



# Dormers Diary



## From the Headteacher

Welcome, one and all, to the Christmas edition of Dormers Diary.

Even though I alluded to it in last month's edition, it merits repeating! This year kicked-off with another outstanding set of results confirming the progress being consistently achieved in the school community. That they were well above the national average (we achieved a Progress 8 score of +0.89) is something of which we can all be very proud. The upshot of all this wonderful success is that many of our students have already been offered places at Russell Group universities, four have been invited to interview at Cambridge University and another student has an interview at Oxford University. However, at Dormers Wells we do not rest on our laurels. The hard work continues as we strive to support all of our Sixth Form students to raise the bar even higher this year. Early indications are that we are well on course to attaining another strong set of exam results this coming summer.

It was also a pleasure to see so many Year 11 students at the recent Sixth Form Open Evening. Our current Sixth Form students were in attendance as subject ambassadors on the night and were able to provide a deeper insight into Sixth Form life. The Taster Days taking place in January will provide the current cohort with more information that will help them to make their choices for Year 12. Another source of satisfaction has been the number of Year 11 students that chose Dormers Wells as their sixth form.

In other news, our Year 13 students, in addition to studying for their summer exams, have been finalising their UCAS applications with the support of the Sixth Form team and other members of staff.

I am delighted to report that the new Year 7 cohort have settled in very well. Additionally, we were delighted to see so many of you, their parents, attend the school recently to discuss their progress so far. Meanwhile, students in Years 8 and 9 are starting to research their options for the next academic year, as

we look forward to the Options Fair on 8th February.

A striking feature of this term has been the very high quality of student-led assemblies we have observed. Highlights included form 7PD's commemorations of the centenary of the end of the First World War a the reading of 'In Flanders Fields', written by Canadian poet Colonel John McCrae. Equally impressive were the assemblies marking Anti-Bullying Week led by the student leadership team.

The opportunity to see students up on stage displaying their range of talents is always a heart-warming experience. I can confirm that the end of term Dormers' Got Talent show was one of the highlights of the school year. The energy and feelgood vibes it generated remained present throughout the school for days afterwards and put a spring in everyone's step. I send my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to all of the students and staff who worked so hard to make it such a success. A special mention must go to the winning act – Dormers' Bhangra Dance Team.

Our students continue to immerse themselves in a variety of activities outside the classroom. Oliver and Hanifah in Y12 attended the Holocaust Educational Trust trip to Auschwitz, which provided them with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of this period in history. A number of our students also attended a trip to Oxford University. The benefits to our students of extra-curricular activities is immeasurable, and it is the dedication and commitment of our staff which ensures that these opportunities are made available to our students.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing break and I look forward to welcoming back all our wonderful students and staff in January.

Ms Walsh  
Headteacher



## From the Head Boy and Head Girl

With the festive celebrations arriving, it is our pleasure to come back one final time to wrap up the winter term, commemorating the triumphs that our students at DWHS have accomplished. To begin, we are proud to highlight the success of the Sixth Form Open Evening. Both parents and prospective students applauded how enriching the evening was, and we would like to send a special thank you to the diligent student and staff for delivering such an enjoyable night. Other exciting events did not fall short either: our Dormers' Got Talent night enabled many passionate students to showcase their skills, and taekwondo champs Rena and Helina astounded with their talents too. Students taking part in the Stepping Stones programme were also able to embark on a trip to the cinema, and we saw a very rewarding study skills day led by Dr Van der Spoel. Unfortunately, as this year draws to a close, so does our tenure as Head Boy and Head Girl. We wish our successors all the best, and hope they feel the same privilege we did in leading by example. We are thankful to have been able to serve our community and there is no doubt that this experience will be memorable for us both. We hope that our students, staff and their families have a restful Christmas break, and a very Happy New Year!



## Dormers' Got Talent

This term saw the most gifted students battle for first place in our very own version of Britain's Got Talent. The range of talent exceeded expectations and left the judges (almost) at a loss for words. Singers, dancers, magicians, musicians, the list was endless. But there could only be three to gain a title and receive a winning prize.

Third place was a tie: we had Subhpreet and Mannatpreet who danced beautifully, as well as Dhruv who played the Dhol perfectly. In second place, we had another tie! Sharan, who captivated the audience with her beautiful voice, and our girl group (Chelsi, Lea, Chloe, Sumaya, Anisa, Tia and Shianne) who owned the stage and proved their talent was one to compete with. However, the shining performer of the evening, gaining first place and a roar of agreement from the audience, was the Bhangra Dance Club. Their performance was electric and very well deserving of winning first place. Well done to all students who participated; you displayed determination, ambition, courage and drive. Thank you to those who attended and supported our contestants. We look forward to seeing you all next year!



## Sixth Form Open Evening

Sixth Form Open Evening was a great success!

Both internal and external students were able to talk to course teachers, as well as current students, to get the best idea about what route they want to go down in the near future. They were also able to talk to current students who were on hand all evening and ready to assist.

Our students represented the school enthusiastically and speeches were primarily delivered by them. They were fantastic with answering any questions from students, parents or guardians and spoke with great pride about their learning and the teachers.

Overall, the evening was very popular, extremely insightful and a fantastic start to many prospective students' journeys. We can't wait to welcome these students to Dormers Wells Sixth Form.





## BIMA Digital Day

Students had a fantastic time during the BIMA digital enterprise event. Thank you to Kerry Dawes, the Technical Director and Data Lead, Christopher Gunning for leading the workshop. Students worked on a brief and had to come up with digital solutions to help solve the brief. It was concluded with Dragon's Den style presentations at the end. Our students loved it so much that some even stayed behind to discuss what their next steps would be.



## Taekwondo Champs

Congratulations to Rena and Helina, who competed in the London Taekwondo Interclub Poomsae Championships 2022. Helina won 3 gold medals in total, one for individual, in a pair and in a team in the under 14 category. Rena won 2 gold medals and 1 bronze medal overall, one for individual, in a pair and in a team in the under 17 category. A fantastic achievement that they should be extremely proud of!



## Upcoming Dates

3rd Jan	Return to School
	A-Level Taster Day
11th Jan	BTEC & Tertiary Taster Day
19th Jan	Year 11 Parents' Evening
2nd Feb	Year 12&13 Parents' Evening
3rd Feb	Careers Conference
6-10th Feb	National Careers Week
8th Feb	Year 8 & 9 Options Fair
8-11th Feb	Spanish Trip
10th Feb	Last day of term
20th Feb	Return to School

## DID YOU KNOW?

When you send someone a photo, you MIGHT also be sending your Location & they can tell EXACTLY where you are on a street plan. Keep "Location" facilities off.

## Character values in action

We would like to shout out to the following students for their amazing character this term: Ahsan in Year 9 who has shown incredible determination in maths, displaying an outstanding level of work this term and took the initiative to learn the content to move up 4 sets. Alexander in Year 11 shows superb service to the school, helping run coding and rugby club, whilst also supporting Duke of Edinburgh training days and supporting Ms Blakebrough's administration of the scheme. Sammy in Year 10 Health and Social Care has shown exemplary service in supporting fellow students in the lessons and he has shown determination attending extra sessions when needing support. Anika in year 12 has recently shown wisdom by forgiving others and working hard to secure a better working grade on her course, she is also very supportive of her teachers. Last but not least, the Year 7 and 8 netball teams demonstrated excellent determination to succeed in their first netball match against Villers. Well done to all of our students for demonstrating DWHS values.





## Wellbeing message

### Being outside as a form of self-care this holiday

If you're anxious or feeling low, it can be really easy to slowly spend more and more time indoors and at home. Some people find the simple act of forcing yourself to get out of the house, whether to a café to people watch or to the park for a walk, can be a good way to change up your mental state by changing the environment you're in.

As the winter draws in it can be difficult to get outside, if this is something you really struggle with and it feels like a big step, why not just try to get to the end of your road or give yourself a set amount of time, such as 5 minutes, to stay outside? It may feel tricky, but you may also find that once you've made that first step of getting out the house, the times goes by without too much effort.



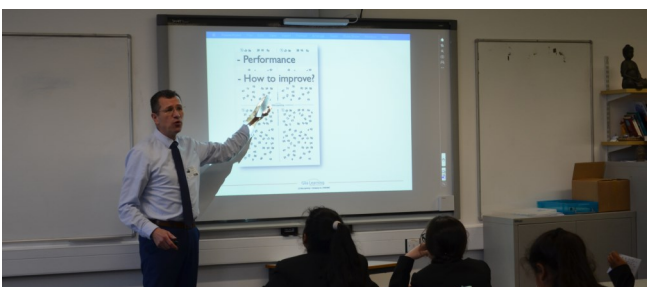
## The World Cup

Some student librarians created a colourful display in the library for the FIFA Football World Cup. They created hand drawn flags of each of the participating nations. The display is finally finished and the books are available for students to reserve and read!



## Study Skills Day

Thank you to Dr Martijn Van Der Spoel for hosting a Study Skills Day. Students across the school participated in workshops throughout the day to find the best ways to enhance and retain their learning. Years 7 through to 11 found it very useful and went away with an abundance of informative and insightful learning techniques.



## Art of the month

Well done Diana (Y9) for her fantastic title page for Portraiture. She has gone into amazing detail and shown fabulous talent.



## Christmas Spirit

It's always fun during the festive period. Students enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree and put in hard work to make sure it looked perfect! Students and staff also 'sleighed' Christmas Jumper Day, wearing fabulous festive knits or festive coloured items in green, red or white. Trishan in Year 11 has proved himself to be quite the Christmas icon, wearing his staple Santa beard and hat every year since he started at Dormers Wells High School. Speaking of Christmas icons, Mr Hidalgo dusted off the famous Christmas suit and dazzled everyone, winning best dressed staff member alongside Ms McKay!

