



DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

15 December 2023 edition

It seems impossible to believe that we are coming to the end of the first term of the year – and what a term it has been! Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their Durrington Journey and are thriving at school. It has been fantastic to see so many of them wearing their KAPP badges with such pride! Year 11 have worked incredibly hard on their mocks and should be looking forward to a well-deserved rest over Christmas. We are looking forward to celebrating their success in January.

Students across all year groups have excelled in extra curricular activities too. We have had notable successes in a variety of sports and it was lovely to hear our amazing choir sing at St Andrew's Church earlier in the week. Our brilliant students never cease to amaze us!

We would also like to thank our parents and carers for taking the time to complete our new parental survey. Reading your views has been incredibly useful and will certainly support our future planning. We have already put in place a number of actions as a result of this. You can read about these in this newsletter and we will continue to update you on how we will use this feedback to develop our approaches.

Finally, thank you all for your support this term – it is always very much appreciated. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that you get to spend time with your friends and family. All the very best for 2024 too.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

Inside this edition

Carol Service at
St Andrew's Church

DHS Christmas concert

Angelou

Attenborough

A trip to Pallant House

Malala

Pele

Esports with year 9 & 10

Seacole

Turing

Year 7

*Gong beyond our best
with year 7 & 9*

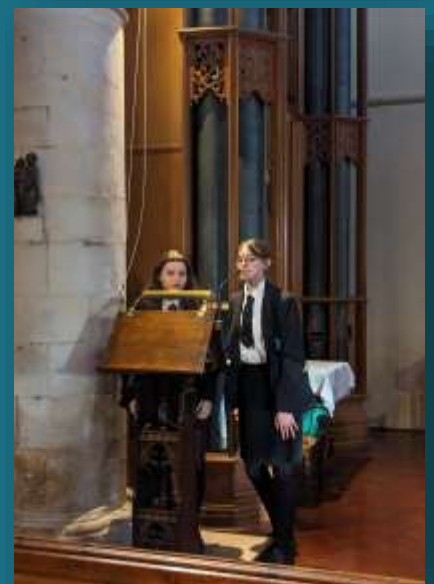
Kindness at Christmas

You said ... we did

Inspiring future teachers

Diary dates

Carol Service at St Andrew's



Christmas festivities kicked off with a bang this week at Durrington High School. Monday saw our annual carol service at St Andrew's Church, Tarring. Our choir performed four musical numbers and were simply stunning, this was interspersed with congregational songs and student readers. The whole evening was joyous and truly started our festivities.

The DHS Christmas concert



Last night we held our Christmas concert with so many wonderful performances from soloists and choir to our school band and KS3 Drama Club. The evening was a true celebration of the wonderful students we have at the school and they loved every minute of sharing their hard work with staff, friends and family. Merry Christmas to all.



Angelou



Maya Angelou

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

I am extremely proud of every student in Angelou and what we have achieved this half term. Some highlights include achieving the most perseverance and pride badges in the school since September 2023, being the 2nd highest House for attendance and awarding over 20 students with their first bronze, silver or gold seahorse. We have also had some individual highlights including Ethan Hardy who has attended the most extra-curricular clubs in the school and James Barnard who has attended the most revision sessions in the whole of year 11. I hope you all have an amazing Christmas holidays and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Mr Poole



Angelou students Freya and Finn with their Silver Seahorse Awards

Attenborough



David Attenborough
“What humans do over the next 50 years will determine the fate of all life on the planet”.

Attenborough have gone above and beyond this term. I was very proud of all students for their clothes donations to the threads of hope charity, particularly 8JCh who donated over 3 bin bags worth! Our year 11s have taken the mock exams really seriously and have put tremendous amounts of effort in and this has had a really positive impact on our whole house attendance too. We have continued to hand out KAPP badges and have given out more platinum badges than ever before this term. Students have taken part in lots of extra-curricular activities this term and have really got the most out of school. I am immensely proud of every single one of them and they all deserve a restful Christmas holiday! Miss Hewett



Attenborough student Siaana with her Bronze Taekwondo British Championship medal



A trip to Pallant House



Forty of our finest year 9 artists enjoyed a day trip sketching from the wide collection of art at Pallant House Gallery and the impressive architecture of Chichester Cathedral.



Setting off by coach through the winter countryside we shortly arrived at a festive looking Chichester ready to sketch!

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

with our year 9 artists



We visited the Market Cross in the town centre dating from 1501 and saw paintings by John Craxton, charcoal studies by Jake Grewal and 'masterpieces in miniature' at Pallant House Gallery.



Students were a credit to the school, worked well to produce quality sketchbook work and were an absolute pleasure to take on the trip.



The Durrington Journey



Malala

Malala students
Joshua and Evie with their
Bronze Seahorse awards



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



WOW! What a term Malala House have had... We have demonstrated Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance & Pride in all we do. We demonstrated our wish to help others less fortunate when we donated the **highest** number of clothes to the Threads of Hope charity. This highlighted that "Kindness" runs through Malala like a stick of rock. We have "Aspired" to attend the most extra-curricular clubs and maintained **Gold** position throughout this first term. This is an achievement we are all exceptionally proud of and demonstrates Malala's wish to ensure we take advantage of every opportunity DHS offers us. Malala House has demonstrated "Perseverance" with maintaining **Bronze** position for attendance across the school. We have also shown our desire to achieve our very best in each and every lesson by; achieving the **second highest** number of

"Perseverance" badges for our efforts in our lessons this term. We are exceptionally proud of our gold seahorse ties that symbolise Malala House and our "Pride" extends outwards to celebrating others' achievements both in and out of school. We have shown commitment and pride to; the sports teams we represent, the creative writing that has been published, the maintaining of high standards regards our behaviour and wearing of our uniform.

I am very confident that Malala House will continue to shine in all we do and can't wait to see what 2024 brings us. Mrs Woodall-Jones, Ms Trignano and Mrs Blackman wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Pele



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.”

The Pele team have worked extremely hard this term to develop our skills in the KAPP areas further. So many of our students have achieved KAPP badges this term because of the Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride they have shown in their work, in extra-curricular clubs, school trips, and out of school, and we are so proud of you all. All of our students have faced lots of challenges over the term, it may have been an assessment, a piece of work you struggled with or for Year 11, the mock exams, but you have all shown incredible perseverance in meeting these challenges. Year 11, as I briefly touched on, you have completed your Year 11 mocks absolutely brilliantly and the period 7 sessions you attended in the lead up to these mocks showed that you were taking pride in your work and that you wanted to continue developing your knowledge and skills.

We continue to be the first and second top attending House team at extra-curricular clubs for the various year groups and we would love to see this continue into 2024. We hope you have a wonderful break, enjoy the holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.



Pele student Charlie with his Aspiration badge and Bronze Seahorse award



Extra-curricular Esports with year 9 & 10

ESports

- Where : F26
- When : Wednesday after school 3:15 - 4pm
- Who : Year 9 & 10 students
- With: Mr Scott and Mr Jackson



This is a new club this year and has had a good start, Esports and video games are a fantastic form of entertainment amongst all groups of people, across the UK and globally.



Most esports (competitive gaming) activities take place online. During the club, students get to play side by side with their friends playing together as a team, while learning the best tips to improve their scores. Stats and scores are analyzed at the end of each game, to learn how they can improve as a team. Students have had training and improved their ability in League of Legends since the start of term and enjoy their weekly team battles. Lots of group training and 1:1 support for students to help them progress to become good team players in the game.

"I enjoy Esports club because I get to learn how to play a new game that I have never played before." Kristian



"I enjoy playing with my team."
Dylan

We are currently playing League of Legends, and normally get at least one game played per club session.

"This is the best club ever." Lucas

We are hoping that the training the students are doing at the moment, will pay off and we will be ready to play against other schools as part of the British Esports Association. The British Esports Association has worked hard on creating this safe and secure environment for students. It's not just about winning or competing – students can learn and improve their skills including communication, leadership and teamwork skills.



BRITISH
ESPORTS



We are looking for new members, so if you would like to learn the game please come along.



Seacole



Mary Seacole

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

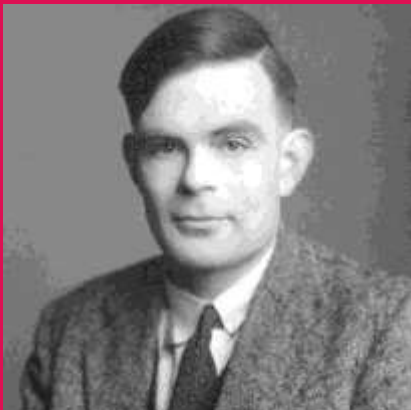
We are so incredibly proud of all of the students in Seacole for an incredible term. We are the highest house for attendance which is absolutely incredible. We have achieved an amazing 110 KAPP badges this half-term and have given out our first platinum KAPP badge!! We want to say a massive well done to our year 11s, they have shown incredible resilience and perseverance to get themselves to 601 revision sessions and have absolutely smashed their mocks! We also want to say a massive thank you to everyone in Seacole who gave so generously to charity in the Threads for Hope challenge, we know this will have such a huge impact. We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas holidays and we look forward to seeing you all back!

Mr Brown & Mrs Johnson



Seacole student Olivia with her Bronze Seahorse award

Turing



Alan Turing

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

We are incredibly proud of all of our students in Turing and the efforts they have made this term. We are delighted with the outstanding contribution our students made to the clothing appeal, demonstrating kindness to our local community. Our Y11s have approached their mocks with dedication and shown great resilience and perseverance when they have found them challenging. They have shown great commitment to the period 7 sessions and I hope this continues when they start up again in the new term. Our students in Turing have taken up many of the opportunities given to them, including a variety of sports teams where we have had notable successes across different sports and also many of our students were involved in the 24 hr musical last half term. We hope that our students continue to take up these opportunities and that others will begin to take them up. Our students continue to

show our core values of Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride and this is evident with the number of KAPP badges and seahorse badges that we have given out this term, culminating in winning the KAPP Cup! We are very proud of this achievement!

Mrs Fuller & Miss Townsend



Turing student Reuben - Platinum Science Legend



Year 7



I have been incredibly proud of how the Year 7s have settled into Durrington High over the last half term. Their behaviour and standards have been incredibly high and they have impressed staff all over the school. In Autumn 1, many of the children participated in the kindness challenge to get their awards. It was fantastic to see so many children achieve their badges and in particular, 7ECo had the most badges earned gaining themselves a pizza party. There were also many successes in sports events from the Year 7s, including in both the boys and girls football teams. This half term, Year 7 continued their fantastic achievements, celebrating the highest attendance as a year group. 7JBa were the highest attending form across Year 7, whilst also taking the top spot for the highest attendance to clubs, whilst 7ECo took top spot for the most KAPP badges earned across the term. We even managed to secure some seahorses in the final week of school, which I look forward to awarding in the new year. Have a well deserved Christmas break Year 7- I can't wait to see what you can do in the new year! Miss Vaughan



Going beyond our best



Our wonderful year 9 top achievers and most improved! A total of 60 year 9s now have their name up in lights on our 'Going beyond our best' display board.

We have also added our 60 top achieving year 7s! You are an absolutely fabulous group of young people, and you should all be extremely proud of your amazing achievements during your first term at Durrington. Well done.



The Durrington Journey



Kindness at Christmas

Hampers

Our super talented students have once again designed and made fantastic Christmas Hampers, and together with your help these have been filled to the brim with donations for our local food banks. Thank you to you all.



#TeamDurrington

Stockings

Wow! We are blown away by your kind donations to fill our Christmas stockings. These will be delivered to our local Primary Schools by our Student Senior Leadership Team. Together we can spread a little happiness and kindness this Christmas.



Christmas jumper day raising funds for Save the Children



Thank you to everyone who donated, together we raised just over £500 which will be going to the Save the Children charity.



You said ... we did

At DHS we pride ourselves on serving our community and a big part of that is taking onboard the feedback from parents. Thank you to all of you who completed the parent survey and gave us your views on our school.

Below you will see a number of comments from the survey that we have already acted on and made plans for. It's really important to us that parents play an active role in life at Durrington High School.

As we add to these actions throughout the year, we will update this on our website [here](#).

You said ... we did

You wanted more opportunities to come into school and take part in workshops about various topics such as - crime, pupil anxiety, exam skills, homework, revision methods, bullying, attendance and the impact of social media.

In the New Year we will be launching the Durrington High School Partnership Programme for families (DPP). This will be a series of workshops on a range of topics that parents & carers will have the opportunity to attend. A full schedule of workshops will be emailed out in 2024.

You wanted more opportunities to enrich student learning outside of lessons and to explore future pathways.

We are going to be working in partnership with Oxford University and offering their 'Inspire Scholars Programme' to our students. In addition to this we will



be offering themed sessions led by Durrington Alumni on their experiences of employment and university.

You wanted a greater celebration of student and team sporting successes.

We have bought a phone for the PE department to take to all fixtures. Keep an eye out in the fortnightly newsletter and our social media streams for updates.

You said that Arbor was sometimes confusing and you needed guidance.

There will be a workshop running as part of the Durrington High School Partnership Programme.

You said that it was not always clear who you needed to speak with, with regards to your child.

The new 'Who to talk to' section can be found overleaf.

We are also going to offer half-termly drop-in surgeries with the Co-Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers and other members of the senior team. This will create more direct access to our most senior school leaders.

You wanted to widen further the trip opportunities for your children.

We are currently reviewing our trips offer and hope to be offering more trips for later this academic year. Watch this space.

The Durrington Journey



You said ... we did

You shared with us that vaping is a growing concern for students nationally.

We will be running special assemblies and form time sessions to support students in developing a greater understanding of the dangers of vaping.

We have also increased our sanction for any student found vaping or with vaping paraphernalia. We will also be sharing useful support information for parents and carers.

You were supportive of our drive for the highest standards of behaviour in the classroom.

We created the study room to raise standards for all students in every lesson, giving those that disrupt the time to reflect and adjust their behaviour.

You asked for more positives and more rewards - less stick and more carrot for students who get it right all the time but are not recognised.

We have added a further aspect to our rewards system aimed at rewarding students for their efforts on more of a day to day basis. This will be linked to the expectation card.

You wanted to find out more about what students were learning at school.

On top of the curriculum maps which are available via the website we will be introducing the 'Curriculum Showcase' next term. Each month a particular subject area will be central to the newsletter along with an in depth look into what is being studied. Curriculum maps can be found [here](#).

continued



You wanted us to communicate clearly to students the damaging impact of bullying, whether it be in or out of school.

We will continue to address this in assemblies and SME lessons. We are going to be working in partnership with the 'Anti-Bullying Alliance', with a view to communicating very clearly our commitment to a safe and happy school for all. This will include further training and sessions for both staff and students.

Who to talk to?

Contact details for staff can be found [here](#). We will do what we reasonably can to reply within 2 working days to a parental contact.

Who to contact first:

- Any general query relating to your child: Your child's form tutor should be the first point of contact please.
- Any query relating to how they are doing in a specific subject: Their class teacher for that subject.
- Relating to your child's attendance at school: Your child's house team/year team.
- Reporting an absence: **studentservices@durring.com**
- Issues with IT, Arbor and cashless catering: **support@itservices.dmat.education**
- A general query relating to your child's report: Mr B Crockett, Assistant Headteacher. If the report query is subject specific please contact the class teacher first.
- I am worried about my child's health and/or wellbeing: Your child's house/year team.

The Durrington Journey



Inspiring future teachers



Scan QR code or visit our hub here: <https://www.inspiringfutureteachers.org/southdowns> Tel: 01903 705671

New year, new career!

Follow us @SouthDownsTT

Start teacher training at South Downs TT in September 2024 and train to teach in your local schools!



Diary Dates

- End of term Friday 15th December
- Start of Spring term 2024 - Tuesday 2nd January
- Year 11 mock results assembly - Tuesday 16th January
- INSET day - Thursday 25th January
- INSET day - Friday 26th January

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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