

## **SDP Update June 2021**

Here is the termly update on the progress we are making as a school towards our current priorities and to ensure that we strive to achieve our vision that ['Everyone Succeeds'](#)

We have targeted the most significant challenges since September and have formed our School Development Priorities which you can find here: <https://www.dhsb.org/sdp-update>

We don't report on every single priority each term but provide details of evidence of the areas that have been highlighted so far this academic year.

### **Students achieve the highest academic standards**

#### **Continued focus on raising the achievement of all students from their specific starting points.**

By the end of May our Year 11 and Year 13 students had completed all the assessments which replaced their public exams. Our message to them was: *We are so proud of the way you have worked together and with your teachers to reach this point in your time at DHSB. We have been impressed by the way you have seen the bigger picture throughout the pandemic and supported each other. It is completely understandable that you will have experienced challenges in recent months and we appreciate your hard work to secure the reward of your GCSE and A level qualifications.*

"Have an ice cream on us".

Year 11 students enjoyed a welcome surprise on Wednesday morning before spending time in their tutor groups with tutors.



Ms Davidson, Assistant Head Post-16, added, "Our Year 13 students left today and it is with mixed feelings that we said our goodbyes. Ironically, remote learning brought us opportunities to be a closer community as we helped each other throughout lockdowns and also in adjusting to new norms as we returned to school. They are wonderful and this year group in particular comprises young people with great spirit, tenacity, empathy and an appreciation for others. They stand in their own light and it shines. We are so proud of them".

Joe Watkinson, School Captain 2019 - 2020 said, "Thank you for seven wonderful years DHSB. I will miss you".



**Promote an expectation of reflection, review and a commitment to improve to achieve excellence.**

#### **DHSB STEAM Club - Poetry By Heart**



Over the Spring term a very committed group of students attended this year's DHSB Poetry By Heart poetry recital competition which we held over Google Meet during remote learning and when we returned to school.

This is a national competition with very simple requirements: pick two poems, learn them by heart and recite them in a final performance.

Ms Davarian says she was so impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of those who attended the sessions regularly as it was quite different to our usual format of meeting weekly to discuss, decide and practise reciting poems ready for the final competition. The quality of the entries was very high and she would like to say well done to everyone who took part.

Special mentions to Oliver Tapp 7C and Otto Malm 8S who were highly commended for their entries and DHSB runner up Caleb Caleshu 8P.



The overall winner was Morgan Martin 8N with his recital of 'The Arrow and the Song' by Henry Longfellow and 'Shakespeare at School' by Wendy Cope.

We are very proud to also announce that Morgan has been selected as a finalist in the national Poetry By Heart competition and will be invited to London to take part in the final! We wish him luck.



## Collaboration and Community

**Enable families to support their children through regular engagement events.**

### Public Sexual Harassment

This term we had a whole school assembly focussed on Public Sexual Harassment and the tragic death of Sarah Everard. We explored how street harassment continues to be an issue in the UK, and around the world and how our community can make a difference and contribute positively to society.

Our students engaged extremely positively and discussed the impact of unwanted and unwelcome sexual advances and intimidating behaviour and thought about how the current situation can be improved.



### Amnesty International

Mr Macleod this term supported our students in leading a whole school assembly on Amnesty International, we regularly share the slides and assembly with parents to give the opportunity for families to share and discuss these themes.

In this whole school assembly we introduce students to some of these young people who are taking their inspirational message to international organisations like the UN and working together to bring about change as we emerge from the pandemic.

People like Artemisa Xakriaba from Brazil, Helena Gualinga from Ecuador, Leah Namugerwa from Uganda, Ranton Anjain from the Pacific Islands and Vanya Sayimane from India and Emmanuel Jal from South Sudan.

You can watch the whole school assembly here:



<https://youtu.be/eWLljYCrdHg>

## **Leadership at all levels**

**Embedding and enhancing the extensive leadership opportunities for students with a focus on raising the ambition of younger students to become active citizens and problem solvers.**

## **Duke of Edinburgh**

During the Easter holidays we received the sad news of the death of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

We feel honoured that Prince Philip visited the school in 1961 when he met students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, founded in 1956.

It is very positive to see so many years later that Prince Philip's legacy continues; Since Easter this year our students have been taking part in the DofE expeditions again at every level, Bronze, Silver and Gold within the restrictions of Covid-19 including new alternative expeditions such as cycling and kayaking.

[You can read more about Prince Philip's visit here](#)











## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

It's been good this term to see sports fixtures and extra-curricular activities returning to the calendar giving students the opportunity to take part in activities that help their physical, social and personal development and to have fun.

It's been fantastic to see so many photos of students enjoying their weekly extra-curricular activities and sports fixtures in the Head's Blog again.

All the Head's Blogs can be found here:-

<https://www.dhsb.org/heads-blog>

## **Athletics**



Year 7 students won the Super 8 Plymouth Athletics championships.

## **Cricket**

Our U13 team beat Kingsbridge to make it into round two of the Devon Cup.



## **Golf**

We were delighted that the school golf club was able to meet for the first of seven after school sessions.

Mr Carpenter said, “The golf club swings into action again this evening at Boringdon Park with great instruction”.



## **Surf Club**

It is also great to have the surf club back up and running again.



### **Ten Tors Individual Schools Event**

Many thanks to Mr Ames, Mr Adams, Ms Davidson, Mr Williamson and Mr Clifford who were out with students recently as part of the Ten Tors individual event. Mr Clifford has written this report.

On what was the hottest day of the year DHSB Ten Tors teams descended onto Dartmoor in sweltering (some might say blistering) weather conditions more akin to the Mediterranean to undertake some navigational training before taking part in this year's Ten Tors event.

Teams were taken through various disciplines of navigation including micro navigation first-aid and river crossing procedures and protocols.

It was fantastic to see all of the students so enthusiastic to get out onto the moors once again. There were some really good examples of leadership and resilience across all of the teams throughout the day.



### **Young Citizens Mock Trial Competition**



Thanks to Mr Riggs for leading the Young Citizens Mock Trial Competition this year and for sending me this report of the event.

On Saturday, we took part in the Young Citizens Mock Trial Competition against the Wirral Girls School. A team of ten students played the roles of Barristers, Witnesses and Court Officials as they looked at the case of whether Sunny Peters was entitled to break a car window in order to gain access to his mobile phone which had been taken from him by an over-enthusiastic security guard at a protest against an Energy Company.

All members of the team competed with huge enthusiasm especially Sam Bowden who played the clearly guilty Sunny Peters! I was particularly impressed by the way in which the witnesses dealt with the difficult questions put to them by the Judge! We all had a lot of fun and everyone learnt a lot about the way in which trials work.



It seems to have been an age since I was able to report on an event like this because of lockdowns. It was wonderful to be able to take part in a competition like this and I hope that next year we will be able to return to the surroundings of a real Crown Court. But the technology worked, and it was still really worthwhile. Enriching the curriculum with events like this is something that we really believe in here at DHSB and we look forward to more opportunities becoming available as we exit lockdown.

## **Creative & Entrepreneurial Spirit**

**Continue to use the latest cutting edge technology creatively and innovatively influencing the wider educational community.**

## **Bromcom School Information System**

Over the past year we have been working on streamlining the way in which we communicate to parents and carers and reducing four systems into one to make it easier for them to see how their child is doing in all areas of school life.

This change is now complete and we have moved to a system called Bromcom. The feedback from students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive.

**Improve the impact of the Arts on the personal and cultural development of all within our community.**

## **#EduArtsFest**



At the end of May we proudly supported the Festival of School and College Arts, celebrating the creative achievements of our students seen in their poetry, writing, photography and art.

We have an amazing array of talent at DHSB and are delighted to share our students' creativity on this special day.

We have included some of the examples below but also please browse the hashtag [#EduArtsFest](#) where there will be much more on display, not just from DHSB but from schools all around the country.

### Photography and Artwork



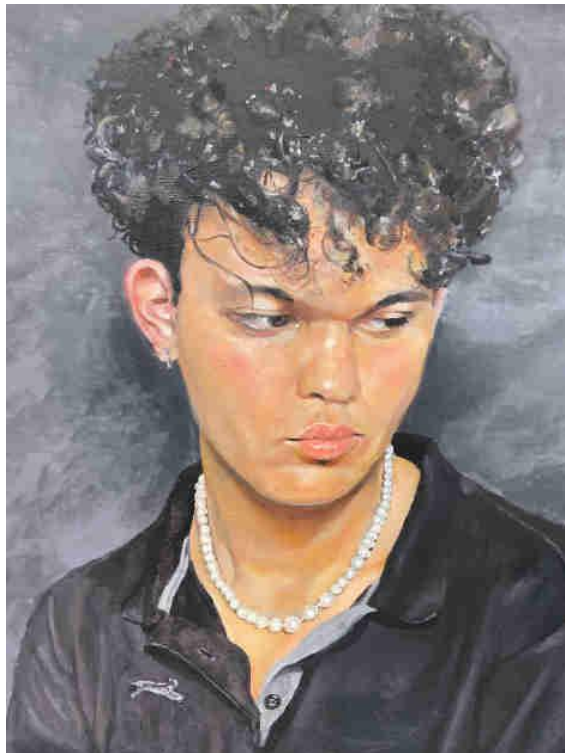
Oisin Smith 8C



Felix Middleton Year 13 TLP student



Sam Price 8C



Joao Bennetts de Souza 11E



Isaac Souray 11S