



DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

15 September 2023 edition



Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023/24! We have had a fantastic start to term. Students have come back looking smart and are working really hard in their lessons. It's been lovely to welcome our new year 7 students, as they start their Durrington journey. Their positivity and enthusiasm for learning is shining through already!

An important theme that we will be talking to students about this year is 'high expectations'. We want every student and every member of staff to have the highest expectations of what we can achieve - collectively and individually. Parents and carers have a really important part to play in this too. Please take a few

minutes to read [this short article](#) as it summarises the research around high expectations really clearly and what you as parents/carers can do to support us, and most importantly your child/children with this.

As we look forward to the year ahead it has never been more important for our students/your children rise to the challenge of going beyond their best. Whatever year they are in and whatever their starting point academically we absolutely believe and expect that they try their hardest in lessons and by doing so, achieve the very best academically.

A reminder too that excellent attendance and punctuality provide the foundations upon which your child will make the most of their time at school.

We look forward to meeting and talking with you at events throughout the year.

Shaun Allison & Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

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Year 7 meet the team



I am Miss Vaughan and I am the Year 7 Lead at Durrington High School. My job is to help you settle in to your first year at school, as well as support you when you need it; I will also be teaching Social and Moral Education (SME) and Science. Outside of school, I enjoy playing sports such as netball, or when weather permits, snowboarding, and I was a gymnastics coach for many years before becoming a teacher. At home, you can find me cuddled up with my 2 cats named Ron and Harry or reading a good book!



I'm Mrs Gaskell and I'm very excited to be the Deputy Leader of Year 7. I have been at Durrington High School for 10 years now doing lots of different roles to support students as well as being a Teacher of SME and Citizenship, so I hope I can use all this experience to make sure that you feel happy and supported within school. Outside of school I love spending time with my family walking my dog Piper and going to the beach where I can paddle board and watch my sons surf! My favourite subjects in school were SME, Sociology, Maths and Textiles and I loved going to my music lessons (piano, drumming and singing), dance classes and horse riding!

“I have made lots of new friends already and the teachers are really kind and helpful.” Year 7 student



Mrs Fullwood is really looking forward to joining the year 7 team as Pastoral Manager.

Mrs Fullwood has been a member of the Durrington High School team for 7 years, as a first aider/welfare officer and administrator. As the year 7 Pastoral Manager she will be supporting our students during their first year in high school and helping you to feel part of Team Durrington.

“I feel really proud to wear my Durrington uniform.”
Year 7 student



Well done year 7, you have all made a brilliant start!



A reminder of our new House names



Turing (formerly Coubertin)

Alan Turing

"We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done."

House Leader Mrs K Fuller

Deputy House Leader Miss H Townsend

Pastoral Manager Mrs K Lucas



Pele (formerly Mercator)

Pelé (Edson Arantes do Nascimento)

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

House Leader Miss C Wheal

Deputy House Leader / Pastoral Manager

Mrs D Morley



Malala (formerly Shelley)

Malala Yousafzai

"I tell my story not because it is unique, but because it is the story of many girls."

House Leader Mrs B Woodall-Jones

Deputy House Leader Ms S Trignano

Pastoral Manager Mrs Z Bickman

Our six new and diverse House names reflect Team Durrington and our *Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance & Pride* values.



Seacole (formerly Roddick)

Mary Seacole

"Unless I am allowed to tell the story of my life in my own way, I cannot tell it at all."

House Leader Mr A Brown

Deputy House Leader / Pastoral Manager

Mrs C Johnson



Attenborough (formerly Franklin)

David Attenborough

"What humans do over the next 50 years will determine the fate of all life on the planet".

House Leader Miss A Hewett

Deputy House Leader Miss P Leeming

Pastoral Manager Mrs K Lawrence



Angelou (formerly Da Vinci)

Maya Angelou

"If you're going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased".

House Leader Mr N Poole

Deputy House Leader Mrs E Steele

Pastoral Manager Mrs K Chester



The school year 2023 - 2024

Autumn term 2023

- Friday 1st September – Friday 15th December
- Half Term – 23rd – 27th October
- INSET Days - Friday 1st September, Friday 24th November

Autumn
term



Spring term 2024

- Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 28th March
- Half Term – 12th – 16th February
- INSET Days– Thursday 25th January, Friday 26th January, Wednesday 13th March

Spring
term



Summer term 2024

- Monday 15th April – Tuesday 23rd July
- Half Term – 27th – 31st May
- INSET Days – Friday 28th June
- Bank Holidays - Monday 6th May

Summer
term



Trips, visits, stage performances, sporting events and much more will be announced during the year ahead.

Year 7

Parent/Carer induction evening
Thursday 28th October

Tutor drop in evening
Thursday 9th November

Consultation evening
Thursday 20th June

Year 8

Consultation evening
Thursday 7th December

Supporting your child in Year 8
Date to be confirmed

Year 8 showcase
Date to be confirmed

Year 9

Options information evening Thursday 8th February

Consultation evening
Thursday 29th February

Year 10

DofE Introduction evening
Thursday 21st September

Celebration evening
Thursday 9th October

Consultation evening
Thursday 24th April

Year 11

Careers evening
Thursday 21st September

Celebration evening
Thursday 19th October

Mock exam support evening
Thursday 2nd November

Consultation evening
Wednesday 24th January

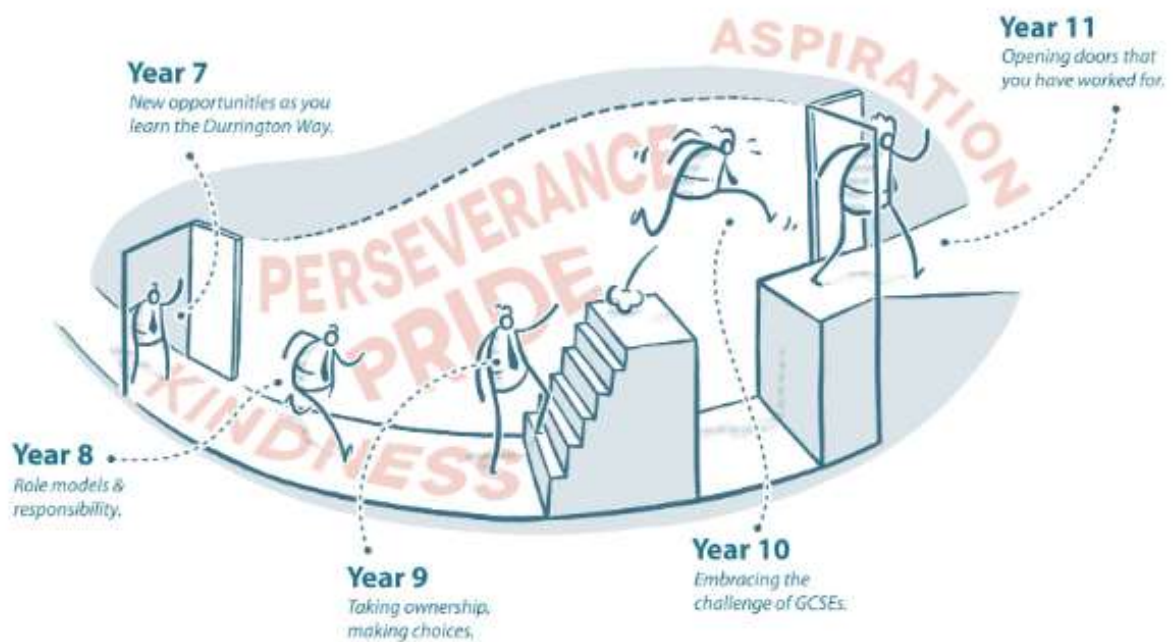
Summer Ball
Thursday 27th June



The Durrington Journey

GOING BEYOND OUR BEST


KINDNESS • ASPIRATION • PERSEVERANCE • PRIDE



Going beyond our best through Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride

At Durrington, we believe that if students are to get the most out of their time at school and learn well, we need to be explicit about our expectations in terms of what it means to be a Durrington student. We call this 'The Durrington Journey'.

This is really important for us for two main reasons. Firstly, every student that comes to Durrington deserves to thrive and feel safe in a calm, well-ordered and supportive environment. Secondly, if students are going to learn effectively they need to be focused in lessons and supported to reflect on their own learning. When this is all in place, students learn well and leave us with the best possible exam outcomes, that will open doors for them in the future.



It is our pleasure to welcome all students back to take part in the next phase of their journey through Durrington High School. Whether it is our new year 7s who have just begun their journey or our year 11s who are entering the final phase of their journey. Our message is clear, we want all students to go beyond their best through Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride.

Each year of school represents its own unique challenges but through following our values we believe that all students can be successful on their journey through our school.

Mr Frost - Assistant Headteacher



Extra-curricular clubs

At Durrington we are extremely proud of our enrichment programme. From sports clubs to computer programming and performing arts to Manga, we offer something for everyone.

If you have a question about a specific club please go directly to the teacher running it. If you need to email a teacher contact details can be found [here](#).

Lunchtime Clubs September 2023

Day	Club	Year	Staff	Venue
Monday	Dance	All Years	Mrs Poole	Bistro
	Basketball	10-11	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
	Computing Club	All Years	Mrs Taylor & Mr Burgess	F24
Tuesday	Dance	All Years	Mrs Poole	Bistro
	Basketball	All Years	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
	Computing Club	All Years	Mrs Taylor & Mr Burgess	F24
	LGBTQ+ Club	All Years	Miss McDonald	F4
Wednesday	Nordic Club	All Years	Mr Chambers	G27M
	Chess Club	All Years	Mr Borrett & Mr Venness	G21M
	Computing Club	All Years	Mrs Taylor & Mr Burgess	F24
	Dance	All Years	Mrs Poole	Bistro
	Basketball	All Years	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
Thursday	Book Club	All Years	Mrs Baker & Mrs Dacosta	LRA
	Computing Club	All Years	Mrs Taylor & Mr Burgess	F24
	Dance	All Years	Mrs Poole	Bistro
	Basketball	All Years	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
Friday	Fashion/Textiles	9	Mr Bloomer	FO3T
	Computing Club	All Years	Mrs Taylor & Mr Burgess	F24
	Dance	All Years	Mrs Poole	Bistro
	Basketball	All Years	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro

After-School Clubs September 2023

Day	Club	Year	Staff	Venue
Monday	Film Club	All years	Mrs Baker	LRA
	Minecraft Club	7	Mrs Aston	F24T
	Lego Spike Club	8	Mrs Taylor	F26T
	Code Club	9	Mr Scott	F27T
Tuesday	Choir	All years	Mr Gasson & Miss Maughan	F20T
	Drama Club	7-9	Miss Cross	Performing Arts
	KS4 Art Portfolio	10-11	All Art Staff	Art Rooms
	Eco Club	All years	Mrs Steele	F29H
	MFL Film Club	7	Mr Gilbert	U06L
	Girls Netball Training	7	Mrs Poole	PE Office
	Boys Football Training	8	Mr Pickford	Pavilion
	Boys Rugby Training	10-11	Mr De Gruchy	Pavilion
Wednesday	Science Club	Y7	Mr Finch Miss Laming	G09S
	Science Club	Y8	Mr Morrice & Mr Gatenby	G11S & G13S
	KS4 Art Portfolio	10-11	All Art Staff	Art Rooms
	E-Sports Club	10	Mr Jackson, Burgess & Scott	F26T
	Girls Football Club	All Years	Mr Pickford	Pavilion
Thursday	School Magazine	All years	Miss Foster & Ms Stone	G32E
	Whole School Musical	All years	Mrs Isham	Main Hall
	Gifted & Talented Art	Invite	Mrs Gray	Art Rooms
	Boys Football Training	7	Mr Burgess	Pavilion
	Boys Football Training	9	Mr Brombley	Pavilion
Friday	School Band	All years	Mr Gasson	F20T
	Dance Live	All years	Mrs Isham	Main Hall
	Girls Basketball Club	7-9	Miss Johnson	Sports Hall
	Badminton Club	All years	Mr Brombley & Miss Ferrara	Sports Hall

After-School Sports Clubs Autumn Half-Term 2023

Day	Club	Staff
Monday	Yr 7 Boys Football Fixtures	Mr Burgess & Mr Bentley
Tuesday	Yr 7 Girls Netball Training	Mrs Poole
	Yr 8 Boys Football Training	Mr Pickford
	Yr 9 Boys Football Fixtures	Mr Brombley
	Yr 10 Boys Rugby Training	Mr De Gruchy & Mr Bentley
	Yr 11 Boys Rugby Training	Mr De Gruchy & Mr Bentley
	U16 Girls Football Fixtures	Mrs Fuller
Wednesday	Girls football club	Mr Pickford
	U14 Girls Basketball Fixtures	Miss Johnson
	Yr 10 Boys Rugby Fixtures	Mr Poole/Mr De Gruchy
Thursday	Yr 8 Boys Football Fixtures	Mr Pickford
	Yr 7 Boys Football Training	Mr Burgess & Mr Bentley
	Yr 9 Boys Football Training	Mr Brombley
	Yr 10 Netball Fixtures	Miss Ferrara
	Yr 11 Boys Rugby Fixtures	Mr De Gruchy
Friday	Yr 11 Netball Fixtures	Mrs Poole
	KS3 Girls Basketball Club	Miss Johnson
	Badminton Club	Mr Brombley & Miss Ferrara

Open evening 2023



Open evening

We are delighted to invite prospective parents/carers and year 6 students to our Open Evening on Thursday 5 October from 6pm to 8pm.

There will be three opportunities to hear presentations by Mr Allison and Mr Woodcock, Co-Headteachers, in the main hall at 6.15pm, 6.45pm and 7.20pm.

Staff and students will be proudly showcasing their work across all the departments to give you a taste of life at DHS and everything The Durrington Journey entails.

There is no need to book and we can't wait to welcome you to our school community.

Open mornings

Why not come and see us at work and join one of our open morning tours each morning from 9am to 10am from Monday 9 to Friday 13 October. Book your place here: [Open Morning tours](#)



Durrington High School



Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

Open Evening

Thursday 5 October 2023

6pm to 8pm

Presentations by the
Headteachers at 6.15pm, 6.45pm
and 7.20pm



Open Mornings

Monday 9 to Friday 13 October
9am to 10am each morning

Book via the school website
durringtonhighschool.co.uk
Tel: 01903 244957



#TheDurringtonWay

#ProudofDHS

#DHSOpenEvening



Durrington High Leisure

At Durrington High Leisure we are proud to open our state of the art facilities to the local community and create a space for learning, sports and special events.

Sports Hall & Outdoor Pitches

We can accommodate a range of indoor and outdoor sports activities. Our facilities are suitable for Football, Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Basketball, Netball, Cricket, Badminton, Martial Arts, Fitness, Dance and Yoga classes.

Dance Studios & Performance Space

We have great facilities for dance or exercise classes and the performing arts including rooms for rehearsal space or for larger events.

Events, Training, Meetings, Fayres & Exhibitions

We have a range of rooms ideal for meetings and training sessions as well as large Mall areas ideal for fayres, exhibitions and events.

The Brewhouse - Bistro

Our very own bistro 'The Brewhouse' offering a wide range of snacks and drinks (opening times vary).

To check availability or to arrange a viewing please complete an enquiry form [here](#).



Diary Dates

- Year 11 careers evening Thursday 21st September
- Year 10 DofE information evening Thursday 21st September
- Year 7 parent/carers induction evening Thursday 28th September
- Prospective parents/carers open evening Thursday 5th October
- 24 hour performing arts and dance production Saturday 14th to Sunday 15th October
- Year 10 and 11 celebration evening
- Half term Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October

Social media

Don't forget you can follow all the latest news on our social media pages:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)





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