

From the Director of Boarding

The second half of this term has been a busy, fun-filled, and incredibly active one for our boarding community. In boarding schools, November can be hard; the 'honeymoon period' is over as students settle in, friendship groups that last a lifetime are formed, and yet Christmas isn't quite here yet...

Here in our Boarding House, however, we have had such a busy and eventful time with lots of in-house activities such as quizzes, special meals and movie nights. We have also enjoyed many trips from the Royal Albert Hall to Ice Skating. A particular highlight for me was taking a group to the London Jazz Festival for a fantastic concert followed by a nice meal together. The best bit is having good conversations with interesting students from all over the world.

Students learn much more than their academic results in this place; they find out about their local, national, and international communities by living and working together as one big multi-cultural and diverse family, and by getting involved in community and charity work like the great 'Movember campaign', led by our Facilities Manager, Eddie. Our 'Huddles' have been developing too, with each Huddle going on an end of term trip, forming a sense of smaller communities within the house. We get much more from serving than being served, and this is the time of year to remember that.

May I say a huge thank you to all our resident Houseparents, our Boarding Assistants, House Tutors, Refectory Staff and Cleaning Staff for all their hard work throughout this term to help make DLD Boarding such a friendly and warm place for all of us who live and work here together. My goodness, everyone deserves a good rest!

Have a wonderful winter break, and a very merry Christmas!

*John J. Taylor*

John J. Taylor, Director of Boarding



Christmas came early this year at DLD; students got together to decorate the College Christmas Trees, with hot chocolate, mince pies, and cheesy Christmas music galore!



John with Boarders at the London Jazz Festival



John with Boarders at the Royal Albert Hall 'Star Wars' concert



Vafa performing at the Winter Concert

Boarders' Trips and Activities

There have been numerous trips for boarders this term, both within Huddles and boarder-wide trips.

In terms of 'active trips', students have enjoyed attending Wembley Stadium for a football match, go-karting, and most recently, the ever-popular Christmas Ice-Skating trips.

Culturally, we have had trips to the ballet (The Snowman and The Nutcracker), concerts ('Star Wars' and the 'Classical Spectacular' at the Royal Albert Hall), and some of these trips have included a special meal before or after the event.

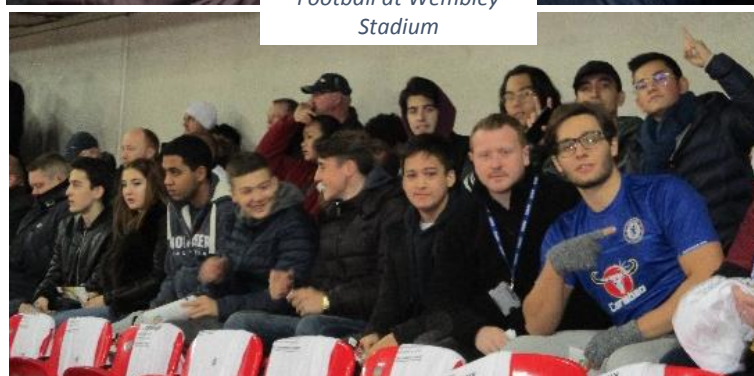
Trips are an incredibly important part of the experience of being at DLD, as they allow our boarders to get out and about in London, to socialise together, and to experience all that this exciting and vibrant city has to offer.

Next term, we have another great round of trips, and it is important that students get the opportunity to go on these, to unwind, and to enable them to have an important break from study on occasion.

Many thanks to Sheila Price, our Houseparent, in particular, for organising so many of the trips on offer, and overseeing the programme of activities, and for all the staff from boarding, admin and teaching, who have accompanied these trips to make sure they are a great success.



Football at Wembley Stadium



Boarding Assistant Yasna with Ani at The Snowman ballet



John and Kim with John's Huddle prior to their Christmas Meal

In-House Events

We have enjoyed a busy term in the DLD boarding house, despite being in the heart of one of Europe's busiest cities we have numerous in house activities for students to take part in.

Students are encouraged to get involved in these activities to make the most of the diverse nationalities we have to offer. These activities often have an element of team building and social fun to encourage student to engage and make new friends!

I look forward to students getting involved in the activities next term. If you have any special activities you would like organised, please feel free to speak to the Houseparents and we will try our best to run these for you!



Kyle Micali

Houseparent



Quiz Night



Hanging in the Atrium

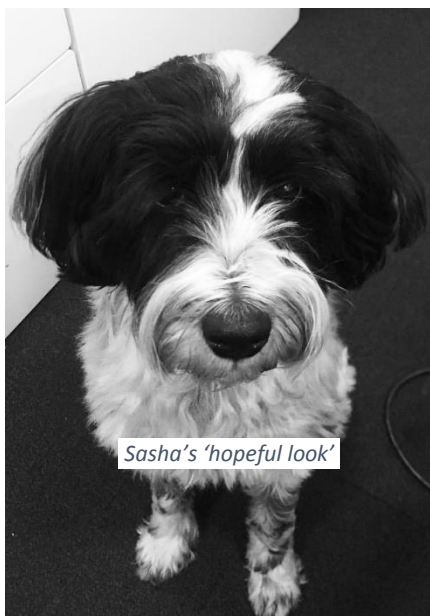


Crafts in the Common Room



Movie Night

Christmas – a Good Time for Treats...!



Sasha's 'hopeful look'

I have discovered, this half term, that Christmas is a good time to try and encourage boarders and staff to feed me treats. Who cares about all these Christmas songs, and 'fa-la-la'-ing, when I can win people over just by looking at them, and do my best to get fed?

My highlight of the term was going to watch the staff student football match at Archbishop's Park. It was great to see all the boarders cheering on the student team, who won in the end. The spectators all made a fuss of me too, though I had hoped they would bring me some bacon or something at least. When they go for Christmas, I always miss boarders being around the place, and John isn't quite so liberal in slipping me the odd tasty snack. Ho hum... Merry Christmas!

Sasha Taylor

The "DLD Dog"



“The most outstanding boarding experience in London!”

This term has been an outstanding success for the boarders who have been residing with us since September. DLD College London is blessed with a truly internal community of 52 nationalities and the boarding team have done an incredible job at forging a community spirit in such a short space of time. Whether it's the breakfast meetings, or the huge range of activities and trips its clear to see that some strong friendships and connections have been established.



The creation of the family Huddles has added a sense of belonging within boarding and it was great to see the Houseparents organise a variety of nights out for their Huddles to strengthen those bonds. London is one of the most exciting cities in the world and I feel that we offer a boarding experience that allows access to the rich array of opportunities in a safe and supportive manner. Our aim is to achieve the most outstanding boarding experience in London and continue to welcome any feedback that you feel can contribute to our target. I would like to recognise the contribution of the Student Council members, but particularly Dayana who is the boarding representative, for her hard work this term.

I hope that you enjoy some quality time in the coming weeks with your son or daughter.



Tom Hadcroft

Deputy Principal (*Welfare and Boarding*)

Student Council's Farewell Letter to Rachel

Dear Rachel,

A Principal like you has surely been a stroke of good luck for DLD! On your departure, we are sure that it will be very difficult to replace you.

Your leadership, guidance and friendly approach will never be forgotten. Thank you for supporting students and our College and truly, thank you for always being there for us.

We will miss you!

Student Council



Dayana Chumbruridze

Boarders' Representative on Student Council



Introducing... our new Boarding Assistants!

Tom Saul

Tom has been working in boarding houses for the last two years; before moving back to London he worked at North London Collegiate School Jeju in South Korea and United World College Thailand in Phuket.

As well as working within the boarding houses, Tom has experience in teaching and tutoring students English and Global Politics as a part of the International Baccalaureate. Before beginning his travels and working in international schools, Tom also completed an MSc in International Public Policy whilst studying at UCL. Tom's hobbies include sport, in particular rugby, and he would love to continue travelling in the future.



Yingying Zheng

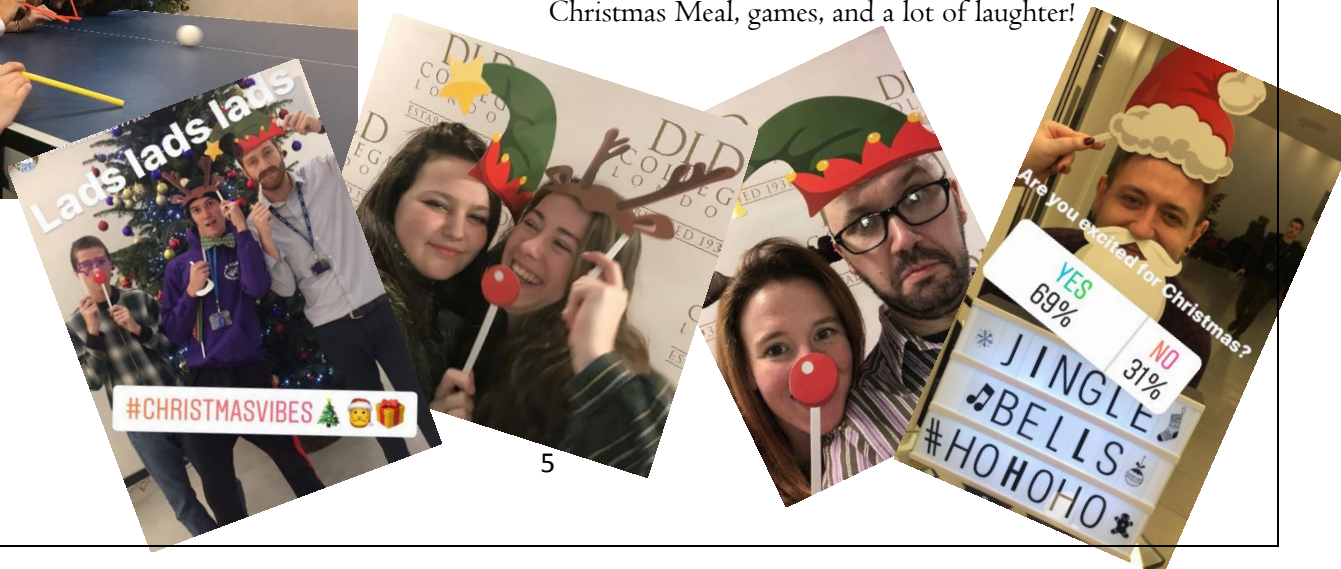
Yingying is one of the new Boarding Assistants who has just joined the DLD family. She grew up in a small city in Southern China. At the age of fifteen, she decided to start her adventure of studying abroad, and she travelled all the way to Scotland.

Having been a boarder herself for three years, Yingying understands how surprising the boarding experience can be. Besides having made friends from different countries in the world, she has also been through culture shock, language barriers and homesickness herself. She is very happy to share her experience with the boarders at DLD, as well as to provide support when they need help.



The DLD Boarders' Christmas 'Do'!

On Sunday 10th December, we held the Boarders' Christmas Party, starting with drinks and canapes in the Atrium, followed by a traditional British Christmas Meal, games, and a lot of laughter!



“Huddle” Trips

For the first time ever, to celebrate the end of the term there has been a variety of Huddle trips. Emma and Sheila's Huddle wrapped up warm and travelled to Chiswick House and Gardens to see the Christmas Chinese Magical Lantern Festival. Set throughout the beautiful gardens of Chiswick House large lanterns in a variety of shapes from traditional Chinese temples to animals (a flamingo and a dove were even spotted!) were impressive to see. Set at the end of the walk were food stalls, charity stands, sweet stalls, hot drinks stations and even bumper cars. Students enjoyed ostrich burgers, hot dogs, hot chocolate and candy floss and some had fun on the bumper cars (including Houseparent Sheila and Boarding Assistant Geordie) before making their home by coach.



Nicola's Huddle braved the cold to go ice skating. Set in the grounds of the Tower of London students could skate whilst taking in the sights of one of the oldest buildings in London situated next to the equally striking Tower Bridge. There was a variety of skill levels from the excellent to the first timers and it was lovely to see the students help one another. Great fun was had and the feedback was so good we will definitely consider doing this again next year as a Huddle trip!

John and his wife Kim took John's Huddle on a short walk past the London Eye to the restaurant Ping Pong on the Southbank, with Boarding Assistant Alisa. Once there all consumed large amounts of dim sum and soft drinks before preparing themselves for the chilly walk home!

A big thank you to the Houseparents for organising these activities and an even bigger thank you to all the students who attended. It was lovely for staff to spend time with you all away from the boarding house and to relax and enjoy something a bit different!



Emma Finnerty
Houseparent





Special Occasions

This half term we have celebrated Halloween and Christmas together as a Boarding House. The new Heads and Deputy Heads of Huddle met together with me to discuss how we wished to celebrate and concluded that we'd like a party!

We enjoyed drinks and canapés before a traditional Christmas dinner. Our inter-huddle competition followed with a selfie competition and many games!

Next term we will look forward to our Welcome Back Party where we will also be welcoming new students, and later in the term Valentines, Chinese New Year and International Women's Day.

Do remember to bring something from your own counties (national dress, flag or food for example...) to help us celebrate all the countries and cultures we have here at DLD in our International Day next term!



Nicola Borland
Houseparent



