



Devonport  
High School  
For Boys

*"Everyone Succeeds"*

DHSB Magazine  
2016



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# Devonport High School For Boys

# Editors' Message

Dear reader,

This is an account of what has been happened at DHSB over the past calendar year, written by the students who witnessed it. Our role as editors of this magazine has informed us of just how much is achieved each year at our school which, as you will read, is a large amount spread across a multitude of fields. You will find within this publication articles by talented writers who have been heavily involved themselves in what they report on, and so have the knowledge and interest about their subject to produce thoroughly interesting pieces. This has made our task of reading and organising very easy, although we have also learned a lot from this extra curricular opportunity; something which we are happy to note is a theme at this school.

It is impossible for us to pick out a single highlight of 2016. What we can reflect on, though, is that in our five years at this school we have only seen progress towards the goal of "Everyone Succeeds"; an effort which is determinedly taken up by members of our community old and new, and this year's progress extended our boundaries further than any previous year.

To those who have joined the school for the first time this year, let this magazine reassure you that DHSB will support any interest enthusiastically. Here you will find scientists, engineers, sports champions, bilingual speakers, poets, mathematicians, historians, writers, debaters, technicians, and even those fluent in Latin and Greek thanks to the invaluable Dr. Stears. They can succeed who think they can.

Time passes irrevocably; it is already exciting to think what will fill the pages of next year's magazine, but for now, enjoy the recollection of 2016, and appreciate the amazing achievements and breadth of the DHSB community.

Kind regards, and with thanks to Mrs Corboy, Billy Kingdom and Thomas Cooper,



*Scott Grieve and Alex Sells*

# School Updates

## 6th Form Centre

DHSB regularly accommodates over 300 KS5 students, and so the sixth form centre is an extremely important and frequented facility. Students use the space for pursuing independent and collaborative study as well as for socialising. Due to the generous donations of a DHSB old boy and the PTFA, the centre underwent a transformation during the summer of 2016, which has enhanced its capabilities as a communal workspace. The designer of the new look was Mr. McConnell, our estate manager, who has provided sixth formers with what has been described as a 'coffee shop' style space.



Part of the project's ingenuity is the installation of soft seated chairs and coloured carpet tiles which provide both comfort and an effective way of dampening sound. In addition, action has been taken in the form of easily rearrangeable tables to facilitate collaborative learning and social interaction on any scale. Students have been particularly grateful for the changes to the peripheral areas of the floor plan including the introduction of sofas and armchair style seating.

Ms Davidson, very often involved with the school's post-16 population, said of the new centre "I am impressed with the way that so many of our students make use of the new space. They generally respond well when there are incidents of litter and appreciate the efforts of our cleaning team, to restore the layout ready for a new day, every evening. We now have #refuel6 leadership team who work alongside Ms Higgins to ensure smooth running of the cafe facility and though our sixth form is ever increasing in size, we are still able to gather for year group assemblies in the newly designed space. All of these changes engender the climate for learning and study that we wish to create for our older students to pursue excellence.



Once again, I would like to thank Mr McConnell, Mr Roberts, the anonymous benefactor and the PTFA for investing in us."

# The PTFA

The DHSB Parent, Teacher and Friends Association is dedicated to organising events that publicise and raise money for our school. The Association welcomes teachers, parents and friends of the school as members and any money raised by PTFA activities is used to fund grant requests from DHSB teachers or students. The PTFA organises a wide range of events to raise money and these include: Alton Towers Trip, Shopping Trips (usually to Cardiff in November and Bath in June) and an Easter raffle. We also provide refreshments at the Mock and 11+ Exam Days and at the annual School Production. The types of events can vary from year to year and we are always looking for fresh ideas. This year we launched an Academic Calendar for the first time (prizewinning contributors seen right) and we hope to come up with new fund-raising activities next year, so, if you have an idea that could help, please pop along to a meeting. The best part of our work is giving the money we have raised to benefit the school. In the past year we have been very pleased to approve an unprecedented amount of grants. Some of the grants we have made this year are:

- £1,500 to fund the building of a Greenpower Car
- £10,000 towards the refurbishment of the Sixth Form Centre
- £1,500 for 8 Vango Mirage tents for our Ten Tors Teams
- £7,500 for Chromebooks for the English, History and Classics Departments

As you can see, we have been very busy giving away money to lots of worthy projects throughout the school. This means that we will now need to do more fund-raising than ever this year so that we can fund more grants. Please help if you can by coming along to one of our meetings which are always held on a Wednesday at 6.00pm in the Conference Room; all the dates are listed on the School website (and on our calendar) and we will send a text reminder. We are a friendly bunch and would be glad to see you. Call or email Michaela Armstrong, our PTFA liaison at the school if you would like further information: [michaela.armstrong@dhsb.org](mailto:michaela.armstrong@dhsb.org)

Best wishes  
DHSB PTFA



# German Exchange



In Curriculum Challenge week a group of 20 of us, along with Frau Saunders and ex-teacher Herr Jones, went to Rheine in Germany, Nordrhein-Westfalen for a week as part of the school's annual exchange program. There we stayed with our host families and went to school with our partners. The other students enjoyed excursions to The Universum Bremen, Felix Nussbaum House Osnabrück and Rheine's NaturZoo, whilst I stayed in the school, Kopernikus Gymnasium, to fully immerse myself in German school life and so further improve my German language skills.

In the evenings and on Saturday we spent time with our partners and host families. I watched a German film with my partner one evening and on Saturday I went to see the Christmas Markets in Köln (Cologne). There I tried Bratwurst, Glühwein and Punsch, followed by a meal in a typical Cologne restaurant where I had for the first time Schweineschnitzel and a Kölsch. I can't vouch so much for what the others did, but I heard that some of them went bowling.

The exchange group also had a buffet in Mongolei, a local Chinese restaurant, with our partners on the Friday. Afterwards we did a quiz with chocolate or sweets up for grabs.

Overall, it was a great week and I would thoroughly recommend it to all learners of German.

*-Jonathan Dunn*

# School Productions

In February, the school's musicians and dramatists transported audiences to a land of munchkins, witches and emerald cities in the incredibly successful performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. Students from year 7 to year 12 took the opportunity to join the cast, band or crew, and ensured that this performance was better than any other show DHSB had ever produced.

Star performances came from Dorothy, played by Sydnee Ponsford, who performed a heart-warming rendition of 'somewhere over the rainbow', and her three companions: the



scarecrow, the tin man and the cowardly lion, played by Sam Pentecost, Alex Hoole and Henry Spencer respectively. With insurmountable support from the supporting cast, the performance left the audience bewitched and amazed. The show featured an extravagant set, with fabulous lighting and sound from the tech crew led by Max Timmins and Alfie Carlisle. Credit also to the backstage team, who worked tirelessly from auditions to show nights to ensure that the performance ran smoothly. A highlight of the show was Friday night's introduction by the stage manager, Liam Ward, in Dorothy's full costume.

Special thanks to the band, directed by Mr Newton, for providing excellent live music throughout the performance. The cooperation between the drama and music departments allows both actors and musicians to further their skills in performance; an opportunity which many other schools do not offer. Special thanks also to Mr Norris, who directed the performance, as without his vision, passion and determination I have no doubt that the musical would not have been a success.

I would like to finally speak directly to the students. The musicals have provided me with the opportunity to spread my wings at DHSB and develop a passion for performance, which I will retain for the rest of my life. If you are curious about taking part in the performances at DHSB, then I urge you to attend the auditions at the start of each school year. Through them you will meet so many new people, and develop skills you never knew you had, so do not be afraid to seize such a wonderful opportunity.

*Henry Spencer*

Here are the upcoming dates to watch for next year's performances:

**February 2017** - 'Joseph' starring Guy Wright in his first lead role

**March 2017** - Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' directed by sixth former Tom Showell, and starring your DHSB magazine writer and veteran actor Henry Spencer

# Technology Updates

From DHSB's resident computing journalist Yasin Soliman

## Virtual Reality in Work and Play

Since the 1960s, virtual reality (VR) technology has been hovering on the fringe of consumer technology.

As we come to the end of 2016, it's safe to say that VR has now taken wing.

Modern-day education is also poised to take advantage of the wonders of VR to engage and inspire students.



Early studies and conference presentations have hailed the successes of 3D immersion and VR technology in hundreds of classrooms throughout the U.S. and Europe. Educators have used VR tools to construct architectural models, create a deeply immersive sense of place and enrich interaction with students.

Google launched its Pioneer Expeditions Programme several months ago, bringing kits containing everything a teacher needs to take their class on a VR field trip. At the heart of the Programme are the inexpensive Google Cardboard viewers (under £20) which turn smartphones into VR headsets.

As one of the UK's Google Reference Schools, DHSB took part in a range of Pioneer Expeditions last month, organised by Mr Forte and Mr Shahin of the Learning Commons. The student feedback, overwhelmingly positive, was passed on to the Google team right away. While VR is still in early stages, there is huge potential for the future.

## Chromebooks, Chromebits and Chromeboxes!

You've probably heard about the Chromebook: a fast and streamlined computer which starts in seconds, offers thousands of apps and comes with built-in virus protection. Here at DHSB, we've witnessed transformational implementation of Chromebooks across every discipline.

Mr Berryman, teacher of Enterprise, discovered that learners are "more engaged and in control" of their learning, with the the unlimited Google Drive space freeing up slow and antiquated network resources.

He writes that the Chromebook's cost-effectiveness and feature set provides a

top-rate experience, ideal for a world where "technology and the way in which we learn is changing."

New google products are also set to be introduced at the school as well: the Chromebox is a compact yet powerful desktop-grade device, delivering a high powered Chrome OS experience ideal for ICT suites and laboratories; on the other end of the scale, the Chromebit measures just 12 centimetres long, and is one of the world's smallest Chrome OS devices – turning your monitor or TV into a fully functional computer.

We've got lots of exciting projects in store which actively incorporate Chromebit and Chromebox technology. Our in-house digital signage platform (the use of television screens to showcase media such as news, photos and Tweets around a campus) for instance, is currently in the final stages of development. We are harnessing portability to create a bespoke solution ideal for the DHSB community.

### **Enhanced Security: Protecting Our School Community**

According to the National Cyber Security Centre, two thirds of large UK businesses were hit by a cyber attack in the past year.

What's more, nearly seven out of ten attacks on all firms involved viruses or spyware. Closer to home, with educators driving transformational change through technology, we as a school must not overlook the risks that emerge.

At DHSB, we have made Enhanced Security a priority – with the whole school community on board. We recognise that DHSB Google Accounts hold a wealth of confidential information and have proactively implemented a range of measures, across the board. Phishing scams (and other forms of social engineering) pose a major threat to school environments, so we've enhanced a wide range of techniques and tools to inform, educate and mitigate.

Our in-house development effort has also grown exponentially over the past year. Homeworky and ePlanner are just two of the many excellent internal sites developed by our Digital Leaders and Learning Commons team. These web products have been created with the Secure Development Lifecycle at heart, ensuring that every byte of your personal data remains safe and secure. We've also taken steps to make a genuine difference to internal policy with the cutting-edge idea of Responsible Disclosure – recognising and rewarding students who report vulnerabilities sensibly.

Cybersecurity has come a long way over the past five years. I'm happy to report that we're on top of things. We will move forward with the times.

- *Yasin Soliman*

# Green Power Racing

The automotive industry: employer of 180,000 people in the UK and a sector that turns over £52.5 billion pounds every year.

The world: producer of 28 billion tonnes of CO2 per annum and losing 78 million acres of rainforest in that same time.

The Greenpower competition hopes to unite these two entities by allowing aspiring engineers across world to design, build and race electric cars driven by students to promote awareness and also to kindle a love of engineering in young people.

The brief is simple: You get 2 batteries and a motor, and must build a car that meets the extensive regulation list. The cars then race for 90 minutes and whoever goes the furthest distance is the champion.

A few friends and I began by seeing if we could salvage some useful parts from an old electric kit car we had lying around, but it quickly became apparent that if we wanted to enter, we were going to have to start from scratch.

And so began the emailing. The engineering firm Babcock were kind enough to send us a couple of their young employees every week to help us, and the PTFA were also incredibly helpful; we can't thank them enough for providing a significant sum of money to allow us to get the resources we needed.

We spent many weeks thrashing out ideas for the chassis - making designs on whiteboards, sheets of paper and finally on the computer until we had a rough concept that we could start manufacturing. We also developed systems to finely control the speed of the car as well as a telemetry setup to feedback data about the car to the pits. Building all of this was not all plain sailing, and we were rushed to finish the car before the first race at Newquay Airport.

In our first competition we exceeded all expectations by coming 4th and receiving the best newcomer award. This gave us the confidence that our car had potential to go far.



We had very little time to modify the car for the next race, but we did manage to shed some weight and install a new gear ratio to test out. Castle Combe Motor Racing Circuit was the venue, and we went in with sole target to beat the distance we managed in the previous race. We did just that and, to our immense satisfaction, ranked 44th in the world, qualifying us for the international final at Rockingham Speedway in our first season of racing.

Once again we had very little time to make many changes, and we spent most of our time figuring out an optimal gear ratio to install for the final.

The final was one hectic weekend. First we all drove up in one of the school minibuses with the car following in a rather luxurious horsebox before camping at the side of the racetrack. After a day of practice sessions were were into race day and we managed to rank 36th place, once again an improvement and allowing us to receive the best newcomer of the season.

The project has been an amazing learning experience, and I would recommend to any student to get involved with this challenge.

I'd like to thanks Mr Ames in particular for the work he did in organising us as a team and getting everybody in the right place at the right time. The engineers from Babcock also deserve our thanks for the essential help they provided.

We started with a simple goal: To build an electric car. We ended with an experience that we will remember for the rest of our lives.

- *George Irving*

# Curriculum Enrichment Week

Each year in June, DHSB offers its students a break from the school curriculum to engage in a broad selection of opportunities that are available, including sporting, educational and adventurous attractions outside the classroom. Students take on new challenges, and develop teamwork, communication and social skills, whilst having fun.

A whole host of activities are offered over the week, including: Animation, Football, Art, Basketball, Motor Vehicle Maintenance, Exotic Animal Care, Cooking, Crime Scene Investigation, Music, Fishing, Falconry, Fencing, Golf, Horse Riding, Climbing, Karting, Laser Wargaming, Paintball, Power Boating, and visits to Paignton Zoo, Eden, Fleet Air Arm and Woodlands.

There were also longer experiences away. Some members of DHSB went on a football and hockey tour to Barcelona; others went on a trip to Florence. Students also camped in Cornwall for a week's surfing, and some undertook the PADI diving qualification. Nearly all of year 7 spent a week in the woods doing 'Bushcraft', and a party of sixth form students visited the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva.

Being introduced next year are new activities such as a DJ performance and music development course, as well as code cracking and ice-skating days; providing an even greater variety of ways for students at DHSB to challenge themselves, and most importantly, have a good time.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Rasmussen and Mrs Donnelly for making the week happen.

- Andrew Bell



# Charity Activities

In 2015, the British public was rocked by headlines of wave upon wave of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe, with many finding their way to Calais. Numbers grew and conditions in the so-called 'Calais Jungle' deteriorated. A report from the University of Birmingham stated that conditions in the 'Jungle' were "diabolical, with cramped makeshift tents plagued by rats, water sources contaminated by faeces and inhabitants suffering from tuberculosis, scabies and post-traumatic stress." Clean, warm clothing was in short supply and finding food was a constant worry. Of the 6-7,000 people living there, over 600 were children, of which around 100 were reportedly unaccompanied. That is why, in late February of this year, a group of DHSB students decided to act.

We decided not to follow the regular pattern of raising money, which risked delays in getting support to those in need; we opted for a more direct approach. The plan was to appeal for clothing, food and equipment from the whole school to be taken directly to the camp. We were met with a literal



mountain of support, rendering Mr Macleod's Government and Politics

classroom unsuitable for any type of learning on account of the fact that students couldn't see their teacher for the piles of food and clothes. We were inundated with everything from six-man tents to boil-in-the-bag pasta, all very gratefully received. After hours of sorting, the total contributions amounted to 90 black bags full of clothes, 20 boxes of food and a large quantity of tents and sleeping bags. Students loaded everything into a van, car and trailer. Toby Morgan (a student in year 9) and his family delivered everything to a distribution centre in Calais over the February half term.

All of us involved were staggered to see the amount of support towards what was originally planned as a small-scale event. Toby told us of how the men, women and children in the camp were truly thankful for the compassion and aid shown to them, and assured us of the difference it made to them. We'd like to thank everyone who donated something for taking the time to help people in unimaginably dire situations.

Despite this, it is still a humanitarian crisis on an unprecedented scale, and work to aid refugees goes on.

- Thomas Showell

# Exam Results 2016

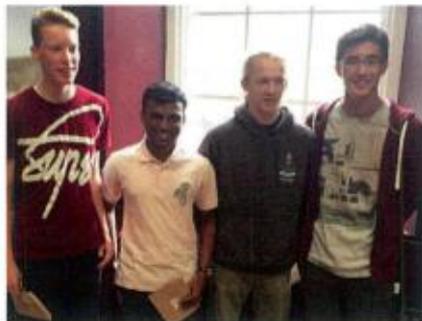
This year's results in both GCSE and A-level examinations continued to uphold the school's reputation for academic success.

The year 11s, sitting their exams after three years of study for their chosen subjects, finished lower school with 90% of students achieving at least 5A\*-C GCSE grades. On top of this impressive statistic, 43% of all GCSEs awarded were an A-A\* grade.

Many of these students were then welcomed back in September as members of year 12 in one of our largest 6<sup>th</sup> form communities yet, having secured the prestigious 48 point average score for their top eight GCSE results. They will continue their school life by working for two years towards their A level examinations. Other applied to different sixth forms to pursue their A levels, or continued their post-16 education by studying towards alternative qualifications, including a range of courses at Plymouth City College.



Year 13 also put in a strong performance at the end of their two year A level courses so that 63% of all A level grades were an A\*-B grade, and 36% of grades received were A\*-As. This calibre of success catalysed higher education for some students in internationally renowned institutions; amongst a multitude of university admissions 4 DHSB A level students were successful in gaining places at Oxford or Cambridge. In addition 9 students were able to accept offers to study prestigious courses in medicine. After another year of producing highly qualified students not only they, but also the rewardingly skilled DHSB staff must be commended for their efforts towards this end.



Congratulations all.

# Peer Mentors

This year, I have had the privilege of leading the school peer mentoring team; this was such a fantastic role to be given because the peer mentors are an integral part of our school. The peer mentor team is an independent student-led group, which works for the good of all students regardless of their house or their year group. As a team, it is our job to work alongside year seven form tutors to give the best possible transition for new students, from year six to year seven. We also run the year seven common room, which is an area open at lunchtimes for all year sevens to play games and relax, before their afternoon lessons. At several points in the year, we deliver PHSEEC lessons to both year seven and year eight students, which teach them invaluable life skills. Peer Mentors also provide a point of contact for students; if a student in school ever has any difficulties, they can always talk to a us.

Peer mentoring is important because it gives year ten pupils the opportunity to develop themselves, as well as helping other students. During the course of this year, I have seen the year tens grow in their leadership, communication and confidence.

The last academic year was a fantastic one for the peer mentors, which was thanks to the year ten team and the year twelve team. We ended the summer term with the year six induction day, and the year six parent's evening, followed by the year 7 induction day in September. We never had any problems getting the students to help with the events, demonstrating the team's incredible commitment. All peer mentors, when helping with these events, were extremely impressive, and showcased a wide range of their abilities.

We were also pleased in September, this year, to welcome a new year ten team, who so far have been extremely committed, and have all shown that they really care about their new role. The new sixth form team look forward to working with them in the future, and I have no doubt that together, they will do a stellar job.

It has been an extremely positive year of a leadership for me. The peer mentors are a team which I have thoroughly enjoyed leading this year. Acknowledgement, once again must go to Ms Moreton and Mr Martin for all of their hard work this year in supporting the team.



*Tom Cooper*

# Sporting Success

At DHSB, we don't just strive for excellence in the classroom—sporting achievements are an essential part of the school environment. Year in and year out, the students never fail to provide us with a wealth of sporting successes to choose from; this year was no different.



The Year 8 hockey team, pictured on the left, had a fantastic run. They won the Devon County Championship with flying colours. But they didn't stop there! The team stormed into the South West Championship and made it all the way to the finals - a sterling job lads.

Ultimate frisbee is a considerably new sport, albeit an ever popular one. And DHSB has not shied away from this, introducing it during P.E. lessons, giving students the opportunity to try it out. The school didn't stop there, they went as far as to nurture new enthusiasts of the sport and form some competitive teams. With an U17 A team (pictured to the right), an U17 B team, an U14 B team and an U14 C team there was certainly no lack of enthusiasm. Also, with some students competing for national teams, no lack of success either!





Badminton is always a popular sport amongst the students; a fan favourite in P.E. lessons. So it would go without question that we have plenty of achievements in the sport. The U19 team won the Devon Finals ( pictured to the left), and the U14 pulled off silver at the same event. A particular mention to Toby Leung, aged 13, who was picked to represent England in the U15 Home Countries

Quadrangular International event back in April. A very well done to all!

And finally, cricket. Cricket is an incredible sport that a lot of students shine in. The school's cricket teams fought valiantly in the indoor cricket county finals held in Exeter. With the U13 team finishing fourth after losing to Colyton in the play off by 50 runs. And the U15 team played superbly and were narrowly defeated in the final to gain their well-deserved silver position.



It is an injustice that we can't recognise the plethora of sporting successes that have occurred at this school; we could have probably done an entire magazine on them alone! This just goes to show how well DHSB supports our prospective athletes - both in access to sport and with great facilities ( of which Plymouth Argyle themselves made use of). We're very proud of every DHSB athlete and sports participant in the school.

# House System

A key part of any school is the house system, where else would you find such strong communities of people founded out of a desire for excellence and endeavour? Without the effort of you, these house systems simply would not exist. This is why it is particularly important that you familiarise yourself with how you can earn as many points as possible for your house and uphold this longheld tradition in the school.

For each area of the house system, points are allocated on a positional basis with the house that comes 6th earning 1 point and the house that comes first earning 6 points. While you are probably familiar with the concept of improving your house's standing by earning commendations, participating in Sport Day, taking part in sports such as Ultimate Frisbee and Orienteering and being involved in extracurricular activities such as the Maths challenge and DofE. House duty is particularly important as if all of your fellow house members also do their duty you earn double points towards the community award. House captains can also earn extra points for their house by organising events and competitions.

Best of luck with earning points! Remember, both endeavour and excellence are rewarded here at DHSB.

- Isabel Ingham-Trigo



# Message from the School Captain

Where on earth should I begin? Acknowledging all that has happened this year and thanking those involved is beyond the scope of a page's writing. Pride of place must undoubtedly go to the prefects. I'd like to thank the entire team for their efforts this year. The group was the largest yet, and each played their part with unwavering dedication. Their determination and quality at every occasion made me proud to be a part of the effort, and was the keystone in keeping DHSB's standards as high as ever. Furthermore, their efforts invited the admiration of staff, and after every event notes of thanks were received to commend them. I must also acknowledge the tremendous peer mentoring team, under the leadership of Edison Vice Captain Tom Cooper. The prefects and the peer mentors, though their roles differ, often appear at the same events. You might think, then, that the potential exists to step on each other's toes a tad, and you'd be quite right! I thank Tom for keeping me aware of the differences between the two teams, and (rightly) putting me in my place whenever I placed a prefect where a peer mentor's nuanced attention to the pastoral needs of the students was better placed. The peer mentor's efforts were instrumental in our success this year, and to them I extend my thanks.

Yet the student team of which I speak is still incomplete. The house captains this year were role models for years to come: active, engaged and fiercely competitive. These traits led to some genuinely interesting student-led assemblies, an unrivalled array of house activities at the summer fete and countless charity events being organised. They now relinquish their responsibilities to focus on their studies, with the caveat that they will be founts of knowledge and advice for their successors in 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Mitchell, Mr Martin, Ms Davidson, Mrs Nicholson, Mr Roberts and the leadership team, for their invaluable counsel. I have developed immeasurably as a result of their guidance and owe to them the success with which I was able to balance my academic work with my commitments as school captain this year.

I wish Henry Spencer, who succeeds me as school captain this year, the very best of luck. He is thoroughly deserving of the position he inherits. I am in no doubt that the new house captains and prefect team will do tremendously too.

Good luck to everyone embarking on a journey at DHSB this year: it really is the best place to be right now.

*-Joe Weeks, DHSB School Captain 2016*



# Headmaster's Update

*'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit'*

-Aristotle

As a community we have been striving to develop a real culture of excellence as our main focus this year. All of us, students and staff, are aiming towards our goal of ensuring that *'Everyone Succeeds'*. To achieve excellence you need to have the right growth mindset and put effort into everything you do. Our brilliant staff have been raising the bar once again and are raising their expectations of what students can achieve. We are looking at practical strategies of how to challenge students on a daily basis so that they can enjoy and achieve more than ever before.

We are regularly reinforcing to our students that if they want to score top marks at the end of the year then every homework or piece of classwork completed counts and contributes towards the end goal. There is an increased emphasis on redrafting and improving and acting on the feedback from teachers. We value the importance of high quality feedback and giving students the time to focus and apply the feedback to improve both academically and personally.

I am delighted to say that students and staff are responding extremely well to this and the evidence of improvement in the overall quality of work is clear.

As I write this update I am travelling on a coach from Amsterdam to Germany with twenty Year 8 students during our German exchange programme in Curriculum Challenge Week which I am pleased to say continues to go from strength to strength. Despite the turbulent world of politics the students are brimming with enthusiasm, ambition and determination to collaborate and develop long lasting friendships with our partner school's community. For me (escaping my office for a couple of days) it is a reminder of the wonderful opportunities that we provide at DHSB and even more so what fantastic boys we are helping to nurture and grow. The students are confident in themselves and within the company of others; and are principled with humility.

As always there are exciting times ahead for DHSB and this magazine captures just a small selection of the extensive and wonderful achievements of our students.

Do follow the website [www.dhsb.org](http://www.dhsb.org) and in particular please read my weekly blog and the school's Twitter feed (@DHSBoys) for updates during the year.

Prosum semper honeste

Dan Roberts



# Credits

The magazine this year called for contributions from many fields, and here we would like to thank these writers for their much appreciated work. We have included pictures on request.

In order of appearance:

Jonathan Dunn for his article about the German exchange, written only days after his return to the country.



Henry Spencer for his article on the school productions, written amidst preparations for the role of head boy next year.



Yasin Soliman for his article on technology, written during the development of DHSB's in house signage platform. Yasin lives and breathes cybersecurity, tweeting regularly as @SecurityYasin.

George Irving for his account of the greenpower racing competition.

Andrew Bell for his recollection of curriculum enrichment week 2016.



Thomas Showell for his article on the DHSB charity activities.

Thomas Cooper for his report on the peer mentors.

Isabel Ingham-Trigo for her interpretation of the DHSB house system.

Joe Weeks for his review of the year whilst representing the school as head boy.

Mr Roberts for his article, also written shortly after his return from Germany.



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*"Everyone Succeeds"*

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