



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

October 2019

We have had a busy and successful start to the new school year and have particularly enjoyed supporting our new reception class at The Laurels and year 7 students settle into Durrington. We have been amazed at how quickly they have adjusted to life at their new schools, engaging in their exciting lessons and embracing the many opportunities our schools have to offer. Thank you to staff and parents/carers for their support with this. Our new cohort of SCITT trainee teachers have had a great start and we are delighted with the contribution they are making to schools in the local community. This term has also seen us welcome prospective parents/carers and students through our doors, and the feedback we have received has been outstanding. Many thanks to all our staff and students for their hard work in making these open events such a success and enjoyable way to celebrate our schools. I wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to all that the second half of the Autumn term will bring.



Eco success in our schools

DHS have made a fantastic start to their recycling initiative by collecting over 5.5kgs of glue-sticks and pens to be recycled. The drive is part of a wider environmental project, led

by Miss Townsend and the senior student leadership team and supported by a group of year 9 Eco Ambassadors. The aim is to educate our community about how they can help make a positive contribution to the issue of climate change. Meanwhile, The Laurels have also been prioritising green initiatives, including collecting crisp packets, batteries and pens for recycling. This term they were also awarded with their first Eco Schools England Award. Excellent work from both schools.

Exciting new developments for DHS



Students at DHS returned from the summer holiday to a fully upgraded music suite in September. 16 brand new Apple Mini Macs have been installed along with industry-standard software for students to create their own compositions. This term has also seen the first exciting milestone for our ambitious new indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Plans have been submitted to WSCC and, if approved, we hope the new facilities will be ready for September 2020.

The Laurels (re)launch TT Rockstars



After a successful first year of using the TT Rockstars programme, staff and students at The Laurels relaunched for 2019/20 in style by dressing up as rock stars for the day –inflatable guitars included! It was an exciting and inspiring way to get the whole school community talking about it, encouraging everyone to take on the challenges and, most importantly, improve their timetable knowledge.

Students inspired to get coding

Since the new ICT suite was built at The Laurels last year their coding club has gone from strength to strength. They are fortunate to also have the support of a much sought after official Code Club volunteer who supports students in building their coding skills in a fun and engaging way. Students at DHS celebrated National Coding week, taking part in various challenges which allowed them to build their confidence and skills. The week also saw the first year 7 and 8 coding club take place with over 50 attendees.





New PE shirts for The Laurels

The Laurels launched a new PE kit this term thanks to support from local Worthing business Equiniti. The brand new kits, which were issued to all children, move away from the four separate colours of the old kits with one consistent colour of green. This was a move to reflect the school's values and encourage a team player ethos. It also gives the children a fantastic sense of identity and has boosted their

enthusiasm for PE. They look very smart and are looking forward to debuting the kits to the wider community at the Worthing Cross Country competition next month.

GCSE success

Following on from The Laurels outstanding SATs results in July, DHS were proud to follow suit with excellent GCSE results in the summer. The hard work and determination of the year group, together with support from staff, parents/carers and governors, resulted in huge successes in the core subjects of English, maths and science with all 3 exceeding national averages. 71% of students achieved a grade 4 or higher in both English and maths with 50% achieving a grade 5 or higher in both subjects. Over a quarter of all



students achieved the highest grades (grade 7 and above) in English, maths and science. Congratulations to all.



Thinking of becoming a teacher?

The new cohort of SCITT trainee teachers have made an excellent start to this term with several working in our schools. We are really looking forward to watching them grow and develop throughout the year. If you or someone you know has a degree and is thinking about becoming a teacher, come and discover what our Ofsted Outstanding teacher training programme offers on Thursday 14th November, 6-7pm at Durrington High School. Bursaries and scholarships of up to £28,000 are available for eligible graduates. Contact info@thesouthdownsscitt for more information. We would love to see you there.



Research School at the centre of school improvement

The Research School has had a great start to the year with the successful launch of their training and support programme. Already over 180 teachers from over 65 schools from across the country have signed up to attend at least one training event, which are led by staff from both The Laurels and DHS. Working at both a national and local level, the Research School is instrumental in ensuring that teaching and learning practice is informed by the latest research evidence, which means that the students in our schools benefit greatly from their expertise.




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