



# Dormers Diary



## From the Headteacher

Welcome to the December edition of Dormers Diary, another bustling edition reflecting a very exciting and eventful end to the first school term.

It has been a busy time for our Year 13 students, who in addition to studying for their summer exams, have also been finalising their UCAS applications with the support of the Sixth Form team and many other members of staff within the school. Three of our students have already been offered places at Imperial College London, two have been invited to interview at Cambridge University and another two have interviews at Oxford University. We are looking forward to another strong set of exam results in the summer and continuing to support all of our sixth form students.

The new Year 7 cohort have settled in very well, and we were delighted to see so many of you at the recent Parents' Evening to discuss their progress so far. It was also a pleasure to see so many Year 11 students at the recent Sixth Form Open Evening. Our current Sixth Form students acted as subject ambassadors on the night, and were able to add a further insight into Sixth Form life. The Taster Days taking place in January will provide Year 11 students with more information that will help them to make their choices for Year 12. Meanwhile, students in Years 8 and 9 are starting to prepare for their options choices for the next academic year, as we look forward to the Options Fair on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Our new Head Boy and Girl have made a very positive start to their new leadership roles, alongside a number of other students taking up headteacher ambassador roles. We are very fortunate in having such a strong group of student leaders within the school.

Our students have continued to involve themselves in a whole range of activities outside the classroom. Mr Dillamore accompanied two students on the recent trip to Auschwitz, which provided them with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of this period in history. A number of our students also attended the launch of Oxford University's Oxford Inspire event. Students benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and it is a reflection on the hard work and commitment of our staff that there are so many opportunities for them.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a pleasant and restful break, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school in January.

**Mr D Fenlon**  
*Interim Acting Headteacher*



## From the new Head Boy and Girl

The autumn term has been a resounding success, for us as individuals, and for the school as a whole. We have received the first taster of our A-Level courses, as well as the reality check of the drastically increased workload. Year 11 students have also received their first set of PPE results, an experience that has hopefully given them ample preparation for the 'real thing' this coming May. Additionally, the school community has been incredibly active in volunteering and participating in extra-curricular events. Students from across the school have contributed time and effort into many ventures, such as

House activities like the Spelling Bee, volunteering in DebateMate sessions, or helping in Parents Evenings and IAG meetings. We have many highlights to look forward to in the coming term: whether it be a day trip to the UCAS Convention, where we will explore a myriad of options for university options, as well as many other enriching extra-curricular trips and events. To conclude, we hope that everyone continues to work hard and enrich themselves in volunteering opportunities, carrying forward the momentum present this term.



## Trip to Auschwitz

**'What learning about the Holocaust means to me', by Jahnavi Salhotra SHB**

'What allows humans to descend into barbarism?' This was the question I found myself considering this term, as I completed the different workshops and trip that make up *the Lessons from Auschwitz Project*, a program involving two Year 12 History students from several schools in the country, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Taking part in the program allowed me to investigate the terrible events of the Holocaust from many different angles, starting with what went so horrifically wrong in a continent of high culture, high modernity and which was supposedly so 'civilized'. The state of people's consciousness at that point in history, considering as our moral and social values today, was another issue I grappled with.

Though none of the discussions I took part in were as hard hitting as hearing a Holocaust survivor share her testimony, an experience that left a deeper imprint than any lecture, book or film. Why? Because it was an unforgettably authentic encounter, which made crystal clear the importance of seeing those persecuted by the Nazis not as a faceless mass of victims but as individuals. Visiting the death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau similarly conveyed something that is hard to know without such an experience. Walking through the camp's barracks, seeing registration documents of inmates, piles of hair, shoes and clothes seized from the prisoners, stepping over the remnants of the gas chambers, all reminded me how real these things were.

Now, in building a truly tolerant and pluralistic society, we must preserve these relics in their rightful place, accessible for us to learn from. They are an eternal reminder of the irreparable loss that the Holocaust inflicted on Polish and wider European society; eliminating millions of citizens and their achievements. Taking part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project has been incredibly important for my own understanding of this, but including so many students every year in this program can actually shape our collective historical memory. We live in danger of the Holocaust's trauma being erased from this memory or being distorted: something we must never allow happen again.

## Oxford Inspire

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 12 students from the inspire programme attended a launch event run by Oxford University at Ellen Wilkinson School, here they learnt about what the programme entails and listened to example seminars from Oxford University staff. This is being followed up on in school where the students have begun to learn about the coding of DNA and how genes affect us, from what we look like to all the way to if we like the taste of Brussel Sprouts.



**'31.10.19 - The Austere Atmosphere of Auschwitz', by Yash Markendey SFC**

**9am.** AUSCHWITZ. Now - A barren camp. Yet, I could only start to imagine the screams that once emerged, entrapped by the alarming atmosphere. I stand at the sign solemnly. The sign greets me with the haunting phrase 'Arbeit Macht Frei.' Ironically, it means 'Work sets you free'; the ominous undertones perpetuate the palpable air.

**1pm.** A cacophony of flashbacks from the past transform the words of my textbook into an inescapable reality. The very site of mass genocide. Cobbled paths lead to the exit, exit to heaven for millions. Stacks of shoes, collections of children's clothes and even bales of women's hair - though inanimate - capture the humanity of the victims.

**3pm.** I stop. Take a deep breath. My thoughts go to a place of reflection. Life is a gift - an equal chance to make a change. Yet the Nazi oppressors devalued that gift for 6.6 million and tortured millions more. The Holocaust itself is a key piece of history. I am now part of it – it is my duty to share this history. History must not repeat itself.

**5pm.** Pondering upon the futility of war, my day leads me from the barbed wire of Auschwitz I to the nightmarish train tracks of Auschwitz II. A silhouette of sinister, shocking and stupefying sights form against the sunset. Barbaric barracks, a once-crimson carriage and fortified fields: the camp was a prison indeed.

**8pm.** Our memorial lights are strung out against the ebony sky blanketing the camp. They are a small gesture to illuminate the lives of thousands, as I get to walk away

## Art of the Month

This painting is by Mahnaz Jamshidi in 8MU. The year 8's theme this term has been Natural Forms. They have made drawings of shells, leaves and flowers which they used to make a landscape inspired by the artist Angie Lewin.



## HS2 Workshop

A group of Year 9 and Year 10 students participated in a STEM careers related workshop with HS2. The students took part in interactive activities which linked to different job roles. DWHS is working with Dynamic Training to provide students with a wide range of careers related opportunities with employers.



## Ealing Teen Read

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 140 students from 8 Ealing High Schools gathered at Dormers Wells High School for the launch of this year's Ealing Teen Read. Performance poet Sophia Thakur captivated her audience with stories of her life and family and animated readings from her debut collection of poems. The six books on the ETR shortlist were revealed to students who have until March to read them. The Teen Read is aimed at Year 9 students across the borough and is designed to introduce them to different genres and authors. Since the launch, our Teen Read group have been meeting weekly to share their love of books through speed reading and poetry to date. The final takes place here in March when the book students have voted as their favourite read is revealed.



## Spelling Bee

The last week in November saw the houses gathering for the annual DWHS Spelling BEE house competition. Competing over three lunchtimes, this knock out competition saw the best spellers at DWHS flex their brains! After three tough



heats, Citius were victorious and bagged 180 house points, alongside a 'skip the queue' pass for Friday lunch. Well Done!

## Upcoming Dates

6th Jan 2020	Return to school after half term
6th Jan 2020	A-Level Taster Day
15th Jan 2020	BTEC Taster and Tertiary Day
23rd Jan 2020	Year 11 Parents' Evening
5th Feb 2020	Year 8 and 9 Options Fair
6th Feb 2020	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
7th Feb 2020	Careers Conference
10-11th Feb 2020	Year 8 IAG
14th Feb 2020	Last day before Half Term
24th Feb 2020	Return to School

### Did you know?

**When you send someone a photo, you MIGHT also be sending your Location and they can tell EXACTLY where you are on a street plan. Keep "Location" facilities on smartphones switched OFF until you need them.**

## Social media savvy

Miss Hayre is one of the stars of a new national social media campaign that aims to inspire people to consider teaching as a career. The seven new films, created as part of the national Get Into Teaching campaign, feature a cast of real teachers from across England, who highlight how teaching engages, supports and inspires the next generation. Miss Hayre said: "I'm proud to be part of this new social media campaign, as it helps showcase how rewarding a career in teaching can be. Like many careers, teaching comes with its challenges, but knowing you can have a positive influence on students, both inside and outside of the classroom, is so rewarding." The new films will be run across the campaign's social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest and Snapchat.



## Trip to Ernst & Young

'Year 10 Business Students were able to enjoy a careers and employability workshop at Ernst & Young in Tower Bridge. Students learning about key employability skills, got to interview a handful of EY employees and were given an insight into their career progression. Many students enjoyed interviewing EY employees, learning about their day to day job and what they had to do to get a job at the company. One student, Balaaj Khan, said 'It was very engaging and practical' another student, Arfa Mouzzam spoke about the employability workshop and said 'I learnt how to build character in order to become resilient, determined and confident to apply for a job'. Students were given the prestigious training room on the 9th floor which gave beautiful views over the London skyline.



## Check Mate!

Chess club has been relaunched and has been going from strength to strength this autumn term. 22 students come to take a break and play chess on Thursdays at lunchtime with their skills ranging from beginners to intermediate ability. Some students have gone as far as choosing chess as their additional skills for their Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) award portfolio. We look forward to organising a fun chess tournament at some point in this school year.



## Dormers Bears

Dormers Bears beat Ealingfields 30 – 15 and thus continue their undefeated form. The stand out performances from Sabbath, Mo, Akash and Maiwand were unmatched, however man of the match goes to Cabinassir and his impressive improvements since year 7. Special regards to their 'former international' coach, Ms Blakebrough for always guiding the Bears to greatness.



## Student Leadership

Our year 9 sports leaders have begun their fortnightly sports club at Dormers Wells Junior School. Our year 9 leaders plan and design their own sports sessions for the primary school students using the knowledge that they have acquired in their leadership theory lessons. It was great to see such fantastic communication skills from our leaders when delivering these sessions and we feel it has given them a massive boost in confidence. All the primary students left the session with big smiles on their face and keenly anticipating the next one. Good work Year 9!

