



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to the Easter edition of Dormers Diary! It is a remarkably busy edition, despite our being back at school a mere three weeks.

While our recent closure has impacted the whole school community, I am proud to say that everyone at DWHS has once again risen to the challenge and our attendance figures are impressively high. I would like to thank and congratulate everyone, including the parents and carers, for the support which you have provided during this challenging time. Parent partnerships are a key focus in our school, and so I was extremely impressed with the exceptional attendance at the year 8 virtual parents' evening. Students do not achieve alone; they do so with the joint support of home and school.

Dormers Wells High School consistently proves itself to be a remarkable place of learning where wonderful things happen all the time. I am proud of our new Head boy and girl and the work they have already done to support younger members of the school community during our recent World Book Day, as well as our superb mathematicians who have been phenomenally successful at the UKMIT Maths challenges in January. Special mention goes to Amijeet in Y10 who achieved the best result in his year group while Zahra and Farhan scored the highest in the school.

We are proud and excited to be partnering with Brentford FC Community Sports Trust for 3 days over the Easter break, where students will receive sport and personal development sessions. This is a wonderful opportunity for all involved and who knows, we may see

a DWHS student featuring for the Bees in the coming years!

Year 13 students have also been looking to the future, as many of our students have received offers from a range of universities across the country. In particular, I would like to celebrate the successes of our Head boy, Jan Wrobel, who has been offered a place at Cambridge University to study mathematics, and Amrit, our Head girl plans to study medicine with offers from Imperial College London and Kings University College, London.

With the summer 2021 internal exams fast approaching, we intend to continue being remarkable. Students are showing incredible dedication by returning to school for Easter revision sessions. As always, I am confident that our students will excel, and their grades will reward their undeniable hard work. This determination and perseverance shown by students towards their learning has provided lots of reasons for optimism that we can write another chapter in our success story this year.

It just remains for me to wish you all a happy and restful Easter break.

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



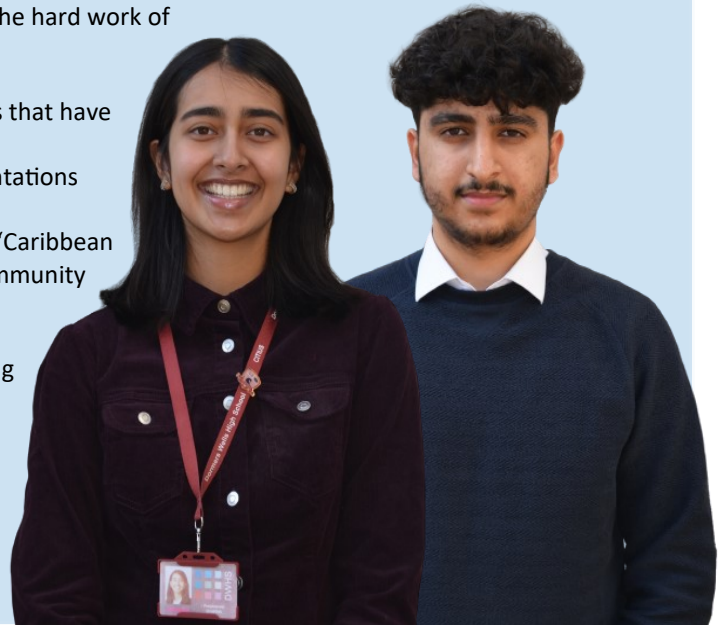
Meet the NEW Head Boy and Head Girl

Here at Dormers Wells High School, this term has been a turbulent experience for every single member of our school community. Determination, wisdom, service, and honesty are character traits that have been strengthened throughout lockdown; this journey has not been easy but the Dormers fighting spirit has continually shone through this difficult period and is evident in the hard work of the students and teachers.

Our vibrant school community has been one of the many factors that have bolstered our confidence during the transition from lockdown learning to coming back to school. As seen in the array of presentations and events such as the World Book Day event, with the teachers' infamous 'Battle of the Books', and more recently the 'Caribbean Cook Off', which definitely amplified the fact that our school community was stepping back into a sense of normality.

Furthermore, lockdown has not completely hindered the learning of our students, as the academic drive of our pupils has in fact accelerated, as seen in the excellent work ethic of all years, but more specifically the year 11s and year 13s, who despite all odds, will be taking their examinations in due course.

Finally, we would like to wish our students, teachers and their families a restful Easter break and we hope to see you soon.



Congratulations to these students who have proven themselves as worthy candidates for our Head Teacher's Ambassadors. They will work closely with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Sixth Form Team alongside the Head boy and Head girl. Their roles include representing the school at events and forming part of the Executive Council that feedback student issues or queries to the Headteacher.

Left to right: Asees Bajaj, Jawad Sobhani, Ibrahim Sharif, Gursimren Mahal, Navya Aggarwal, Debora Antanistipan, Zahra Sheikh, Palakpreet Kaur, Harman Sarna, Harveen Sarna.

Future Leaders

Mr Knox, our new Communication Cohesion Leader, has worked hard with Guy Richardson, an ex Director of Operations for the British & Irish Lions, ex-Team Manager for Scotland Rugby Union, 20-years Senior Military Officer at Sandhurst and now CEO of Eiger Performance in order to create a bespoke programme for our Sixth Form Leadership Team. This 6-week programme has got off to an excellent start with pupils learning and developing their leadership skills, focusing on: What is a Leader?, Respect and how to earn it, Communication and Moral Courage, Integrity, Flexibility, and Collaboration with Others.

After this programme has finished, we are looking forward to running similar 6-week programmes with our next set of mentors:

Employability & The City, run by Amanda Perry: Owner & Managing Director of Next Employment Recruitment Company, 30+ years' experience recruiting in the City of London and with vast knowledge to share on how students can make themselves more employable.

Economics in the Workplace, run by Ella Morris, Head of Strategic Departmental Analysis for the Department of International Trade; however, this programme is run on a personal level and is not linked to her Governmental Department.

Thinking of Setting Up a Business? Run by Owen Phillips, founder and CEO of OPT Group, a property investment and development group, set up from scratch 3 years ago now has a portfolio of 50 properties and £8million project pipeline.



Remember!

Banks and other online services will never ask you to verify your username and password via a link sent in an email. This is likely to be a phishing attack.

Careers Week

DWHS celebrated National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week virtually this year. All students had the opportunity to participate in interactive activities in lessons to learn more about careers and labour market information. Each year group also had the opportunity to take part in interactive careers activities in drop down lessons. Examples of activities included virtual interviews, Upskill me, live STEM webinars and a range of guest speakers leading sessions on leadership and employability. All of these activities help to achieve the Gatsby benchmarks across the school and support students in preparing for their future. Thank you to all to staff for leading these sessions and to those who organised sessions.

Multi Sports Holiday Camp

Mr Knox has worked with the local authority and Brentford FC to set up a free multi-sports Holiday Camp for Year 7 to 9 pupils that are selected based upon desire and need. This camp involves five hours of sports and a free hot meal each day for a week. We are excited to be the chosen school to pilot this programme as part of the funding extended from the Government after Marcus Rashford's Campaign and cannot wait to continue to work with Brentford FC on schemes like this in the future!

KS4 Mathematicians

Year 10s and 11s from sets 1 and 2 completed their UKMT Intermediate maths challenge in January and achieved fantastic results.

In summary:

	Yr10	Yr11	Total
Bronze	20	6	26
Silver	10	11	21
Gold	2	31	33

80 students in total achieved certificates.

In Year 10, Amijeet achieved Best in the year result - a score of 94.

In Year 11, Zahra and Farhan achieved Best in the school result - a score of 120.

33 students are now qualified for the next round of the competition, which will be in two weeks. 30 of these students are Pink Kangaroo Qualifiers (achieved a score of 86+) and three students are Maclaurin Olympiad Qualifiers (achieved a score of 118+).

Upcoming Dates

1st April	Last Day of School
2nd April	Good Friday—Bank Holiday
5th –16th April	Easter Holidays
19th April	Return to School
3rd May	May Day—Bank Holiday
5th February	Careers Conference
12th February	Last day of term
28th May	Last day of school before half term
7th June	Return to school

Wellbeing at Dormers

A column to support you through the ups and downs of school life. Written for students, parents and carers.

We have returned to school once again after the winter lockdown and hopefully you have settled back into the school routine. Of course you and your family may have found this a challenge, having to get up, dressed and ready for school, negotiating your way through the school day with all of its rules and regulations. You may also feel excited to see your friends again and start learning in the classroom again.

Making changes can be difficult and over the last year we have had to make many changes and adapt to a new world under a pandemic. So as a family how can you support each other? Here are some top tips!

Start talking

It's important to acknowledge that this is a difficult time. As parents and carers it is important to give our young people the message that returning to school is a big thing and you understand that. Talk to them in a way that is sensitive to their needs and gently open the conversation and let them know you're there for them if they want to talk. Making yourself available to talk when your child wants to talk and checking in with them to see how they are doing.

Sleep routine

Sleep is very important for your child's mental health and wellbeing, as well as their development. Try and help your child build a healthy sleep routine which they can maintain.

Coping strategies

Coping strategies are what you use when feeling stressed, such as speaking with friends or family, doing regular exercise, or using breathing techniques. Talk together as a family about the coping strategies that could be used.

With best wishes

Ms Cole

In-School Therapist

BEd, PG Cert, MEd, MSc

Oxford Inspire

A small group of year 10s have continued to take part in the Oxford Inspire programme this year which is being run by Oxford University. Every couple of weeks they are given a PowerPoint to help them to investigate an area outside of the usual curriculum and have the opportunity to create a piece of work on the topic and submit it for a competition. There are about 200 students taking part in the programme and I am delighted to say that Thenusha Sivabalan's entry for 'Make your own volcano' came in 1st place! Her winning video is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APhA5LcxDC8&feature=youtu.be>

House Competition

The House Team has got off to a flying start with their Caribbean themed cooking competition. This began with a live cook off between Ms Manu and Mr Knox, where they were videoed cooking dishes involving a Jerk Seasoning or Marinade. The plates were then judged by our young pupils with over 250 students engaging in the judging contest over the lockdown period! Furthermore, the real House Competition is now in full swing, it is an assignment on all TEAMS pages and it encourages all students to learn some parts about a new culture, its history, its music and then cook a dish from that culture's cuisine! We have had some great entries already from both teachers and staff and can't wait to see the results.



Amazing results

Bilan Yusuf in Year 12 was awarded full marks in an A Level philosophy essay. The question was "Critically compare the logical and evidential aspects of the problem of evil as challenges to belief." This is the first time a Year 12 student has been awarded full marks in YEAR 12 RE: A*.

Upskill Me launch

DWHS launched Upskill Me with our Year 10 students in National Careers Week. Students really enjoyed the launch event and were very keen to engage in the activities linked to logging their skills on their online profile and developing their skills using the excellent resources available. Students have found the points system very motivating and student feedback has been very positive. Congratulations to Tia Perry for achieving the most points in Upskill Me this month.

Art of the Month

This piece was inspired by a social media post by The Getty Museum to recreate at home their favourite artworks from the museum. People began to do this based on their favourite artworks from any gallery and posted them on Twitter and Instagram.

Year 9 were tasked with recreating a famous portrait thinking about how they could best use household objects to substitute for the objects and clothing in the original painting. Saaleha in year 9 has recreated a Picasso Painting entitled simply Painting of a woman with a hat. Saaleha has used face paints to recreate the abstract style of Picasso. She has included fizzy sweets in her hair for the green stripes, and even managed to find a hat and dress that match closely.

