



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

Welcome to the first Dormers Diary of 2024. While the first half-term of this new year has been short, it has certainly been busy!

We have been very encouraged by students' performances in their pre-public examinations, so much so that, without getting ahead of ourselves, it is already looking like we may have much to celebrate this summer. There is, of course, no room for complacency, and a great deal of hard work must be done between now and the final examinations. Our job is to ensure that our students remain grounded, focused, and continue to apply themselves as they have to date, thereby remaining on track to fulfil their undoubted potential.

Year 11 students deserve a special mention in this introduction. The maturity and thought they have demonstrated, both at the Sixth Form taster day and while completing applications for sixth form study, has been a pleasure to witness. I would also like to congratulate the Year 13s, who have secured an impressive array of 3rd level offers from a plethora of the UK's leading universities.

I am delighted to report we have been presented with the top award for our safeguarding. Following a comprehensive review and audit of the school in which students, teachers and senior leadership, site staff and governors were interviewed as part of the process and resulted in us receiving the Platinum Incyte International Excellence in Safeguarding Award.

Another highlight this half term was hosting the Speakers Trust, Ealing Regional Final of the speak out challenge. His Worshipful Mayor of Ealing, Hitesh Tailor presented the awards and noted the high-quality speeches and presentations from the students involved.

Continuing with a literary theme, we were extremely fortunate to welcome Richard Blair, son of George Orwell, to school. Students from Year 11 and those studying A-Level English were fortunate to hear Richard's story of his father's life, his career, his legacy and why it is still relevant to us today.

In sport-related matters, our Year 8 and 9 netball team have been a joy to watch, scoring freely and competing against our neighbouring schools, reflecting positively on the hard work and dedication of both the players and the coaching staff. I'm very proud of how team sports are evolving within our school.

That is just a snapshot of the wonderful stuff that is happening at Dormers Wells High School daily. I look forward to sharing some more with you in the near future. Meanwhile, all that remains for me is to wish you all a peaceful and restful half term break.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher



From the Governors

I have had the honour of being a Parent Governor for over 10 years at Dormers Wells High School. My husband, his siblings and my four children have all attended DWHS, with my youngest is in his last year at 6th form. I currently work at Dormers Wells Primary School and have been there for 19 years, we have a deep connection to our area and school. DWHS is a vibrant place for young learners and it has been a great pleasure to be a part of the growth of the school. Being a part of the students lives and seeing them grow into well

rounded young adults, knowing that the children of DWHS are our future, brings a sense of accomplishment to my teacher/governor role. I have attended the school for meetings, celebrations and a variety of events that occur. You can clearly see a sense of community and how well students are working. They show high levels of respect and appreciation towards staff members at all times, as a parent I have seen and witnessed how hard the staff work to help secure a good future for them. Parent Governor, Surinder Kaur Birk

From the Head Boy and Head Girl

After a remarkably successful few weeks, we are eager to conclude the half-term by presenting a summary of outstanding activities and achievements at Dormers Wells High School. Firstly, we are delighted to announce the receipt of the Platinum Incyte International Excellence in Safeguarding Award. A recent safeguarding audit by Incyte Educational Consultancy concluded that safeguarding serves as the 'golden thread' throughout the school, stating, 'It was a pleasure to see how you have made safeguarding the beating heart of your school to enable great learning opportunities. Throughout this half-term, our students have actively participated in various activities, including the thought-provoking Debate Mate competition and a special visit from George Orwell's son, who shared many invaluable insights. Additionally, our A-level and BTEC taster days have provided Year 11 students with a valuable preview of their academic journey post-GCSEs, enhancing their educational perspective.

Unfortunately, as this half-term ends, so does our time as Head Boy and Head Girl. We wish our successors all the best, and hope they feel the same privilege we took in leading by example. We are grateful for the opportunity to have served our community and this experience will undoubtedly stay memorable. We hope that our students, staff, and their families have a restful half-term break.



Safeguarding award

We are delighted to announce that Dormers Wells High School has been awarded the Platinum Incyte International Excellence in Safeguarding Award. A safeguarding audit was recently carried out by Incyte Educational Consultancy, to review the impact of our procedures and the actions taken by leaders to ensure that children are safe in school. Incyte have concluded that safeguarding is the "golden thread" throughout the school and that it "was a pleasure to see how you have made safeguarding the beating heart of your school to enable great learning opportunities." Ms R Walsh, Headteacher of Dormers Wells High School commented "We are very pleased to have received the platinum safeguarding award. This award reflects our commitment to promoting a culture of safety, implementing effective safeguarding measures, and contributing to the overall welfare of our community. As the report states safeguarding is the "golden thread" throughout our school. It is part of everything we do and as a result. the school has "created a remarkable safeguarding culture"."



A Level and BTEC Taster Day

While our Sixth Form students were preparing for their examinations, Year 11 students became sixth form students for the day. Year 11 students had the opportunity to spend a day in the life of sixth form students, either participating in A Level or BTEC courses on separate days. Students arrived to school dressed the part and were able to enjoy full sixth form privileges. This included utilising the brand new common room, popping out of school for lunch and wearing their own clothes. They attended a range of taster lessons to gain an insight into the A Level and BTEC courses on offer. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day and gave very positive feedback.



Jack Petchey

This term, we hosted the Jack Petchey Speakers Trust, Ealing Regional Final of the speak out challenge. It was fantastic to see students speaking so confidently about their chosen topics. As well as listening to talented musicians and having Kairo as MC for the evening.

Thank you to the Mayor of Ealing for attending, he said "It was a very, very good evening. And I really found the speakers interesting in different ways, telling their stories and the compelling nature with which they presented it. It was just fantastic, to be honest. I think they should be proud of themselves. They all did brilliantly!"

Well done to everyone involved!



Debate Mate

On Wednesday afternoon we hosted the Debate Mate event. Two teams from Years 7 to 9 competed against teams from St Gregorys, Alec Reed and Villiers. Our team of Year 7 students did particularly well, winning against a team of Year 10 students from one of the visiting schools. We are so proud of our students and their achievements at such an early stage of their learning journey. We look forward to seeing their progress over the coming years.



Upcoming Dates

19th Feb	Back to school Year 11 IAG interviews start
21st Feb	Year 8 and Year 9 Options Fair
29th Feb	Year 10 Parents Evening
4th Mar	Year 9 IAG
7th Mar	World Book Day
14th Mar	Year 7 Parents Evening
28th Mar	Celebration Assemblies End of term
29-12th April	Easter Break
15th April	Back to school

REMEMBER!

If you want to meet an online "friend" –
go with an adult.

You can't be 100% sure the person is
genuine.

George Orwell's son

This term, we had the pleasure of welcoming Richard Blair, the son of George Orwell, to our school.

He spoke to Year 11 and A Level English Literature students about his father's life, his career, his legacy and why it's still relevant to us today.

George Orwell is a British novelist, essayist, journalist and critic that we learn about frequently in school, so it was a real valuable educational experience for students to be able to listen to his life story, engage in the memories told by his family member and ask questions.



Allenby x Bhangra Dance

Every Tuesday, Bhangra Dance London run a very popular after school club teaching our students how to be the best at Bhangra dancing. This term saw an excited group of Year 5 students from Allenby Primary School join us for a session. Allenby Primary did not hold back on showing their best moves and quickly became pros with the help of the teacher and our regular students who attend the club. If you are interested in Bhangra dancing, join us in the hall Tuesdays after school!



Art of the month

Students in Year 10 have been refining their drawing and colouring skills working in the style of Marcelo Barenghi. They have been trying to create photo realism using a combination of light and dark tones to achieve this. Students copied one of his works and then took photos of their own chocolate or wrapper and created their own response. Karina's copy has taken many hours but demonstrates a very high level of skill that will help her achieve her predicted grade at art GCSE.



Wellbeing message

Children's mental health week is running between 5-11th of February this year, the focus is on acknowledging that our voice matters. As parents, carers or friends we should take time to talk to and listen to those we love around their mental wellbeing. Place2Be asked children and young people what they wanted from the adults and friends in their lives. Here are some examples:

- I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures).
- If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.

Perhaps during half term you can find some time to talk and listen to those around you.

Food donation

The cost of living crisis has affected many households and we are very aware that some of our families could use some help with food insecurity. Therefore, our safeguarding team have worked with The Felix Project and City Harvest to arrange weekly deliveries, that will provide families with free food essentials twice every week. None of this would be possible without the help and determination from our staff, student helpers and our generous donators.

