

# DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

**15 March 2024 edition**

We would like to say a very big thank you to so many of you, for the lovely comments about our school, that you have shared via the sixth form consultation form. We have read every one of them. Your trust and positivity means so much to us.

Coming to school equipped to learn is so important to the success of our students. We are focusing a lot of our efforts on supporting our students with this - so making sure they have the basics of a pen, pencil, ruler and calculator every day. This is the minimum they need in order to get the very most out of every lesson. You reminding them about this at home every night, really supports us with this, so

thank you for taking the time to do this.

We also know that there is a clear link between success at school and spending good quality time on homework. Making sure they have a quiet space at home to complete their homework and checking in with them about what homework they have each day, is a great way for parents and carers to support us with this.

As always, thank you so much for all you do to support the work that we do.

*Shaun Allison &  
Chris Woodcock  
Co-Headteachers*

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# Curriculum spotlight ...



“The computer science rooms at Durrington are so much better than at primary school, they are really modern and spacious - you can move around them easily and we get really big screens to work from, you can always see the teachers board from wherever you are sat. I have loved learning about the micro; bits, the programming is a little like scratch from primary school but you get the micro;bit to do way more cool stuff. Last week we all made our own step counters - we had to go on a walk to test that they were counting correctly, then change the code if they were not - by the end mine counted all my steps.”

*Amelia in year 7*



# Computer Science



Year 7 have been writing their own code for the Macqueen Micro;bit robots where they were set the challenge of making them perform a co-ordinated dance. Year 8 are learning about the parts of the inside of the computer such as CPU, RAM, heat sink. They have the chance to see what they look like, hold them and learn what each part does.

“Micro;bits have been the best part of our lessons so far, they have been fun to learn how to program, in our first lesson we had them smiling at us and making sounds, I had used them before in a workshop on music in London so I was keen to learn more about them in school.” *Rio-Mya in year 7*







This week year 9 were learning their second sorting algorithm - merge sort. This is how a computer sorts data from lowest to highest value in a list, in the previous lesson the students did a practical activity where they looked at why this would be of benefit to computers to speed up the process of searching, as lets face it sometimes a google search is like finding a needle in a haystack!



"I went from hating computing at primary school to loving it at Durrington, it's now my favourite subject and first choice of subjects to pick at GCSE.

You do so much here in computing, a huge mixture of topics, you never get bored. I have enjoyed the micro;bits the best and programming them.

The clubs are great and there is so much extra curricular, I have attended the girls who code club, year 9 code club, Lego League competition and also the Teen Tech festival in the past couple of years." *Freya in year 9*

*#ComputerScience*



“There are so many opportunities in computer science at Durrington, I have attended code club since year 7 and have taken part in workshops, trips and competitions in my time here.

I really enjoy the coding a lot, we learn python language from year 8 and our teachers always give us more challenging and stretching activities as I had learnt some of the code ahead of the lessons in club. I was pleased with the games I could create in python by the end of year 8.

Recently we learnt about Ai , this was really interesting and good fun, we got to see how Ai is learning and also tried out some Ai simulators.

I have chosen it as a GCSE option, as my teachers have helped me understand what jobs and careers it can lead to, and great prospects with having computer science as an option and enjoying it.”

Dawud in year 9

## Going beyond our best



# Computer Science



## Year 10

Year 10s are learning how python programs can read from external files and write to new files - this allows the data entered to the program to be saved and used at a later time, and ultimately making programming powerful.

“During my time in computer science at school I have learnt a variety of useful skills such as logic gates and python, with the ability to read and write to files. Personally I have enjoyed the python extended projects (Haunted House and Santa’s Workshop) and believe I am doing quite well in computer science. The rooms are aesthetically pleasing and I like the open display of computer parts. The main reason I selected computer science was that it will help me to develop game development skills.”

*Yisrael in year 10*



# @ GCSE



## Year 11

The year 11s are practicing handwritten algorithms for their paper 2 exam, this is our last year of the students needing to complete a hand written coding paper - so lots of practice happening in class right now - next year the year 10s will be completing their coding exam on screen.

“GCSE computer science has taught me the foundations for programming and understanding the systems within computers and how they are used across the globe. This has opened the door to many future career paths and has influenced my decision to continue studying it at A-Level. At Durrington I have enjoyed learning about the ethics behind the future of computer science and developing skills in learning python.”

*Isaac in year 11*



# Extra-curricular clubs



## Year 7 Minecraft

When: Monday after school

Where: F24

Who for: Year 7

Who with: Mrs Aston

Minecraft club is for students learning Minecraft all the way through to expert level. Students will be set challenges and competitions throughout the year and also get the chance to learn new skills from the staff running the club.

*"You get to be creative and play with your friends."  
Marley and Oskar in year 7*

*"It's really fun and you can play with your friends  
as you learn."  
Harry and Christopher in year 7*





# across the year groups



## Year 8 Lego Spike

When: Monday after school

Where: F26

Who for: Year 8

Who with: Mrs Taylor

In this club, students get to build programmable Lego to solve a number of set tasks from travelling around some obstacles to interacting and completing missions on the Lego table. The students use a programming language a little like Scratch to program the spikes on the iPads. The students from the club get the chance to go to Legoland at the end of the year and also some will be selected to represent the school in year 9 when we enter the Lego league competition.

"I really like the creativity in the club & you can join at any point as it's easy to pick up." *Lewis in year 8*



# Year 9 code



When: Monday after school

Where: F27

Who for: Year 9

Who with: Mr Scott

This popular club in year 9 looks at developing students programming skills with a range of projects including some physical computing and using some awesome kit that you won't get chance to use in class.

"It's really fun learning with friends and programming new stuff."

*Harvey, Ben and Dawud in year 9*

"This club teaches you a lot more in depth about micro;bits and python and you learn about the world of programming."

*Ashton in year 9*



#coding





## Year 10 e-sports

When: Wednesday after school    Where: F26

Who for: Year 10

Who with: Mr Scott  
& Mr Jackson

Unlike the name suggests, this is not a sports club. This is a gaming club!

Students are learning League of Legends this year with the aim that they will enter the national E-sports competition next year and compete against other schools. We are on the look out for new members who want to learn this team sport, no prior experience needed.

“I had not played the League of Legends game before coming along to club, I got lots of help from the teachers who run the club and I am improving week by week, I also practice in between the lessons.” *Jude*





# 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 Partnership Programme

We are delighted to announce that the Durrington High School Partnership Programme for families (DPP) will be launched next term. The programme aims to give families the opportunity to meet with leaders at our school about a variety of important topics. We value the input from parents and have carefully selected the workshops and sessions based on the feedback we received from the parental survey sent out last year.

View the full programme of events on the link below.

## **Durrington Partnership Programme**

If you would like to attend any of the workshops, please follow the sign-up links next to each workshop. We look forward to seeing you at the sessions.

## 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)

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# Curriculum spotlight ...



"I have enjoyed all the different topics in geography and my favourite was the Democratic Republic of the Congo which was really interesting."

*Joshua in year 8*

"I like the nature side of geography and learning about the different continents and countries, particularly Kenya which was my favourite."

*Jake in year 8*

"I really enjoyed learning about different settlements and the group work we did when we all discussed where we would choose to build a community and for what reasons to have a better life. Geography is definitely fun."

*Amy in year 8*





# Geography

"I like the range of things we get to learn in this subjects and I enjoy the group work too as it is good to get other peoples ideas and opinions."

*Poppy in year 8*

"I thought geography was just learning about countries, but there are lots of different things to learn as it's a really diverse subject and I really enjoyed the recent topic on natural disasters."

*Sam in year 9*

"I find it really interesting learning all about the different places in the world and my favourite topic was discovering more about Mount Everest."

*Zac in year 9*

"I like pretty much everything about this subject, I really enjoyed learning about natural hazards and the different types and causes."

"I like how relevant the subject is as we cover climate change and how the world is developing."

*Willow in year 9*



# Geography @ GCSE



## Year 10 student reflections on studying Geography at GCSE

"Geography is an important subject that links into STEM, we discuss the climate which we need to be educated about so we can find solutions in the future."

*Greta in year 10*

"I have always enjoyed geography and chose this as one of my option choices at the end of year 9, some of the questions in class require a lot of thinking about and it makes your mind work."

*Ruben in year 10*

"I enjoy geography as we are able to learn more about climate change and how we can take action to help the planet."

*Olivia in year 10*





“I like learning about people in different situations to me, like the city of Mumbai in India, as well as all the different aspects such as physical geography. We are currently learning about Newcastle and in particular the development of the quayside.” *Yisrael in year 10*

“I am really passionate about geography and I understand it easier than some other subjects. Human geography and concepts of other problems around the world helps you understand how to fix or properly structure them.”

*Ati in year 10*

“I am also passionate about geography and enjoy the different aspects within the subject, I am looking forward to the physical aspect which I find interesting. In the future I have thought about a career in environmental engineering as a possibility, but for now I am just really enjoying it.”

*Ethan in year 10*

“This is a great subject as it helps you to understand more about the world.”

*Zach in year 10*







## Our year 11 geographers

This week year 11 have been looking at the effects of population decline and growth in rural areas such as the Outer Hebrides where the population has declined by 50% since 1901, and more recently how the effects of Covid have meant a shift in more local areas such as Hurstpierpoint where the population has grown and continues to do so.



“I really enjoy geography and I’m quite good at it, the teachers are so enthusiastic and encouraging. I like the human geography aspect the most and we are currently studying the economic world which I find really interesting.” *Elodie in year 11*



“It’s good to have knowledge of what is happening in the world and how people are developing. We are currently looking at the economic world and how the UK has developed as well as other countries such as Nigeria.” *Theo in year 11*

# Year 11 geography masterclasses

The year 11 masterclasses run across all curriculum areas and are an opportunity for students to practice and embed key content and skills with a subject specialist. This extra provision enables students to excel in their exams.

Here is what our year 11 students have to say:

“The masterclasses before and afterschool are really helpful, especially going over the content with the teacher here to help you, rather than getting stuck at home by yourself.”

“The masterclasses are more in-depth than lessons as each session is specialised.”

“These sessions really help us to refresh our knowledge and go back over topics we haven’t studied recently which helps boost your confidence in the subject as the exams are fast approaching.”

“I have been coming to the geography masterclasses since they began in the Autumn term and they are a real help in the build up to the exams.”

*#DurringtonHighGeography*



# Geography enrichment ... Iceland trip

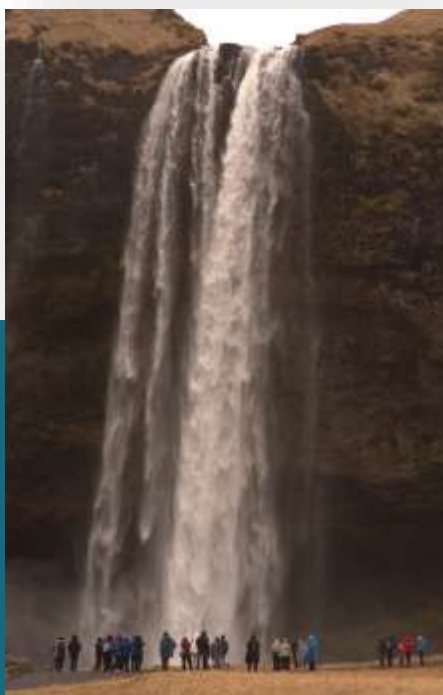


The geography department runs various trips and field work studies to different locations throughout KS3 and 4 with the ultimate experience being a residential trip to Iceland.

Last Easter 56 students from across year 10 and 11 travelled to Iceland for a phenomenal 4 day trip. The group had an incredible time visiting some of the most breath-taking natural features in the world including raging water falls, volcanic craters, erupting geysers and lava fields still steaming and cooling from an eruption in 2022.

“Overall the Iceland trip was both a learning and rewarding experience by physically seeing some of the landforms whilst also seeing new cultures. Seeing both the natural and physical landscape of Iceland was an experience I won’t forget, especially climbing up a glacier and seeing all the waterfalls and even a volcano.” *Theo in year 11*





“I really enjoyed my experience of the Iceland trip as I feel it really strengthened my understanding of geography, especially of glaciers, as we were able to see them in real life and walk on them. I’m grateful that I had this opportunity as it was very interesting and exciting to see how things

happened in a different environment.”

*Grace in year 11*

“I had the opportunity to go on the Iceland trip and I loved it, I would 100% recommend to everyone and especially the hot springs.”

*Lacey in year 11*



# Sports round-up

The year 11s amazing county cup run sadly came to an end last week after a narrow 5-4 defeat in horrific conditions. After being 5-2 down with 15 minutes to go the boys started a comeback with 2 quick goals to put Claremont under pressure. However, sadly we couldn't quite finish a couple of late chances to complete the comeback and force a penalty shootout.



Congratulations to Callum Bird and George Walton who finished their respective races in the top 50 runners out of 220 per race at Christ's Hospital Cross County event. The whole Durrington team competing gave a great account of themselves, giving it their all right to the end of their races.

*#TeamDurrington*



# U16 girls rugby county champions!

The U16 girls rugby team won the county cup last week, winning all their games to take home the trophy. Player of the tournament being Effie Moore for making some excellent cover tackles and being a key try scorer. Also, a big shout out to Olivia and Lucia Maine for filling in last minute and doing a great job.



Some prospective year 9 sports captains helped out at a KS2 girls football event. They did a fantastic job refereeing games and organizing their two pitches, ensuring all the correct results were collected. Most importantly they made sure all the girls taking part had an amazing time.

(Please note we try to share as many team photos as possible but can only do so when the whole team have photo permissions)

*#DHSsports*





# DHS Ski Trip 2024

The DHS Ski Trip 2024 departs for their big adventure to St Johann, Austria during the Easter holidays.

Fifty year 9 students will spend seven days enjoying the slopes and learning new skills as well as making new friendships. There is lots planned for the evenings too including bowling, sledging, karaoke and a quiz night.

Prior to their trip students had the opportunity to visit the Knockhatch Ski School centre where they practiced their skills on the dry ski slope.



*#DHSSkiTrip2024*

# World Book Day @ DHS



The English department dressed up as fictional characters to celebrate World Book Day on 7th March much to the amusement of the students!

World Book Day tokens were also handed out to each and every student to spend on a book of their choice.

Special assemblies took place during the week led by the English team who spoke about the power of diverse reading. This was also the topic of conversation for the regular Friday chat during period 1.



## #WorldBookDay



# Celebrating year 10



All this week we have been celebrating the achievements of our wonderful year 10s whose perseverance and aspirations have excelled.

Assistant Headteacher Mr Crane met with four different groups; the top 30 achievers, the top 30 most improved from TP1 to TP2, the top 30 most improved from KS2, and those who achieved straight 1s for effort across all subjects. Students were treated to a free breakfast and joined by Co-Headteachers Mr Allison and Mr Woodcock who commended them on their hard work and dedication to their studies.

The students were asked for their feedback on the various support available to them at the school, and what they thought we could improve on to help them even further on their road to success. We are hopeful they may well be the first cohort to join our 6th form next year!

Going beyond our best



# Durrington Sixth Form

Dear Parent/Carer

Earlier this year we asked you to complete a brief questionnaire, to gather your thoughts on us opening a Sixth Form here at Durrington. It was important that we did this early on in the process, to see if there was a market for this proposal. We were overwhelmed with your positive response to this and would like to thank you for your support.

As a result of your support, we have continued with our planning for this and are now in a position to go to a full public consultation.

Please find a proposal document that develops the idea of a Sixth Form at Durrington [here](#). At the end of this document is a link to the consultation form. You can also go directly to the form [here](#).

We would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the consultation form.

A very big thank you for your support.

Best regards

Shaun Allison & Chris Woodcock  
Co-Headteachers

The Durrington Journey



# 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/carers can visit our school throughout the academic 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.

*The Durrington Journey*



## Diary Dates

- STEM week - 18th to 22nd March
- Whole School Musical - 19th, 20th & 21st March
- Year 11 mud run - Sunday 24th 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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