

Summer 2017

From the Headteacher...



The final half-term of the academic year is a time of reflection. Teachers and students alike think about what they have achieved this year and what they can improve when they return.

We have a great deal to celebrate this year, as regular readers of *Dormers Diary* will know. Our students' hard work and determination have been rewarded with success after success and we have much to be proud of. Our annual Awards Evening, held at the beginning of July, celebrated students who exemplify the qualities we seek to nurture. My personal congratulations go to the many individuals recognised on the evening, as well as this year's House

Cup winners, Invictus (left). The event underlined not just the strength of the student body, but also the vital role that parents and carers play in creating the success story that we have become. I cannot overstate the importance of the contribution to young people's success that engagement from home makes.

I wish also to recognise the contribution of the teaching staff, whose unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for students never fails to impress. Notably, this half-term, we saw teachers participating enthusiastically in an afternoon session during which they shared with one another the fresh ideas they have implemented this year, disseminating best practice and helping to fuel further improvements in teaching that will benefit students next year.

We achieved excellent examination results last Summer and I am confident that we can look forward to two days of celebration this August when the GCSE and A Level results are published. Last year 97 per cent of our university applicants secured places at

their first choice institutions and we hope that our current Year 13s can repeat that success. As all teachers will attest, seeing students fulfil their ambitions is one of the greatest pleasures that our vocation offers.

This is also a time when we look forward to the successes we hope to achieve in the longer term. At the end of June we welcomed the 220 Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. They enjoyed a day experiencing lessons including PE, Science, History and CPSHE and met their form tutors and the other students who will be in their form groups. We look forward to helping them realise their potential.

And, of course, we'll be welcoming back many of Year 11s to our thriving Sixth Form.

The wonderful prom event they organised this half-term confirms that they are not only an academically capable year group, but also a very mature and pleasant one.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer break.

Róisín Walsh
Headteacher



Inside...

Page 2: Tudor Primary Careers Day | Ceramics workshop | Debate Challenge | Artwork of the half-term

Page 3: Year 13 garden party | Wales adventure | Diary dates | Year 10 mock interviews | Speak Out finale | CERN visit

Page 4: News in brief

Awards honour outstanding achievements



The 2017 Awards Evening on 6th July celebrated the achievement of students from across the school community. The Headteacher's Award was presented to Year 10 James Makepeace, whose Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge success you can read about inside. James and Sidak Sandhu spoke at the event. The guest speaker was former 4 x 400 relay world champion Mark Richardson (right, with Year 11 Year Leader Award winner Ravneet Kaur and Ms Smith). Entertainment was provided by student pianists Agamdeep Dang and Joel Melesan and vocalist Alicia Masih.

Tudor Primary careers day

Year 13 students Hashim Ali, Suleega Arab, Foteini Bifsa, Wajeehullah Mahmood and Muhammad Umer (below) gave up the first day of their summer break to contribute to Tudor Primary School's first ever careers day. They spoke about Year 7, GCSEs, A levels and choosing careers, as well as the extra curricular activities they have undertaken. Their contribution was praised by staff at Tudor Primary for being organised, informative and confidently presented.



Ceramics workshop

Forty Year 8 students enjoyed a ceramics workshop with professional ceramicists from Central Saint Martins this half term. Using DWHS's beautiful garden as inspiration, students spent two days designing, building and decorating clay vessels, which are soon to be exhibited in central London. Hidden within the ceramic pieces are Art Codes, a visual barcode which when scanned can link directly to a website. Student Zulaikha Iqbal said: "The workshop was something that changed my perspective on art. The visiting artists showed us that making art could be a career option and not just something that happens in the classroom".



Debate Challenge concludes



The London Debate Challenge 2017 reached its finale this half term, with both the West London Regional Final and the Grand Final taking place.

At the end of June Dormers Wells' five-strong team (Year 9s Abdurahman Al Tawel, Priyanshu Grover, Abbie Jensen, Yash Markendey and Keren Sondi) saw off competition from The Fulham Boys School, Orleans Park School and Queens Park Community School to win the title of West Regional Champion and a place in the Grand Final. That final took place a week later and saw the team facing seven other regional champions. Despite performing well, they did not triumph in the event.

Artwork of the half-term



Our latest Artwork of the half-term is a mixed media collage portrait of Mr Smith. It is by Year 12 student Fardin Ahmed.

The latest update of Snapchat has added a new location sharing layer called Snap Map to the app. This means that unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled, users will be constantly sharing their location with their Snapchat friends. For their own protection, we recommend that students should have 'Ghost Mode' switched on at all times, especially as many young people have Snapchat friends who they have never met 'in real life'.

Year 13 Garden Party

Year 13 students enjoyed a Leavers' Garden Party at the end of June. They were joined by staff including sixth form tutors and senior leaders for the event, which took place in the horticulture area of the school.

Attendees enjoyed a welcome drink, VIP menu food from the canteen, and music from Year 13 DJ Rodrigo Ferreira. Each student received a personal certificate.



Wales adventure trip

A group of Year 8 students enjoyed an Outward Bound Trust trip to Wales during the Easter break. The students undertook a series of challenges including abseiling, camping and hiking.



Diary dates

Thurs 17th August: A Level Results Day

Thurs 24th August: GCSE Results Day

Tues 5th September: Years 7, 10 and 12 return to school

Weds 6th September: All other year groups return to school

Thurs 14th September: Year 7 and 11 Focus Evening

Tues 26th September: Year 6 Open Evening

Thurs 5th October: Year 12 Focus Evening

Weds 18th October: School breaks up for half-term

Mock Interview Day for Year 10s



Monday 10th July saw Year 10 students undertaking mock job interviews with a group of 17 volunteers from GlaxoSmithKline. Suited and booted for the day, the students undertook the exercise as if it were a real interview. Each came armed with a CV that they had prepared in CPHSE lessons. The volunteer interviewers reported being extremely impressed.

Jack Petchey Speak Out finale



(pictured left with Jack Petchey himself) had qualified for the final by winning through borough and regional finals of the competition as champion.

Fifteen young speakers appeared before judges including the 2016 competition winner Ajaye McDonald, actress Una Stubbs, *Times Educational Supplement* editor Ann Mroz, English Speaking Board CEO Tina Renshaw, 2016 Carnegie Medal winner Sarah Crossan and BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme editor Sarah Sands. Despite a strong performance, James did not triumph on the evening.

The final of the Jack Petchey Foundation Speak Out Challenge took place at London's 1,000-seater Cambridge Theatre on Monday 3rd July, with Dormers Wells represented by Year 10 student James Makepeace. James

Visit to CERN

Year 12 Physicists enjoyed a three-day visit to Geneva for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to CERN to learn about the fundamental particles which existed during the Big Bang this half term. Seeing at first hand the data centres which collect petabytes (1 petabyte = 1 million gigabytes) of data, while walking around the Compact Muon Solenoid, one of the four enormous particle detectors, transformed it all from science fiction to reality for the group. Students also learnt more about the ongoing research at CERN, met professors and saw models of the huge magnets used to deflect particles around the Large Hadron Collider. The group

also enjoyed a tour of the United Nations Building and a chance to sit in some of the great historic conference halls, exploring the stylish city streets with their French architecture and getting wet under the famous 140 metre high Jet d'eau at Lake Geneva.



News in brief



Year 8 students Navya Aggarwal and Debora Antanistipan (above with fellow DWHS entrants) beat off competition from 78 other students to win first position at the **West London Gifted and Talented Science & Technology Challenge Day** at West Thames College on 11th July. They will now go forward to compete in the Regional Final in December. Year 9 student Samiya Hossain (top, centre) has won the **Perivale Woods Key Stage 3 Poster Competition**. Her entry was praised by judges for being eye-catching and informative. She won an Outdoor Classroom Day, which involved learning about the importance of woodlands and sampling techniques. Samiya said: "I am very proud to have won. The reward trip was really fun as we all got to venture out and look at all the different species in the woodland". Members of Invictus, winners of the 2016–17 **house competition**, were presented with their trophy at the start of July. They attended a Rock Assembly at Wembley as their prize.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students demonstrated a strong work ethic and battled hot weather to collect an astounding 13 bin bags of **litter** in an hour (top, right) on a visit to Spike's Bridge Park on Tuesday 4th July.

Students have responded to the **Grenfell Tower** fire tragedy by raising money to support those affected by the event and writing messages of support. Money



has been raised by participation in the nationwide 'Go Green for Grenfell' day and selling cakes and samosas. On Wednesday 5th July Year 7 students competed in a **Spelling Bee**, in which four teams of the best spellers from sets 1–10 went head to head in a number of spelling and word challenges to win the title of 'Spelling Queen Bee'. The event was charismatically hosted by Mohd Khan and Sejad Parwez, and there was lots of active participation and engagement from the audience. The winners (below) were: Jasmeen Multani, Tonica Whint and Karina Yon.



Year 8 Resistant Materials students have been creating moveable **wooden toy robots**. Each robot has its own personality and students have grown in confidence using the workshop tools and machines, whilst developing a range of technical drawing skills.

Year 12 Geographers conducted two days of **urban fieldwork** in July as part of their Independent Investigation. They travelled to East Acton and Stratford to compare an area that had not seen ma-



jor redevelopment with one that had. They collected data using both traditional techniques, such as questionnaires and shopping surveys, along with more cutting-edge methods such as using photos to study imaging, psycho-geography and the use of apps, including one to monitor noise levels.

Year 9 students have been rising to a **fashion challenge**, designing and making a piece of clothing using only bin bags, cardboard and other recycled materials in four hours or less. Some very creative responses were produced, with students employing a variety of techniques to create different textures, patterns and build the structure of their piece.

The **Year 11 Prom** (below) was held at the Riverside venue in Hounslow at the end of June. Entertainment was provided by a DJ, a caricaturist and a magic mirror photo booth. Awards were given in categories including the sportiest and most determined in the year group, as well as for the male and female with the best hair.



The **lunchtime house quiz** on 30 June ended in a four-way tie for first place, with Fortius, Invictus, Laurus and Magnus sharing the spoils. All houses did very well in the maths round.

Twenty-five Year 9 students enjoyed a trip to JBSki for a day of **water sports** (left) at the end of June. The day saw them trying a number of activities including water skiing, knee boarding, volleyball and a banana boat ride.

