

# Boarding Newsletter

March 2018

## From the Assistant Principal (Boarding)

Spring Term has been a thoroughly packed one, starting with the arrival of a new Principal and a great Welcome (Back) Party for new and returning students. As ever, we have had our share of exciting trips and activities, from Chinese and Iranian New Year events to Cirque Du Soleil at the Royal Albert Hall, a trip to the thermal spa for the girls, Go-Karting, and many more evening activities and trips. We have celebrated International Women's Day together, had quiz nights, movie nights, and various other events throughout the term.

More than all of these events, I am increasingly proud of our boarders. The work ethic and the effort they put in during mock exams was impressive, and I know that in all sorts of ways, students have supported one another throughout the term. This is what it means to live together in one big international boarding house, with students looking out for one another, encouraging friends, and living and working together to achieve the best results they can whilst being active and involved in the community.

Good luck to those revising for their final exams next term from myself, Kim, the Houseparents and Boarding Assistants.



*John J. Taylor*

**John J. Taylor**  
Assistant Principal (Boarding)



*Burns Night Dancing!*



*Westminster Bridge in January*



*Tartan on Burns Night*



## Boarders' Trips & Activities

We have had another successful spring term of trips and activities for our boarders with a full and diverse programme ranging from Scottish country dancing at our Hootenanny and an extensive programme of performance arts for our Chinese New Year Concert to the fast and furious Go Karting Grand Prix and our in-house Table Football Tournament.

It is very encouraging to see so many young people enjoying interacting and socialising with each other during these trips and activities; their fun, laughter and enthusiasm is contagious and makes all of the boarding team's efforts worthwhile.

Our planning for the summer term is now well under way and we start the new programme with a host of Harry Potter themed events. In May we are showcasing a silent disco in the atrium, a first for DLD and we end this academic year with a range of cultural events at theatre land in the West End.

It has been proven over and over again that participating in trips and activities enhances our students learning experience and helps forge lifelong friendships. We will be sending our summer programme out to all parents and guardians shortly and hope that all of our students will sign up and join us for at least one trip or activity.



Snowman Building Competition



Sheila Price  
Houseparent



Craig's Huddle Trip



Backyard Cinema: "Labyrinth"!



Theatre Trip to "Matilda"

## Special Occasions

This term has been jam-packed with celebration, we started off with a Welcome (Back) Party where we met and welcomed our new and returning boarders.

Shortly after we had a traditional Burns Night complete with a piper and the address to a haggis. The students enjoyed dressing in tartan and learning the steps to some traditional Scottish dances.

For Chinese New Year we had incredible performances from our talented students including dancing, singing and piano recitals. Pancake Day followed shortly where students ate pancakes through an obstacle course!

We have also been treated to the customs and traditions of Persian New Year this term, which was a great celebration for our international community.

Next term we have our International Day to look forward to, if you are returning home over the Easter break please make sure to bring back something to contribute.

We are also gathering ideas for our Farewell Party so do come to the Houseparents with any ideas.



Nicola Borland  
Houseparent



Pancake Day Races!



Chinese New Year



Iranian students with the '7Seed' Table



Burns Night dancing



Chinese New Year  
Performances



## Walkies!



Meeting Dayana, on her way  
back from Running Club

Going for a walk around our home is a great experience. It isn't just seeing the London Eye and Parliament, which are right on our doorstep, but it's all the other lovely things around us.

Every morning, John takes me to Archbishop's Park, which is about two minutes from DLD. Over the summer, Europe's longest zipwire was there, and on a few occasions this term, I've enjoyed rolling about in the snow outside College.

We often bump into boarders who have been to running club, or who are on their way out to enjoy London. Walking up Westminster Bridge Road the other day, I got lots of attention from a group of students on their way to Archery with our Boarding Assistant and Sports Coach, Veronica. I wish I could do Archery. Apparently my paws are the wrong shape. I can, however, give a high five...

Sasha Taylor  
The "DLD Dog"



## Some Photos from our January 'Welcome (Back) Party'



Photos Credit:  
Ana Cybulkina



## Guys and Dolls!

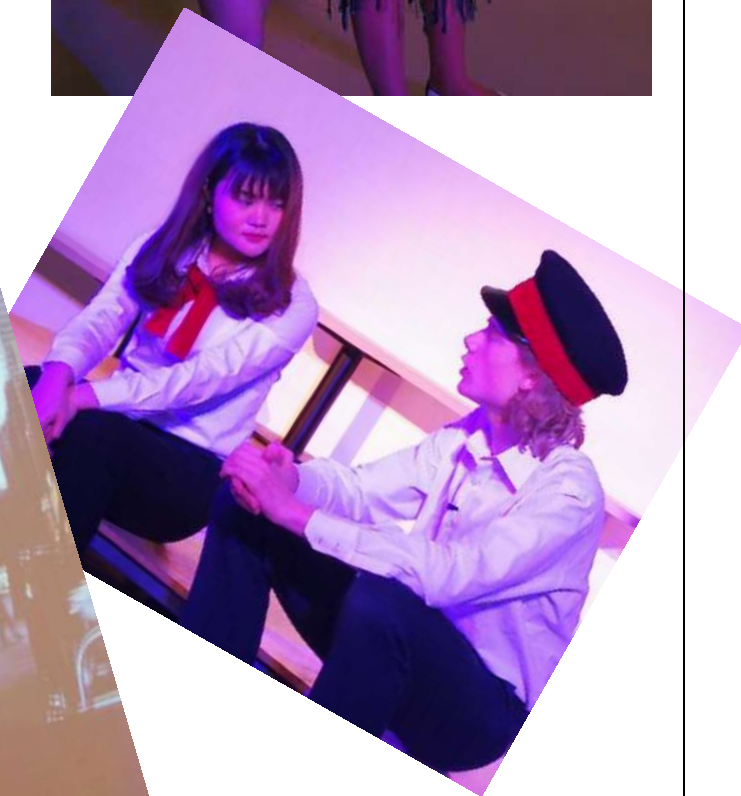
Being in “Guys and Dolls” was definitely one of the best experiences this year. The whole process was so fun and after all the effort that everybody put in, it was also quite rewarding. The play allowed students from all years to be and work together to then produce something truly amazing.

When it came to actually performing, in the beginning it was slightly weird doing it in the atrium, the place where us boarders usually spend part of our weekends in. However, that quickly changed because once on stage, you just felt comfortable performing and welcoming other people to that well known area. After all, this was our play and we were presenting it for us, to give us that sense of accomplishment.

If I could I would unquestionably do it all over again. For this I just have to thank Mark Johnson for putting up with us and for allowing us to be part of this extraordinary event!

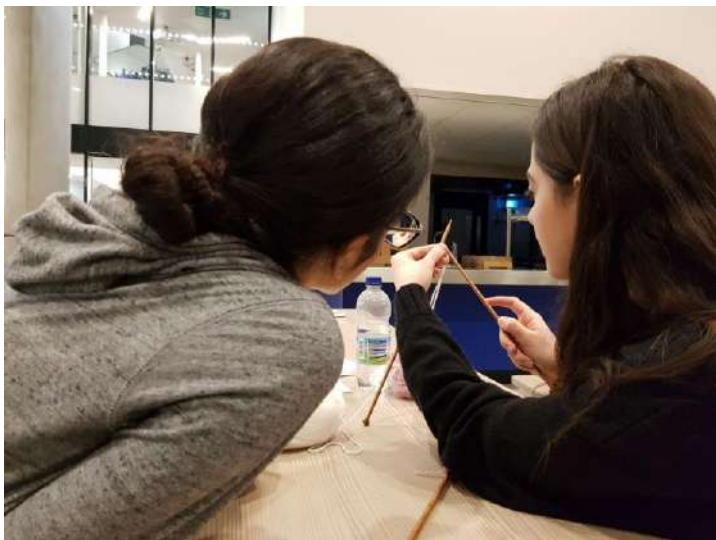


Diogo Lami Roque Mana Fortunato  
Boarder & ‘Guys and Dolls’ Cast Member



## Huddle News

This term in our Huddle meetings we have introduced the **Good Egg Award!** Each student is given an egg template and writes down a good deed they have done for someone recently. All the eggs are then put into a basket with the Deputy Head of Huddle then selecting the winner at random to receive a prize. The aim of this initiative is to encourage students to be thoughtful and engaging with one another to further evoke a sense of community and it was lovely to see some of the deeds our students had done to support one another. Congratulations to our winners: Fariza Balgimbayeva, Maiden Lim, Adam Linert, Amy Xiao, and Henry Chith.



Also, a big thank you to our recently appointed **Heads and Deputy Heads of Huddles** who have fully embraced the roles and responsibilities of their new roles by joining food committee meetings and attending Open Evening to welcome and meet prospective students and their parents and give tours of the college and boarding house. They have also been busy gathering the view and opinions of their peers and providing feedback for staff and they are now all busy planning the Huddle Trips for next term.



Late Night Movies in our Atrium

Emma Finnerty

Houseparent



## Boarders' Community and Charity Work

Boarders have been involved in all sorts of positive activities this term to support their local, national and international communities. Looking forward to next year, we hope to develop such activities further.



### Social Knitting!



This term, our Houseparent Emma has started a successful knitting club on Thursday evenings, which has been well attended, and has become a bit of a boarding craze. The boarders (and staff!) are knitting bonding squares for premature babies at St Thomas' Hospital neo-natal unit. A lovely thing to do – learning a new skill, while relaxing and socialising together, for a charitable cause. Well done to all taking up this challenge!



### The AAA Zone!

Director of Studies, Gareth Evans, took a group of students including many boarders to engage in educational and environmental activities to support this children's charity in Newham, playing with children, chopping up old trees for recycling and cleaning the centre. Thanks to Gareth for taking boarders along to this worthwhile endeavour!



### Oasis Trust

In March, John and Nicola met with our Principal Irfan, and Rev Steve Chalke, the Founder and CEO of the Oasis Trust, to discuss charity and volunteering opportunities for our boarders in the future.

We hope that this will be the beginning of a positive relationship with Oasis, where boarders can support their local community, while also building their own skills, confidence and experiences.