

Boarding Newsletter

October 2018

From the Assistant Principal (Boarding)

Welcoming New Boarders to the New Academic Year!

It was a pleasure to welcome so many new boarders to the house this academic year. We have 60 nationalities this year, and boarders have been forming new friendships with people from all over the world. Our new and returning students have been getting to know one another, and the bravery of students coming to board, sometimes from so very far away, and their willingness to get to know new friends always amazes me. It is an exciting time!

As well as a packed Induction Programme including an impromptu Talent Show, tours of our local area, and teambuilding activities, new and returning boarders have arrived to various new developments in boarding at DLD.

We have been working on building a sense of 'home away from home' for boarders. Every night, each Huddle gathers in their 'hub' common room where their Houseparent bids them good night and checks on them. In addition, we have increased our provision of recreational activities in the atrium for evenings and weekends. We now have a pool table, PS4 and air hockey, which has made a big difference to the number of students using this area. Have a wonderful half term!



John J. Taylor
Assistant Principal (Boarding)



Boarders during Induction Week

From the Vice-Principal (Pastoral)

On the weekend of 15th-16th September a group of 22 students set off from DLD to take part in a teambuilding weekend at the ADUR centre in Shoreham by the sea. The group consisted of new students and members of the Student Council who were asked to sleep outside in teepees and take part in a number of physical and mental challenges. The weekend was a great success including activities such as kayaking, mountain biking, archery, teambuilding, low ropes and indoor rock climbing. Highlights included the campfire on the Saturday evening with marshmallows and music and also the trip down to the sea. For some it was the first time they had experienced these type of activities. Over the weekend the students were also given a presentation about the end of year trip to Nepal, involving trekking and community projects, the trip is available to all students and if you are interested please get in touch with the Houseparents.

There was also a presentation about the Duke of Edinburgh Award which we are launching at DLD College this year. If you are interested in this very challenging and rewarding qualification, which is recognised by UK Universities, please visit their website <https://www.dofe.org/> and if you want to take part connect with Charlie Pinel at DLD as soon as possible. As for the weekend, on behalf of all the staff members attending I would like to thank you for your wonderful attitude and your levels of engagement. We were delighted with all the DLD Students.



Tom Hadcroft
Vice Principal (Pastoral)





Real Life Monopoly Challenge around London



Go Karting!

Boarders' Trips & Activities

The academic year has got off to a great start with some fantastic activities and trips.

Induction week saw a number of in-house activities such as a teambuilding evening, as well as students undertaking a 'Monopoly Challenge' around Central London.

In addition, we have had boarders trips from the active (Go-Karting / Laserquest) to the Cultural ('Othello' at Shakespeare's Globe / 'Jurassic Park' with a live orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall).

After half term, as well as various Christmas trips such as ice skating, a trip to see the famous festive ballet 'The Nutcracker' and shopping at Bicester Village, we will have trips to the West End musical 'The Lion King', football at Wembley Stadium, Bonfire Night on Blackheath, as well as a Spa Day for the girls.

It is fabulous to see so many students taking advantage of their time in London by signing up for these trips en masse! Long may it continue!



Boarders attending 'Othello' at The Globe Theatre



Community & Charity Connections

This term we have continued our relationship with Oasis Food Bank and have been collecting tinned food and dried goods for their good cause. Students volunteered to take the food over and see how the Food Bank works.

Oasis do a lot of work in the local area and working with them is one of the ways we encourage students to become a part of the local community as well as our DLD community.

We look forward to having many more student volunteers over the coming months.



Nicola Borland
Houseparent



Kirill, Giovanni and Ricards taking donations to Waterloo Food Bank



Supporting our International Boarding Community

The Principal of Westlake School in Malaysia brought some of her key staff to meet John, visit our boarding house, and learn about DLD's boarding in October. This was organised through the Boarding Schools Association, and proved to be interesting for them and us.

We are keen to continue developing links with other boarding schools around the world; as such, our Houseparents are linked up with other BSA Boarding Schools, to share good practice and develop ideas in the sector.

‘Home’ is Where the *Sofa* Is

It is great for me to have met so many new boarders, some of whom I have found already have tasty treats that they conveniently drop on a fairly regular basis.

Some say I am a lazy dog, but I tend to prefer the terms ‘relaxed’ and ‘chilled’. I can’t argue with being called ‘greedy’ though... Here’s my guide to being happy and at home here at DLD... These are the things that work for me...

- Find a comfy sofa. Even if you’re working, it’s a good place to be. Get involved in the redecoration of your Common Rooms – it’s your home, so make it yours.
- Be nice to other people and you will be repaid; it’s amazing how many treats a wag of the tail or giving a paw or a high five can get you.
- Don’t sweat the small stuff. I don’t...
- When the lifts are being slow, just lying down in the middle of the floor is a better approach than getting annoyed.
- Go for a walk every day. It’s not good to be cooped up in the house all day long, and the interesting smells in this area are most sniff-worthy, even if John won’t always allow me to eat anything I find on the ground in Archbishop’s Park...



Sasha getting to know some of our new boarders

Sasha Taylor
The “DLD Dog”



From Emma's Huddle...

Our newly appointed Head of Huddle Sara and Deputy Heads, Madina and Alina have been very enthusiastic about Huddle trips, gathering feedback from the Huddle and planning a variety of events both in house and external for this coming academic year. Firstly this term, a joint trip with Nicola's Huddle to see the second instalment of the latest 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald' in November.

Our Christmas trip this year is to see the award winning 'A Christmas Carol' at the Old Vic Theatre in December as well as a Huddle Christmas Gathering and Secret Santa to help us get into the Christmas spirit. Sara is also running a weekly reading group every Sunday and is currently looking into creating a group to go horse riding weekly. For the spring term we are busy planning a day trip to Paris and for the summer term a trip to Brighton!



Emma Finnerty
Houseparent

From Jan's Huddle...



Our junior girls' Huddle has quickly become a lively one. With only 5 returners, this new group has really embraced the changes to this year's boarding life and brought forward many of their own ideas on how they'd like to make the most of our time together. During our Huddle registration it has been lovely to see their friendships grow and hear how supportive and positive an influence they have on each other.

Jan Haines
Houseparent





REACH
Boarding School System

This term we have implemented REACH Boarding Software at the College, which enables students to sign in and out of boarding using their cards, while also allowing staff to be able to see easily where a student has signed out to in the event of an emergency.

As well as this function, the software allows us to more effectively track pastoral matters and take electronic rollcalls.

In due course, we will be rolling out the 'Leave' function of REACH, which will streamline the process for parents requesting weekend or overnight leave. Keep an eye out for an email from REACH about this.



*Boarders enjoying our main
shared common area...*
The Atrium





Sheila's Huddle

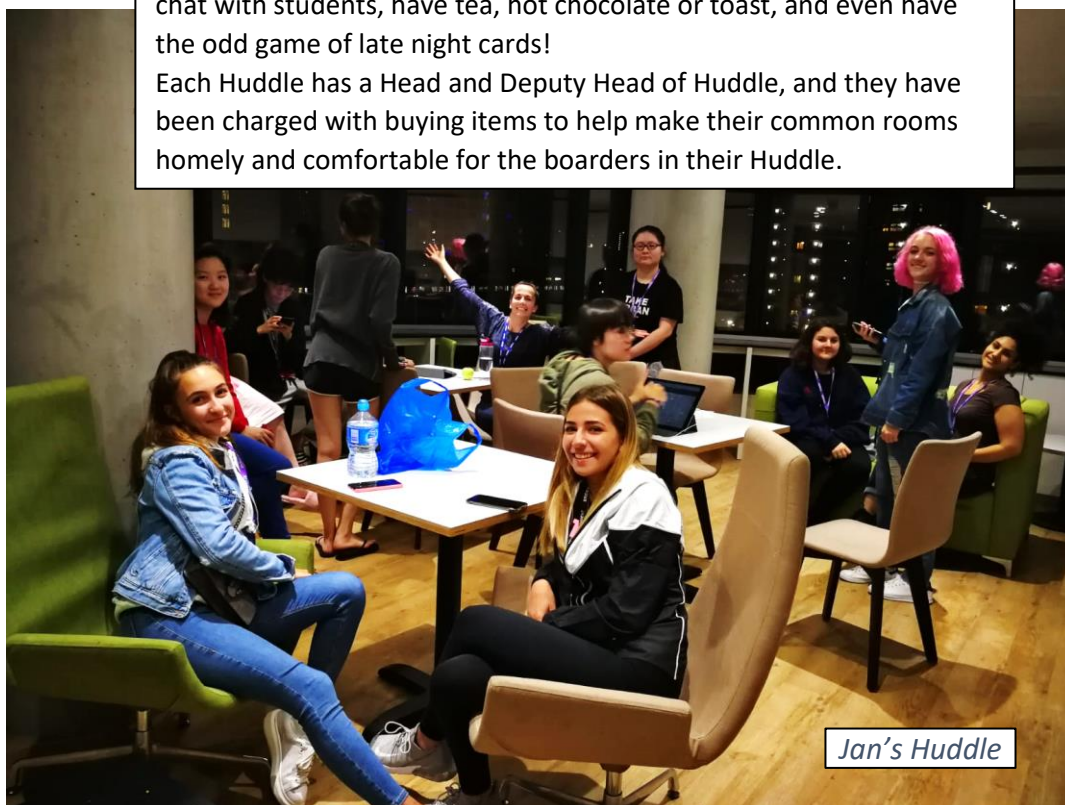


'Huddle Reg'

Each Houseparent looks after their own 'Huddle' – a group of boarders organised by floor, age and gender.

Every evening, each Huddle attends their evening 'Huddle Reg' in one of their common rooms, which we call their 'Huddle Hub'. There they are registered for the evening, but it is also a good time for staff to chat with students, have tea, hot chocolate or toast, and even have the odd game of late night cards!

Each Huddle has a Head and Deputy Head of Huddle, and they have been charged with buying items to help make their common rooms homely and comfortable for the boarders in their Huddle.



Jan's Huddle

Induction for New Boarders

DLD's Boarding Induction evenings are a time to break the ice, reconnect with friends missed over the summer and forge new friendships with fresh faces. This year was no exception. It was great to see all boarders get stuck into the variety of different activities across induction week including 'Build a Room' where students used their bodies to create inanimate objects of specific rooms and The Boarders Talent Show. It was a representation of what the college is all about with a mixture of nationalities coming together, sharing their likes and goals, making friends and creating an inclusive multi-cultural community where they can all thrive.

Myles Blair
Houseparent



Boarders' Induction
Teambuilding Activities

