

The Dorcan Academy – Developing Character

Issue 6

The Review

Amazingly, we have reached the end of another school year. It feels like just yesterday we were welcoming our Year 7 students through our doors, filled with anticipation and excitement for the journey ahead. Watching our Year 7s develop and thrive over the course of the year has been a pleasure. From their first hesitant steps into secondary school life to becoming confident, engaged members of our school community, their growth has been remarkable. We also say a heartfelt goodbye to our Year 11 students, who are now ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives. They have navigated the trials and tribulations of school life with **resilience** and determination, overcoming challenges that included a worldwide pandemic. Their strength and adaptability have been truly inspiring. As they move forward, we encourage them to remember that they will always be Dorcan students and a part of our extended family. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and remind them that our support does not end here. Wherever their journey takes them, we are here to help and encourage them every step of the way.

Throughout the year, all our students have embraced new challenges and embodied the Dorcan values in their everyday actions. They have not only taken on the academic demands but have also flourished in extracurricular activities, showcasing their talents and passions. During term 6 we have focused on **integrity**. At The Dorcan Academy, we define **integrity** as ‘**Acting out the Dorcan values all day, every day, even when no-one is looking**’. This simple yet profound definition captures the essence of what it means to be a true student of character. **Integrity** goes beyond mere **honesty**; it is about consistently upholding our core values and virtues, regardless of external circumstances.

Teaching **integrity** is arguably the most challenging virtue we aim to instill in our students. Unlike other character virtues that can be observed and measured through actions and outcomes, **integrity** requires an intrinsic commitment to doing the right thing at all times. It demands that our students not only understand our values but also internalise them to the point where they naturally guide their actions, even in the absence of supervision or immediate reward. Throughout this term, our students have been encouraged to demonstrate **integrity** in various settings – from the classroom to Sports Day, as well as when supporting our new year 7 students during various transition events. Students have participated in activities designed to challenge their decision-making and self-reflection, fostering a deeper understanding of **personal responsibility** and ethical conduct.

Our students also had the exciting opportunity to engage in the democratic process by participating in the general election. Students cast their votes for the party they believed would be best to run the country, gaining valuable insights into the political system and the importance of civic engagement. This activity not only educated them about the electoral process but also encouraged them to think critically about the issues that matter most to them and their community. The results of the election were as follows: The Labour Party won with 38.6% of the vote, closely followed by The Reform Party with 32%. In 3rd place was The Green Party with 16.8%, 4th was The Liberal Democrats with 8.7%, and in last place was The Conservatives with 3.9%.

This term has been marked by two major events that have brought our school community together in celebration: the Rewards Trip and the Whole School Rewards Assembly. These events are highlights of our school calendar, providing a unique opportunity for the entire school to come together as one, celebrating the successes and achievements of our students. The Whole School Rewards Assembly is a particularly special occasion, showcasing and rewarding students who have demonstrated exemplary character values of **kindness, respect, and doing their best**. It is a time for us to acknowledge those who have gone above and beyond, serving as model citizens and embodying the essence of what it means to be a member of The Dorcan Academy.

The journey of character development is never-ending; it is a continuous path where we strive to be the best versions of ourselves, always **aspiring to greatness**. We are committed to supporting our students in becoming individuals of unwavering moral fortitude, equipped to face the challenges of the future with **integrity** and **resilience**. We extend our heartfelt thanks to parents, carers, and anyone who has helped our remarkable students this year for your support in helping them develop their character. We look forward to continuing our partnership, working together to inspire and empower our students for whatever the future may hold.

The Dorcan Academy Virtues in Action

Earlier this term we received an email from Eastcott Vets which said “On behalf of my colleagues at Eastcott Vets, I wanted to express our gratitude and pride to Louise McCombie (7EYA), Grace New (7FRI), Bethany Witts (7OSI), and Ewa Slawinska (7FRA) who saw an injured bird in distress, they spoke with Mrs Barton, and came up with a plan to help it. They brought the bird to the vets so we could help it. During this, they spoke with my colleague (who none of them had met before) in a calm, polite manner and explained what happened.”

Eastcott vets and The Dorcan Academy are immensely proud of Louise, Grace, Bethany, and Ewa for showing **compassion** and **courage**, thus demonstrating outstanding character and care for their community and local wildlife.

The Dorcan Academy Virtues in Action

On the 29th of June Kasia Pawlowska and Maddie O’Carroll. completed the Starlight Walk for Kingfisher’s chosen charity Prospect Hospice. This was at their own cost, raising money for this great charity. They showed great determination and **resilience** during the walk to keep going.

We hope that the generosity shown by Kasia and Maddie inspires other students to want to demonstrate their **generosity** by helping those in their time of need.



The Dorcan Academy Virtues in Action – Sports Day

Sports Day was an extraordinary occasion that truly showcased the remarkable character development of all our students. From the very start, it was evident that this day was not just about winning or losing but about demonstrating the values we hold dear: **kindness, respect, and doing one’s best**. Each student embodied these values in every event they participated in, making the day a celebration of much more than just athletic achievements. From the youngest participants to the oldest, there was a palpable sense of camaraderie and mutual respect. Students cheered each other on, offering words of encouragement and support, irrespective of which house they belonged to.

Doing their best was perhaps the most visible aspect of the day. Each student approached their events with determination and enthusiasm, giving their all despite the challenges they faced. Their **courage** to take on events, even when they knew they might not win, was truly inspiring. This willingness to step out of their comfort zones and try their hardest exemplifies the spirit of **resilience** and dedication we aim to instill in our students.

There were moments when some students felt like giving up, especially when the events became tough. However, their **resilience** shone through as they pushed past these hurdles. This **resilience**, the ability to bounce back from adversity and keep going, is a crucial life skill that they demonstrated beautifully. It was heartening to see students supporting one another during these moments, offering a helping hand or a few encouraging words to lift each other’s spirits.

Sports Day is not just a test of physical abilities but a celebration of character. It was a day where the true winners were not just those who finished first but everyone who participated with heart and spirit. Our students showed that success is not only measured by medals and trophies but also by the values they embody and the character they display. They made us proud by showing that they are not only champions on the field but also champions of **kindness, respect, and resilience**. Well done to all our students for making Sports Day a true celebration of character and sportsmanship!

Get in contact

If you have examples of our students being model citizens and demonstrating our character virtues we would love to hear about them. This will allow us to celebrate their actions as a school and include it in our character newsletter. Contact Mr Tanner at dtanner@dorcan.co.uk

What can you do to support your child's character development?

At The Dorcan Academy, we believe that developing **integrity** is a collaborative effort that extends beyond the classroom. Parents play a crucial role in nurturing this important virtue at home. Here are some ways you can help your child develop integrity:

Discuss Values and Ethics:

Have regular conversations about values and ethical dilemmas. Use real-life examples to discuss what integrity looks like and why it is important. Discussing scenarios and potential decisions helps children think critically about their actions.

Set Clear Expectations and Boundaries:

Establish clear rules and expectations for behaviour at home. Explain the reasons behind these rules and the importance of maintaining them. Consistent boundaries help children understand the importance of integrity in following through on commitments.

Promote Empathy and Respect:

Encourage your child to consider how their actions affect others. Fostering empathy and respect for others reinforces the importance of treating people with kindness and fairness.

Parent questionnaire - Character review

To ascertain the impact of our character programme we would greatly appreciate if parents could complete the following survey. The survey will allow us to understand whether you notice a change in your child's character as they progress through their time at The Dorcan Academy. It will allow us to refine our character programme to the needs of our students. The intention is that we will ask you to repeat the survey again when your child is at the end of year 9 and year 11.

Please be as honest as possible. The results of the survey will not be shared with any other organisation. It will be for internal use so we can support your child in their character development.

To contribute your views, please complete the following survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/un8QJQhXiR>

Every Dorcan student should... 16 before 16

Thank you to all parents for their invaluable contributions to the "Every Dorcan Student Should... 16 Before 16" initiative. Your support and enthusiasm have been instrumental in shaping this programme, and we are truly appreciative of your involvement. We are looking forward to launching this initiative next school year, aiming to provide enriching experiences that will help our students grow and thrive. Thank you for being an integral part of our community and for your continued dedication to our students' development.



What can you do to support your child to complete The Dorcan Academy Character Award?

Encourage them to complete the following activities:

- ✓ **Literacy - History** - Read one of the historical fiction reads that was started in the lesson and write a book review.
- ✓ **Community - MFL** - Interview a student in the Dorcan community whose family has a different cultural background to your own. Ask about their traditional food, upbringing, music, festivals, and language spoken at home.
- ✓ **Environment - Geography** - Oversee the recycling of your household waste for two weeks.
- ✓ **Academia - English** - Read 5 books recommended by Ms Murphy.

Be Kind

Show Respect

Do your best

Character counter totals

Falcon 1556

Osprey 1074

Kingfisher 1023

Eagle 878

Congratulations to Falcon House for winning the most counters in term 6.

Character Award totals

House	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Total
Eagle	80	18	9	107
Falcon	131	28	8	167
Kingfisher	136	14	3	153
Osprey	131	27	8	166
Total	478	87	28	593

Character Award achievements

Congratulations to the following students who have completed the following sections from The Dorcan Academy Character Award this term.

Compassion Bronze

Fin Croton

Compassion Silver

Tyler Simpson

Compassion Gold

Naima Maria

Commitment Bronze

Lyla Tait

Commitment Silver

Gabby Cruz

Commitment Silver

Gabby Cruz

Sports Bronze

Olivia Hawkins, Aston Norris-Ing, Paddy Hanrahan, Jack Cavilla

Integrity Bronze

John Turner Powell, Sophia Montauro

Academia Bronze

Eloise Sims, Emily Cox, Eli Miller, Mihaela Mereacre, Kayla McNamara, Jack Shearing, Katie Hamilton, Aimee Williams, Ella Byrne, Henry Polden, Gabby Cruz

Academia Silver

Maisey Lennon

Honesty Bronze

Noah Strickland

Honesty Silver

James Rolls

Honesty Gold

Frankie Kirwan, Kayla Haslam, Jack Didcote, Ben Watts, Annabelle Honour

Resilience Bronze

Taylor Clarke

Resilience Silver

Naima Maria

Diversity Silver

Naima Maria

Courage Bronze

Kiera Bolton-Weston, Charlotte Penny

Aspiration Silver

Naima Maria, Leo Montauro, Lucas brown

Personal Responsibility

Ollie Kemp

Culture Silver

Naima Maria

Self-Discipline Bronze

Isabelle Hughes