

School Development Plan Update July 2022

A strategic overview of our current plan and updates on previous plans can be found here:

<https://www.dhsb.org/sdp-update>

Students achieve the highest academic standards

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

Emphasis on ensuring all students are challenged and make excellent progress in their learning.

Congratulations to Arley Walker 7W who has become a Hegarty Maths completer. This means he has completed all 925 skills, each at 100%, on the Hegarty Maths Website. There are over 1.5 million students who use Hegarty Maths and Arley joinsonly a handful of others to complete the whole website.

I think he is only the second DHSB student to achieve this and the youngest - very well done!



All staff seek to become even better

Mr Mitchell Receives a Special Award

Commodore Coulson joined students at one of our regular armed forces family breakfasts and, as a surprise, presented a special Naval Base commendation to Mr Mitchell who has organised and led the breakfasts for several years.

He said, "It's a real pleasure to present this commendation today. Being a Service parent away from your children is often difficult but it is just as challenging for the parents and children left at home. I have seen at first hand the contribution that Mr Mitchell makes to the welfare of Service children. Knowing there is someone looking out for their welfare is a huge help. This commendation is just a small way to say a very big thank you on behalf of Service children and parents at DHSB".

Around 100 DHSB students have a close family member who is currently serving or who has recently served in the Armed Forces and the breakfasts, arranged each half term by Ms Taylor our Family Support Advisor, are a great way to make connections and provide support for the students.

The breakfasts are informal and provide an opportunity for Mr Mitchell to talk to the students, welcome any newcomers and ask if anyone has a parent who is away at the moment. He usually includes a quiz and other activities that will bond the group and get students talking with others in the same situation.

This is light touch and is offered over and above the pastoral support provided by the school to all our students.

Our service family students value the support that Mr Mitchell gives; many who have moved through the school have commented that they appreciated the guidance that he offered during their time, and always knew that if they needed anything then he wouldn't hesitate to help.



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.

Table Tennis National Champions

Congratulations to our U13 team who took the national table tennis title last weekend at the Butterfly Schools Team Championships in Wolverhampton. The team defeated Wade Deacon High from Widnes 8 - 0 and both Reading School and Altrincham Grammar School for Boys 6 - 2.

Team members are Oliver Cunningham 8N , Leo Nguyen 8N, Lucas Ceasar 8N and Hugo Nguyen 8C.



Mr Campbell, Enrichment Coordinator, said: "From the very start of our journey to the final, the team conducted themselves incredibly well and are a true credit to the school. The standard of table tennis they played throughout this tournament has been a joy to watch".

Hugo added, "I feel extraordinary and very rewarded about winning. We were quite nervous at the start and we kept fighting and started playing better."

Devon Cup Double winners

We were delighted to take the trophy in two Devon Cup finals - well done to the Year 9 and Year 10 teams.

Mr Bunney said, "Huge congratulations and well done to the DHSB Year 9 football team - they have been a pleasure to work with this season and what a great way to end it".



Mr Manley said, "I'm extremely proud of the Year 10 boys who beat Torquay Academy 1 - 0 in the Devon Cup Final".



Physics Society

Well done to members of the DHSB Physics Society pictured here receiving their certificates for the British Physics Olympiad Senior Physics Challenge. The challenge involved opting to sit an additional exam of challenging multi-step problems in physics.

Our Physics Ambassadors led preparation sessions during recent Physics Society meetings and 6,900 of the country's best Year 12 physics students entered the competition.

Dr Colville said, "Tom Dobby's Gold Award places him in the top 9%, while Ronald Buckingham's Silver Award places him in the top 19%. The next stage in the competition is round one of the team selection for the International Physics Olympiad which is taken by Year 13 students in November".

Congratulations to all taking part.



Duke of Edinburgh Award update

Very well done to students who have recently gained their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Mr Huq and Mrs Huq, who lead the DofE Award at DHSB, were invited to attend the presentation at Buckingham Palace, along with 17 former students. We extend our warmest congratulations to them and to all who have gained their Gold Award, this is a fantastic achievement.

Gold Award Holders

Ruby Westhead, Preet Pradeep, Tom Payne, Isobel Ambler, Finn Coleman, Katy Gaston, Molly Gath, James Heard, Thomas Hughes, Freya Moxham, Tobias Leung, Isaac Lee, Joshua Moyse, Ben Payne, Victoria Salter, Catherine Zhang, Oscar Wooding.



Ten Tors

Many congratulations to students who completed the Ten Tors Challenge. Thank you to all the staff who have supported these teams.

At Ten Tors, our 35 mile team were the first students back out of 261 teams, and our two 45 mile teams finished third and fifth out of 110 teams.

This comment from a parent sums up how we feel, “Just stunning. Amazing groups of lads, awesome teachers. Thank you so much”.



35 team - Zeb Fellows 10W, Jacob Long 10N, Doug Richardson 10W, Tom Robbins 10P, James Rostron 10S, Tai Barrett 10N



45A team Tom Brown 11N, Ben Carty 11S, Ben Richardson 11S, Schaefer Mann 11S, Rick de Wilde 11S, Solly Hunter 11S



45B team Will Goldstone 12RNC, James Parsons 12RFP, Rhys Cunningham 11S, Isaac Reid 11S, Archie Chalk 11S, Frank Poynton-Duke 11N

Equally impressive is the number of students who took part in the Ten Tors Challenge with organisations outside school. I invited them all to a special breakfast so I could congratulate them and catch up with their stories from the weekend.

Antony Bartolini 11S, Ben Wagstaff 10W, Billy Carlton 11N, Braden Toms 11N, Bruno Blake 10W, Daniel Keyes 10P, Giles Padhi 9N, Haydn Keast 10W, Jack Benzie 9E, James Rostron 10S, Joseph McDermott 10W, Matthew Chapman 12RWO, Patrick Dunne 10W, Reece Goffin 11P, Sam Coates 10S, Seb White 9C, Tom Brown 11N.

The organisations include Truro Explorer Scouts, 187 Air Cadets, East Devon Explorer Scouts, Tavistock and District Youth Forum, River Teign Sea Scouts, Plymouth Explorer Scouts, 197 Air Cadets Plymouth, Air Cadets - Plymouth and Cornwall Wing.

Collaboration and community

Improve the consistency and clarity of communication to students, staff, parents and the wider community.

Whole school assemblies

We have been regularly sharing presentations and virtual assemblies throughout the year to a wider audience, this includes presentations for specific year groups, house and whole school assemblies. Here is the whole school assembly on Values from our Assistant Headteacher Simon Coombs. You can view the assembly here:

<https://youtu.be/X9jYsRnt5r8>

Mr Manley also led a whole school assembly and tutorial activity on the theme of sexual harassment.

These were the aims.

To raise awareness of what constitutes online sexual harassment

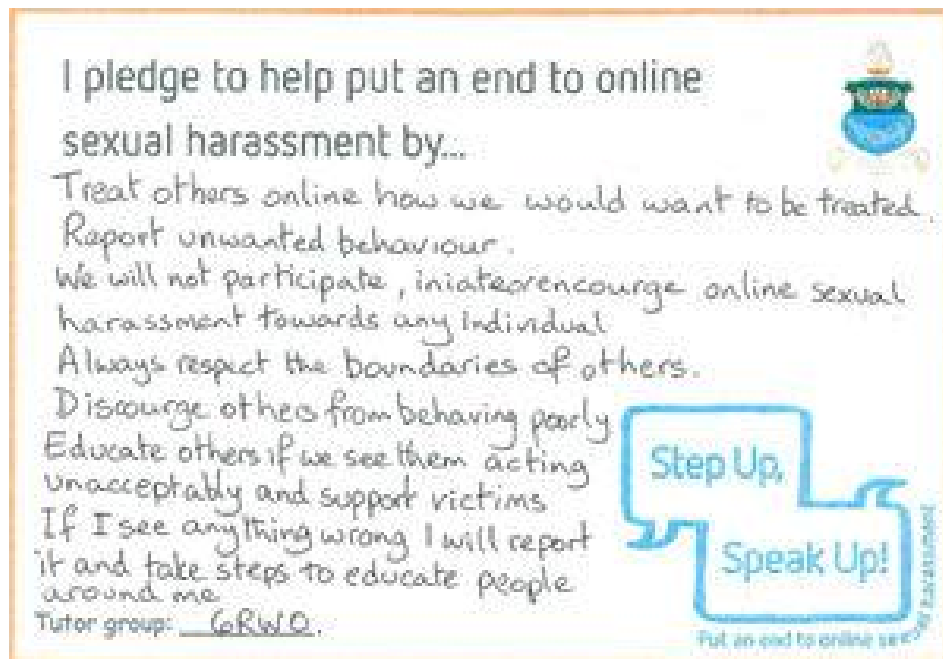
To signpost the available routes to report incidences of online sexual harassment

To highlight some of the perceived barriers that had been found to prevent victims and bystanders from reporting online sexual harassment

To remove these barriers and increase confidence in reporting incidences of online sexual harassment.

Each Tutor Group finished the session by making a pledge to state what they could do to put an end to online sexual harassment.

This is an example of a completed pledge card, written by Mr Orkney's Sixth Form tutor group.



PHSEE weekly sharing via the Head's Blog for parents to engage with their children

Here is an example from a recent week:

The Year 7 tutorial this week covered part four of the Emotional Logic sequence of lessons. This covered various strategies for dealing with emotional difficulties; bargaining, acceptance and SMART planning (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely) and is a way of planning a definite "moving on" following a difficulty, by planning specific thoughts and actions.

Year 8 students looked at the power of kindness, including how the act of being kind to another person not only obviously benefits that person, but can actually make a very positive contribution to our own mental health. What acts of kindness have you performed this week? Why not try another one?

Year 9 students are the first to hit the exam timetables, with their in-school exams next week. Especially in light of the past two years they have had regular sessions regarding different ways to make study and revision more efficient, so this session was a recap with some final suggestions to try. The exams will be held in classrooms with students sat in alphabetical order and exam conditions as it is important for them to get used to these procedures before GCSEs.

Year 10 students have been considering risk awareness by discussing what makes something risky and how any inherent dangers might be alleviated. The lesson includes some discussion around drugs, and also how research has shown that the teenage brain is more inclined towards risk taking than those of us who are more mature.

Year 11 gear up for their final few weeks before GCSE exams they were able to undertake some revision, or alternatively begin a course from Eton College on critical thinking. We have been given free access to this course (called EtonX) which is normally a paid-for experience, and it is certificated on completion, potentially providing a useful supplement to a CV or personal statement. We have had good feedback from students undertaking these courses in previous years, and they could provide a welcome distraction from, but also a supplement to, revision over the next month or so. Once registered, students have a year to complete the course.

Sixth form - students were invited to attend the alumni event organised by Ms Moreton, along with students in Year 10 and Year 11.

These are some of the messages shared this morning:-

- Know you're lucky
- Network with others (people know people)
- Fail and learn from failure
- Appreciate what you're offered
- It's never too late
- Embrace decision making
- Get a part time job while you are at school
- Create goals but be willing to change them
- Enjoy these years of your life with your friends
- Unexpected things happen and these setbacks generally change your life for the better because you adapt!
- Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts. (attributed to Winston Churchill)
- Invest in people with your time. You are genuinely giving this as time is something you can't take back

Daniel Steel then gave our KS5 students some fascinating insights into a career developed overseas and working as a multilingual civil servant. Daniel is currently working more locally

as a Northern Ireland lead for resettlement of Afghan Refugees. Students were pleased to learn more about his experiences of working in Egypt Colombia, Afghanistan and London.



This week we also celebrated the community-minded and commitment to work-related learning achievements of individual students in a relaxed and friendly Easter tutorial for the end of term.

Celebrate success and further promote more positive recognition for all students and staff in our community

Before we broke up for Easter and last week for the end of the summer term, our Heads of Year delivered our termly celebration assemblies. This was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate outstanding behaviour, committed and attendance. Each form group also had a student of the term, who were all given an Easter Egg to recognise their efforts. Mr Manley said, "There was a wonderful atmosphere and it was great to see so many smiling faces".



Creative & entrepreneurial spirit

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

We are pleased that due to the lifting of Covid restrictions we have been able to reintroduce many additional opportunities for students. The Rock Project new collaboration between our school and this local business is a great example of this.

Mr Adams said, It was wonderful to have such a great turn out to our first Rock Project club learning how to set up the kit and already sounding impressive”.



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

Greenpower racing competition

Following a three year break due to Covid an all new DHSB Team Avanti travelled to the Predannack Airfield, Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall.

Jack Benzie, Ben Wotton, Seb Brook and Jonah Struthers from Year 9 have been improving the electric car since the start of the year and worked as the pit crew and mechanics.

Jake Bassett, Daniel Morley, Charlie Long and Ashley Kirkpatrick from Year 7 were the drivers.

In the first race our car finished 11th but after some good team work and quick changes to the car, we managed to finish 8th in the afternoon race. A very successful and enjoyable first race for the new team.

Thanks to Mrs Flack, Mr Brown and Mr Ames who accompanied the students.

