



# Boarding Newsletter

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (BOARDING)

Well... it has been a long, long term. The second half of the Autumn Term is always a busy and exciting one, but it can be tough as well, as the work begins to build up, people become busier, and, particularly in November, everyone is starting to get a bit tired. Nonetheless, so many fabulous things are in this newsletter, and this is testament to the efforts and dedication of our boarders and the staff I am lucky to have supporting them and living alongside them.

The Christmas celebrations help to lighten people's spirits, and it was fantastic to see so many boarders involved in our Christmas Tree decorating evening, where the Christmas tunes were blaring, and the atmosphere and sense of community was just fabulous, friendly, and relaxed.

This term has seen a great number of trips, from going to the famous Science Museum, various shows (The Lion King, A Christmas Carol and the Nutcracker) to physical activities such as ice-skating. Every weekend there has been something happening, and on top of this, we have enjoyed a great Christmas Party, some fabulous movie nights and quiz nights,

as well as enduring Kyle's karaoke skills!

The most exciting development this term, though, has to have been the increased involvement of our boarders in great charitable initiatives. From the second visit to AAA, to litterpicking at the weekend, to helping the Oasis Trust set up for their Christmas Fair or to stock their all-important food bank for the weekend, our boarders are learning about how they can make a difference, as well as learning about teamwork, and their own sense of responsibility and initiative.

As well as friendship, boarders are developing values in themselves such as kindness, respect, and a sense of personal independence. Well done to all involved in these important occasions.

*John J. Taylor*

*Assistant Principal (Boarding)*



*Christmas Tree Decorating Night!*



## FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL (PASTORAL)



This has been a hugely successful term for all the boarders, the Christmas holiday may be the first time that some of the boarders have returned home and I hope that you enjoy a wonderful break with your sons and daughters.

I hope that they return full of stories about their time here in DLD and London.

There have been so many activities over the term which has allowed them to form their independence in both study and living.

We truly believe that education is not only in the classroom and the lessons that are learnt whilst in their DLD home provide a unique context in which they can develop as individuals. We are proud of the different support structures that we have around your sons and daughters and hope that this support reflects in your conversations with them. I wish you a wonderful break and a great 2019.

Tom Hadcroft  
Vice Principal  
(Pastoral)



*Boarders helping set up for a Christmas Fair with local charity, Oasis*





## AS TRACKING

This term we have seen four Huddles completing AS Tracking, a pastoral tool that allows us add another branch of pastoral care to our tree. This tracking continues while the students are with us and allows us to guide students onto better paths and equip them with the skills they need once they leave DLD. This term it has been really successful and I look forward to seeing the project progress over the coming months and years.

Nicola Borland  
Senior Houseparent



## VOLUNTEERING AT WATERLOO FOOD BANK

We were delighted to see the start of students volunteering this term at Waterloo Food Bank. More people than is proper rely on our local Food Bank to feed themselves, and the service has seen a sharp rise in usage in the last year. It is great to see our boarders actively involved in supporting the work of the foodbank to serve their local community, and we hope this is the start of many more volunteering opportunities to come







## FROM MYLES' HUDDLE



It has been great to get to know the different individuals in my Huddle this term, they have been very welcoming and have helped me to enjoy my first term in DLD. I have enjoyed interesting conversation, board games and many belly laughs with the students and look forward to welcoming them back in the New Year for more of the same.

It has been good to work with a focus group of students in developing the rewards provision in boarding. While still in its infancy, we look forward to continuing the development and implementation of a fair, encouraging and visible rewards system that supports and celebrates our boarders as they strive to achieve their goals.

Myles Blair  
Houseparent



*Boarders finding time to relax in  
the Festive Season*





## PLANNING FOR PARIS!



The planning for the trip to Paris in March for Emma and Nicola's Huddle is beginning to take shape! Students will be taking the Eurostar from St Pancras International to Gare Du Nord. From there students will be taking a tour bus to see the sights of Paris to the Eiffel Tower where they will disembark for lunch at the food market which offers a variety of different French and International cuisines. Once all are full we will travel back to the city centre on the tour bus to view the Notre-Dame, visit one of the oldest book shops in Europe, Shakespeare and Company and admire the famous Waterlilies by Monet in the Musée de l'Orangerie.

After a brief stop for Coffee and desert in the Tuileries Garden there will be shopping on The Avenue des Champs-Élysées followed by a three course meal in a traditional French Restaurant before travelling back on the Eurostar back to London. Hopefully the weather will be pleasant for our jam packed day!

Emma Finnerty  
Houseparent



*Emma's Huddle  
Christmas Party  
& Secret Santa!*



*Huddle Trip to 'A Christmas Carol'*



*Huddle Cinema Trip*



# FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL!



The Staff vs Student fixture is always a highlight event for me, I really enjoy seeing some of our boarders out on the football pitch and seeing all their enthusiasm and skills. No doubt that our students could be teaching us a few things on the field with students beating us 5-1, although its the fantastic atmosphere of the event that makes it so special.

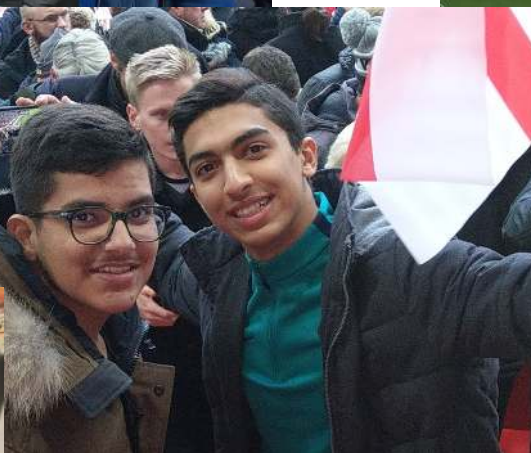
In addition to great goals we also grew fantastic moustaches and raised money towards men's health. This fixture does so much more than just create a great atmosphere, it promotes and encourages our young men to take notice of men's health and understand that it is alright to not be alright and to understand that you are not alone. Suicide is all too prevalent in young males and its great to see the college supporting and educating our boys about these problems. The college raised an impressive amount of money. Make sure you don't miss out on this headline fixture next year!



Kyle Micali  
Houseparent



England V Croatia  
at Wembley in November



## WHO SAYS DOGS AND CATS DON'T GET ON?

This term has been so busy, with so many snacks, I can barely remember everything that has happened. There have been so many trips and activities, the boarders have hardly had time to feed me the usual tasty treats, You will understand how aggrieved I feel about this.

That said, this photo does go to prove that cats and dogs can get along. Merry Christmas! Save me some turkey please.

Sasha Taylor  
The "DLD Dog"





## BOARDERS' TRIPS

As the end of the first term looms, the Houseparents are busy planning trips and activities for next term. Our autumn trips were a huge success, and new and returning students enjoyed a varied programme of exciting events such as theatre shows and international football at Wembley, bonfire night fireworks and ice skating at The Tower of London, plus designer shopping at Bicester Village and a Go Karting tournament. Many thanks to all of the Boarding team, College staff and volunteers who supported these trips.

Each Huddle Houseparent has been busy planning a Christmas trip for their own Huddle and as a result we have had: bowling jaguars, singing Llamas, theatre going flamingos, supper party stallions, movie watching Olympians and tartan O2 tourers...!

The feedback from our students make all of the planning and preparation for our trips worthwhile. Boarding staff see the benefits of providing a wide and varied programme throughout the year as new student friendships are forged, cultural experiences and nuances are exchanged, laughter and happiness is shared and many lasting memories are made.

Our Spring 2019 trip programme is now being advertised and students are invited to sign up for a varied programme ranging from a three day meditation course to a whole day of paintballing or perhaps they might enjoy a classical concert at the Royal Albert Hall or a trip to London Zoo.

Places for some of our trips are limited and they get booked very early, so please students, sign up as soon as possible to guarantee your attendance.



*Sheila's  
Bowling  
Huddle  
Trip !*

Sheila Price  
Houseparent



### *Ice Skating at the Tower of London*





## FROM JAN'S HUDDLE



Our youngest girls' Huddle have really gotten into the Christmas spirit this month. We have a Secret Santa group, advent calendars and Christmas trees in our common rooms, and a trip planned to the iconic O2 arena in the final week of term.

These girls already feel like a group who have known each other for much longer than a term so it will be a lovely way to celebrate together before everyone heads off home for some well deserved family time.



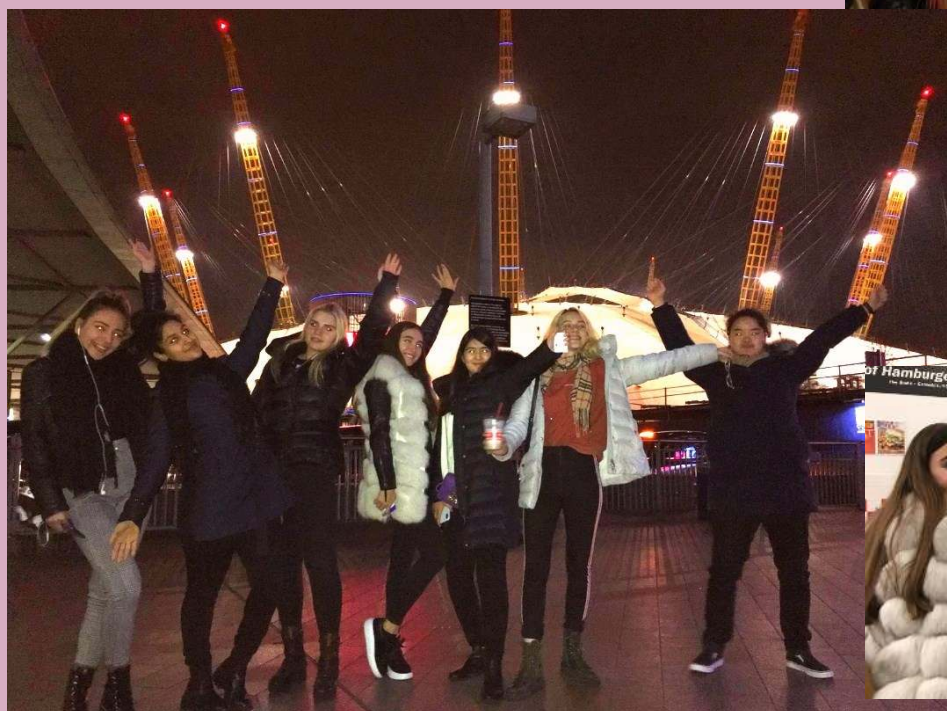
Jan Haines  
Houseparent



*Boarders presenting at the  
Christmas Business Fair*



*Jan's Christmas Huddle Trip  
was to the World-famous  
O2, for food and a movie*





## MY ROLE AS A HOUSE TUTOR!



Being a House Tutor for the first time has been an amazing opportunity to interact with the students in a completely different way than during the college day. It means straddling the line between being at school and being at 'home-away-from-home'. Study time is *not* a lesson and offers the Boarders a chance to practice working independently but with the added support of an adult who can help, if they need it, and to keep them on track if they do that too. It's also great for a heated debate or two.

Once study is finished, that's when the fun starts! DLD students are always interesting and interested and it is a privilege to connect with them over something that they are passionate about, and to get schooled by them on their specialist subject whether that's by chatting about new music or getting thrashed at Ping Pong. It can be easy to only see one dimension of a student, and when we are pushing them to attain in lessons we don't always meet the real them. Huddle registration also lets me see these wild animals in their natural habitat (the Huddle I'm part of are the Jaguars!) and offers another environment where we can meet, talk, play and (hopefully, for them) settle down and get ready for the next day ahead.

Being a House Tutor has introduced me to a whole new set of students (many of whom I might only see in passing around the college) and is a great and frequent reminder for me that we are preparing these young people for their whole lives, and not just for an exam.

Mark Johnson  
House Tutor (Sheila's Huddle)  
& Head of Wellbeing



*Mark joined Sheila's Huddle Trip bowling at Elephant and Castle last week, donning this fetching Jaguar costume*



**Houseparents:**

**+44 7880 032 822**

[houseparents@dld.org](mailto:houseparents@dld.org)

**AFTER 11PM – TELEPHONE ONLY**







## Singalong Movie Trips!

Nicola's Huddle— Frozen Singalong

Boarders' Committee—Greatest Showman





# CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING!





## CHRISTMAS DINNER AND DISCO!

For many of our international boarders this was the first time they have experienced a festive evening indulging in a traditional British Christmas. A whole Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, freshly made warm mince pies, cupcakes with a mountain of frosting... Party poppers were enjoyed by the adults more than the kids...

Followed by a disco in the theatre which was DJ'd by the students, dancing into the evening to Christmas Songs and burning off those sugary cakes...

A big thank you to all the catering staff who have worked so hard throughout the year and preparing a lovely Christmas meal. Merry Christmas!

Amina Sidat

Assistant Houseparent  
(Nicola's Huddle)

