



DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

13 October 2023 edition

Wow, what a half term it has been! Our new year 7 have been just brilliant and we have really enjoyed meeting them, getting to know them and welcoming them into our school community. They already seem to be very much at home here at Durrington. Our other students have also returned from their summer break in such a positive way. Year 11 have made a brilliant start to their final year, year 10 have started their GCSEs brilliantly and year 8s and 9s are embracing the next step of their Durrington journey.

Particular highlights from this half term have been the amazing open evening, and the engagement of huge numbers of students

with the myriad of different clubs and trips on offer. It's also been lovely to welcome hundreds of year 6 students and their parents/carers to our open morning tours. Having visited so many lessons during these tours, it's been such a pleasure to see our students engaging with their learning and showing a real thirst for knowledge and desire to 'go beyond their best'. They have been brilliant ambassadors for our school, taking the time to talk to the year 6 students and their parents/carers, and just showing such pride in our school.

Have a great half term.

Shaun Allison & Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

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The Globe Theatre

We took sixty year 11 students to the Globe Theatre last Friday evening to see Macbeth. Despite the (theatrical!) blood and gore, the students really enjoyed an entertaining and innovative performance, including: some hilariously disturbing Witches, a very glamorous female 'Queen' Duncan

and a brilliantly emotive performance by the actor playing Macduff. It was a long return journey by coach from central London but the students remained in great spirits and were impeccably behaved throughout the evening.

Many thanks to the six members of staff who so generously gave up their Friday nights to support with the trip.

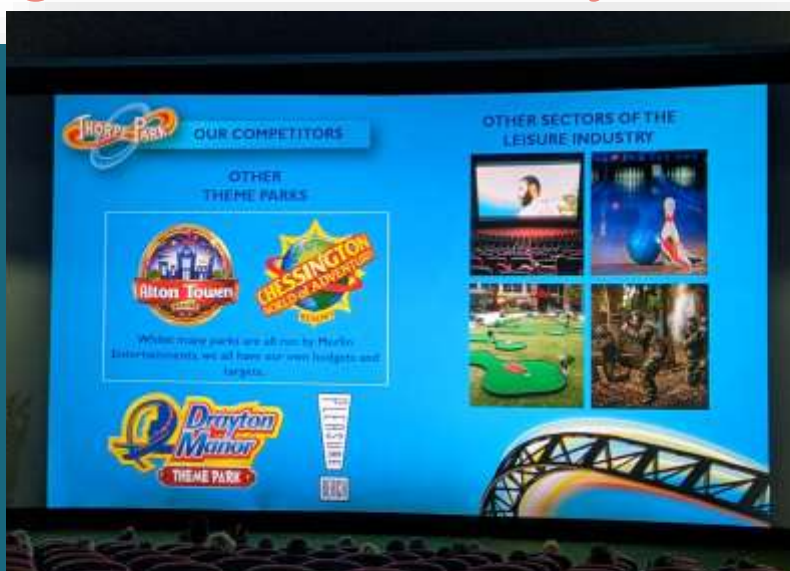
At Durrington we are extremely *proud* of our enrichment programme and have a variety of trips planned throughout the school year

Thorpe Park

Year 10s enjoyed their business trip to Thorpe Park last week and found the talk by the park very lively and informative.

The talk centred around the 4P's (product, price, place, and promotion) this is a crucial part of the GCSE course and the students saw how Thorpe Park applied this concept to their business.

They also learnt a lot about the business aims and objectives and this is supporting what they are learning right now in the classroom.



The Connaught Theatre

Year 10 GCSE Drama and Performing Arts students visited our local theatre, The Connaught to watch Frantic Assembly's new touring production of Metamorphosis. Students really enjoyed the chance to watch a practitioner they have explored in lessons being brought to life on the stage. It was a thought provoking and mature piece of physical theatre that inspired the students in lots of ways.

Watch this space for news of our production in a weekend which takes place this weekend!



Exceptional Art & Design

Students across Art & Design have had a brilliant start to term, working creatively across all disciplines, developing their specialist skills and techniques in all areas.

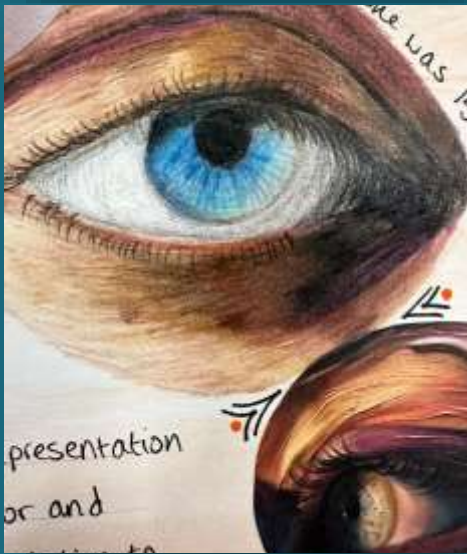
We have been so impressed with our Y7 students who have shown dedication and commitment to the arts. We were particularly proud of their discussion work with our 'What is Art' project! Keep up the brilliant work.

Our Y10 & 11 students continue to blow us away with how talented they are! Showing huge amounts of pride in all they do! We can't wait to see you continue to grow and flourish throughout the rest of this year.

Below are some examples of the high quality work that has been produced across different year groups.

Please support the department by following our Instagram account where we share and celebrate the successes and achievements of our students across the arts. Follows us [@durrington_art](#)





Black History Month

Black History Month has been marked in the UK for more than 30 years and takes place during the month of October.

This week at Durrington we have held special assemblies to all year groups to celebrate Black History Month and to promote and celebrate contributions to society from black citizens, as well as to increase our understanding of Black History in general, as it has often been overlooked and forgotten.

During our weekly period 1 Friday chat students were encourage to discuss how can education around Black History be useful to combat discrimination. Plus why is it important to have role models from diverse backgrounds, and we focused on two of our House's Seacole and Angelou.

Mary Seacole was a British-Jamaican born in 1805.
She grew up helping her mother care for soldiers who were stationed in the West Indies.
When the Crimean War broke out, she wished to go along as a nurse to care for soldiers.
She was rejected, so she went out there funded by her own money, helping treat cholera, a very deadly disease.



Maya Angelou was an American author, poet and civil rights activist. She has written several books based on her life experiences as a black woman in the US, which have won dozens of awards. Her most acclaimed book is called 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.' In 2010, Obama posthumously awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the US.



How do these two women reflect our values at Durrington?

Kindness Aspiration Perseverance Pride

Community matters ... can you help?

Summer Ball

Last year we had a fantastic response to our appeal for all things 'Prom' and were delighted to receive so many donations of dresses, suits, shoes etc.

We are already planning for the 2024 summer ball and next half term we would like to start offering students the opportunity to view the outfits we have to borrow, plus we would really like to receive further donations. Pre-loved items can be dropped off at reception and we would be extremely grateful to receive them.

#DHScommunity #TeamDurrington



KS3 computing classes & clubs @DHS



Year 7 Minecraft club

The year 7 Minecraft club were set their first build challenge this week and the teachers were really impressed with the creations made. The students are learning lots of new skills and we are looking forward to seeing their progress.

Year 8 Lego spikes club

This week the students were taught how to get their creations to move!

Through tinkering with the code they had to get the cars to travel across the table and measure the distance they had reached.

Lots of fun was had by all and this club has spaces for more students to join so come along and learn some new skills whilst making friends.

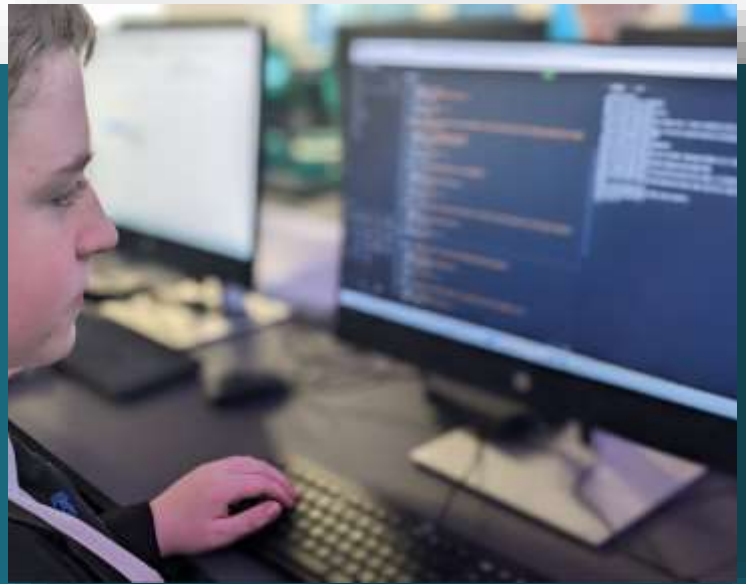


“The computing rooms are amazing, it is my favourite subject and there is so much to learn in lessons and in the extra clubs too”.

Year 7 student

Year 9 code club

Code club is off to a great start this term, the students are getting to grips with python programming to create a text adventure game.



Year 7 lessons

The year 7s have been learning about e-safety over the past few weeks, from how to spot fake news to phishing emails.

We have been following Googles 5 principles of internet safety; smart, alert, secure, kind & brave.

Here is a helpful link for parents to have an insight into these lessons and actions they can take to ensure their child's safety online continues at home: [Internet Legends](#)



Support @TeamDurrington

Year 7

Our first year 7 support evening took place on 28 September giving parents/carers the opportunity to learn more about the Durrington journey, our KAPP award system, homework and metacognition.



Year 10

Yesterday we welcomed parents and carers to the year 10 GCSE evening which focussed on the core subjects and the support available.



Year 11

The year 11 parent/carer Mock Support Evening takes place on Thursday 2 November. During the evening we will go through the process of mock examinations, the support available within school and how parents/carers can support students at home. Students are welcome to attend as well.



Year 11 revision opportunities

Our morning and period 7 revision provision is another opportunity 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. The full programme can be found in our year 11 handbook [here](#).



Working together

Dare to Dream

It was a huge pleasure to welcome back Jack the Lad from More Radio and the Dare to Dream team who gave an inspirational talk to our year 10 students.

Jack and his team will be working with a group of year 10s over the course of this year, as well as delivering a further two assemblies speaking to the whole year group.



David Lloyd Worthing

A huge thank you to the members of David Lloyd Worthing who donated over 20 tennis racquets to the Durrington High School PE department. Our students will be able to use these racquets regularly within lessons and in extra-curricular clubs.

Building update

We can confirm that all due process has been followed (involving a number of professionals) and we are confident the Durrington buildings are not in any way impacted by the RAAC concrete concerns.



Open evening 2023



#TeamDurrington

Our Open Evening was a huge success and it was a delight to welcome so many inquisitive year 6 students and their families to our school.

Across the curriculum each department had an array of activities to take part in, and our fabulous students were on hand to engage with the year 6s, answering their questions and making them feel part of Team Durrington.

The student work on display was as impressive as ever and the feedback from our special visitors was extremely positive with so many comments on how wonderful our student guides were.

We would like to thank the 100s of students who gave up their time to proudly share our brilliant school.

A reminder the deadline for applications for the September 2024 intake is **11.59pm on Tuesday 31 October 2023.**



#TheDurringtonJourney



#ProudofDHS



Durrington High Alumni



Ruby - Head Girl 2019

I was head student with Eddie Pullen 2019/2020. One of the best experiences I have had and I still really miss my Durrington days, despite leaving 3 years ago (feels like yesterday!)

I am currently working at Google in London as a digital marketing apprentice. I started working at Google in October of last year after planning to go to Exeter University. I decided I couldn't miss the opportunity to work for Google and since, I have had the chance to visit the Google HQ in Silicon Valley as well as the New York, Austin, San Francisco and Dublin offices. The apprenticeship ends in January next year and I am just figuring out what I want to do afterwards. I am currently interested in applying for a role overseas, perhaps at Google in The States. Or do some travelling!



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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

- 24 hour performing arts and dance production Saturday 14th to Sunday 15th October
- Year 10 and 11 celebration evening Thursday 19th October
- Half term Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October
- Year 11 mock support evening Thursday 2nd November

Vacancies

- Learning 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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