

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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Dear Parent/Carer,

INTRODUCTION FROM THE NEW HEADTEACHER

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as the new Headteacher of Dormers Wells High School and to welcome you to what I am sure will be a very busy and exciting year ahead.

I am joining Dormers Wells High School as its new Headteacher, having spent the past 6 years as the Deputy Headteacher of Park High School in Harrow. Previous to that I worked at Phoenix High School in Shepherds Bush, as an Assistant Headteacher for several years.

I was certain from my first impressions of the school, during interview, that Dormers Wells High School was the right choice for me as a Headteacher. I was immediately impressed by the warm welcome that I received as a visitor to the school. Later, upon meeting many of the teaching and support staff, I was impressed by their highly skilled and professional approaches to teaching and learning and their dedication and commitment to their students. The students themselves, who I had the pleasure to meet, were inquisitive, engaging and generally proud of their school. Finally, for me, the governors' demonstrated clear levels of support and challenge, mixed together with high ambition for their school.

I am therefore very proud to be the new Headteacher of Dormers Wells High School, and to leading what I believe is a school with huge potential. I am determined to secure an outstanding future for the school. I have the very highest expectations of all the staff and students, and it is my intention by working together, to raise standards in every area, helping all students to achieve their full potential.

As part of our drive to raise standards, I would like to request your full support as parents/carers in ensuring that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for the day ahead. In particular I would ask that students wear their Dormers Wells High School uniform with pride at all times, both in school and on the journey to and from school. Students should wear their blazers, with shirts/blouses fully buttoned and tucked into their waistband, with ties attached correctly at the collar. Shoes should be black leather, with no canvas material permitted. As we approach the winter period, students are reminded that only dark plain outdoor coats are permitted, to be removed before entering classrooms. Hooded tops or other sporting type jackets do not form part of our uniform policy and students are therefore not permitted to wear them. Those items may be confiscated for parents to collect, if worn.

In addition to smart uniform it is essential that students are fully prepared for their studies each day, with them checking their planners each evening to ensure that they have all of the necessary books, equipment and home learning for the following day. As a parent/carer you are encouraged to check and sign your child's planner regularly in order to monitor progress, check on home learning assigned, and to maintain communication between home and school.

One of my key objectives for the school this year is to build upon and improve student progress and attainment, and I therefore wish to focus on all aspects associated with learning, eliminating distractions and disturbances. A particular distraction to learning is that of mobile phones, I-pods and MP3 players, and I would like to request the support of parents/carers in reminding their child that these items should not be brought to school. Students who abuse this rule may have the item confiscated and stored safely for parents to collect.



In terms of attendance, I am required to inform you of an amendment from the 1st September 2013 to 2006 Education Act (Pupil Registrations, England, Amendment, Regulations 2013) which instructs Headteachers not to grant any leave of absences during term time, unless in 'exceptional circumstances'.

As well as introducing myself and setting out my expectations for the school in this letter, I would also like to report to you the achievements of last year's students. 97% of all Year 11 students achieved 5 or more GCSE or equivalent passes, and 44% achieved 5 or more including English and mathematics. 88% of our A Level students achieved three or more A-Levels, a 6 percentage point rise from the previous year. Many of our students have gone to study a range of subjects at University; including one student reading Law at Cambridge.

I look forward to meeting you all as parents/carers over the course of the year, and to working in partnership with you to achieve a highly successful outcome for your child.

Yours faithfully,



Ms R Walsh
Headteacher