



# DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

## 1 December 2023 edition

Hello everyone,

We are the SSLT and we have taken over the front page of this newsletter from the Co-Headteachers to say a huge and very important thank you!

As a new SSLT running our first charity event of this year (the recent collection of clothes & coats for three local charities) we were blown away by how generous people were in their donations. It was quite something to see a room packed floor to ceiling with so many bags, and to do a few more trips than we thought to load these onto the charity vans and get them away to the good causes locally we are supporting. In total more than 5000 items were donated – an amazing achievement and thank you!

We also wanted to let you, our great parents/carers, know about the final kindness related challenge of this term. It has been a Durrington tradition for many years that we support our local community and particularly those in greatest need at Christmas time through the creation of Christmas hampers 📦. The hamper filling and making is great fun as a form group to do, however, we do need

your support (if you are able to obviously) in helping to donate items to go into them. A couple of years ago we also added Christmas stockings to our kindness at Christmas challenge and we will be doing these again this year. Put simply, these are small decorated Christmas stockings 🧦 that we fill with new items such as chocolate, a new toy, book or game and then we donate these to children aged 5-10 who are identified as living in extreme poverty locally via our local primary schools.

By again showing these small acts of kindness we know we will make a difference (in a good way) to those who have harder lives than many of us. We completely understand that not everyone will be able to donate items given the pressures in people's lives; however, if you can we would really appreciate your support. Your child will find out more about the hampers and stockings on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December and we will share on our social media more specific information.

Thanks in advance  
Grace, James and the rest of the Durrington SSLT

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# Year 7 performing arts

## West End Musical



48 students set off at 10.30am to The Cambridge Theatre, London to see Matilda the Musical. The students were all from year 7 and behaved impeccably throughout the entire day. We were amazed by the talented children in the performance and it was lovely for year 7 to see such high quality performances from children as old as them and some even younger. Students were enthralled by the set and lighting design as well and gave the performance a standing ovation.

"The best bit was when Miss Trunchbull came marching onto the stage".



A wonderful experience with some of the students experiencing a West End musical for the very first time, interval ice cream prices were a revelation to some!



"I loved when the laser lights came on, they were so loud and cool!"

# Year 11 art & design

## Photography mock exams

Students were asked to develop a 3D urban landscape focusing on different aspects of urban environment.



Students focussed on close up details, urban decay, and reflections.

We are super proud of what every student has produced. Every student going beyond their best, showing pride and high expectations in all they do!





# Durrington Artists

Amazing experimental painting prep  
from James Barnard



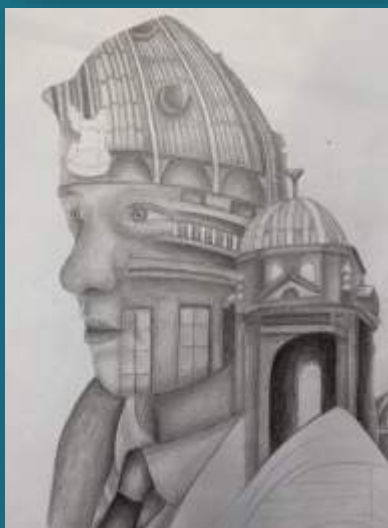
Incredible surrealism painting  
preparation from Oleksandr  
Potiekhin.

Year 8 textile students working hard developing their distorted portraits,  
exploring fabric transfer and a range of embellishments! Amazing progress.





Work in progress from some of our very talented fine art students.



Amazing photography prep from Marni Rawlings in Mr Bloomer & Miss Kingwell's group!



Incredible sketchbook pages from students in Miss Kingwell's 7B Art class!



# National CyberFirst



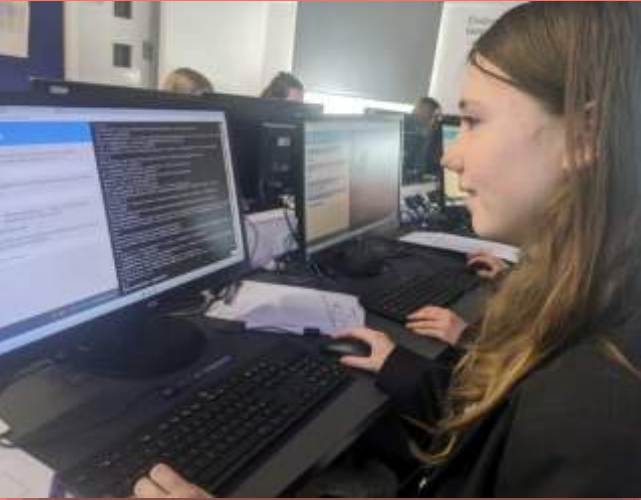
The National CyberFirst Girls Competition is run by National Cyber Security Centre which is part of GCHQ, the Governments Communications Headquarters.

Last week we entered 6 teams from year 8 into the competition. This national competition aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security while breaking barriers in the male-dominated field of cybersecurity.

The competition is a team event. Each team tackles challenges from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking for the chance to be crowned cyber security champions. The teams worked really well together, with many not knowing their team members when they started the day. They communicated well, worked hard and did not give up... even when some of the challenges were really tough.



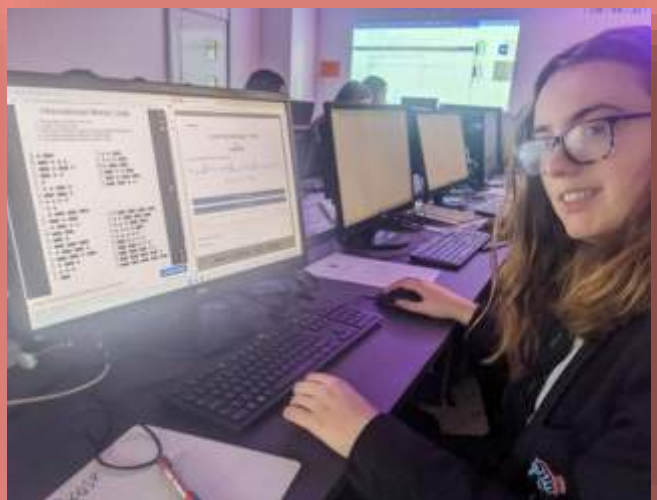
The teams had a couple of hours of training in the cyber security world with Mrs Taylor and Mr Scott, before making a start on the competition.



The competition contains some advanced cyber topics that are not covered in traditional education but will seek to stretch the lateral thinking and additional cyber knowledge of the teams.



The students had until the 29<sup>th</sup> November to complete the competition tasks away from the classroom. We hope that some of our teams will progress to the next round.



# Clubs, competitions & British Champions!

## Clubs

We have had another successful fortnight with regards to extra-curricular clubs at Durrington, with clubs being attended over 4,500 times. Students who have attended the most clubs are shown below, well done to you all.

Year 7- Adela Bishop (28 clubs), Effie Dean (26 clubs).

Year 8- Ethan Hardy (23 clubs), Saffron Chandler (21 clubs).

Year 9- Olivia Yard (20 clubs), Amy-Louise Rooke (19 clubs).

Year 10- Joseph Waterer (26 clubs), Molly Brackston (17 clubs).

## District cross country event

All the students who took part gave a fantastic account of themselves, with all of them running superbly, giving 100% effort at all times during their races.

Key successes from the day were Callum Bird winning the Year 7 boys race, Penelope Busson coming 2nd in the Year 7 girls race, Mylie Corbett finishing 3rd in the Junior girls race (Years 8/9), and Freya Lloyd finishing 7th in the highly contested Year 10/11 girls race.

Well done to you all.



*#TeamDurrington*



# Taekwondo British Championships



Year 10 Durrington student Siaana travelled to the Taekwondo British Championships at the weekend and competed in the girls heavy-weight Black Belt competition.

Siaana's dedication to the sport has meant long hours of training, and her unwavering perseverance paid off as she took the Bronze Medal on the winners podium.

A fantastic achievement Siaana, we are all very proud of you.



# Going beyond our best ...

with our brilliant year 10s



Celebrating our year 10s who have gone beyond their best this term and now have their names displayed on our board as the 'most improved' and 'highest achievers'.

Sixty students in total have achieved this accolade, which is based on their average grade across all subjects, and they should be very proud of their continued hard work and perseverance during their penultimate year at Durrington High School.

*"Great accomplishments start with great aspirations." Gary Hamel*

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride



through kindness, aspiration,  
perseverance & pride



## plus our ex-year 11s

It was wonderful to catch up with our ex-year 11s during last week's GCSE certificate collection event and hear all about their transition to college and what they are up to now.

You were a fabulous year group and we know you will go on to achieve great things and continue the Durrington ethos of kindness, aspiration, perseverance and pride.

We wish you all the best in your future career paths and keep in touch!



*The Durrington Journey*



# Update from Careers



## Year 11 College Applications and Moving On Support

We want to encourage all students to apply to their preferred college destination by the end of term. Students can use the computers in the careers department to do this after school if needed and Mr Henry will be around most days to offer support.

If students would like a one to one careers meeting with a qualified adviser they should visit the careers department at break times and ask. It will be scheduled as soon as possible moving into the Spring term.

## Year 10 Work Experience

The careers team will be unable to accept further work experience requests after 5<sup>th</sup> December. Students will receive a reminder confirmation of their placement mid January which will be followed by an assembly to get them ready. More information will be sent home in the Spring term.





# Can you help?

## Year 10 Careers Day Volunteers Needed

On 9<sup>th</sup> February we will be holding our Year 10 careers day. This is an action packed event where students get the chance to learn about future choices as well as hearing from people about their jobs and developing skills that will help them get there. We are seeking volunteers from our DHS community in two areas ...



***Job guessing game*** - In a 'moving round the room format' pairs of students get to ask you questions about the work you do to guess your role or industry area. You then reveal the answers to the group with an opportunity to briefly talk about your journey. This is a fun session that allows young people to explore a wide variety of jobs.

***Mock interviews*** - This session offers valuable interview practice to our students. If you have experience interviewing job candidates and feel that you would like the opportunity to help our young people we want to hear from you.

If you would like to volunteer please [fill out the form via this link.](#)

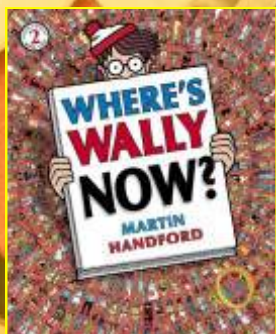




# Give a book at Christmas

Looking for inspiration for your teen readers?

Here's some recommendations from students at our school book club!



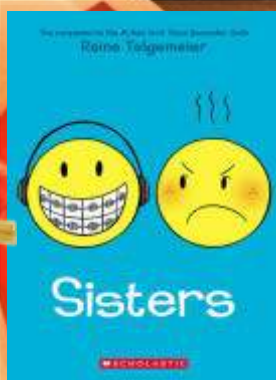
**Where's Wally** is *still* an excellent book to share with all the family after a big Christmas dinner!

***When the Sky Falls***  
by Phil Earle



***Last Kids on Earth***  
series by Max Brallier

***Sisters***  
by Raina Telgemeier



***Skulduggery Pleasant***  
series by Derek Landy





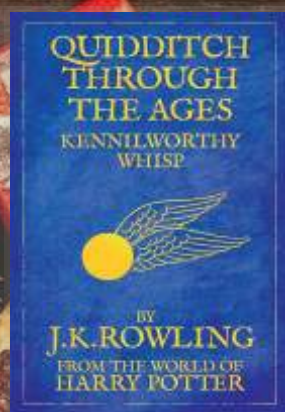
student reviews and recommendations

# All we want for Christmas ... is books!



There are always brilliant video games guides and annuals that the gamers will LOVE!

If they love *Horrible Histories* style humour, try the Adam Kay non-fiction books about biology!



***Quidditch Through the Ages***

by JK Rowling





# Tis the season to be reading!

Suggestions for more mature teen readers!



Year 9 have been reading  
***Noughts & Crosses*** in class.

Why not get them the full series, or the  
Graphic Novel.



Magnificent  
Manga



# ABA classics...



Previous winners and nominees of  
the Amazing Book Awards!



**Scythe** series by Neal Shusterman is a thrilling  
dystopian trilogy.

# Durrington debates



Durrington's Debate Society has launched this term, with 22 students across all year groups attending on Wednesday lunch times in the SME department.

The first debate was won by the proposition team, led by Matilda Cutting and Ivy Robertson, who successfully argued that "Artificial intelligence is a threat to humanity".

The next debate will help to get us into the festive spirit, debating whether or not Christmas is still a religious holiday. Well done to everyone who has taken part so far!



# Coming soon!

## Kindness at Christmas

It's that time of year again when we come together as a community and put together our Christmas hampers and stockings.

Our brilliant Student Senior Leadership Team are launching this latest kindness challenge today and items we would like to collect for the hampers and stockings are listed below.

### Hampers

Feminine hygiene products  
Toilet roll  
Shampoo  
Deodorant  
Washing up liquid  
Shaving foam  
Handwash  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes

### Stockings

New pens/pencils  
Notebooks  
Reading books  
Colouring/puzzle books  
Sticker books  
Mini games  
New soft toys  
Sweets



As you can see from the photo's, your donations last year were phenomenal and made such a difference to our community. We hope that this year we will, once again, be able to make a small difference to the lives of others through our joint act of kindness.



# 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 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

## Social media

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

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



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Perseverance and Pride*



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