



**Engage Develop Aspire Communicate**  
**Our vision**  
**Working towards successful futures**

Principal's message to families – 10 May 2024

**Next weeks Lower school word of the week is - Brave**

**The Upper school word of the week is – consider**

The short week has flown by!

As promised I wanted to share some reflections from last week's KS3 PGL trip to Caythorpe.

"I achieved my challenge- I am proud of myself" exclaimed one pupil, "I have really enjoyed sharing a bedroom" said another, just two of the comments made by a couple of pupils.

It is really difficult to summarise three days of experiences in a few sentences, however Miss Ward described it as "*An absolutely amazing trip, as usual*", with her highlight being Kayden, Cole and Lucas, all cheering her on up the trapeze by shouting how many syllables are in different words! A brilliant example of embedded SLT (even if they were being a little facetious).

The staff attending the trip were awesome in supporting the pupils in a way that empowered them to build on resilience and deal with the challenges of being in a different environment with new routines, so it was brilliant to hear what staff had to say when they returned last Friday.

Staff commented that "*Lola was also fabulous and very proud of herself for conquering all her fears, wanting to give everything a go as this was her last KS3 residential trip*". Morgan was excited to be in the canoe but "*enjoyed jumping from the canoe because of a spider*". Many of the pupils enjoyed playing in the lake after canoeing with their buoyancy jackets on- such fun.

One of the main purposes of PGL is about developing oneself but there is always friendly competition between pupils; during the trapeze activity Miss Gardner said "*Josh, Ava, Abigail all went up the trapeze in under 30 seconds, but took it took me a little longer. Charlie was super pleased with himself as he made it to the top of the trapeze twice even though he was afraid of heights – such an achievement made possible by some "encouraging words from Jeremy, Josh, Vihaan and Charlie, Daisy*".

Matthew was noted for his tenacity to overcome his fear whilst descending the abseiling tower whilst Lucas had the highest score during the axe throwing session.



Attending a school residential is not easy so a special shout out for Skye for being away from home, enjoying the sessions and managing even when she knew there was a loose spider in her bedroom! A braver girl than me!! Elly was such a good room-mate, making sure everyone got to choose the beds they wanted and generally helping her friends.

The different environment can be challenging but this gave Lily some new opportunities for "*brilliant communication with Miss Canning and Mrs Leivers*"

There are so many personal highlights shared by pupils and staff, too many to share here but we are so pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to your children and believe they will hold onto these positive memories for years to come. PGL 2025 is already booked Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - three days two nights.

It is always lovely to hear what your children say to you on their return and to hear about the differences you see in your children. Do drop me a line and share these with me if you have a minute.

### **A brief roundup of the Dawn House week in Residential**

The football group played their first session of the year on the outdoor pitch which seemed to put an extra spring in their step. The music and dance groups continue to learn new routines while the garden/eco club planted out the pea, bean and courgette plants from seeds they sowed earlier in the spring. The swimming club enjoyed a cooling session in the pool.

Throughout the week the students made the most of the sunny weather with bike rides and time on the field before ending the week with a BBQ for tea. Some hidden talents there I hear...?!

### **A question for you all**

I have been talking with staff about the possibility of us providing a few summer **holiday activity days**. Before we go much further with our plans, I'd like to know who would be interested in accessing these if we put them on? They would likely run from 10-3pm, be just for our own Dawn House children, you would need to transport your children and we are thinking that we could possibly offer one day a week. There would need to be a charge for the day, which I will let you know nearer the time- for now I need to know if there is interest in principle.

Please drop me an email if you are interested.

### **Next week**

We start our week with a **performing arts assembly** with special guests Dan Troup and Kian Dawkins (last year's leavers who continue their musical passion) We have an external theatre group showing '**The Hobbit**' for our lower school, KS3 groups and anyone else with a particular interest, on Tuesday.



Our **Makaton choir** are practising hard for their Hayward Oaks performance on Wednesday, and we welcome **Lucy Upstill**, Speech and Language UKs graphic designer on Thursday to firm up the DHS 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday logo competition entries! What a week!

Wishing you all a sunny weekend,  
Jenny

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If your child leaves home in the morning a little unsettled and you want to quickly tell us, so we know to expect a tricky start to the day, a quick email (that we can follow up later) to the tutor and/or core team with '**Handle with Care**' in the email title will ensure that we are aware.