



A Message from Sue Marooney, CEO DMAT and Executive Headteacher, DHS

October 2018

We have had a wonderful start to the academic year with both schools delighted to see new students join us in reception and year 7, and existing students settle well into their new school year. A thank you for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated. The quality of work being produced is excellent and participation at clubs and activities is superb. It has also been a busy time as we have proudly welcomed prospective students and their parents/carers into our schools and have been delighted at the role our students have played in this. From being tour guides and answering questions to demonstrating their skills across all curriculum areas, they have been a credit to their school. I hope you all enjoy the half term break and return to school refreshed and full of energy for what promises to be an exciting and busy half term.

24 hour musical

DHS students and staff pulled off an incredible challenge as they managed to produce a musical in just 24 hours! They started at 7am on Saturday and worked tirelessly through until 7pm that evening. They returned at 7am on Sunday morning to continue singing, dancing, costume-making, set designing and stage producing until the performance at 5.30pm. It was a huge success, the students were amazing and the production of Joseph was so smooth. The audience gave a standing ovation at the end in recognition at how fantastic the accomplishment was.



Working together: dance class

Students and staff from DHS have been visiting The Laurels students to teach them dance. The year 10 dance captains are working with the students to develop their contemporary, freestyle and street dance techniques. This is a great way our schools are working together, the younger children benefit from the older students teaching and the older students benefit from improved confidence. A win win for all.



GCSE exam results

DHS began the new school year on a high after many great GCSE results. Students arrived at school on Thursday 23rd August full of nerves, but this soon turned to joy as they celebrated with their friends. Recognised by all as the most rigorous and complex exams ever, we still saw 70% of all students achieving a pass in English and maths; with 1 in 5 students achieving the highest grades of 7-9 and the vast majority of subjects achieving above the national average. We hope all of our students have had a super start as they begin the next step on their educational journey.



Bikeability Success

Congratulations to year 6 students at The Laurels who achieved their level 1 and 2 Bikeability certificates. They worked really hard and showed amazing concentration and sensibility to make sure they passed. Bikeability is a really important scheme to ensure our children are aware of how to be safe on their bikes.





Year 11 Careers Fair

At the end of September DHS held a fantastic Careers Fair for year 11 students and their parents/carers. There were a large number of employees, sixth forms, colleges and other education and training organisations exhibiting at the fair. It was a great place for students to find out about the various options open to them next year when they move on to the next phase of their education. With the majority of year 11 in attendance it was an excellent and informative evening. There were also student ambassadors from younger years on hand to help with refreshments and welcoming duties.



Geography Success

Year 10 student Eddie Pullen worked hard over the summer holidays to produce a wonderful piece of work titled 'How is the Arctic Unique?' His hard work was rewarded as he received a certificate of commendation from the Geographer of the Year competition which is run by The Royal Geographical Society. The amazing hand produced paper featured facts, figures and a beautiful illustration. Well done Eddie!



Times Tables Rock Stars

The Laurels students have been rising to the challenge set by their new app 'Times Tables Rock Stars.' The app encourages children to do their daily times tables practice as they are able to challenge parents to a 'TT battle' and also compete to be crowned that weeks 'Star of the Week', 'Highest Earner', 'Fastest Rock Speed' and 'Most Improved.' A great way to motivate the children (and also help parents improve their TT knowledge!).

DHS wins the top prize in extra-curricular sports for third year running

The PE department at DHS were delighted to be awarded both the Tony Miller Award and the Sybil Tarvis Memorial Trophy for last years extra-curricular sporting results. The awards are given to the best performing school for both girls (Sybil Tarvis) and boys (Tony Miller) across a wide range of sports. To win both awards for the third year in a row is an amazing achievement and a credit to a fantastic team of PE staff and our dedicated and talented students. As DMAT schools The Laurels and DHS are able to benefit from sharing expertise in many different areas. A clear example of this is that staff from DHS's expert PE team take weekly PE lessons with students across all year groups at The Laurels. This ensures that DHS's success in PE is shared across the academy trust.



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