



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

The penultimate edition of this academic year's Dormers Diary is another packed one, reflecting an exciting and eventful term.

And what a term it has been! Despite still working in bubbles, there was so much happening that the time simply flew past!

From Year 7, 8 and 10 students working with the Brilliant Club, to our in-house mentoring programme where they learned about working in the City and developing skills in careers and employability, not to mention our students in Year 10 winning the Jack Petchy Award. Dormers Wells High School remains committed to providing a wide and diverse range of exciting opportunities for all our students.

The Dormers character values were also very evident throughout this half term. Pride of place goes to our staff who, upon hearing of the India Covid Appeal immediately threw themselves into raising funds to help with buying oxygen concentrators for the most vulnerable and needy in India. A huge thank you to Mrs. Appiah and Mrs. Dhaliwal for modelling the Dormers character value of "service to others" in our international community.

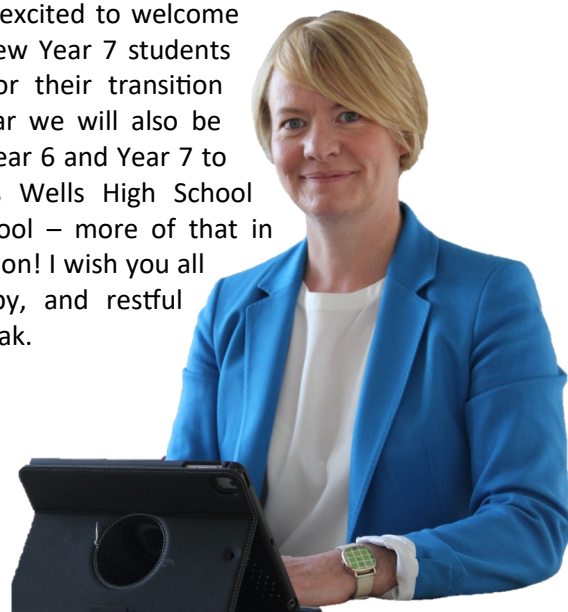
Our Year 11 & 13 students have been especially brilliant during their final few weeks of school. Despite a very unsettled two years, both groups have risen to the challenge and approached the exam period with determination, focus and remained resolute to achieve their goals. Crestfallen for not being able to have their annual Prom event, Year 11 students were nevertheless able to hold their Sports Day where they competed against each other in a variety of sporting activities. It was wonderful to hear everyone having fun in each other's company as well as urging on their teams in the battle to win the coveted first place. It was safe to say Mrs. Dhaliwal was on the side line cheering for 11DH! We are delighted to announce that this month we

are facilitating a Transition Programme for Year 11 students: A Day in the Life of a DWHS 6th Form Student. From May 25th, Year 11 will return for one week as Year 12 students. The aim is for Year 11 students to be able to experience a week in sixth form and gain an insight into the many subjects on offer, and a deeper understanding of what awaits them in September. They have already proven that not only are they are a successful and academic year group throughout school but they are incredibly pleasant, polite young people who will be an asset to Year 12.

As the country begins to gradually re-open, our students are once again taking part in organised sport. Our cricketers, who have been playing for the London Tigers, have done us proud, especially Harshil who not only hit his first century but also used his leadership skills to captain the team to victory. Well done, Harshil! We are hoping to begin our popular house football competitions after the holiday as well as other house activities in the summer term.

We are also excited to welcome 240 brand new Year 7 students next term for their transition day. This year we will also be welcoming Year 6 and Year 7 to the Dormers Wells High School Summer School – more of that in the next edition! I wish you all a safe, happy, and restful half term break.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher



From the Head Boy and Head Girl

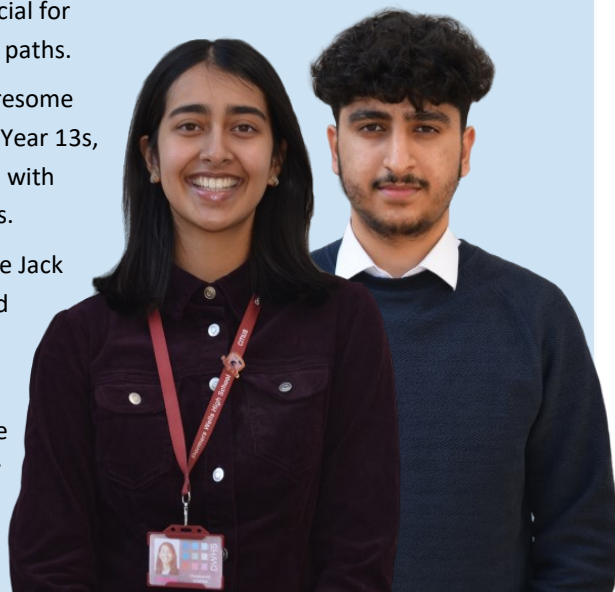
While we have faced some trials and tribulations due to COVID-19, Dormers Wells High School has once again despite the odds come out as triumphant.

Many of our students have taken hold of golden opportunities like the Brilliant Club, which entails a series of sessions to develop key skills related to STEM and Humanities subjects which are crucial for developing the academic ability necessary for university and other career paths.

On the other hand, as our community gradually closes the door on this tiresome pandemic, we would also like to bid adieu to our wonderful Year 11s and Year 13s, who, after a period hard work and resilience, completed their final exams with many of our Year 13s being offered places at world-renowned universities.

We would like to congratulate the hardworking students who received the Jack Petchey award for their excellence. Additionally, we would like to applaud our amazing staff here at Dormers Wells High School who managed to raise £4000 in response to the India COVID-19 appeal.

In conclusion, with the much-anticipated easing of restrictions, we hope to have another splendid academic term, but for now we wish our lovely students, teachers, and their families a restful break as we return to normalcy.



Brilliant students!

24 students in Year 10 have been following either a **STEM or Humanities** programme during lockdown with The Brilliant Club. The programme is part of the national Catch-up Programme aiming to re-engage and re-build pupils' confidence by working with a subject expert. Throughout this, a PhD tutor has given them university-style sessions where they have had to produce a 2,000 word essay on the subject at the end of 6 weeks. It has been particularly hard for the students this year with it taking place during lockdown, so those who have managed to complete and submit their essay have done particularly well. Our fantastic Brilliant Club students had a graduation ceremony on the 29th April to celebrate all of their achievements. The ceremony was virtual this year, but tutors stopped by to wish them congratulations on their efforts and watched them collect their certificates.

The summer term has seen the vast expansion of the DWHS catch-up provision. 72 students from years 7,8 and 10 have joined the initial cohort of 24 Year 7s and 65 Year 11s on the Brilliant club online tutoring sessions. The students are studying a number of themes in English including Unseen Poetry and Descriptive and Narrative Writing over a 15 week period. Each of their sessions will be led by a university PhD university student employed by the Brilliant Club. The student engagement during the period of lockdown and back in school has been amazing, completing nearly 600 hours of catch up! Well done to all those involved.



Remember!

Your username and password belong to you ... and only you.

Don't give your username or password to anyone, unless they are your parent or guardian.

Sports Day

Thursday 14th May saw a very memorable day: our Year 11 students competed at their first Sports Day in two years, since last year was cancelled due to the pandemic. The atmosphere was electric. Year 11 brought energy, team work and leadership skills to compete to the best of their abilities, making up for a lot of lost time. There were various sporting activities taking place such as rounders, football, basketball and dodgeball, followed by an awards ceremony at the end, where the year group celebrated their achievements together and collected medals for first, second and third place. Overall, it was a really fantastic day that left students feeling happy and hopeful for the return of school normality.



Mentorship Programme

We are glad to have 24 new Year 12 students engaging in our next set of 6-week mentor sessions run by Amanda Perry and Ella Morris specifically around career skills, employability, and working in the City. These students will be engaged in the programme that encourages students to reflect upon their current career goals and take the steps they need to gain a competitive advantage over others in the same field. We are very thankful to Ella and Amanda who have both agreed to be lifelong mentors of these students, therefore guiding them after they leave DWHS in order to support them securing the successful future that they deserve.



Upcoming Dates

7th June	Return to school
24th June	Year 11 prom (tbc)
25th June	Year 6 introduction
1st July	Awards Evening
2nd July	Careers Conference
7th—9th July	Enrichment Days
14th July	Sports Day
16th July	Last day of term
	Celebration assemblies

Wellbeing Message

Exam time can be a really stressful and challenging time for students, and it can be especially hard for young people who are struggling with other areas of their school or home life. Young Minds asked students to give them some wellbeing advice for exam time. Here are their top 10 tips

1. Always take a moment just to breathe, whether in the exam, before or after.
2. Remember that school does offer support, just ask!
3. Keep your work balanced. Spend time revising but socialise and relax too.
4. Keep a self-care routine so that your revision is the most productive it can be whilst you feel as good as possible.
5. Break up revision with food and exercise to stay energised.
6. Remember that results do not define you.
7. Find a revision space and style that works for you: silence, background chatter, music with or without lyrics.
8. Work to your own pace – everyone is different in how they work.
9. If you feel nervous about the time pressure of an exam, practice timing yourself when you revise, or try some test papers.
10. Plan in some treats to reward yourself and celebrate when it's all over!

Parents and carers can support their children by starting conversations about the exams and how their children may feel about them, be aware that your child may feel worried and as a result their behaviour may change, this is a good time to talk to them about how they are feeling. Think about how you can best support them during exam time which may feel especially stressful after long periods away from school due to lockdown and wider issues concerning the pandemic.

The Young Minds website is a great resource for young people and their parents and carers you can find it here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Wishing you a peaceful half term break and I look forward to seeing you all next term

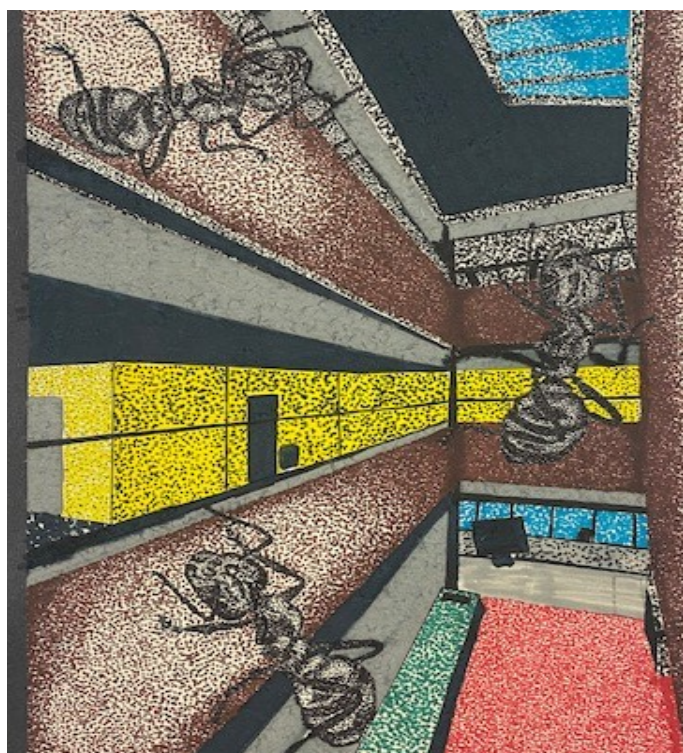
India COVID appeal

The COVID crisis in India has had a huge impact on many within our school community, staff and students alike. Seeing this humanitarian disaster unfold, our staff felt compelled to make a difference. Mrs Dhaliwal and Mrs Appiah led a charity drive to raise money for Khalsa Aid. Dormers Wells High School staff donated over £4,000 within 48 hours to help purchase oxygen concentrators for the most vulnerable and needy in India. Our staff featured on Sky News when they delivered the oxygen concentrators to Khalsa Aid head office in Slough. Thank you to all staff for helping to make a difference: this would not have been possible without everyone's help!



Art of the month

This edition's art of the month goes to Jashanpreet Kaur in 11BN. This piece was inspired by the work of Salvador Dali who is the most well-known Surrealist artist. He often included insects in his paintings and Jashanpreet has taken this idea and combined it with photos of the school building. The ants are seen to be crawling over the school in a surreal nightmare. Jashanpreet has used a technique called pointillism which requires the use of dots to create tone and texture. This piece took her many hours to complete and is a great example of the work being produced.



Jack Petchey

Congratulations to our students who have won the Jack Petchey Achievement Award. The winners are young people who have gone above and beyond in their achievements. Each young person was nominated by their peers in their school for their hard work and efforts. Each award winner will receive a certificate, pin badge and a book from Sir Jack himself. They will also choose how to spend a £250 grant to benefit our and have been invited to attend a virtual ceremony, which would normally be presented with a medallion in front of their families, friends and VIPs. A very big well done to our students Gamid, Florin, Sajeel, Gavin, Najah, Amit, Mustafa, Shaima and Rowada.

If you would like to watch the virtual event, you can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/NI69HRKioqW>



London Tigers!

This term, eight of our young people proved their resilience when playing for the London Tigers in two games. Harshil hit his first century (100 runs) and captained the game to victory. Well done to all of the Dormers Wells High School students playing at London Tigers in the matches. A true portrayal of the success that undoubtedly comes from our school and community.

