



DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

9 February 2024 edition

It seems incredible to believe that we are already at the halfway point in the school year. We have already achieved so much. Our Y11 students have been working so hard since their mock exams and it was great for our teachers to be able to discuss this with so many of you at the recent Parent Consultation Evening. Y11 teachers have made sure that students should have plenty of material to support their exam preparation over the half term holiday, so please do encourage them to engage with this.

It's also a really exciting time for our Y9 students, who are thinking about their options and the next exciting stage of their Durrington Journey. It was lovely to see so many Y9 parents at the 'Oxford Scholars' programme launch. This is going to be a really exciting project and a great opportunity for the students involved.

This week has been work experience week for our Y10 students, with over 240 of them gaining valuable experience, across a range of workplaces. We've been inundated with positive messages from employers about how incredible our students have been. We look forward to hearing their stories when they return to us!

We were full of pride at the Dance Live event in Portsmouth last month. Our students gave an incredible performance and won their heat, against some very stiff competition. We are now looking forward to the finals, in a few weeks time.

Our students have also done us proud in a range of sports. The U16 girls rugby team won the district sevens and our Y11 boys football team are through to the last eight of the County Cup. At an individual level, Mylie Corbett in Y9 will be representing Sussex at the regional cross country competition. An incredible achievement!

And finally a huge thank you for your overwhelmingly positive response to our sixth form survey. We are still very much in the early stages of feasibility with this, but will let you know when we have any further updates.

Thank you for all your support and have a great half term.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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Curriculum spotlight ...

Year 7

During the spring term year 7 students are introduced to algebra and learn about the different terminology, and how to simplify expressions and solve equations. They also deepen their understanding of working with fractions.



After the half term break they begin work looking at types of sequences and spotting patterns before moving on to 2D shapes and rotational symmetry.

They also learn about angles, the different types and how to measure angles, plus properties of triangles and quadrilaterals, as well as regular and irregular polygons.



Mathematics



Year 8

Year 8 are currently learning about fractions including equivalence and how to apply the four operations.



They will then move onto simplifying expressions, expanding brackets, factorising, substitution and forming expressions.



Year 8 will also look at the properties of 2D shapes and rotational symmetry, as well as the interior and exterior angles of triangles and quadrilaterals.

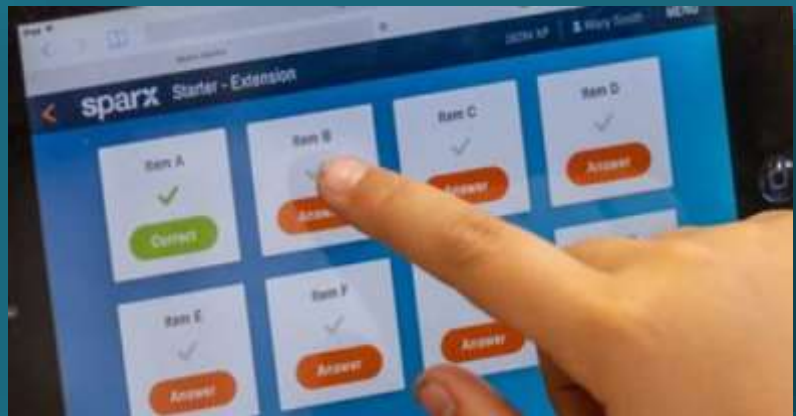


Maths Sparx

The Durrington Mathematics department use the Math Sparx online programme of personalised maths homework proven to boost students grades.

The programme allows teachers to see how long has been spent on each homework, if there are any topics that students have found hard, and which questions individual students have got wrong.

This programme personalises the homework ensuring that it is at the right level for each individual student. The homework is based on topics covered in the previous 2 weeks of learning in class.



This year there is a fortnightly raffle for classes in which everyone achieves 100%. So far the 100% raffle winners have been:

11Y1, 10X4, 10Y1, 7Z3, 7X2, 7Y1. Well done to these classes.

As compulsory homework is being completed students gain XP points. XP points can also be gained by working through 'XP target' and 'XP boost', which can be found on the homepage of Sparx.

These allow students to practise topics that they found hard and consolidate learning covered earlier in the school year.

#MathsSparx

Top achievers

Congratulations to the following students who have gained the highest number of XP points so far this year:



Year 7
Joey Lapslie



Year 8
Freddy Rayland



Year 9
Pavel Stamov



Year 10
Heidi Robins
Heidi is the highest
scoring student in
the school!



Year 11
Kaytee Hawkes

Other top students include:

Courtney Sheppard - Year 7
Beatrice Popoola - Year 7
Orla McCrickard - Year 8
William Standing - Year 8
Lena Stanowska - Year 9
Amara Bulut - Year 9
Oluwasekemi Ogunyemi - Year 10
Monty Phipps - Year 10
James Barnard - Year 11
Lily Denyer - Year 11

Going beyond our best



Future mathematicians



“I have always loved maths since reception. It matches the way my mind works. It’s a form of art. After school I will be taking double maths at college with a view of being a doctor as a career”.

Mastura in year 11

“I am planning my scholarship at Lancing College for maths and further maths. It links really well with computing and physics as I’d like to work in programming software”. Isaac in year 11



“Maths at A level will give me more options when I am older. I’d like to go into finance or economics”.

Jack in year 11

Chess club



When: Every Wednesday lunchtime

Where: In G21M

Who for: Everyone is welcome

Who with: Mr Borrett and Mr Venness



Did you know playing chess can enhance your visualisation, critical thinking and problem solving skills? Studies have shown that students who play chess regularly tend to get better grades at maths so come along and join in!

Jerome in year 8 enjoys playing chess at home and last week was the first time he defeated his father!



Support for parents / carers

As you will be aware we are keen to support all members of our school community including you, our parents/carers.

Below are a range of resources that are linked to specific needs and challenges that some of our young people (your children) may present with. They have all been produced and delivered by clinicians directly for parents & carers.

Please feel free to use a resource if you feel you (or your child) needs support in that particular area. We also recognise that very often the challenges that some young people can face are not easily or immediately fixable.

Please do get in contact with your child's house team if there are issues you feel we need to know or you wish to discuss. We can't promise a solution but we will guarantee a listening ear and to help if time/resources allow.

Further information covering other issues can be found [here](#).



ADHD



Anxiety

To view the talks please click on the relevant video image.

and their families



Autism



Depression



Eating disorders



Self-harm



Self-esteem



Sleep

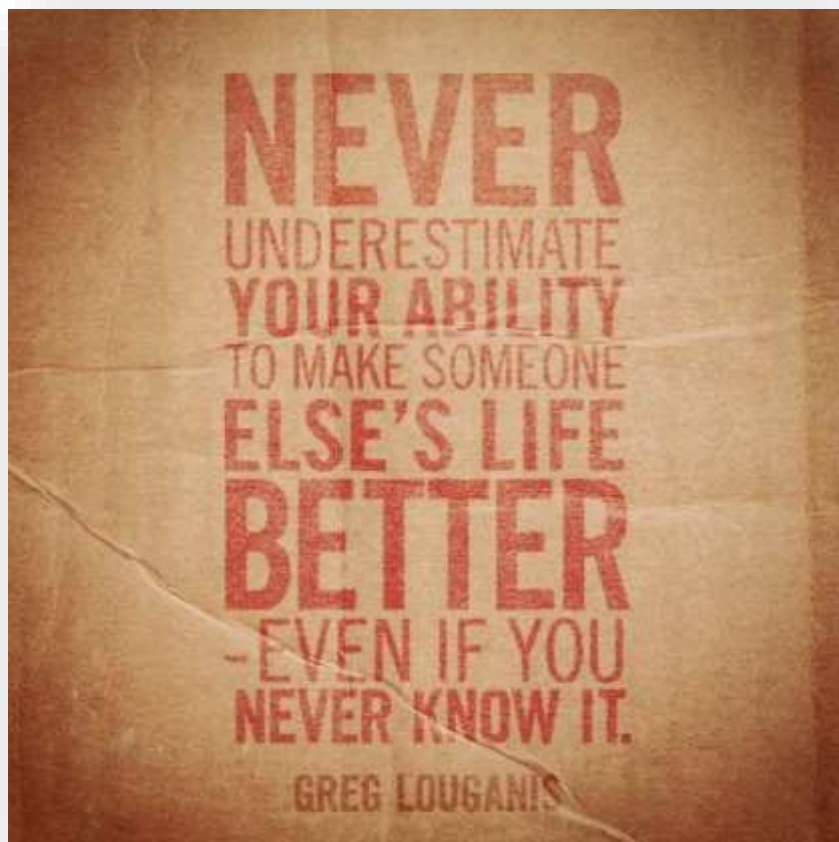


The Durrington Community

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.




Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

Can you help?

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

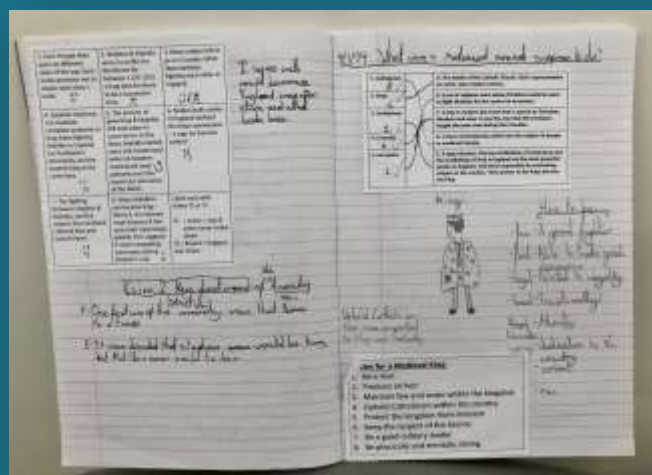
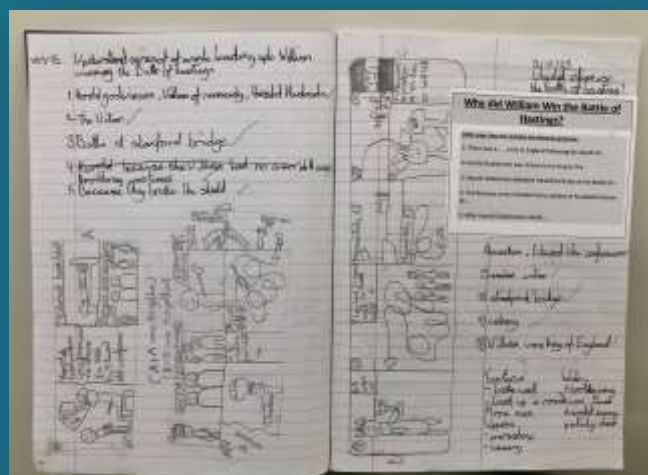


Curriculum spotlight ...

Harry in year 7 says his favourite thing about this subject is looking back into the history of time and seeing how people did things differently to today.

He really enjoyed the recent topic learning about William I the Conqueror and how he gained people's trust by the things he did. Harry said it was really interesting learning how he became King.

Harry added that the history teachers are really good and if he needs any help he can put his hand up and he can guarantee they will be able to answer his questions. He said the teachers make the lessons interesting and dramatic.



Examples of work by Harry in year 7

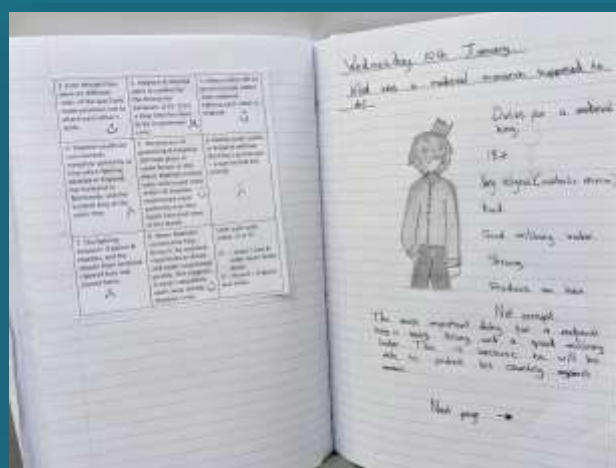
History



Poppy in year 7 enjoys learning about the Medieval wars and crusades and says learning about how people used to live is really interesting.

She found the recent topics on the Medieval period, the Black Death and the Peasants Revolt fascinating as it was such a dramatic period in time.

Poppy says she is really enjoying history lessons at Durrington as the teachers are really helpful and it is one of her favourite subjects and she is looking forward to learning more about WWII.



Examples of work by Poppy in year 7



Year 7 History

Williams in year 7 really likes historic topics and learning about what has happened in the past and says history is one of his favourite subjects.

Williams really enjoyed the recent topic on William I the Conqueror and how he consolidated his power. He also enjoyed learning about the crusades and the Black Death.

Williams is already looking forward to learning more in this subject as he continues his Durrington Journey.



Examples of work by Williams in year 7

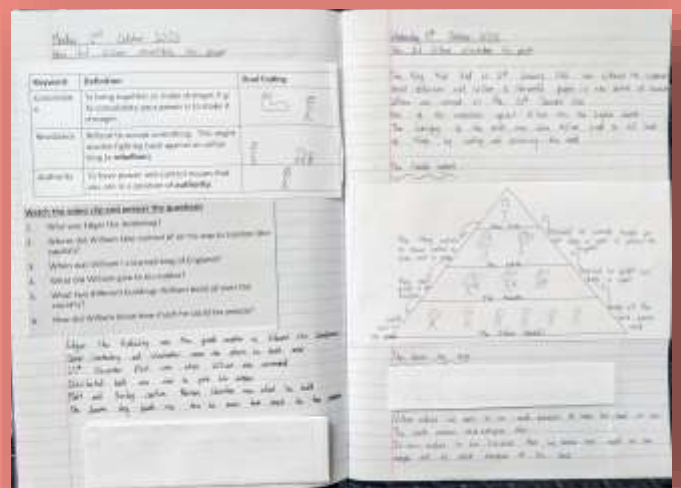
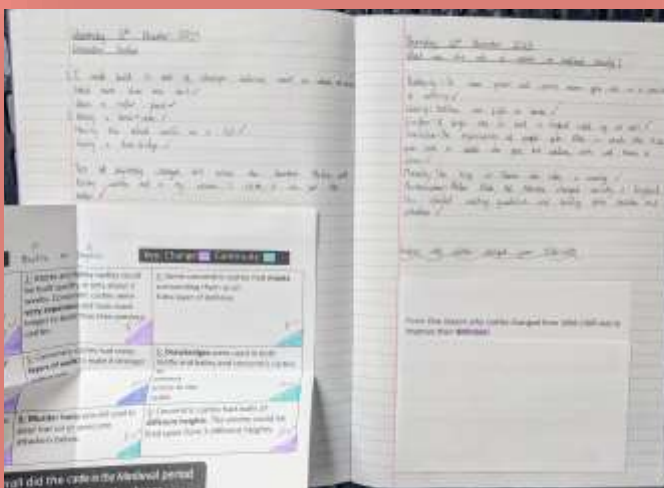
student reflections



Ava's favourite topic is Royal history as she finds it really interesting to learn all the stories behind the different Royals, and how this has changed Britain.

Ava said that learning about all the different Medieval Queens was fascinating, and she also really enjoyed discovering more about William I the Conqueror and 1066.

Ava is really looking forward to learning more about WWII and how people felt living through that time in history.



Examples of work by Ava in year 7



Curriculum spotlight ...



It was an honour to welcome Peter Kammerling into school this week who spoke to year 9 about his families experience of the Holocaust, continuing the work of his father before him.

During his lifetime, Peter's father spoke to over 10,000 children on Holocaust education and was awarded a British Empire Medal for his work. Seeing the powerful effect these talks had on the students Peter now carries on this important work ensuring the

consequences of discrimination are never forgotten.

Thank you Peter for sharing your families story.

Freya said: "I found it really good to learn about the different experiences and how hard it really was. I learnt new things such as they weren't allowed to own a pet which is really unfair. It was also really sad, although I really enjoyed it at the same time".

The History of the Holocaust

Josie said: “I found Peter’s assembly about his Dad’s journey on the Kindertransport interesting. It was good to learn about his families different experiences during the Holocaust. As much as it was sad and made me upset it was still very interesting”.

Ivy said: “It mad me feel quite sad and I don’t think you realise the impact it has on people until it happens, and I thought it was really important to listen to Peter talk”.



You can find out more about Peter and his families history [here](#).



Thank you to Miss Hitchcock and the history team for organising this talk.



Sporting success

Congratulations to the Y8 boys basketball team who have had a phenomenal start to their season winning their way to the District finals. The boys played a strong match against their opponents Bohunt and although they didn't win the game they are now officially the Year 8 Basketball District runners up!



The U16 girl's rugby team were crowned overall winners at last week's tournament. The girls won all seven of their games and beat Steyning Grammar School 3 tries to 1 in the final! A brilliant achievement, well done to you all.

#TeamDurrington

across the years

Year 7 competed at an indoor athletics event and both the boys and girls teams put on excellent performances. The boys finished 3rd overall and the girls finished 1st and will now represent the District in the Sussex finals later this month! A huge well done to all who took part.



Well done to the year 7 basketball team who played a superb game against St Oscar Romero in their recent league match. The girls put on a brilliant performance and won the game 20-8!

Proud of DHS



Dance Live 2024



DHS crowned Dance Live winners!!!

The Dance Live team travelled to Portsmouth to showcase their talents and compete against other senior schools in the area, plus 3 colleges whose students were studying performing arts and were aged 16 to 18!

The whole team were superb and put on yet another incredible performance claiming the overall winning title as well as the Best Technical award. We are extremely proud of you all and are looking forward to the finals in April.

A special thanks to Mrs Isham and the Performing Arts team for your dedication and commitment to our brilliant students.

#DanceLive

Duke of Edinburgh

We were lucky to have dry and mild weather when our 50 year 10 DofE students spent the morning hiking up on the South Downs as part of their expedition training. In addition to testing their map reading, they carried and pitched tents where they stopped for lunch and used their stoves to make a hot drink. Along the way some teams encountered herds of deer, watched Red Kites flying above and wood mice in the long grass. Our nine teams followed different routes in muddy conditions, arriving at their finish location in the early afternoon and only a couple of the teams had some navigational challenges! A big thank you to our 7 staff volunteers who gave up their time to make this event happen.



#DofE



English Sparx

Students in Year 7 and 8 have started using Sparx Reader for their English homework this half term. We are really proud of how all students have embraced this and how hard they have been working on their reading. Some students have gone above and beyond with their Sparx Reading and have earned the Sparx Reader Gold status!



Well done to Eric, Hollie, Noah and Williams in year 7 on achieving your Sparx Reader Gold Status.



Congratulations also to year 8 students Jerome, Luke and George on your Sparx Reader Gold Status awards.

#EnglishSparx

Work experience week

Thank you to the Durrington business community and beyond for generously offering 240 of our year 10 students a week's work experience. We will be sharing more on this and our careers day in the next edition of our newsletter.

5 Rings Energy	Ferring Country Centre	Nationwide Building Society	Southern Scientific
5RIT Ltd	Field Place Infant School	National Air Traffic Control	Southern Water
Alexander Jewellers Ltd	Fineline Traditional Joinery	Next Step Coaching	Spearfield Equestrian Livery
All Seasons Garden Care	Fire service	Northbrook College	St John Baptist Primary school
Alley Cats	First Class Barbers	Northstar Technology	St Josephs Infant school
Amie's Angels	Flexotronic Ltd	NRG Sussex Ltd	St Michael's School
Architectus	Flowers 4 Worthing	Oak Grove College	Sticky fingers Nursery
Art-K	Gardner & Scarfield	Offington Land Surveys	Sussex Building Solutions
Arun Veterinary Group	Gatwick Airport	Optimus Gym	Sussex Film Office
Baked	Gauntlett Fitness	Orchards Junior School	Sussex Performance centre
Barnham Primary School	George Gasson Music	P&H Electrical	Sussex Tiling and Mastic Ltd
Bluebird Cafe	Gifford Racing Stables	Paula Rosa Manhattan	Suzy Smith Racing Ltd
Blush Hair Boutique	Goring Hardware	Pavilion Insurance	Sweetpeas and Honeybees
Body Shop	Goring Primary School	Pawlers	Florist
Boots Ltd	GOSH patisserie	Performance Trampoline	Switch Electrical
Bright Kiddies Pre school	Grand Hotel	Peter Jarman	TAB Infant School
Brighton and Hove Council	Greenlight CX	Pets At Home Worthing	TAB Junior School
Brighton Electric Recording Ltd	Greystoke Manor	Philip Goacher Associates	Tarantula Barn Exotic
Brighton MOT Centre	Guildcare shop	Playdays Childcare	Tesco
Brit Fleet Services	GW Commercial Heating	Pooched Paws	That Glam Bar
Built Environement Technology	GYMCO	Porcelanosa South East Ltd	The Croft Practice
Bungaroosh	Gyre Fit Studios	Posh Paws Cat Hotel	The Doggy Butler
Busy Bees	H.Hooper	Potters House Pre school	The Fixers Group
Busy Bees Nursery	Hair and Beauty Lounge	Pumpkin Patch Nursery	The Hangover Kitchen
Carpenter Box	Hawthorns Primary school	Red Engineering Design Ltd	The Happy Teapot
Cat's Whiskers Vets	Huxley's Birds of Prey	Retro by Ronnie	Toybox Cafe
Chesswood School	IGLU	Revive Marketing	Tri Tech Electrical Ltd
Chichester College	Intent 91	Management	Twelve
Childminder	Jacobs Steel	Richard John	Twice as Nice
Classic Collection Holidays	James Chase Solutions	Richards Dry Cleaners	Uncle Sams
Cooks Electrical	Jonny's All Day Dining	Robert Luff and Co	University Hospitals NHS Trust
Campsey Interiors	Oddballs Brighton	Ropetackle Arts Centre	University of Sussex
County Stone Ltd	Keen & Betts	Roscomac	UPVC Repair Solutions
Crown and Anchor	Lady of Sion School	Rustington Primary School	V Hair Salon
Crowther Assoc	Lindens Preschool Group	RV Heating and Electrical	Vanilla Pod
Cutmy	Little Owls Nursery	Saywell International	Waitrose Ltd
Design Packaging	Little Rascals Nursery	Sea Lane Cafe	Ward Gas services
Dixon Wilson	Little Stars Nursery	Select School Skiing	Welland Medical group
DJLB Wealth Managemnet	LTN Motorcycle services	Shoreham Port	West Park Primary
Durrington I/J school	Lux Barbers	Select School Skiing	West Sussex Record Office
Early Explorers	Lyminster Primary School	Shoreham Port	West Sussex Library
ECE architecture	Manor Geen Primary School	SLM Property Management	Windlesham House school
Efes restaurant	Mascott Roofing	Sompting Village Primary	Worthing College
Elm Grove Primary School	Mepham Developments	South Coast Welding	Worthing Osteopathic Clinic
Explorers Nursery	Mid Sussex Golf Club	South East Water	Worthing Roofing Repairs
Ferring CE School	Morrisons Supermarket	Southdowns Gun Club	Worthing Theatres

Thank you



The Lego League tournament



The computing department at Durrington took their first team to the Lego League regional tournament for Sussex area at Gatwick Airport. First® Lego® League Challenge is a global competition for young people aged 9 to 16, run in the UK by the Institution of Engineering and Technology. Durrington faced stiff competition from over 8 other teams, many of whom had competed for a number of years before at the competition.

The action-packed day saw the pupils working together to complete as many missions as possible on their challenge mat with their Lego programmable SPIKE Prime robots. The day involved 3 nail-biting rounds where the teams were judged by STEM ambassadors on how many points they could earn in the 2 ½ minutes on the clock.

Between rounds the team had time to practise and refine their code to make



improvements. During the day the Kyla Winter, First® Lego® League Delivery project lead, set them a creative build task. They had to build some wearable art. Art was chosen as the mission map this year was all based on the Arts. Alongside all the programming, the students managed to build the most amazing Lego hat. This was a true work of art, they even included our school logo and modelled this on a catwalk.

During the day the students had to give a 30 minute presentation to a group of stem ambassadors, based on an innovation project they had designed. Our students' idea was using augmented reality to bring to life collectors cards, such as the Lego cards. They all answered questions after the presentation on their idea, their robot building and design and also how they met the Lego League's core values.

with Team Durrington



The students were able to answer the questions on core values so well that the judges awarded them the Core values Trophy at the end of the day along with a Lego medal for taking part.

We are truly proud of every single student who took part and they all



worked incredibly hard and impressed the STEM ambassadors at Gatwick.

Well done Team Durrington!

Want to be part of next years team? Come along to F26 on a Monday night after school for Lego Spike club.

Thank you

We would like to thank the very kind parent who applied for a grant through Foresters and kindly donated £200 worth of Lego kit to the computing department.

The kit we received is perfect and it will be so well used in the club and across the school. This is a very kind and thoughtful gesture and this hands on computing kit really helps bring the subject alive. Thank you.



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 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

- Y9 consultation evening - Thursday 29th February
- INSET day - Wednesday 13th March
- Last day of the Spring term - Thursday 28th March

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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