

# Dormers Wells High School

MATHS, COMPUTING, APPLIED LEARNING  
AND LEADING EDGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms R. Walsh B.A.Hons M.Sc.

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17<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

The year has started with a positive bang. We have welcomed 240 Year 7 students who have settled in very quickly, learning our routines and finding their way around Dormers Wells High School. Last year's Year 13 students did very well in their A Levels and almost all are off to begin their university careers. Year 11 GCSE and BTEC results were very good and I am pleased to report our best results in 3 years. 58% of pupils have achieved the important benchmark of gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C.

The national press had been warning that, because of recent government changes, schools could face "turmoil" in their results this year. They also warned of "top grades falling to an eight-year low". We are delighted therefore that our results have shown improvements:

40% of all entries were A\*-B

63% of all entries were A\*-C

Eleven subjects were above or matched the national average including mathematics, biology, computing, geography, history, health and social care.

## New School Day

My aim is always to create the best learning environment and opportunities for Dormers Wells High School students. You will remember my letter last year, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015, about our new school day. I am pleased to report this has been very successful thus far and we are seeing a student body who are more settled and alert with more learning in the morning.

We have also introduced a pastoral programme which takes place in the first 25mins of the school day. This programme is to encourage our students to read, improve their literacy skills as well as setting targets across the fortnight. I am pleased to report this has been very successful and all students and teachers are engaging with the programme. I look forward to reporting the impact of this next term.

## Dormers Wells High School House System

You will have noticed your child has returned home with a new lanyard which is a different colour and includes the words:

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Invictus | Strength through adversity |
| Magnus   | Strength                   |
| Laurus   | Success/Victory            |
| Altius   | Higher                     |
| Citius   | Faster                     |
| Fortius  | Stronger                   |



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This is our new house system. The house system will allow students to develop the following skills:

- Student Focus; each student treated as an individual – not just one more student in a large year group.
- A caring, supportive environment; each student becomes a valued member of a small 'family unit' within a larger 'family' within the whole school.
- Respect, consideration and courtesy.
- A well-ordered, stimulating and enjoyable atmosphere in which deep learning and effective teaching can flourish.
- Positive self-esteem amongst students and value of the ethos of the school community.
- Equality of opportunity and encouragement to realise an individual's full potential.
- Building of an individual's strengths within a group and bonds with other students of all ages.
- Promotion of the 'Student Voice', Student Responsibility, Team skills, Leadership skills and Co-operation.
- Extra-Curricular activities which enrich, broaden and round off the experience of our students.
- Development of personal and social skills and well-being.

## Parental Engagement

If you have a concern about our ways of working there is a procedure to follow and details and assistance are available from the school office or online from the school website. Of course, we also like to know what you think is going particularly well, so please also try to tell us about those things! A short note or a telephone call is always appreciated.

Copies of letters and other information are available on our school website [www.dwhs.co.uk](http://www.dwhs.co.uk) so do please visit it periodically.

One of my key priorities this year is parental engagement. This will begin this week with a Year 7 and 12 Focus Evening. This is an opportunity for those parents to meet with me, the Head of Year, tutors and many other key staff.

## Dates for 2015-16

Attached to this letter is a list of term dates for the school year and events for this term.

I hope the term goes well for you and your children and that we get to see you at one of our many school events that will take place at this time and throughout the year.

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Roisin Walsh  
Headteacher



Moths & Computing



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a project supported by the DCSF through CLT



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



SPORT ENGLAND



Healthy Schools



Enquiry School Creative Partnerships



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QUALITY BASE



INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION  
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