



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to the first Dormers Diary of 2022.

While the first half-term of this new year has been short, it's certainly been busy! We have been very encouraged by students' performances in their pre-public examinations, so much so that, without getting ahead of ourselves, it is already looking like we may have much to celebrate this summer. There is, of course, no room for complacency, and a great deal of hard work must be done between now and the final examinations. Our job is to ensure that our students remain grounded, focused, and continue to apply themselves as they have to date, thereby remaining on track to fulfil their undoubted potential.

Year 11 students deserve a special mention in this introduction. The maturity and thought they have demonstrated, both at the Sixth Form taster day and while completing applications for sixth form study, has been a pleasure to witness. I would also like to congratulate the Year 13s, who have secured an impressive array of 3rd level offers from a plethora of the UK's leading universities including Oxford, Imperial, Durham, UCL and Warwick. This is an excellent achievement and I wish the year group every success as it takes its final steps towards securing the results required to clinch their places.

Another highlight of this half term was having alumni Yash Markendey coming back to DWHS to meet our Y12 & 13 students. Yash won a Fullbright scholarship to the University of Chicago in the USA, where he is currently enrolled on a Social Studies course. Yash was more than

happy to share his experiences with our students. Additionally, a group from Year 10 have entered our Scholars Programme and are working with a PhD tutor each week sharing their subject knowledge and passion for learning, and in the process developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university.

In sport-related matters, our Bears rugby team have been a joy to watch, scoring freely and remaining undefeated. I'm very proud of how rugby is evolving within our school.

Additionally, our student leaders continue to do a fabulous job as ambassadors of the school. They are shining role models and a credit to DWHS, all of which was very evident when they supported our staff at the recent Options Evening.

That is just a snapshot of the wonderful stuff that is happening at Dormers Wells High School daily.

I look forward to sharing some more with you in the near future.

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

Ms Walsh
Headteacher



From the Head Boy and Head Girl

Following on from another successful half term at DWHS, we are delighted to introduce ourselves as the new head boy and head girl. Looking back at 2021, we, as a school, faced a multitude of hardships, whether it was struggling with academic motivation or familiarising ourselves with day-to-day school life once again. However, as a community, we have powered through these obstacles together and have managed to come back having shaped our mindsets to be exceedingly stronger.

We would like to draw specific attention to our Year 11 and Sixth Form students who have recently completed their first set of PPE mock examinations. Their hard work and academic rigour have been nothing but commendable and inspiring during these challenging times. These exams are a vital component to ensure that they are fully equipped for their final exams in the early summer of this year. Also taking place throughout this half term have been our Virtual Parents' Evenings, another crucial tool to help carve each student's pathway, and we would like to applaud both parents and teachers for their amicable co-operation in such unprecedented times.

Additionally, we were so pleased at the turnout of the Year 11 Sixth Form Open Day, where many of our aspiring pupils were able to dress in formal attire, experience A Level taster sessions and gain an insight of what a typical day is like for a budding Dormers Sixth Form student.

To conclude, we would like to express our gratitude for being given this opportunity to aid our school's growth, and we will be sure to do just that as the year progresses. We wish you all a safe and restful half term.



Options fair

Options Evening proved to a fantastic success. Year 8 and Year 9 students spent the evening looking around each curriculum area, speaking with subject leaders and getting a better idea of what subjects they want to pursue in the future. We had a lot of help from our wonderful students who are currently studying the available options. They discussed their subjects with visiting parents, as well as explained to prospective students what they have to do and why they may want to choose the subject.

It was lovely to welcome parents back into school for this event after such a long time. We're so proud of our parent partnerships. Seeing our parents so involved means we can keep growing stronger as a community and achieve great things.

[Click here for Year 8 options](#) | [Click here for Year 9 options](#)



A Level Taster Day

While our Sixth Form students were preparing for their examinations, Year 11 students became sixth formers for the day. Students arrived to school very smartly dressed and were able to enjoy full sixth form privileges. They attended a range of taster lessons to gain an insight into the A Level courses on offer. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day and gave very positive feedback.



Work experience

Adeeba and Hamdi applied to do some work experience with Usborne Academy. The academy were so impressed that they sent books to the school for them afterwards.

"The Usborne Academy work experience week was extremely beneficial as it allowed us to experience what a career at a dignified publishing house could look like. During our time there, we were given a range of tasks to complete that conveyed to us, the vast range of jobs and roles available in the publishing industry. Whilst the experience itself was enlightening, the people we met were wonderful and incredibly skilled, and were also forthcoming with lots of great advice for the future." Adeeba.

"It was a fantastic opportunity to participate in the various professions in a publishing house. On the first day, we worked with branding and public relations, it was fascinating to learn about the psychology behind Usborne's decision to utilise yellow in their brand identity. On the second day, we had the opportunity to assist the art department and work in groups to create our own book designs. After obtaining a brief on the third day, we collaborated with the editorial team to develop storylines for a novel. The next day, we learned about the functions of the foreign editions, export departments, how books are translated, the trade rules and advertising techniques employed when selling books in other countries. On the final day, we created Instagram shorts for books while learning the basics of book marketing, such as posting according to time zones that majority of viewers are located in. We also had the opportunity to conduct other activities during the week, we toured their headquarters and visited Waterstones in central London to see what happened at the final stage of the book's production and sale. Overall, experiencing behind the scenes of what goes into developing one book was a fantastic experience." Hamdi.



Upcoming Dates

21st February	Return to school
24th February	Year 10 Parents' Evening
28th February & 2nd March	Year 9 IAG
3rd March	World Book Day
19th-21st March	Year 8 Maths weekend
24th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
1st April	Last day of term
19th April	Return to school

Remember!!

Do not use the same password for different online services. If someone learns your password, they will be able to access all your accounts.

Wellbeing column



On My Mind is a new website which aims empower young people to make informed choices about the mental health support they want, the treatments they receive and the outcomes they desire.

Co-produced with young people, the site consists of 8 free digital resources aimed at those aged up to 25.

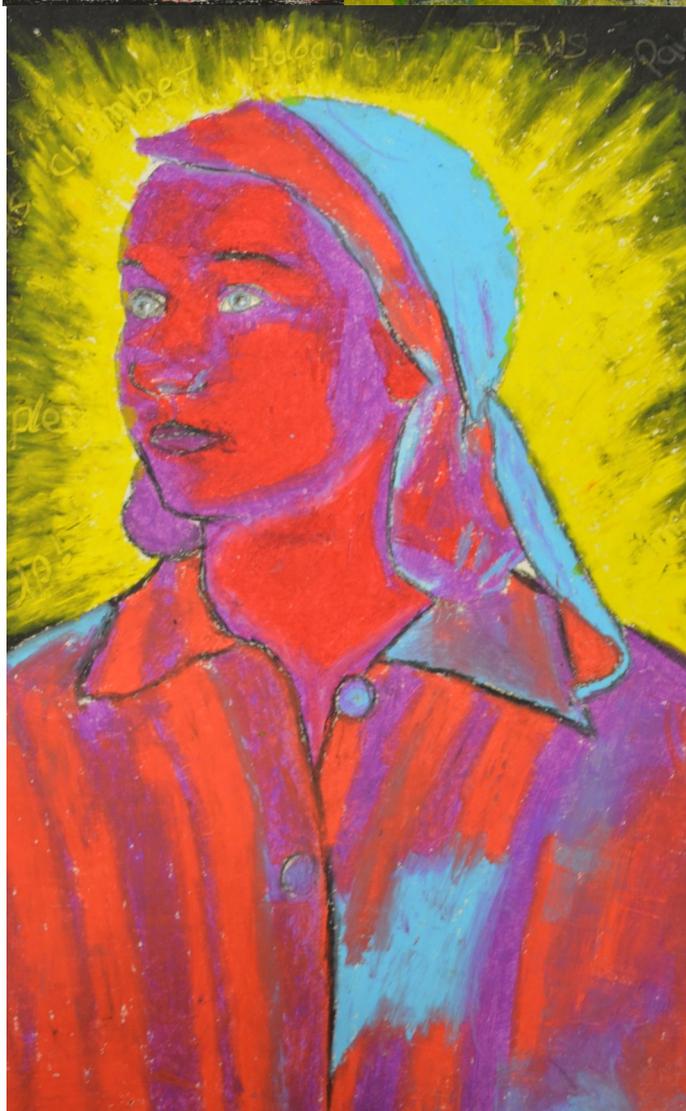
Youth Wellbeing Directory: Find free mental health support from services local to you
Jargon Buster: Understand what medical terms and phrases mean with definitions written by other young people
Receiving Support: Videos and Q&A's to help you know what to expect from working with a service
Understanding Referrals: Know what the referral process is, how to get one and what to do if you're waiting to be seen
Understanding Treatments: Find out what your treatment options are and what the evidence says about each treatment
Helping Someone Else: Top tips from young people about how to help a friend or relative with their mental health
Know Your Rights: Understand what your rights are when working with a service
Self-care: Discover activities which may help you manage your mental health if you're feeling low or anxious

www.onmymind.info

Art of the month

Year 9 have been working on portraits of Holocaust survivors to commemorate World Holocaust Day. They drew survivors from Bergen-Belson concentration camp. They used oil pastel to blend light and dark tones to show the dark times they endured, but also the light tones represents that they survived. They scratched the words into the background related to the Holocaust. The portraits are by Eshaan, Miscailla and Shradha.

Such fantastic pieces, well done!



Character values in action

At Dormers Wells High School we always strive to show the DWHS values of Determination, Wisdom, Honesty and Service in all we do. Hibba in Year 7 wanted to recognise the character she sees in her friend Alisha. Hibba said, "since I have sight problems, she helps me and understands my needs and we play Badminton and I cannot see the shuttlecock, she tells me where it is. She helps me read the board which I see as a great act of service. She packs my PE kit when we change because I cannot see what clothes are mine and what are hers. She is always positive and she motivates me when I feel like I cannot do anything. She helped me and I have more than 82 achievement points because she is always there for me encouraging me to do the best of my abilities. She cares about everyone!"

A parent also wanted to recognise the service shown by Navdeep, Muzmal, Rehan and Mohammed in Year 10. She said that while walking home by an alleyway, 'I felt rather uncomfortable and asked four young men to escort me through the alleyway. They politely said, "Yes miss, we will walk you through and we've got your back." I felt rather proud of how they didn't just leave me but made a point of walking me to my road.' Well done to everyone who models our values every day!

DETERMINATION



WISDOM



HONESTY



SERVICE



Dormers Bears strikes again!!

Our Dormers Bears crushed Elthorne 80 - 25 on Friday 21st January. They then went on to play Westminster school in Richmond on Wednesday 26th and tied. Our boys always go above and beyond on the field, the talent is unmatched. Well done!

