

# Dormers Diary

March 2019

## From the Headteacher...

Welcome to the Easter edition of *Dormers Diary*, a very busy edition reflecting a very successful and active half spring term. Once again we had vast coverage of the careers conference which indeed proved very rewarding to all students who participated. I would like to thank the organisations that attended the event and the helpful sixth formers who stewarded the event, it was a fantastic success.

Parent partnerships is a key focus in our school and I was extremely impressed with the exceptional attendance from 95% of parents who came to the year 7 parents evening. Students do not achieve alone; they do so with the support of home and school.

Dormers Wells High School continually proves itself to be a remarkable place where remarkable things happen. Our Junior Bears rugby team remain undefeated in their tournaments, I'm very proud how rugby is evolving within our school. Not to mention the 7FN girls fantastic win during their interform football success.

This term we have focussed on mastery and metacognition. It was wonderful to welcome



back Dr Martijn van der Spoel, a clinical psychologist, helping our students develop their metacognition. This has proven very beneficial as we approach the exam season, which continues to be more and more challenging every year. The skills developed through a number of workshops have been undeniably helpful and appreciated by all.

With the summer 2019 exams fast approaching, we intend to continue being remarkable. Students are showing incredible dedication by returning to school for Easter revision sessions. Having achieved another set of stunning

GCSE results in 2018, I am confident that our students will excel and their grades will represent the undeniable hard work that they have been putting in.

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.

I wish you all a happy and restful half term break.

Róisín Walsh  
Headteacher

## From the Head Boy and Head Girl...

The spring term has undoubtedly been very successful; there are many achievements to celebrate, both individually and for the school as a whole. As Sixth Formers we recently took a massive leap forward in our academic careers by attending the UCAS Convention. We explored a wide spectrum of academic and career opportunities and the convention got us thinking about the pathways we want to go down in the future.

Similarly, the Careers Fair proved to be of great value, because we gained a better comprehension of the unfathomable number of jobs that there are in the real world, and how we can work towards our dream careers. Moreover, the school has truly "opened the door to success" in terms of the number of extra-curricular activities available to us. It is great to see that our peers and students in younger years are partaking in sports clubs, university programmes, DebateMate and mentoring programmes, just to name a few.

We truly hope that the school and community continue to develop positively in the coming term. One word of advice that we have is that if you are struggling to cope with exam stress, talk to a teacher or someone you trust. The main aim of the school is that every pupil feels confident, secure and safe.

Harmanpreet Takhar & Tanmeet Gabba.



## Students explore career options

Over the past half term, students have been exploring their career and educational opportunities with the help of some events run by the school. In March we welcomed Year 8 and 9 students alongside their guardians, to attend IAG meetings throughout the day. Teachers had one to one meetings to give information, advice and guidance about the options available to students going into the year above. Teachers use this opportunity to evaluate the student's strengths and establish which subjects suit them best to ensure they make the right decisions going forward.



At the other end of the spectrum, Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form had the benefit of attending the careers conference hosted in the main hall. A number of colleges, universities and businesses came to speak to students about the different future options available to them. Among the many different visitors were institutions such as UCL and University of West London. The all-day workshops allowed students to ask questions and gain a greater understanding of the different pathways available to them, some even provided goodies and gifts for students to take away.



Sixth form students explored their horizons when they attended the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers event hosted at school. A range of companies were invited to talk to students who were specifically targeted for STEM pathways. Among the guests were companies such as Pfizer, Morgan Sindall and Dell. The aim was to encourage students to learn more about STEM careers and how they can be fun as well as highly educational.

## Students win Jack Petchey award

Anika Sharma, Harpreet Katar, Sahirah Ali, Rayhan Mansuri, Janis Khan and Yash Markendy were awarded the Jack Petchey award following nominations from their teachers.

They received their medallions from Julie Lewis, the ELP Directorate and also met the Deputy Mayor of Ealing. Alicia Masih represented the school and sang two songs, her performances were outstanding.



## FUNdraising for Comic Relief

DWHS students and staff took pride in raising money for Red Nose Day by participating and running various activities, paying £1 to wear their trainers for the day and buying at the samosa sale! The sports hall was the hub for all things fun, where students were able to pay 50p per activity, these included; Penalty shootouts, a skippathon, kick up challenge, bowling, table tennis, basketball, magnetic buzzer and staff badminton. We raised £367.63 in total.



## Art work of the Month

This terms artwork of the month goes to Savannah Bhatti in year 13.

This beautiful piece is part of a series of oil paintings that she has done for her chosen theme 'Decay'.

Well done Savannah!



## Did you know...

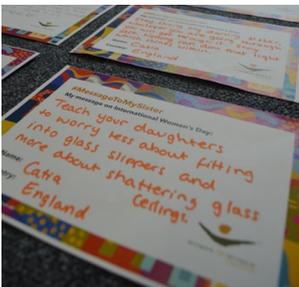
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## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Congratulations to Fiza Ali, Priyanks Balamurali, Mishaal Rasheed, Kajol Sharma who completed their bronze award and Anjali Sagar, Adnan Shinwari and Manraj Virdee for completing their silver. They have demonstrated resilience, commitment and service in order to complete their award within their first year of starting. They have undertaken a significant period of volunteering, physical activity and skill development. Moreover, they have completed two gruelling expeditions in the British countryside. Last weekend saw the new DofE bronze and silver students start their preparations, by map reading at school and exploring Richmond park.



## Supporting international women



For International Woman's Day students wrote an overwhelming amount of #MessagesToMySister. These are small acts of kindness and sisterhood in the form of messages of love and support to women in war zones around the world. It was organised with Women For Women UK.

## Students study Southall

Year 11 Geography students have been working hard completing fieldwork towards their GCSEs. They spent the day in Southall analysing land use, sketching and assessing the surrounding areas and approaching local members of the public to ask for their opinions for questionnaires.



## Year 12s look to the future

Our Year 12s have had an incredibly busy and successful half term. The year group ventured to Surrey University to attend a UCAS convention, where students had the opportunity to meet and talk with representatives from over one hundred and thirty higher education institutions from all over the UK. In addition to this, they watched general presentations on key areas of interest, such as UCAS application and student finance.



Similarly, those who wish to enroll at Oxbridge universities attended the St. Johns Oxford Inspire event where students benefited from in depth training on the skills and academic elements required in a strong personal statement. Later, Oxford University faculty members delivered tutorials to prepare students for complex problem solving questions often posed at the interviews.

This week, Avnish Grewal, one of our alumni, who is currently studying psychology at Cambridge, came and spoke to year 11 and 12 students all about her course and life at university.

## Learning from Lord Winston

Some of our Year 12 students had the pleasure of meeting and attending a seminar by Lord Winston. Our students were inspired on current research in reproductive medicine and how collaborative efforts can produce outstanding achievements in scientific research. Lord Winston described our students as "impressive" and said they "asked outstanding questions so intelligently".



## World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated with quizzes and prizes up for grabs. New books were available, whilst student librarians and teachers shared their favourite reads, also a themed lunch menu was specially created based on fictional books.



## Student scholars and speeches

The Year 7, 8 and 9 students have recently been working on their persuasive speaking and presentation skills. They put their knowledge to the test by using various different persuasive skills to compile a speech based on controversial current topics, including: veganism, plastic pollution, islamophobia and gender discrimination. They were given a lot of freedom to research and present in a way that best showcased their personality and passions in front of their year. The announced winners were... from year 7: Kannan Kaur, from year 8: Renee Multani and from year 9: Shahir Amir. These well deserved winners then had the opportunity to deliver their speeches at Scholars' Club evening.



Scholars' Club evening took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Over one hundred Year 7, 8 and 9 students attended alongside their parents for an evening focused on inspiring them to do well in their studies and to get them thinking about their future. The event got off to an excellent start with the winning presentations from the English Department's competition. Then Asiya Siddiq, a sixth form student who has received an offer to study medicine at Imperial College, took to the stage to talk about how best to get into your dream university. The main speaker was psychologist Dr Martijn Van Der Spoel. He engaged the students and families with a highly motivational speech, video clips and some very entertaining experiments involving the audience.

## Junior Bears Triumph!

Our Junior Bears won a tournament on the 12th March at Oakwood School. They were undefeated at the tournament and the boys showed bravery, commitment and teamwork. They listened well to feedback after each game and improved in those areas addressed.



## Diary Dates

5th April 2019 - Last day of term.

23rd April 2019 - Return to School.

25th April 2019 - International Evening.

27th - 28th April 2019 - DofE Surrey Hills .

6th May 2019 - School closed for bank holiday.

24th May 2019 - Last day of half term.

## Mathematicians in action

Year 7 mathematicians have been working on exploring the properties and formulas of different shapes and mainly circles. Students got involved in Maths enrichment workshops where they partook in various activities and discussions. This allowed the students to enjoy being able to bring maths outside their standard type of lesson.



The Year 9 mathematicians have been working on an engineering / architectural project which uses A-level maths. The students found parabolic artefacts in the real world, took pictures or selfies and then used these pictures to explore the parabolic properties applying AS level Mathematics. February saw the mathematicians put on a display in the hall. They invited fellow students to come and review the impressive equations. They explained the process and described the techniques to pinpoint numbers to the closest decimal point.



## 7FN interform success!

Congratulations to the 7FN girls who won all of their football matches on 6th February in the inter form competition. Rafia, Ria, Madhiya, Vineet and Jennifer all showed great determination and worked fantastically as a team as well as Amal Dahir and Nafisah Mohamed who officiated the football games.

