



Dormers Diary



From the Headteacher

As another very productive and successful term draws to a close, this newsletter allows us a moment to reflect. From academic achievements to creative endeavours, such as our school production of *Oliver*, our Misst Play Day along with sporting achievements, our students have embraced every opportunity presented to them and flourished. A great deal of the credit for this is down to each and every one of our parents/carers and their unwavering support and dedication to our school community. To them, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

I am also delighted to report that Dormers Wells High School has received some well-deserved national recognition! We have been awarded the accolade of being one of the highest performing secondary schools in the country based on 2023 performance data and information from Ofsted by SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) in this year's Educational Outcomes Awards.

We were recognised in two categories, receiving awards for being in the top 10% of schools nationally for student progress and in the top 20% of non-selective schools for student attainment in the 2023 end of KS4 exams. This is a phenomenal achievement and a testament to the work of the whole school community. Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

"Congratulations to Dormers Wells High School on winning two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards. This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of students, staff, parents and governors. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."

Please join me in congratulating Ayeshani Garaga and Alexander Frank on their well-deserved selection as Head Students on the Student Leadership Team. They will be ably supported by Simran Kaur and Marcu Tupita, our deputy head students. As they step into their new roles, I have every confidence they will exemplify the DWHS qualities of leadership, integrity, and dedication that are essential to guiding our student body. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and vision will no doubt shine through, and inspire and empower their peers to achieve great things.

The recent Stepping Stones Residential, presented some daunting physical challenges for our Y7s. I am delighted to report that they rose to the occasion magnificently and proved once again that collaboration and teamwork help people overcome almost any obstacle. Congratulations Year 7!

As we look ahead to the final term of this school year, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what this wonderful community can achieve. Together, I am confident that we will continue building upon our successes and by doing so, ensure our students fulfil their vast potential and create a bright future for themselves.

On that note, all that remains is for me to wish you all a peaceful and restful break.



From the Governors

I am writing to introduce myself as a new school governor, I joined in October 2023 and I am very honoured to be here. My background is as a Data Analyst in Adult Social Care (ASC) and Public Health. I work for a Local Authority in the Business Intelligence team. My role is to identify opportunities for improvement in ASC & PH services and support the department to implement changes. I lead on special projects to improve the delivery of PH & ASC services and mapping/transformation processes across the entire ASC pathway. I have worked in local government most of my working life, as I enjoy

working for and helping the community.

I am always looking for self-development opportunities and I love to learn new things. My current position requires me to have a high level of initiative and problem-solving skills, which I believe will be an asset in this role.

In my spare time I like to be creative through crafting, dance, martial arts and yoga. I look forward to making a positive impact in this role.

Yours sincerely,
Shakira Jacobs

From the NEW Head Boy and Head Girl

We are excited to announce ourselves as your newly appointed head boy and girl; we hope to represent our school by upholding the DWHS values of determination, wisdom, honesty, and service – which our students and staff have demonstrated throughout this busy half term.

Year 9s made pivotal decisions on their future careers after attending our informative options evening, while those who take part in the Stepping Stones programme enjoyed a well-deserved trip packed with outdoor activities. Also, World Book Day recently brought together our school community over a shared love of reading, allowing students to explore various genres as well as teachers to share recommendations. Our very own production of Oliver was exceptional, and we saw dedicated students showing their dramatic talent by putting on a very impressive performance.

Furthermore, the science department was showcased to visiting year 5 pupils from local schools, who left fascinated and inspired by the strong academic opportunities at DWHS. The constant determination of students and their embodiment of our values continue to be a source of pride for the school.

We would like to express our gratitude for being given this opportunity to serve our school community. We would also like to wish students sitting their GCSE and A Levels next term the best of luck, and hope everyone has a great Easter holiday.



Options Evening

Options Evening proved to be a fantastic success. Year 8 and Year 9 students spent the evening looking around each subject area, speaking with curriculum leaders and getting a better idea of what subjects they want to pursue in the future. We had a lot of help from our wonderful students who are currently studying the available options. They explained their subjects to visiting parents and prospective students, answering questions and discussing the benefits of the subject that they are looking to study. We're so proud of our parent partnerships. Seeing our parents so involved means we can keep growing stronger as a community and achieve great things for our young people.



World Book Week

March saw a buzz around school with World Book Day and our chosen theme 'Wonderful Women of the World'. Staff members kickstarted the week off in fancy dress and they did not hold back, especially our Librarians as Medusa, Mr Portwain from Mortal Engines and Mrs Grewal as a Suffragette, to name a few. Students were smiling from ear to ear, whilst our staff walked around school in extravagant costumes.

It was a fantastic week where a range of activities took place during form time, lunch and afterschool. Amongst the favourites were creative classes, book tasting, book reading and manga club. There was something for everyone. Students were also very interested to learn about the books, written by female authors, that had been banned and why they were deemed inappropriate.

'Battle of the books' assemblies were held every morning and we enjoyed voting for our favourite books, but what topped that was a Cooking Club competition, where students had to bake the Bruce cake from Matilda. It was a fantastic week and we are looking forward to next year!



Oliver!

We are thrilled to share that our school's recent production of *Oliver!* was an incredible success. It was inspiring to watch our talented young students sing, dance and perform. They put their nerves on the backbench and picked up the extra responsibility of Dormers 'debut production' since before COVID. The students gave a fantastic performance and truly brought the characters to life on stage. The costumes, lighting, and set design all came together seamlessly to create an unforgettable atmosphere that left everyone in awe. It was a showcase of the talent, hard work, and dedication, which paid off with a loud cheer from the crowd and conversations across the school about the fantastic acting. Our students love to give back to the community and we look forward to seeing the next production in the future.



Stepping Stones

A group of students in Year 7 and Year 10 went on a residential trip to Runways End Outdoor Centre. This was a reward for their consistent participation in the Stepping Stones mentoring project. Students stayed for two nights and enjoyed activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, archery, fire lighting, low ropes and caving!



Upcoming Dates

29-12th April	Easter Break
15th April	Back to school Year 9 End of Year exams start
26th April	Year 9 exams end
6th May	May Day bank holiday
20th May	Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A Level exams start
24th May	Last day before half term break
27-31st May	Half term break
3rd June	Back to school

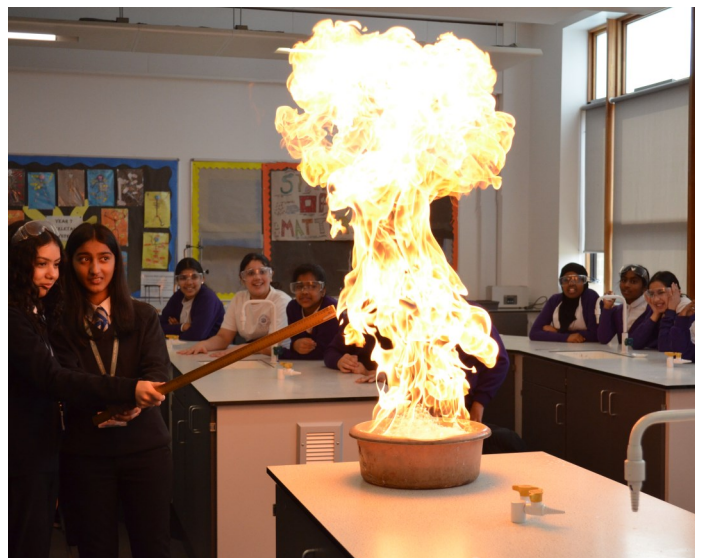
DID YOU KNOW!

When you send someone a photo, you MIGHT also be sending your Location & they can tell EXACTLY where you are on a street plan. Keep "Location" facilities on SMART phones switched *off* until you *NEED* them.

Year 5 Science Week

During Year 5 Science week, we welcomed schools from all over the borough including; Dormers Wells Primary School, Hambrough, Beaconsfield, Allenby, Three Bridges and Lady Margaret Primary to join us each morning for workshops and experiments.

It was the perfect opportunity for potential students to experience a taster of life at Dormers, and specifically the exciting Science department. They enjoyed making their own bath bombs, learning about chemicals and investigating objects underneath the telescope, to name just a few. Our students love to show off the skills they gain from school, so seeing to our Year 5 guests was a pleasure!



Netball girls

The netball girls played extremely well in their five matches at the borough tournament refusing to let the wind and rain affect their play. They competed against Cardinal Wiseman, Featherstone, Drayton Manor, Elthorne and Twyford. They showed huge perseverance, resilience and team spirit and did so in style with our brand new school bus!



Character values in action

The first character shout out for this term goes to Aizah S in year 10 for her service, as she was an outstanding role model on the stepping stones trip. Cleaning and spraying tables after every meal - she was not asked to do this and others followed her example to help out. Ms Dhillon has also been impressed with Aizah as well as Annmariya P and Cathleen B who have all been amazing with their contribution to help with organising display boards around the school. They have helped their year leader to set up and organise the prefect duties. Their service has been outstanding, using ALL their break and lunch times to help out. In Economics the determination and wisdom of Mahnaz J and Sahil R has also been exemplary. Well done to all in the school community who embody our DWHS values every day!



Reading ambassadors

DWHS Reading Ambassadors have given up their time to come in before school to support pupils with reading in year 5. This has had a positive impact, whereby pupils are more eager to read and learn. This was echoed by a student from the High School who quoted; *"Dormers Wells Primary is no doubt a welcoming school and the students here are beyond respectful. The pupils' motivation cannot be emphasised enough, they do not hesitate to ask questions and give creative predictions about the book we read. Their determined behaviour and attitude encouraged me every Tuesday morning to wake up and come in."*



Wellbeing message

How To Be a Good Listener

As we move into a v very busy time of the school year with exams for many students you can begin to support each other by trying some active listening. Active listening is a way of listening attentively to someone and demonstrating that you are fully engaged in the conversation. It involves not only hearing what someone is saying, but also understanding their emotions, thoughts and concerns. By active listening you can help your friends, and children feel heard and understood. Here is how it is done...

Do... Do... Do...

Pay attention **Validate their feelings** **Ask open-ended questions**

Do... Do... Do...

Leave space for silence **Paraphrase to clarify misunderstandings** **Acknowledge their perspective**

Art of the month

This piece is by Diona, Y11. Her chosen topic for the externally set task was transport, mixing ideas from the Studio Ghibli animation 'Spirited Away' with the dull London underground. This piece is going to be edited and altered in a range of ways in preparation for her 10 hour art exam.

