

May 2021

## Headlines

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have almost reached the end of yet another term and I am glad to say that our Covid 19 safety measures have meant that we have not had to send any whole year groups or even groups of children home to self-isolate, which I think is fairly unique amongst the schools in Swindon. Students and staff have adapted to the new rules positively and sensibly.

### Leavers' assembly

We are very sad to be saying farewell to our wonderful Year 11 cohort after what has been a very challenging year for them. Our leavers assembly took place on Thursday this week and was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate each and every young person, as their tutors read out individual statements and they were given a certificate to mark their time at Dorcan. It was wonderful to hear so many students being described as kind, caring, supportive and hard working. It was also really lovely to see the way our students celebrated one another as they came on stage for their certificates. I was really proud of them all. We wish them every success in the future. There will be some additional events during Term 6 which Year 11 can opt to take part in so look out for further details.

### New Student Leaders

With the departure of Year 11, we have had to appoint new student leaders for the next year. The standard of applications this year was very strong and we shortlisted the best for interview. All the students that interviewed did an incredible job and I would have been very happy to employ them all! We are delighted to announce that we have appointed McKenzie Long as our Head Boy and Joshua Smith as his Deputy, and Erin Hemsley as our Head Girl with Bryony Fitzpatrick as her Deputy. Unsuccessful candidates who received an interview will be made senior prefects. Well done to everyone who took the time to apply and congratulations to those who were successful. I would like to thank our outgoing student leaders for the excellent job they have done; whilst their opportunities were limited due to Covid, they have been superb role models for other students and have supported the leadership team with key decisions affecting the student body. Thank you to our Head Girl Lucy Friend, her Deputy Isabelle Trussell, Lee Child, our Head Boy and Saneer Kanji, his Deputy. We hope that this experience will enable you to take on further leadership positions in the future.

### Hot Chocolate with the Head

It has been an absolute pleasure to have Hot chocolate (with all the trimmings!) with students that have been nominated by their teachers for exceptional achievement and for demonstrating the Dorcan values this term. The students are so positive about the school and so thankful to their teachers for all the work that they put in: Year 7 have told me how much they have enjoyed their clubs this year and are keen to continue into Year 8; Year 10 look forward to the Friday tutor time quiz each week. Students are also able to share their really great ideas about how we can make our school even better. It is a joy and a privilege to spend time with them.

## **Subject news**

Mr Corkish is really impressed with the quality of work produced by students in Visual Arts this term. Despite the circumstances, students have engaged well and produced some fantastic, original and skilful work. In English, Year 8 students have produced some excellent War Horse projects.

## **And there's more....**

It's so good to see our students 'Aspire to Greatness'; this year so far we have handed out 50 EtonX employability skills certificates, we have 10 students applying to join the police cadets, students are starting to think about their futures as early as Year 9; four of our students are considering applying for a 6<sup>th</sup> form scholarship at an independent school (funded by a scholarship), one is applying to an American university on a sports scholarship, several Year 9 students took part in an RAF Humanitarian Engineering course over Easter, and much more! We are hugely proud of them all and thrilled to see such aspiration.

## **Duke of Edinburgh**

58 of our students have embarked on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and recently completed their expeditions. Despite the horrendous weather the students were amazing and showed real resilience and team spirit despite having to walk all day in torrential rain. We are so fortunate to have enthusiastic staff who are willing to volunteer and give up their time at weekends to support the award. Huge thanks must go to Miss Trigg and Mrs Koza who put a great deal of time into organising it, along with Mr Tollemache, Miss Pearson, Mr and Mrs Abbott, Mrs Morley, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Easton and her daughter Mali, Mr Shorey, Mr Child, Mr and Mrs Brooks, Mr and Mrs Mould and Mrs Craig who made this wonderful event possible. The staff and students were a credit to the academy. Well done all! We wish our Silver and Gold DoE students well on their upcoming expeditions in June and July.

## **New Youth Service**

A new Youth Service is being launched in Swindon by Councillor Barbara Parry. If you wish to volunteer please read the attached information and communicate directly with Barbara.

## **Building works**

Our current building works are moving forward on schedule and our heating systems are in the final process of being replaced throughout the main and SEN blocks, completing a two-year project. The local company that we have been working with, Roberts and Prowse have been excellent, in terms of the quality of their work, keeping to the schedule and in the highly professional way that their employees conduct themselves around the school. We are excited that the funding we are receiving from Swindon Borough Council's section 106 grant is also going to enable us to refurbish three of our science laboratories and some of our other specialist classrooms to a really high standard. The funding will also be used to replace roofs and extend and refurbish our hall. We will continue to keep you updated with plans as they progress.

## Rewards

Currently the House totals are:

- **Kingfisher: 59,498**
- Osprey: 55, 039
- Falcon: 53, 583
- Eagle: 46,855

We are also delighted to announce that three of our Year 11 students are the first ever to achieve our Platinum award: we would like to offer huge congratulations to Libby Boyd, Lucy Friend and Isobel Dace-Brown. This is a remarkable achievement.

Finally,

We wish you a relaxing and safe holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 7 June.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sherryl Bareham  
Headteacher

