



DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

26 January 2024 edition

Just two weeks left until the half term break and we can't quite believe that we will soon be half way through the academic year!!

As ever there is much to report on (and celebrate) in this newsletter. Our year 11 students have now received their mock exam results and we have seen a huge and very positive response from them. Whilst the GCSE exams are a few months away we are delighted with the way they are responding and just how keen they are to get ready and get revising; well done year 11.

Looking forward, we are really excited that our Dance Live team are taking part in the regional head in Portsmouth on Tuesday and also that our year 10, in record numbers, will be out doing work experience in the week commencing 5th February.

We have got lots and lots of exciting plans to share with you over the coming term so keep an eye out for updates in these newsletters and via Arbor emails.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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Curriculum spotlight ...

Year 10

As year 10 students embark on their work experience placements the SME team focus their lessons on supporting them with their preparation.

Over the next few weeks students will learn more about the world of work including workers rights, health and safety and career options.

We are proud to be one of the only schools in the local area still providing a full work experience placement and 230 year 10 students will be taking part.

Students have secured a range of placements from engineering at Gatwick Airport to assisting in PE lessons at local primary schools.

The SME team will continue to support this experience giving students the opportunity to review their work placements with their peers and teachers during lessons.



Social & Moral Education



Year 8

Year 8 are learning about life at University and in particular the finance involved, including tuition fees and bursaries, during their SME lessons.



Throughout the Spring term students will go on to cover a range of topics including body image and confidence, mental health and bereavement and how to take care of their own mental health as well as considering the mental health of others.

As the year progresses, students go on to learn more about human rights, studying inspirational figures such as Malala Yousafzai before looking at animal rights and the different issues including hunting, animal experimentation and eating meat.



The final topic of the year will be first aid, where students will cover CPR and different situations when first aid might be required.



SME with year 7

Students are introduced to this subject at the start of their Durrington Journey and focus on looking at the importance of kindness, teamwork and taking responsibility to help them in their transition to high school.

As the term progresses topics covered include puberty where students learn about why the body changes and what to expect, as well as healthy living which focuses on the importance of exercise, balanced diets, mental well-being, personal hygiene and sleep.

Currently year 7 are looking at prejudice and discrimination in society and they were happy to share examples of what they had been discussing in class:

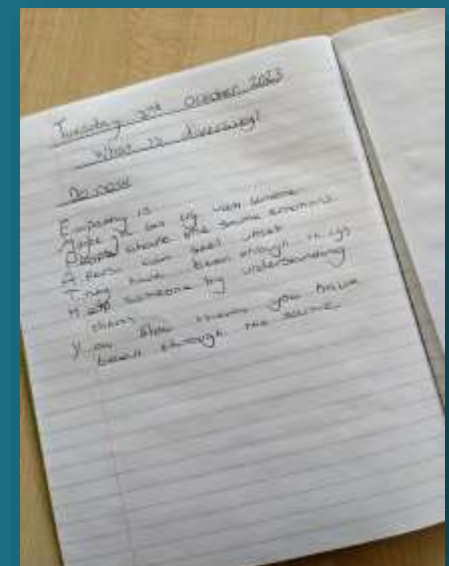
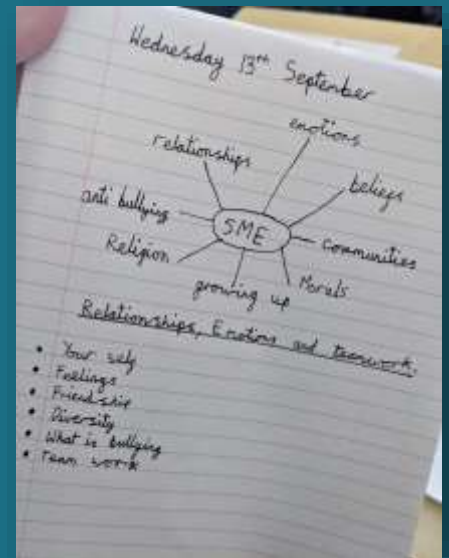
"Women were not allowed to vote".

"A man wasn't allowed to buy a 1st class ticket to board the Titanic because of the colour of his skin".

"Women earnt less than men doing the same work".

"Racial discrimination still happens sometimes at football matches".

"Lots of people judge on looks and not the actions of the person".



SME Debating society



Ivy in year 9 led the recent debate on why we should not be testing on animals. She wrote the following speech with each point being debated with counter arguments.

- Testing on animals is not cool at all! It's just plain wrong. Animals are living beings, just like us, and they deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. It's not fair to use them for our own benefit without considering their feelings. We should stand up against this practice and say no to animal testing!
- Not only is animal testing unethical, but it's also super cruel. Imagine being locked up in a tiny cage, poked and prodded with no say in the matter. It's just not right. Animals can experience pain and suffering, just like we do, and it's not fair to subject them to that. We should find alternative methods that don't involve hurting innocent creatures.
- Guess what? There are actually better ways to conduct experiments without using animals. Science has come a long way, and we now have alternatives like computer simulations and lab-grown cells that can give us accurate results. These methods are not only more humane, but they're also more cost-effective. So why not choose these alternatives instead of causing harm to animals?
- In conclusion, testing on animals is bad news. It's not fair, it's not kind, and it goes against our sense of empathy. We should advocate for more ethical and cruelty-free practices in scientific research. By choosing alternatives and standing up against animal testing, we can make a positive difference in the lives of animals and show our compassion for all living beings.



GCSE Citizenship

During year 10 students get to grips with who we are in the UK; specifically tackling questions such as 'Who is in our community?' and 'How are groups in our community treated?'

Students then build on this knowledge to look at what is happening to the UK population, discrimination and the law, and how human rights protect citizens.

They study how the law works and gain an understanding of the legal system in the UK, and the different roles in the legal process. They also learn about democracy, the UK voting system, our political parties and how governments are formed.

In year 11 students then delve further into the processes of law to underpin their knowledge and discover more about democracy, and political participation in global organisations including: NATO, The UN and The WHO. They also look at the role of the media and how the media supports democracy.

Students go on to complete a unit advocating a cause in their local community which includes independent research and group work.



Student reflections

GCSE Citizenship for me is a subject which not only provides me with key knowledge politically but also provides me with key knowledge about people and the social side of the world.

Personally, I've enjoyed learning about the content in Theme B, which looks at democracy at work in the UK and real life major political parties. This has been beneficial for me as I now have a better understanding of real world politics and this can help me form my own political view when I am older and ready to vote. Even though I am not interested in the career part of politics, I believe the knowledge gained from GCSE Citizenship will benefit you in any career path you decide to take upon in the future.



Kai in year 11

Personally I enjoy Citizenship a lot because it gives you a wider perspective on the world around you in an interesting and accessible way. I have enjoyed learning about the press and how they scrutinise government and other powerful people in particular. It's given me a better understanding of current affairs and a good basis to an interest in politics, law, criminology and more. In my case, I want to study politics at A Level and I think my Citizenship studies have provided a great foundation for that.

Emily in year 11



GCSE Citizenship ...



Picking GCSE Citizenship has really been an eye opener for me, as I have been able to learn new topics such as how laws are made, how the government works and how decisions about our society are made and how that affects us. It's a subject that is very different to what we usually do at school as every lesson is intriguing.

It will help me in later life as it supports me to understand the root causes of the issues in our world. Not only that but it will make me feel confident to express my views and opinion, to take action and to make the world a better place.

Sumayya in year 11

Overall, Citizenship GCSE has educated and prepared me for life after school! This course has been interesting and enjoyable, making me politically aware and engaged with my countries actions. This course allows you to grow your own opinions off of unbiased information giving you the ability to vote, protest and understand your human rights.

So far my favourite part of this course has been the case studies. We've looked at many different public figures such as Marcus Rashford, Just Stop Oil, Amnesty International and many more. I've also enjoyed learning about the criminal justice system and the structure of our government as they are topics that come with a lot of debate. We also look into other countries such as North Korea and Saudia Arabia to learn about how diverse political opinions can be compared to our country.

I hope to use this GCSE after Durrington by possibly taking an A Level in politics to help me pursue a career in journalism, activism or history.

Bel in year 11

what our students have to say



Overall, I have loved taking GCSE citizenship, and it is definitely one of the best GCSEs I have taken. It gives me a great look into law, politics and how our world around us works.

I have enjoyed learning about human rights and how we are kept safe as a society every day, and how communities function well in a society.

Personally, law and order and politics have been my favourite to learn about, for example, how laws are made in parliament or the roles of different courts in the legal system.

GCSE Citizenship has helped me gain a greater understanding of the wider world around us, not just how our country is run, but why different countries around the world use different systems of dealing with issues.

Going into my future, it will help me understand what issues are happening in the world and how to contribute to them, and why I should contribute to them. It will also make me think deeper into my ways of change in life, like voting, who to vote for and why.

It is also a great pathway into social studies at A Level and also a great way into politics or law at further education.

I personally believe it is a great GCSE to have as you will learn to understand the world better and is very enjoyable, I would 100% recommend it to anyone picking their options, even if they haven't considered it!

Taran in year 11



Citizenship news

Each week GCSE Citizenship students receive a news summary linked to the themes they are studying to help them find out more about the world we live in.



CITIZENSHIP NEWS

Monday, 08/01/24

Post Office scandal: Former minister calls for mass appeal against convictions

Hundreds of sub-postmasters convicted in the Post Office Horizon scandal should be able to submit a mass appeal, a former cabinet minister has said.



Read More :

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67908791>

Links to:

Theme A- Fair play at work

Theme C- Law and justice

Theme D- Investigative journalism

Article continued...

Sir David Davis, who is seeking to question ministers about the issue, told the BBC there was "no real reason" why there could not be a "mass case".

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has also said all cases need to be revisited.

It comes as ministers met on Monday to consider ways of clearing the names of hundreds of sub-postmasters.

Between 1999 and 2015, more than 700 Post Office branch managers were convicted of false accounting, theft and fraud based on the faulty Horizon software.

Some sub-postmasters wrongfully went to prison, many were financially ruined. Some have since died.

It has been described as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in British history, but to date only 93 convictions have been overturned and of them, just 30 people have agreed "full and final" compensation settlements, meaning many victims are still fighting to clear their names.

Some 54 cases have resulted in either a conviction being upheld, people being refused permission to appeal, or the person appealing having withdrawn from the process.

Example exam Questions

Explain the effect of investigative journalism, using examples. (4 marks)

Explain the role of MPs in the Post Office scandal. (6 marks)

'Courts should be friendlier places.' How far do you agree? (12 marks)



The Durrington Community

Summer Ball appeal

Help us to make a real difference to young people in need:

You may be aware that a small proportion of the children at Durrington, for one of a number of reasons live in extremely challenging circumstances when compared to their non-disadvantaged peers. With the continued rise in the cost of living, energy bills, and cuts to family support services the opportunity to attend their end-of-school prom appears out of reach for them/their family. As a school we continue to do a great deal to make the event as accessible as possible, we have reached a point where we need just a little bit more help and hence are contacting you, our fantastic local community.

How you can help:

We are asking for any business to help support these students with the opportunity of going to our prom; the final celebration of their school lives. If you feel like you could help by offering something as simple as a haircut, nails being done, clothing alterations, a suit or prom dresses or make up on the night then please click on the link below and let us know. Our promise back to you is to ensure that we match your kind donation to a student in real need. As a further token of our appreciation we will also be happy to add your business to the prom programme and thank you on our social media platforms.

Thank you:

Last year we had an overwhelming response with so many offers of support coming in from local businesses which really made a huge difference to our young people in allowing them to participate in this special event without financial barriers. Thank you so much to everyone and we hope you can extend your generosity again this year.

If you are able to offer something to our young people please complete this quick [Google form](#) with basic details and someone will be in touch soon.



#TeamDurrington

Durrington work experience

Thank you to all our local businesses who have provided work placements for our year 10 students starting on Monday 5th February. They are all very much looking forward to it!

Nationwide	Chesswood School	Jacob Steel
The Grand Hotel	Chichester College	Lady of Sion School
Waitrose	ECE Architecture	Southern Water
Arun Veterinary Group	Ferring Country Centre	Morrisons
Brighton and Hove Council	The Fire Service	University Hospitals
Carpenter Box	Gatwick Airport	Plus 70 more!!

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.



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Lego League Challenge



Students from Y9 code club spent a day with Mrs Taylor to design, build and program their Lego robotic car to complete the set missions that they will take with them to the Sussex competition next month.

Students were busy problem solving to make their Lego car complete the missions, which this year are all based around the art, so we have a stage, sound systems and video cameras that they need to interact with.



#TeamDurrington



Amazing robots were designed, built and programmed and so far we think we have achieved a total of 180 points.

The students will be popping back to the computer science department during break and lunch times in the run up to the event to work on the Sussex regional finals in February.

Good luck team!

The Computer Science department have two trips coming up soon:

E Sports at the University of Sussex for year 9 & 10



A trip to Legoland for year 8



Letters have been emailed home to parents and carers.



Durrington Platinum Academy



The first meeting of the year 11 Platinum Academy took place last week when students met for a business breakfast. Mr Crockett, Assistant Headteacher who is running this project, introduced the programme of inspirational Alumni talks, as well as the opportunities arising from our partnership with St John's College Oxford.

Year 8 sporting success

Congratulations to the year 8 boys basketball team who won their district semi-final last week against St. Andrews 22-16 and are now through to the final!

#proudoofDHS #DHSsport #DHSPE



Proud of DHS

Personal achievements

A meeting with the Prime Minister

Year 7 Durrington student Ben met Prime Minister Rishi Sunak last week when he came onboard the SUPETA Community Yacht.

Ben was among a number of Shoreham Sea Scouts specially selected to meet the Prime Minister, who was piped onboard for a short tour. Rishi Sunak then sat with the Sea Scouts who told him about the different knots on display and the history of the yacht. One of the Sea Scouts asked what it was like to be Prime Minister of a country to which Rishi replied: "Very stressful."

The Prime Minister spent half an hour chatting with the Sea Scouts and as he left he said: "The skills you guys are learning doing this are going to just set you up for life, it's such a brilliant thing to do so stick with it."



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

Going beyond your best



Prospective parents / carers



Durrington
High School



Open mornings



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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 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.

The Durrington Journey



Diary Dates

- Dance Live! - Tuesday 30th January
- Y11 consultation evening - Thursday 1st February
- Y10 work experience week - w/c Monday 5th February
- Y9 options information evening - Thursday 8th February
- Y10 careers day - Friday 9th February
- Half term - Monday 12th to Friday 16th 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](#)



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