

# DORMERS DIARY



## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am delighted to introduce this latest edition of the Dormers Diary, reflecting on a term that has been defined by our core DWHHS Character Values: Determination, Wisdom, Honesty, and Service. These values ensure we are "Opening the door to success" for every student.

It is truly fantastic to see our students flourishing by living these values. The spirit of Determination—the belief that "We never give up"—was clearly displayed by Jeevika, whose investment of time and effort in synchronised skating resulted in an impressive 1st place achievement in figure skating at Skate London with SPICE. This same drive fuels our academic achievers, including Shahina (Year 9), Mohamed (Year 12), and Nadira (Year 13), who were recognised by the Somali Community Concern for their outstanding academic success and contributions, with Mohamed and Nadira specifically commended for their strong GCSE outcomes.

Our students consistently demonstrate Service, contributing to the school and our wider community. Our Year 13 students—Kartik, Mankirat, Wasay, and Sami—spent 50 hours as Kew Gardens Youth Explainers, inspiring curiosity, and enthusiasm for plant science among 5,276 visitors. Kartik's commitment led him to win the Marsh Trust Award for Kew Ambassador. Furthermore, our Sixth Form students apply their skills to support others, acting as Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) promoting preventative safeguarding, and participating in the Sixth Form Reading Tutor Programme to help younger pupils build confidence and enjoyment in reading. Our continued operation of the food bank and uniform swap shop also remains a vital lifeline for many families in our community.

We encourage students to cultivate Wisdom by responding to problems in a calm and balanced way and seeking knowledge. Our Sixth Form students engaged their ingenuity during the Urban Hack Programme, presenting innovative and creative solutions to Ealing Council to help make the borough safer. Our Year 8 students also applied problem-solving skills and creativity during the Sustainable Homes Challenge, tackling hands-on learning from circuit wiring to exploring sustainable development concepts. To broaden their horizons, Year 9 students experienced an inspiring visit to St John's College, Oxford, and the Sixth Form enjoyed an exclusive tour of the Houses of Parliament, where they witnessed a passionate debate in the House of Lords. Students also sought career wisdom at our annual Winter Careers Conference, connecting with over twenty organisations including Microsoft, Global Academy, and Royal Holloway.

We are especially proud that our culture of high standards and Honesty ("We are open and true to others and to ourselves") led to Dormers Wells being awarded the Safeguarding Platinum Plus Award. This new level of recognition was created specifically to acknowledge our exceptional safeguarding culture, which consistently goes above and beyond expectations. Our dedication to improvement includes new initiatives like The Conversation Hub and the ongoing development of The Caretakers' Cottage, a dedicated wellbeing space.

As we prepare for the festive season, I hope all our families and staff have a relaxed Christmas break and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on 5th January for a term that promises further growth and success.

Ms Walsh  
Headteacher

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE FIGURE SKATING

It's fantastic to see our students flourishing both inside and beyond the classroom. Jeevika invests her time in pursuits that strengthen her abilities and enrich her personal growth, as shown by her impressive 1st place achievement in figure skating. "Competing at Skate London with SPICE was an amazing experience. As a figure skater, I hadn't tried synchronised skating before, so joining the team was both a challenge and a lot of fun. Walking into the rink and seeing all the teams made me feel proud and excited to be part of something so special. I was nervous at first, worried I might fall or mess up, but once on the ice, it all felt incredible. Skating alongside such a supportive team, and having my mum cheering me on, made the day unforgettable. Seeing all our hard work come together and winning first place was the perfect reward. Overall, it was a fun, inspiring, and memorable day. I'm so proud to be part of a team that encourages, supports, and inspires everyone through the joy of skating" - Jeevika 10BY





## FROM THE HEAD STUDENTS

This term has been filled with outstanding achievements and enriching opportunities across our school community. We are proud to announce that Dormers Wells has been awarded the Safeguarding Platinum Plus Award, recognising our unwavering commitment to student safety and wellbeing.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening welcomed a fantastic turnout of ambitious learners exploring the broad range of courses and pathways available. Sixth Form students also took part in the Urban Hack project, collaborating on creative solutions to real world challenges. Beyond the classroom, Year 9 students

experienced an inspiring visit to St John's College, Oxford, while Year 8 impressed judges through their innovative designs in the Sustainable Homes Challenge. A special congratulations to our Year 13 students, Kartik, Mankirat, Wasay and Sami, who continue to shine as Kew Gardens Youth Explainers, sharing scientific knowledge with visitors. Our many clubs remain vibrant and well attended, giving students the chance to explore new skills and passions. Careers education has been equally dynamic, with students benefiting from the Winter Careers Conference, where students learnt about universities, apprenticeships and future careers. Finally, our Christmas reading activities are helping students end the year with creativity and joy. We hope you have a relaxed Christmas break and a Happy New Year!

## UPCOMING DATES

<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b> Return to school	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b> A Level and Tertiary Taster Day	<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b> Y13 PPE starts	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b> Year 8 Parents' Evening	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> Y11 Parents Evening
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b> Drama production 'Aladdin'	<b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b> Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening	<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b> Year 8 & Year 9 Options Fair	<b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b> Last day before half term break	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> Back to School

## CHARACTER VALUES IN ACTION

- **Joy and Aisha (Y7)** have consistently demonstrated **service** in their Art lessons, willingly stepping in to help set up and clear away materials during practical sessions. Their politeness and kindness towards everyone in the classroom make them wonderful role models.
- **Zulaikha Z** has shown outstanding **determination** in her Art GCSE, completing extra work every day to push her skills further. Her commitment has inspired many of her peers to raise their own aspirations.
- **Maryam D** has shown the value of **service** through her exceptional support for a new student. She has gone above and beyond to help her settle in, guiding her around school, explaining routines, and offering constant encouragement. Her kindness and initiative have made a meaningful difference.
- **Alia K** has demonstrated remarkable **determination** through her commitment to the reading intervention programme. Not only is she always punctual, but she has also grown from being initially shy to contributing confidently and enthusiastically to each session.
- **Aviraj B** has shown both **service** and **determination** by channelling his passion for reading into creating a Year 7 book club. His leadership and enthusiasm have encouraged many others to get involved and develop their own love of reading.
- **Mankirat, Hafsa, Sami & Ramsha** have displayed great **wisdom** in planning and delivering thoughtful and impactful anti-bullying assemblies for the school community. Their efforts have helped raise awareness, promote kindness and strengthen our school culture.
- **Connor DH** displayed **honesty** and **service** through being incredibly helpful and supportive towards a fellow student who is finding learning and behaviour challenging. Connor has shown exceptional kindness, courage and patience in gently guiding him in the right direction and encouraging him to make positive choices by offering honest friendship and a calm, determined attitude. Connor's compassion and leadership make a real difference and we are very proud of him.

### DETERMINATION



### WISDOM



### HONESTY



### SERVICE





# EVENTS



## SAFEGUARDING PLATINUM PLUS AWARD

We are incredibly proud to announce that our school has been awarded the **Platinum Plus Award for Safeguarding**, following our **Platinum Award**.

The original **Platinum Award** was created especially for us to reflect our exceptional safeguarding standards, as the existing highest level of recognition was not sufficient to capture our achievements. This year, our continued excellence has led to the introduction of a brand new level, the Platinum Plus Award, tailored specifically to recognise our outstanding safeguarding culture.

Our school leaders have developed an exemplary safeguarding environment that consistently goes above and beyond expectations. Since our last review, our high standards have not only been maintained but further strengthened through several new and inspiring initiatives:

- **The Conversation Hub**, a new space where safeguarding leads from local schools collaborate, share complex cases, and find the best ways to support families and young people.
- **The Caretakers' Cottage**, an exciting development now underway, with funding secured and construction in progress to create a dedicated wellbeing space for our community.
- **The Cost of Living Event**, a major community success bringing together local services and charities, including Mind and Ealing LA, to provide practical help and advice to families.

Our commitment to the community continues through our close work with the **Ealing Family Support Network**, ensuring parents are informed about local services and support. Our **food bank** and **uniform swap shop** remain vital lifelines for many families, with the food bank experiencing particularly high demand.

In addition, our Sixth Form students are stepping into leadership roles as **Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)**, an empowering programme promoting preventative safeguarding measures. We are also working closely with the Local Authority Safeguarding Board to further develop our self-evaluation process, reflecting our proactive commitment to continuous improvement.

Our safeguarding leads contribute far beyond our own school, offering peer support to other schools and helping to shape the wider local safeguarding landscape.

All aspects of safeguarding at our school are rated outstanding, and the creation of the Platinum Plus Award, designed specifically to recognise our achievements, is a true testament to the exceptional dedication of our staff, students, and community partners. We could not be prouder of this remarkable accomplishment.



## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

This year's Sixth Form Open Evening was a tremendous success! We were delighted to welcome both internal and external students as they explored our wide range of courses and discussed future pathways with subject teachers.

Our current Sixth Form students were available throughout the evening to offer support, share their experiences, and give an authentic insight into sixth form life. They represented the school with enthusiasm and maturity, while our student leadership team delivered confident and inspiring speeches to prospective students and their families at the start of the event.

Their pride in their learning and the school shone through as they answered questions and spoke with prospective students about what its like to be in Dormers Wells Sixth Form.

Overall, the evening was incredibly well attended, highly informative, and an exciting beginning for many students as they start planning the next step in their education. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort to Dormers Wells Sixth Form. **Applications open from 20<sup>th</sup> November - 23rd January 2026.**



# ENRICHMENT



## SIXTH FORM URBAN HACK PROJECT

A huge congratulations to our seven Sixth Form students who took part in the Urban Hack Programme, presenting innovative ideas to make Ealing safer to a panel from Ealing Council. Their creativity, teamwork, and community spirit were outstanding!

Throughout the three day project, students researched local issues, analysed community feedback, and developed practical solutions around themes such as sports and youth activities to reduce crime, breaking language barriers for social integration, creating safe green spaces and community events and theatre, media, and communication initiatives to engage young people and improve public transport.

Students also learned about Your Voice, Your Town, an Ealing Council scheme offering £40,000–£120,000 per town for resident led community projects. We're incredibly proud of their hard work and the inspiring ideas they've brought forward to help shape a safer, stronger borough.



## SUSTAINABLE HOMES CHALLENGE

Our students immersed themselves in hands on learning, from circuit wiring and soldering to building water collection systems and exploring sustainable development concepts. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork truly stood out. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many students calling it an unforgettable experience that gave them a new perspective on engineering and sustainability! A huge thank you to The Smallpeice Trust, Baker Hughes, our ambassadors and staff for their collaboration and support in making this event possible. We're excited to continue fostering opportunities that inspire the next generation of innovators and changemakers.



## OXFORD UNIVERSITY VISIT

Year 9 students visited St John's College which is part of the University of Oxford where they spent the day learning about the university including having a tour and taking part in a critical thinking session.



## YEAR 13 KEW GARDENS YOUTH

Well done to our Year 13 students who passed the Youth Explainer programme at Kew gardens. Our students completed 50 hours of Volunteer work at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Throughout the volunteering phase, the Youth Explainers interacted with 5,276 visitors, inspiring curiosity and enthusiasm for plant science. Their confidence, humour, and passion made a real impact, visitors left with huge smiles and new insights!

We were delighted to hear about our students individual achievements: Kartik won the Marsh Trust Award for Kew Ambassador, Mankirat delivered a wonderful graduation speech, and Wasay and Sami represented our school brilliantly.

As part of their ongoing exploration of the natural world, the Youth Explainers visited Wakehurst, Kew's sister site in Sussex. They toured the Millennium Seed Bank, learning about global seed conservation, and joined a tree conservation tour to understand the challenges facing both native and non-native trees.

A remarkable achievement, well done Youth Explainers!

# SPORTS AND CLUBS



## ★ CLUB OF THE TERM ★

The K-Pop Club is a new energetic and creative space where our students explore a different aspect of Korean culture each week. Members dive into fun activities like making kimbap, cooking flavorful K-style noodles, learning and performing expressive K-Pop dance routines, and reviewing popular K-dramas. The club blends food, music, media, and movement, giving everyone a chance to discover new interests while celebrating the vibrant world of Korean pop culture. Above are our K-Pop students making traditional Korean food.



## WHATS ON IN CLUBS?

This term, our extracurricular programme has been buzzing with activity, creativity, and teamwork. Students from across all year groups have been taking full advantage of the wide range of clubs on offer, from sports and music to art, technology, and social action.

### CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS

It's been a busy and inspiring term in our music and arts clubs!

In **Piano Club**, students improved their musical expression through regular practice. **Guitarists** focused on rhythm and ensemble playing whilst learning contemporary pieces. Our **ensemble** worked together to develop tight coordination as they prepare a new set of pieces for upcoming events. **Y8 Strings**, **Y9 Violin**, and **Y9 Flute** strengthened their sound and confidence, making steady progress through guided weekly rehearsals. In **School production club**, the main characters for Aladdin have been selected and you'll be pleased to hear that Smitty will play Jasmine, Akash will be Aladdin and the genie will be Danielle.

In **Film Club** students have been making film review posters and have been working their way through a selection of Christmas films, well done to Rishi for offering his help to other students with understanding the films. In **Chinese Calligraphy**, our students dipped their brushes into the art of Chinese writing for the very first time. With ink brushes in hand, they enjoyed practicing each stroke and gained a deeper appreciation for the forms that build thousands of Chinese characters.

### ACADEMIC, INNOVATION & ENRICHMENT

In **Social and Justice Club**, students have been exploring themes of fairness, equality, and how to make a positive impact in their communities. In **Crochet Club**, our students have been busy creating crocheted mug coasters for Christmas and are preparing to take part in the December knitting challenge.

In **Cookery Club**, students have been making cultural dishes from around the world, recently trying their hand at pizza, naan bread, and couscous. In **Sculpting Club**, students have been designing and building their own structures while experimenting with clay, wire, and mixed media.

In the **Puzzles and Brain Teasers Club**, students enjoy a low pressure, relaxed, yet stimulating environment that sharpens their focus and makes problem solving fun. Meanwhile, in **Chess Club**, students have been going head to head, putting their strategic thinking and chess skills to the test.

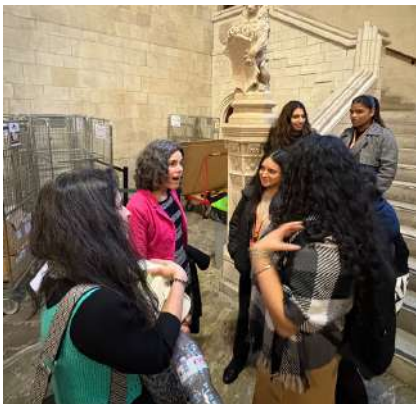
### SPORTS & TEAMS

The **Year 7 and 8** combined boys' **football team** have shown outstanding progress this term, demonstrating the dedication and positive attitude needed for long term success. Training has been exceptionally well attended, with more than 50 pupils taking part each week. Our **Year 9 and 10 boys** have also made impressive strides, successfully adopting new formations and systems and beginning to play to their full potential under the strong leadership of the Year 10 squad.

In **netball**, the **Year 7** team have started the season well with one win and two draws, while the **Year 9** team secured an excellent second place against very strong competition. With eight fixtures still to come this calendar year, there are plenty of opportunities ahead for even more success across all teams.

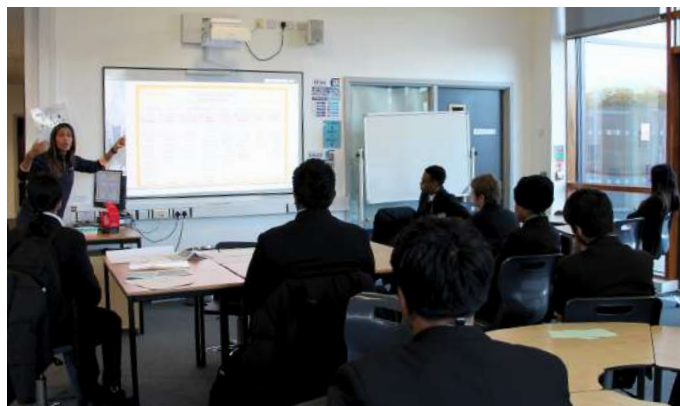


# CURRICULUM



## PARLIAMENT TRIP

The Sixth Form enjoyed a rare and exclusive opportunity to tour the Houses of Parliament. Not only did they have the chance to sit in the House of Lords and witness a passionate debate on the sensitive issue of euthanasia, but they also had the chance to meet and speak with Southall's MP, Deidre Costigan.



## ACADEMIC MENTORING PROGRAMME

A select group of Year 10 students have been taking part in our Academic Mentoring Programme. This initiative is designed to offer tailored guidance, structure, and encouragement to help students reach their full academic potential. As part of the programme, students engage in a range of activities, including exploring study skills and gathering student voice, book looks and learning walks, parent meetings, teacher feedback for individual students and support with organisation, attendance, punctuality, and homework where appropriate. It's an exciting opportunity for our Year 10s to build confidence, strengthen study habits, and make measurable progress as they prepare for the important months ahead.



## SOMALI ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Shahina (Year 9), Mohamed (Year 12) and Nadira (Year 13) were recognised by the local charity Somali Community Concern for their outstanding academic achievement and contributions to the school community, with Mohamed commended for his excellent GCSE outcomes and Nadira for both her strong GCSE results and continued academic success in Year 13; all three students were presented with certificates and awards by the Deputy Mayor of Ealing.



# CAREERS



## WINTER CAREERS CONFERENCE

We were delighted to host our annual Winter Careers Conference, giving students the chance to connect with a diverse range of employers, colleges, apprenticeship providers, and universities. Students from Year 7, Year 10, and Year 11 spent the day exploring future pathways, learning about higher education opportunities, and discovering potential career interests. This year's conference welcomed an inspiring line up of organisations, including Microsoft, Global Academy, and Royal Holloway, alongside many other industry representatives and education providers. With more than twenty organisations in attendance, every student had the chance to find something that sparked their curiosity and ambitions.



## MONDAY.COM

Students had the exciting opportunity to attend an after school careers talk with Monday.com, a global tech company valued at over \$2 billion. The session was attended by 37 students, who explored pathways into the tech industry, learned about careers in software development and product design, and gained valuable insight into what it's like to work at a major technology company. It was an inspiring and informative event.

## FEEDBACK!

Ensuring that an effective and inclusive Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance programme is in place to ensure that all students are able to confidently talk about their career goals, outlining how their education supports these aspirations. If you have any questions about careers and pathways at DWHS, please contact Mr Parmar

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE FEEDBACK!](#)



## SEGRO WORKSHOP

*"During Stage 1 of the SEGRO workshop, I learned a lot from experienced staff about career opportunities and the importance of communication and teamwork under pressure. In a 20 minute task, my group created a Dragon's Den style pitch, choosing which customer, such as DHL, would best suit SEGRO's Heathrow Airport site. This helped me understand how SEGRO supports its customers through strategic site choices and boosted my confidence as I shared ideas, coordinated our six-person team, managed time, and helped ensure we met the deadline." - Selywn SRO*



## FROM THE READING LEAD

Our Sixth Form Reading Tutor Programme has begun again, now in its third successful cohort. Year 12 students volunteer and apply to become reading tutors, supporting pupils in both Dormers Wells Infant and Junior School and our high school – it looks great on the UCAS application too! Year 12 tutors meet their tutees once a week and work closely with Year 5 and Year 6 in the junior school, as well as Year 8 and Year 9 in the high school, to help build confidence and enjoyment in reading. Past tutors have developed strong, positive relationships with their tutees and have gone on to work in careers relating to education and childcare. It has been wonderful to see the impact of their commitment and dedication to be positive role models for younger years. A special mention to Rena and Helina Ahmadi – now in year 13 who voluntarily continue to support their tutees even after the reading programme has ended. In our library, we are embracing the festive spirit with our spectacular Christmas tree created by Ms Grewal (Reading Lead) and Mr Wong (Assistant Librarian) that is made entirely of books! Staff and students are invited to guess how many books have been used, with the closest guess winning a prize. Last year's winners were Mrs Jabeen from Maths, who received a festive hamper, and Sukhveen Khaneja, now in Year 12, who took home a sweet hamper. Alongside the festivities, the library has launched a new Chinese Calligraphy Club every Wednesday after school, offering a calming mid-week activity and a chance for students to learn a beautiful new skill.



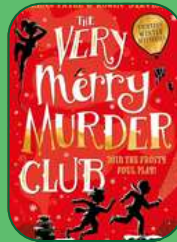
## Christmas Reading Recommendations

### Year 7



1. How the Grinch Stole Christmas - Dr Seuss
2. Christmas Cracker - Jacqueline Wilson
3. The Girl who Saved Christmas - Matt Haig
4. A Boy Called Christmas - Matt Haig
5. The Christmasaurus - Tom Fletcher

### Year 8 & 9



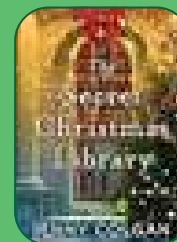
1. The Book of Christmas - Jane Struthers
2. The Snow Queen - Hans Christian Andersen
3. Mistletoe and Murder - Robin Stevens
4. The Last of the Spirits - Chris Priestley
5. The Very Merry Murder Club - Serena Patel

### Year 10 & 11



1. Let It Snow - John Green
2. My True Love Gave to Me - Holly Black
3. Monster - C J Skuse
4. A Christmas Carol - Manga edition for GCSE English as this is a set text
5. Little Women - Louisa May Alcott

### Sixth Form



1. Mimi - Lucy Ellman
2. Winter Damage - Natasha Carthew
3. Christmas Tree Farm - Laurie Gilmore
4. The Secret Christmas Library - Jenny Colman
5. Christmas on Fifth Avenue - Julie Caplin