



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to our first Dormers Diary of 2021-22!

I am pleased to report that normal service is gradually being resumed, as our students once again begin to mix freely at lunchtimes and attend after school clubs.

I am equally delighted for our Y11 and Y13 students who have achieved outstanding results. We are very proud of them and pleased that all their hard work has been rewarded. 75% of GCSE students achieved a 9-4 grade in English and mathematics with 55% of students achieving a 9-5 grade in English and mathematics. Our Y13 students also achieved an outstanding set of results. 70% percent of all A Levels were achieved at grades A* to C, with half at grades A* to B and 24% either A* or A. Results in vocational subjects were also strong, with every student taking BTEC Courses gaining three substantial qualifications.

Those results have secured students places at several Russell Group and other leading universities including Imperial College London, Kings College London, City University of London, Queen Mary University of London, UCL (University College London), University of Warwick and the University of Manchester to read subjects including Pharmacy, Biomedical Science, Medicine, Computer Science and Theoretical Physics, to name but a few. Here at Dormers Wells, we do not rest on our laurels and year-on-year improvement is a constant goal. This term I have witnessed constant improvement in learning and teaching throughout the school which makes me enormously proud of Dormers Wells community.

In the more immediate future, the current Year 11s have made a very promising start to 2021-22. Again, our recent Focus Evenings were viewed virtually, and we have already seen the students embracing the revision sessions that have begun. Another source of encouragement is the latest statistics for the use of GCSEPod, a resource that provides podcasts to help with studies.

The newest members of our school, our Y7, are also to be congratulated on their performance this half term. Settling into new surroundings is not always easy and they have made

the transition smoothly and efficiently.

In other news, the National Basketball Association (NBA) UK chose DWHS to be part of an extremely exciting project linked to careers. Our students worked with industry professionals to explore NBA values linked to our very own Dormers Character values of determination, wisdom, honesty, and service. The students learned how our values can support their academic achievement both at school and throughout their careers.

I must also mention our sporting achievements in rugby, cricket, and golf. I was lucky enough to be a spectator at our recent school rugby match where the Dormers Bears continued their undefeated run, comprehensively beating Westminster 25-5 – an extremely exciting match! We are also excited to be working with Ealing Cricket Club (ECC). ECC are one of the best amateur cricket teams in the country, having won the national cricket cup many times and regularly produce county cricketers. Over 40 students will be attending training each Monday and I am particularly pleased to see several girls taking part. A special mention must go to Sabbath in Y10 who has won a place at Brent Valley's Golf Academy. As part of the golf academy, he will receive forty hours of coaching, a set of brand-new golf clubs as well as golf clothing and he will represent Brent Valley for one season.

The perseverance and determination shown by our students towards all aspects of their learning has provided lots of optimism that we can write another chapter in our success story this year.

I wish you all a very enjoyable half term.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher



From the Head Boy and Head Girl

After a successful first half term following the start of our new academic year, we are once again proud to see our community continuing to thrive, especially our new Year 7 and 12's.

Over the past two months we had seen great opportunities distributed throughout the Dormers Wells High School. This includes our students partnering up with NBAUK to enhance their employability skills, as well as our many of our students engaging in the teachers talks during Focus Evening. These opportunities has enabled students to gain a deeper insight into how to thrive academically.

Speaking about academic accomplishments, our previous Year 13's have shown great resilience academically and many are now studying in top universities in the UK. More notably, two of our previous Year 13's successfully applied to the US-UK Fulbright Scholarship and are now studying at the renowned Northwestern University in the USA and The University of New York in Abu Dhabi, respectively.

Moreover, Open Evening had been a tremendous success. The many prospective Year 6 students enjoyed spending the evening talking about their passion for various subjects with dedicated curriculum leaders. As well as talking about the vibrant school community that they could become a part of with student volunteers.

We would like to wish you all a safe and restful half term.



Open Evening Success!

Due to COVID-19 and strict social distancing restrictions, we have been unable to hold most non-virtual events since 2019. However, this September saw a very eventful and well sought after Open Evening, which proved a great success.

Our departments went above and beyond to show Year 6 students how great Dormers Wells High School is this Open Evening. We have had fantastic feedback from those who attended, as they spent the evening being informed on entertained on everything from science explosions and electric currents to tasty dishes and musical treats.

We are more excited than ever to welcome prospective students next academic year and our prospective students are even more excited to be joining us after their evening.

A big thank you to all of the families who attended, as well as our speakers, helpers and entertainers who made the evening even more special.



NBA Careers

In September, Dormers Wells High School worked with NBA UK to host the National Basketball Association careers week. All students participated in the following sessions as part of their pastoral curriculum;

- NBA values and DWHS character values
- NBA: Having a positive mental attitude

NBA: Meditation activities session

These sessions enabled students to learn more about the NBA values linked to the DWHS Character values and how these values support achievement both at school and throughout their careers. Students also learned about the importance of having a positive mental attitude in achieving success and discussed different wellbeing strategies.

The business, DT and PE departments also delivered NBA curriculum-based activities. These activities helped students to learn about employability skills in relation to a wide range of job roles available at the NBA.

Thank you to NBA UK for working with the school and for providing us with innovative and engaging resources that linked the curriculum to careers and student aspirations.



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.

Uni Destinations

Dormers Wells Sixth Form is delighted to report that 123 of our 129 students who applied to Higher Education Institutes (HEI) were successful in securing a place at university. Of the 127 students who applied to a UK university, 21% placed at Russell Group universities. These include the likes of Kings College London and Queen Mary University. Two students achieved the Fulbright Scholarship Award with the Sutton Trust to study abroad in Northwestern University, USA and NYU, Abu Dhabi. We wish all of our Dormers Wells Sixth Form graduates great success in their chosen pathways.



Wellbeing Message

It's good to talk

As your children grow into adolescents, they face new and demanding challenges that they may find difficult to talk about.

These top tips come from the Anna Freud Centre and may help you to keep talking with your child.

- Give your full attention, be curious and take it seriously.
- Emphasise that you are always available to talk.
- Take time to reflect on what they have shared with you.
- Provide empathy.
- Be aware of your own stress and negative feelings, they can get in the way of you feeling close to your child.

Think about timing. Is this the right time to talk?

If you are worried about your child's mental health, then you can get support in several ways, but this may be a good place to start:

<https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/>

Upcoming Dates

1st November	Return to school
11th November	Year 9 Parents' Evening
18th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
19th November	Queens Platinum Anniversary—No school
25th November	Year 7 Parents' Evening
14th December	Year 11 PPE Results Event
17th December	Last Day of Term
4th January	Return to School

Nature Club

A group of Year 9 students took part in Mrs Ahmad's Science and Nature Club last year, in which they worked hard on creating a sketchbook filled with artwork with a nature inspired twist to it. They completed a total of 9 chapters on various different aspects of nature, such as painting autumn leaves and observing and researching different types of birds and other living things. The students completed most of the work on their own due to lockdown and put in a lot of effort and hard work into binding their sketchbooks and preparing them for entering the Biimedia BookArts competition. Five students were chosen by the Linnean Society to go through to the finals of the competition where they were up against finalists from many other schools around London. We are extremely proud of their efforts and the dedication they have shown towards the Nature Club!



Summer School

What a marvellous opportunity it was for some of our new Year 7 and 8 students to attend Summer Camp, run by Future Foundations. The aim of the programme was to empower our young people to bring about change. It also helped students to improve progress in their general skills, confidence and their aspirations. The skills they learnt included self-leadership, leading others, bonding between students and supporting each other.

Students worked together in teams to complete several challenges. Some of the activities were to plan and write a story, create a scene in freeze frame, complete an obstacle course, and take part in the Marshmallow Challenge. They also had the opportunity to attend a Mindfulness session, which required the students to focus on their inner-self and inner thoughts.

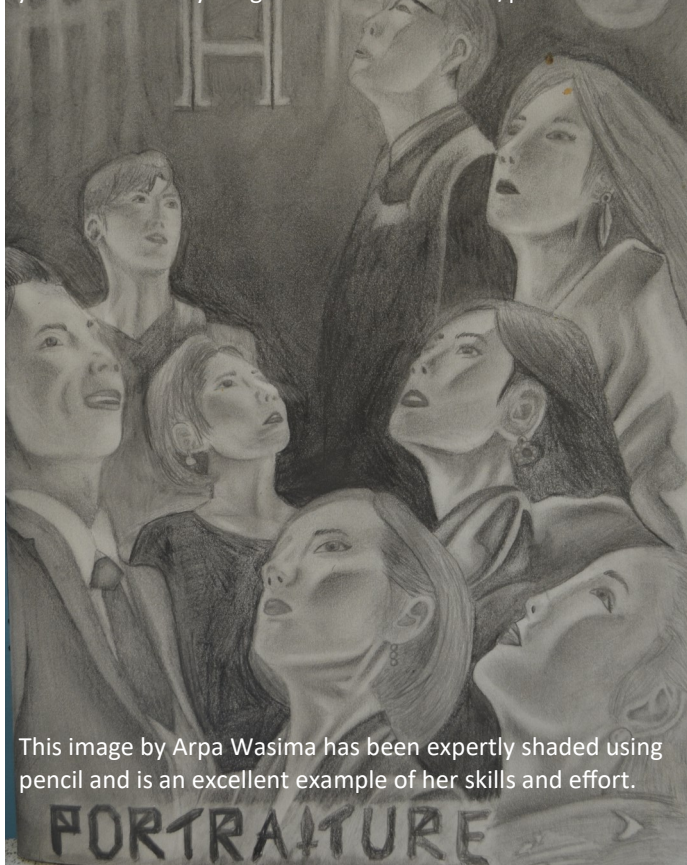
The week was finished off with a fantastic Talent Show, which gave our students the opportunity to show some of their amazing talents. We had dancers, singers; some students had their artwork displayed and groups acting out short plays.

On the last day of activities, the students were able to take home an envelope of amazing positive notes. These were encouraging messages, students had written to each other, in one of the group sessions. Everyone wrote something positive about all the other members of their groups. The envelopes were handed to the students as they were leaving, bringing to an end a thoroughly enjoyable week.



Art of the month

This is a title page for the year 9 Project Portraiture, where you can draw anything associated with faces/portraits



This image by Arpa Wasima has been expertly shaded using pencil and is an excellent example of her skills and effort.

Extra Curricular!

We are very excited about the successful launch of our new extra-curricular timetable, including clubs such as Rock Band, Fitness and Nutrition, and many other diverse opportunities for our young people to get involved in.

One of our student favourites is Ealing Cricket Club and their coaches, who run training sessions for a select group each Monday. This training is run by level 2 or level 3 coaches and involves personalised training plans and pathways towards club and county teams. Moreover, we really enjoyed taking 10 of our students to Brent Valley Golf Club to have a taster session with a look towards some of the pupils joining the clubs' academy. This would involve the student receiving 40+ hours of professional coaching, a free set of golf clubs for a year, a free set of golf shoes, glove, and top, a years pass to Brent Valley Golf Club and entries to local Golf Competitions.

On the academic side, we are excited to be launching the second year of our BEAM (Bringing Education, Alumni, and Mentors together) programme for our Y12's where they are offered the opportunity to be mentored by industry experts in the career that they wish to pursue. After a successful first year we will begin with our Future Leaders Programme led by Guy Richardson and Mr Knox. We are also excited about the increased diversity of industry in this years' programme, for example our newest mentor: Alex Reid – Studio Manager of Sony Music Entertainment's 'The Gin Factory' Studios, who has worked with likes of Dave, Frank Ocean, Pharell and Little Mix.