

School Development Plan Update June 2023

A reminder that our school strategic priorities can be found here:

<https://www.dhsb.org/school-strategic-priorities>

An overview of our current school development plan and updates on previous plans can be found here:

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

1 Students achieve their highest academic potential

Expectations for excellence in the classroom and outside the classroom

Excellent Work

We continue to publish Excellent Work in the Head's Blog each week to show the diversity and excellence of what students are doing. The example below is from February and is from Miss Hunns and her Year 9 Food technology class.

Thank you to Ms Hunns for sharing these examples of Excellent Work from Food and Nutrition.

Pictured are Year 8 students proudly showing off their bread rolls, made in an hour.

This was the group's first practical since Year 7 and they showed new confidence building on their skills. All the students in the photos took time to divide their dough into six equal rolls and then shaped them into a range of different shapes including plaits, cottage loaves, cob and many many more.



Year 9 students have been looking at the nutritional needs of teenagers.

Ms Hunns has shared these photos of Sushi made by Joe Dennis 9W and Halloumi Souvlaki Pitta made by Jack Lynch 9C.



Both Joe and Jack worked independently to create imaginative dishes, presented to a high standard which met the needs of teenagers, they justified the nutritional benefits of each of the dishes in their theory work.

This week Year 9 students produced well filled quiches, which were golden brown with no soggy bottom to the pastry. Excellent outcomes which I am sure would be welcomed at any Coronation Party.

Here are the royal quiches made by Khusal Ghimire 9W, Kieren McLaughlin 9S and Nathan Harvey 9C.



Language

Mr Coombes led a whole school virtual assembly on language.

His presentation is available here for you to view at home.

<https://youtu.be/Zg-TcVomR6I>

2 All staff seek to become even better

Teaching and learning and continuous professional development

Trustees attending the Education and Outcome committee meetings in April and June listened to presentations from Jack Winstone on teaching and learning and progress made regarding staff development.

These have also been shared with parents and students through assemblies and in the Head's Blog.

[Link to Teaching & Learning website](#)

3 Embracing inclusion and diversity

Amnesty International



The whole school heard a thought-provoking assembly on the subject of Amnesty International from Mr Macleod and a group of students, covering refugees and the current Sudan Crisis amongst other humanitarian issues.

Mr Macleod said, "The main focus of this week's assembly was the idea that there isn't 'Just another refugee' but that all refugees are individuals with a personal story to tell".

He added, "The other focus was how individuals can work for a fairer, more just world, using the example of Martin Luther King's 'The arc of the moral universe' speech to show that change might be slow and the process long but everyone, in their own way, can help to achieve justice. We looked at cases ranging from refugees from Nazi Germany to child soldiers from Darfur, refugee football teams in the UK and the worsening situation in East Africa following the outbreak of violence in Sudan. We also considered the way music has bound together people from different countries, faiths and cultures showing ultimately that we all have shared values, dreams and rights".

A huge thank you to Mr Scott and Noah Evans for helping to put together the assembly which is linked here for you to view at home.

[Link to assembly](#)

Celebrating success

House news

In May we had the launch of our new Houses@DHSB site where all house updates will be shared.

A big thank you to Miss Cunningham, Head of Houses and Community, who has created the website in collaboration with the House Captains. The purpose is to allow all students and parents to see what is happening within the House system and to celebrate all the students who contribute in lots of ways.



Miss Cunningham said, "The website has information about the many areas our Houses influence at school, and the development of the House Dashboards is something we are very proud of; here you can see the unique profile of each house. There is information about all our prefect roles and ambassador opportunities, plus links to academic and sporting competitions which feed into the contest for the St Levan Shield".

We hope this will be an area of the site which will showcase the best of our Houses going forward. It can be found on the School Life tab on our main site or accessed directly at this link.

<https://houses.dhsb.org/>





Also in May our House Captains delivered virtual assemblies to their Houses. The theme was Social Responsibility and there were a number of interpretations described to the students, ranging from corporate social responsibility through to individual social responsibility, including suggestions for a number of really practical and achievable ways to adjust daily routines to be more socially responsible.

In addition the captains announced which song had been voted the new House Song and celebrated some of the achievements from individuals in their house.

These are the chosen House Songs:-

Campbell - Don't stop believin'

Edison - Never gonna give you up

Newton - Don't stop me now

Priestley - Happy

Smeaton - Mr Blue Sky

Winstanley - Heatwaves

Each house was given an update on the house competitions which currently sees Smeaton in the lead overall.

4 Leadership and communities

All students get diverse cultural experiences.

Create a DHSB Arts Award to encourage engagement with extra capacity for creative performance and clubs

Ensemble evening

With over 80 students involved we saw performers of every different style and experience in a showcase of Music and Drama, and a wonderful prelude to the entertainment with an Art display and electronica music and visuals in the foyer bar.

All students from Years 7 to 13 showed us both technical and expressive accomplishments in performance, and the joy and pride in Creative Arts when work is produced after hard rehearsal.



Gig on the green

A gloriously sunny day just before half term meant that we had around 45 minutes of excellent outdoor entertainment from our school bands and solo artists from Year 7 to the headline act - almost 'Muse' in Year 12.



In June we enjoyed a first class evening at Stoke Damerel Church as soloists and ensemble groups treated us to a summer recital.

With canapes made and served by students it was a delightful evening enjoyed by all who attended.





Increase and revitalise the extracurricular offer and trips/experiences

Curriculum Enrichment Week (CEW)

It was brilliant for students and staff to experience international visits again, during CEW, we had 9 Residentials taking place with 430 students away for the week - Iceland, Italy, Malaga, Snowdonia, Manchester, Surfing, Bushcraft. We also had 54 Daily activities throughout the week involving 285 students.





Sporting opportunities

Football

Congratulations to our Year 7 football team who lifted the Plymouth Cup, taking first place in the schools' competition by winning the final match 2 - 1 against a strong side from Hele's School.



Congratulations to the Year 10 team who retained the Devon Cup after a strong performance in very wet conditions on Tuesday, and commiserations to Exmouth.



They also completed the season by winning the Plymouth Cup final against Eggbuckland School.

Mr Bunney said, “The Year 10 football team beat Eggbuckland in the Plymouth final this afternoon to wrap up a long but brilliant season. Plymouth and Devon Cup winners plus National Cup Quarter Finalists - an incredible achievement”.

Well done also to the Year 9 team who finished as runners up in the Plymouth Cup after playing against Eggbuckland in the final on Wednesday.

Mr Campbell said, “The whole of the DHSB team should be proud of how hard they battled in today’s match. To be the second best team in Plymouth is no mean feat”.



More good news this week for the 1st XI who have won the Devon Wednesday League division one title after beating a team from Plymouth University.



Huge congratulations to the Year 11 football team who won the Plymouth Cup with a score line of 3 - 1 against Coombe Dean in the final played on Friday afternoon.

Mr Manley said, "This was a fitting end to five brilliant years of football for our Year 11 team. Well done to everyone who played today and to everyone involved during their time at DHSB".

Pictured are the Year 11 team after this week's victory and when they started at the school in Year 7.



Athletics

Mr Carpenter reports, "Amazing performances across the board from students in the DHSB Year 7 athletics team at the Plymouth Super 8 athletics event this week. An overall win for the team - Leo, Ben, Michael, Tom, Owen, Max, Barnaby and Eldon in partnership with DHSG".



Ten Tors

Ten Tors is a challenge not a race and Dr Colvile has reminded me that our aim was to get four teams of six members across the finish line by the 5.00pm deadline on day two of the 2023 challenge.

However, it's a measure of the strength, quality of teamwork, navigation skill, planning and preparation that our 35 mile team was the first out of 400 teams to finish, one of our 45 mile teams was the first to cross the line at that distance, and our 55 mile team was the first to finish on their route.

In foggy conditions our 45 mile teams gave us a nail-biting Saturday evening as a diversion around a river crossing gave DHSB A only ten minutes to spare before Longaford Tor closed for the night, while DHSB B ran part of the way from Princetown to get through Middle Staple Tor with four minutes to spare.

This image shows the conditions at Longaford Tor on Saturday evening.



A huge well done and congratulations to all students who took part in our school teams and also to those who participated with organisations outside school.

Many thanks to all staff who have supported the teams both in training and over the weekend, and we are grateful to parents too for supporting team members throughout training and helping with the setup and dismantling of our base camp.

Everyone's contributions are much appreciated.

35 mile team

Seb Brook 10P, Otto Malm 10S, Noah Reid 10S, Iwan Sanders 10P, James Taljaard 10S, Seb White 10C (Team Leader), Reserve Tom Jane 10E



45 mile team A

Jack Hooper 12C, Will Jones, 12P, Jacob Prigg, 12C, Tom Robbins, 11P (Team Leader), Charlie Shuttleworth 12C, Sergejs Zimnikovs 12C



45 mile team B

Joe Fox 12E, Issy Hall 12N, Mohammed Maarfi 12E, Finbar Macdonald 12P (Team Leader), Marcel Marchewski 11E, James Saxby 12S, Reserve Theo Wilson 12P



55 mile team

Tom Brown 12N (Team Leader), Archie Chalk 12S, Rick de Wilde 12S, Schaefer Mann 12S, Solly Hunter 12S, Ben Richardson 12S



Very well done to these students who took part in the Ten Tors Challenge with organisations outside school.

Amelie White 12TGF, Tavistock Youth Forum, 55 mile team
Austin Mair 10P, 2377 Qqdn ATC AA, 35 mile team
Ben Bailey 13RNC, Mount Kelly, 55 mile team
Bruno Blake 11W, Menheniot Explorers, 45 mile team
Charles Hambly 10C, RAFAC, 35 mile team
Elliot Mair 10C, RAF Air Cadets, 35 mile team
Jack Benzie 10E, Plymouth and Cornwall Air Cadets, 45 mile team
Joe Goldstone 9P Devonport ATC 197 Sqn, 35 mile team
Matthew Chapman 13RWO, ATC Air Cadets, 55 mile team
Tom de Wilde 10S, Dartmoor Plodders, 35 mile team
William Marshall Roberts 10S, Dartmoor Plodders, 35 mile team

Senior Physics Challenge

Four Year 12 members of the DHSB Physics Society entered this year's Senior Physics Challenge, run by the British Physics Olympiad. All four received a Silver Award certificate and these were presented by Dr Colvile just before half term.

Rhys Cunningham's achievement just one mark off the silver/gold boundary places him in the top 10% of students entering this notoriously challenging test of individual problem-solving skills under examination conditions.

This year silver awards were allocated to the top 30% of entrants. Many congratulations to Rick de Wilde, Ben Grieve, Archie Chalk and Rhys Cunningham.



PSHEE experiences

We are extremely proud of the curriculum offer for PSHEE and we regularly share more details of what students are learning and the experiences they are having each week in the Head's Blog. Here is an example of what was on offer in one week in April; this illustrates the diversity of what students can engage with.

This week Year 7 students are completing session four of their Emotional Logic lessons which discuss how to make a plan; strategies; understanding bargaining, depression and acceptance; and SMART planning. Students have two final sessions of Emotional Logic which will be completed this term.

Year 8 students looked at loneliness and the power of kindness. Everyone feels lonely occasionally and we need to be able to deal with this ourselves to become more resilient, and also help others who may need our support.

Year 9 students had a session on study skills to help them prepare for their school exams (W/B 3/5/23 this year) which will take place in classrooms in exam conditions and Year 10 students used the Barclays Lifeskills resources to explore problem solving.

Finally this week, Year 11 students heard two speakers . Firstly Mr Berryman gave them an exam briefing with all the details and regulations they will need to follow for their GCSE exams, followed by presenters from the National Citizen Service who told them about a possible volunteering activity taking place over the summer break. For more info go to : <https://wearencs.com/>

Year 12 students had more opportunity to discuss their ideas of what steps they might take after A levels, enhanced by feedback from the Year 12 students who had attended the UCAS Fair at Westpoint on Wednesday,

Year 13 students discussed aspects of staying safe in emergency and dangerous situations as well as safety in transport and travel. They identified risk factors, guessed the statistics of various scenarios and checked when to contact emergency services.

Whilst some students attended a workshop for resilience and thriving in the exam period, others from both year groups had the opportunity to hear from CAABU (Council for Arab-British Understanding) in the theatre. Felicity Garvey gave our first Sixth Form live online presentation and interaction with the students through the cleverly set up camera system.

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

Junior Prefects

These students will work alongside the senior prefects.

Miss Cunningham, Head of Houses and Community, said, “This opportunity provides a great introduction into leadership and allows the junior prefects the chance to learn from our excellent team of senior prefects. The application process highlighted the wide array of skills these students possess already and developing these skills in this way can only benefit the wider school community. The Year 10 team will be in role until the end of the academic year and we will look to recruit some more willing young leaders after this, so if there are any keen Year 9 students, stay tuned”.

Mackenzie added, “Ever since I launched this project, I’ve been continually amazed by the eagerness and enthusiasm of the younger members of our school. It’s delightful to give a sense of responsibility to our new junior prefects and allow them to be role models for the rest of the school. They really epitomise everything the school is about: politeness, respect and a passion to benefit the local community”.

Our junior prefects are: Caleb Caleshu, Jack Chen, Harry Crocker, Isaac Davey, Tom De Wilde, Joe Hibbert, Isaac Lazenby, Austin Mair, Otto Malm, Archie Moore, Giles Pahdi, Jack Piller, James Taljaard and George Underhill.



SWAT Conference

The annual SWAT conference took place on Wednesday at Exeter University.

SWAT is the South West Academic Trust and is an association of grammar schools across the Southwest who come together to share good practice. We had a number of teachers making presentations at the conference and also a team of Year 12 students presenting to the SWAT education professionals.

The conference saw two keynote speakers, Peter Radford (Whole School Wellbeing) and Tamsin Frances (Executive Director of People, Strategy and IT at the Ted Wragg Trust) and a plethora of workshops for delegates to choose from.

Our students were giving a presentation about their experience with the Coachee2Coach scheme we have been involved in this year with Mayflower Community Academy. The students were very well received by all who attended and personified our school visions and values: intellectual rigour, leadership, collaboration, resilience, creativity and confidence with humility.



DHSB Primary Scholars

This term we launched a pilot scheme aimed at supporting Year 5 students with mentoring for the 11+ process. We prioritised disadvantaged students from local primary schools and matched them with an enthusiastic and welcoming group of Year 12 and Year 9 students as mentors.

Week one saw the students working on their maths skills while the parents were given a guided tour of the school with Mr Roberts.

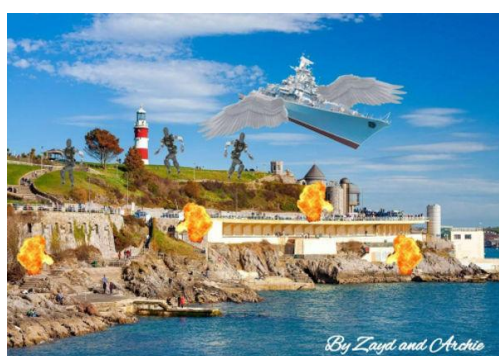
The second week we moved onto English and the creativity really flowed. We were treated to some fantastic creative writing as the students and mentors coaching relationships blossomed.

Finally this week saw the students engaged in an enrichment task in Computer Science, all about fake news and all students were given extra 11+ resources to take away with them to further their efforts.

This initiative has been very well supported by the DHSB community with teachers and students all giving their time, but it has also started to build valuable relationships with potential new DHSB students within the wider community.



This is an excellent example of the Fake News pictures created by the Primary Scholars this week.



5 Shaping our futures

Enhanced work related learning offer

Alumni Careers visits

Our Alumni visited DHSB recently, they inspired our students with descriptions of their paths from school to current careers. We are extremely grateful to all who took time out of busy lives to share their wisdom. Thank you to Will Reis, Callum Lyons, Steve McNeillie, Jackson Spry, Billy Fletcher, Jack Finlay and Andrew Breaks.

Some Year 12 and 13 students stayed behind to talk to the guests in more detail after the event. Thank you to Ms Moreton for organising such a useful and insightful experience.



6 Creative Spirit and Innovative Thinking

eSafety

In April, students in Years 7 to 10 attended year group assemblies looking at the potential risks of social media.

Heads of Year delivered a message around age restrictions and the advantages and disadvantages of different social media platforms.

Recently students have been looking at Artificial Intelligence and how it is increasingly becoming a part of modern life. The explosion of ChatGPT, for instance, has brought this kind of technology into a more purposeful context, with millions now using the language model to help solve problems, write computer code or even complete their homework.

In tutorial, students have looked at how it might evolve, the dangers of relying on chatbots like ChatGPT and next week think about how it relates to plagiarism. Ms Buckler has added the National Online Safety information leaflet to the folder on [our esafety pages](#):, but you may also find the following interesting:

<https://www.common sense media.org/articles/guide-to-chatgpt-for-parents-and-caregivers>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/22/well/family/ai-chatgpt-parents-children.html>

Develop a formalised digital literacy programme

Ms Davarian writes, “This week’s STEAM Blog entry is by George Cleeland-Smith 12SD who tells us more about the DHSB digital leader programme.

Digital Leaders - A whole school approach to digital skills

Ten years old this year, the Digital Leader team has morphed and adapted to the ever-changing environment both at school and with new advances in technology. Originally helping with IT support and Learning Commons management, Digital Leaders now do much

more... Digital Leaders offer an amazing leadership pathway for our students and a seamless IT support service for our community and can only be successful due to the simplicity of our Google ecosystem. Not only are Digital Leaders an incredible resource for the school, saving time and allowing technical staff to concentrate on infrastructure issues, but the experience gained and skills developed by the students who take part, further benefits the students involved whether that be improving their CV's or applying skills to their workplaces in the future.

So what are Digital Leaders? These are students who take on the role of the IT helpdesk staff and are able to have technical support tickets assigned to them... ...-

[Read more here](#)

