



HEAD LINES

It is hard to believe the entire spring term has passed by now. As our thoughts turn to the Easter holidays, it also marks two years since the first lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic began. Whilst we have seen some increases in absence for both staff and students, over the past two weeks, our general numbers remain low and we have been able to function at DHSG with little or no disruption.

After my first term at the School, I am grateful to staff and students for making me feel welcome. I have spent time listening and reflecting on what makes DHSG such an exceptional place, and I am certainly not left in any doubt as to why this is. My highlights this term, to name but a few, have been seeing and hearing how proud both staff and students are to attend the school, the annual Dance Show and observing many lessons.

As we now head into the summer term, I am making preparations to revisit the School's mission and think about our vision for the future. In consultation with staff, governors, students and parents, I will seek your views on the School over the coming months, in order to prepare for the next academic year and beyond. The aim will always be to ensure we provide a fantastic educational experience for all of our students.

Do have a fantastic Easter break when it arrives.



Lee Sargeant
Head Teacher



#IndividualCareHighAspirations



Devonport High School For Girls

Sixth Form

Unlock your potential

Discover more including details of our Open Events online www.dhsg.co.uk

dhsg@dhsg.co.uk 01752 705024

University Bath, University of Exeter, Bournemouth University, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Cardiff, University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, University of Oxford, Durham University, Imperial College London, King's College London, University of Cambridge, Lancaster University, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), Queen Mary University of London, Swansea University (University College London), University of Hull, University of Chichester, University of Nottingham

www.dhsg.co.uk [@DHSGirls](https://www.facebook.com/DHSGirls) [DHSGnews](https://www.instagram.com/DHSGnews)





AID FOR UKRAINE

Thank you to Mr Abbotts and his team for organising the Aid for Ukraine donations this term. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of students, parents and staff, so thank you for this.

All donations were collected after school in early March by the wonderful people who manage Plymouth's Hope for the Homeless project. The donations left Plymouth for Poland and Moldova on the 18 March.

It is a tribute to everybody that the amount we had collected in just three days was enough for one and a half transit vans.

The article made it into Plymouth Live, if you would like to see it here: <https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/brothers-plan-drive-supplies-ukraine-6772302>

One of our parents, David Pond, is supporting the humanitarian effort in Poland. In response to requests they are providing a regular blog. You can follow this blog here: <https://livepond.blogspot.com/2022/03/bielany.html>

COVID UPDATE

Further to the recent email guidance from School, from 1st April, anyone aged 18 or under with a positive COVID-19 test result, will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **three days**, which is when they are most infectious.

We will be following this advice and therefore if your child tests positive for Covid-19, we politely request that they stay at home for three days. From day four, students can return to school if they feel well enough, even if they are still testing positive.

Time at home will be considered an absence, in line with our usual student attendance policies. Students will no longer be recorded differently, if they are absent with Covid-19 and any future absence will contribute to their individual record of attendance.

Pupils may still wear a mask in school, if they choose to do so.

Unfortunately, we are unable to source any further test kits, so these will need to be obtained privately now.

MORNING REGISTRATION TIMINGS

Straight after Easter, beginning on Monday 25 April, morning registration will be 5 minutes shorter, so that Period 1 is the full hour. Please note the revised timings below.

Warning Bell: 8.45am

Registration: 8.50am-9am

Movement time: 9am-9.05am

Period 1: 9.05am-10.05am

Rest of the day's timings as normal.





MEET THE STAFF

Ms Mitchell – Head of Music

When did you join first DHSG and what attracted you to the school? (bit of info on where you came from previously, role, job title etc)

I first joined DHSG in September 2020. I had previously worked as the Head of Music at Kingsbridge Community College for 12 years and prior to that as Head of Music at Lipson Community College for nine years. I was drawn to DHSG as I wanted to return to working in Plymouth after being at Kingsbridge for several years and was drawn to DHSG as I knew that the school valued music and had a lot of very musical students.

What is your favourite thing about DHSG?

I really like the family feeling of the school where everyone (students and staff) is valued for who they are and are encouraged to pursue their interests and talents.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Being the daughter of a farmer I have always loved the outdoors and try to be outside as much as possible spending time with my partner, two daughters (aged 11 and 9) and our crazy cockapoo/clumberdoodle called 'Pebble'. We spend a lot of time walking and I also enjoy gardening (although not everything I plant survives!)

What book are you reading at the at the moment? (or have just recently read / give a bit of info on what it's about)

I recently read 'Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Osman. The book is about four very different friends who meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. When a murder takes place on their doorstep they find themselves involved in a first live case. I really liked the way that each character's personality and sense of humor really shines through. I was drawn to the book as I have always been a fan of murder mysteries and have read just about all of the Agatha Christie novels.

Who inspires you?

The person who has most inspired me was my secondary music teacher. I was a very shy, unconfident student who happened to have a good singing voice. She noticed my talent and encouraged me to develop it, encouraging me to pursue my dream to study singing at the Welsh College of Music in Cardiff and then train to become a secondary music teacher. Without her encouragement and support I would never have achieved these things and I feel very lucky to have been able to achieve my dream of pursuing music and teaching.

What would you most like to do in the future, that you haven't had chance to do yet?

I have always wanted to swim with dolphins and hope that one day I may get the chance to do this.



SCHOOL FUND

Our school fund is a really important way of fundraising for activities and financial support that cannot be otherwise funded from public funds. Each year, we request a minimum donation of £10 for each student. We use the money raised through the School Fund for the following:

- Prizes and Decorations for the annual Christmas lunch in the main hall
- Activities for the Year 11 and Year 13 Celebration days
- Sporting activities and competitions
- Cookery competitions
- Financial support for students experiencing financial difficulties who are not eligible for pupil premium, enabling them to attend trips and visits
- Our annual Carol Concert
- Our annual Speech Day

Payment for School Fund can be made via your cashless account on ipayimpact.

We would really appreciate your support in donating to this fund, these enriching activities are vitally important post- Covid lockdowns



THE PARENT TEACHER AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Parent Teacher and Friends Association has been in existence for many years and works hard to support the students and staff. The PTFA is very active and successful at raising money for the school.

Fundraising activities include:

- Second-hand uniform 'shop'
- Quiz night
- Christmas Shopping Trip
- Christmas Disco
- Selling refreshments at Parents' Evenings and events
- 11+ Practice

Recently the PTFA have raised funds in order to pay for:

- E-Book subscription for the School Library
- Delivery fee for the specialist transportation of a Piano for the Music department
- Specialist equipment for the Food Technology room
- Recycling bins for the School site
- Dressmakers dummy for the Textiles department
- Amazon vouchers for Mathematics Champions
- Railway sleepers for the Gardening Club
- A specialist Visualiser camera for the Geography department
- LED Par Can Lighting for the Drama department

There is a small but active committee headed up by a Chair, Secretary, Events Organiser and Treasurer. Meetings are held half-termly at 7.00 pm in the Sixth Form Centre. These meetings are open to all parents/carers and new faces are very welcome.

Please do get involved: we are here to help fund opportunities for our children and without volunteers this would be difficult. Please be assured that there is no pressure for regular commitment as we are happy for any help offered. If you can help in other ways, by perhaps supplying raffle prizes or selling tickets, please let us know.

Help us to achieve our aims, by helping us to support our students, the Head Teacher and her staff.

Please contact the PTFA at DHSG ptfa@dhsg.co.uk – we need and value your help and support. Thank you,

The PTFA



DHSGPTFA

A Registered Charity No. 1130637



LAW SOCIETY VISIT

On Wednesday 16 March, we had a visit from the Law Society. It was very well attended (Years 12, 11 and 10). The Sixth Form Lounge was full and the session lasted one and a half hours.

Stephanie Boyce, the Law Society President, was extremely engaging. It was fascinating and inspiring to hear about her progress from a very disadvantaged background to becoming the first person of colour to hold the Presidency of the Law Society, and the 6th female one (out of 177). She highlighted the importance of determination and resilience, and our students seem to be very perceptive to that. She also spoke about her profession, possible routes to law.

Dr Morris



SPORT

It is so lovely to see students regaining lost ground after the pandemic enforced restrictions were lifted. Sporting fixtures and lunchtime clubs are back in operation, and as you will see below, students who compete outside of school are also enjoying being able to compete again.



Congratulations to Annie Year 8 who has been selected for the Devon County Elite Gymnastics Squad for 2022. Annie started gymnastics at the age of 5 and now trains for 22 hours a week at the Plymouth Swallows School of Gymnastics. In 2020 Annie competed at the Disney Classic in Florida and her ambition is to compete at the British Championships.



Congratulations to DHSG's U14 Badminton Team who in January won the Plymouth Sports Partnership Central Venue Competition, beating both Plymouth High School for Girls and Heles School.



Accomplished dancers, Amy, Daisy and Natasha are part of the Plymouth-based BBL Dance Squad. Their dance troupe has been chosen as the official dance group for the British Basketball League Finals! You may even get to see them performing on Sky Sports in the near future.



Talented student Ella from year 10 represented her local athletics club for the fifth and final Indoor Athletics competition this term and won the gold medal for her performance overall in 'Speed Bounce' (84 jumps in 30 seconds). She had won four out of the five events in the past 6 months. Amazing achievement well done Ella!

Ella will now be focusing on her sprinting skills for the summer track events.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor education has always played a pivotal role in the extended curriculum at Devonport High School for Girls. Following the relaunch of Ten Tors Training and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award large numbers of students signed up. As you will see from some of the image below, outdoor pursuits build resilience, teamwork and physical and mental strength; especially our changeable weather.



There has been a fantastic effort from the Ten Tors Teams this term. Their first time out with big packs saw all teams complete the distance - more than 15 miles for the 35 teams, and more than 17 miles for the 45 teams!

Later on in the Spring Term, the teams were bit more independent as they ventured out on their own on for some of the legs. The weather was a bonus and visibility was good, which always helps - but kudos to everyone for a job well done.



DHSG students enjoy getting to grips with putting up tents as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Training Day with H5 Adventure. A productive and enjoyable day - despite the occasional shower!

CHARITY

The whole school community have always supported good causes locally and internationally and this year is no exception with so many people or projects in need of support. We are extremely proud of all their achievements throughout the year. Here are few examples below:



A Green Team Cake Event took place during lunch this term with students raising funds for eco-friendly projects in school! An amazing range of eco-themed cakes. Thank you to all the families that supported the students with this venture.



Congratulations to year 7 for their ongoing work to raise money for the charity Lepira. Earlier this term they were rewarded with a Zumba session and had a great time dancing together. Well done to the teachers for almost keeping up too.





Lily 7F completing her walk for @lepraUK. Her parents were so proud she completed the 11 miles around Saltram (5 laps) despite the showers. Each picture was taken at the start of a lap and the last image shows Lily finishing her sponsored walk. Well done Lily!



Remarkable ex-DHSG student Amy Strode is about to embark on another ultramarathon. This time 230km in Arctic Sweden starting next week for the charity Save The Rhino. Track the race beyondtheultimate.co.uk and support Amy.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/iceroadstrode

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/.../plymouth-woman-run...>

SHOWCASING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

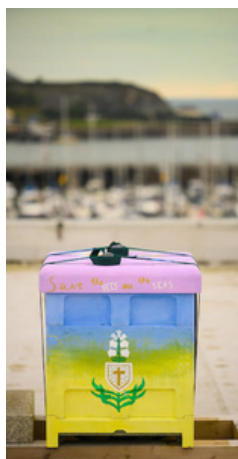


We are very grateful to Mrs Pierce who has put together resources and fun activities including a home challenge of building a spaghetti tower #britishscienceweek2022

DHSG are celebrating the diverse people and careers in science & engineering this term.



Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad certificates were awarded to sixth form chemists with 1 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze medals. Congratulations to everyone who took part in this incredibly challenging event.



The DHSG beehive has been installed on the roof of the National Marine Aquarium and has a resident colony thanks to Pollenize CIC. We also filmed with Foto Now CIC for a promotional video for Pollenize's latest project called Seeds For Schools. Look out for further details coming soon!



Year 7 and 8 students from the "Green Team" were honoured to plant trees in Pounds Park (Central Park) in March as part of the Queen's Canopy to mark the Platinum Jubilee. We were joined by the Lord Mayor, a representative of the Lord Lieutenant, local Councillors, and the Woodland Trust.

Despite the weather and the muddy conditions, the trees are now proudly in place. Students can check the growth of the Monkey Puzzle, Quince, Gold Rush and Winter Orange when orienteering in Pounds Park in the years to come!!





Happy International Day of Women & Girls in Science. We are grateful to Mrs Pierce for creating an informative display and a presentation for our students.

School Group	School	UK Town	Rank	Trials	Number of Students	Number of Classes	Final score per class (out of 100)
United Learning Trust	Devonport High School for Girls	Plymouth	1		679	24	60.0
The Ted Wiggall Multi Academy Trust	The Highbury Academy	Blackburn	2		526	14	60.0
United Learning Trust	St James School	Exeter	3	0	560	40	59.6
United Learning Trust	Cannock Academy	Bournemouth	4	2	546	21	60.0
United Learning Trust	Parkside Community College	Cambridge	5		371	13	58.6
The Ted Wiggall Multi Academy Trust	Tombury Academy	Tombury	6	3	1236	52	58.3
	West Ewe School	Exeter	7		1152	44	58.5
	Stowton High School	Stowton	8		156	5	60.0
The Brooke Weston Trust	Brooke Weston Academy	Great Oakley	9		185	7	60.0
	The Camden School for Girls	London	10		15	1	60.0

Fantastic to see DHSG students topping the Sparx Maths leaderboard again this term for completion rates, out of 423 schools. Well done!



MUSIC AND DRAMA



Alice R from year 10 has been busy singing at festivals in Devon and Cornwall over the past month. Songfest in Launceston last week where she sang a duet; Shallow arranged by Lady Gaga. And Alice can be seen in the photo below, singing with the Cornish County Youth Choir at Songfest, Plymouth Pavilions last Wednesday where she had a small solo part in "Fly to Paradise". Congratulations Alice!

RECENT INSTRUMENTAL AND SINGING EXAM RESULTS

A huge well done to everyone who participated in music exams this term.

WOODWIND

Bethany Longdon
Thalie Reynolds
Lowenna C
Keira Browne
Olivia Hicks
Evie Tucker

Saxophone
Flute
Saxophone
Clarinet
Clarinet
Cornet

Grade 2 Distinction
Grade 2 Merit
Grade 4 Distinction
Grade 7 Distinction
Grade 2 Distinction
Grade 3 Meri

MUSIC THEATRE SINGING

Eva Arbuckle
Connie Cotton
Olivia Burchell
Lily Grimes
Victoria Martinez- Guttilla
Izzy Hutton
Emily Tripp
Hannah W

Grade 3 Pass
Grade 4 Distinction
Grade 4 Distinction
Grade 4 Merit
Grade 5 Distinction
Grade 5 Distinction
Grade 5 Distinction
Grade 5 Merit

Congratulations

VIOLIN

Bethany Longdon
Sumedha Bagchi
Devika Devadas
Lottie Mackey
Lowenna Cawrse
Sarah Fishwick
Megan Woock
Abigail F

Grade 1 Distinction
Grade 2 High Pass
Grade 2 Pass
Grade 3 Merit
Grade 3 Merit
Grade 3 Merit
Grade 5 Pass
Grade 6 Merit

SINGING

Louisa Adams
Alice Rickard
Freyja Pither
Ingrid Feliu-Morstang
Genevieve Hooper

Grade 2 Merit
Grade 5 Merit
Grade 5 Merit
Grade 6 Distinction
Grade 6 Merit



ENTERPRISE DAYS



Year 8's Enterprise day task was to design an electric toothbrush aimed at children aged between three and five or six and eight, as well as an accompanying educational app that encourages them to brush their teeth. Everyone agreed that the key enterprising skills of communication, teamwork, initiative, problem-solving, organisation, leadership and creativity were evidenced by all teams throughout the day. The judges had to make very difficult decisions when judging the final creative presentations in the afternoon. Well done to all of Year 8 for working so hard throughout the day.

Congratulations to the runners up group 4(8H) and group 23(8K) and the overall winning team which was group 17 in 8E.



Year 10 competed in the National Careers Challenge 'Esports Digital Challenge' set by The Inspirational Learning Group. The National Careers Challenge is the UK's largest careers and enterprise competition and sets students a real-life business challenge. Working in teams, Year 10 students looked at all aspects of creating, designing, and launching a new computer games concept.

Students identified a target market before developing an idea for a brand new, downloadable computer game. Considering all aspects of their game design, including characterisation, gameplay, cyber-security, and add-ons, before considering how they could promote their new game to their target audience. Students also consider how they could capitalise on the growing appeal of Esports events to raise the profile of their game. They presented their ideas to a panel of judges and team 11 (10F) were the winning team - well done. Congratulations to the runners up team 16(10H).

The challenge helped students develop their entrepreneurial and digital skills as well as promoting key skills, such as creativity, teamwork, and communication. Well done to all Year 10 students for working so well in their teams and for showing skills of communication, problem solving, and creativity throughout the day.

IN OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Akshita from year 10 who has successfully made it through to the National St John Ambulance Youth Public Speaking competition. The competition marked World Speech Day (15th March) within the organisation. It is a day dedicated to celebrating speeches and speech-making through live public speaking events across the world.

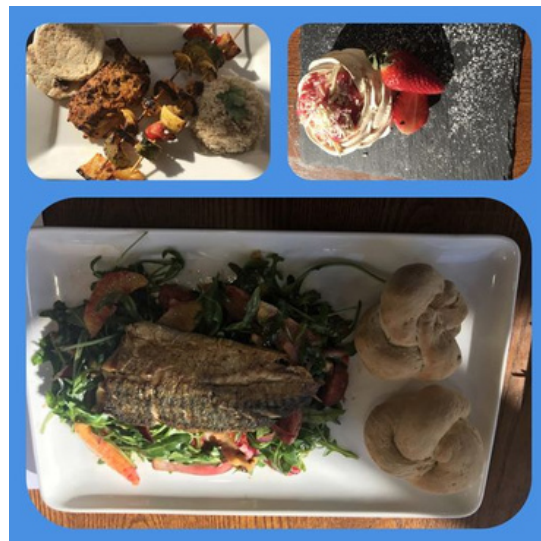
The competition Akshita entered addressed all aspects of public speaking, however, it particularly focused on teamwork and presenting ability. Any young person within St John Ambulance aged between 10 to 18 years old could enter the Regional Round where they were asked to submit a video presenting passionately regarding a topic of their choice. Akshita talked about 'Superbugs'.

The videos were judged based on set marking criteria by young leaders in the organisation who are well-versed in public speaking. Alongside them was an external judge who was the Westminster Award Winner 2021. Akshita was judged on their speech's structure, topic knowledge, delivery, and engagement.



Congratulations to year 9 students Molly R, Matilda S and Daisy B who won Plymouth's Young Chef Challenge in March- 'Best Main' and 'Best Overall'. Absolutely fantastic!

After a long absence - the last competition was in 2018 - we were really pleased and excited to be welcomed back to City College Plymouth to take part in the Young Chef Team Challenge. Year Nine students in groups of three, plan, make and present a three-course meal based on ingredients specified by the College. This year the starter was based on fresh mackerel, the main on chicken supreme and the dessert on rhubarb. Seven schools from Plymouth and the surrounding area participated in the event. Our team, Daisy, Molly and Tilly came up with a delicious and well-balanced menu comprising Mackerel, chorizo, blood orange and walnut salad, Tandoori chicken, tandoori vegetable skewers, brown rice and garlic naan breads and Pavlova topped with Chantilly cream and a rhubarb and strawberry compote. As the day started, the team was calm yet excited and not at all daunted by the slightly intimidating task of working in a professional kitchen. The chefs working in the kitchen alongside them particularly commented on the high levels of cooperation and communication between them displayed throughout. There are four prizes awarded; best starter, best main, best dessert and best overall. Against stiff competition, our DHSG team was absolutely delighted to win not only best main course but also best overall, I am a very proud teacher! We will soon display the engraved cup in reception.



Over February half term, geography students in 8K were tasked with researching earthquake-resistant building designs.

They teamed up to plan and create their structures using items from their recycling bins at home.

Next lesson they will test their creations on the shake table to see which one survives the strongest magnitude quake. Which structure do you think has the best design features?



DHSG student Emily from Year 12 was elected in march to be 'UK Youth Parliament Representative' for Plymouth. What an achievement.

There were representatives from 26 schools and 15,000 votes cast! Well done Emily!