



DWHS

Dormers Diary

May 2017

From the Headteacher...

I am very proud to begin my introduction to this edition of *Dormers Diary* by announcing that we have received another award. Our most recent accolade comes from SSAT (right) and recognises that Dormers Wells is in the top 20 per cent of schools for students' progress between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

The award is just one of many successes to report this half-term. Amongst the highlights were the excellent production of *The Canterbury Tales*, which was a fitting finale to Director Mr Batten's theatrical career at Dormers Wells, our Eco Committee's 'Switch Off' campaign, which has seen committee members encouraging staff and students to switch off lights, white boards and other equipment when it is not being used, and the laying of wreaths by our students at Ypres. We are also delighted to have had four of our students' hard work for charity recognised at the Wings of Hope Achievement Awards (below).

As I write we are entering exam season and I wish all of those taking exams this summer the very best of luck. I was pleased to note that Dormers Wells is amongst the top seven per cent



of users of GCSE Pod, the online tool for independent learning, and I hope the hard work students have clearly been putting in pays off for them. To help candidates we are repeating our offer of a free breakfast that we introduced last year.

At Dormers Wells we place a high value on the effective partnerships we nurture with home and I was delighted by the very positive feedback we received following the evening Key Stage 3 students and

parents spent with sports psychologist Bradley Busch in May. Understanding the different ways in which the teenage brain works is vital in helping students achieve success. Success is the target for all students as we approach the conclusion of this year's House Competition and the trophy and much-coveted places at the Rock Assembly come up for grabs. As I write *Citius* look primed for victory, but with a full half-term left, everything is still to play for. May the best house win.

Róisín Walsh
Headteacher

Inside...

Page 2: Ypres visit | Robotics Workshop | British Science Week | Creative Writing Workshop | Diary dates

Page 3: London badminton finals | Canterbury Tales | Our House | Linguists Paris-bound

Page 4: News in brief | Artwork of the Half-Term

Students' charity work recognised with award

Dormers Wells students Fardin Ahmed, Ameerah Nehor, Disha Rana and Navjot Takhar are celebrating after having their charity work recognised with an award from WOHA (Wings of Hope Achievement Awards). The four, known collectively as Team Open Heart, were presented with WOHA's Community Action Award at the Royal College of Surgeons of England at the beginning of May.

The award recognises the tireless work Team Open Heart has done to raise money over the past 12 months, including a sponsored silence and signing event, selling Christmas cards and sweets, holding a samosa and cake sale and hosting many stations during a Spring fair. Their work has also seen them assisting and enter-

taining at a Christmas Age Link event, working with local primary schools to conduct activities, and interviewing primary school children in India about their education and aspirations. Their work required leadership, budgetary, interpersonal and time management skills.



Students honour Ypres dead

May saw 35 students and four staff travel to Belgium to visit the First World War battlefields, graveyards and memorials around the town of Ypres.

Day one saw the party visit the Flanders Fields Museum in the centre of the town, where students saw well-preserved artefacts including gas masks, surgical equipment and unexploded mines, and heard some of the stories of the soldiers who fought there. They also attended the Last Post ceremony that takes place at sunset every day, remembering the men that fell but whose bodies were never identified. During the ceremony, two students laid a wreath honouring these soldiers on behalf of Dormers Wells. The second day saw students visit the British and German graveyards, where they placed poppies as a sign of respect, and explore the preserved trenches in the woodland outside Ypres. The group also enjoyed the opportunity to sample a traditional Belgian restaurant, explore Ypres and stock up on Belgian chocolates.

All Year 9 students study the First World War and the visit helped bring to life the events they have been learning about.



Year 8 robotics workshop

Year 8 students were pitched into a competitive robotics challenge when they were visited by a group of STEM (Science, technology, Engineering and Maths) ambassadors from Heathrow this half-term. Working in teams, the students were asked to assemble and program a robot to navigate a race track in the shortest possible time. The task required students to apply their coding, maths and technology skills to complete the challenge.



Remember !!

When registering for most websites you don't need to fill in ALL the forms & details.

Look for the asterisk * which shows which details MUST be given.

British Science Week



Dormers Wells celebrated British Science Week 2017 with a packed programme of demonstrations and experiments at the end of March. Lunchtime activities saw students trying hands-on science including dissecting hearts, making magnets and the 5p challenge. Demo Day, on 16th March, was led by Year 13 students who conducted experiments including methane bubbles, elephant's toothpaste, producing hydrogen gas, and making sounds of different pitches with a wine glass. Key stage 3 students described what they'd witnessed as 'cool', 'fun' and 'great'. The Year 13s also enjoyed the day, as Sixth former Foteini Bisfa, one of the team, explains: "It was such a pleasure to do experiments for the younger kids; the most rewarding part of the Demo Day was the awed and curious expressions. I could see how excited they were to learn how the experiments worked, and most importantly, why they worked."

Creative writing workshop

On Tuesday 16th May 2017, a group of dedicated students from Years 7 and Year 8 participated in a creative writing workshop with Pitzhanger Manor. Students explored narrative in art, with particular reference to Soane's collection of the *A Rake's Progress* series by William Hogarth. Participants enjoyed learning how to think imaginatively to create their own stories.



Diary dates

Mon 5th June: School resumes after half-term
From Sunday 2nd July: Year 9 residential trips
Thurs 6th July: Awards Evening
Thurs 13th July: Rock Assembly
Fri 14th July: Year 8 trip to France
Mon 17th July: Year 7 and 8 Sports Day
Tues 18th July: Year 9 and 10 Sports Day
Fri 21st July: School breaks up for Summer holiday

London badminton finals

The London Youth Games badminton finals at the end of March saw Dormers Wells pitched against the best teams in London. The best eight teams at key stage 3 and 4 levels faced each other in a knockout competition. Unfortunately, our key stage 3 team was drawn against one of the pre-tournament favourites and was beaten comfortably. The key stage 4 team played against Hall School of Wimbledon, who also provided stiff opposition. Dormers Wells won two of the first four matches (Ramneek in singles and Rimon/Wasim in doubles) and the fixture came down to the final doubles game in which Ramneek and Sejad competed. A gripping match saw them beaten 15-13. A special mention goes to Wasim Pitchey, who has been a dedicated and outstanding performer throughout his time at DWHS.

Other recent sports successes include victories for Year 9s Mohamed Ali and Hanad Ahmed in the 1500m and 800m events respectively at the borough athletics, as well as Bilal Safari excelling in boxing and Riymah Mahdi earning a growing reputation in netball. With the weather improving for the summer, the PE department is encouraging students to check the school's extra-curricular timetable for sports activities as well as local initiatives and clubs.



Thespians tell Canterbury Tales

Dormers Wells' thespians (below) took on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* for their 2017 Summer production on Wednesday 10th May. The production featured four of the stories: The Knight's Tale, The Nun's Priest's Tale, The Pardoner's Tale and The Wife of Bath's Tale. Congratulations go to the many students and school departments who appeared in and supported the production.

Also putting on a show this half-term was the Year 10 BTEC Music group, which organised a Summer Concert for Year 7 students on Friday 12th May. The concert was a huge success and featured vocal, piano and drum performances. Congratulations to organisers Balak, Ben, Jaedyn and Khalid, as well as all of the performers.



Our House – Invictus

Our occasional series profiling the houses at Dormers Wells returns. Having featured Fortius in the Easter 2016 edition and Citius in May 2016, this edition sees *Dormers Diary* turn the spotlight on Invictus, currently sitting second in the House Points table behind Citius.

Colour: Dark Green

Motto: Humility, Determination, Compassion

House Leader: Miss Blakebrough

House Captain: Tanveer Kapoor

Team achievements: Invictus boasts a group of determined and compassionate people who will never relinquish their zeal. We have hosted an eventful movie night with an overwhelming turnout. Additionally, we look forward to hosting the science fair where we hope to see the participation of vibrant and innovative students.

Individual achievements: Notable achievements that deserve special mention are Avnish Grewal's offer to study at Cambridge and Maria Williams' incredible participation in the Model United Nations. Both have shown formidable talent and convey the importance of a growth mindset.

Our inspiration: For us, Yoda's approach to adversity, mistakes and dealing with new opportunities represents the mentality we want to see in our students. Our house song is *Man in the Mirror* by Michael Jackson.



Linguists Paris-bound



Year 10 students Sally Elcafargi, Tanmeet Gabba, Andreij Serigin and Soruban Vigneshwaran will be heading for Paris in June after winning the Bouygues UK Business Language Competition 2017. The team will enjoy an interactive presentation on sustainability at Bouygues' offices, a cruise along the Seine, lunch at a Paris restaurant, a visit to the Eiffel tower and time for sightseeing. The competition is conducted in French and is designed to promote the importance of modern foreign languages. The final was held at the Institut Francais in South Kensington at the start of May. Students also receive a prestigious Industrial Cadets gold certificate.

News in brief



The end of January saw Year 9 students participating in a **Persuasive Speech competition** (above, left), in which they were asked to write and perform a persuasive speech using a line of their choice from *Macbeth* as their title. Competitors were assessed on factors including preparation, clarity and understanding of their chosen topic. Sidak Sandhu won the event, with Omar Mohamed coming second and Jasvinder Mandhan finishing third.

Year 10 students enjoyed a day at the **'GCSE Poetry Live'** event at the end of February, where they saw several of the poets they are studying performing their work. They also had the opportunity to hear from the poets about what inspires them and how they approach poetry. Students were positive in their feedback, noting the increased understanding of



the poems they had gained and the advantage that knowledge will confer.

Dormers Wells welcomed Onatti Productions to school in May. The company performed *¿Cuántas me gusta tienes?* The comedy, delivered in Spanish by native speakers, tells the story of a teenager hospitalised in an accident (above, middle) who begins exaggerating his situation to gain attention. Dormers students from years 8, 9 and 10, along with guests from Greenford, Villiers and William Perkins, thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sports psychologist Bradley Busch (above, right) visited school in May to talk to Key Stage 3 boys and their parents about



the teenage brain. He focused on issues including multitasking, growth mindsets, resilience and the importance of being free of mobile phones while revising. The session was introduced by Key Stage 4 boys, who discussed the revision techniques they have found useful.

GCSE **Fashion Textiles** students have given *Dormers Diary* a glimpse of some of their final pieces. The students had 40 hours to complete a research dossier, prototype and final garment based on a theme of their choosing. Themes included gothic, punk (left), *The Nutcracker* and *Alice in Wonderland*. The students hope to showcase their creations at an end-of-term show.



Artwork of the Half-Term

Our *Artwork of the Half-Term* is by Alex Ward and was produced for her GCSE exam. She has mixed portraits and architectural forms to create a series of images that consider gender equality. The first features a woman lying down, her silhouette mirroring the form of the bridge, illustrating the idea of women as objects to be looked at and representing how they are perceived now. The next presents an optimistic view of how things can change to be more equal. The final image features a woman towering over the architecture, symbolising a future in which women are equal in shaping the world and not held back by institutions and outdated notions (represented by the buildings).

