

Dover Grammar School for Girls Headteacher Newsletter



Thursday, 3rd May 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been a very busy academic year so far at Dover Grammar School for Girls: I can't quite believe how quickly the time has gone and that the GCSE and A level examinations are nearly upon us.

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you all to discuss some changes in school and to celebrate some of our student's successes.

Kent Mountain Centre

During February half term some of our Year 8 students enjoyed a week at Kent Mountain Centre. They were accompanied by some enthusiastic staff: Mrs Ash, Mr Staiano, Dr Franklin and Mrs Kanasewich, and all had a fantastic time. Students enjoyed kayaking, sea traversing, zip wires,



rock climbing and cave walking, and Mrs Ash has already started recruiting for next year.

Music

In March we were scheduled to hold our Year 11 GCSE and AS level Recital Evening, however, due to the snow fall that week, a decision was made to postpone the event until April. It was an extremely enjoyable evening and yet again was an example of the high level of talent that we have at DGGs.

In April the Music Department hosted The Spring Showcase at Charlton Church, proving again how vibrant our music community is. With music from the DGGs choir and harmony groups, a variety of soloists, the band and the Year 7 ensemble, guests were treated to a wonderful evening.



Lead Prefect Visit

In March, the lead prefect team were invited to a formal dinner at the Duke of Yorks Royal Military School. They attended the event with myself, Mrs Simmonds, and Miss Toland, we all had a fabulous evening with delicious food and interesting company. The students commented that they felt it was a good opportunity to meet and engage with staff and students from another local school. They listened to speeches and toasted the Queen in unfamiliar surroundings but with very welcoming hosts.



Oral History Project

This term whole of Year 9 took part in an oral history project, interviewing 3 members of the community about their experiences living through the Second World War. The students commented that 'it was a wonderful experience being able to hold the interviews and we found their stories fascinating'. This project proved to be of great interest and was published in both the local papers for two consecutive weeks.



Step into the NHS

This year students entered into a national competition run by the NHS called 'Step into the NHS'. The competition challenged Year 9 students to research different types of careers available in the NHS, from Radiographers to Grounds Keepers. Once they had chosen a career they were then challenged to write a job description and advertisement for the role. The competition received over 3,500 entries this year and four of our year 9 students were highly commended for their work. We are extremely pleased with the result as our students had worked hard on creating a great product for the job role of a Mental Health Nurse.



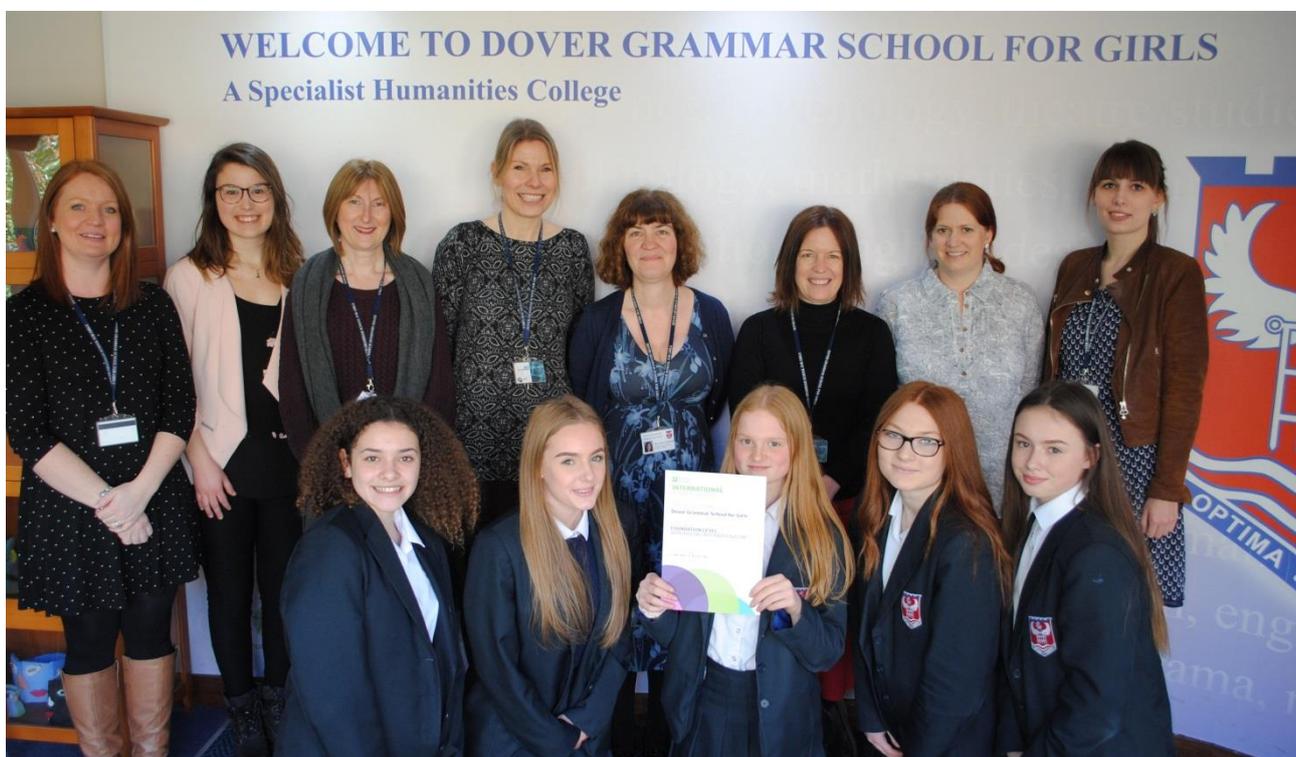
International Schools Award

This year Dover Grammar School for Girls has also been awarded Foundation Level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work in the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

Dover Grammar School for Girls' international work includes regular Exchange visits with French and German partner schools, day trips to France, a variety of enrichment activities such as an introduction to French cinema and Languages Day activities.

Stephen Hull, Senior Project Manager at the British Council, said that Dover Grammar School for Girls' international work has earned the school a well-deserved recognition in the form of the British Council International Award – Foundation Certificate.



This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary exchange with our partner school in Köln, Germany, Erzbischöfliches Mädchengymnasium. The school is an all girls grammar school in the city and during the exchange trip, the students had the opportunity to experience, first hand, the culture and history of the city, excursions in and around Köln, a day trip to Bonn as well as being able to improve their spoken German by living with a native family.

Exams Preparation

With the exam season fast approaching, we have had many students attending our Saturday revision sessions in preparation. As students will soon be going on their study leave I would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 11 and our Sixth Form every success in their exams and I am confident that they will all achieve to the best of their ability. I know as parents/carers you will support the students during this time and help them to prepare for their exams. I would also like to thank the staff who have given their

time to support the students in the Saturday Revision Sessions and at numerous other sessions outside of the normal timetabled lessons.

We will soon be hosting a farewell BBQ for our year 11 students and, as usual, the whole school is looking forward to the Sixth Form entertainment.

Pastoral Support

Over the coming weeks we will be holding planning discussions to improve our pastoral support for students. As our role numbers increase, so does the need to have a strong team in place for our students. We are hoping to have a new pastoral structure with additional staff by September. This will not only provide more capacity, but also additional support for our students. We are proposing that each Key Stage will have a member of the Schools Leadership Team overseeing the Key Stage, a Key Stage Manager, an assistant Key Stage Manager and a Student Support Assistant. Once this structure is in place we will be developing procedures and processes to ensure that our students are cared for to the best of our ability.

In the light of the proposed restructure of the Senior Leadership Team, Mrs Sabine Davies has decided to leave the school forthwith to pursue other interests. She would like to take this opportunity to wish all the school's pupils every success in the future.

Reports

This year we will be changing the reporting system slightly and would remind parents of Year 10 students that we have an extra Parents Evening on Monday 2nd July to discuss the progress of the students. Year 7 and 9 reports will be full reports and Year 8 will have a form tutor report.

Year 5 Open Evening

We will be holding our Open Evening for all year 5 girls on Tuesday, 5th June. If you have any friends or family that may wish to attend please advise them that further information is on our website.

DGGS Online

On the subject of our website, we are currently working on a brand new one and hope that it will be ready to launch in September. It will be more informative and easier to navigate and there will be a parent area which I'm sure you will all find useful. Here you will also find a link to our new Twitter feed which I hope you have all had chance to follow. If not, take a look the twitter address is @dggs_info

Finally can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, and I wish you all an enjoyable Bank Holiday Monday.

Yours sincerely



Mr RCF Benson
Headteacher