



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

December 2019

We have had a great second half of the autumn term with so much excellent work from students and staff in both schools. Thank you to our student leaders across our schools, you really are making a difference. There have been a number of exciting trips and learning experiences at both schools and we are proud of how our year 11 students have prepared for, and conducted themselves during, their mock exams. As this term draws to a close I would like to thank parents and carers for their continuing support and all our staff for their commitment to giving our young people the very best education. We have much to look forward to next term, but in the meantime, I wish you all an enjoyable festive period and the very best for 2020. As ever, exciting times ahead!

Charity commitment and community spirit



Both schools have been working hard to support local charities this term with several events taking place. DHS students and staff took part in an incredible 100 mile swim at Littlehampton Wave raising over £1500 for Oxfam and The Marine Conservation Society. This student leadership team initiative was a fantastic success in both raising money and awareness for these charities. The

Laurels KS1 pupils braved the cold and rain as they took part in a sponsored Reindeer Run, with KS2 pupils taking part the following week in brighter conditions, raising money for Chestnut Tree House. DHS students have also been busy creating and filling Christmas hampers for Worthing Foodbank and also held a mufti day in aid of Save The Children and local homeless charity Turning Tides. Both schools also raised money for BBC Children in Need in November, with DHS holding a mufti day and The Laurels hosting a spotty clothes day and bake sale. It is wonderful to see our students embracing these charity initiatives so whole-heartedly and we are very proud of the contributions both schools have made to our local and wider community.



The Laurels students become detectives for the day

Year 4 students at The Laurels took part in an engaging and informative workshop when The Detective Project came to visit. They spent the day playing detective, dressing in the full CSI protective suits before gathering and sorting evidence. They then took this evidence to the forensic lab where they used and developed their science skills to interrogate the evidence; dusting for fingerprints and using chromatography to solve the 'crime.' This was an amazing learning experience for the year 4 students which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

DHS honoured with visit from Holocaust survivor Dorit Oliver-Wolff

In November DHS were humbled to welcome Holocaust survivor Dorit Oliver-Wolff, who spoke to the whole of year 9, telling them about her incredible story of survival against the odds. The visit was facilitated by the Holocaust Educational Trust who also ran a workshop for over 100 students prior to Dorit's presentation. The workshop explored and challenged their knowledge of the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today. Dorit spoke with kindness and humour to year 9 engaging them fully as she shared her inspiring journey. It was a privilege to hear her speak and a visit that will be remembered for a long time.





The ever growing reach of the Research School



Our Research School had a great start to this school year running training programmes and twilight sessions attended by over 250 delegates from schools across Sussex and beyond. Since becoming a Research School in 2017 we have worked with 956 school leaders and teachers from 279 schools, meaning teachers in our schools are playing an important role in school improvement across the country. The Research School also ensures that the teaching and learning in our schools is informed by the very latest research evidence. This term The Laurels held a metacognition week which introduced the concept to the children with a view to embedding it across all lessons, with fantastic initial results. Teacher trainees at our SCITT have also benefitted from our research team's expert input into several of their weekly sessions.

Special assembly for Mary Mugridge



On 5th December The Laurels held a special assembly to thank their Chair of Governors, Mary Mugridge, who was stepping down after many years. Mary has been an incredibly valuable member of The Laurels team, bringing her vast experience having worked in education for 48 years. Mary said of the school and her time as Chair, 'The Laurels School has a superb staff team, lead by a superb headteacher. Special thanks to everyone. It has been a tremendous privilege to work with you.' We wish Mary all the best with her future endeavours and thank her for all she has done for the school.

SCITT trainees complete their first term



Congratulations to our SCITT trainee teachers who have completed a successful first term. We are very proud of their commitment in what has been a challenging, yet rewarding, introduction to teaching. Many thanks to all our partner schools for supporting them throughout the term and good luck to our primary trainees who begin a new placement in January. Applications for September 2020 are still open so if you, or someone you know, is interested in training to be a teacher please do give our friendly team a call on 01903 705671 or email info@southdownsscitt.co.uk

Christmas celebrations

Both schools have embraced the festive period and there have been many opportunities for students to celebrate. At DHS students performed a magical version of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, and the year 7 and 8 students had festive fun at a disco party. Over at The Laurels the reception and KS1 children performed beautiful nativity plays as well as having classroom parties to mark the end of term. Both schools also held carol services at their local church which are a lovely opportunity for the local community to celebrate with them.



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