

School Development Plan Update June 2024

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

Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader

Each week we celebrate our highest performers in both Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader, two of our core homework platforms. We are proud of all of our students who complete their homework to a high standard but each week six students deserve a special mention. We also feature these students in the Head's Blog.



Excellent work

Thank you to Mrs Wright who has shared these examples of excellent work from her D&T Classes. Year 7 students created some brilliant boxes in DT last term. They all showed excellent skills marking and cutting their joints as well as finishing them to a very high quality.

Well done Year 7.



Also, Year 9 students have been practising their drawing skills and have produced some amazing point perspective pieces. Arley, Luke and Neel have their work proudly displayed on Mrs Wright's wall of fame with more joining them.

Excellent work Year 9.



3 Embracing inclusion and diversity

LGBTQ community group

At DHSB we strive for a tolerant and inclusive community and this week, students have been given a message regarding our new LGBTQ community group, meeting once a month from Monday 14th June at lunchtime in C12. All students are welcome to the meeting to find out more, meet other students who may be LGBTQ curious, or to offer support and friendship, empowering our young LGBTQ students to feel safe, and valued in our school community.



PSHE update

Mr Scott, our PSHE and Careers Lead said, "We were pleased to be able to work on our joint PSHE project with DHSG students today looking at misogyny, positive masculinity, respect, consent, and violence against girls. These are tricky topics but the session saw some very focused and valuable discussions".

Well done to all involved.



Sixth form tutorial update from April

With exam season fast approaching, both Year 12 and 13 had exam briefings first this morning to ensure they are all prepared and ready for their mocks and A Levels coming up in the next couple of months.

For Year 12 students, this was followed by a session on leadership, problem solving and creativity with their tutors. This session started with a discussion about transferable skills and leadership. They looked at leadership styles: from autocratic to laissez-faire and democratic, could they identify when each style might be more appropriate? The discussion then turned to creativity and problem solving where they considered how creativity can be both a relaxation tool and a huge merit in the workplace.

Alongside their exam briefing, Year 13 students had a session on what to expect from the summer term. The session was full of wellbeing advice, tips for achieving goals and practical things to consider for next steps.

Our medics and dentists were also lucky enough to have a visit from a newly qualified dentist who led a workshop on dental hygiene (which modelled skills they may deliver in their first year as medical students). She was also able to give guidance on securing work experience.



4 Leadership and communities

Ten Tors

Many congratulations to all our students who took part in the Ten Tors Challenge last weekend, including our school teams and those who participated with organisations outside school.



Many thanks to members of staff, volunteers and families who have supported students through their extensive training programme and to everyone who helped to set up the base camp yesterday.

A special thanks also to our PTFA who have provided a second mess tent which will make a big difference to our camp.



There were four DHSB teams of six this year with two reserves and, fuelled by Mr Guy-Fierens' legendary porridge served at dawn in our base camp, they assembled on the start line beneath a cloudless sky and an awesome display by the Red Devils parachute display team before the starting cannon fired at 7.00am.

Thank you to Dr Colvile who has shared this report of the weekend.

As the day progressed on Saturday, our students' thorough preparation became evident with not only their route planning supporting faultless navigation, but also their focus on keeping hydrated as the temperature and humidity continued to climb.

Early on Saturday evening, it was announced that all teams had been halted for 30 minutes to allow the Army to ensure it was safe to continue with such a large number of teenagers on remote moorland in such heat. Nothing was left to chance with only those who were declared 100% fit and well allowed to continue

Meanwhile, both our 35 mile teams had already reached the staffed locations where they had planned to spend the night and prepare for the second day of the challenge, and our 55 mile team also succeeded in covering enough of their distance and camp unsupervised after the checkpoints closed at 10.30pm, close enough to the finish to complete their challenge on the second day.

Sunday morning was even hotter, with supporters at the finish surviving by drinking iced water and being fanned by the downdraft of Merlin helicopters, so maximum respect to all the teams who were walking

carrying heavy packs in that heat. So we were pleased to receive reports of our 35 and 45 mile teams making steady progress towards us and very relieved when we spotted them through binoculars shortly after 11.00am.

Team 35B finished a minute before Team 35A (on totally different routes), with 35A more than an hour ahead of all the other teams on their route and 35B the second on theirs.



The 45 team crossed the line just after 1:00pm with over four hours to spare before the cut off time.



Meanwhile, the 55 mile team were still on target to finish before 5.30pm but with a trek out to the far eastern side of the moor and back over the steep slopes of Cosdon Beacon ahead of them.

They made the most difficult decision of all, to crash themselves out and consider attempting the challenge again next year when conditions may be more suitable for walking such a distance. The pain of partial success was lessened by their mode of transit back to base camp, and we were surprised to find a very excited group of five in the fallout cell saying, “We flew in the helicopter!”



We have received a dispatch from an officer in charge of one of their checkpoints, praising the team for their leadership, conduct, teamwork and care for each other as they made such difficult decisions that day.

“The bar for 55 mile teams is very high, as all 55 mile participants are by default, strong and capable young people. Team ZF from your school caught my attention. They arrived at Kes Tor in good order, with morale and had been carrying [a team member’s] bag for several kilometres, as he was injured. Team cohesion, followership and support for each other was excellent.”

Ten Tors 2024 will go down in history as one of the years (alongside those that were affected by snow drifts or torrential rain) when Dartmoor’s variety of May weather conditions led to one of the lowest rates of completion of the challenge, with dozens of teams being crashed out. We are therefore very proud of what all our teams achieved.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to all our students who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award this year.

Students have all taken part in four day walking and/or canoeing expeditions on Dartmoor, Brecon Beacons, Cumbria, Wye Valley or Slovenia. They also had to complete at least twelve months of volunteering; helping out at school, food banks, libraries, children's sports groups, mountain biking clubs, vaccination centres and scouts to name a few!

They also did at least six and twelve months in the Physical and Skill categories, showing real commitment to trying new activities and developing their skills.

Once complete, participants are invited to attend a Gold Celebration Event. Mrs Wills was lucky enough to attend the event at Buckingham Palace in May, and met some of our current and former students there.



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh made a speech and met the attendants in the garden, and we also heard speeches by a recent participant and the foreign correspondent Clive Myrie.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate our students' achievement!

Year 13 students

John Alvin
Daniel Boyns
Samuel Haws
Laurence Jenkins
Ayush Kunwar
Braden Toms
Amelie White

Former students

Owain Acharya
Edward Fox
Dominic Ambler
Murray Brown
Luke Chapman
William Hargrave
Joshua Hawkins
Henry Macdonald
Charlotte Nordmann
Rufus Sadler
Noah Struthers
Sebastian Whitford

Other Duke of Edinburgh News

We're delighted to share with you a certificate we have received which celebrates the impact of our students' volunteering placements.



Mrs Wills, our Dof E Coordinator, said, "The 2,977 hours represent the efforts of all our Duke of Edinburgh participants who have completed an hour a week of volunteering for three, six, 12 or 18 months depending on which award they are working towards. Examples of where they have made a positive difference are the Four Greens Community Trust, Moments Cafe, Dartmoor Rangers, Friends of Radford Woods, and Peverell Library. There are also students helping with younger sports teams, including football, hockey, tennis, horse-riding etc, and those that help at Park Run, Cubs, Beavers, or take part in litter picking in their local area, or help elderly neighbours".

It's lovely to read the student assessor reports at the end of their volunteering time, with so many positive and grateful comments. All the participants really are making a difference to their community, and should be proud of what they have achieved.

Here is just some of the feedback we have received, with a link to read more.

Voluntary placements feedback

Four Greens Community Trust

Highly recommend this student to any future voluntary placement and he is welcome back to Four Greens Community Trust at any time.

Drake Colts U9s Manager

This student has shown great commitment by always being present on both training and match days, giving up his own time to aid the U9s in their first steps into football. He has shown great leadership when coaching and supporting/ volunteering, being able to use his own experience to help better the progress and development of all players.

This student has been a great help and support to myself and the team. Showing great life values such as punctuality, kindness and a can-do attitude.

Moments Cafe

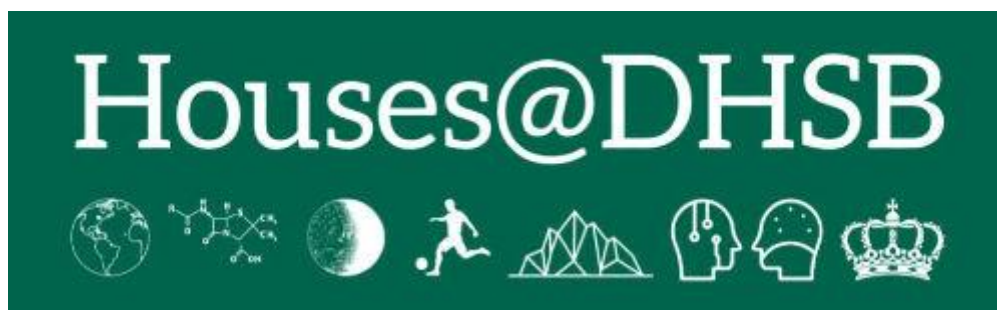
A Social Enterprise where all our profits go towards supporting Memory Matters, a local charity that helps people with dementia.

While here this student has grown so much in this time as a young adult and his social skills have grown exponentially during this time as well, so much so we have offered him a part time job here at moments cafe.

All students get diverse cultural experiences. Create a DHSB Arts Award to encourage engagement with extra capacity for creative performance and clubs

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

Houses Update



This week saw the culmination of our search for seven new house figureheads when our House Captains made the announcements in house assemblies.

There has been much discussion around the topic and students were eagerly anticipating the results.

The vote saw an overwhelming turnout with current students casting their votes for up to seven new figureheads. In addition staff and our new Year 7 students were able to vote.

Our House Captains had been fittingly entrusted with the results and the responsibility of the big reveal. The house assemblies were big occasions for our student leaders as standing up in front of over 100 peers can be daunting. They all demonstrated confidence and skill with their preparation and delivery.

All houses took a moment to acknowledge their current house figurehead, before delivering the news about the successor.

Smeaton --> [Attenborough](#)

Winstanley --> [Fleming](#)

New seventh house --> Johnson

Edison --> [Leslie](#)

Priestley --> [Scott](#)

Campbell --> [Turing](#)

Newton --> [Windsor](#)

We will say goodbye to our existing house names at the end of this academic year when the St Levan Shield is awarded and we are very excited about the house system moving forward in September.



Primary Scholars

We are proud to be open to students from all backgrounds and the Primary Scholars programme is just one example of the support we offer to primary school students.

The summer block of Primary Scholars started this week with our newest recruits.

Miss Cunningham said, "Lots of fantastic maths happening with some brilliant conversations between the fab Year 5 students and our wonderful DHSB students".



Increase and revitalise the extracurricular offer and trips/experiences.

PTFA

I just want to highlight the excellent work of our PTFA for providing fantastic opportunities for our students whilst supporting the school and raising funds for staff to bid for that directly have an impact on our students. Here is a recent update from our staff liaison Beverley Kinsella.

Over 500 students and volunteers filled ten coaches and had a fantastic day at Alton Towers last Saturday!

The excitement as they all set off at 4.45am was palpable!



A big thank you to all the volunteers - the trip can't go ahead without you.



Table tennis

Congratulations to our table tennis team who competed at the English Schools National Finals in May.

Mr Callicott said, "The team supported each other and fought hard to win games finishing in fourth place".



Football

Congratulations to our Year 11 football team - Devon Cup Champions again! This makes it three years in a row.

Well done and thanks to Mr Bunney.

Special thanks also to Torquay Boys Grammar School for all their efforts to get the game on and for their battling to make it a tight match.



The Arts continue to thrive and flourish

A big thank you to staff and students who produced such an amazing summer recital.

We've received many compliments including this lovely comment.

"The talent and commitment to music and such excellent performances, collective and solo, made for a much enjoyed evening. Great to see also the confidence and maturity of the students clearly well supported by your committed staff".



Curriculum Enrichment Week

Once again it is our exciting Curriculum Enrichment Week with so many students out on residential in the UK like Bushcraft and Surfing to international visits to Sicily, Paris, Barcelona, Malaga and Geneva.

A tremendous amount of day and week activities too. We will post photos and updates on X (Twitter) using our own hashtag [#DHSBCEW](#).

5. Shaping Our futures

Improving our internal and external environment through investing more resources and energy into achieving an excellent environmental and sustainable ethos towards a net-zero strategy.

Public use defibrillator

We are pleased to be able to support our wider community by installing a public use defibrillator outside the main school entrance.

This device is accessible 24/7 and is registered with [The Circuit](#), the UK's national network for defibrillators.

This has now been made live, meaning that 999 Call Handlers can direct and provide access information to those dealing with medical emergencies.

Pictured with the defibrillator are Eden Hingston, School Captain and Miss Marsh, our First Aid whole school lead.



Careers and Work Related Learning

I am pleased to report that we have achieved 100% Gatsby recognition, a testament to our school's unwavering commitment to excellence in careers related education. This achievement underscores our dedication to providing students with comprehensive guidance and opportunities to prepare them for their future careers.

The Gatsby Benchmarks, a framework of eight guidelines developed to ensure the highest standards in career education, are a gold standard for schools across the UK. Achieving 100% recognition means that we have met and exceeded all eight benchmarks, showcasing our exceptional ability to deliver high quality career guidance and support. Our success in reaching this milestone is a result of the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, enthusiastic students, and supportive community. Through a combination of engaging career talks, interactive workshops, and invaluable work experience opportunities, we have created an environment where students can explore their interests, develop essential skills, and gain the confidence needed to pursue their aspirations.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to everyone involved in making this achievement possible - in particular Ms Moreton who retired last summer, Mr Scott, Mr Manley, Miss Jensen and Miss Millman.

A huge thank you to all the teachers across the school offering opportunities to our students in their subjects to meet Gatsby benchmark four by adding interactions on Unifrog that helped us achieve our goal.

As we celebrate this milestone, we remain steadfast in our mission to continue providing exceptional career guidance and support to our students. Together, we will keep empowering our students to reach new heights and achieve their full potential.



6. Creative spirit and innovative thinking

Raising digital engagement

Digital strategy

Our digital infrastructure and tools play a key part in supporting our teaching and learning at DHSB.

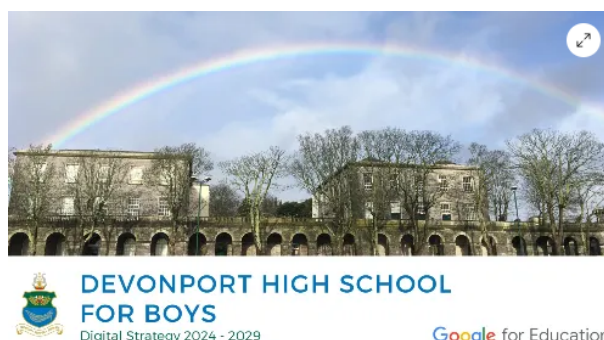
We want to stay ahead of the PedTech curve and Mr Berryman and Mrs Buckler have been working on a five year digital strategy (linked below).

PedTech is quite simply about putting pedagogy (the method of how teachers teach) rather than practice in the driving seat of digital technology in education.

This comprehensive digital strategy cements our position at the forefront of educational technology, earning recognition as a Google worldwide reference school since 2015 and shows that we are committed to moving forward.

We are dedicated to providing our students with the tools and skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

[Link to the five year digital strategy](#)



Best School Digital Transformation 2024

In a big week for school news we are also delighted to announce we are the winners of the Global Edtech Awards Best School Digital Transformation 2024.

This award is testament to the entire school community in embracing our digital strategy and working with Google Workspaces for Education.

We have been a Google Worldwide Reference School now for over ten years and have deployed new technology to support teaching and learning across the school site.

Thank you to our teachers, support staff, students, parents and all stakeholders in learning and developing practices to embrace new technologies.

Congratulations must go to Mrs Parkes nee Buckler who has been instrumental in applying for this award and training / assisting staff with the use of Chromebooks and Google products.

This has also supported the CPD programme run by Mr Winstone which has seamlessly allowed teachers to deliver 21st century teaching.

Thanks also must go to Mr Berryman who has led on a digital strategy to implement the new infrastructure which links in with the school development priorities set out by our vision for the school.



Nurturing inventive minds to solve the problems and seize opportunities of future socio-economic needs.

Crowdfunder campaign

The whole school community has come together to raise money for our Sport for All crowdfunder campaign. Today the school is in mufti to raise money for our gym upgrade. We also enjoyed fundraising activities in the lunchtime sun including a penalty shootout and a crossbar challenge.

Money raised will be used to transform the space into an up-to-date fit-for-purpose gym which will be used not only by the school but also teams, clubs and the community.

We will provide new equipment, and decorate and make cosmetic changes to bring the space up to standard.

We have successfully raised £40K in a successful campaign.

A special thank you goes to our PTFA for their generous support and continued work on behalf of supporting projects across DHSB. Without their help and support many projects will not happen across the school. If you can help or support this group then contact: ptfa@dhsb.org.



<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/fitness-for-all-1>

