

May 2018

## From the Headteacher...

Our penultimate *Dormers Diary* of the academic year is another packed edition, reflecting an exciting half term. One of the highlights was our International Evening. This fabulous occasion was the culmination of a great deal of planning and hard work and the students who appeared on stage, and helped behind it, can be very proud. The final act to perform – the school choir – has blossomed from just a handful of members to thirty and it provided a memorable finale. It was great to see students celebrating not only their own cultures, but also the many different cultures of their peers and the school as a whole. That we did all this while raising a considerable amount of money for the mental health charity Campaign Against Living Miserably, made the event even more remarkable. I was very proud and am pleased to say that we have already begun planning next year's event. As a multicultural community, we had a number of students celebrating Ramadan this



half term. Understanding one another's beliefs is vital to the harmony of multicultural societies and it was great to see some of Year 7 students leading assemblies explaining the significance of the festival to their peers.

We are now very firmly in the midst of exams season, with our senior students having sat some of their exams already and looking forward to more after the half term break. The link between good nutrition and students' ability to learn is well-established and I am pleased to say that we are again this year offering our Year 11s a free breakfast on the days of their exams. I encourage them to

avail themselves of it because, as well as offering nutrition, it is an opportunity for them to come together with one another and their teachers and begin their day in a calm and purposeful manner, feeling supported and ready for the challenge ahead of them.

The school faced its own challenge this half term as we welcomed an external consultant to

assess learning in Key Stage 3. She had visited Dormers Wells on numerous occasions over the past 15 years and was therefore able to look not just at our current performance, but also how it compares to how we have done in the past. I am pleased to report that she was unequivocally positive, noting marked improvements in behaviour for learning and concluding that students are being taught very well. She also noted the buzz around the students and their ability to describe their own learning experience. Her report reflects very well on staff and students alike and is another source of immense pride.

Another challenge we have overcome this year was the creation of the Dormers Wells Learning Trust. I was pleased to see yet more evidence of the value of our closer ties this half term, with many of our students visiting DWJS to conduct peer reading sessions. The impact these sessions have on literacy is very obvious and I want to acknowledge the excellent work our students are doing.

I wish you all an enjoyable half term.

Róisín Walsh  
Headteacher

## Vibrant International Evening raises funds for CALM

Dormers Wells' International Evening at the end of April raised £385 for the mental health and wellbeing charity CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably). The event, which celebrated the diversity and togetherness of the school community, involved more than 50 students either on stage singing, dancing, playing music or reciting poetry, or backstage producing the extravaganza. Twenty-three acts performed in several languages drawing inspiration from traditional and modern cultures from around the world. The evening climaxed with the DWHS Choir singing the Fanagalo song *Shosholoz*.



# Alumnus captains University Challenge winners

Dormers Wells High School alumnus James Devine-Stoneman achieved the distinction of captaining the winning 2017–18 BBC University Challenge team this half term. James, who is reading for a PhD in superconducting spintronics, led the St. John's College, Cambridge team to a 145–100 points victory over Oxford's Merton College in the final at the end of April. He was presented with the winning trophy (right) by Judith Weir CBE, Master of the Queen's Music. One-hundred and thirty teams entered the competition, with 28 appearing in the televised rounds. On their path to the final, James captained St. John's to victory over the universities of Ulster, Newcastle, and St Andrew's and a rival Cambridge college, Corpus Christi. The team's series victory saw it accumulate a total of 1,300 points.



## Sports successes

Dormers Wells enjoyed success in the senior and intermediate **borough athletics championships** this half term. In the senior events Mohamed Ali won the 400m, Abdi Khalif the 800m, Hanad Ahmed the 1500m, and Lenworth Blake the shot-put. The four will go on to represent Ealing. In the intermediate events congratulations go to Year 8 Nutaylah Shawwal who came fourth in the girls' 100m, despite competing against a field of Year 9 students.

Also enjoying success at county level this half term were the Year 10 **rounders** players (below). The team finished as runners up in the competition at the beginning of May, bringing home silver medals. They defeated Cardinal Wiseman 6–1, Villiers 5–2 and William Perkins 7–3, before a narrow 4.5–4 win against Brentside in the semi final. The margins were equally narrow in the final, where Dormers lost 5.5–4.5 to Drayton Manor. Congratulations to: Abbie, Riymah, Hannan, Nasrin, Aisha, Shannon, Yusra, Marwa, Carina and Madiha.



## Diary dates

**Friday 25 May:** School breaks up for half-term  
**Monday 4 June:** School resumes  
**Monday 18 June:** Year 10 exams begin  
**Monday 25 June:** Year 12 exams begin  
**Monday 25 June:** Year 9 residential starts  
**Thursday 5 July:** Awards Evening  
**Tuesday 10 July:** Year 9 and 10 Sports Day  
**Wednesday 11 July:** Year 7 and 8 Sports Day  
**Tuesday 17 July:** Sports Awards Evening  
**Friday 20 July:** School breaks up for Summer

## Social media

Think about the information, images, comments and 'likes' you post online. Could they come back around and hurt you in some way?

## Jack Petchey Awards presentation

Dormers Wells students were at Greenford Town Hall at the end of April to be presented with their Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards. Their medals were presented by the Deputy Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Tejinder Dhami (pictured with winners left)

The awards recognised achievements including playing an instrumental part in organising last year's Year 11 Prom, an outstanding contribution to the school's Eco committee, playing a proactive role in supporting the revamped house system, using personal excellence in athletics and music to inspire others, and showing a positive and inspirational commitment to school life. One of our winners, Alicia Masah, sang at the event, giving an outstanding performance.



## Artwork of the half-term



Our Artwork of the half-term is photography by Year 10 student Lara Saib. It is inspired by the work of contemporary British artist James Ostrer that looks at fast food and addiction. Lara takes Ostrer's ideas further, additionally exploring the idea of food as fashion.

## Geographers carry out environmental survey

Year 11 Geography students enjoyed a very successful day conducting environmental quality surveys and questionnaires with more than 100 members of the public in Southall this half term. As part of the investigation, the students choose two questions to guide their fieldwork. The questions were whether environmental quality and land use change between Southall train station and the junction of Lady Margaret and Uxbridge Roads. Students sought views on pollution (noise and air), waste management, and the changes the local council is implementing to improve the local environment (new roads, pavements and traffic management). They found out that while the younger generation is far more critical of the local environment and that there is a sense that the improvements are too little and too late, the older generation is less critical of the environment and is more happy with the improvements.



## Robotics skills impress



Dormers was proud to host employees of Heathrow once again for a robotics event held in mid-April. Year 8 students successfully demonstrated their construction and programming skills, navigating their pods through a race course. They had the chance to speak to a number of professionals about their roles at the airport, including statisticians, programmers, and engineers. Our local MP, Virendra Sharma, visited the event, and was delighted by the high levels of enthusiasm and engagement shown by students.

## Biomedica meltdown

The end of March saw key stage 3 scientists spending an award-winning evening at the Linnean Society near Green Park. They were attending the awards ceremony for the Biomedica Meltdown competition,



in which Dormers Wells had entered a number of their pieces.

It was a successful evening, with Year 9 student Aisha Riaz (pictured left with her certificate) coming third out of more than 600 entries. Dormers Wells was also presented with a trophy for being the school with the highest number of finalists in the competition.

# Historians honour war dead on Ypres visit

Late March saw a group of forty Year 9 and 10 historians visit the Belgian town of Ypres to learn more about the First World War and deepen their understanding of the GCSE History course.

The trip began with a visit to the beautiful Flanders Fields Museum in the centre of Ypres, where students were able to see first-hand some of the artefacts that survive from the war, including gas marks, surgical equipment and unexploded mines, and hear some of the soldiers' personal stories. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a tour of the town with a local guide and experienced a traditional local restaurant, before participating in the Last Post ceremony that takes place at sunset each day. Year 10s Riymah and Giovanni honoured the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath on behalf of the school.

The second day saw the group visiting some of the cemeteries where the war dead are buried. After placing poppies at the graves as a sign of respect, they had an opportunity to explore the complex of trenches and tunnels (right) to find out what soldiers' lives may have been like. The trip concluded with free time in Ypres and a visit to a Belgian chocolate shop.



## News in brief



In a few months' time shoppers at Wholefoods supermarkets should be able to buy a jar of '**Dip into Dormers**', which is a paste dip created by DWHS students Nitushree, Issir, Ayesha and Abinaya. They were joint winners in a food competition and had to take their product to Belazu, where a team of judges (above, with the team) tasted all the samples. The winners will have their product professionally made, packaged and sold.

Sixth Former Lady Ashong has won a place on the **Fulbright American Universities Scholarship programme** and will be spending a week of the summer holidays in the USA visiting Ivy League universities. She was one of 175 UK-based students who competed for a place at an event in London during the Easter break.

Congratulations go to the 2018 **Maths Department Pi Challenge** winners. Irfanur Rahman (8EB) won the

competition, correctly reciting 340 digits, Warren De Souza (8PW) came second, managing 151 correctly recited digits, and Smita Sharma (7OS) came third with 125 correctly recited digits.

A small group of Year 10 and 11 students have successfully completed the **Kew Youth Explainer Training Programme**. They received their certificates at a graduation ceremony at the world-famous botanical garden at the end of March. Our congratulations to the group, whose calibre was praised by the organisers.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 participated in **workshops run by visitors from the University of Cambridge** at the end of March.

The end of April saw a group of Year 11 students enjoy an **Elizabethan study day** in central London. They visited the National Portrait Gallery (below), where they were given an introduction to some of the great paintings of the era



and art history skills, before heading on to the Tower of London where they enjoyed a tour and took part in a workshop. The day will help the students with their GCSE exams.

A group of football-loving students enjoyed a trip to Wembley Stadium (above) to watch the **Women's FA Cup Final** at the beginning of May. An exhibition of some amazing skills and goals, combined with a wonderful atmosphere, contributed to a great day of football culture for the group. The game, which was played in front of more than 45,000 spectators, ended in a 3-1 victory for Chelsea Ladies.

Year 7 and 8 students have been coordinating **donations to the Ealing Foodbank**. The initiative follows a visit to school by the organisers, The project helps families across the borough who are struggling to afford food and other basic supplies.