



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

And so, we arrive at the end of another packed Dormers Wells High School academic year. As we say farewell to the year 2021/22, we take a timely look back at the last 10 months, a period at times hectic and unrelenting, frustrating, and challenging, but mostly inspirational and uplifting. The final half term is an exciting and eventful time. Students and staff are busy focusing on seeing-out their year's work, be that in the form of exams, grades, reports, or assessments. Afterwards they can reflect on their achievements and after some reflection over the summer holiday, begin setting goals for when they return in September.

As regular readers will know we always have a lot to celebrate and of which to be proud at Dormers Wells High School. And we love nothing more than to acknowledge those achievements in Dormers Diary. Right now, the challenge is how to fit all this into one newsletter!

Kick starting this month's roll of honour is Invictus, who won the house competition! This is a triumph for the teamwork and commitment of each and every member of that house throughout the year. From participation in various competitions (in which teachers were also heavily involved) to the impeccable behaviour throughout the year which demonstrated their commitment to the Dormers Code of Conduct, they emerged from a closely run contest as worthy winners. Congratulations!

Our annual celebration of school-wide success – The Awards Evening – took place at the beginning of July. This was another excellent occasion that allowed us the opportunity to reflect upon the numerous individual and collective success stories of our school. We were delighted to welcome Ashley Hickson-Lovence as guest speaker to talk about his journey toward becoming a successful author. Ashley shared with us the importance of never giving up, using the character values of determination and resilience to keep going when the odds are stacked high against us, as he had to when being rejected by a number of publishing houses before eventually being accepted. Everyone in attendance could not help but be moved by his heartfelt words and honesty.

Teamwork always makes a difference! For me, the fabulous Enrichment Programme of activity days epitomises this. This initiative facilitates students' enjoyment of learning outside of the classroom in a fun, informative and collaborative manner. Highlights included the 'It's a Knockout' competition, a trip to Thorpe Park, as well as STEM events in computing, mathematics

and especially science, where students were given the opportunity to indulge their inner sleuth while taking part in CSI activities including a proper Whodunnit. Here students got to use all the cutting-edge technology deployed in modern-day crime-solving to successfully close a particularly gruesome case that had been baffling the Forensics Dept. for some time. Their collaborative efforts were rewarded when they eventually managed to unveil a very sporting Mr. Parkinson as the culprit! Teamwork events like this indicate the ongoing opportunities available to students whilst at Dormers Wells High School. It also highlights the continuous willingness of teachers and staff to be involved and go the extra mile when required which makes me immensely proud as Headteacher.

A well-deserved rest for everyone arrives on July 19th when we break for our summer holiday. At this time of year, people's minds switch to relaxing, re-charging, and reflecting on a job well done, retaining the parts that worked and tweaking or discarding those parts that did not. It's all part of the process and rich tapestry of life.

Of course, during this time, the results are published, and I am confident we will be celebrating again this year as we expect to emulate, and even exceed, last year's fabulous results.

If the last 2 years taught us anything, it brought home the importance of living in the moment and letting tomorrow wait for now. And while I fully endorse this very worthwhile maxim, I hope you will join me in welcoming the 240 bright new Year 7 students to Team DWHS. We look forward to helping them as they begin their very own, unique journey with us. We also would like to extend a warm welcome to our returning Year 11 students as they progress into Sixth form. This wonderful group of people organised what transpired to be a hugely successful prom, without neglecting their academic responsibilities and all the time remaining pleasant, polite, and unruffled. They will be a huge asset to Year 12.

So, it just remains for me to warmly wish you all a safe and restful summer break.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher



From the Head Boy and Head Girl

We are delighted to come to the end of another academic year here at DWHS, with a great number of joyful success stories originating from many members of our diverse community.

It is safe to say that the past few weeks have been packed with a plethora of different events such as The Scholar's programme, as well as the Duke of Edinburgh residential that our year 10s have been diligently completing. Furthermore, following the end of the exam season, we had our enrichment week where students were able to engage with peers and teachers and enjoy experiences, such as visiting Thorpe Park.

Year 11s and 13s were also able to party during their respective prom nights where we know many unforgettable memories were created. We would like to wish them all a warm farewell if they are moving to pastures anew but we also look forward to many Year 11s moving up to our blossoming sixth form.

Our annual awards evening was another highlight of the term, where many students were recognised for their hard work and determination in their lessons, whilst other students demonstrated their talents in music and public speaking to a large audience.

We wish you all a safe and restful summer holiday, and we hope to see everyone back and ready to learn in September!



Awards Evening

Awards Evening brought about the celebration of the outstanding contributions and achievements of students at DWHS during the past twelve months. It was a lovely evening in which parents and carers flooded the hall to watch their loved ones being recognised with awards such as the prestigious head teacher award, deputy head award, year leader award and various curriculum awards were also distributed. We had the pleasure of welcoming Ashley Hickson-Lovence as a special guest speaker, it was a delight to hear about his journey and how he got to where he is today. He encouraged students to follow their dreams and to not hold back, regardless of your social or economic backgrounds.



Prom

June brought bright coloured dresses, dazzling jewellery and million dollar smiles, as well as an interesting new outfit accessory... indoor sunglasses. The Year 11 and Sixth Form prom were both 'the talk' of the school. The evenings were stylish and sophisticated. Students arrived to paparazzi style photographs and a three course buffet, followed by an evening of dancing to their favourite music. Students were awarded fun certificates and gifts as memorabilia throughout the evening, as well as having some quirky entertainment like a photobooth mirror and a chocolate fountain. Both evenings were a fantastic way to round off cherished years spent together at Dormers Wells High School and Sixth Form.



Careers Conference

We held our annual Careers Conference for all students in Year 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form. Students had the opportunity to engage with a large number of employers, colleges, apprenticeship providers and universities. The school hall was filled with a variety of stalls, everything from London Metropolitan Police, to Caterlink and even London College of Beauty Therapy. We also had the pleasure of welcoming back ex-students, who did a fantastic job of representing their universities. An all-round successful day.



Duke of Edinburgh

The Bronze practice expedition went out 11/12 June. All came back in one piece (just about). They showed extraordinary resilience and teamwork which meant that all the young people have gone on to their next stage, Bronze Assessed. They learnt so much and now will be much better prepared for the real assessed expedition in July. Both staff and students had a great weekend in the sunshine and beautiful English countryside.



Scholars programme

Students from Year 10 were asked to apply for The Scholar's Programme in December and were then selected based on their applications to take part. Their virtual launch event with the University of Sheffield, was followed with 6 tutorials in school led by a PhD student which were pitched at the key stage above. At the end of the 6 tutorials, they submitted a 2,000 word dissertation that was marked in the style of a university assignment. They received their certificates at their graduation ceremony at the University of Oxford in May. During the programme the students gained a wider understanding of university, and developed a range of valuable, transferable skills. As well as, being able to write and talk about on applications for Sixth Form, university, apprenticeships or jobs.



Upcoming Dates

5th Sept	Year 7 & 12 Induction day
6th Sept	Whole school returns
8th Sept	Year 7 focus event
22nd Sept	Year 6 Open Evening
6th Oct	Year 11/Sixth Form focus event
10-12th Oct	Geography field studies
18th Oct	Swanage - Year 11
21st Oct	Last day before half term break
24-28th Oct	Half term break
31st Oct	Back to school

THINK!

If angry or upset, take some time out
before posting anything

Character values in action

This term two visitors from the Association of Character Educations assessed Dormers Wells High School's character provision and awarded the school the "Kitemark of Character." The report on the school found that "the school is developing a co-ordinated, research-informed and carefully planned character education strategy which is designed to impact all aspects of pupils' academic and pastoral growth." They found that "values and a genuine commitment to character education are at the core of all activities and are threaded through the DNA of the school and its stated aims. It was especially notable that the four core principles adopted by the school (Determination, Wisdom, Honesty, Service) had been so influenced by student voice and that these principles had clearly been embraced by all members of the school community." The assessors also found that "there is a real sense of pride in the school's culture and this is reflected in the exemplary standards of behaviour and attitudes observed by the assessors throughout their visit." Well done to everyone in the school community for their determination, wisdom, honesty and service this academic year! In addition, great character was shown by Jenika and Damanpreet in 10 SN, who worked with a group of year 8 boys on the enterprise task during enrichment. They motivated the younger students, were very creative, presented well and carried the group. In addition, in the food rooms they went over and above, helping with the cleaning and stayed behind at lunchtime to talk about careers. Well done for your wisdom and service!

HONESTY



SERVICE



DETERMINATION



WISDOM



Strong Starts

July saw our Year 6 Induction Day! We are so excited to welcome our new cohort and give them a preview of academic life at DWHS. They will meet new people and begin to build the habits of success for a Strong Start in Year 7.



Boxing Champ!

Congratulations to Mohammed, who won the under 46kg Junior Male boxing category. He represented England and The Ring Boxing Club at Three Nations Boxing Tournament.



University life

Students from Year 8 and Year 9 went to visit the University of Roehampton where they took part in 3 sessions about university life as well as having a tour of the campus. The sessions including a taster lecture on digital animation and learning about all the student societies. Another included sessions on surviving at university including tasks such as seeing if the students were able to put on a quilt cover. Venturing out further from a London university, the University of Cambridge came in to talk to some Year 9 and Year 10 students about going to university and what they need to do to ensure they get into the best universities. These sessions allow for a better insight into university life and what sort of path students can see themselves routing.



Sports Day

Sports Day is always a very memorable day. Held in school, this year's sports day was spread over 3 days, pairing Year 7 and 8, Year 9 and 10 and Sixth form. The atmosphere was electric. Our students brought energy, team work and leadership skills to compete to the best of their abilities. There were various sporting activities taking place such as rounders, football, basketball and dodgeball. Followed by an award's ceremony at the end, where the year group celebrated their achievements together and collected medals for first, second and third place.



Enrichment

Enrichment is always our students' favourite time of year, boasting a variety of activities, workshops and trips and something for everyone to enjoy. A much favoured trip to Thorpe park allowed students to scream to the top of their lungs out and get lost in the thrills. Students also raced each other through holes, under nets and over hills in the 'It's a knockout' obstacle course. STEM workshops saw teamwork and determination at its core, a fantastic few days of events that the students will not forget!

