



DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

29 September 2023 edition

We can't believe that we are in October next week! There is so much to be proud of already this academic year, most importantly the excellent levels of focus and effort that we have seen the vast majority of your children putting into their studies. We are asking you, our fantastic body of parents & carers, help to maintain this excellent start. You can do this by ensuring that your child is in school on time every day and secondly by ensuring that your child remains up to date with all their homework. A reminder to parents/carers of year 7 students that their Kindness challenge is in full swing; we very much look forward to seeing the examples of how they are individually and collectively engaging in this having already made such a positive start.

As a further more general reminder please can we remind all parents/carers (and children who cycle to school) to be extra careful and

considerate of the wider community especially around the school site. We have had several near misses recently and want to ensure no one is hurt or responsible for an accident happening. Our expectation remains that parents/carers of students who cycle to school ensure they do so safely, make sure they own and wear a helmet at all times and also that they follow the highway code.

Finally we'd like to share with you a definition of the value Kindness as written by one of our lovely year 7 students Marley. *"Kindness means to me a chemical, but not just a chemical it's a feeling you have for your parents, grandparents and anyone. It's not just a feeling it's like a pebble, if we are all in a river, if the right someone throws a pebble in, it can send a ripple through us all"*.

*Shaun Allison & Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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It was an absolute delight to announce our first KAPP awards during a recent year 7 assembly. As one student said: "When Mr Woodcock called out my name I thought I was dreaming, I feel really proud of my award and I want other students to achieve them too."

Maddison's extremely kind and thoughtful words are about to come true as we have more awards waiting to be presented to year 7s in future assemblies!

Congratulations to:

Oliver Neal - Bronze Kindness
Maddison Jones - Bronze Kindness
Elsie Borg - Bronze Kindness
Max Barron - Bronze Aspiration

Well done year 7, we are very proud of the fabulous start you have made on your Durrington journey.

Year 7 Kindness Challenge

Year 7s are enjoying their first challenge set by Co-Headteacher Mr Woodcock and already we have students who have completed all the tasks!

7JBa are currently in the lead, but there is still plenty of time for this to change with all the tutor groups taking the challenge very seriously.

Congratulations to Freja, Christopher, Jesse, Lily, Maddie, Abbey and Sophia who are among the first to hand in their completed Kindness Passports. They said that they found some of the tasks easier than others, but are proud they have persevered to finish

the challenge. Between them they have taken part in organised events for charity, including a Tough Mudder competition, helped out at younger siblings Brownie groups, volunteered at their church youth group, as well as taking part in extra sports and clubs both in and out of school. They have also invited other year 7 students to join them during lunch breaks and have consequently broadened their friendship groups, and helped out at home with one student taking care of his dad and cooking his dinner. What a brilliant start they have made to their Durrington journey, well done to you all.



Extra-curricular clubs

We have had a brilliant start to the year with over 800 students already attending an extra-curricular club. Please use the link below to see all the clubs we have on offer and get involved with as many as you like.

[Clubs @DHS](#)



“I really can’t wait to go to Dance Live and take part in competitions in the future.”

Year 7 student

Special mention to the students below in Year 7 who have attended the most clubs in their tutor group so far this year.

Wilfred Preston-Cook 7ECo
Isla Leadbeatter 7EFc
Chloe Mitchell 7EWe
Jessica Stavely 7FRa
Isabella Duggan 7HLe
Megan Brackston 7JAs
Adela Bishop 7JBa
Amy Townsend 7LPo
Effie Dean 7MBI
Maisie Lockyer 7MCh
James Rickus 7OAs
Hollie MacDonald 7RLa
Austin Searle 7RPr



Careers

Project College Launch

Project College is our support programme for all students to find their best pathway after Year 11. It was launched last Monday with packs going home and made available [online](#). This has been accompanied by SME lessons and period 1 talks. Students have also received assembly presentations from a school 6th Form and a land based college to encourage them to explore alternative provisions. Mr Henry our Careers Leader said, "It has been fantastic to hear the ideas that Year 11 students are starting to develop. Researching and planning can increase their chance of success." The careers library is open to all students at both break times and after school when students need support.



Y11 Careers Evening

An important part of Project College is our annual careers evening and we had a fantastic turnout this year with students and their families visiting over 25 colleges, schools and training providers. The NHS, HMRC and GSK were each having brilliant conversations with their future employees. Mr Henry said, "Although I was in the LRA meeting and supporting families, reports from our guests were consistent. So many of our students were asking really good questions and were curious about what's on offer. The more options they can explore, the better chance each young person has of finding the right path."

Y10 Work Experience

The deadline for students to submit their completed forms to secure their 4 day February 2024 placement has been extended until **Friday 20th October**.

Please contact the careers team if needed. Spare application forms can be collected from the careers library.

Xello

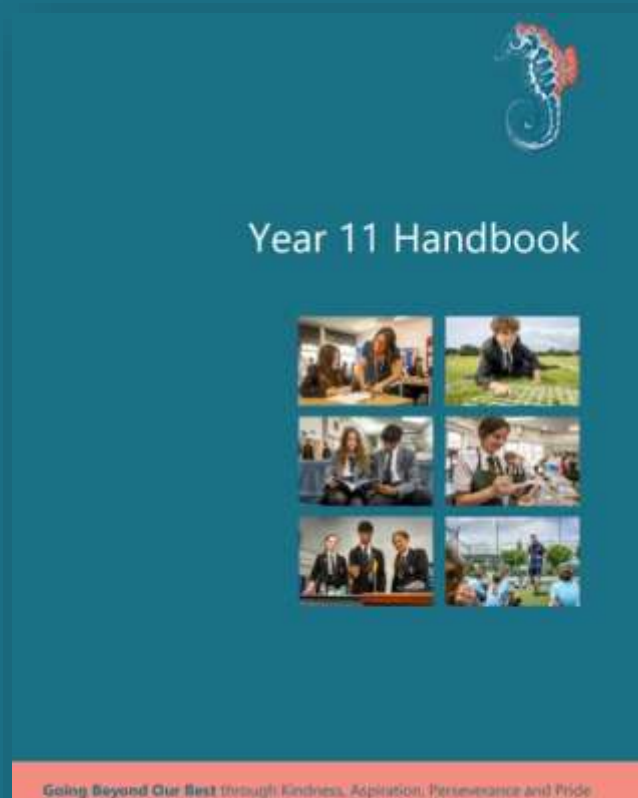
Students all have access to a personalised careers platform called Xello. This can be launched by students from the top bar of the school website, and we encourage them to share the experience with those supporting them at home. It uses their school login. They can explore job ideas, take tests, look at pathways and create plans for the future. This is not introduced to Year 7s until the end of the Summer term but its available for all curious students from Day 1.

Year 11

The Year 11 handbook has been sent home to parents/carers and students. This contains advice on tracking your child's progress, key dates, revision materials and revision sessions, plus lots more useful information to support you and your child in their final year.

The Y11 extra revision opportunities take place before and after school each day, providing further opportunities for your child to practice and embed key content and skills with a subject specialist.

Morning sessions run from 8am to 8.30am, and period 7 after school from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.



Computing @DHS

Year 7, have been looking at e-safety these past few weeks, from phishing emails to YouTube targeting children with Ai disinformation.

Year 8 students have started the year looking at how our data is encrypted and learning some of the different methods how data is safely stored on the Pc from substitution ciphers all the way to the enigma machine used in the war.

Year 9 students have started the year looking at cyber crime, from how and why people hack the laws associated with this. They are now learning about the different computer viruses that can occur and more importantly how to prevent them.

We have been really impressed with the start that our GCSE students have made with Year 10 Business looking at entrepreneurs and what it takes to be one. Year 10 Computer Science students are programming at the moment, and are becoming fluent in the python language.



Year 10 BTEC - DIT students are learning how to make a digital interface, so they are nearly ready for their first exam set task.

Year 11 Business students are busy preparing for their mocks and learning how to give business advice based on all their knowledge and experience from the course.

Year 11 Computer Science students have started advance programming and they can suddenly see how powerful programming can get.

We are open every Friday week B after school for revision for KS4 students.

“The computing rooms are amazing, it is my favourite subject and there is so much to learn in lessons and in the extra clubs too”.

Year 7 student



The Computer science team are running all the Key Stage 3 clubs on a Monday this year and the department is really busy with all the rooms active.

Year 7 Minecraft club in F24 with Mrs Aston and Mr Lucas is packed, students are making new friends through a shared interest in Minecraft and learning new skills along the way. They will be set different challenges as the weeks go on.

Year 8 club are looking for new members to join the Lego spike programming club. The students in the club are building Lego that we will program to complete a number of

nationally set challenges. We will offer to take these students to Legoland at the end of the school year.

Year 9 code club is also on a Monday, students are creating a python text adventure game this half term.

The year 10 club, e-sports, has proved a popular new club that we offer in F26 on a Wednesday after school and students are learning league of legends, with the view of entering a national league against other schools and sixth form colleges later this term, we will be sharing updates of how they get on.



Performing arts

What a busy start to the year we have had!

Rehearsals are in full swing for this year's production of Sister Act Jr, it has been wonderful to welcome so many year 7 to our cast and they have impressed us all already.

We have already started choreographing this year's Dance Live entry and again have been so amazed with our new students who are getting involved.

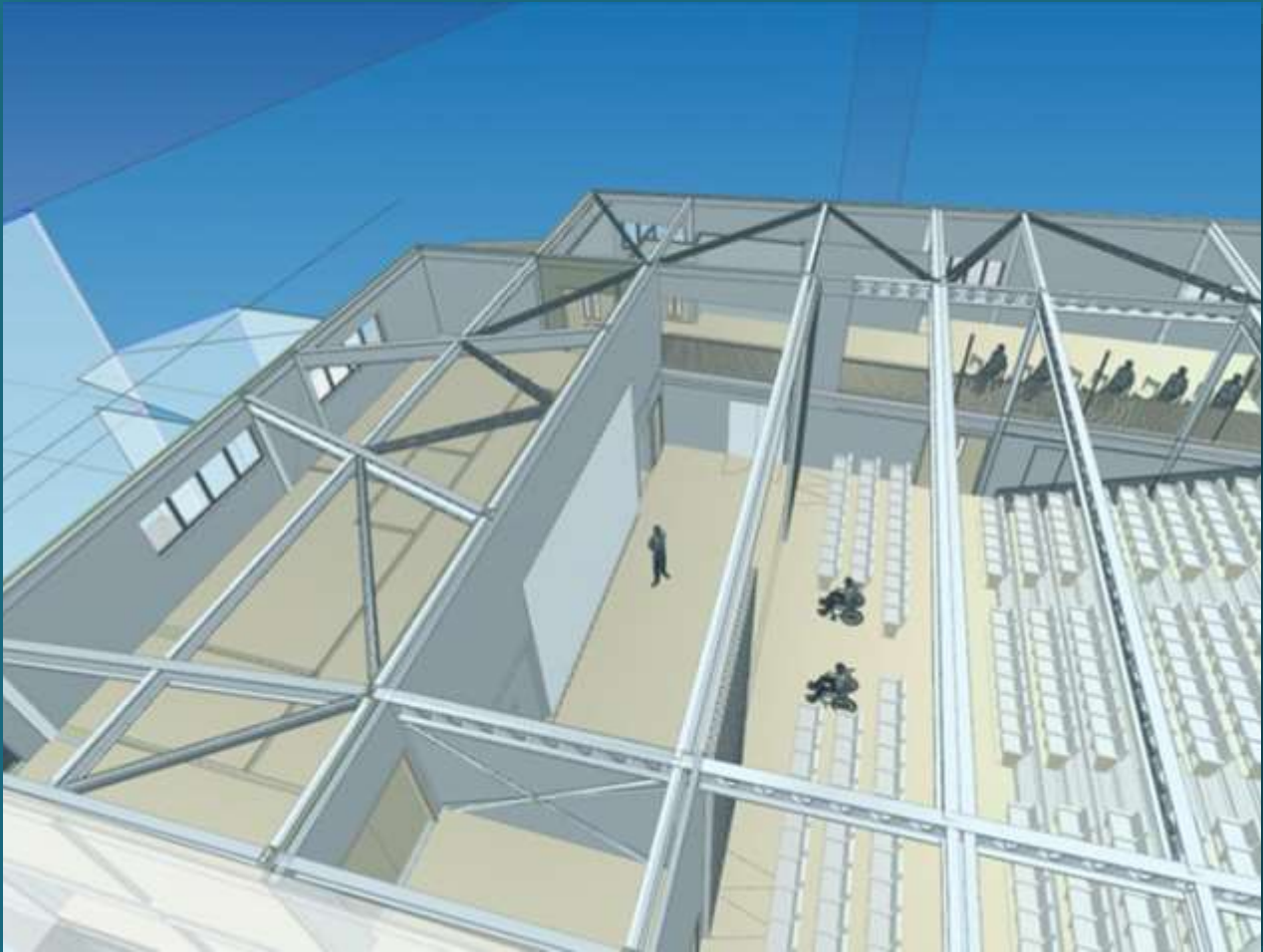
Key Stage 3 Drama club are underway with their preparations for this Christmas!

Choir and band are already sounding great as they too work towards our first performances.

Watch this space for news of our 24 hour musical and the first of our trips heading to the Connaught Theatre.



Performing arts new build



Work on our brand new, state of the art 'Performing Arts centre' at the school continues with lots of progress taking place over the summer holidays and continuing this term.

This brand new building will provide our students with an amazing new theatre, complete with tiered seating, for all future productions.

Our performing arts team and student community have produced a whole variety of fantastic performances over the years, and this new theatre will be a phenomenal space for our brilliant students to perform to larger audiences and share their wonderful talent with family, friends, and the wider community to enjoy.



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



Get into Teaching - 12 October 2023 6pm at Durrington High School

Find out about Teacher Training with Inspiring Future Teachers - South Downs Teacher Training and what a career in teaching has to offer.

This event is for anyone interested in training to teach in either the primary or secondary sector - start date September 2024.

This Get into Teaching event will include a presentation about our Postgraduate School Based Teacher Training programmes as well as the chance to ask experts about your teacher training options and what it's like to teach. You will also receive one-to-one advice on the application process, the training program, and finances.

Please express your interest in attending and complete this short form [here](#).



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
TRAINING TO TEACH IN YOUR
LOCAL SCHOOLS?**

Come along to our get into teaching event and find out how you could embark on a career with excellent progression opportunities where no two days are the same.

Thursday 12th October / 18:00 - 19:00
Durrington High School, The Boulevard, Worthing, BN13 1JX

REGISTER HERE

**INSPIRING
FUTURE
TEACHERS**

The poster features a collage of images showing students and teachers in a classroom setting. A white arrow points from the 'REGISTER HERE' button to a QR code in the bottom right corner.



Diary Dates

- Prospective parents/carers open evening Thursday 5th October - early closure with students being dismissed at 1.35pm
- 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

Vacancies

- [Cover supervisor](#)
- [Catering assistant \(Cucina IFG\)](#)

Social media

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

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



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



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