



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Dormers Diary

As the term draws to a close, we reflect on the many inspiring moments that have enriched our school community. From academic achievements to cultural experiences, this has been a term full of growth and celebration.

Although I mentioned this in last month's edition, it bears repeating! This year began with another outstanding set of results, underscoring the consistent progress achieved within our school. Achieving a Progress 8 score of +0.64 — well above the national average — is a testament to the dedication of our students, staff, and families. Many of our students have already received offers from prestigious Russell Group universities, with six invited to interview at Cambridge University and two at Oxford University.

At Dormers Wells, we do not rest on our laurels. The hard work continues as we strive to support all our Sixth Form students in raising the bar even higher this year. Early indications suggest we are well on course for another strong set of exam results this coming summer.

This year also marked the continuation of our partnership with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) programme. This initiative provides all our Year 7 students with a brand-new classical musical instrument, fostering their personal, social, intellectual, and cultural development. It has been wonderful to see our MiSST cohort thrive in their music lessons and embrace the joy of a new hobby.

One of the term's highlights was when seven of our most talented MiSST musicians visited the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School in Islington. Joining an orchestra of 120 students from across London and beyond, they participated in instrumental and singing workshops. The day concluded with a fantastic concert for parents, showcasing the incredible talent and dedication our students have developed over the past year.

This term, our Sixth Form students shone in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and the Girl's Olympiad. We are incredibly proud of the thirty-five students who achieved gold, silver, and bronze awards. Special congratulations go to: **Nowrishair**, who earned a gold medal in the Senior Challenge and a Merit in the Purple Kangaroo. **Kavusihan**, who achieved a gold medal and qualified for the Purple Kangaroo. **Maneet**, who received a silver medal in the Senior Challenge and a Merit in the Girl's Olympiad. **Parmeet**, who earned a Merit in the Girl's Olympiad. **Jeremy**, who secured a silver medal in the Senior Challenge.

Our Annual Winter Careers Conference was another significant moment this term. Students in Years 9 and 10 engaged with over thirty employers, colleges, apprenticeship providers, and universities, including organisations such as Skanska and SOAS University. The event sparked meaningful conversations about future careers and educational pathways.

Students also benefited from various careers-related initiatives. The **BIMA Digital Day** provided hands-on experience in planning and pitching, while the **Diversity Org workshops** focused on workplace diversity and career advancement. Additionally, the **'Day in the Life' talks** offered valuable insights into specific careers, broadening students' understanding of their options.

As we head into the holidays, let's celebrate these remarkable milestones and look forward to more success in the new term. Thank you for your unwavering support, which makes these achievements possible.

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing break. I look forward to welcoming back our wonderful students and staff in January.



Our new governor

My name is Marian Rabi, and I am excited to introduce myself as a new Governor at Dormers Well High School. As a mother of three daughters and a full-time worker, I am deeply committed to enhancing our local community and advancing educational standards at the school.

Previously, I served as a Parent Governor for one year at a primary school, which gave me a solid understanding of governance and the importance of shaping a positive educational environment. This experience has inspired me to continue setting an example for my daughters, showing them the value of balancing multiple responsibilities while striving to make meaningful changes.

I firmly believe in equality and ensuring that every student has equal opportunities to succeed. This drives my commitment to working with the Headteacher and Governing Body to help the school achieve its goals. I am also prepared to ask tough questions and offer constructive challenges when necessary to ensure we continually improve the quality of education.

Serving as a governor is my way of giving back to the community and society, using my knowledge and skills to make a difference. As someone of Somali descent, I am particularly passionate about contributing to the diverse and inclusive environment at Dormers Well High School.

From the Head Boy and Head Girl

It has been an exciting end to the Autumn term at Dormers Wells. We have had a Careers Conference with visits from various universities, Ealing Council, TfL, the Met Police, Investment 20/20 and many more. It was a great opportunity for students to see the variety of fields they could go into. We also hosted our Sixth Form Open Evening, where it was amazing to see so many of our year 11s eager to learn about life at Dormers Wells. Several students in the sixth form also received awards for their achievements in the UKMT challenge - we would both like to congratulate the students honoured. We are also delighted to announce that this year there will be Christmas competitions in the library and a bake off. Finally, as the holidays approach, we would like to say that this is a great opportunity to spend some time with family and friends. We hope you all have a restful holiday period and look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.



Careers Conference

We hosted our annual winter Careers Conference, where students had the opportunity to engage with a large number of employers, colleges, apprenticeships and universities. Students in Year 9 and Year 10 spent the morning discussing future paths, higher education establishments or jobs that they may be interested in. From Skanska to SOAS University, over thirty different companies ensured there was something for everyone. We have also been enjoying other careers related events such as 'Day in the Life' talks for an insight into specific careers, BIMA digital day for experience on planning and pitching and Diversity Org workshops to learn about diversity in the workplace and how you can climb the ladder.



Sixth Form Open Evening

Sixth Form Open Evening was a fantastic success! Both internal and external students joined us for the evening to talk to course teachers and get the best idea about what route they want to go down in the near future. Current students were on hand all evening, ready to assist and share their experiences. Our students represented the school enthusiastically, whilst student leadership delivered speeches to prospective students and their guardians at the beginning of the evening. They were fantastic with answering any questions and spoke with great pride about their learning and the school. Overall, the evening was very popular, extremely insightful and a fantastic start to many prospective students' journeys. We can't wait to welcome these students to Dormers Wells Sixth Form.



MiSST Play Day

We are now in our second year of partnership with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Music in Secondary School Trust programme. When our students join Year 7, they receive a brand new, free classical musical instrument, promoting personal, social, intellectual and cultural development. Our MiSST cohort have since been thriving in their music lessons and have been enjoying embracing a new hobby. Seven of our most talented musicians from the MiSST programme visited the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School in Islington. Our students joined an orchestra of 120 children from other schools across London and a couple from even further afield. They took part in instrumental and singing workshops. Parents were invited in at the end of the day to view a short concert performance and witness the talent their children had been honing over the past year.



Maths Awards

Well done to all the sixth formers who participated in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and Girl's Olympiad. 35 students received Gold to Bronze awards, with notable achievements from the following students:

- Nowrishair (Gold medal in the Senior Challenge and a Merit score in the Purple Kangaroo)
- Kavusihan (Gold medal in the Senior Challenge and qualification to the Purple Kangaroo)
- Maneet (Silver Medal in the Senior Challenge and a Merit score in the Girl's Olympiad)
- Parmeet (Merit in the Girl's Olympiad)
- Jeremy (Silver Medal in the Senior Challenge)



Upcoming Dates

23-3rd Jan	Christmas Holidays
6th Jan	Back to school
6th Jan	A-Level Taster Day
15th Jan	BTEC Taster and Tertiary Day
23rd Jan	Year 11 Parents' Evening
24th Jan	Closing date for Sixth form applications
6th Feb	Year 12 & Year 13 Parents' Evening
12th Feb	Year 8 & Year 9 Options Fair
14th Feb	Last Day of term
17-21st Feb	Half Term

REMEMBER!

If you go out with friends over the Christmas holiday, make sure you let a parent, guardian or trusted adult know where you are going. Make sure they know when you'll be back, and who to contact if you get lost.

Christmas Competitions

We have enjoyed getting into the festive spirit towards the end of this term; Christmas activities, food and competitions have kept everyone entertained. Around the school, our students sleigh'ed Christmas Jumper Day, confidently sporting their bold, colourful sweaters whilst raising money for Save The Children charity. Over in the canteen, Christmas Lunch was appreciated school wide, roast potatoes and turkey with all the trimmings! In the Library, the Read the Room Christmas Tree Competition winners were announced for correctly guessing how many books made up our Christmas Tree! Well done to Mrs Jabeen and Sukhveen in 11MG, you can watch more in the podcast! On the other side of the school, Year 7 got competitive in their Ginger bread decorating house competition, and after deliberating which group decorated the best gingerbread men, it was concluded that Laurus were the winners. Well done!



Wellbeing

Kooth.com

The holiday period can be difficult for many young people without access to their friends and school teachers. If you find that you need support over the break from school then Kooth may be able to help. Kooth is a free, safe and easy to access mental health service for children and young people. They are commissioned primarily by the NHS and are the only digital mental health service to be accredited by the BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy). They have built a service that puts diversity and inclusion at its heart - ensuring that they remove barriers to great mental health services for all people regardless of race, age, gender, sexuality or socioeconomic situation. You can go online anonymously and chat to a professional, they have information you can read, videos to watch, discussion boards and a journal activity.

In the meantime, here are some tips for looking after yourself this Christmas period.

- Be gentle and patient with yourself. It might help to think about what's best for your wellbeing during Christmas, and prioritise what you need.
- Remind yourself that it won't last forever. You could set a 'start' and 'finish' time for what you count as Christmas.
- Set your boundaries. Try to say no to things that aren't helpful for you.
- Let yourself experience your own feelings. Even if they don't match what's going on around you, they're still valid. For example, if you don't feel like celebrating Christmas when everyone else does.

Character values in action

This term our students' character values have been on full display once again. In particular Leona B in the 6th form showed amazing service to our community. Whilst travelling on a bus she helped a young man who fell on the floor in pain. She used her health and social care knowledge and skill to help the young man. She reassured him, then called his mum to inform her son was taken to hospital. Leona spoke to the ambulance and the bus driver to provide the care the young man needed. Her bravery and support were recognised by the passengers on the bus. She was praised by the ambulance staff and the bus driver for immediately acting when no one else on the bus did. The young man's mum also praised Leona for helping her son through a difficult time.

In Year 7 Ahkshayan T has given us all a lot to think about through his fantastic collection of poems on our values!



Art of the month

This exceptional self-portrait has been made by Erica in 9MR. Erica has been inspired by the American photo-realist artist Chuck Close who started making huge portraits of friends and family to try to help with his problem of facial blindness.



DWHS Character Values

DETERMINATION

The Power of Determination

I keep my pace, I move along,
Through doubts may whisper I don't belong,
I know inside I must be strong.
The road ahead is rough and wide,
With twists and turns,
I cannot hide.
But step by step, I won't divide,
For in my heart, I hold my pride.
When others say to turn around,
I plant my feet firm on the ground.
For every challenge I have found,
My will grows stronger, safe and sound.
No matter how the journey ends,
I'll rise each time, my spirit bends.
With hope and heart that never bends,
Determination is my friend.

WISDOM

The Light of Wisdom

In quiet moments, wisdom grows,
A gentle breeze that softly blows.
Not found in books, though pages turn,
But in the lessons we all learn.
It comes with time, with steps we take,
In every choice and each mistake,
A patient guide, it whispers clear,
When we are lost, it draws us near.

Through stormy skies or sunny days,
Wisdom shines in countless ways,
It helps us see what's truly right,
And leads us through the darkest night.
So listen close and keep it near,
For wisdom calms our deepest fear,
With every word and deed we say
It lights the path to guide our way.

HONESTY

The Heart of Honesty

The heart of honesty beats so true,
A light that always shines in you.
No tangled webs or hidden way,
Just truth that guides us every day.

It lifts us up, it sets us free,
From chains of lies we cannot see.
Though easy paths may tempt our feet,
Honesty keeps us strong, complete.

When words are spoken with pure intent,
There's peace, there's trust – no need to repent.
For in the end, it's clear and bright,
Honesty is our truest light.

Let honesty lead, like stars above,
A compass made of truth and love.

SERVICE

The Gift of Service

To serve is not to seek a prize,
But lend a hand and open eyes.
A kind word, a helping hand,
Can lift up hearts across the land.

It's in the small things we may do,
That change the world for me and you.
To stand beside, not walk away,
To help someone who's gone astray.

Service shines through gentle deeds,
In caring for another's needs.
For when we give, we also gain,
A brighter world, less hurt, less pain.

So let us serve with all our might,
And fill the world with joy and light.