



# DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

**17 November 2023 edition**

We are delighted to report back on a great deal of positive things that have been happening across the school since our return after the half term break.

There has been some fabulous work going on in lessons with our year 10 receiving their first report on their progress since the start of our GCSEs. The vast majority of them have made a great start, well done year 10.

In true community spirit our Senior Student Leadership Team led the first challenge of this academic year. The school came together and in total an incredible 5267 items of spare/unwanted

clothing was donated; this has gone to 3 local charities supporting disadvantaged people within our local community. The kindness of our students, staff and parents/carers continues to amaze us. A huge thank you to all those who have donated.

As we look ahead, our lovely year 11s are continuing to work really hard gearing up for their mock examinations just before Christmas. We wish them the very best of luck in these!

*Shaun Allison & Chris Woodcock*  
*Co-Headteachers*

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# DHS charity challenge

## Threads of Hope



The school's first charity event of this academic year, Threads of Hope, was devised and organised by the Student Senior Leadership Team. Their aim was to support people in our local community, and by asking their peers to bring in clothes no longer required by their family members, these would then be donated to their three chosen charities, Turning Tides, Guild Care and St Barnabas.

The senior students said: "In our local community there are a number of charities who help people who are in desperate need of clothes. Some of them are homeless, but more often than not, these people are struggling to make ends meet and need our donations. All the charities that we

have selected are local to us and we want the people of Worthing to benefit."

There was a real desire to help out and get involved and on the day we were absolutely blown away by everyone's generosity and kind donations. The whole school community came together united in wanting to help make a difference to another person/family in need.

In total, students brought in and donated 5,237 items of clothing, which meant we were able to support a fourth charity 'Wrap up Worthing' who will help to keep local vulnerable people warm this winter.



“Our students make us incredibly proud every day, and this is just one of many examples of how they do this.” Mr Allison



Head student James Cook said: “All through Worthing and the surrounding area there’s far too many homeless and less fortunate people that suffer severely through the colder season. The problem is so significant that as a community we can step up and contribute as it is the right thing to do.”

Mr Frost, Assistant Headteacher, oversaw the project and said: “I think the fact that our students have chosen to support local charities, tells you a lot about them. They understand that for many, times are very hard and they want to help as many people as they can in our community. I think this gives you an insight into the attitudes of students who attend Durrington.”

Co-Headteacher Mr Allison added: “One of our core values as a school is kindness. Our senior students are certainly demonstrating this, through their efforts with organising the ‘threads of hope’ campaign, aimed at helping those in our own community who are experiencing challenging times. Our students make us incredibly proud every day, and this is just one of many examples of how they do this.”



Congratulations to Year 7 and Malala House who were joint winners with both raising the highest number of items donated.



# TeenTech Amex trip

The Computer Science department took 24 year 9 students to TeenTech Festival 2023 at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton. Following up from their virtual event two weeks ago, this gave students the opportunity to try their hand at immersive challenges and experiments, to handle cutting edge technology and, most importantly, to spend time with engineers, technologists and scientists from a wide range of companies influencing their 21st-century lives.

The day was led by Maggie Philbin OBE, who has worked in radio and TV for over 30 years, parents might remember her from 'Tomorrows World'.

Students worked in teams to design a future innovation, using sensors, data and cutting edge technology, to tackle real-world problems! Students were designers, developers and marketing experts. They had to then present their ideas to the rest of the school, before presenting them to the other schools at the festival. All our students did us proud with their presentations.





Later in the day students met and talked to real-world innovators, large technology companies, and industry leaders. Each stand they visited had a fun, hands on activity, from VR head-sets where students learnt how Gatwick airport train their air traffic ground staff to land planes, to understanding how facial recognition software is been used. Students got to try their drone driving skills on a simulator to see if they could be left in charge of driving them for deliveries. The students had lots of interesting questions for the businesses and were inspired by the variety of jobs and how creative they were.



After lunch, over looking the stadium, students went to the Challenge Zone where they competed in simulated tasks that demonstrate real world work by major science and technology companies, and prizes were awarded. This was a chance to experience innovations in science, technology and engineering, and a chance for the students to see that they have the skills required to be successful in these areas. The challenges we took part in were from BAE, Computer Science at Sussex University, The Army, Infrared Astronauts and Gatwick airport.





As the day closed three of the Durrington groups were awarded for their future innovation ideas from the presentation they made in the first session. Certificates were handed out and students will now have their designs put forward for the national TeenTech Awards. So watch this space!

Mrs Taylor  
Director of Business & Computing



DHS Careers Leader Toby Henry said, "The day was brilliant at showing how technology and engineering are the foundation of so many industries. Students learned that construction is not just about digging and logistics, is not just about driving a lorry. The amazing crew at TeenTech provided our young people with new ways of thinking about and exploring their future potential. Students can always visit the careers library to find out more."



# Community matters ...

## Wrap Up Worthing

Thanks to your generous support for our Threads of Hope Charity Challenge we were able to provide a fourth local charity with much needed warm clothing.



Your kind donations will continue to make a difference to others as Wrap Up Worthing were delighted to pick up an overflowing collection box of pre-loved coats!

## Dare to Dream

Love Local Jobs Foundation and the Dare to Dream team have been working in partnership with Southern Water inspiring our year 10s in special assemblies, alongside mentoring a smaller group of selected students. Here is what they had to say: "We're incredibly grateful to have the support of Southern Water once again, and this year's mentor group have been fantastic so far... as we knew they would be!"

"Likewise, to be working with the wonderful students from Durrington High School for another year has been absolutely brilliant."

"We're really looking forward to the next two events in the coming weeks!"

*Dare to Dream*

Delivered by

**Love Local Jobs Foundation**



# Shout - Worthing Soup Kitchen

Thank you to students and staff who continue to drop off items for the Shout - Worthing Soup Kitchen foodbank at our collection point in the main corridor. Visitors and the local community are also welcome to bring in any tinned food, pasta, rice, tea, coffee and squash etc. to our main reception. Plus, the charity would be extremely grateful for any Christmas items too!



## Durrington Alumni

We have been delighted to hear from so many of our ex-Durrington High students who have kindly offered their time to come in and talk about their career progression and achievements to our current year 10 and 11s. If you would like to be involved in this initiative please email Lisa Edwards on [socialmedia@durring.com](mailto:socialmedia@durring.com)

*#DHScommunity    #TeamDurrington*



# Going beyond our best

## The Durrington Journey with year 11



We are delighted to share some of our most improved and top achievers so far this term!

Sixty year 11 students now have their names displayed on our 'Going beyond our best board'. Thirty of these are our top achievers, based on a student's average grade across all subjects. The other thirty are our most improved students, which is based on the difference in average grade between end of year 10 and Tracking Point 4 in November.

Students should be immensely proud of this achievement as it shows high levels of perseverance and aspiration to achieve their very best across multiple subjects.

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

# Remembrance Day

## Lest we forget

Throughout last week all year groups took part in special Remembrance Day assemblies, led by our History department, in honour of armed forces members who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



Our Student Senior Leadership Team also visited tutor groups selling poppies and raising funds for The Royal British Legion, whilst staff and students came together to create our special Remembrance Day displays around the school.

Our Remembrance Day Poppy collection boxes have now been collected by The Royal British Legion and we will announce the total raised once confirmed. Thank you for all your donations.





# Extra-curricular computing with year 7 @DHS

## Minecraft

Where : U08 &U07

When : Monday 3.15 - 4pm

Who: All year 7 students

*"I like playing the game and I get to make new friends in the club." Austin in year 7.*



anything from a small hut to a huge, sprawling metropolis.



Minecraft is a popular child friendly game that combines exploration and survival. It tests a child's imagination and creativity. In simple terms, it's like digital LEGO – your child can create

When you throw in monsters and other challenging characters it begins to get really interesting. The player has to quickly learn how to survive and adapt in the Minecraft world!

We use 'Minecraft Education' in the club. Minecraft Education is a version of Minecraft designed for education in a classroom setting. Minecraft Education has features built specifically for learning environments to support collaboration, assessment, coding, and more.

**“I love Minecraft club, I did it at primary school and I’m so pleased to be able to carry on with it at Durrington too!”**  
**Matas in year 7**



*"I come as I can't access this edition at home." Poppy in year 7.*

Mine craft club has some spaces, so if you are interested in making new friends, learning something new, improving your confidence and become more imaginative, please come along one Monday after school or speak to Mrs Aston or Mr Lucas about the club.

*"I have more fun in this club." Oskar in year 7*

The club is busy each week and some weeks the students are taught a new skill from one of the teachers running the club, other weeks they are set challenges to complete in their session. There is also plenty of time for free play and meeting new friends.

*"It's cool to play the education edition. " Elijah n year 7*



*"I meet new friends every time."*  
*Marley in year 7*

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# Opportunities to join the team

## Student Learning Support Teaching Assistant

Would you like to join our Student Learning Support team, helping to make a difference to a child's future?

We have 14 superb members of staff who support our students with Special Educational Needs and Educational Health Care Plans, from year 7 to year 11, covering core subjects, the arts, languages, technology etc., ensuring the students have a good understanding of the task they are working on.

There is a true camaraderie within this team, and a desire to work together to solve any specific challenges, putting the students' needs first.

Many of our student support staff take the opportunities Durrington has to offer and progress in their role to become specialised members within



the team; move on to a Pastoral Managers role; or join our Inspiring Future Teaching programme and train to become a teacher.

To find out more about this position follow the link here: [Teaching Assistant](#)

As the team says, this is an incredibly rewarding role and every day, and every lesson is different. Making a difference, by seeing that spark of understanding when you're explaining something and the positivity that brings. Boosting student's confidence, self-reliance and self-esteem, nurtures the desire to learn, and helps students get to where they want to be.

## *#TeamDurrington*



"I could not feel more supported,  
valued, appreciated and understood  
in the environment at Durrington."  
Staff member



## IT Technician

### Apprenticeship

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an apprenticeship within our excellent IT Support Services team.

Are you passionate about education and the benefits IT brings to the learning environment? Do you want to gain new skills, earn while you learn and work in a successful and forward-thinking school and Trust who offer a variety of benefits to staff and whose core belief is that all children are entitled to an excellent education? If so, read on as we would like to hear from you now!

We are looking for an enthusiastic, self-motivated and keen to learn individual, who is able to show initiative, manage their own time and deliver excellent customer service. As an apprentice you will be studying

towards Level 3 IT Support apprenticeship qualification, providing support to staff and students, working closely with the Director of IT and Senior Technician in a fast paced environment developing the digital education landscape at Durrington High School and other schools within our trust.

Full information and application pack can be found here: [IT Apprentice](#)



*#DMAT*



# 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

- INSET day Friday 24th November
- Year 11 mock exams begin Monday 4th December
- Year 8 consultation evening Thursday 7th December
- Carol Service at St Andrews Church Monday 11th December
- Christmas Concert Thursday 14th December
- End of term Friday 15th December

## Vacancies

- Senior IT Technician
- Apprentice IT Technician
- Teaching Assistant

## Social media

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

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





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