



# Dormers Diary



## From the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another eventful and inspiring half-term, I am delighted to share the fantastic achievements and experiences of our students. Dormers Wells High School continues to be a place where talent, ambition, and creativity thrive, and this term has been no exception.

We were honoured to have our students invited to 10 Downing Street to take part in a Mathematics Challenge led by The British Museum—a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. To make the experience even more memorable, they had the chance to meet our local MP, Deirdre Costigan, during their visit. It was an inspiring day that highlighted the importance of academic excellence and the incredible opportunities available to our students.

A real highlight this term was the return of International Evening, a much-loved event celebrating the diverse cultures within our school. Hosted by the dynamic duo Temani and Rameen, the evening showcased a stunning variety of performances—from high-energy Bhangra routines to breathtaking singing performances and, of course, our very own MISST orchestra. A huge thank you to Ms. Bryan for organising such a memorable evening, and congratulations to all the performers who made it an unforgettable experience.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 students got a taste of Sixth Form life, experiencing a day in the shoes of an A-Level or BTEC student. Dressed the part, they enjoyed Sixth Form privileges, attended taster lessons, and explored the new Sixth Form common room. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to welcoming many of them into our Sixth Form next year.

Our English students also had the fantastic opportunity to visit the historic Globe Theatre, where they explored the iconic venue, engaged in an acting workshop, and examined different interpretations of Hamlet. The trip provided a valuable insight into Shakespeare's world, making his works come to life in a truly immersive way.

A huge congratulations to our Young Writers poetry competition winners, whose exceptional work has been published in our very own poetry anthology, *The Beautiful Truth—Poetry in Motion*. Well done to Ahkshayan (Year 7), Ahkash (Year 8), Hena (Year 9), Wania (Year 10), Zamzam (Year 11), and Mohammed (Sixth Form) on this remarkable achievement!

Additionally, we were proud to see our students excel in public speaking at the Jack Petchey Speakers Trust Ealing Regional Final of the Speak Out Challenge. A special congratulations to Hussain in 10UM, who represented our school with a hilarious and engaging speech titled *The Power of Laughter*. His confidence and delivery were outstanding!

As always, I am incredibly proud of our students' dedication, creativity, and enthusiasm. Thank you for your continued support in making Dormers Wells High School a place where young people can thrive. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to another exciting half-term ahead.

Ms Walsh



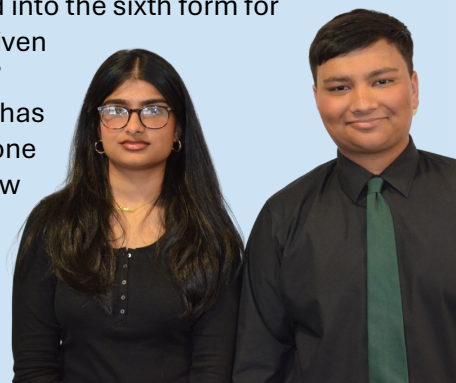
## Student Spotlight

A massive congratulations to ex-student Manny Safari, who is now the Nine-Time Open Class National Champion, making history with a record-breaking achievement. Winning a ninth national championship is a testament to Manny Safari's dedication and perseverance to the sport. Manny's dreams for the future include participating in the Los Angeles Summer Olympics in 2028 and hopefully becoming a world champion. This is undoubtedly the beginning of even greater successes on the international stage. We look forward to seeing him shine globally and where his future path takes him.



## From the Head Boy and Head Girl

At Dormers Wells, we have started 2025 off on a cheerful note with the International Evening. We both were very impressed by all the performances that celebrated the diversity of our school, and we would like to congratulate all students involved for their incredible effort. We have also had the Year 8 and 9 options fairs where students were able to explore a range of different careers they could go into after leaving school. Year 11 students also gained an insight into their future as they were welcomed into the sixth form for an informative A level and BTEC taster day. Some English students were given the opportunity of a trip to the Shakespeare Globe Theatre to see 'Hamlet' performed and found it very insightful. To end off an eventful term, DWHS has staged our very own production of 'Matilda' - we applaud the great work done by all the students and the performing arts team for a wonderful show. How students have displayed the DWHS character values throughout this half term has been impressive - a great start to the new year. Finally, this will be our last half term as your head students. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have represented you and are confident that our successors will continue to open the doors to success.



## International Evening

This term saw the return of students favourite night of the year... International Evening! The night was hosted by, friendship duo and natural crowd-pleasers, Temani and Rameen. The audience was entertained from the start to finish, enjoying a variety of performances from Bhangra to Singing and everything in between. Dormers Bhangra Club opened the night with a bang, Gurleen and Harsimran, and Mankirat and Yuvraj also stole the show with their professional moves, special shout out to Bhangra Dance London for the weekly dance clubs!

Dhruv and Gurvir are known widely across the school for their Dhol drumming talent. They can wow any crowd and make every song sound 10x better with the flick of a wrist.

Our own MISST orchestra wowed the crowd with their musical skills, they have learnt how to play their instruments so well in such a short amount of time.

Shayan, Ruth, Smitty and Stephanie sang their hearts out with such beautiful tones. Don't be surprised if you see them on billboards in the future.

To top off the evening, our hosts finished the night with some musical theatre, dancing to 'Stand up by Cynthia Erivo', which raised the hairs on everyone's arms, phenomenal.

Well done to everyone involved and thank you to Ms Bryan for organising the event. A fantastic evening enjoyed by all, the audience are already asking for the next one!



## Matilda

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our school production of *Matilda* was an overwhelming success! Last year, our performers faced their "first-time-nerve" head-on with their debut production of *Oliver!* our first show since the pandemic and they absolutely nailed it. The cast and crew gave a stellar performance, setting the bar high for future productions.

This year, however, was nothing short of phenomenal. Watching our talented students sing, dance, and perform with such confidence. They glided across the stage with the grace and confidence of seasoned performers, making the stage look like their second home. Every aspect of the performance, from the vibrant costumes to the stunning lighting and interactive set design, came together to bring the characters of *Matilda* to life in a way that captivated the audience from start to finish.

The performance was a testament to the incredible talent, hard work, and dedication of our students. Their efforts paid off with an enthusiastic cheer from the crowd and sparked ongoing conversations across the school, with everyone praising their remarkable acting and impressive stage presence. It's clear that our students not only excel in the arts but also love giving back to the community through their performances.

We are so proud of what they've achieved and can't wait to see what the future holds for our next production. A huge congratulations to everyone involved, this was truly a team effort, and each and every one of you played a vital role in making it a success. Well done!



## No. 10 Downing Street

Our Year 10 and 11 students had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Lessons at 10 initiative at the iconic 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the UK Prime Minister. Students were selected to experience a special learning session inside the historic walls of No. 10.

During the session, students were privileged to hear from The Right Honourable The Baroness Twycross, who shared invaluable insights and personal experiences with them. Later, Baroness Fiona introduced our students to the team from the British Museum, including Julia Farley and Shani Crawford. They led an engaging workshop, examining objects from the museum's collection, learning about their historical significance, and creating posters based on their findings. Our students were also honoured to meet our local MP, Deirdre Costigan. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who made this opportunity possible.



## A-Level and BTEC Taster Day

While our Sixth Form students were preparing for their examinations, Year 11 students became sixth form students for the day. Year 11 had the opportunity to spend a day in the life of a sixth form student, either participating in A Level or BTEC courses on separate days. Students arrived to school dressed the part and were able to enjoy full sixth form privileges. This included utilising the new common room, popping out of school for lunch and wearing their own clothes. They attended a range of taster lessons to gain an insight into the A Level and BTEC courses on offer. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day and gave very positive feedback.



## Upcoming Dates

24th Feb	Back to school
27th Feb	Y10 Parents' Evening
3rd Mar	National Careers Week
5-7th Mar	Swanage Trip
6th Mar	World Book Day
31-3rd Apr	House competition week
1st Apr	Y10 Mock interviews
3rd Apr	Year 7 Parents' Evening
4th Apr	Last Day of term
7-21st Apr	Easter Break

## The Globe Trip

"Last Wednesday, we had the opportunity to explore the Globe Theatre, the famous theatre where Shakespeare's plays were once performed. There were 4 perspectives which you could watch the plays from. The first being the floor area which in that time could hold to around 1000 people and were known as the "groundlings". Next, was a seating area near the stage but on the bottom row, if you had a bit more money than the "groundlings" you would often be seated there. Then, where we were seated, it was a bit higher up, so it was better to see the action take place. Lastly, we had the place behind and above the stage which had the best sound and showcased wealth and authority, this would usually be for the monarchy or anyone rich who wanted to emphasise their status. The whole Globe theatre could fit to around 5000 people meaning it must have been very crowded. The stage was very decorative with paintings of the sun, stars and zodiacs to depict an image of heaven on the ceiling. We could see cracks around the stage and a thatched roof covered in moss, highlighting the theatre's rich history. It is truly a stunning theatre filled with culture that everyone should visit.

After our tour, we went to the lecture hall, where we examined multiple past performances of 'Hamlet' created at the Globe. There were several interpretations, including a unique production featuring a female Hamlet. Each performance was distinct, making them fascinating to watch. A favourite performance was Act 3, Scene 2 from 'Hamlet,' which was visually aesthetic due to the clever use of shadows and lighting that added a sense of mystery to the scene.

Our final activity was an engaging acting session, led by our tour guide who taught us how to perform using iambic pentameter. We were given different scenes from 'Hamlet' and encouraged to change our movement with the end of each line. It was an energetic exercise that everyone found enjoyable. The guide also helped us include passion into our performances by emphasising key words and varying our delivery. This acting experience immersed us in the world of Shakespeare, deepening our understanding and appreciation of his plays. It was a perceptive experience that we all cherished and learned from." By Mavleen and Davina Y 12

## Art of the month

Navdeep chose the theme 'Movement' for his Art project. He was able to use himself as the primary source for his project due to the fact that his favourite hobby is boxing.



## Character values in action

Well done to our Year 12 students who participated in the GreenSTEM competition at the Natural History Museum organised by Imperial College. Students competed and collaborated with other outstanding schools in the borough and presented on topics encompassing sustainability, ecosystem diversity, and improved and sustainable use of renewable energy sources. Our students won prizes for presentation and essay writing on their chosen topics. Complimenting this, our young people presented themselves extremely confident and were very forthcoming in asking and answering questions from the audience.



## Wellbeing - Self Esteem

Building your confidence and self-esteem might need some time and patience. The main thing is to start by being kind to yourself:

**Recognise and challenge unkind thoughts.** Talk to yourself as you would talk to a best friend. You wouldn't be friends with someone who said mean things, so don't be mean to yourself.

**Positive affirmations.** Try writing down things you and other people like about you, or your strengths and achievements. This help us feel more confident, we deserve to be celebrated

**Friends.** Ask any of your friends making you feel bad? Spend time with people who raise you up, not bring you down.

**Check your Socials.** Social media affects your body image more than you imagine. Unfollow accounts that promote unrealistic body standards, and only follow people who make you feel seen, understood and make you feel good.

## Poetry Winners

Well done to our talented students who have entered the Young Writers poetry competition. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to express themselves and tell the world how they really feel by writing a poem on a subject that matters to them. A winner from each year group has been selected and now have their own internally published poetry anthology called 'The Beautiful Truth—Poetry in Motion'. Well done to Ahkshayan 7ED, Ahkash 8AM, Hena 9WM, Wania 10BU, Zamzam 11MG and Mohammed SST. You can read their poetry here, or on the English display.



## Jack Petchey

This term, we had the Jack Petchey Speakers Trust, Ealing Regional Final of the speak out challenge. It was fantastic to see students speaking so confidently about their chosen topics. Well done to Hussain in 10UM who represented our school with a hilarious speech titled 'The Power of Laughter'.

