



# Dormers Diary



## From the Headteacher

A warm welcome to the first Dormers Diary of 2024-25. As memories of hot summer days recede, thoughts slowly turn to shorter days and donning more layers. Here at DWHS while we embrace the changing seasons, school life also continues in its own cyclical way. As you read this, we are already 8 weeks into a brand-new school year and, as you can well imagine, there is already much to report on. So, let's get started!

And where better to begin than with news of more extraordinary exam results from our students. 75% achieved a 9-4 grade in English and mathematics.

Considering the national average figure was 66% and the Ealing figure alone stood at 67%, this is an outstanding achievement and fills me with pride. Equally impressive was 56% of our students achieving a 9-5 grade in English and mathematics.

Congratulations to Y13 student Yalesan who achieved A\* A\* A\* A\* resulting in an offer to study Mathematics at Imperial. And a special mention for Madeline and Smita, off to read medicine at University of Aston and Exeter, while Iqra is going to read law at London School of Economics having gained straight As in their final exams. All their hard work and dedication has paid off.

I am continually grateful for our vibrant school community here at Dormers Wells High School. A case in point was our recently held annual Awards Evening where academic achievements were celebrated with performances and inspirational speeches. Award-winning poet and author Jaspreet Kaur delivered a moving address that resonated with staff, students and families alike.

This year marks our second anniversary in partnership with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Music in Secondary Schools Trust programme (how time flies!) and to mark the occasion we welcomed our new cohort of talented musicians. During an uplifting gifting ceremony, our Year 7 students were presented with brand new classical instruments, which sets them off down an exciting path of personal, social and intellectual development. At DWHS a trend of year-on-year improvement has now been firmly established, which is just reward for our students' hard work and determination to not just rest on their laurels but strive to excel when it comes to exam results.

Another highlight of our first term was the September Open Evening which, because of the efforts of all involved turned into a resounding success. Our dedicated staff showcased the diverse opportunities available at Dormers Wells through engaging activities, from science experiments to artistic performances. The enthusiasm and curiosity of our Year 6 visitors was a joy to behold and we were thrilled to receive such positive feedback regarding our students' exemplary behaviour and character.

As we move forward, we remain committed to nurturing each student's potential and celebrating their successes. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education and I look forward to keeping you updated of all things DWHS in my next newsletter in December.



## New learning mentor

My name is Ms S Elmi, and I'm excited to have joined Dormers Wells High school as a learning mentor. My role here is to support the children emotionally, socially, and academically as they grow. I truly believe that each child has a unique set of strengths, and I'm here to help them discover and develop those. A lot of my work is centred around building relationships, I see first-hand how trust and collaboration between educators, families, and children leads to meaningful

change.

I'm committed to creating a space where children feel valued, supported, and encouraged to explore their potential. By working together, we can ensure that each child not only succeeds but also feels empowered to thrive in all aspects of life. I look forward to being part of making a change at Dormers!



## From the Head Boy and Head Girl

We are delighted to welcome you all back for your first term of the new academic year! We are thrilled that the Year 13s have received a great set of results and have gone to a variety of top universities including Imperial and LSE. We also want to congratulate the Dormers students who participated in the Kew Gardens Earthwise and Young Explainer programmes who graduated at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the summer. We celebrated the successful year we had at Dormers at awards evening. It was inspiring to hear we all the achievements, and Year 8s displayed the musical skills they gained from partaking in our MISST programme, which relaunched this term. Students this year will have an opportunity to learn the flute and violin as a part of the scheme. We showcased our state-of-the-art facilities to visiting Year 6s at our open evening. The students were amazed by the number of courses available and the flame experiments demonstrated by the science department were stunning. We are both excited about the new students starting their journey at DWHS next year.



## Open Evening success!

September saw our very much anticipated Open Evening. It proved a fantastic evening and an enormous success. Each department went above and beyond, showing Year 6 students how fabulous Dormers Wells High School is.

They were entertained with everything from science explosions and simulation goggles, to tasty dishes and musical treats. Our arts department entertained parents with a matinee, a short show where parents could pop in and out. Other students orchestrated live music with flutes, violins, guitars and the grand piano. Year 6 also enjoyed exploring their creative side, colouring separate scales and collaging them onto one big fish.

In CPSHE we had simulation goggles, imitating what your vision looks like when you are over the legal limit, as well as CPR manikins to teach the little ones important skills that could save a life one day.

In Science, students enjoyed learning about biology dissecting real sheep hearts, figuring out how electric currents work by making circuits, and watching chemical reactions from a safe distance. Other curriculum-based games, activities, and experiments gave the children an insight into what their lessons could look like when they come to school at Dormers Wells High School. We received fantastic feedback from those who attended, parents and carers went out of their way to praise the behaviour and character values of our students.



## MiSST Launch

To honour our second year in partnership with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Music in Secondary School Trust programme, we celebrated our new cohort of musicians with a gifting ceremony. Students in Year 7 received a brand new, free classical musical instrument, in front of their friends and families. They are learning how to play, promoting personal, social, intellectual and cultural development, opening up more doors and opportunities along the way.



## Youth Explainer Programme

Well done to our Year 13 students who passed the Youth Explainer programme at Kew gardens with flying colours. Our students completed 50 hours of Volunteer work at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We received wonderful feedback about our students and their commitment. Well done to Simran who won 'Best Team Player', receiving £100!





## University Destinations

We are so proud of our students who applied to Higher Education Institutes or apprenticeships and were successful in securing places. With such fantastic results, students were able to get into top destinations such as London School of Economics, Kings College London, Queen Mary University and Imperial College London.

Yalesan went above and beyond, achieving A\*A\*A\*A\*. He went on to secure a spot at Imperial College London studying Mathematics. We wish all of our Dormers Wells Sixth Form graduates great success in their chosen pathways.



## Upcoming Dates

28th—1st	Half Term
3th Nov	Back to school
6th Nov	Diwali event
7th Nov	Year 8 Parents' Evening
15th Nov	School Closed—Occasional Day
19th Nov	KS4 HAPS Evening
21st Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
27th Nov	Careers Conference
20th Dec	Last Day of term
23rd—3rd Jan	Christmas Break

## REMEMBER!

Always be kind online and don't post anything that may upset or offend someone.

Consider who can see the content you are sharing online. **Be mindful of your online reputation and digital footprint.**

## Year 6 Activities Week

Year 6 Activities Week is a fun time of year where students from primary schools in the local area, spend the morning with us at Dormers Wells High School. Year 6 students are able to get a feel of what high school is like by experiencing a range of lessons at DWHS. They enjoyed experiments in science, designing in technology, dodgeball in PE, cooking in food tech, drawing in art, acting in drama, among many other activities. They left school gaining a better understanding of what life will be like in high school, meeting future teachers and gaining confidence for when they make the transition next year.



## Awards Evening

Every year we have the pleasure of celebrating our students academic achievements at our Awards Evening ceremony. Students are nominated for a range of awards based on their progress and achievements during the academic year. They are then personally invited to receive their award in front of their friends and family, celebrating their excellence.

This year proved a fantastic evening, filled with performances, speeches and special trophies, as well as being joined by special guest, award-winning spoken word poet, history teacher and author from London, Jaspreet Kaur, presented the awards and gave the most moving, beautifully spoken speech of the evening.



## Wellbeing - Low self esteem

### Low self-esteem

If you have low self-esteem or confidence, you may hide yourself away from social situations, stop trying new things, and avoid things you find challenging.

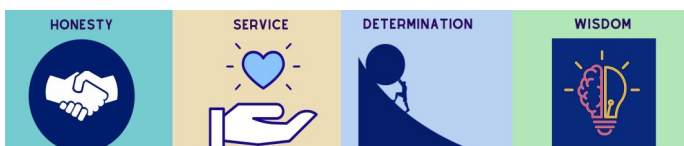
In the short term, avoiding challenging and difficult situations might make you feel safe. In the longer term, this can backfire because it reinforces your underlying doubts and fears. It teaches you the unhelpful rule that the only way to cope is by avoiding things. Living with low self-esteem can harm your mental health and lead to problems such as depression and anxiety.

### 4 steps to improve your self esteem:

- **Challenge your negative beliefs with positive evidence.**  
E.g. "Nobody cares about me" is challenged by "My nan calls me everyday... I have a really good friend at chess club... My form tutor realised I wasn't happy and asked me if I was ok, they care."
- **Recognise what you're good at!**  
We're all good at something, whether it's cooking, singing, doing puzzles or being a friend. We also tend to enjoy doing the things we're good at, which can help boost your mood.
- **Build positive relationships**  
If you find certain people tend to bring you down, try to spend less time with them, or tell them how you feel about their words or actions. Try to build relationships with people who are positive and who appreciate you.
- **Give yourself a challenge**  
We all feel nervous or afraid to do things at times. But people with healthy self-esteem do not let these feelings stop them trying new things or taking on challenges.

## Character values in act

Mr Sadhra is impressed with **Kaled J** for showing wisdom by going above and beyond in studies, contributing to class discussions in a positive and robust manner and inspiring others. **Dannyar A** – has been showing determination to make excellent progress in studies, reading outside key subject themes and making real world links to strengthen learning. **Hafsa J** has showed determination, challenging key concepts for her learning, leading to exceptional progress in Economics. Ms Davies commended **Ann Marie** and **Cathleen** in 11DA who have role modelled service by being excellent prefects and contributing to the smooth running of the school. Ms Quinn-Guest nominated **Rhythmpreet** in 7HS for service! Since the beginning of term, she has volunteered without prompting to help with any and every task. **Idil A** embodies service at all times at school, especially in her work as a leader of the mentors in violence prevention and also delivered an assembly to the entire 6<sup>th</sup> form last week.



## Art of the month

Art of the month goes to Raisa in Year 8. The attention to detail in her Stone Henge drawing and the time and effort put into her work is phenomenal. Using different textures and shading, she has brought the image to life!



## Year 8 Football Team

Well done to our Year 8 Football team. The team are developing a good understanding of how to work together to create opportunities to score goals, and continue to improve their bravery in defence, resulting in the last performance producing their first win of the season. With four more league games to go, we are hopeful to continue on that uphill trend and gain a couple of more victories before the season's up.



## Focus Events

Focus Evening is always a fantastic event at Dormers Wells High School. Over the last few weeks we have hosted Focus Evenings for Year 7, 11 and 12. The turn out was incredible, we prioritise parent partnerships and look forward to developing them further over the upcoming years.



## Voice 21

This year has seen the whole-school launch of Voice 21, the incredible impact of the programme is already being felt. Using Voice 21 strategies, teachers in all departments have been embedding oracy into their lessons with great results. Students are discovering the power of their own voices, the importance of expressing their opinions, and the joys of debate and discussion. They are enjoying developing their knowledge of how to express themselves and grow their confidence, with the support of their teacher, the Voice 21 tactics and their peers.