



# Dormers Diary



## From the Headteacher

Welcome to the first Dormers Diary of 2023.

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.

I was delighted at the fantastic turn out at the KS4 parents evening, with exceptional attendance from both the students and the parents and even better feedback from the teachers. This shows great partnership and commitment to the school, working together will continue to allow us to go from strength to strength.

The recent results from the KS4 and KS5 PPEs were very promising, the students have worked incredibly hard over this half term, and they should all be very proud of themselves. Furthermore, I am impressed at the dedication shown by Year 11 and Year 13 students who are returning to school over the half term break to participate in revision sessions, specifically run to support their upcoming exams. After half term we look forward to building our parent partnership even further and meeting up with parents at the Year 10 parents' evening, as well as Year 9 parents on the IAG days.

The annual Dormers Wells High School Careers Conference was very successful with the school hall filled with a variety of stalls, everything from HS2, to Queen Mary University London and even London Ambulance. DWHS students asked insightful questions

about future options as well as finding out further information about career routes via the apprenticeship programme.

In performing arts-related matters, our students have had the opportunity to work with the English National Ballet developing their skills in dance. As part of this exciting project the DWHS dance troupe will be performing their routines at Questors Theatre as well as visiting Sadler's Wells to watch the professional performance of *Creatures*. I look forward to watching these performances over the coming weeks.

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



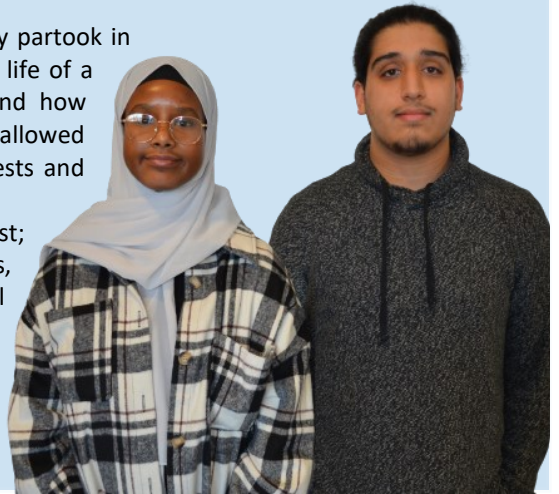
## Meet the new Head Boy and Head Girl

We are delighted to introduce ourselves as the new head boy and head girl. Following the end of this half-term, we are keen to share the tremendously positive experiences that Dormers has provided for its students with you. Everyone within the Dormers community has remained resilient and has continuously strived to open their door to success. Many of our students are undergoing stressful exams and pressuring times; we would like to say well done and thank all the teachers who are ensuring that our students can be the best they allow themselves to be.

Furthermore, Year 11 were able to experience life as a Sixth Former as they partook in taster days. They were very enthusiastic and stepped into the young adult life of a Sixth Former. The students learned more about the courses available and how schedules change. Alongside that, we held a careers conference that allowed students a chance to talk to many universities for guidance on their interests and opportunities.

During this half-term, we felt the responsibility of remembering the Holocaust; we taught our students about Holocaust Memorial Day through assemblies, where we remained knowledgeable about those who suffered these dreadful experiences, allowing students to be grateful for their current position in life. To conclude, we are immensely grateful to be able to assume these roles and we are certain that we will continue to work hard to further aid the development of the school throughout the year. We hope you enjoy your half-term holiday and get the rest you deserve.

Maryam & Arjun (Y12)



## Year 8 and 9 Options Fair

Options Evening proved to a fantastic success. Year 8 and Year 9 students spent the evening looking around each subject area, speaking with curriculum 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 explained their subjects to visiting parents and answered questions, as well as discussing and introducing prospective students to the benefits and experiences of the subject that they are looking to study. 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.



## A Level & BTEC 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 and BTEC courses on offer. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day and gave very positive feedback.



## Barclay careers workshop

Some of our Year 9 students participated in a careers workshop with Barclays UK. They will be participating in a series of nine workshops over the course of a few weeks. Year 9 found the workshop interesting and insightful and we're very grateful to have the opportunity. They are now taking on the careers advice given and looking forward to implementing it.



## Holocaust memorial day

Year 12 students, Oliver and Hanifah were invited to give a speech at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in Westminster. This was an event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day – a day to remember those who lost their lives as a result of the Holocaust during World War Two.

As Holocaust ambassadors, Oliver and Hanifah went on a one day trip to visit Auschwitz in Poland to learn about the Holocaust and hear from those whose lives it impacted. They then created an art project – a collection of photographs – to remember those who lost their lives and to signify what they had learnt. Their speech to members of the government and the CEOs of Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and the Holocaust Educational Trust was incredible, informative and moving. Their work on this project has been excellent and they have done Dormers Wells High School proud!



## Careers Conference

We held our annual Careers Conference for all students in Year 9 and 10. Students had the opportunity to engage with a large number of employers, colleges, apprenticeship providers and universities. The school hall was filled with a variety of stalls, everything from HS2, to Queen Mary University London and even London Ambulance. We also had students from Year 6 join us to explore their careers options and what paths they would like to choose in the future. An all-round successful day.



## Upcoming Dates

20th Feb	Return to School
22-24th Feb	Year 8 IAG
23rd Feb	Year 10 Parents' Evening
1st March	Year 9 IAG
2nd March	World Book Day
15th March	Stepping Stones Residential
17-19th March	Year 8 Maths Weekend
23rd March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
20th March	International Evening
31st March	Last day of term
17th April	Return to school

## THINK!!

If you are angry or upset: **take some time out** before posting

## Trip to Parliament

The Student Leadership Team went to Parliament to learn about how laws are passed and participated in their own debate. Students also had a walk around the Palace of Westminster and learnt about this history of the building and some of the artifacts inside.



## Wellbeing message

We are proud to support Children's Mental Health Week

Place2Be launched the first-ever Children's Mental Health Week in 2015 to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

This is more important than ever after the impact of lockdown and the pandemic, and now the cost-of-living crisis, all of which have had a significant impact on the mental health of our children and young people. Have a look on the school website for links that support you and your family's wellbeing and mental health.

From 6-12 February 2023, schools, families and communities across the UK will take part in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is **Let's Connect**. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, The Dormers Wells community alongside Place2Be are encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. The half term holiday may give you time to connect with those around you.

## MFL Theatre Productions

Our French and Spanish students had the fantastic opportunity to watch Onatti Productions perform the plays 'La Maison Hantee' and 'Mi Personalidad' as part of their curriculum enrichment. Students loved both performances and were pleased to be able to understand and interact with the actors. This tied in nicely with the various different modules that they are learning in class.



## Art of the month



Karina in Year 9 created this piece using the grid method and shaded using a range of pencils from HB-6B. The grid method used was inspired by Chuck Close and American artist who used this techniques to break down images from whole images into more manageable chunks to ensure as much realism as possible.

## KS3 parent event

Our school is participating in a project with other schools across Ealing that wants to make sure that students from all backgrounds are supported to achieve their full potential. In January, we hosted a parent engagement event with parents of students from Year 7, 8 and 9. We listened to student and parent experiences of school, to help us better understand what helps students to achieve and succeed in school; and what we can do to improve. It was fantastic to talk to so many parents as we are looking forward to the next parent engagement event.

