DORMERS DIARY



FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our September edition of Dormers Diary. The start of this academic year has brought an invigorating sense of energy across our entire school, from welcoming our bright new Year 7 cohort to greeting our returning Year 12 and Sixth Form students as they embark on critical new stages of their educational journeys. It is always a pleasure to witness how quickly our young people settle into school life, forging new friendships and immersing themselves in the vibrant day to day culture of Dormers Wells High School. This term especially, I have been deeply proud to see our students embody our core DWHS Character Values: Determination, Wisdom, Honesty, and Service in both their academic pursuits and their personal lives.

Our commitment to academic excellence and student leadership has shone through in inspiring ways this month. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Year 13 BTEC Business students Abdulhadi, Zain, Selwyn, and Chanuka, who not only achieved outstanding results in their Finance exam but also displayed true service by delivering peer revision sessions to prepare their classmates for upcoming January examinations. In a similar spirit of mentorship, Dhruv has been dedicating his lunchtimes to supporting Year 11 French pupils, while Aron and Neenithy have exemplified remarkable determination through independent study and active learning.

Meanwhile, our recent graduates continue to inspire us; we celebrate Nadira and Aditya for securing £2,000 JP Foundation awards to support their Dentistry and Computer Science studies at King's College London, as well as Neenithy for graduating from the Kew Youth Explainer Programme. Beyond classroom learning, the true heart of our school lies in the compassion and community service demonstrated by our students. Our spirit of service is clearly visible in the dedicated efforts of Joshan, Hussain, Hiya, Ethan, Hidayatullah, and Dharamdeep, who regularly give their time to support our local food bank. Everyday acts of kindness, such as Saindhavi in Year 11 voluntarily assisting a classmate on crutches throughout the school day, remind us of the deep empathy within our student body.

Our vital partnership with families was also reflected in the fantastic turnouts at our Focus Evenings for Years 7, 11, and 12, as well as our vibrant Year 6 Open Evening, where prospective families explored live music, drama, science experiments, and creative arts across departments. Enrichment and hands on learning remain central to our school culture, offering exciting opportunities that build confidence and lasting memories. This term, Year 7 pupils received classical instruments at our annual MiSST Assembly in partnership with Andrew Lloyd Webber and tackled teamwork challenges, rock climbing and forest laser tag during their outdoor trip to Paccar Scouts in Chalfont. In lessons and sports, Year 8 designed and launched custom water rockets in Science, House Invictus claimed a thrilling penalty-shootout victory to win the Year 11 House Cup, and Year 12 students embarked on community leadership with the launch of the Charity Den program alongside KICK Charity. Furthermore, our Sixth Form Student Spotlight features impressive student written reviews of Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials and the documentary The Crash, alongside engaging staff interviews exploring literature and subject passions.

As we look ahead to upcoming calendar highlights such as Careers Week and our International Evening, I want to thank our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and community partners for helping Dormers Wells High School flourish. I invite you to read through this edition of the diary and join us in celebrating the inspiring accomplishments of our young people.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher

UPCOMING DATES

2nd Nov Back to School	**5th Nov** Y8 Parents' Evening	**10th Nov** BIMA Digital Day	**20th Nov** Sixth form applications open	**23rd Nov** School Closed
24th Nov School Closed	**26th Nov** Sixth Form Open Evening	**10th Dec** International Evening	**18th Dec** End of Term	**4th Jan** Back to School



FROM THE HEAD STUDENTS

It has been an eventful start to the academic year at Dormers Wells! As Head Boy and Head Girl, we have enjoyed seeing students take part in the many opportunities available at DWHS and celebrate their achievements.

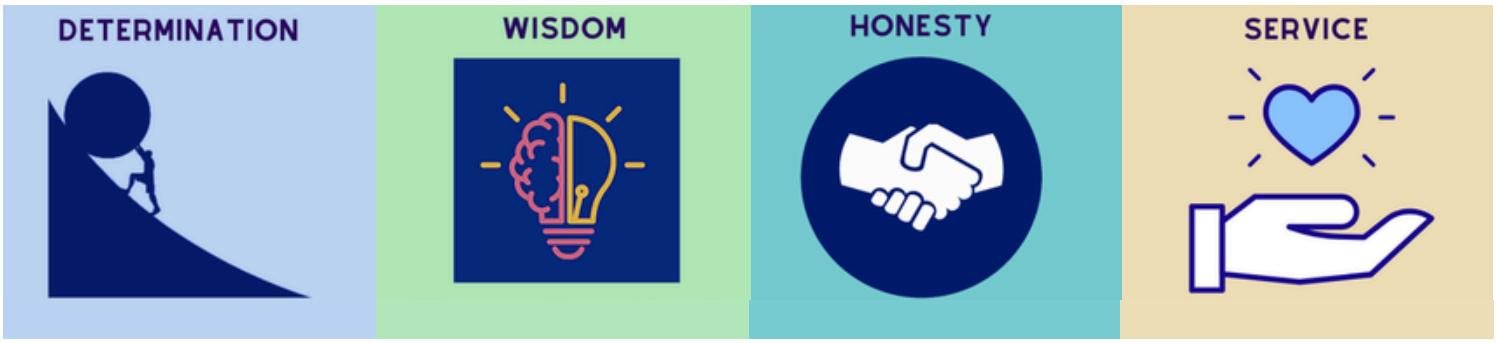
Our Awards Evening recognised students' hard work and dedication, while Open Evening allowed us to showcase what makes DWHS special to prospective students and their families. We were also delighted to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students as they began their journey at Dormers Wells.

The Focus Evenings for Years 7, 11 and 12 gave students and families the opportunity to discuss academic progress and revision. Beyond the classroom, activities such as the MiSST assembly, science experiments and Paccar Scouts have highlighted the variety of opportunities available at our school.

It has been great to see students building confidence, developing new skills, and getting involved in all aspects of school life, from lessons and careers to clubs and enrichment activities. We look forward to celebrating more achievements throughout the year.

CHARACTER VALUES IN ACTION

- **Dhruv J** has demonstrated **service** and **wisdom** by supporting current Year 11 French pupils during weekly lunchtime intervention sessions. His mentoring has helped students consolidate their learning, and it is a joy to see him being such a positive role model within our school community.
- **Neenithi** (13) has demonstrated **determination** in her studies, consistently applying herself to her work and showing a genuine commitment to achieving her very best through independent study.
- Mr Job would like to praise **Masud** 8JB for his **determination** in preparing for assemblies, showing resilience and maintaining a positive attitude when faced with challenges.
- **Kairo** 8JB showed **honesty** and **determination** by reflecting maturely on his learning, accepting feedback positively, and taking clear steps to improve his performance.
- **Prince** 11PD demonstrated **wisdom** through his thoughtful leadership during his citizenship action project, helping younger students and making sensible decisions throughout the planning and delivery.
- **Joshan**, **Hussain** and **Hiya** have demonstrated **service** and kindness through their consistent and reliable support for the food bank. They regularly give their time to help others, making a positive contribution to our local community. A special mention also goes to **Ethan**, **Hidayatullah** and **Dharamdeep** for their support as food bank helpers.
- **Aron B** has shown **determination** and **wisdom** in his learning of French. He participates actively in every lesson, offers thoughtful contributions and asks questions to strengthen his understanding. He responds exceptionally well to feedback and has independently begun learning additional French at home.
- **Isra** embodies our school values of **determination** and **wisdom**, consistently demonstrating exemplary conduct and maintaining a positive attitude around school.
- A huge congratulations to **Abdulhadi**, **Zain**, **Selwyn** and **Chanuka**, our Year 13 BTEC Business students, achieving excellent outcomes in their Finance exam. They went above and beyond by delivering a recap and revision session to their peers, helping to strengthen their classmates' knowledge, understanding and confidence ahead of their January 2027 exams. Their actions demonstrate **service**, **wisdom** and a commitment to supporting others.
- **Saindhavi** 11BY has shown outstanding **service** and kindness by voluntarily supporting another Year 11 student who is currently using crutches. She has been helping her classmate by opening doors, carrying her bag and collecting her lunch, demonstrating genuine care and consideration for others.
- **Aroush** (9) has demonstrated **determination** by consistently working to the best of her ability in Art and showing commitment to producing her best work.



EVENTS



OPEN EVENING

September saw our highly anticipated Year 6 Open Evening, giving prospective students and their families the opportunity to explore Dormers Wells High School and experience a taste of school life. Families visited departments across the school, taking part in exciting experiments, drama performances, live music, abstract art activities, food technology and CPSHE activities, including lifesaving and the famous beer goggles challenge, alongside many more activities. With something happening around every corner, there was plenty to see, do and discover as families got a feel for the opportunities and experiences on offer at our school.



WELCOME TO DORMERS

September saw us welcome our new Year 7 students to Dormers Wells High School, as well as welcoming back our Year 12s and new Sixth Form students.

It has been fantastic to see everyone settling in, making new friends and getting stuck into school life during their first half-term. We wish all our students a brilliant year ahead!



AWARDS EVENING

Our annual Awards Evening was a wonderful celebration of the hard work, dedication and achievements of our students from Year 7 to Year 13. From subject awards and Year Leader Awards, to our memorial awards and Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher Awards, we recognised the many successes of our students throughout the year. The evening also featured fantastic performances from our orchestra and a dhol performance, alongside inspiring speeches and spoken word and poetry from our students. A special thank you to our guest speaker, Zahaan Bharmal, Senior Director of Strategy at Google, for presenting the awards and helping make the evening so memorable. We are incredibly proud of all our students and their achievements.



FOCUS EVENING

We were delighted to welcome fantastic turnouts at our Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 Focus Evenings. Our parent partnerships are exrtremly important for the development of our students. Families had the opportunity to discuss progress, support and expectations for the year ahead. Our Year 12 evening also featured a guest speaker from Royal Holloway University, who shared valuable advice and insights with students.

CURRICULUM





YEAR 6 ACTIVITIES WEEK

This term, we were delighted to welcome Year 6 students from schools across the borough, including Blair Peach, Dormers Wells Primary School, Lady Margaret, Stanhope, Ravenor, Allenby, North, Three Bridges, Beaconsfield, Hambrough and Durdans Park, as part of our Year 6 Activities Week. Students enjoyed a taste of life at Dormers Wells High School, taking part in exciting lessons in Art, Science, Spanish, Geography, Sociology, Drama and French. It has been fantastic to see them getting involved, trying new things and embracing new experiences. We hope to see many of these students again in the future as members of our Year 7 community.



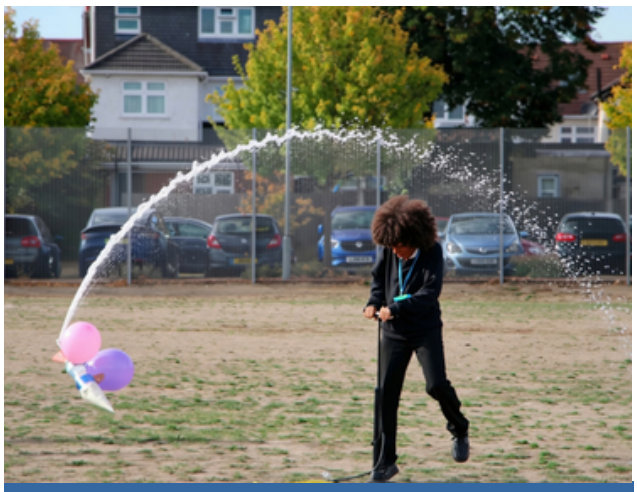
MISST ASSEMBLY

This year, we were delighted to celebrate our annual MiSST Instrument Ceremony in partnership with Andrew Lloyd Webber. Our Year 7 students were each presented with a classical instrument, marking the beginning of their musical journey at Dormers Wells High School.
With the support of their teachers, students will develop their musical skills while building confidence, creativity and a range of personal and social skills. We look forward to seeing them grow and flourish as they discover the opportunities that learning an instrument can bring.



ART OF THE MONTH

Food in Art Year 10 Final Piece - Erica V, Year 11



SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Year 8 enjoyed an explosive Science lesson exploring water and air pressure as they designed and launched their own rockets. Students experimented with different amounts of water and air, making predictions and testing how high their rockets could soar. A fantastic hands on lesson full of teamwork, problem solving and plenty of excitement!

ENRICHMENT







PACCAR SCOUTS TRIP

Year 7 had a brilliant day getting to know their peers at Paccar Scouts in Chalfont. They took on rock climbing, racing to the top, laser tag through the forest and backwoods cooking, where they made delicious s'mores. Students also tackled team building challenges, navigating courses and working together to build their own bridges and paths. The day finished with the challenging Nightline course, where they relied on their teammates to guide them through tunnels, under nets and over obstacles. It was a fantastic day of adventure, teamwork and making memories!



SCHOOL CLUBS

Students jumped head first into clubs this month, with a packed programme of exciting opportunities. From creative clubs and sports to music, performing arts, science, coding and more, there has been something for everyone. Popular clubs so far include Sewing and Crochet, Chess, Football, Dungeons & Dragons, Gardening, Science Club and girls football. It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved, trying new things and exploring their interests!



HOUSE CUP WINNERS

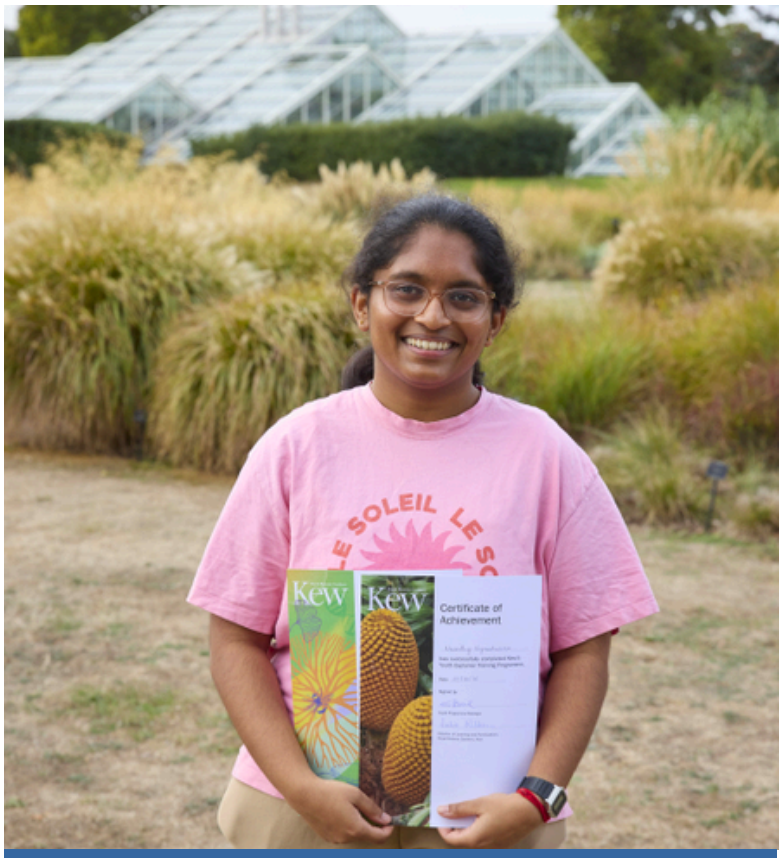
A huge well done to our Year 11 House Cup winners, Invictus! They faced Magnus in a thrilling final, with a 3–1 victory on penalties. This is a special achievement for Invictus, winning the House Cup for the very first time! A massive congratulations to the whole team, and to their very proud coach, Ms Blakebrough!



JP FOUNDATION DONATION

A huge congratulations to Nadira and Aditya, who have each received £2,000 from this year's generous £4,000 anonymous JP Foundation donation. The donation supports hardworking students with the costs of starting university. Nadira will be studying Dentistry and Aditya Computer Science, both at King's College London. We wish them both every success in this exciting next chapter!

CAREERS



KEW YOUTH EXPLAINER

Congratulations to Neenithy, who has officially graduated from the Kew Youth Explainer Programme! We are delighted to celebrate her achievement and recognise all the hard work and dedication she has shown throughout the past year.



GREEN CAREERS WEEK

Green Careers Week will take place from 3rd to 7th November and continues to raise awareness of the exciting opportunities available in careers that support environmental sustainability and the UK's journey towards net zero. As the demand for green skills continues to grow, careers in renewable energy, sustainable construction, environmental management, transport, engineering and conservation are becoming increasingly important.

You can help your child by looking at different green jobs and career profiles to help them think about where they might work in the future, and the types of qualifications they need to achieve this.



KICK CHARITY LAUNCH

We were delighted to welcome Jasbir from KICK Charity for the launch of our Charity Den programme. Around 40 Year 12 students took part in the induction session, beginning an exciting journey into social action and community leadership. Students will develop their own charity project ideas, learning about proposal writing, event planning and fundraising as they work towards turning their ideas into reality. We look forward to seeing their fantastic ideas take shape!

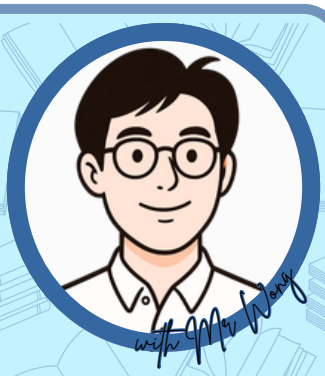


JOB OF THE MONTH

Pharmacologists study how medicines, drugs and other chemicals affect the human body. They carry out experiments, analyse results and help develop medicines that are safe and effective. Pharmacologists can work in pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, universities and research organisations. A degree in pharmacology is the most direct route into the profession, although related subjects such as biochemistry, biomedical science, physiology and microbiology can also lead to a career in this field. Some roles require further study, including a Master's degree or PhD. Pharmacologists need strong scientific and numerical skills, as well as curiosity, analytical thinking, attention to detail, problem-solving, communication and teamwork. Salaries can range from around £24,000 for junior roles to over £100,000 for senior positions. ***Watch the full video here***

READING

Dormers Wells Library
READING RECOMMENDATIONS

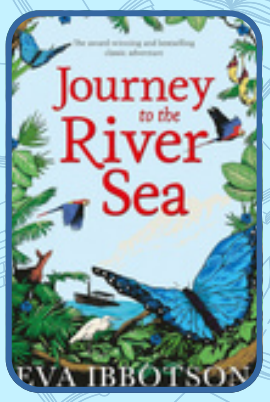


YEAR 7



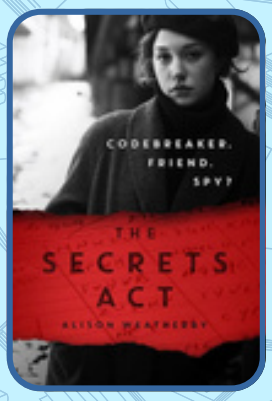
The Garbage King
by
Elizabeth Laird

YEAR 8



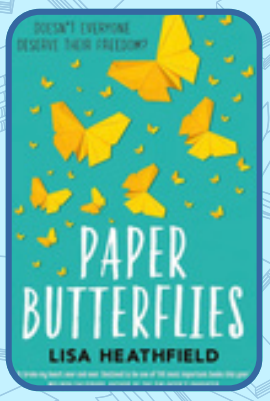
Journey to the River Sea
by Eva Ibbotson

YEAR 9



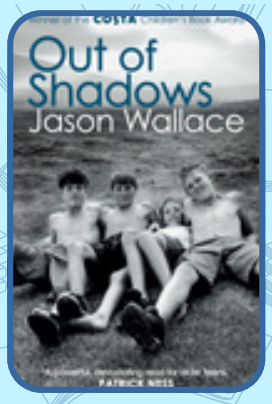
The Secrets Act
by Alison Weatherby

YEAR 10



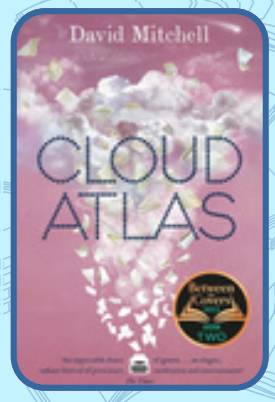
Paper Butterflies
by Lisa Heathfield

YEAR 11



Out of Shadows
by Jason Wallace

SIXTH FORM



Cloud Atlas
by David Mitchell



THE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

TRIVIA

Where was the first example of paper money used?

Which country's national animal is a unicorn?

What is the highest grossing movie of all time?

Who was the first Disney princess?

What is the fear of insects known as?

Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in what country?

ANSWERS: China, Scotland, Home Alone, Snow White, Entomophobia, Greece

WELL-BEING TIPS

Be active

Regular physical activity can improve concentration and reduces stress. Engage in sports, exercise, or hobbies that you enjoy.

Take notice

Pay attention to your surroundings and the people around you. This can help you stay present and reduces anxiety.

Keep Learning

Continuously seek knowledge and personal growth through education and learning opportunities.

FUN FACTS

- You are made of star dust! Every atom in your body originated in stars. Hydrogen formed after the Big Bang, while heavier elements like carbon, oxygen, and iron were created in stellar furnaces and supernovae explosions over billions of years.
- Your DNA is astonishingly long. If uncoiled, the DNA in one human body could stretch from the Sun to Pluto and back 17 times.
- Sunlight takes eight minutes to reach Earth, traveling 150 million kilometres across space.
- Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints. You can't blame your crimes on your twin after all. This is because environmental factors during development in the womb (umbilical cord length, position in the womb, and the rate of finger growth) impact your fingerprint.
- Cats prefer to sleep on their left. This preference may help them engage the right hemisphere of their brains, so they can better visually process their environments and dodge potential danger upon waking.

GUESS THE BOOK TITLE

Find the answers to the questions below to find the name of the novel.

BOOK NO. 1

1. *First Word: ready to face and endure danger or pain; showing courage. (adjective). Synonyms are valiant and bold.*
2. *Second word: opposite of old (when referring to objects)*
3. *Third word: another word for the earth, more commonly used.*

Hint: the genre of the book – Politics, sci-fi, dystopian fiction.

Answers – 1: Brave 2: New 3: World

BOOK NO. 2

1. *First word: the lowest cardinal number in mathematics.*
2. *Second word: average IQ score.*
3. *Third word: the word in the blank – "My younger brother is ten _____ old."*
4. *Fourth word: a preposition used to express the relationship between a part and a whole.*
5. *Fifth word: the state or situation of being alone (noun)*

Hint: the 7th book on the Oliver library website of our school when looking for the "100 greatest fiction novels". 863[F]

Answers – 1: One 2: Hundred 3: Years 4: Of 5: Solitude

BOOK NO. 3

1. *First word: 3 letter definite article. Most used word in English to indicate a specific person, thing, or group that is known to the speaker and listener or has been previously mentioned.*
2. *Second word: Thor's Day (when associating this weekday to the Norse mythology god).*
3. *Third word: a group of crows.*
4. *Fourth word: an association dedicated to a particular interest or activity. Synonyms include society and group.*

Hint: you can attend The Power Hour ____ on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the library after school.

Answers - 1: The 2: Thursday 3: Murder 4: Club

BOOK NO. 4

1. *First word: at no time in the past or future; not ever.*
2. *Second word: not to prevent or forbid; allow. 3 letters.*

Hint: you normally won't ___ your pet out at night.

1. *Third word: (pronoun) used by a speaker to refer to themselves as the object of a verb or preposition.*
2. *Fourth word: leave; depart. 2 letters.*

Answers - 1: Never 2: Let 3: Me 4: Go

REVIEWS

THE CRASH

The Crash is a documentary based on a real case that took place in Ohio. It follows the tragic story of Mackenzie Shirilla, her boyfriend Dominic Russo, and her best friend Davion Flanagan. At first, Mackenzie and Dominic seemed to have a happy relationship, but over time it became extremely toxic. They broke up, got back together, and according to the documentary, Mackenzie even turned to voodoo or black magic because she was scared Dominic would leave her again. Both also struggled with drug addiction, which added even more problems to their relationship.

The most shocking part of the documentary is the crash itself. Mackenzie was driving with Dominic and Davion in the car when she drove into a brick building at around 98 mph. Dominic and Davion sadly died, while Mackenzie survived. At first, investigators believed it was a terrible accident because they found a slipper trapped underneath the accelerator, making it seem like the car had unintentionally sped up.

However, as the investigation continued, surveillance footage, text messages and interviews revealed a very different story. The documentary explains that Mackenzie had practised the route several times beforehand, leading investigators to believe the crash was planned rather than accidental. This completely changed my perspective while watching because what first seemed like a tragic mistake became something much darker.

I also found it interesting how much the documentary focused on the relationship between Mackenzie and Dominic. It suggests that their unhealthy relationship played a major role in what happened. During the court case, Mackenzie claimed she could not remember the crash and denied causing it intentionally.

One moment that really stood out to me was the conversation between the two families. Mackenzie's mother said that they loved Dominic and that Davion was only a new friend. Dominic's mother questioned whether that meant Davion's death mattered less, forcing Mackenzie's mother to clarify what she meant.

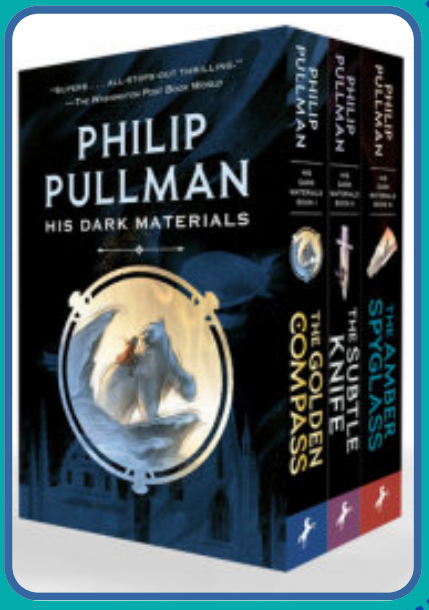


In 2023, Mackenzie Shirilla was convicted of multiple felony charges, including murder, and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

Overall, I thought The Crash was a fascinating and emotional documentary. It keeps you questioning what really happened until the evidence is revealed, and it shows how toxic relationships, addiction and poor decisions can have devastating consequences. I would recommend it to anyone interested in true crime because it is gripping, thought-provoking and leaves you reflecting on the events long after the credits roll.

Laiba Y13CM

HIS DARK MATERIALS TRILOGY - PHILIP PULLMAN



A story of good versus evil at its heart, His Dark Materials shows how children are left to right the wrong made by adults. Lyra, the protagonist of our novels is half-wild, young girl that is drawn into a battle waged by much higher forces than those she has ever encountered at her home in Jordan College, Oxford, when she faces a mysterious element called Dust – something that powerful individuals like Lyra's uncle, Lord Asreil, want to harness for their own ambitions. Pullman writes that "Human beings can't see anything without wanting to destroy it." which I dare say is my favourite quote in the whole trilogy because it was, is, and will always be true that human nature is to seek control over every element that they come across, may it be one's own life or whole countries – we don't have a lack of these examples nowadays.

His Dark Materials is worth reading for this exact reason – it educates its readers on the dangers of unquestioned authority and shows how power can result in destruction when it's in the wrong hands. This is an amazing story of resilience, determination, friendship, and morality, which everyone should give a go. As I end this review, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Quinn-Guest for lending and letting me keep this trilogy. I will forever be grateful for it every world, no matter which one I end up in.

Cathleen Y13CM

THE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

INTERVIEWS

MISS. SEYMOUR - ENGLISH

1. What is the best book that you have read which relates to your subject?
- Piranesi by Susanna Clarke
2. What's something you liked that this book says about your subject?
- It is a mystery novel about exploration of a labyrinth with endless halls and a rising ocean.
3. What age group would you suggest this book to?
- 10 years and above.
4. In three words or a sentence, what is this book?
- Haunting, Mysterious, and Beautiful.
5. Lastly, if this book has a character or/and a situation which you could live in, who or/and what would it be?
- In the "House" (the labyrinth) for a few days.

MISS KANG - HISTORY

1. What is the best book that you have read which relates to your subject?
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.
2. What's something you liked that this book says about your subject?
- The book shows you that history is a result of people's beliefs.
3. What age group would you suggest this book to?
- 9 years and above.
4. In three words or a sentence, what is this book?
- Transformation, Love, and Self- exploration.
5. Lastly, if this book has a character or/and a situation which you could live in, who or/and what would it be?
- One of the Bennet sisters who has to find her true self.

MR HILBURN - SCIENCE

1. What is the best book that you have read which relates to your subject?
- *The Blue Machine by Helen Czerski*
2. What's something you liked that this book says about your subject?
- *It links to Physics and to oceans showing how a healthy ocean is important for all life on our planet.*
3. What age group would you suggest this book to?
- *14 years and above.*
4. In three words or a sentence, what is this book?
- *Everything is interconnected.*
5. Lastly, if this book has a character or/and a situation which you could live in, who or/and what would it be?
- *Living in tropical regions/ the south ocean.*

MISS KADRI - MATHS

1. What is the best book that you have read which relates to your subject?
- *The Teaching of Mathematics at Secondary Level*
2. What's something you liked that this book says about your subject?
- *It painted out what is good about maths and gave reasons for its importance.*
3. What age group would you suggest this book to?
- *16 years and above. (It can interest you to learn more about Maths and its benefits)*
4. In three words or a sentence, what is this book?
- *How maths should be taught by a teacher/ tutor.*
5. Lastly, if this book has a character or/and a situation which you could live in, who or/and what would it be?
- *A world where everyone loves maths, rather than despises it.*

WHO SHOULD WE INTERVIEW NEXT?

Make your suggestions to Cathleen (13SCM) or the library!