

DWHS

Dormers Diary

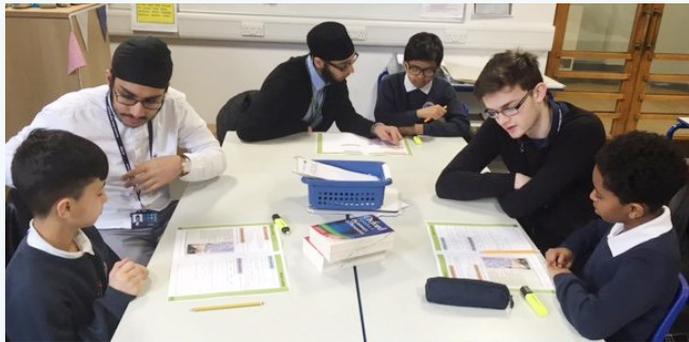
Easter 2017

From the Headteacher...

Welcome to the Easter 2017 edition of *Dormers Diary*. This is a special edition featuring extensive coverage of our inaugural Careers Conference. I wish to thank the organisations who exhibited or presented at the event, organiser Ms Dawson, and the Sixth Formers whose stewarding ensured its success.

Sixth Formers have also distinguished themselves this half-term with the remarkable work they have done with Year 6 students at Dormers Wells Junior School (above, right), improving their reading scores as they approach their SATS.

That work is by no means the only remarkable activity that has been going on. Our senior boys' triumph in the Ealing Senior Basketball Championships (page 4) is one of



which we are very proud. While there's no doubting these boys' talent, it's also clear that the hard work they have put into practices has been a major factor in their success. And, if you think that's impressive, what would you say if I told you that Dormers Wells has this half-term witnessed not



just the sight of a Samurai warrior walking its corridors, but also the turning of bronze coins into gold? Thanks to the visit of author and bodyguard Chris Bradford (page 3) and the array of activities that took place during British Science Week 2017, I can tell you that I have seen both with my own eyes. Dormers Wells really

is a school where remarkable things happen. With the summer 2017 public examinations nearly upon us, we must all focus on making sure that remarkable things continue to happen over the next few months. Having achieved our best-ever GCSE results last year, that will not be easy. However, with that challenge in mind, it was particularly pleasing to see the almost 90 per cent attendance of parents and carers at Year 11 Parents' Evening. Students do not achieve alone; they do so with the support of home and school. The engagement seen at this event is a reason for optimism that we can write another chapter in our success story this year.

Róisín Walsh
Headteacher

Inside...

Inaugural Careers Conference wins acclaim

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Dormers Wells hosted its first-ever Careers Conference at the end of February. The event saw exhibiting and speakers from more than thirty organisations visit school, providing 600 students with insights and advice about careers in

a vast array of professions. Students learnt more about areas as diverse as accountancy, the armed forces, automotive, banking, beauty, catering and hospitality, construction, consultancy, engineering, facilities management, fashion, financial services, health and fitness, law, retail, theatre and web development, from a range of companies and representative bodies. They also gained insights into apprenticeships and further education.

The fair element of the event was organised in a 'speed-dating' format, with groups of delegates visiting exhibitors in rotation, hearing about both the organisations they were representing and the individuals' own routes through educa-

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Spotlight: Year 9 and 10 students broaden career horizons



tion and work. Organisations and companies represented included: the Army, Barclays Life Skills, Berkeley Group, Caterlink, Chrysaor, Engie, Ernst & Young, Inspiring the Future, the London College of Beauty Therapy, McClaren Automotive, Mousetrap Theatre, the National Careers Service, Nicholas Hare Architects, Primark, Websites for Schools and West London College.

The event also featured a series of interactive workshops, with students invited to choose the sessions that most appealed to them. The sessions were hosted by a number of the organisations exhibiting in the fair, as well as Catalyst Housing, Ealing Legal Services, Jobcentre Plus, Lincoln International, Natwest, childcare provider Norbury Hill Cubs, The Brokerage Citylink and The YMCA. Workshops looking at employability, skills and attributes were provided by My Kinda Future and included the use of an innovative online research programme to help participants understand the opportunities available to them. Exhibitors and speakers gave positive feedback, praising the high level of engagement from students and the opportunity to broaden and deepen young people's understanding of the industries they were representing. Five students received 'Best Delegate' awards for their contribution to the event: Year 9s Jovan Hall and Anjali Sagar, and Year 10s Obada Alassadi, Jaedyn Ashton and Soruban Vigneshwaran.

What the students thought

Immediately after the event students were invited to reflect on what they had seen, heard and learnt, and what it could mean for their career aspirations. Four students – Jaedyn Ashton, Marwa Mousa, Jovan Hall and Harnit Palra – shared their impressions.

All were enthusiastic about the day, picking out the insights into the future it had provided, its role in helping them know what to expect when they leave school and what they might do, the increased under-

standing it had given them of the processes they will need to go through to find employment, and a sharpened focus, as being of particular value. Aspects of the day cited as particularly worthwhile were the CV workshop, an appreciation of the broad range of skills employers are seeking, the realisation that retail is an industry in which a career – rather than merely a Saturday job – may be found, and the opportunity to develop skills in the interactive workshop.



University options in focus

Students have been learning more about the options and opportunities for university study available to them this half-term.

Eighteen Sixth Formers attended the **Acorn House College University Preparation Day**. The event featured speakers from universities including East Anglia, King's College London, Newcastle and University College London. Students were positive in their feedback, with the honesty of speakers about how best to choose pathways to employment cited as being particularly valuable.

Year 12 students attended the **University of Surrey UCAS event** on 14th March, meeting representatives from universities from across the UK to learn more about their offerings. Year 12s have also been learning more about applying effectively, thanks to a **visit by Jane Marshall of Imperial College**, London. Jane led sessions looking at writing personal statements and university life.

Meanwhile, Year 10 students have welcomed to Dormers Wells a group of under- and post-graduates from **Jesus College, Cambridge**. The Cambridge students discussed how to apply for top universities and their studies of subjects including English, Maths and Medicine.



Spellbinding author visit



A visit by author **Chris Bradford** proved a huge hit with Year 7 and 8 students. They enjoyed his Samurai shows, which saw Chris reading and enacting scenes from his books, talking about Samurai culture and demonstrating some very impressive fighting techniques. The audience was, in equal measure, spellbound and terrified. The book signing at lunch time was also very well attended, resulting in many additional books being ordered.

From Monday 24th April to Friday 5th May a **Book Fair** will take place in the Library. It will feature a selection of books specially chosen for secondary schools from as little as £2.99. Students will be able to browse the books and, after talking to parents/carers, bring in money to buy what they have chosen. Each purchase will give the school credit for free books for its collection.

Spectroscopy in a suitcase

A Level Chemistry students enjoyed a visit from two Imperial College researchers at the end of February. The researchers led a session on modern analytical techniques in chemistry, using infra-red spectroscopy and nuclear magnetic resonance instruments to analyse and identify three poisons. As well as gaining hands-on experience, they were also able to discuss Masters and Ph.D. research with them.



STEM careers event



Aspiring scientists, programmers and engineers from Year 11 and the Sixth Form had the opportunity to speak to a range of professionals at Dormers Wells' second annual STEM careers fair in March. Speakers included civil engineers, a cybersecurity expert, cancer researchers, and an engineer from CAST who develops technology for policing. Students also had the chance to speak to STEM undergraduates from Brunel university.

Diary dates

Tues 18th April: School resumes after Easter break

Fri 28th April: Enterprise Day for Year 10

Mon 1st May: May Day Holiday (school closed)

Weds 10th May: School production of *The Canterbury Tales*

Fri 26th May: School breaks up for half-term holiday

Did you know?

Eighty-eight per cent of the photographs and videos on porn sites are self-taken by the people in them and have been stolen or hacked from social networking sites.

(Source: Internet Watch Foundation)

Artwork of the Half-Term

Our Artwork of the Half-Term is by Year 10 student Ibrahim Said. He has been influenced by the work of artists David Hockney and Rousseau; the former for his ability to create the illusion of water and the latter for his portrayals of animals in imaginary environments. This picture is a plan for Ibrahim's final piece, which he is working on now.



News in brief



Thirty Year 9 and 10 students who are interested in studying law enjoyed a **visit to internationally-renowned firm Clifford Chance** in March. They met employees who talked about their roles and how they secured them, their educations and what a day at the firm is like. They were also briefed on graduate recruitment, giving them an understanding of the path to achieve their career ambitions.

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using electronic devices at appropriate times.

The second Friday in March saw teams of students testing their knowledge in a **quiz based on ITV programme *The Chase***. Teachers Mr Bharj, Mr McCarthy, Ms Wilmot, Mr Cowing and Mr Job (below, receiving certificates) acted as the chasers.



Five Year 7 and 8 students (Shahir, Mahdi, Driren, Piankar and Vigith, pictured below) competed in the regional heats of the **Tomorrow's Engineers Lego Space Challenge** at Queen Mary's University at the end of February. Although they did not reach the final, they won an award from the judges for completing all of the challenges and were commended for their calmness and perseverance when things went wrong.

Basketball champions



Dormers Wells senior boys became Ealing basketball champions in mid-March. They took the title by defeating Drayton Manor High School by a four point margin in a closely-contested game. Congratulations go to Hanad Ali, Ayanle Ayanle, Arvind Dugh, Khalil Isa, Yusuf Mohamed, Ruben Monteiro, Hamza Nur, Kaiyan Oliveira, Ahmad Osmani, Ranjeth Ravichandran and captain Christian Teodoro Rodriguez. For Year 11 students in the team, the final was the last competitive match they will play for Dormers Wells.

