

SDP Update March 2021

Here is the termly update on the progress we are making as a school towards our current priorities and to ensure that we strive to achieve our vision that ['Everyone Succeeds'](#)

We have targeted the most significant challenges since September and have formed our School Development Priorities which you can find here: <https://www.dhsb.org/sdp-update>

We don't report on every single priority each term but provide details of evidence of the areas that have been highlighted so far this academic year.

Students achieve the highest academic standards

Continued focus on raising the achievement of all students from their specific starting points.

As you will probably remember we regularly feature excellent work from students on the weekly Head's Blog, it is a great way to promote excellence and give students' learning a wider audience. It is also beneficial for all of our families to see what learning takes place in the school. Even in lockdown this continued, thank you to Ms Hunns our new Lead Teacher of Food Technology for sharing this excellent work where students have produced dishes at home as part of the practical side.

William Courtneil 7C, made an excellent rainbow salad, replacing the starchy carbohydrate to meet dietary requirements, his presentation is brilliant with a garnish of spring onion.



Otto Malm 8S, made an excellent batch of bread rolls which are well risen and golden brown. The plait roll in particular has been executed with accuracy and precision.



Development of our new curriculum to embed cross curricular links and effectively develop rich knowledge

Throughout the lockdown period we have continued to provide a broad and balanced curriculum offer, a good example of this would be the PSHEE offer. We also shared this specifically with parents as an overview weekly. An example of this is here:



Tutorial lessons, which cover Careers, PSHEE and Citizenship resume for all year groups this Friday, and are available in your child's year group tutorial google classroom. The codes for these classrooms (which your child should already be accessing) are on the careers area of the school website: <https://sites.google.com/a/dhsb.org/iag/home>

Lessons do not generate homework or marks but often form part of statutorily required subject areas, and all would greatly benefit from discussion whenever this is possible.

The lessons this week, 15 January, are as follows.

Year 7

The Year 7 lesson is about disability, with students asked to consider various disabilities, what issues those concerned might experience (especially in school) and what others may be able to do to help. They will use some of the "creature discomforts" videos to suggest ideas.

Year 8

Year 8 students have a lesson about career "families", and are beginning to think about job availability in their local area - does this necessarily tie in with what you want to do? They are also asked to complete a brief google form about their career intentions which will be used to target opportunities/advice which may arise in the future, and can use the Panjango online resources, a game-like exploration of different careers.

Year 9

Year 9 students are beginning to work on their employer challenge. This was originally an opportunity to visit a local employer for a guided tour and a chance to work on a work related project set by the company.

This obviously had to change as we were not able to visit, but three local companies, Babcock, Princess Yachts and Bailey Architects agreed to work with us by setting a project the boys could do in school, which was introduced and explained to each class just before Christmas. We have now had to adjust further due to the current lockdown but are hoping that students can at least begin planning their group project from home. They should all have been advised of their groups (generally five students) by their tutor. There will be a chance to continue with this in a couple of weeks, although of course they won't be able to complete until we are all back in school.

Year 10 and Year 11

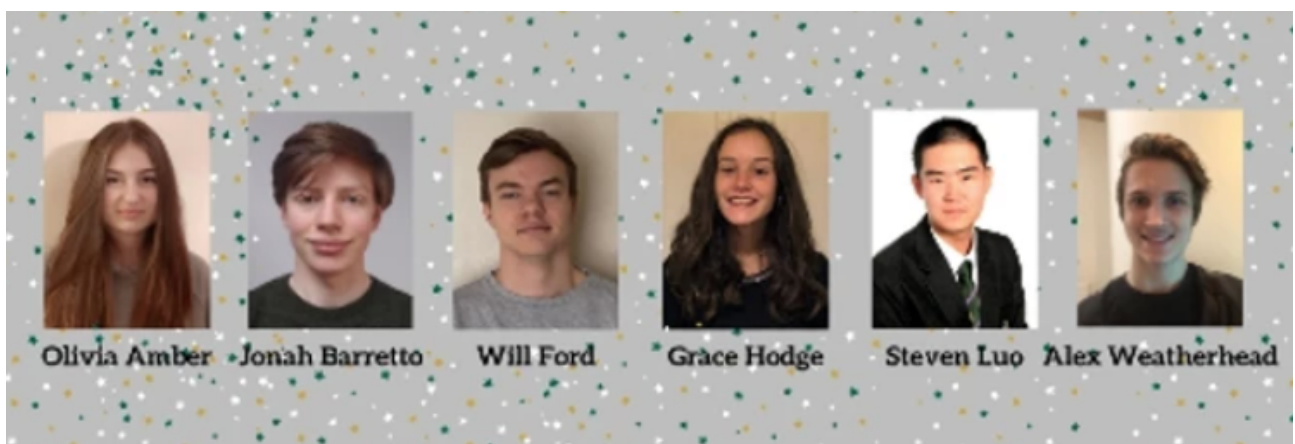
Year 10 and Year 11 students have the same lesson, all about surviving stress which I'm sure you'll agree is very topical. Younger year groups will have a similar lesson next week. They will learn about sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems, how stress manifests itself, and try some potential solutions.

Emphasis on ensuring all students are challenged and make excellent progress in their learning.

Oxbridge

Six DHSB students have received offers from the University of Cambridge.

- Olivia Ambler has an offer from Girton College, Cambridge to read Engineering
- Jonah Barretto has an offer from Magdalene College, Cambridge to read Engineering
- Will Ford has an offer from Emmanuel College, Cambridge to read Mathematics
- Grace Hodge has an offer from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge to read Education with Psychology
- Steven Luo has an offer from Trinity College Cambridge to read Medicine
- Alex Weatherhead has an offer from St John's College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences



Sharon Davidson, Assistant Head Post-16, said, "Being a teenager is hard today as they face so many pressures and we are delighted for our six Oxbridge offer holders this year. They have triumphed in the highly competitive initial steps of extra entrance tests and online interviews to secure an opportunity to study at such a prestigious institution. Despite the challenges of lockdowns and remote learning, we are proud of how they continue to

engage in personal development and rigorous study to (hopefully) make their ambition become a reality this summer”

Whilst this week we are celebrating the success of students gaining offers for the highly competitive courses at Cambridge we are equally pleased for other students who are receiving offers for a variety of higher education and degree apprenticeship courses. The fields of Medicine, Engineering and Law continue to be increasingly popular study areas for those going into higher education as well as ‘Employment’ in the Business and Financial sector. Alongside these areas, a number of students are planning varied gap year opportunities and pathways. For these leavers in particular we encourage them to be patient and to take the time to explore their intellect and talents, while having fun and developing their entrepreneurial skill set in an ‘adaptive’ sense, This will be increasingly significant as our society moves through this pandemic.

Collaboration and Community

Improve the consistency and clarity of communication to students, staff, parents and the wider community.

We wanted to ensure that many of our ‘normal’ December (festive) activities and events took place in school despite Covid-19. It was important that our students engaged and enjoyed this enrichment, there were challenges to this and as a result we had to carry them out quite differently.

Virtual Carol Service

We hope that you enjoyed the music and Christmas messages and sing along (at home) to Hark! the Herald Angels Sing. We were grateful to everyone involved in bringing this together including Joe Dent, Rector of the Minster Church of St Andrew.

House Christmas Celebration Assemblies

Students were recognised and rewarded for their behaviour and attendance during the first half term.

Awards were made in the following categories and when more than one student was nominated a special 'santa race' was held to determine the winner. This caused a lot of fun and excitement in form rooms!

- Student of the month
- Student of the term
- Good behaviour award
- 95% attendance award
- 100% attendance award

Mr Manley said, " It was lovely to see so many students enjoying themselves after a challenging term".



Christmas Jumper Day

Students and staff donned their Christmas jumpers in a special festive mufti day with the money raised going to Bristol Children's Hospital and St Luke's Hospice.



Advent Wellbeing Calendar

In December our Tutor Groups followed the advent wellbeing calendar provided by Young Minds UK each day and Mrs Downes, Form Tutor of 9W sent me this example of an activity completed by her students.

Mrs Downes said, “I was really impressed with 9W’s thinking and care for others and I thought this was an example of good work especially in Advent”.

Christmas Wishlist

- Solving climate crisis like deforestation
- End world hunger and poverty
- Free global distribution of vaccines
- End global conflicts and have world peace
- Eradication of diseases
- Free education for all
- Ending prejudice and discrimination- equal rights
- Moderating weapons of mass destruction
- Breakthrough in spacecraft technology
- Treating others how you’d like to be treated

Speech Day

We celebrated our annual Speech Day, albeit not at the Plymouth Guildhall, but in a special Sixth Form assembly and in our tutor groups and also broadcast a virtual Speech Day for those winners that could not attend and for their families to watch.]

Many of the traditional elements such as my Headteacher's report and greetings from the Lord Mayor were included and the assembly concluded with the announcement of the St Levan's Shield competition winners. This caused a lot of excitement in tutor groups!



Refuel Christmas Dinner

Each year group was able to enjoy a Christmas Dinner this week as Mr McConnell and Mr Higgins arranged a Covid-19 secure way of ensuring all students could be served hot food, with a different year group each day having the opportunity to buy tickets for Roast Turkey or Nut Roast with all the trimmings.



Christmas Whole School Assembly

We held a virtual assembly that was full of fun as well as having serious reflections and messages for the end of term. Students enjoyed a whole-school Kahoot quiz masterminded by Ms Moreton and Ms Buckler, and received a special visit from Father Christmas who delivered chocolates to every form room.

We also premiered our version of A Christmas Carol, DHSB Style, which involved staff re-telling the story of Scrooge Roberts who was persuaded to bring some festive cheer to the school in spite of Covid-19 restrictions!

eSafety

Throughout this year we have been specifically providing our parents with weekly eSafety updates specifically designed to take into account the increased use of technology at home due to Covid-19 and the remote learning environment. This takes a balanced and personalised approach whilst providing advice, we have had good feedback from parents about this. Here is an example from the beginning of January as we entered the most recent lockdown:

The new lockdown is a good opportunity for us to retouch on advice that was given last time as a refresher and also to reach out to our new Year 7 parents. Being inside, inevitably means more device time. Here is a short guide on parental controls and how to use them for some peace of mind.

Parental Controls

Parental controls are software and tools that allow you to set controls on all kinds of internet enabled device, there are many available and these can be summarised as:

- Network level controls are set on the hub or router and apply to all devices connected to that hub or router (covering your whole household.)
- Device level controls are set on the device itself, such as a smartphone, and will apply regardless of how and where the device is connected to the internet.
- Application controls are set on the platform or application that is being used. Examples of this would be the settings applied to Google or YouTube. Check they are set on each device your child has access to.

Most internet providers offer free filters giving you control over what internet content comes into your home. This means that any device that connects to your home broadband

is subject to the controls that you have set on your home router or hub. All major games consoles come with controls as do the majority of internet enabled devices.

Internetmatters.org is a website that allows you to find and get how to guides to see all of these up. Please visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> and use the search feature to find out how to set these up. Internetmatters.org not-for-profit organisation that has a simple purpose – to empower parents and carers to keep children safe in the digital world.

Leadership at all levels

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.

Fundraising

Mr Manley has shared this lovely thank you message received from the Plymouth Foodbank:

Thank you again for taking the time and trouble to drop down the generous donations collected by the school over recent weeks. We are so very grateful for your support and for nominating us as one of your chosen charities this Christmas. I am delighted to confirm that the total amount of food donated amounts to an incredible 266.14 Kgs. We will acknowledge this with a certificate to you in the post in due course.

Once again our sincere thanks for all your help and ongoing support. It means so much and will make a huge difference to the work we do here at the Plymouth Foodbank.

Wishing you, your colleagues and all the students at DHSB a fantastic Christmas and a Happy 2021.

Around the World in 40 Days

As a way of keeping physically and mentally fit and staying connected our PE Department organised a fun activity to see how far we could collectively ‘travel’ around the globe in 40

days. Students could run, walk, cycle, swim, row, kayak, paddle board, horse ride etc but the distance travelled and recorded had to be using a physical form of transport.

We asked students and families to record their distance on a google form.



Mr Orkney has confirmed we recorded 25,251 miles by midday on Saturday 6 March, just before all students and staff returned to school. He added, “We have had 2,585 entries and it has been a magnificent effort. Huge thanks to everyone who took part. Well done to you all”. In the end we took 50 days in total to reach the distance.

Creative & Entrepreneurial spirit

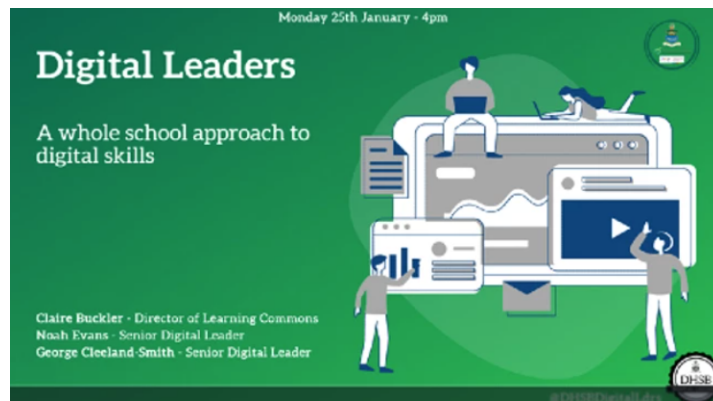
Continue to use the latest cutting edge technology creatively and innovatively influencing the wider educational community.

Digital Leaders

In January two of our Digital Leaders, Noah Evans 10C and George Cleeland-Smith 10E helped Ms Buckler to host a webinar detailing how a student digital leadership team can impact education.

Noah said, “We spoke about how the Digital Leader programme started, what we do and how we do it, and some of our biggest projects over the years. We also explained how other schools could start a Digital Leadership team, and what steps they should take to implement a successful programme. All in all, it was a great experience to show other schools what we at DHSB have successfully implemented and used over the past seven years”.

Well done Noah and George. Ms Buckler says you are great ambassadors for the school.



Grow the influence of the DHSB Alumni in inspiring the next generation in the build up to the DHSB 125

In January it was Founder's Day which marked 125 years of DHSB, unfortunately due to Covid-19 all of our celebration plans have been put on hold and we are beginning to plan for events to take place next academic year.

In February we paid our respects to the school's founder, Alonzo J Rider, who died 100 years ago.

Mr Rider passed away at his home, which adjoined the school (in its original Albert Road location) on 9 February 1921.

After retiring in 1906 he was still very much involved with the school as the Chair of Governors. In one of his final speeches he expressed his paternal pride in Devonport High which he had founded 22 years previously. On the anniversary of Alonzo's death I was able to pay tribute to him by placing a wreath, from DHSB, on his grave.



Looking Back

You may have seen a feature in the Plymouth Herald recently looking back on the foundation of the school. If you haven't yet read this then please click on the link below which will take you to a pdf version of the feature.

[Link to the Looking Back article](#)

Well done and thank you to Beverley Kinsella, Coordinator of our 125 celebrations who wrote the article for publication.

