



A Message from Sue Marooney, CEO DMAT and Executive Headteacher, DHS February 2020

We have had a wonderful start to the new decade with students and staff working hard and accomplishing great things. Our year 11 students at DHS received their GCSE mock results and, with the amazing support of their teachers and parents/carers, have an excellent work ethic and are motivated to improve further. There have also been many sporting successes, enrichment activities and inspiring teaching and learning happening in both schools. We are delighted to have appointed a contractor at DHS to build our new sports hall and courts which will benefit everyone in our Trust and the wider community. I appreciate, as ever, the hard work of staff and students and the ongoing support from parents/carers and wish you all a restful half term. I am looking forward to the many exciting accomplishments the second half of the school year will bring.

STOP PRESS! Our amazing group of 120 fantastic DHS students placed first in their heat of the Dance Live competition in Portsmouth with an outstanding performance! Finals in April! Well done!

DHS welcomes The Laurels students for engaging geography session



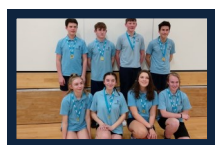
Year 5 and 6 students from The Laurels took part in an engaging geography workshop at DHS this term. The group investigated the best place to locate a renewable energy station on the DHS site. They were supported by year 8 students who helped them use the equipment to read wind speed, direction, and temperature. It was a great opportunity for The Laurels students to get an insight into geography as a unique subject before moving to secondary school. The students were also taken on a tour of DHS so they could get a feel for the school as a whole. This was followed by a Q&A session with the year 8 students in which they were able to ask general questions about the school, which the DHS students answered eloquently. A really great morning for all involved.

New musical experiences and an exciting upcoming production

Students from The Laurels enjoyed a trip to Worthing Assembly Halls to watch the Worthing Symphony Orchestra perform. This was an inspiring experience for the students in years 5 and 6 as the fabulous orchestra played various pieces of classical music from famous composers. All KS2 pupils are also now having brass instrument lessons from a specialist music teacher. Y6 are learning the trombone, Y5 the baritone, Y4 the tenor horn and Y3 the cornet. Meanwhile at DHS students have been working hard rehearsing their annual musical, The Adams Family. It is looking and sounding brilliant and tickets are now available for performances on 3rd, 4th and 5th March.



A term of sporting success at DHS



Students at DHS have got off to a winning start in 2020 across a range of sports. The U16 girls football team reached the quarter finals of the National Cup, the KS4 boys badminton team were crowned county champions, with the girls team taking the runners up spot. The indoor girls cricket and basketball teams have won area tournaments and many teams across the years remain unbeaten. There were individual successes in cross country with Ethan Hayward taking 2nd place and Archie Sloan 3rd in the intermediate boys race and Tom Tessandier coming 1st in the junior boys race. Outside of school Astin Dean represented his 10 pin bowling club in the South of England Open coming 3rd in both the doubles and overall pin fall. Fantastic efforts from so many students, huge congratulations to them all and we look forward to more success next term.



DHS students pledge to look after their well being

Thursday 6th February was Time To Talk Day, an initiative launched by Time to Change, who campaign to end mental health discrimination. The aim of the day was to encourage everyone to talk about and look after their well being, with a clear message that talking really does make a difference. At DHS students were made aware of the day and encouraged to take the time to think about their own, and their friends, well being. Staff and students also took time to write a pledge, citing one action they were going to take forward to prioritise their own well being and/or help someone else's. The community really embraced the challenge, coming up with a variety of different pledges including reading more, taking time away from my phone, getting more sleep, asking my friend how they are and helping out at home more.

Keeping children safe on and off line



Students at both schools took part in the worldwide Safer Internet Day which aims to raise awareness of internet safety and this year focused on the theme of 'free to be me' highlighting the importance of acceptance and truth. At DHS students took part in activities that explored what

'free to be' meant to them and at The Laurels KS2 children looked at ways to protect their identity online, creating an Avatar to use instead of their own photo. In the offline world, children in years 2 and 5 at The Laurels received a visit from the fire service to talk about fire safety at home and how to protect themselves. They also had the chance to see a fire engine and explore how it operates, including the opportunity to use the hose!

Exciting news for our Research School

We are delighted that, in recognition of our work so far and the teams dedication and expertise, the Research School has been successful in being re-designated and funded for a further 2 years. This means that we can continue our own excellent work on developing teaching and learning in our schools, whilst continuing to work with other schools as we consolidate our position as central to school improvement across Sussex and beyond.



Enrichment activities at The Laurels

As part of this terms fairy tale topic Y1 children took part in an exciting Wolf on Trial workshop in which they had to work together to decide if the Big Bad Wolf was guilty of a crime. They asked questions and explored the deep dark woods before presenting their evidence to the judge who found the wolf guilty. The Laurels students also took part in free holiday clubs during the Christmas holidays. Many children had a wonderful time with the Outdoors Project, building dens and toasting marshmallows, whilst others stayed indoors to learn street dance with Wannadoo. A fantastic time was had by all with much enjoyment and learning taking place.




For regular news updates and more information about these stories please follow our social media channels and visit the school websites:




 Durrington High School
 @durringtonhigh
Durringtonhighschool.co.uk





 @DurringResearch
researchschool.org.uk/durrington





 @dmateducation
dmat.education



 The South Downs SCITT
 @southdownsscitt
thesouthdownsscitt.co.uk



 The Laurels Primary School
 @laurelsprimary
LaurelsPrimary.co.uk