



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to the December edition of Dormers Diary!

It is with a sense of pride that we have reached the end of the first full term of the school year. Staff and students alike have risen to the various challenges presented during this term in their usual inimitable style and it is safe to say that everyone is ready to relax, recharge and spend some quality time with family and friends over the Christmas period.

Back in September, we began the year on a positive note, with another excellent set of results confirming the progress this school community continues to make.

We've continued in a positive vein, with our new Year 7 cohort settling in quickly and confident predictions of another set of strong results next Summer. Members of our Year 7 'Stepping Stones' mentoring programme enjoyed an afternoon at the cinema watching 'Ron's Gone Wrong' as a reward.

Our current Year 11s will soon be making their own choices about their sixth form destinations – the deadline for applications in early January. I was pleased to see that the 6th Form Open Evening at the beginning of November was very well attended. Confirmation that our school is in a healthy place is reflected in our Year 11 students continually opting to return to Dormers Wells Sixth Form.

Our approach involves current Sixth Formers acting as ambassadors for each of the subjects on the evening, making themselves available to inform potential students about what to expect with each course and what it entails. This, along with our well-established Taster Day, helps remove some of the mystery surrounding the subjects and enables the students to make a more informed decision.

A striking feature of this term has been the very high quality of student-led assemblies. Highlights included the

student council sharing important information about Road Safety. Equally impressive were the assemblies marking Mental Health Awareness Week led by the House Leaders.

Watching students on stage demonstrating the full range of their thespian skills is always a pleasure, and I thoroughly enjoyed watching the 6th form perform 'A Short History of Southall', which was written and directed by Hamdi in Y12. Congratulations to all the students who worked so hard to ensure it was such a success.

I'm proud to see many of our students making ambitious applications again this year; amongst them are two wishing to study Medicine and four aiming for places at Cambridge. I am pleased to say that we have been able to support their ambitions by enabling them to access courses which help them prepare for the application process.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we have the amazing efforts of Y10 with their persuasive speeches during the Speak Out challenge. All were prepared and delivered with professionalism, confidence, and creativity. We wish Kannan good luck as he goes on to represent the school in the Regional Final of Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge 2022 in January at Northolt High School.

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 in January.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher

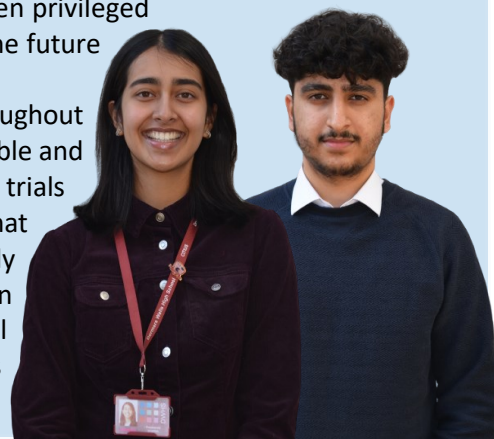


From the Head Boy and Head Girl

As this year draws to a close, so does our tenure as Head Boy and Head Girl. We would like to thank everyone who helped us on this journey of representing our vibrant school and giving us the privilege of leading the younger year groups. During our time in leadership, we have experienced a plethora of opportunities and learnt many invaluable lessons which will help us progress in the future.

Overall, through this term an array of opportunities have been presented to our students here at Dormers Wells High School such as the extra-curricular clubs that have been reintroduced for the entire school and from which we have seen a great turnout. Also, we were glad to see so many of our Year 11 students attend our Sixth Form Open Evening and we hope you have received a great insight into our brilliant teaching community here in our Sixth Form community. Additionally, we would like to commend our Head Teacher's Ambassadors for their help and innovative ideas that contributed to our first ever Sixth Form Diversity Day, where we were able to celebrate and showcase the vibrant and diverse school community. We have also been privileged in being able to work with the executive council, as it is promising to see the future generations handle responsibility so maturely.

In conclusion, this past year has been nothing short of turbulent, as throughout many challenging circumstances we have continually seen the incredible and inspiring motivation from our students and staff to thrive in their trials and tribulations. As Head Boy and Head Girl, there is no doubt that this experience in leadership has enriched our lives and we are truly thankful for being able to serve such a supportive community. This has been a memorable experience and we are sure that our successors will also feel the same in due time. We hope that our students, staff, and their families have a restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year!



Sixth Form Open Evening

This October saw Dormers Wells High School hosting its first ever 'half virtual, half in-person' Open Evening. The event was a great success with a lot of positive feedback received. The virtual side of the Sixth Form Open Evening was carried out on our website with a variety of informational videos. You were able to hear from the Head of Sixth Form, the Sixth Form Year Leader, the Head Boy, the Head Girl as well as a range of different teachers and students in varying subject areas. Parents, guardians and potential students were then able to visit the school in person, venturing to different departments to speak to specialist teachers about their specific subjects. Although we were not able to host the evening as we usually would, the Open Evening still highlighted how fantastic our school is. 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 faces next year!



Diversity Day

The Sixth Form committee arranged Diversity Day to celebrate the diverse backgrounds of all the students that attend our school. Years 12, 13 and staff wore traditional clothing to represent their cultural background, as well as Hamdi, who scripted a play that was performed by Sixth Form students during morning assembly. Our Sixth Form students put in so much hard work on their performance detailing the history of Southall. It was informative, humorous and brilliantly put together. Representation and equality is so important and is always a priority here at Dormers.



Tiger Wells!

A future PGA Golf Tour star in the making, Sabbath (Y10) has earned himself a very well deserved spot in Brent Valley's Golf Academy. Not only did Sabbath get into their prestigious academy, after never having played golf before, but he is known to be one of the top five players they have come across. The coach has stated that he is looking very promising, and is striking the ball particularly well considering having no experience until he was taken to the trial. Well done!



Upcoming Dates

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 4th January | Return to school Year 12 & 13 study leave |
| 12th January | BTEC & Tertiary Taster Day |
| 18th January | Year 11 A Level Taster Day |
| 20th January | Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| 2nd February | Year 8 & 9 Options Fair |
| 3rd February | Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening |
| 4th February | Careers Conference |
| 11th February | Last day of School |
| 21st February | Return to School |

Remember !!

Never let **ANYONE** know your username & passwords. If you think someone knows it, change it!!

Wellbeing column

Self Care over the holidays

As we come to the end of a long and busy term the holiday time may allow us some self-care time. Self-care is all about what you can do to help yourself feel better or to keep yourself feeling good. It's a way that we can look after our own mental health and wellbeing. Everyone's approach to self-care will look different. What works for you might not work for others. There are lots of different self-care strategies so you can try out different ones until you find something that works for you. The main thing is to find things you enjoy. Playing football, listening to music, reading. Sometimes having a long bath can be relaxing. Whatever works for you. Here are some ways people describe selfcare:

1. There are over 90 self-care strategies identified and written by young people on On My Mind so you can try out different ones until you find something that works for you, can find them here: <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>
2. Draw up a plan. Put aside some time every day for yourself and say what you will do.
3. Everyone has mental health. Talking almost always helps and listening always helps others.

If you are preparing for exams on your return to school in January you should make sure to build in self-care everyday to help you manage the workload and the anxiety of exam season.

Speak Out Challenge

The Speakers Trust visited the English department to host this year's Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge.

This is a fantastic opportunity, which has been offered to a large group of Year 10 students. Students spent the day participating in workshops, where they were trained in the three core competencies for communicating as a public speaker. They were trained in delivery, structure and content with the view of finding a potential finalist to represent the school in the Regional Finals.



Best in the borough

Ealing Cricket Club have been so impressed with our students attending the Monday club in relation to the behaviour, attitude, and ability.

Several students have already been shortlisted for Middlesex trials based off these sessions. Due to the attitude of the students, the club is keen to work with us to offer additional coaching, free of charge.

Lastly, they are working with us to help Year 11 students of a high standard to trial for scholarships to top private school Sixth Forms across the country based off their Cricket ability. What a fantastic achievement.



Art of the month

Year 8 have been making 'Architectural Slabs' in Art. They have looked at the artists Gaudi, Escher and Islamic art to get inspiration for their clay work. The artist in the photo is Miah Osei-Spence in 8MG.



Stepping Stones trip

Our Year 7 and Year 10 students from the 'Stepping Stones Mentoring Project' recently took part in a trip to the cinema to see 'Ron's Gone Wrong', this was to reward them for their hard work since the beginning of September. The Year 10 mentors have been working each week with their Year 7 mentees to help them with; home learning, their behaviour for learning and much more! Miss Dunn and Miss Hayre have been very impressed with all of the students who come each week to support the Year 7 students in their first year at DWHS. The trip was a success, with students really enjoying the film and also enjoying all of the different snacks that the cinema had to offer! It is likely that the cinema sold more nachos and popcorn in an hour than they have ever sold before!

Extra Extra!

The start of this half term saw the beginning of multiple new extra-curricular clubs. These new clubs allowed for all students to get involved and participate in something that they enjoy. Boasting a variety of different interests and hobbies, the range of clubs include the likes of; book club, guitar club and mindfulness meditation, among others. Students feel more recognised individually and are enjoying all of these new opportunities granted to them.

