



# Dormers Diary



## From the Headteacher

Welcome to the final Dormers Diary of the academic year 2024. And what a year it has been! With challenges a-plenty and rarely a dull moment it was a year like no other, but I am delighted to report that due to the hard work, resilience, and determination of all the students and staff here at Dormers Wells, there is a great deal to celebrate this year and so much of which to be proud.

June's prom was a spectacular evening filled with beautiful ballgowns, dazzling jewellery, and stylish fresh trims. The event was the talk of the school, offering a luxurious and lively experience for all. Students made a grand entrance, greeted by red carpet-style photographs and applause from staff and families. The event confirms that Y11 are not only an academically capable year group, but also a very mature and pleasant one. I look forward to welcoming many of them back to our thriving Sixth Form.

DWHS Enrichment Week is always a highlight for our students. I was so impressed with the variety of trips and experiences this year which included Tate Britain, the National Justice Museum, theatre visits, London Zoo, Kew Gardens, Brighton and Horsenden Hill Activity Centre to name but a few. Onsite activities included Ready Steady Cook, Bake Off, Olympics, and computing workshops. Learning outside the curriculum is crucial because it helps our students develop critical life skills such as problem-solving, creativity, and adaptability. It encourages real-world application of knowledge, making learning more relevant and engaging. Additionally, it fosters personal growth, resilience, and a love for lifelong learning. What a great way for staff and students to end the academic year.

The other event I would like to note was the annual Y7 & 8 Careers Conference. Careers information advice and guidance is

vital for your child's future as it exposes them to various career options and industry insights. We were very pleased to provide students in Y7 & 8 with networking opportunities with professionals at our annual careers conference earlier this month. This conference helped equip students with valuable knowledge and connections for their career path. It helped them understand the skills and qualifications needed for different professions, fostering informed decision-making about their future.

We achieved excellent examination results last Summer and I am confident of a repeat performance 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 emulate that success. As all teachers will attest, seeing students fulfil their ambitions is one of the greatest pleasures that our vocation offers. The summer break will be a well-deserved rest for those who have worked so hard.

This is also a time when we welcome our new Y6 students, all 240 of them, who will start in September. Each student had a personal interview with Dormers Wells staff, providing families with details of the school and the opportunities they can avail of in September 2024. We look forward to working with them and helping them realise their potential.

I wish you all a safe and restful summer break.

Ms Walsh

Headteacher



## From the Governors - Mr Kristian Lloyd

*I am honoured to introduce myself as your new school governor. DWHS is a supportive, community-focused school that values education and well-being, and I am eagerly looking forward to contributing to its continued success.*

*My experience at the Carbon Trust, where I work with companies to drive change and combat climate change, has equipped me with strategic thinking, problem-solving, and leadership skills that I am excited to bring to DWHS. Additionally, my volunteer work as a police officer in London has given me a deep understanding of community needs and safety. I am committed to using this*

*experience to ensure a safe, supportive environment for all students at DWHS.*

*The supportive environment I experienced in school was crucial in developing my leadership skills and character. Education is critical to personal development and building a strong community. I am committed to ensuring DWHS students have the same opportunities to grow and succeed.*

*DWHS has an excellent reputation, and I am thrilled to contribute to that success as your governor. I am always here to listen to you and work with you to make DWHS an even better place.*

## From the Head Boy and Head Girl

We are delighted to conclude our final term of the academic year here at Dormers, which has been packed with activities. Year 11s celebrated the end of their exam season and made lifelong memories at a sparkling prom. We also welcomed Year 6 students for a taste of life at Dormers on Induction Day. Our Enrichment week had students and teachers excited to go on a variety of trips, ranging from Thorpe Park to Legoland. We would like to personally wish the years 11s and 13s a farewell and the best of luck in receiving their exam results this summer. Their determination throughout the exams was incredible and we congratulate them for their hours of work. We also hosted a careers conference, with students being able to meet several employers like British Airways and ask questions about life after Dormers. We also held our annual sports day where students competed in events from the 100 meter sprint, to javelin, and long jump. We both would like to congratulate everyone who participated, for their teamwork and determination. We hope you all enjoy your well-deserved holiday, and we are looking forward to seeing you again in September!



## Year 11 Prom

June brought beautiful ballgowns, dazzling jewellery and an abundance of 'fresh trims'. The evening was luxurious, lively, and the talk of the school. Students made their grand entrance to the prom being greeted with red carpet style photographs and applause from staff members and families. Year 11 made full use of the flower wall and enjoyed posing in their own personal photo booth to take home cute memorabilia.

Throughout the night, the energy was high, and the entertainment, unmatched. Heartfelt speeches bid farewell to Year Leader Mr Paine, followed by the presentation of 'Most Likely To' certificates to specific individuals. Surprisingly, Carlo accepted the 'Best Bromance' award solo, as his counterpart Ibrahim was absent. Josiah accepted the honour of being recognised as 'Most Likely To Be Rich,' while Vanshika was taken aback by her nomination as 'Most Likely To Attend Oxbridge.' The awards came to an end with Kobi and Simar crowned prom king and queen, both radiating royalty in their outfits.

They finished the formal celebrations with an Indian buffet feast, followed by an evening of dancing. Fantastic to finish the years spent together at school on a high.



## Enrichment Days

Enrichment is always our students' favourite time of year, boasting a variety of activities, workshops and trips, something for everyone to enjoy. The trips students were able to attend this year included; Tate Britain, Legoland, Go Ape, National Justice Museum, Thorpe Park, theatre, London Zoo, Kew Gardens, Brighton, Horsenden Hill Activity Centre, Ice skating, bowling and Whipsnade Zoo. Those who did not go offsite enjoyed Ready steady cook, Bake Off, Olympics and computing workshops in school!

These trips encouraged teamwork and determination at its core, a fantastic few days of events where students get to learn in a fun environment, spend time with their friends and round off the end of the academic year.





## House Competition

This month brought about a competitive streak in the school. Students from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 competed head-to-head against the other houses, participating in table tennis, slam dunk and house dodgeball. There was also International Evening auditions, House cricket tournament and the Sports Day tug of war. Students competed to be in with a chance of winning a free lunch, house points and a medal. It was fantastic to see students so involved, and working together to win. Students were so invested in the house competitions, Ms Bryan has received multiple suggestions and even personalised presentations from students to pitch more competitions! It's safe to say they loved it.



## Year 6 Induction

June saw our Year 6 Induction Day! We were so excited to welcome our new cohort and give them a preview of academic life at DWHS. They met and bonded with new friends and staff members, learnt all about their new subjects starting in September, all whilst beginning to build the habits of success for a Strong Start in Year 7.



## Upcoming Dates

4th Sept	Year 7, 10 and 12 Induction Day Year 7, 10 and 12 photographs
5th Sept	Whole school returns
9th-11th Sept	Year 11 Swanage trip
12th Sept	Year 7 Focus Event
19th Sept	Awards Evening
25th Sept	Open Evening
1st Oct	Year 11 Focus Event
3rd Oct	Year 12 Focus Event
15th Oct	KS3 HAPS Evening
24th Oct	Year 9 Parents' Evening
25th Oct	Last day of term
28th –1st Nov	Half term break
4th Nov	Back to school

## DID YOU KNOW...

It is possible to get a Facebook account of an under-age person terminated. If you are worried about the online activities of a young person, speak to your teacher.

## Sports Day

Held in school, Sports Day was spread over 3 days, pairing Year 7 and 8, Year 9 and 10 and Sixth form. Our students brought energy, team work and leadership skills to compete to the best of their abilities. There were various sporting activities taking place such as discus, javelin, shot put, long jump, triple jump and various running events. Followed by races and awards where the year group celebrated their achievements together and collected medals for first, second and third place.



## Art of the month

Marcelo Monreal is an artist who creates collages of people with flowers and leaves emerging from cracks in their heads. Rhiddi has created this analogue version using traditional cutting and sticking techniques beautifully.



## Caterlink

### DWHS Ready Steady Cook and the Great DWHS bake off!

DWHS would like to thank Caterlink for sponsoring and leading the fantastic DWHS Ready Steady Cook and the Great DWHS bake off for enrichment days. Not only did Caterlink generously provide all of the ingredients, but their chef Nigel also led incredible workshops for Moroccan cooking, baking and cake decorating. The students thoroughly enjoyed the cooking and baking activities and the school really appreciates everything that Caterlink did to provide this amazing enrichment experience for our school community.

### Y7 cinema evening:

The BTEC Business cohort organised an exciting cinema event for Year 7 students as part of their project management unit. The event was extremely popular with students and the Year 12 students developed their event management, leadership and teamwork skills. DWHS would like to thank Caterlink for sponsoring the event and generously providing refreshments free of charge for the students.



## Careers Conference

We held our annual Summer Careers Conference for all students in Year 7 and 8. Students had the opportunity to engage with colleges, apprenticeship providers, employers, ex students and universities. The school hall was filled with a variety of stalls, from Met Police, to West Thames College, to British Airways. A successful, insightful day.



## Wellbeing advice

### What to do to support a friend over the Summer holiday

When you are supporting someone, we know that sometimes it isn't easy and you might feel out of your depth. Being honest and having a conversation with them about how they are feeling and what help they need can make a big difference. Remember, just by being there for your friend, you are doing something amazing. Ask them what they would like from you. You don't need to have all the answers, share resources and helplines and encourage them to talk to a trusted adult.

### Should I keep things secret?

Your friend might tell you things that are very personal, and very worrying. For example, they might tell you that someone is hurting them, abusing them, or that they are worried about their personal safety. They might tell you that they are harming themselves or thinking about ending their own life. They might try to make you promise not to tell anyone what they have told you. But remember, their safety is the most important thing. If you are worried that your friend is in danger you should speak to a trusted adult like a teacher, family member or doctor. People need to know in order to give your friend the help and support they need. You can let your friend know that you need to talk to an adult and let them know why. Your friend might find this difficult and ask you not to, but they will eventually understand that you want to help them get through this.

