

Boarding Newsletter

June 2018

From the Assistant Principal (Boarding)

This has been a packed and exciting academic year, and as my first full year at DLD College, we have seen some really positive developments in boarding. Working with students, and taking their views and opinions into account, we have undertaken a great many changes. A year ago, 'Huddles' (our smaller groups within the wider boarding house) were only an idea; now we have Heads and Deputy Heads of Huddle, Huddle Trips, and Huddle Meetings. We recently held our first ever Graduation, in the Palace of Westminster, which as well as being memorable and historic, was also a sad time for those of us saying goodbye to boarders we have lived with throughout this academic year.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of our boarding staff, Houseparents, Boarding Assistants, and House Tutors alike, for all their hard work throughout the year in looking after our students, supporting them in times of need, organising the many activities and trips which have happened throughout the year, but mostly, just for being there. We are sad to say farewell to a number of staff members this term. Ying and Tom, our Boarding Assistants, will be sorely missed, and I know that our Houseparent Craig will be particularly missed when we return in September. Thank you to them for all their hard and considerable work for Boarding at DLD.

We have also been working hard on making various improvements for next year, as it is important that our students feel as at home in boarding as possible, with the right kind of targeted support when it is needed. We are looking forward to welcoming new students in September, as well as two new Houseparents, Myles and Jan, and a number of new boarding assistants. So while many of you are on holiday, bear in mind the hard work happening in the background to prepare for the new academic year, and all it has in store. Meantime, have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you all back here in the new academic year.



John J. Taylor

John J. Taylor

Assistant Principal (Boarding)



From the Vice-Principal (Pastoral)

2017/2018 has been an exciting year in the development of DLD College and the boarding has been at the centre of these new changes. The concept of the Huddle was created and formed this year, with the intention of establishing a greater sense of family within the boarding accommodation with dedicated Houseparents coordinating each one. With regular meetings, Students' roles of responsibility in the form of Head and Deputy Head of Huddle and the occasional Huddle trip the intention was for the boarders to have a group that they could belong to. For next year we will evaluate how to improve the sense of community further. The trips and visits programme has also been hailed as a success of 2017/2018 with a variety of experiences open to all boarders, making the most of their London experience. I have to make a special mention of the team building activity back in September which help to create a foundation stone for the newcomers and ensure that they made some quick connections. Sleeping in wigwams and singing round a campfire in the Surrey countryside was a great experience.

With youngsters around the globe increasingly demonstrating significant mental health concerns it is important that we support all young people who are in our care with increasing vigilance. With all the Houseparent team having qualified in the Mental Health First Aid qualification and having Emily, our Counsellor and Emma, our Independent Listener available, we are ensuring we take our responsibilities seriously. From September 2018 we will welcome a new Nurse, Gina, who currently practises as a Lead Nurse in paediatric Accident & Emergency at St Thomas' Hospital, London as well as increasing the availability of Emily, our trained counsellor. In addition the College have appointed a Head of Wellbeing, who will be assessing further support structures that we can make to support all the DLD Students. By the end of the year we hope to have formulated a Health Charter for the students at DLD, with heavy influence from the students themselves.

Finally, I would like to tanks all the boarding staff for their hard work and dedication this year, to John, the Assistant Principal (Boarding) and of course all the boarders for a great year in the boarding accommodation. The boarders are central to making DLD what it is, I wish all of them a wonderful holiday. Good luck to those waiting for external examination grades and au revoir to those will see back in September.

Tom Hadcroft
Vice Principal (Pastoral)



Tom walking boarders over Westminster Bridge to Graduation in the Houses of Parliament



DLD College 2018 Graduation – 22 May 2018

Boarders' Trips & Activities

No sooner is one academic year over than another one looms, which means more planning of trips and activities for our new and returning boarders. Our Autumn programme is now ready and we can promise another mix of cultural, action packed and wellbeing trips and activities.

Following on from the success of last year's Wembley, Go Karting, Globe and Spa trips, we're repeating them again this term along with exciting new activities such as The Party Gaming Bus which will enable up to 20 students to compete against each other for 2 hours!

You will be able to sign up for any of the trips and activities on our Autumn Calendar during induction week. Book early to avoid disappointment! Many thanks to all of our boarding team, teachers and volunteers who have supported the trips and activities programme over the last year.



Sheila Price
Houseparent

PLEASE LET THE HOUSE-
PARENTS KNOW IF YOU
HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR
TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

?

DLD College London

Autumn 2018 Trips and Activities Programme

Please e-mail: houseparents@dld.org

If you would like to sign up to any of these trips



16th—24th February 2019
Skiing trip to Italy



4th—9th September
Induction Activities/Open Top Bus tour



9th September
Welcome Party



15th September
New boarders' residential weekend



16th September
New boarders' residential weekend



15th September
Go Karting Tournament



22nd September
Gaming Party Bus/Tate Modern



30th September
Jurassic Park at The Royal Albert Hall



6th October
Othello at The Globe—2pm



13th October
Laser Quest



20th—28th October
Half Term



31st October
Halloween Party



3rd November
Bonfire Night and Fireworks



10th November
The Lion King



17th November
Spa Day for Girls/Science Museum



18th November
England v Croatia at Wembley



19th November
Seth Lakeman Gig



24th November
Christmas Shopping at Bicester Village



25th November
Countryside Ramble



25th November
Ice Skating at Tower of London



End of Year
HUDDLE TRIPS



1st December
Ice Skating at Somerset House



2nd December
Backyard Cinema



7th December
Nutcracker Ballet and Dinner at The Royal Opera House



9th December
Christmas Dinner and Party

Community & Charity Connections

This year we have been focusing on how we can help and support our local community and have been planning activities for next year closely with Oasis UK who do a phenomenal amount of work within our local area including running a food bank, advice centre, schools, after school clubs, community choirs, homeless shelters, and many many more.

We are so fortunate at DLD to live and learn in a fantastic state of the art environment that we are in a position where we are able to give back. We will be working closely with the Student Council to organise and run a series of fundraising events and enable many volunteering opportunities. We hope this will allow all students to engage more with our local community as well as our DLD community. There is so much to gain from volunteering and I hope all students will consider joining some of the events.

Oasis will be coming in during induction week in September and the Student Council will be advertising events throughout the year.



Nicola Borland
Houseparent





Sasha with Sasha!

Summertime Blues...

I always find it strange at the end of term, when students begin to pack, and the house becomes quieter as boarders begin to get on flights and go home.

Summer is a quiet time of year, and to be honest, I don't like it. I like the attention that the students give me, and of course, the food they drop from time to time...

Here is a picture of our boarder, Sasha, taking me (Sasha) for a walk. The boarders are all very nice to me, and I am looking forward to meeting new boarders in the new academic year.

Thank you to all of the boarders who have been so nice and welcoming to me this year.

Sasha Taylor
The "DLD Dog"



As always we had a very busy summer term in the DLD boarding house, our students have been involved in numerous activities ranging from Silent Disco's to Royal Wedding events. We are so lucky to have such great surroundings and opportunities for our boarders. The highlight of this term had to be our paintball trip, where our boarders got their chance to revenge early morning registration! Finally it was great to see our boarders from all nationalities embrace the World Cup and come together to support their team. After such a busy term there is no way better to end the term than to join us for a pizza and ice-cream party! Let us know if there are any activities you would like to see at the DLD boarding house and we'll try our best to make them happen!



Kyle Micali
Houseparent



Paintballing



Royal Wedding



Silent Disco

Huddle News

We have spent this past academic year developing Huddles within our boarding community and have held a variety of Huddle trips and activities including Cinema trips, a Christmas Magical Lantern Festival, Bowling, Ice Skating at Somerset House and meals at local restaurants. Huddles enable students of similar ages to get to know one another, develop friendships and as a group help shape Boarding at DLD.

Along with Huddles this year has also seen the appointment our first Head and Deputy Head of Huddles. This role has included organising activities and trips for students, interviewing new members of staff, helping with College Open Days, representing student views on the Food Committee and much more. We would like to thank Sem Ryan, Hank Zhao, Mia Tomova, Nada Soufi, Max Lavie, Leanne Mansour, Vikas Sajanani, Tam Atamkulov, Leanne Mansour, Jessie Liu and Vicky Xiao for their commitment and dedication to these roles and the support they have provided for both their fellow boarders and their Huddle Houseparents.



As the end of our first year with Huddles draws to a close we have been gathering feedback from students on how to further develop these mini communities during the next academic year and we all look forward to welcoming both new and returning students to our Huddles in September.

Emma Finnerty
Houseparent



Harry Potter Banquet



Lego Night

From the Student Council

What a pleasure to meet you all at the DLD boarding House this academic year! My name is Dayana and I'm currently a year 13 student. Last year I was chosen as a Boarders Representative in the Student Council. This role involved continuous integration between me and the boarders in order to make sure that everyone feels safe and "at home". It is my third year boarding at DLD and I am really happy to share some "wisdom"...



This year I greet you as a Head of the Student Council to whom you can approach anytime with any concern or issue! The whole Student Council team (19 of us) and Houseparents team are always there for you.

Here's some guidance for you in order to make your boarding experience unforgettable:

1. It's London, baby! Yes, it is you who is so lucky to live and study in the centre of the world's glorious city. Explore London as much as possible, and remember that there is always something going on in London! Personally, I am a concert-goer and it's really important to plan your trip properly before going to the concert. There are lots of changes in London's public transport all the time. Make your life easier and get a student Oyster card!
2. Try to appreciate every opportunity that the Boarding House gives you, especially with over 50 nationalities under one roof. Get to know your neighbours and participate in boarding activities, such as movie nights in the atrium!
3. Be cautious. Unfortunately, we live in the world where terrorism is a rising issue and London is not an exception. Sign out properly and make sure your Houseparents and mates know where you are. Remember 'Crime and Punishment'? So, yeah- Never Talk To Strangers!!!

One last thought, great things only tend to happen from very uncomfortable changes! Get out of your comfort zone and enjoy!

With love,

Dayana Chumburidze
Boarder / Co-Head of Student Council

An Introduction to our College Counsellor



I'm Emily, one of the counsellors at DLD College.

Counselling gives you the opportunity to talk about things that are of concern, in a safe, confidential space with a qualified counsellor. What is spoken about will depend on you, but common themes are stress, relationships, change, loss and distressing, traumatic events. If you would like to book in with us speak to your Houseparents or Director of Studies to refer.

We are opposite the nurse in room 1.50 on the first floor.

Emily Elliot

Our Independent Listener

Emma Loveridge, the College's Independent Listener, can be contacted on 02035429935 / 07534449896 if students feel that they would like to talk to someone outside of boarding.



Farewells and Hellos!

Farewells

This term, we have to say farewell to our Boarding Assistants Ying (who will be studying in Australia next year), and Tom (who is pursuing a career in teaching). We also say goodbye to our House Tutors, Nick, Stephen and Gary, who are moving on to pastures new. We wish them all well!



Craig Sobis (Houseparent)

We also say farewell to our resident Houseparent, Craig Sobis. Craig has spent the last two years living and working with DLD Boarders.

We shall miss his sharp sense of humour, fabulous administrative skills, and I know the boys in his Huddle will miss the support he has provided them throughout the years. We wish Craig the very best for this future.

Hellos

A warm welcome to our two new Houseparents who start in August, Jan Haines and Myles Blair. Both are coming to us as experienced Houseparents, and we look forward to their involvement in the life and work of Boarding at DLD.



Houseparent

Myles Blair (Older boys Huddle)

Myles.blair@dld.org from September 2018

I am thrilled to be starting the next chapter of my career at DLD College in September and look forward to greeting students old and new to the school. I have worked in boarding for almost 6 years now and have taught Drama, English and History for almost as long. In September, I hope to bring my fun, upbeat and unique style to the college. I have a keen interest in theatre, music, travelling and history and hope to enjoy these things with the students in London.



Houseparent

Jan Haines (Younger Girls Huddle)

Jan.haines@dld.org from September 2018

Having lived as a Houseparent for 5 years now I have had the joy of sharing the highs and lows of boarding life with students from all over the world.

I grew up in the Highlands of Scotland and have a love for the great outdoors. I played rugby for 10 years, enjoy squash, horse riding, kayaking and any sport that allows me to stay healthy!



International Day

In April, boarders held our first ever International Day. Students sampled food from around the world, and took the opportunity to tell one another about their countries, customs and languages.



Boarder of the Year

Every week in Boarding, we award a 'Boarder of the Week' at our Friday meeting – this is usually for boarders who have gone above and beyond to help out that week, or who have contributed to the life of the boarding community.

At the end of the year, John and Irfan awarded the first ever 'Boarder of the Year' award to Maiden, for her exceptional contribution to boarding, attendance at many events and trips, and her support of other boarders. Well done to Maiden!



Put this number in your phone...

Houseparents: +44 7880 032 822
houseparents@dld.org



AFTER 11PM – TELEPHONE ONLY