

# Dormers Wells High School

**MATHS, COMPUTING, APPLIED LEARNING  
AND LEADING EDGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents & Carers,

24<sup>th</sup> March 2015

I am writing to you as our spring term comes towards its end, and what a busy term it has been. Year 11, 12 and 13 students are all purposefully preparing to meet the challenge of the examinations season which begins in earnest just two or three weeks after we return from the Easter break.

Students and staff are, as always, working very hard with the focus now very much on the summer public examinations, which draw ever closer. The outcomes of the Year 11 practice exams have helped students to focus on what further they need to prepare for over the forthcoming weeks. In order to support students as much as possible with exam preparations, there will once again be a programme of revision classes taking place in school over the Easter holidays. Personalised letters have been sent home giving full details of the sessions which your child is required to attend. I am indebted to all the staff who will be leading these classes and would be grateful if you would please make every effort you ensure your child attends these important sessions.

Students in all year groups have been exercising their charitable selves raising huge sums of money to support charities in their work at home and abroad, including £900 raised for Outward Bound Trust. Mr Gorvin, our Head of PE, is actually running the London Marathon this year in support of this same charity. We salute his dedication to the cause and wish him every success as he continues training for the big event.

## Year 10 Mock Interview Day – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

As part of our Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Year 10 took part in a Mock Interview Day.

## Dormers 9 – Our Shared Language for Learning

Last month saw the launch of Dormers 9 to parents. The three elements of the Dormers 9 which have been our focus for this term were: effective questioning; high levels of challenge and active behaviour for learning.

We also have an on-going emphasis on promoting high levels of literacy. Please work with us to ensure your child reads daily and always produces work of the highest possible standard. All written work should be well presented and proofread.

## Accelerated Reader

We are pleased to announce that we have invested in Accelerated Reader (AR); a reading initiative we believe will make a huge difference to students' learning and enjoyment of reading. All Year 7, 8 and some Year 9 students have been enrolled on this program from the start of the summer term. AR encourages reading for pleasure and allows students to earn points for their reading too. It helps teachers, librarians and parents monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer which indicates that your child has understood what was read. AR gives children, teachers, librarians and parents feedback based on quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. As parents you will be able to log in and see what sort of books your child is reading. Parental support with reading is a crucial element in students making progress. Reading at home is strongly encouraged, and this reading will then be assessed via the quizzes which will mainly take place at school. According to research, children who read at least 35 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child should aim to set aside at least 35 minutes for reading every day. We will shortly send you more information about Accelerated Reader and also details about how your child can log in to the system.



### **Options**

Last week Year 8 & 9 students attended interviews with senior staff in preparation for their options choice. It was great to see so many parents attend the interview with their child and their feedback about this important event was very positive.

### **Governors**

Following the information circulated last month, I am pleased to inform you that two parents have been appointed as parent governor representatives on the School's Governing Body for a term of four years. We are delighted that there will be increased parental representation and we welcome Sajida Bibi and Andrew Whitfield to the Governing Body.

### **The end of term and beginning of next term**

This term ends on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and on that day we will be teaching students as normal through periods 1, 2 and 3 and they will then be dismissed in an orderly fashion so they are leaving school by 12.30pm. Next term starts on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 8.45am (Week 1).

With best wishes for the Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Walsh', written in a cursive style.

Ms Róisín Walsh  
Headteacher