Dormers Diary of 2023-24. I am both delighted and proud to yet again lead with news of superb exam results from our students. 82% achieved a 9-4 grade in English and mathematics. Considering the average Ealing figure for 9-4 grade was 75%, this is an outstanding achievement. Similarly, 60% of students achieved a 9-5 grade in English and mathematics. The national figure for 2019 was 58% (2023 is yet to be published) with the figure in Ealing being 58%.

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 Harvard-bound Yahya, off to read Liberal Arts, and Zahra who is going to read Land Economy at Cambridge University having gained A*/A in their final exams.

Adam, our head boy, has joined the London School of Economics to read Geography and Economics and he is joined by Naima Hussein who also gained straight A grades and will be reading Law. Abdulsamad achieved D*D*D* in his Business

Studies BTEC exams and has been accepted on to a highly competitive Degree Apprenticeship with Ernest and Young. 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 Wells, 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.

One such person who knows just that is our new Deputy Chair of Governors and ex-pupil, Akhil Sharma. We are very pleased Akhil has contributed to this edition of Dormers Diary explaining why he chose to support the school as it continues to develop each year.



From the Governors

As an ex-student of Dormers Wells High School, I feel very privileged as I return to serve as a governor. The path that led me to this role has been paved by the unwavering support and guidance of the dedicated teachers at DWHS who have nurtured me throughout my academic journey. I now work at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the national regulator for aviation in the UK. My role entails working alongside regulators and policy makers to ensure the aviation industry meets the highest standards in safety and security across the world.

As a governor, I am committed to giving back to the institution that has shaped me into the person I am today. My primary goal is to ensure that every student who passes through these hallowed halls is provided with the same exceptional

opportunities that I was fortunate to receive. I am eager to contribute my skills, experiences, and perspectives to promote academic excellence, foster a nurturing environment, and empower every student to achieve their fullest potential.

I firmly believe that together, as a dedicated community, we can continue to elevate the standards of education and create a bright future for the next generation. Driven by a shared passion for education and a commitment to the success of every student.

Yours sincerely,
Akhil Sharma



From the Head Boy and Head Girl

As the first half of this academic year ends, we are thrilled to share the successes and events our school community has achieved. Our annual Year 6 Open Evening was an immense success and many of our students proved to be excellent school ambassadors, showcasing the joys our school offers to parents and prospective students. We are also delighted to tell you about the success of the MiSST launch. Every Year 7 student has been offered the enriching opportunity to participate in the MiSST program, ensuring access to high-quality musical education. Additionally, our prospective Year 6 students will also have the same opportunity, allowing them to embark on their musical journey with us. Furthermore, a former student, Preeti Dhillon, visited us, sharing her inspiring journey from our very classrooms to publishing acclaimed works, looking to inspire the next generation. The past half term has indeed been busy, with Year 7 students adapting and flourishing in their transition to secondary school, while our new Year 12s have seamlessly settled into the demands of Key Stage 5 studies. After an undoubtedly successful first half term for the school, we look forward to seeing the same success and progression continue into the rest of the school year.



Open Evening success!

September saw our best attended Open Evening yet. It proved a fantastic evening and an enormous success.

Our departments went above and beyond, showing Year 6 students how just how fabulous Dormers Wells High School is. We received 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. Students entertained parents with a dramatic 'pop in' live performance, whilst other students orchestrated live music beautifully on our grand piano. Parents and carers went out of their way to praise the behaviour and character values of our students and thoroughly enjoyed their evening.

We are more excited than ever to welcome the 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.

MiSST Launch

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, in front of their friends and families. They are learning how to play, promoting personal, social, intellectual and cultural development, opening up more doors and opportunities along the way.



Alumni author visit

We were pleased to welcome Preeti Dhillon back to Dormers Wells High School. Preeti is a researcher, writer, historian, published author and ex-student!

She sat with students to discuss her debut book "The Shoulders We Stand On". The book tells the stories of ten remarkable movements, campaigns and organisations. All led by Black and Brown people across Britain that fought against racism, capitalism and impacted the way we live now. Preeti signed 3 books on her visit, you can find them in the library!



University Destinations

We are so proud of our students who applied to Higher Education Institutes or apprenticeships and were successful in securing places. With such fantastic results, students were able to get into top destinations such as Harvard University, Cambridge University, Kings College London, Queen Mary University and Imperial College London.

Yahya impressed all of us when he received 1A* 3As. He went on to secure a fully funded scholarship at one of the most prestigious universities, in which many presidents and notable figures have attended. Harvard University.

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 primary schools in the local area spent the morning with us at Dormers Wells High School. They were able to experience a range 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, Beaconsfield 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

20th Oct	Last day of school
30th Oct	Return to school
2nd Nov	Year 9 Parents Evening
16th Nov	Year 8 Parents evening
21st Nov	KS4 HAPS Evening
23rd Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
27th Nov	Occasional Day
29th Nov	Careers Conference
19th Dec	Year 11 PPE Results Event
21st Dec	Last Day of term

THINK!

People can feel quite brave when they are typing. Sometimes it's tempting to type something rude, but if you were talking person to person, you wouldn't dare be so rude or unkind. Ask yourself what kind of person you really want to be?

Youth Explainer Programme

Well done to our Year 13 students who passed the Youth Explainer programme at Kew gardens with flying colours. They were all awarded the Kew Young environmental leader award and Kew Young Explainer Training and Volunteer program award, displaying resilience and determination throughout the programme.

Kew Garden's youth programme coordinator said "All of the young people from Dormers Wells were an asset to the programme as always, we have had a great year with them". Manvir received an award for 'Most Committed' volunteer, receiving a £100 voucher courtesy of the Marsh Trust Volunteer Awards (the only young person to get this award).



Wellbeing - Sleep

How can you help young people improve their sleep?

Getting good-quality sleep is vital in keeping your body and brain healthy and can also prevent a range of long-term health problems. We all vary as to how much sleep we need, but most of us need a minimum amount to function and this varies according to age. It's important to know the minimum amount of sleep children need as they develop. We also have different sleep preferences of being 'night owls' or 'morning larks' and most teenagers go through a phase of being night owls.

Technology is one of the biggest modern threats to getting good-quality sleep, and it's best to switch off devices in the hour before bed. A good house rule is to put phones and devices to bed in the kitchen/living room at night.

Sticking to a consistent routine of going to bed the same time each night is important. Setting a bedtime reminder alarm is often more effective than having a wake-up alarm.

Getting natural daylight exposure outdoors as early as possible in the day is important in waking us up and resetting our body clocks. Reducing bright lights in the evenings and keeping bedrooms dark is also helpful for our sleep-wake cycles.

Exercise can promote sleep as it helps the body to become physically tired. However, if you exercise too close to bedtime it can stop you sleeping. Other sleep tips include building in a wind-down routine before bed, which can consist of having a bath, reading a book, listening to soothing music, audio books or podcasts and avoiding heavy food, caffeine and alcohol before bed.

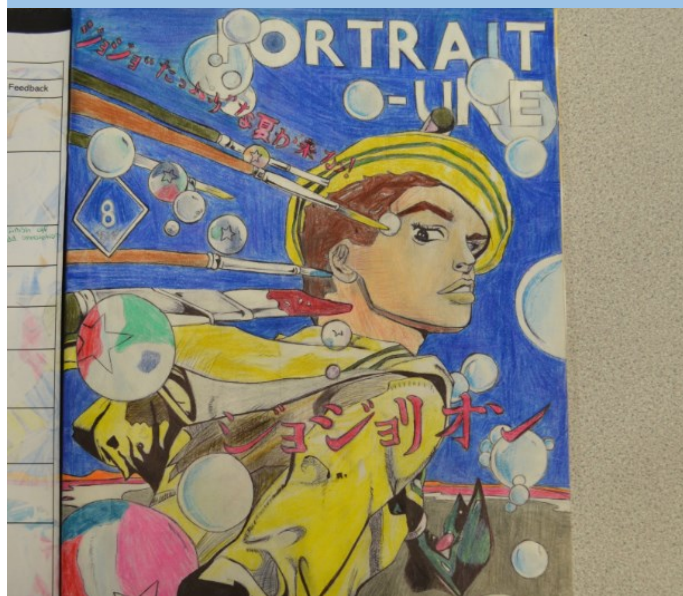
Character values in action

There have been amazing DWHS character values in action this half-term. In particular, teachers have identified Larissa in 7TE – for her speech at open evening - created by herself, practised before, during and after school. Larissa showed real confidence and wisdom to deliver a speech to over 300 people across the evening in her fourth week at school. Ahmed in 7SY, showed great service helping the other students he was working with to walk around the lab safely whilst holding a flame and ensuring the flame was not blown out before they could light their Bunsen safely. Not only did this help the students in his group but helped all the other students in the classroom to make sure everyone was safe.

Mankirat from 11HS also represents DWHS values. He is a role model for his peers and younger students by representing honesty in his efforts, empathy towards his peers and working as a team to help anyone in need. He upholds the value service in the way he displays himself and many more. Aliesha and Moe in 12BK have shown determination and wisdom through engaging in challenging research and discovering solutions for a range of economic principles at the beginning of their A level course.



Art of the month



This is by Navreet in 9BT. This title page has been executed superbly and has a wide range of tone and blended colour. It is reminiscent of Soviet art and conveys a strength and power that art style is well known for. This is an exceptional level of skill for a year 9 student and shows a high level of dedication and effort as well as passion for the subject.

Focus Evenings

Focus Evening is always a fantastic event at Dormers Wells High School. Over the last few weeks we have hosted Focus Evenings for Year 7, 11 and 12 and the turn out was incredible, our busiest year so far. We prioritise parent partnerships and look forward to developing them further over the upcoming years.



New Clubs

At the beginning of each new academic year, we release our new clubs list. This year we have a fantastic range of clubs, everything from Bhangra to NFL to Cooking and everything in-between. We have with something for everyone to get involved in and enjoy. You can find the full clubs list on our website and on posters around school.

