



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to the Easter edition of Dormers Diary, I would like to begin by thanking Mr Fenlon and Mr Cohen for their hard work and leadership of DWHS during my absence.

With the recent beautiful weather and Spring having sprung, the fresh air and sun shining from blue skies has been a welcome balm to the senses. I was looking forward to the summer term, to our planned enrichment week, to results days where I know we would once again be celebrating another year of fantastic results. However, the best laid plans of mice and men, etc., as events changed rapidly and dramatically. We are now, as a country and community, having to deal with something quite unfamiliar: the Coronavirus or Covid-19, to give it its official title. Following advice from the Government and Public Health England, we have closed our school to the majority of students in order to help prevent the spread of the virus. I want to thank parents and carers for being so supportive and understanding of why this had to happen.

We are now in the middle of a major health crisis, the likes of which this country has not seen for decades, with little idea of when it might end. I would like to remind parents and carers how important it is to keep our students at home. Also, and this may be the only time you hear me say this, but please encourage them to use social media or phones to keep in touch with their friends!

The teachers have been working hard at finding creative ways to facilitate schooling from home. The technology we have today makes this much easier, with the ability to create active groups for Q&A, and to share assignments and return marked assignments via Office 365 rather than having to hand it in personally. That said, it is inevitable that your children won't be getting the level of attention/instruction that they would

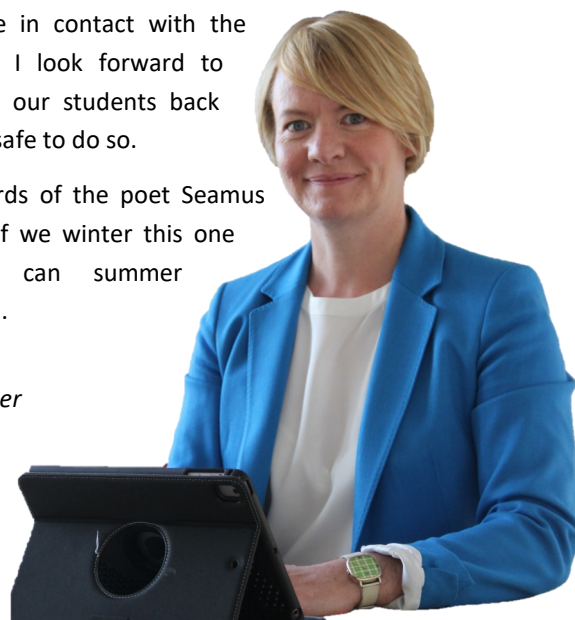
get if they were at school, so you can support them and their teachers by trying to ensure they keep on top of what they should be doing, rather than using the time at home as an unexpected holiday.

I do have some good news to share with you. I am delighted to announce DWHS has been recognised as one of the highest performing schools in England, winning a national award! The award is based on 2019 data provided by the Department for Students and Teachers network. We were found to be among the best performing non-selective secondary schools in the country, receiving an award for being in DfE Band 1 for student progress at key stage 4.

I don't know when I will be able to re-open the school but will continue to communicate with you via the school website, our school Twitter account and by via the MyEd App. We have promised Years 11 and 13 when school reopens to schedule a date for a leaving celebration. When we know more about this we will be in contact with the students. I look forward to welcoming our students back when it is safe to do so.

In the words of the poet Seamus Heaney: "If we winter this one out, we can summer anywhere".

Ms Walsh.
Headteacher



Ealing Teen Read

On 10th March, students from nine secondary schools across Ealing gathered at Dormers Wells High School for the final of this year's Ealing Teen Read. Author Muhammad Khan captivated his audience by reading short passages from a selection of his novels and the students were compelled by his unique style of writing, which addresses real world issues such as Islamophobia and radicalisation.

Across the borough, groups of students had been voting for their favourite book from Ealing Teen Read shortlist. 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' by Holly Jackson was announced and the students' reaction was priceless: they were beyond delighted. We look forward to welcoming Holly to next year's Ealing Teen Read event and thank you to those who participated this year.



French Play

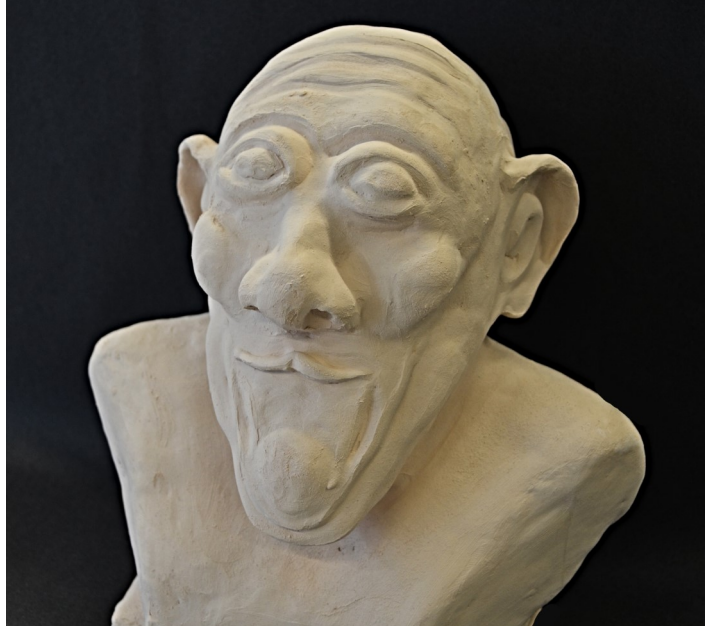
Monsieur et madame Dulin are going to a fancy dress party and Natalie is coming to babysit. Natalie's quiet evening with baby Bruno is interrupted by her ex-boyfriend Tristan, who wants to get back together with her. Reluctantly she lets him stay and help babysit. Natalie and Tristan argue and she storms out leaving Tristan to look after the baby - then the Dulin's return!

Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity of being able to watch Onatti Productions perform this fantastic play written to complement French language learning at secondary level. Students from Greenford, Villiers and Dormers Wells were pleased to be able to understand the play and to interact with the actors. This tied in nicely with the various different modules that they are learning in their classes and helped them to use their French language skills in real life situations.



Art of the Month

This edition's art of the month is by Rahul Gunawardhana in 11JB. It is based on the work of an artist called Franz Xaver Messerschmidt, who created a series of sculptures that represent all of the facial expression a human can have. Rahul has created his own version of an overexerted face which is inspired by his exam project title 'Expression'. It is made of clay and will be painted to look like smooth stone.



World Book Day

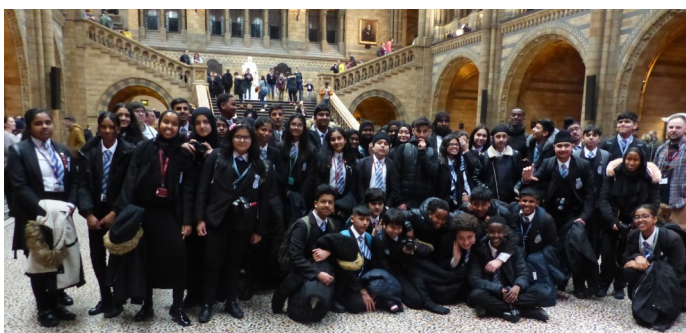
As part of our World Book Day 2020 celebrations, different departments decided to celebrate books and authors in various ways. Our librarians got stuck into the theme and came dressed as The Cat in the Hat and The White Rabbit, looking phenomenal. The English department hosted a scavenger hunt, in which the character profiles of six unmasked literary villains were hidden in six different locations around the school. For the chance to win a prize, students had to solve a set of clues in order to lead them to the correct location, where they then studied the character profile to work out the identity of the literary villain. There was lots of active participation and engagement from Years 7-9 in particular, with the following students announced as winners: Ali Adow 7HS (1st place), Kannan Kaur 8SN (2nd place) and Charlotte Abbott 9AL (3rd place).



Remember, If you receive nasty, rude or bullying messages, SAVE them as evidence. Show a responsible adult who will help you get it stopped. It is often possible to track down WHO it is.

Year 9 Photography Trip

Year 9 photography students visited the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition' at the Natural History Museum. Students also had the opportunity to look at many of the permanent exhibits where they took lots of photographs to use in their surreal photography projects.



Year 6 Mathematicians

Starting in December, we held 12 sessions for selected Year 6 pupils from Dormers Wells Junior School who took part in three challenging mathematics projects and demonstrated real passion and enthusiasm for their learning. They first started with trigonometry sessions in which they primarily focused on the clinometer and measuring angles of elevation and heights of buildings around them. Following this, their next challenge was dealing with real-life finance and percentage problems. The aim of this project was to give students a look into the real world and the situations they might face later on in their lives, specifically looking at their salary for different jobs, the reduction in taxes, pensions and savings and keeping on top of spending for leisure purposes such as booking holidays and buying a car. Finally, they looked at geometrical problems such as finding the surface area and volume of 3-D shapes. Well done to all those who took part!



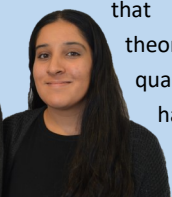
From the Head Boy and Girl

Unfortunately, this half-term has been overshadowed by the outbreak of COVID-19. This is an unprecedented situation, and as a result we urge everyone to handle the situation with due procedure. Over this long break, we advise everyone to follow professional advice, and to self-quarantine as much as humanly possible. (And remember to wash your hands!)

On a related note, it is likely that Dormers along with other schools in the UK will be closed until the next academic year. As a result, it is worthy to note that this is a perfect time to work on skills and anything else you've been putting on the shelf. That doesn't only go for schoolwork, as now is as perfect a time as any to begin learning a new language, a new instrument, reading some books, learning to code, and many more activities that can make this break worthwhile or improve employability.



Did you know that Isaac Newton formulated his theories on gravity during his time in quarantine? This will in no doubt be a hard time, but it is important to look at the silver linings and to take care of yourself.



London Central Mosque

On Tuesday 25th February, Ms Blakebrough and Mr Dillamore took 19 students from the RE GCSE class to London Central Mosque, as well as a walk around Regent's Park. The students were able to sit under the beautiful dome of London Central Mosque and received a talk linking the five pillars of Islam to everyday life. Students also visited an exhibition on Islam through the ages, helping our GCSE RE students to bring their academic studies to life.



Jack Petchey Speak Out!

On Tuesday 4th February, Tiana Montiero-Sharma competed in the Ealing Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. She performed a fantastic speech on the love of reading and although she did not go on to the next stage, Tiana was the perfect representation of the eloquent and put-together Dormers student. A fantastic achievement!



House Dodgeball Battle

Today was the Year 7 and 8 Dodge Ball Tournament! We had a phenomenal turn out with over 100 students arriving to either participate in the head to head game or watch and cheer on their peers. The atmosphere was electric and the students competitiveness really showed through their determination and effort put in. Although a tough fought final, the winning team of the house dodgeball tournament was Altius, reigning triumphant! Congratulations!



Dormers Bears Success

A freezing February day saw the Bears take on local rivals, Elthorne and Ealingfields in a mini tournament. They have continued their undefeated run, comprehensively beating Elthorne 25-5, and Ealingfields 20-0 in a recent meet. The Bears dominated from the start and there was little evidence of the other teams getting a look in. Well done to Akashdeep Singh for brave rucking, Alan Saib for try saving tackles and to Moe Zim and Sabbath Manandhar for brilliant running and try scoring.



DofE Training

The Duke of Edinburgh award students began training early in March. On Saturday the young people spent the whole day in school learning compass skills, tent building, map reading and nutrition in preparation for their up and coming expeditions. On the Sunday, they navigated through Richmond Park using a map and compass, with help from their leaders. It was a thoroughly successful and enjoyable weekend, the students are feeling prepared for their challenging adventures ahead.



Basketball Triumph

The Junior (KS3) boys basketball team chalked up a notable success in their triumphant fixture against William Perkin. The boys played a fantastic game showing resilience and determination and as a result, winning very comfortably. Their team work and skills were unmatched, ending the game with 48 points to DWHS and 2 points to William Perkin.

