



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

April 2019

We have had yet another busy and successful half term in both schools with many students getting involved in extra-curricular activities as well as working hard in their lessons. Our SCITT trainees (future teachers, some of whom will be employed in our schools) have also had a fantastic half term in their new placement schools, and we have benefitted from having a number of them in our schools. As we reflect on these successes, we also look ahead to the opportunities and challenges of the summer term. With exams and transitions on the horizon, we know that due to the continuous dedication of our staff, excellent support of our parents/carers and the hard work of our students, these challenges will be met and our students will flourish and shine. I wish you all a happy holiday and look forward to a successful Summer Term.



DHS wins outstanding secondary school

At the end of February DHS were delighted to be awarded the Youth Sports Trust Outstanding

Secondary School Award. This award recognises the way in which physical education is at the heart of everything, and that it is used across the board to enhance the well-being of all our students. Running programmes such as Stand Tall and Girls Active, as well as having mass participation in events such as Race for Life and Pole to Pole, are just some examples of why we were chosen to receive this award. Associate Deputy Headteacher John Fuller collected the award at the Youth Sports Trust annual conference.

The Laurels success at Worthing Music and Arts Festival

Three students from The Laurels excelled in the recent Worthing Music and Arts Festival, placing in their age groups for the speech and drama competition. Eleanor Crystal (year 4) came first and Ollie Marrett (year 6) and Joy Prince (year 3) placed second, after reading poems to a packed audience at The Dome in Worthing, which they had worked hard with Miss Jennings to prepare. Well done, a fantastic achievement!



Schools celebrate STEM and science week



There was a packed programme at DHS for National STEM week with students taking part in a wide variety of workshops to inspire their STEM learning and widen their knowledge of the ways in which STEM subjects inform everyday life. They looked at micro plastics and road pollution and explored sports science with Medical Mavericks. The Laurels also embraced Science Week with pupils taking part in a range of activities designed to deepen their knowledge, including some explosive experiments in the playground!

Both schools shine in Buggy and Time to Dance

This half term has been full of performance opportunities for our students. It has been wonderful to see the schools come together for our fantastic production of Buggy Malone - an amazing end to the term. Both schools also took part in Time to Dance, performing beautifully at The Pavilion, and DHS showcased their energetic and colourful Rock Challenge dance 'Viva la Vida' at The Hawth, Crawley. Well done to all students who have participated in these productions - a great way to build confidence, make friends and keep healthy.



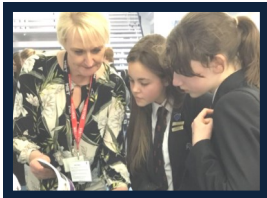


Learning outside the classroom



During this half term 180 year 7 students at DHS visited Hampton Court Palace to enhance their learning about the Tudors, whilst year 10 GCSE French/Spanish students practised their speaking skills by attending the Europa Centre in London, engaging in mock French/Spanish scenes with native speakers. GCSE drama students had the opportunity to see the fantastic 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time' in London. Trips such as these are really valuable as they allow students to bring their learning to life and give them new life experiences. With trips to Fishers Farm, Westminster, Mill Rythe and Worthing Theatre planned next term at The Laurels, as well as several trips at DHS, there will be plenty of opportunity for learning outside of the classroom next term.

Exploring careers



In early March students at DHS enjoyed finding out about the many options available post 16 during a fun packed

careers week. Alongside tutor time activities, each lunchtime students could engage with a variety of employers and post 16 and further education providers. This enabled them to find out about areas such as engineering, pharmaceuticals and medicine, alongside exploring the different paths available to achieve a variety of careers. The Laurels children also found out about the travel industry, linked to their geography learning, with a visit from TUI and Virgin Atlantic employees.

Reading is power

On March 7th The Laurels was taken over by Roald Dahl characters, including a number of Oompa Loompas! Celebrating World Book Day is a great






way to engage children in books and encourage reading for pleasure. Pupils also had a potato character competition and an after school bedtime story, complete with hot chocolate. At DHS, although there was no dressing up, there was a packed week of engaging activities for students to promote the importance and joy of reading. There has also been two author visits this term with Simon James Green and Kathryn Evans leading inspiring talks and signing copies of their new books.

Leading evidence-informed practice




The Research School has had a busy half term delivering high quality CPD to teachers from across the South of England. The evidence-informed training programmes cover several different key areas of teaching and learning. Working in this way allows us to not only train teachers in other schools, but most importantly, ensure that our own teaching and learning is informed by the latest research evidence. This ensures the highest quality teaching for all our students in all our schools.

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