



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

December 2018

We have had an extremely busy half term in both schools and we are proud of the many accomplishments our students have achieved. There have been a variety of exciting educational trips and experiences for our students which have inspired them and enhanced their learning. We also continue to work collaboratively to ensure all our students get the very best opportunities to challenge themselves and succeed. As the term comes to a close I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to working together next term to achieve even more. In the meantime I wish you all an enjoyable festive period and the very best for the new year.

Laurels students enjoy a multi-skills day at DHS



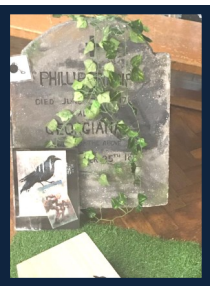
At the end of November, Laurels students from years 3-6 headed over to DHS for a multi-skills competition. The DHS Sports Captains led sessions in athletics, football and problem solving, and the younger pupils did their best to earn points by jumping, running, throwing and much more! At the end of the morning the points were added up and the pupils headed back to The Laurels where Brunel House was announced as the overall winner. Individual performances were also rewarded for each year group. The day was a great success and shows the fantastic benefits of collaborative working between our schools.

RSPB visit The Laurels

Children in KS1 had an exciting visit from the RSPB in November. They made the most of the dry weather and headed outside to explore the school grounds. They looked at how some animals and plants had begun to adapt to the Autumnal weather and even handled some wriggly worms!



Literacy fun at The Laurels



Children at The Laurels were visited by Subject Revolution, an organisation that offers fun and engaging events to turn reading and maths into an exciting game. The children had to *Escape Crow Castle* by completing a variety of tasks that required their reading, inferring, comprehension, spelling, scanning, riddling and skimming skills, as they attempted to break free of the castle. With 3D backdrops, props and the original text of famous books, the children were transported to another world as they fully engaged in the process.

GCSE trip to Berlin

DHS GCSE students enjoyed 4 days in the city of Berlin during October half term. The trip saw them take in many of the historic sights such as The Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and the German-Russian Museum. They also enjoyed some delicious traditional German cuisine and a trip to a bowling alley. As well as having a fantastic time the trip brought their learning to life, allowing them to apply what they had learnt in the classroom to the real world, and have experiences which will cement their knowledge.





Southdowns SCITT graded outstanding

We are delighted that the South Downs SCITT was recently inspected by OFSTED and awarded the highest grade of outstanding. The SCITT has been part of DMAT since September and with trainee teachers and/or SCITT trained NQTs in both The Laurels and DHS our schools are already benefiting. We are proud to be making a positive contribution to the supply of teachers in the region with OFSTED saying 'high-quality training enables trainees and NQTs to develop into well prepared and confident professionals. They demonstrate excellent practice in the majority of the standards for teacher quality and exemplary personal and professional conduct.' Well done to Mrs Allison and her brilliant team!



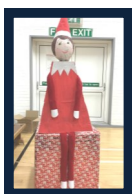
Christmas celebrations

As this term draws to a close it is wonderful to celebrate the talents of our students during festive events. DHS were delighted to host The Laurels wonderful production of The Grinch, and parents/carers have also enjoyed the KS1 nativity productions and a carol service led by KS2. The DHS choir have sang at local Care Homes and the carol service (along with the vocal group) and excellent acting, dancing and singing is still to come at the Christmas Performing Arts Celebration Evening on 18th Dec. Well done to all our students and thank you to the teachers for their efforts in ensuring these performances take place.



Final goodbye to year 11

In December we celebrated the amazing successes of the class of 2018 at Year 11 Presentation Evening. The ex-students and their parents/carers were treated to an inspiring speech from local restaurant owner Andrew Sparsis. Certificates were then awarded to the top 10 achievers overall and in each subject, the top 10 most improved students and best effort in each subject. There were also 3 awards handed out. Although it was sad to say a final goodbye to this fantastic group, we were also incredibly proud of all they had achieved.



Charity initiatives raising money

Both schools have been busy raising money for charities this half term. The Laurels had a superhero dress up day and a cake sale for CIN and were visited by Sussex Radio to talk about their wonderful efforts. At DHS students decorated and filled Christmas hampers for Turning Tides. Each company awarded a winning hamper for design and content, but most importantly a fantastic collection of much needed items have been delivered to Turning Tides. DHS has also raised £1275 for St Barnabas House by holding a mufti day, in addition to which year 11 student Ben Taylor raised an additional £80 by using his initiative at year 8 parents/carers evening.



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