

2024



# DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

12 January 2024 edition

A happy new year to you all and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024.

The new year has got off to a great start here at Durrington and we have lots of exciting plans for 2024. Our Y11 students will be collecting their mock results next week, which is always a really exciting time for them. This gives them a great indication of how they are doing and what they need to do in order to achieve the best possible outcomes in the summer. Alongside this, Y9 will be beginning the process of thinking about their options for next year – a really exciting stage of their Durrington journey!

We hope you have enjoyed our first 'Curriculum Spotlight' on English, through our social media channels this week. The idea here is to share the brilliant work our students are doing across the curriculum with you. We are so proud of what our students achieve, which is why we want to share this more widely. Please do take a look and share with friends and family. We'll focus on a different curriculum area each week.

Later on this term, in response to parental feedback, we'll be launching our 'Family Partnership Programme'. Led by Mr Frost (Assistant Headteacher), this will comprise a series of workshops for parents and carers, shaped by issues that you have fed back to us and are important to you. Further details of this will be shared with you in due course.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enjoy the newsletter.

*Shaun Allison &*

*Chris Woodcock*

*Co-Headteachers*



# Curriculum spotlight ...

## Year 7 English Stars

Each week the English department nominate a year 7 student as 'Star of the week' and we are delighted to share just a few of our English Stars!

Amelia - consistent effort and hard work

Katy - hardworking and challenging herself

Williams - enthusiastic and hardworking



Betsy - completing all tasks to a very high standard

Jack - enthusiasm in lessons

Logan - great contributions to lessons

Tommy - always showing perseverance

Isaac - creative thinking

Jess - resilience, always trying her best



# English & Media



## Lord of the Flies with year 8

William Golding's dystopian novel 'Lord of the Flies' is read by all students in year 8 as part of the curriculum. Students discover and discuss the plot of the story, the main theme and characterisation of the leading figures, as well as the contextual influences. Students learn how to annotate and analyse a text and how to write an essay that tracks a character across a story, whilst using a range of tier 2 and 3 vocabulary connected to the novel.



# Creative writing club ...

Creative writing club takes place every Thursday after school in G32 and everyone is welcome.

Students have the opportunity to work on their own stories, or help put together the school magazine 'The Durrington Daily' which is written and edited entirely by the students.



Here is what the students have to say about the club:

At creative writing we write to our hearts content creating poems and stories and no one tells us what to do. Our lovely and kind teacher Miss Foster will always encourage us to do our best whilst letting us have a sugar rush with sweets!

Freddie in year 8

"I love creative writing because it allows your imagination to run wild with no rules, they give you a pen and paper and then you write! You can dance from word to word and leap from sentence to sentence, and there will always be a kind face!"

Rose in year 8

*encouraging  
imaginative  
minds*



# Romeo & Juliet with year 9

During the Spring term year 9 students study Romeo and Juliet . The key focus is to familiarise students with Shakespeare's language, an understanding of the plot, characterisation and key vocabulary. Contextual knowledge of the Elizabethan era and theatre is introduced. Romeo and Juliet is also studied in Year 9 Drama. Students build on their knowledge of universal themes and conventions of a tragedy taught in year 7, 8 and 9. Vocabulary is introduced to support them in their future study of Macbeth at KS4.

Students are taught the different language devices to use within their writing, a range of vocabulary and a variety of sentence structures to diversify their writing. They will also have the opportunity to visit The Globe Theatre and watch a Shakespearian production during KS4.



You can watch our fabulous year 9s acting a scene from the play on our facebook page!



# GCSE Media Studies ...



Jenni Wood in year 11

"Overall, I think media is one of the most interesting and exciting GCSEs I take! This is because it really challenged my views on the world, making me become a lot more aware of how media such as music videos, games and films all use subtle methods from lighting, costume and even colour scheme to change your

opinions and perceptions on people, places and events. My favourite part of the course definitely has to be the coursework, although it requires lots of creativity, thought and perseverance, it gives you an immense sense of pride when you finish as you see all elements of your coursework (the photographs, the colour scheme, even font type) come together to make something that looks like a real product you can go out to a store and buy.

GCSE media also will help me even after I sit my exams in summer, as it has improved my analytical skills and knowledge of how language is used which will help me in any essay-based A-level, especially English. It has also inspired me to look in to potential careers such as journalism, graphic design and advertising!"



# what our students have to say



Robert Parsons in year 11

"I have really enjoyed my time in GCSE Media Studies. It has given me a great insight into the choices that are made when creating a media product. My personal favourite section of the course so far would be when I studied TV, in particular the acclaimed crime dramas Luther and The Sweeney. The reason for this is because it was fascinating to me and will support my learning as I move on to Film Studies A-Level at college. Media Studies has enabled me to further develop my skills of analysis through deconstructing various print advertisements, magazine front covers, newspaper front pages, music videos etc., and understanding their deeper meanings and how they

target specific audiences. In Year 10, I was given the exciting chance to create my own special interest magazine front cover and double page feature article as part of my coursework. Whilst this presented many challenges along the way (of which I persevered through and eventually overcame), it also forced me to improve my practical skills and allowed me to fully appreciate the decision-making process that takes place during the developmental stages of a mainstream product like this. I truly believe that Media Studies is one of the most relevant, and therefore widely appealing, GCSE subjects that us students at Durrington High are given the opportunity of pursuing in Years 10 and 11. It balances the academic elements of English with the variety of content covered in the creative arts, and I would recommend it highly to those who are either contemplating choosing it or have not even considered it yet."

***"The best thing about English ... letting my creativity run wild, going into a rabbit hole of imagination".  
Betsy in year 7***



# The Durrington Community

## Christmas stocking appeal



Our fantastic Student Senior Leadership Team delivered Christmas stockings to our local primary schools on the last day of term 2023.

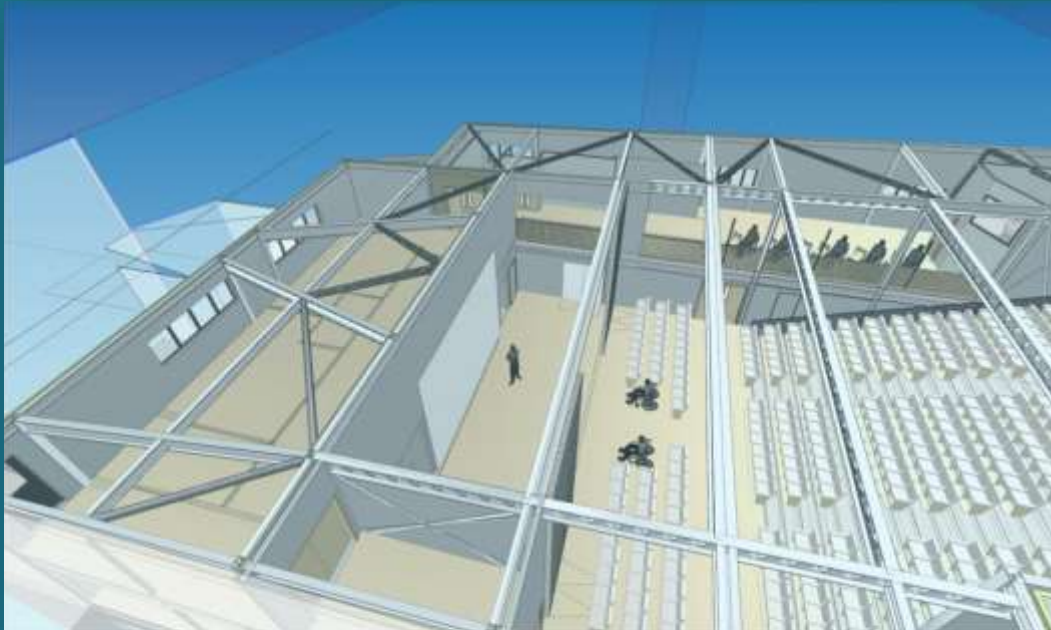
Thank you all once again for your kind donations towards our annual Christmas Hamper and Stocking appeal, we couldn't do it without you.



*#TeamDurrington*

# Calling all ex-Durrington performing arts students

Mrs Isham is planning a gala concert to open our brand-new state of the art theatre and would love as many of you as possible to perform. The gala performance will take place on 13th June and if you would like to take part please send an email to [socialmedia@durring.com](mailto:socialmedia@durring.com)



## Worthing Soup Kitchen

We are still collecting for Worthing Soup Kitchen WSK Foodbank & Parcels.

If you have any items left over from Christmas and New Year that are in date please do drop them off, as well as tinned food, tea/coffee etc. Thank you.



# The Durrington Journey

The spring term promises to be a very busy term for the Careers Team at DHS. As year 11s receive their mock exam results the careers team lead by Mr Henry will turn their attention to supporting students with the final details of their college applications or helping those students who as of yet remain unsure of their next steps. The careers team work tirelessly to ensure that we have excellent partnerships with our local colleges, and on the year 11 parents evening both Mr Henry and Worthing & Northbrook Colleges will be present so parents, carers and students can make enquiries about existing or future course applications.

This term has already seen the school develop a new partnership with Worthing and Adur Chamber of Commerce. This partnership will continue to develop the careers offer at Durrington, providing us with opportunities to have outside speakers from local businesses run sessions with our students and also offer subject specific careers advice.

The first week of February also sees our Year 10 students go on their 4-day work experience placements between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February. As one of the only schools in the local area still providing a full work experience placement, we are very proud that over 230 students will be undertaking a range of placements across our local area and further afield.



worthing  
& adur  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

# next steps ...careers

There will be an assembly with Mr Henry on 16th January as well as SME lessons to help them prepare. The work experience week will culminate with our annual Careers day on the 9<sup>th</sup> February. During the day all year 10 students will take part in various workshops led by our own careers team and also members of the local business community. During the day students will be given advice on how to write a successful CV, take part in mock interviews with business leaders from our local area and also have sessions with further education providers including Worthing and Northbrook Colleges.

As part of ongoing work to ensure our students continue to 'Go Beyond their Best', the spring term will also see a selection of our GCSE students have the opportunity to meet and talk to an array of Durrington alumni about their post DHS journey either into education or employment. Over the course of the Spring term invited members of our Platinum academy, formed of the

highest 60 – 70 performing students across year 10 and 11, will attend timetabled morning sessions with various ex-Durrington students, including some recently departed students that are currently studying at Universities across the country such as Bath and Manchester, and some that left us a little longer ago but have gone on to have successful careers or establishing their own businesses. During the sessions the speakers will discuss what they did post DHS that allowed them to be successful and achieve the feats they have, and students will have the opportunity to ask them their own questions.



# University partnership

## Inspire Scholars Programme - St John's College Oxford



**St John's College**  
Oxford

We are delighted to announce that we have entered into a partnership with The University of Oxford – St John's College to become a member of their Inspire Scholars Programme.

We are very proud to be one of only 30 schools in the south and south east region to have been selected for this partnership. Joining the programme marks the start of a 3-year partnership with St John's College as we seek more and more opportunities to develop and raise our students' aspirations. The programme will be opened to 30 students in year 9 this year, before a further 60 students will join the

programme over the next two academic years. Students invited to be part of the programme will receive a diet of extra-curricular sessions, known as Inspire Clubs, planned by Oxford University academics and run by our own subject specialists on a range of topics such as Viking History and The Science of Black Holes.

In addition to this all students on the programme, and in fact all students in year 9 will have access the virtual summer school run by St John's, while up to 6 students may be invited to a fully funded in-person summer school in Oxford.

# St John's College Oxford

## St John's inspire programme

Furthermore as part of the programme Durrington will have priority access to visit St John's College and online parent workshops/resources on subjects such as:

Membership to the programme also provides the school with access to a bank of online study skills workshops and tools that all students in year 9, 10 and 11 can use to help them prepare for their assessments.

“What does university study look like?”

“Applying to university – what should I expect?”

“How best to support your academically able child”.



## *The Durrington Journey*



# GCSE Citizenship

## ≡ CITIZENSHIP NEWS

Thursday, 04/01/24

### **Junior doctors' strike: Give us credible offer and we'll end strikes, says BMA**

The British Medical Association (BMA) has said it would be prepared to end its six-day walkout in England if the government made it a "credible" offer.



Read More :  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-67867273>

Links to:  
Theme A- Fair play at work  
Theme D- Trade unions

GCSE Citizenship students can now look forward to receiving a weekly news summary from Mrs Lambert with key news articles linked to the themes they are studying to help them to find out more about current affairs and the world we live in.

Friday, 05/01/24

### **Ukraine war: US says Russia using North Korea ballistic missiles**



Russia has used ballistic missiles and launchers supplied by North Korea in its war on Ukraine, the US has said.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby called it a "significant and concerning escalation" relating to Pyongyang's support for Russia.

He said the US would raise the matter at the UN Security Council and impose additional sanctions on those working to facilitate arms transfers. Moscow has denied any such collaboration.

Read More :  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-67888793>

Links to:  
Theme D- The UN, international justice and conflict

# Year 11 Mud Run

Not all challenges in life are academic



## Mud Run 2024!

Launching the year 11 DHS Mud Run 2024!

Why take part?

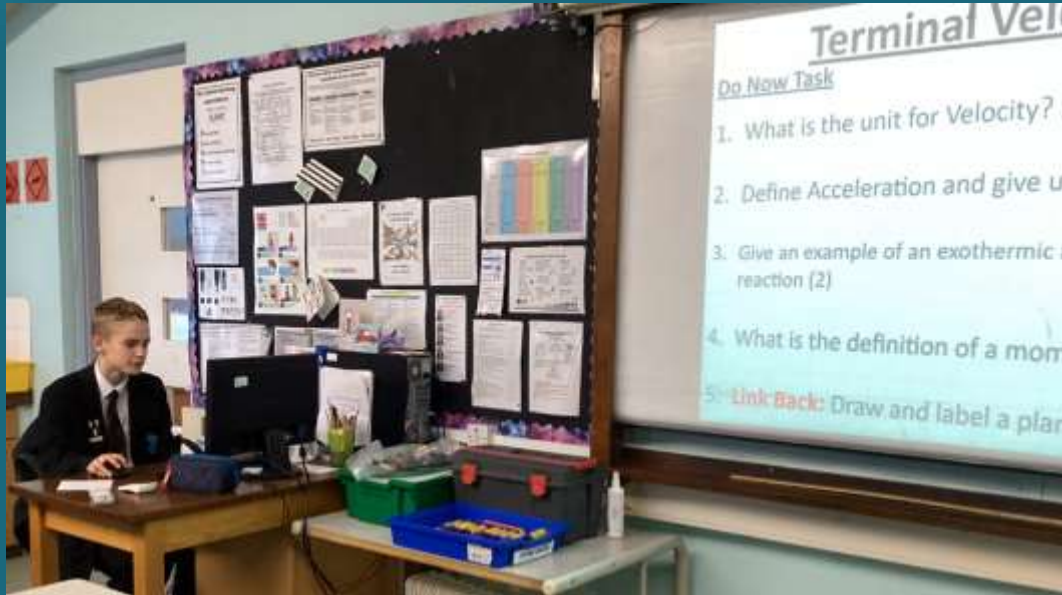
- Kindness - supporting your team members
- Aspiration - trying a new challenge (suitable for any ability)
- Perseverance - completing the course
- Pride - making a positive contribution to the school community

Information has been given to all year 11s and the event will take place on Sunday 24th March. Watch this space!

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride



# Platinum Science Legend Award ...



In order to gain my Platinum Science Legend award, I was asked to join Mr Morrice (my science teacher) in a Team Teach, in which I would teach some of a lesson to my own science class. To prepare, we made some slides for the slideshow that would be used in the lesson, including me writing the Do Now questions that the class would do at the beginning of the lesson.

At the beginning of the lesson that I was teaching, some of my classmates were looking at me and whispering "What are you doing?" or "Why are you standing up there?" but when Mr Morrice told them I would be teaching them for this lesson, they said "Oh that's cool" and "Oh nice".

I then read out the Do Now questions

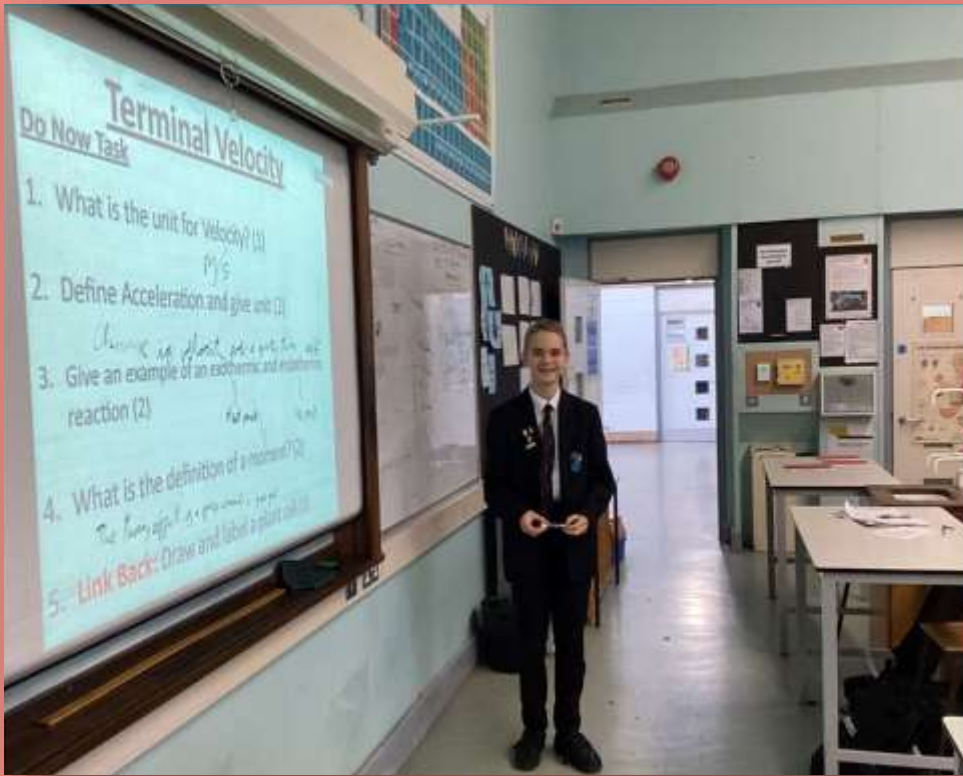
which I had written, and the class began working on them. Mr Morrice then asked if I wanted to do the register as well and I said yes, and began reading out the names. This made some of my classmates laugh as they didn't know how to respond to the register, some said "Yes Reuben", someone said "Yes Mr Bowdery" but some just went with "Yes".

I then walked round the class and asked students if they needed any help with the questions, and helped the students that needed it.

I was quite excited going into it, but when I was actually there it was quite nerve-racking standing up at the front and teaching them. At the end I felt proud of myself and pleased that I would get the Platinum award.

*The Durrington Journey*

# with Reuben Bowdery



Science teacher Mr Morrice added:

I nominated Reuben for a Science Legend Platinum award due to his exceptional dedication in lessons. He demonstrates a genuine passion for science, and consistently strives to attain his best.

Reuben planned and executed an impressive Do Now starter activity. It was evident that he had thoroughly researched the lesson content beforehand, as he confidently addressed questions and maintained clear communication throughout.

The students actively participated in the activity, eagerly raising their hands to answer questions, mirroring the level of engagement seen in my own teaching. At the conclusion of the starter, Reuben expressed his enthusiasm by requesting the opportunity to present another lesson, highlighting his enjoyment of the experience.

I am extremely proud of Reuben's achievement and the Science Legend award is very well deserved.

Going beyond your best



# Lego Spike club with year 8

We are looking for new members to come along and learn how to build and programme robots out of Lego.

The robots have been programmed to avoid crashes, push and pick up items, and using gears - and have some brilliant speed races. If you are keen to learn something new and want to have fun, please come along.

Where: F26

When: Monday 3:15-4pm

Who: Year 8 students

With: Mrs Taylor



# Lego League Sussex final



Ten year 9 students have made it to the SUSSEX regional finals of the Lego league challenge.

Students have been busy these past two weeks making the models and designing and building their robotic vehicles that they will take with them to the regional event next month at Gatwick airport.

The FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge is a global STEM programme for teams of young people, to encourage an interest in real world themes and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers.

The Durrington team will work together to explore a given topic and to design, build and program an autonomous LEGO® robot to solve a series of missions. Students will spend a day off timetable on the 16th of January to practice and finalise their autonomous robot with the help from Mr Scott and Mrs Taylor. We will be keeping you updated on their progress over the coming weeks.

Here are some pictures of their mission table, the theme this year for the competition is about the arts (putting the A into STEAM).



# Year 8 sporting success



A huge well done to the year 8 basketball team who have excelled in their recent matches beating Steyning 34 - 17, St Oscar Romero 28 - 14, and Angmering 28 - 7, therefore progressing through to the District semi-final.

The year 8 District Indoor Athletics competition took place this week, with both Durrington teams performing brilliantly. The girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and the boys came 1<sup>st</sup> progressing to the County stage!



A massive well done to all involved.



#proudoofDHS #DHSsport #DHSPE

Proud of DHS

# Personal achievements

Durrington student Adam was proud to bring in his medal awarded to him by his Sea Cadet club for his commitment, participation and attendance to the club.

Well done Adam, very much deserved and we are proud of you!



## We want to hear from you

Has your child received recognition from a club or activity they do out of school? Do they volunteer for a local organisation? Or have they achieved a personal goal through perseverance? As well as nominating your child for a KAPP award you can also share their personal achievements and successes with our school community, as we would love to share their stories in our newsletter and social media. Please email Mrs Edwards on [socialmedia@durring.com](mailto:socialmedia@durring.com)

Going beyond your best



# Prospective parents / carers



Durrington  
High School



Open mornings



Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

Are you starting to consider which secondary school will be best for your child and don't want to wait until they are in Year 6 to look round?

Due to popular demand prospective parents can visit our school throughout the school year.

Email [admin@durring.com](mailto:admin@durring.com) to book a place on a tour with one of our senior team. These take place every Monday between 8.45 and 9.15am from February to July and are for Year 4 and 5 parents (please note parents only). When your child is in Year 6 they can also visit with you by booking a slot for our October Open Mornings. We can't wait to welcome you to team DHS.



## Diary Dates

- Year 11 mock results assembly - Tuesday 16th January
- INSET day - Thursday 25th January
- INSET day - Friday 26th January
- Year 11 consultation evening - Thursday 1st February
- Year 9 options information evening - Thursday 8th February

## Sign up to our newsletter

- Our newsletter is sent out fortnightly to parents & carers and we aim to cover as much as possible from across the school. If your family and friends would like to receive our fortnightly editions they can sign up here: [Newsletter](#)

## 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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