



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to the Easter edition of Dormers Diary! A very busy Spring term is reflected in a very busy edition. DWHS has been a bustling hive of activity and I will strive to mention as much as I can over the following pages.

Once again, we have had a focus on careers with our year 10 students taking part in the Future Frontiers programme. I would like to thank PA Media who are providing six hours of mentoring and guidance from professional role models in their organisation.

Parent partnerships is a key focus in our school, and I was extremely impressed with the exceptional 95% of year 8 parents who attended the virtual parents' evening. Students do not achieve alone; they do so with the support of home and school.

While student and staff wellbeing, both physical and mental, is a DWHS constant throughout the year, it has been a particular focus this half term, with the emphasis on adventure activities and sport participation. Some of our year 7 and year 10 students went on a residential trip to Runways End Outdoor Centre as part of the Stepping Stones mentoring project. Students took part in a wide range of team building activities such as rock climbing and crate building where their resilience and determination were put to the test. Read more about this trip in the main part of the newsletter.

We were also delighted to welcome Natalie Gray to our school. Natalie is a professional singer/songwriter, a mental health advocate and an LGBTQ+ community ally. She sang to over 300 students across several year groups, creating a huge buzz around the school amongst students and staff alike. Afterwards she held a Q&A session with eager and delighted students, which was deemed an outstanding success by all who

attended. We are keen to stage similar events in the future.

We are delighted to report that DWHS character values continue to be modelled by our students daily, in particular our value of service to our school and local community. I am very proud of our year 10 students, Alex, Nelson and Amit, who have been leading our Computer Science sessions on coding with year 6 students from Dormers Wells Junior School, demonstrating how they can share their knowledge and skills to others in the community.

With the summer 2022 exams fast approaching, we intend to continue being remarkable. Students are showing incredible dedication by returning to school for Easter revision sessions, making me even more optimistic of emulating the stunning GCSE results of 2021 and thereby ensuring that we write another chapter in the DWHS success story this year. The determination and perseverance shown by our students towards their learning has provided lots of reasons for optimism. So much so, that I am confident that the undeniable hard work that they have been putting in will be justly rewarded with the desired grades.

I wish you all a happy and restful break.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher



From the Head Boy and Head Girl

After another successful half term at Dormers Wells High School, we are delighted to wrap up the spring term by reflecting on the multitude of triumphs we have experienced as a community.

Over the past few months, it has been fantastic to see the variety of opportunities our students were able to experience at DWHS. This includes the Future Frontiers programme that many of our students were able to partake in, gaining vital understanding and insight into the future career paths that are accessible to them. Whilst expanding their networks by talking directly with professionals from a range of backgrounds, they were also able to invest valuable time into their future, becoming the aspiring and assiduous students that DWHS holds.

On the topic of our school's standards, these past few months, we have been thrilled to see how the character values of DWHS have been embodied throughout school life, including determination, wisdom, honesty and service.

Furthermore, at DWHS, we also put emphasis on wellbeing, and ensuring that the students here are always ready and able to learn diligently. Amongst the array of events taking place, we were lucky enough to have an exclusive visit from Natalie Gray who performed her songs to the students, followed by a talk on mental health, how to use social media responsibly, body image and LGBTQ+ to ensure that an open and safe place is provided to the students at DWHS.

Finally, we were able to come together as a community to celebrate both International Women's Day and World Book Day, where members of the English department dressed up as characters from Roald Dahl's popular novel 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and the school's librarians were successfully able to stress the vitality of reading, and the assortment of benefits that come with it. We would like to conclude by wishing you all a safe and restful holiday.



World Book Day: Read Around the World

March saw a real buzz around school with World Book Day and our chosen theme 'Read Around the World'. It was undoubtedly one of the best World Book Days to date, where we had the opportunity to appreciate a diverse range of authors. Throughout the week, a range of sessions took place at lunchtime. Students would gather to hear teachers speak about their favourite genre of book and participating in fun activities for all year groups. We had genres from the likes of Hip-Hop and Shakespeare to creating manga horror bookmarks and a variety of others: there was something for everyone.

World Book Day assemblies were held every morning and led by our librarians and each lesson began with reading a poem from a different country. A 'Read Around the World with *Where's Wally?*' competition kept students on their toes, but not as much as the surprise from the English department that put a smile on everybody's face. Mr Marker dressed up as Willy Wonka and the rest of the English team dressed up as his Golden Tickets. Ms Eastmond and Ms Cattell came kitted out as Thompson and Thompson from Tintin and Ms Hadjimi our very own villain, sported Dalmatian chic as Cruella de Vil.



Stepping Stones residential

A group of students in Year 7 and 10 went on a residential trip to Runways End Outdoor Centre as a reward for their consistent participation in the Stepping Stones mentoring project. Students stayed for two nights and enjoyed activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, archery, crate building and many others.

"This was an awesome trip . It had so many fun activities with new skills and amazing experiences which I probably won't have experienced in my life if it weren't for this trip . This trip was also an opportunity for me to get to know more people and make friends including people from year 10 . The campfire was a time which I will only get a few times in a lifetime . This was all possible thanks to the help of the school and the teachers . A big thanks to my teachers for making this happen!"



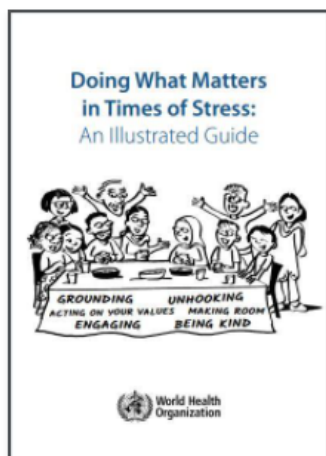
Wellbeing column

If you are experiencing stress and anxiety, you are not alone. Right now, there are many people in your community and around the world who are also struggling with stress.

There are many causes of stress, including personal difficulties (e.g. conflict with loved ones, being alone, lack of income, worries about the future), problems at school or work (e.g. conflict with peers, exam stress or insecure job) or major threats in your community (e.g. violence, disease, lack of economic opportunity).

The World Health Organization has produced a helpful booklet for parents and carers to support families through stressful times, you can access it here: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003927>

It comes in a wide range of languages. The booklet will help you to learn practical skills for dealing with stress and focusses on grounding , unhooking, acting on your values, being kind and making room.



Upcoming Dates

18th April	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
19th April	Return to school
2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
16th May	Year 11 GCSE exams start Year 13 A Level exams start
24th May	Year 7 exams end
27th May	Last day of half term
30th-3rd June	Half term break
6th June	Return to school

Remember!!

When registering for most websites you don't need to fill in ALL the forms & details. Look for the asterisk * which shows which details MUST be given.

Tackling online trolls

Trolling is the act of antagonising others online by deliberately posting irrelevant, or offensive comments or other disruptive content.

"I first got trolled back in 2020 during lockdown, I was in a few servers in Discord, which is meant to be child friendly. I then started getting racist messages. I felt incredibly sad, it was making me angry at small issues and I was debating if I had done something wrong. I asked the person to stop but they would not, all they would reply back was 'no, I don't care'. I talked to my friends about this they told me to talk to my teacher but didn't feel comfortable about this. I was thinking what if it was someone at school, I was paranoid about it. If I try and find out who it is, I could have get them into trouble, but I also wanted them to apologise. The racial slurs kept on coming, days after days, and when I could not cope, the advice I received was to block the person. So I did. I felt like something had changed in me, they couldn't hurt me anymore, even if they tried calling or messaging me, I wouldn't be able to see it as I blocked the person.

Although many children, teens even adults go through this, they may feel like they do not have anyone to talk to about it. Therefore, if something like this has ever happened to you on the internet talk to a teacher about it and be open they are there to help. If you do not want to talk to teachers talk to your family or friends. They only want you to be safe and happy. Childline is open 24/7 and you can phone them about anything, and they won't judge you at all. My top tips would be to block the person straight away, do not talk to them even if the anger makes you want to. Report them, a lot of social media platforms have a report button and tell someone, you're not alone. Trolls want a reaction, don't bother wasting your time and emotions on them."

- Anonymous

Art of the month

Well done to Mariyyah in 10ML for her wonderful piece of GCSE work, following the theme 'food in Art'. Students learn about Cubism and make drawings from different viewpoints in response to this art movement. The students then develop their drawings into paintings.



Future Frontiers

Some of our Year 10 students took part in the Future Frontiers initiative. This is an aspirational programme where they received 6 hours of career guidance from professional role models at PA Media, a news agency based in Paddington. Students received coaching around career interests, potential routes after GCSE and how to make their goals a reality. The agency were very impressed by the our students' level of focus, motivation and ambitious career goals.



International Women's Day

In music lessons this term, year 8 have been learning about Classical Indian Music. We were delighted to have Raahavi perform in our assembly today for International Women's Day. It was wonderful to see her playing a traditional instrument so well, and it complemented the fabulous assembly that the student councillors had put together.



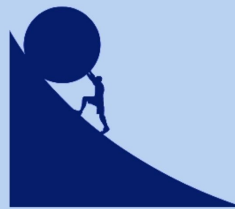
Character values in action

This half-term students have been learning about the virtue of courage in their My Character sessions in tutor time. This virtue links with our school character values of Determination, Wisdom, Honesty and Service as all of these values can take courage at different times.

On the Stepping Stones residential, students demonstrated all of the school character values throughout their stay. Determination to complete the activities they found challenging and work with new people in different contexts. Wisdom to solve their problems calmly. Honesty to look at their own strengths and weaknesses and service to help each other for the common good.

Well done all students who are modelling the DWHS values every day!

DETERMINATION



WISDOM



HONESTY



SERVICE



Natalie Gray

Singer/songwriter, LGBTQ+ community ally and mental health advocate Natalie Gray put on a wonderful performance for our students. She spoke about important topics such as issues surrounding social media, prioritising mental health, BLM and LGBTQ+. Students were able to resonate with the issues brought up and learn about how they can improve going forward. We were delighted to have her here.

