



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

As the calendar year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful holiday and I look forward to seeing pupils and staff arrive back in January healthy and ready to embrace a new term. I know you will all join me in hoping that 2021 will usher in a bright new dawn, and that things begin to return to what we regard as "normal". While this pandemic has impacted the whole school community, I am proud to say that everyone at DWHHS has risen to the challenge and done their utmost to make our school the best it can be. I would like to thank and congratulate everyone, including the parents and carers, for the support which you have provided. While extremely important, the academic provision is only one aspect of school life and in DWHHS we have grown used to hearing the vibrancy of young people's laughter and chat well beyond the end of the school day. Hopefully, as the vaccine is rolled out and things begin to improve, these sounds will once more become the norm. I also look forward to being able to resume the extra-curricular life of the school and our A-Level and GCSE students being able to sit their exams, as opposed to receiving predicted grades.

Also impressive have been the energy and diligence seen in our sixth formers' applications for higher education. Many have secured offers at leading institutions, including Russell Group universities and, four are preparing for interviews at Cambridge University. We wish them

luck! We are looking forward to another strong set of exam results in the summer and continuing to support all of our Year 11 and Sixth Form students.

The newest members of the school, our Year 7s, are also to be congratulated on their performance this term. Settling into new surroundings is not easy at any time, let alone during a pandemic. They have made the transition smoothly and efficiently. We were delighted to see so many of you at the recent virtual Parents' Evening to discuss their progress so far and it was also a pleasure to see so many Year 11 students accessing the recent Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening. It is also wonderful to see some clubs continuing despite the restrictions and one exciting new online club, The Science Nature Club, with over 50 new members.

I wish you all a pleasant break and look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



Governor Farewell



We are sad to say goodbye to a wonderful co-worker, John Jones, who has been a governor with us at Dormers Wells High School since 2010. Throughout his tenure, John has proved himself to be an extremely professional, hard-working and dedicated member of the team. Not only has he been remarkably effective in his role, but has gone above and beyond for the school and our community in every aspect.

John's tenure began when his son enrolled to our school; he would attend trips, help the school where possible and has also been an invigilator. John describes himself as "the kind of parent that just wanted to get involved". He even went on to start a very successful judo club, eventually leading to curriculum-based judo classes, to which many took a keen interest. John described it as an "extremely exciting period", teaching from Year 7, right up until Sixth Form. John then continued to become an increasingly active Governor and Chair of Finance for the Trust, leading meetings and asking challenging questions to get responses that are "fair and correct".

John describes the most rewarding part of the role to be the gratitude from students and being on the panel that appointed Ms Walsh, who has been key to the development of the school. He will miss the children, the staff and the rich, diverse environment that is our community, but for now he is looking forward to a new challenge, moving to France to fully retire. John hopes to read lots of books as well as finding a new judo club to join!

John, thank you for all of your support over the years and we wish you the very best. We know that whatever your future holds, you will excel and continue to be as valued and appreciated as you are here.

From the Head Boy and Head Girl

As the first term of the academic year comes to an end, so does our time as Head Boy and Head Girl of Dormers Wells High School. After reflecting over our experiences, we can undoubtedly say that it has been an honour and a privilege to have served such a diverse, intelligent and inspiring community of both students and staff.

A highlight of the responsibility of our roles has been the chance to represent the school at various events, such as Open Evening; being able to experience these both in person and virtually has been an enlightening lesson on adaptability that we will carry forward in our careers. Another privilege was to be able to lead the executive council and work with members of the younger years. Although we did not get to implement as much as we would have liked due to the pandemic, it is still inspiring to see such a bright future for student leadership in our school!



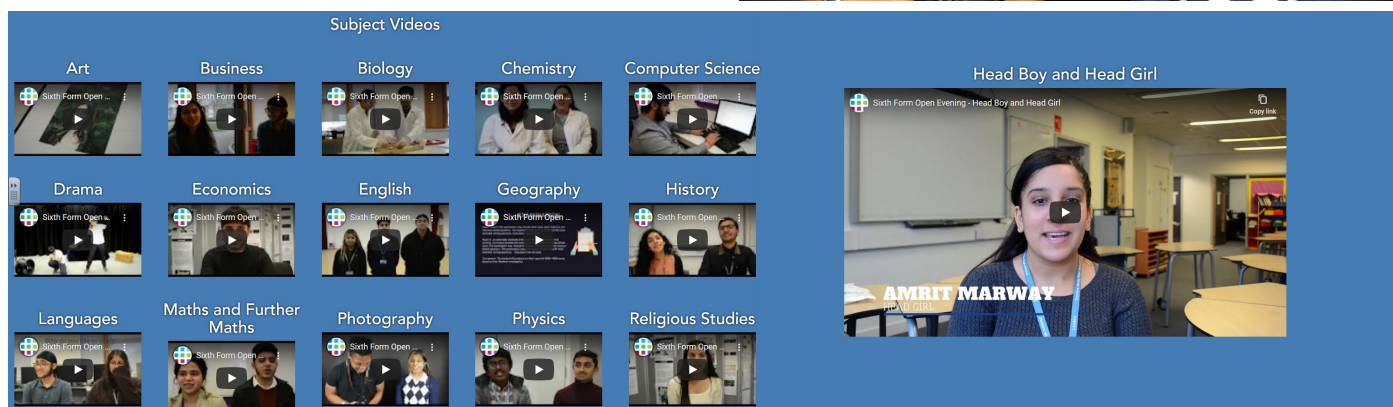
As always, we wish all students the best of luck in their upcoming mock exams next term. It is certainly much harder to feel confident this academic year, what with an unprecedented period of online learning exclusively, and many disruptions to students as a result of the pandemic in general.

To end off our final Dormers Diary address, despite our shorter than usual tenure, we are grateful to have both been given the opportunity to represent and champion our school to a wide audience. It is the least we could do given Dormers' support through our education since day one.

We wish luck to our successors (whomever they may be), and hope that they can implement the ideas they feel are important, and promote the values they feel are meaningful.

Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

Due to Covid restrictions, this September saw Dormers Wells Sixth Form hosting their first ever virtual Open Evening. The Open Evening was a great success, gaining over 1000 views and a great deal of positive feedback. Throughout the evening, parents, guardians and potential students were able to browse multiple videos on our webpage, learning essential details about the wide variety of subjects we offer. Videos included a welcome from the Head of Sixth Form, Year Leader and Head Boy and Head Girl. Following that, there were a range of videos from all subjects, narrated by teachers, and other videos provided details about opportunities, UCAS and much more. Those attending were led through a virtual tour of the whole school, venturing through the various departments and viewing the fantastic facilities the school has to offer. Although we were not able to host the evening as we usually would, the virtual Open Evening still highlighted our outstanding sixth form, from the level of hard work and perseverance demonstrated by students and staff, to our caring and compassionate community, which makes it such a successful and happy place to be. We hope to see plenty of new and familiar faces next year!



Remember!

Some people online are not who they say they are! They lie and they can be VERY convincing. Be careful!

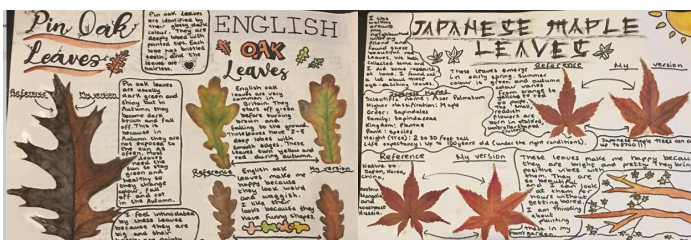
Talking Politics

To mark Parliament week, Key Stage 4 students created questions for our local MP, Virendra Sharma, after researching his life. They asked him questions such as: *How has the pandemic impacted you as an MP?*, *What inspired you to become an MP?* and *If Labour win, how could you help benefit and improve Southall?* He answered the questions live on zoom, firstly to Year 10 on 24th November and then to Year 11 on 2nd December. A virtual mock election with Year 8 and Year 10 was also completed with the Peacekeeping Party created by Akbar (10DE), which won by a landslide.



Science Nature Club

This term, Mrs Ahmad has launched a Science Nature Club in which 50 Year 8 students have signed up. Chapter 1 of the project was Autumn leaves, which involved students physically collecting leaves, presenting them through drawing, painting and writing about them. The students have been working very hard in their own time to complete chapter 1 and they are thoroughly looking forward to working on chapter 2 next term!



Upcoming Dates

4th January	Return to school
	Year 11 A Level Taster Day
13th January	BTEC Taster and Tertiary Day
21st January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
3rd February	Year 8 & 9 Options Fair
26th November	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
5th February	Careers Conference
12th February	Last day of term
22nd February	Return to school

Wellbeing Message

A new column to support you through the ups and downs of school life, written for both students and parents.

After the lockdown over the Spring and Summer you have returned to school and settled in to a new way of working and being at Dormers. I am sure that this has had some positives and some challenges for you. Seeing your friends and being able to spend time outside of the family home is really important for how you feel.

You have had to refocus on school work and you take a lot of subjects and it can be daunting to have to get through the whole day and your homework in the evening too. Homework can be a big challenge. Sometimes, there's no quiet place to work either, and there are so many distractions whether it's your phone, parents, siblings or your friends. Sometimes it seems to take too long – so long that you don't feel you've got time for anything fun. That's all normal – nobody wants to do homework! But if you're struggling, raise it with a teacher you trust. They would rather you talked to them about it than fall behind or say you simply didn't do it – if you raise it early they'll be able to help you find a solution.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by your school work or anything else, remember to talk to someone about this. This could be a parent or carer, a sibling or friend. You may want to talk to an adult at school about how you are feeling, this could be your form teacher, year leader or another trusted adult in the school.

During the holiday periods it may be difficult to find someone you trust to talk to. You can always contact ChildLine, Young Minds or Kooth.

ChildLine - 0800 1111 or [link](https://www.childline.gov.uk)

Young Minds - If you need help, text YM to 85258. Or [link](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)

<https://www.kooth.com/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

Ms Cole

Cambridge & King's College

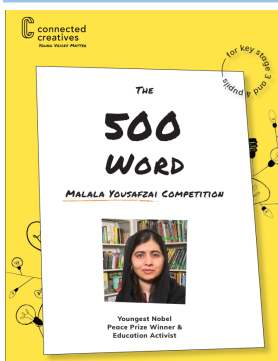
Congratulations to four of our students, who have been invited to Cambridge for an interview. The students are hoping to study Computer Science, Maths and Law. As well as this, one student has interview at King's College for Law.

GCSE Pod

We are Delighted to announce that Dormers Wells High School has achieved 'Star Podformer Status' for the second month in a row! This means that our school has had the highest usage during September and October on GCSE Pod.



Malala Competition



A few students have participated in the 500 word Malala Yousafzai creative writing competition, to celebrate and empower young people to self-publish their creative writing. Well done to the following students who have been shortlisted; Renee (10GC), Samaira (8HY), Handa (10DE), Mustafa (10SM), Shucayb (10DM), Simranjeet (8SR) and Vivek (10PD).

Year 12 Photography

Congratulations to Year 12 students Laiba and Nimco, who received certificates from the Royal Photographic Society. This was in recognition of their high achievement in GCSE photography last year.



House Competition

A new, exciting house competition has just been announced with a lockdown theme! It is a photography-based competition that anyone can participate in. It requires you to submit photos that you feel best describe 'Life in Lockdown'. Use the Christmas break to (safely) snap away anything that relates to lockdown or your experiences to win points for your House!



Miss Hayre makes the news

Its fantastic to see our very own Miss Hayre, sharing her experiences with life as a teacher. The social media campaign encourages teaching as a career and highlights how it engages, supports and inspires the next generation. You can read this in The Sun, The Times, Ealing Today and Evening Standard, you can find the links on our Twitter @DormersWellsHS.

Evening Standard NEWS SPORT BUSINESS CULTURE



("I wake up every day thinking I am so blessed to be in a career where you're making a difference in kids' lives," says science teacher Jagpreet Hayre / Jagpreet Hayre)

Art of the Month

This piece by Mithila in Year 10 is colouring pencil on toned paper. The artwork is inspired by Sarah Graham, a British artist who specialises in painting photorealistic images of sweets and chocolate. This project is entitled 'Food in Art', an exploration of all things edible that lets students explore a wide range of materials and themes within the project. Mithila's piece is a testimony to her hard work and dedication to the subject. Mithila spends many hours outside of school refining her skills to help her achieve the best creative results possible. Well done!

