



Devonport High School For Boys

Everyone Succeeds

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 read [here](#).

Priority 1: Students achieve the highest academic outcomes

Results

We are very proud of all our students at DHSB. They have worked extremely hard and have achieved excellent results. I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all our dedicated staff who, with our families, have provided fantastic support to our students to enable their success.

Our results, in all the key headline measures have increased to our highest ever.

Excellent Work

These examples of excellent work have been submitted by Mrs Waterfield. The following pieces of writing have been published in a Young Writers book called Mission Contamination. Young Writers was created in 1991 with the express purpose of promoting and encouraging creative writing.

It started with the deaths. First a trickle. Then a stream. Mothers. Daughters. Grandparents. It killed anyone and everyone in its path except the "lucky" 0.1% -who were immune. Now the survivors of this nightmarish new world have the burden of restoring society and cleansing the world of this foul disease. However, this isn't the worst of the survivors problems, for the infected didn't die, but were brutally mutated into vile cannibalistic creatures that will stop at nothing to tear you apart and feast upon your flesh. They were friends, family and neighbours but now they are perverse abominations.

Benjamin Beasley

One hundred days. I've spent one hundred days sat waiting. But what am I waiting for? I think it's clear that no one will rescue us now, I'm only prolonging the inevitable. I don't even know what I need rescuing from. It didn't seem like a threat, hell, it wasn't even 'it' a few days ago. It wiped out humanity, littering the streets with rotting remains. I have advice though: die and pray for salvation. I have found even the most agnostic of man finds fortune in prayer. If you wish to fight, then good luck. I choose to die.

Rudi Gibbs

"You ok in there?", I said as a growl emitted from the cockpit. Another growl sounded from the cockpit; me and the crew looked at each other as if someone would suddenly know what to do. Suddenly, the captain was stood there giving off a ghostly glow. Oozing sores covered his face and he was snarling. He had the virus. I knew what I had to do. It was either this or a painful death from the virus. I picked up my pistol and shot the pilot. That night, everyone saw the blazing helicopter fall into the sea and explode.

Billy Carlton



Priority 2: All staff seek to become even better

Emphasis on the enhancement of specialist subject expertise through collaboration with city wide communities.

Plymouth InspirEd Conference

It is incredibly important that teachers and subject leaders have the opportunity to develop their subject specific pedagogy and to do this effectively it must be with other subject professionals and those experts in their subject field. Seven secondary providers within the city with valuable support from the Plymouth Teaching School Alliance have come together to form Secondary InspirED Subject Communities (SISC) for all our subject areas. Each subject community will plan their own professional development conferences (three a year), focusing purely on improving the quality of teaching and learning.

In October we hosted our first ever Plymouth InspirED Conference, where the subject communities had subject specific time wrapped around two internationally renowned keynote speakers Graham Brown-Martin @grahamBM and Ross Morrison McGill @Teachertoolkit. It was a wonderful event and a fitting way to begin the commitment to our subject communities.



Priority 3: 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.

Senior Prefects took up their roles at the end of September and we have now appointed our new house captains, all receive training and support in their roles.



We have created a brand-new role of Junior Prefect to ensure developmental leadership opportunities continue to be on offer for students throughout key stage 4. Students in Year 10 and 11 were eligible to apply and have been selected on merit and a willingness to contribute positively to the school community.

We expect Junior Prefects to be ready to take the next step towards being leadership figures in the school and wider community in every respect, setting a clear example to other students and being active ambassadors

Continue to formulate and review the school's self-evaluation of its improvement through consultation with all stakeholders and look for further opportunities to enhance this.

Devonport Voice

We have had two meetings now of our newly launched Devonport Voice group. This consists of representatives from every tutor group within the school, our first meetings have been to use the time to establish our purpose, protocols and to discuss our communication strategy, for example we have agreed the purpose below:

To play an integral role in improving all areas of the school

To provide a formal representation of all student voice at DHSB

We then spent time discussing in small groups about our school curriculum offer, exploring questions such as:

What do students think about our curriculum vision?

Is our curriculum broad and balanced?

Is there equity?

Is there anything that we don't teach or have in the curriculum that you think we should?

A summary of what students think is below:

"Our curriculum is really broad and balanced"

“Lucky to be at DHSB compared to other schools”

“Teachers have great knowledge”

“Teachers try to push you for top grades”

“Positive that in Year 7 you get to try all subjects, it gives time to subjects that you may not consider is important to you”

“We really value all our enrichment weeks”

Priority 4: Collaboration and community

Celebrate success and commitment to serving the community

Enable families to support their children through regular engagement events.

Parents in Partnership

During September new Year 7 parents and students were invited to continue their journey through induction into life at DHSB at the first of a series of parents in partnership events. This was the first opportunity for families to meet with the form tutor, Head and Deputy Head of House who will support their child through their time in year 7 and beyond.

It also provided the opportunity to introduce parents and students to the concept of ‘growth mindset’ and importantly the role parents and carers play in working with the school to help all students to learn to problem solve, embrace challenge and seek to become the best they can be through effort, hard work and changing the way they approach challenges they may face.

Mrs Edwards explained how changing the way you think about something that may be tricky and the way you respond to someone facing a problem can help develop a growth mindset approach.

The growth mindset phrases are here for you to see:

9 questions to support a growth mindset in your children:	
WHEN THEY HAVE FAILED:	What did you learn from that? How can you apply it next time you have a similar situation?
WHEN A TASK IS DIFFICULT:	What other ways can you try to approach that task?
WHEN THEY ARE NOT GOOD AT SOMETHING:	What could you do to get better at it? What could you practice?
WHEN THEY ARE NOT THE BEST:	Who can you learn from?
WHEN THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO:	What is one small step you could do to start?
WHEN THE TASK IS TOO EASY:	How can we make this more challenging for you?
WHEN THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING:	What have you learnt about success? What are your next goals?
WHEN THEY DON'T AGREE WITH THE RULES:	What new ideas/suggestions do you have?
WHEN THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THEIR OWN WORK:	Who can you ask for some honest feedback?

Mr Martin then challenged families to work together on a number of problems including physical, mathematical, strategic and word based.

One parent said “What a fabulous event, it has really made me think about the way I respond when my son is stuck on something”.

Strategies for Success

Our Strategies for Success event for Year 11 families was held on Monday evening. Pictured is Mr Martin presenting about surviving the exam season. Remember ‘work, play, rest’.

[The presentations can be found in the Year 11 documents folder at this link.](#)



Widen access to improve social mobility by overcoming barriers in the community.

Adult Community Learning

We are delighted to now be offering, in collaboration with On Course South West, some additional education provision outside of school hours on our school site.

We’re hosting a number of On Course South West adult community learning courses this year. These range from carpentry for beginners to an introduction to ecology, with lots of courses on healthy cooking.

[The full range of courses and advice on how to enrol can be found at this link.](#)

Working in Partnership

On Wednesday I was invited to meet Gavin Williamson, the new Secretary State for Education, at the UTC Plymouth. As you may be aware, we have been working in partnership with the UTC as part of a school improvement project for the last two years. As a school we have really valued this collaboration, our staff and students have benefited from working in partnership in many ways such as learning about the great practice at the UTC and we are delighted to have provided the support to help the school improve.

It was a real privilege to meet with Gavin and share some details about our partnership and I was extremely proud to hear the students and staff at the UTC showcase their excellent work to a wider audience. I am delighted to say that we have been commissioned to provide support for another year and we will share more details with you soon.



A Play in a Week

During the half term holiday an exciting 'Play in a Week' was produced at DHSB. The script was created and performed by a group of 14 young people who live in the PL1 or PL2 area and go to DHSB, Marlborough Primary and High Street Primary, they were supported by a director and a writer from Theatre Royal Plymouth who led the group to achieve something they are very proud of.

The aim was for the young people to discover their common ground and to get to know their neighbours by creating something together. Ms Nally said, "It was a busy and thoroughly rewarding week which will be followed up with a trip to TR2 and the main theatre to see the industry at work".

Comments received following the Friday afternoon performance were all very positive.

"It was wonderful, thank you to all involved for this unique experience. Especially pleased that this gave an opportunity to those who may not always be the obvious choice for drama".

"So impressed by the performance of Journey to Devonport – a Play in A Week written and performed by students from DHSB and local primaries. They've come up with the whole thing since Tuesday working with the Theatre Royal Plymouth. I am just blown away".



Promote and embed British Values and the Prevent agenda.

As part of our Remembrance commemorations at DHSB our staff and students gathered for our whole school assembly on Remembrance led by Mrs Edwards and some of our History Ambassadors. Prefects read the names of Old Boys listed on our Roll of Honour and we reflected on their sacrifice during a minute of silence.

Poppy Installation

Many thanks are due to Mrs Flack for leading on our poppy installation again this year. Staff and students involved in the project have created a display of poppies on the tree in the Year 7 playground. The poppies were made from the bottoms of plastic bottles.





Our school captain Joe Watkinson said this when he first saw the installation, "What a poignant poppy display this is. This tree lived through WWI and WWII; it saw the horrors of war when the school site was a military hospital. It reminds us, thus, of the Old Boys who died in the conflicts and a period of history that we must never repeat and never forget".

Mrs Flack added, "During October we placed five collection points around the school and in fourteen school days we collected 1039 bottles. The bottom of each bottle was used to create the poppies. So many people contributed to make this happen including all those who recycled their bottles and students in 7C and in the D&T club who spent their Friday lunchtimes preparing the poppies".

This got me thinking about the tree which has stood in the playground for so long, and I asked Mrs Farnaby in Science what she knew about it.

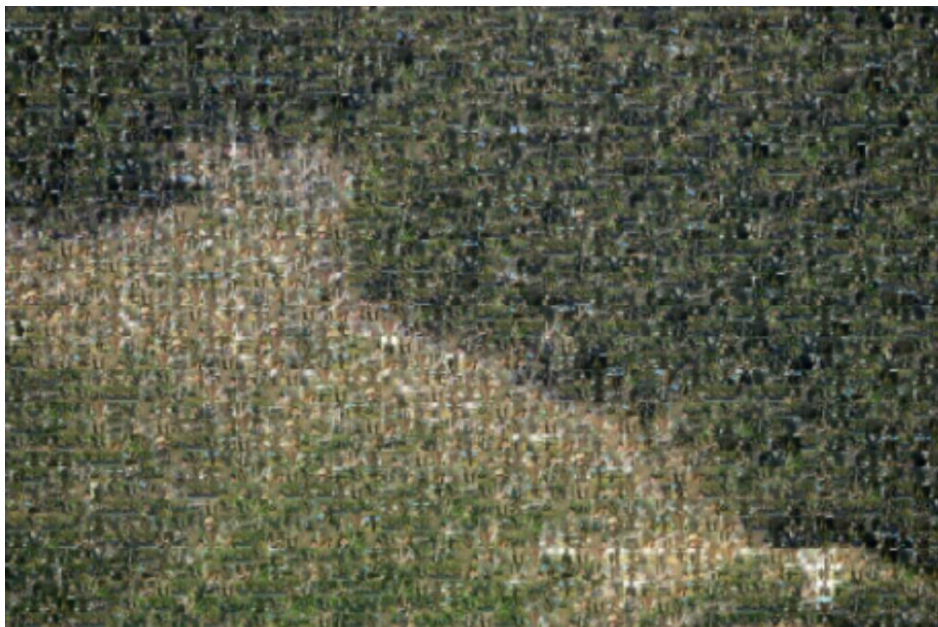
She said, "It's a Holm Oak. *Quercus ilex*. Holm meaning holly. The leaves are evergreen and holly shaped. They are mainly a Mediterranean tree. The Greeks used the leaves to make crowns and the wood was excellent for furniture, wagons and burning. The acorns were used as packing in shipping goods so they are prevalent throughout the west country in the coastal areas".

Improve our internal and external environment through investing more resources and energy into achieving an excellent environmental and sustainable ethos.

Climate Change

The week of the International climate change protests in September we had a whole school assembly where Year 12 students spoke to us all about a whole school campaign they have organised to raise awareness on climate change and deforestation. Firstly, the group invited as many students as possible to send pictures of themselves with a tree. The pictures were then put together to form a giant collage of the Amazon rainforest. This activity was chosen because of the variety and abundance of magnificent trees on the school site which can be used as a symbol against deforestation.

Also, the great tree on the Year 7 playground can be thought of as a symbol of the school community as most of our students have sat beneath it at important times of their life (like their first day at school). Students suggested we take group photos there on the day of the climate change protests to help everyone recognise and remember the importance of trees. The pictures will be used to disseminate information about deforestation and build press attention.



Green Flag Award Eco-School

As we mentioned at the start of the year, we have signed up to the journey to become an international Green Flag Award Eco-School. The programme is designed to raise environmental awareness among young people and is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. Internationally, the programme is the largest educational programme in the world present in 67 countries and 52,000 schools.

Our school is now part of this global community working to create environmental change for the benefit of future generations.

The Eco-School programme empowers students and staff, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and can also lead to financial savings for schools. Being an active member of the programme will be something our students will remember for the rest of their lives.

We have finished recruiting for our new student Eco-School Committee they have been working hard over the last few weeks to complete a full self-assessment of what we currently do and are in the process of completing an action plan to aim towards making many improvements in the areas identified. We will share more with the wider community when this is complete.

Team Avanti

Congratulations to Team Avanti! Just before half term they competed at the national final of the Greenpower Competition. The team did very well with 34.4 miles travelled in the final race placing them 26th in the international field. The team said, "Thank you to Silverstone UK for hosting the competition and the Greenpower Trust for another amazing racing season".

We also want to thank Mr Ames, Ms Flack and the students' families for supporting the team again this year.



Priority 5: Creative and entrepreneurial spirit

Improve the impact of the Arts on the personal and cultural development of all within our community.

Erasmus Project

We set off from DHSB to begin our trip to Prague, Czech Republic and to meet our team (a school in Opava) who we would be presenting our Erasmus project to the Czech parliament with. Our first day took us on a sightseeing trip around the city, a river cruise and showed us our first glance at the building we would be presenting in the following day.

In the morning of our second day we accompanied our teammates in a table discussion with the Speaker of the Czech Parliament, this consisted of talking through our part of the project, this being light pollution, what effect it has as well as how it can be reduced.

After this we headed into a conference room with parliamentary deputies to further present the Erasmus project. Each school (DHSB and Opava) gave a brief overview of their school environment and the situation on pollution in each of the cities (Plymouth and Opava). Next, we went on to discuss pollution and the Erasmus project alongside our Czech teammates.

The following day we returned to the Czech Parliament to have a tour of the Senate and learn about the history of Bohemia. On our final day we headed to Prague Observatory to learn further about the effects of light pollution and how it can affect astronomy and our view of deep space. This project will continue with the partner schools visiting each other. The next mobility will see the Czech school visit us in Plymouth around April 2020.



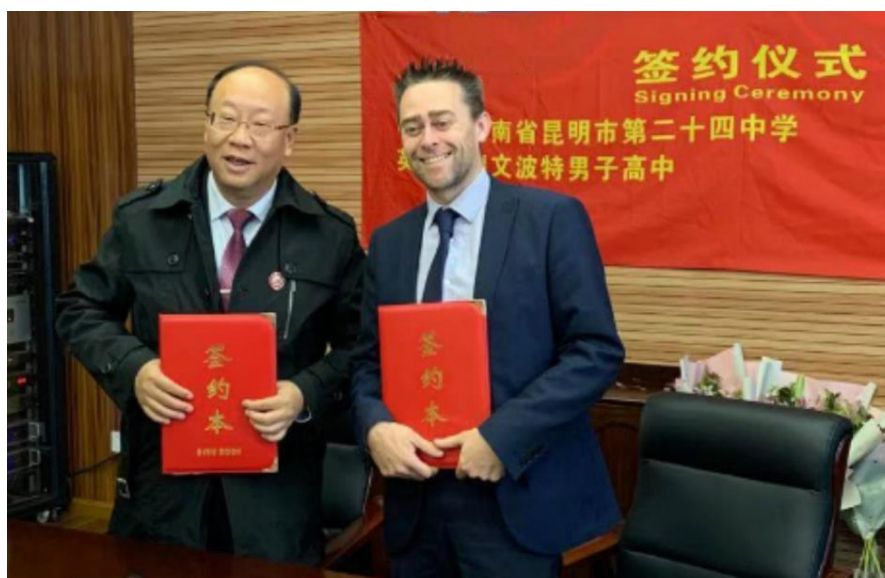
Recent Visit to China - 最近访问中国

Thank you to Mr Berryman who has written about his recent visit to China.

I was invited to China in order to attend the British Council seminar as part of the Chinese exchange programme. Claire Jones, Deputy Headteacher at Marine Academy Primary (MAP), and I attended the seminar in Kunming Province China. The British Council invited British schools to link with schools in China to raise aspirations of disadvantaged students. The project will be based around a cultural exchange trip working on a project with our link school No.24 Kunming Middle School and MAP. Whilst in China I signed an agreement to secure the funding for this project to happen and we are planning to take students and teachers to China to visit our partner school before May 2020.

On returning to the UK students will work alongside MAP on a shared media activity and we will host Chinese students here at DHSB and at Marine Academy Primary. We will also include activities within our curriculum so that the whole school is aware of the link partnership.

I hope this will be the basis of a long-term relationship where we can secure funding to allow more students and teachers to visit our partners in China. Global awareness and becoming internationally aware of different cultures are important aspects of shaping and developing our students here at DHSB. I am looking forward to our students and MAP students having the opportunity to collaborate on such an exciting project.



The Addams Family whole school production

Many congratulations to staff and students who have worked together to bring this show to the Edgcumbe Theatre in such spectacular style. The cast, stage band and technical crew have enjoyed very appreciative audiences each evening. Thanks are due to all those who have supported them. It really was a wonderful production and we are very proud of all those involved with this.



Establish creative ways of working and generating new ideas for both students and staff.

DHSB belongs to the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Careers Hub.

A Careers Hub is a group of between 20 and 40 secondary schools and colleges located in the same geographic area, working with universities, other education and training providers, employers and career guidance professionals to ensure the Gatsby Benchmarks are delivered in each school and college within the hub and that careers outcomes are improved for all young people. Schools and colleges within a hub should have a shared vision of how they will work together to improve outcomes for the young people in their area.

Each school within the hub is also allocated an Enterprise adviser. In November we were extremely privileged to welcome to school our allocated Enterprise Adviser, Ralph Rizk, who is Head of Strategic Programmes at Babcock. Mr Rizk introduced himself to the whole school during our assembly. Mrs Edwards explained that an enterprise adviser is a volunteer from business who works closely with key staff in school to provide strategic support to ensure that we are planning for the future, providing opportunities for students, support, information, advice and guidance.



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

Google Chrome Summit

As part of being a worldwide google reference school, Mrs Buckler recently attended the Google Digital Academy for the first ever Chrome Edu Summit. This was the first day that Google had put on to celebrate the amazing opportunities that the web and Chromebooks can have for our staff and students. The day focused on innovation, teaching and learning and technical best practice and we were housed in the fabulous Google Academy.

Needless to say, it was a day full of inspiration as we were shown how Chromebooks and the latest web apps have the potential to transform the classroom

We are already using Chrome to enhance our classrooms but watch this space for new tips and tricks as we take our google reference school further to ensure we are providing our students with the tools they need to succeed in a digital world.

