



# Dormers Diary

February 2019

## From the Headteacher...

Welcome to the February edition of *Dormers Diary*, a packed edition reflecting a very exciting and busy half term.

I was delighted at the fantastic turn out at the KS5 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 students who are returning to school over the half term break to participate in revision sessions, specifically run to support their upcoming exams. Early indications

show we are on trend for another year of fantastic results.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we have the amazing efforts of Year 7 with their persuasive speeches and the upcoming speeches from Years 8 and 9. All were prepared and delivered with professionalism, confidence and creativity. I am excited for the announcement of the winner in the next edition of *Dormers Diary*. Meanwhile, I was delighted to hear about the Year 7 Dormers Bears rugby team and their astonishing win! They play better than the professionals... and in fact way better than the national Irish team did.

One of the highlights of the half term was having the privilege of Dr Martijn van der Spoel coming to Dormers Wells; his speech was very beneficial to both the students and the parents.



It is with great enthusiasm that we will be welcoming him back to speak during our Learn to Learn Week.

I am absolutely thrilled and so proud of our Sixth Form student Lady Ashong, who, out of over a thousand applicants, won a Fulbright scholarship to study at any prestigious university of her choice and has chosen to study at the University of New York in Abu Dhabi. She has achieved something so great and I look forward to her joining our sparkling alumni. Additionally, our student leaders continue to do a fabulous job being ambassadors of the school, which was evident when they co-hosted the Korean visit. They were shining role models and representatives of our school. I wish you all a happy and restful half term break.

Róisín Walsh  
Headteacher

## A flying visit from Korea

DWHS was delighted to host a South Korean delegation of representatives from the ministry of education, and both primary and high school teachers. They were visiting the UK to look at the teaching of STEM subjects, and visited DWHS specifically to look at our Science and Computer Science curricula. The visitors received presentations on our curriculum, and how leadership is developed, spoke to students, observed lessons and toured the school. After a closing ceremony where gifts were exchanged, the visitors went on to a meeting at the Department for education. On their return to Seoul, we were delighted about the positive feedback, complimenting our "impressive" curriculum.



## From Dormers to Dhabi

Lady Ashong has won a place and a financial aid package to study at The University of New York in Abu Dhabi after participating in the Sutton Trust US Programme, run in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission. Last year, Lady was one of 150 students selected for the programme, and competed with over 1,000 applicants to win her place. The Fulbright Commission gave Lady the opportunity to study at any prestigious university of her choice including Yale or Harvard, but after careful consideration she chose to take up her place in Abu Dhabi this coming August. Lady made her choice because the University allows students to study across 14 different campuses including New York, Ghana and Shang Hai which really appealed to Lady as she could travel to different countries whilst also spending in Ghana, her country of birth.



## Art work of the Month



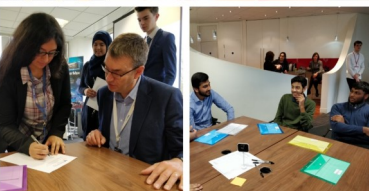
Our art work of the half term goes to Alex Ward, a Year 13 student who is currently studying Fine Art. This amazing portrait of her grandfather was created using oil paint on canvas and is part of her examination portfolio. Well done Alex!

## Dormers does Dragons Den at Dell

Twelve Sixth Form students attended a four day careers programme at Dell. This provided a fantastic opportunity to work with professionals from the IT sector in order to develop interview and presentation skills. The programme included a Dragon's Den, where a team of DWHS students pitched their idea for a corporate social responsibility initiative to Dell UK's vice-president for the public sector



channel. The VP was so impressed with the idea he made notes in order to look at rolling out the programme. In addition, two of our students were recognised from among the 75 students on the programme for their leadership and communication skills.



## Students selected to speak at holocaust memorial event

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January, Yaasir and Harpreet were invited by the Lessons from Auschwitz project to attend their Holocaust Memorial Day event at the Department of Education. Yaasir and Harpreet first made their impressions when they were selected to attend the trip to Poland by the charity who work with schools to promote Holocaust education. The day started by meeting the Minister for Education, Damian Hinds and a holocaust survivor, Steven Frank, they spoke with them about the trip to Auschwitz last October and how much they had all taken from it. Yaasir and Harpreet had been asked to perform a reflective speech about their trip to Poland and to explain the work they have done in school to promote Holocaust memorial. The event was shared with the 100 ministers who were in the audience and also with 200 others on skype around the country. Yaasir and Harpreet were described as fantastic, they spoke with confidence and had the full attention of the room throughout. Not surprisingly they have even been asked to speak again.



## Students Speak Out

Bilan Yusuf did a fantastic job representing the school in the Ealing Regional Final of Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge at Ellen Wilkinson School on the 15<sup>th</sup> January. Bilan impressed the audience with a powerful speech on female illiteracy titled '64%'. Bilan was confident, articulate and engaging, and really held her own in the face of some tough competition.

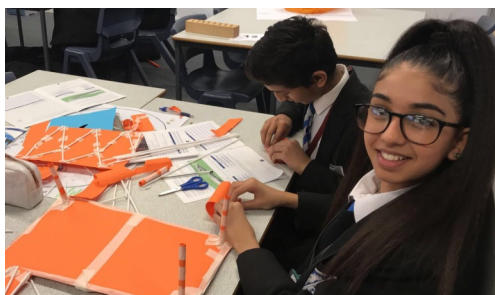


Meantime, Year 9 have been honing their public speaking skills, through debating. Twelve of them attended the Debatemate League. They did the school proud and smashed it winning an impressive five out of six debates! Congratulations to Shahir Ahmed, Laksega, Jibran Shar, Julia Kawecka, Faiza Aden, Tehreen Norman, Mani Nahour, Farhan Beyle, Anosha Khan, Adbulsamad Humaidan, Simran Sandhu and Yahya Handulle!



## Students explore career options

February saw Year 9 students participating in a STEM workshop organised by Mr Mahay, informing them about the different skill-set requirements and



STEM careers in the wider world. Focusing on the exciting transport project, High Speed 2, students were extremely engaged and positive about such a great opportunity. They were involved in various activities, one being 'Tunnel Structures' where they created an indestructible tunnel using only paper straws, masking tape and their knowledge of different forces and shapes that they have learnt in maths. Overall, our students are now more able to identify different STEM careers and possible routes into various careers.

Meanwhile, over 150 Year 11 students took part in our A Level Taster Day. Throughout the day students acted as Sixth Formers and attended four A-Level subjects of their choice which gave them an idea of the upcoming content and assisted them in confirming their choices before the deadline. Students were given the opportunity to experience specific Sixth Form privileges such as own clothes, the dedicated study room, library and common room.

Exploring their options further, over 100 Year 11 students took part in our BTEC Tertiary Day. Students attended a combination of either Level 3 BTEC Taster sessions and met with external providers to learn more about the courses and facilities they offer. We welcomed Ealing Apprenticeships and Southall Waterside Berkeley Group who ran workshops about opportunities available to them now and in the future.

## Students look to Future

Recently, Dr Martijn van der Spoel was invited to Dormers Wells High School to talk to high achieving students in KS4 and KS5. Martijn van der Spoel is an international speaker, originally from the Netherlands. The chartered psychologist gave an engaging presentation. He spoke to the students about the psychology of learning and different learning strategies. We look forward to the students implementing what they learnt in their studies.



Remember that even if your account is private, personal information you have shared with others could still be accessed through their pages.

## Diary Dates

25th February - Return to school

28th February 2019 - Year 10 Parents evening

7th March 2019 - World Book Day

5th April 2019 - Last day of term

## Christmas Community Dinner

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January, Dormers Wells High School hosted the Age Link Lunch where around 60 members of the community came and enjoyed a Christmas/New Year's party. They were served a delicious three course festive meal catered by the wonderful canteen staff, whilst enjoying musical entertainment and a raffle. This annual event, hosted by Mrs Wheeler gives the school a chance to engage with the community. Many colleagues at DWHS volunteer to collect and transport the guests and Year 12s and 13s volunteer to serve the meal. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by everyone.



## Year 12s find their Inner Drive

On the 4th February, Matt Shaw; an educational and sports psychologist visited year 12 students to speak about developing a growth mind set, building resilience, making improvements and setting goals. All Year 12 students participated in the one hour workshop which consisted of motivational talks, fun activities and engaging debates. After the successful workshop, students felt a renewed motivation towards their learning.



## Feeling festive in Lille

Year 9 Students recently embarked on a trip to Lille in France and travelled via the Eurotunnel. Upon arrival, students visited the Lille Christmas market where they enjoyed looking at the decorations, buying souvenirs and taking photos followed by a tour around town. The next day the students enjoyed a traditional French breakfast before heading off to La Coupole Bunker. This underground museum taught the students all about World War 2 in France; they also had the opportunity to see models of rockets and cars. They rounded off their trip by exploring the historic town centre and square and then visited the Auchan market to buy some final souvenirs before travelling on the Eurotunnel home.



## Boys handball success

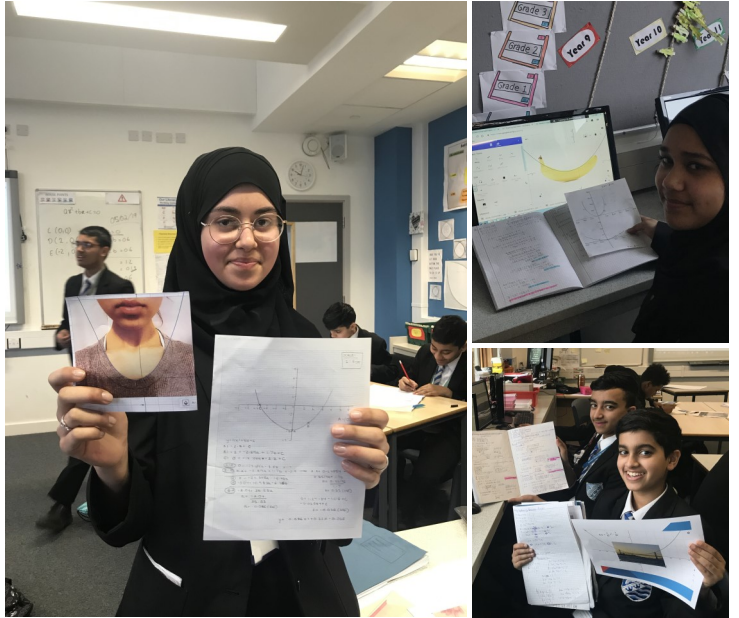
The under 13s Boys Handball team took part in the Borough competition and steamed past the opposition to win the event! All players showed maximum skill, effort, and discipline throughout the tournament which led them to a resounding victory. The fact that the professional handball players who were present at the event were asking for photos with our boys is testament to the fantastic performance each player put in. With a win of 10-5 against Fulham School they are now only two matches away from the London Youth Games finals which will be played in the Olympic Park.



Did you know 35% of college admission officers visit applicant's social media page before accepting them.

## The Maths behind Selfies

Year 9 mathematicians have been working on an engineering / architectural project which uses very high levels of maths skills. 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.



## The People vs Pollution

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, the Years 12 and 13 Economics classes visited the Heathrow flightpath consultation event in Southall Monsoon Banqueting Suite. The event gave the local community the opportunity to raise any concerns as to resulting changes in pollution, noise levels, land use and employment. The students learnt what a public consultation involved and how it related to their economics curriculum.

## Students clued up on Civil War

Spanish students recently returned from a trip to BFI to see "El Laberinto del fauno". On the trip, students were educated about the events during the Spanish civil war, before the Franco dictatorship and the daily life of citizens at that time. Students watched a moving film called "The Thirteen Roses" that tells the story of 13 women who were protesting against the dictatorship. They learnt about the film techniques used by Guillermo del Toro to emphasize how hard the characters' lives were under Franco's dictatorship.

