

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

1 March 2024 edition

It's been an incredibly busy two weeks, since we returned to school from the half term break. It was lovely to see so many year 9 students with their parents and carers at the recent consultation evening. There were some great discussions about options for next year and the next stage of their Durrington journey.

Our year 9 'Oxford Scholars' had their first exciting workshop, where they looked at Vikings with Ms Price. Alongside this, some of our year 10 and year 11 students have attended inspiring talks from two of our ex-students Lila Hite and Sam Mahe. Both talked about their brilliant experiences as Durrington students and how this prepared them so well for life beyond Durrington at university and work. A common theme from both of

them was the importance of hard work and resilience. So much of what Lila and Sam said resonated with our values of kindness, aspiration, perseverance and pride.

Assistant Headteacher Mr Frost will be contacting you soon about our Durrington Partnership Programme for Families, which will be starting in the summer term. This will be a series of optional workshops that will offer support and signposting for families with regards to learning and well-being.

As ever, thank you for your ongoing support.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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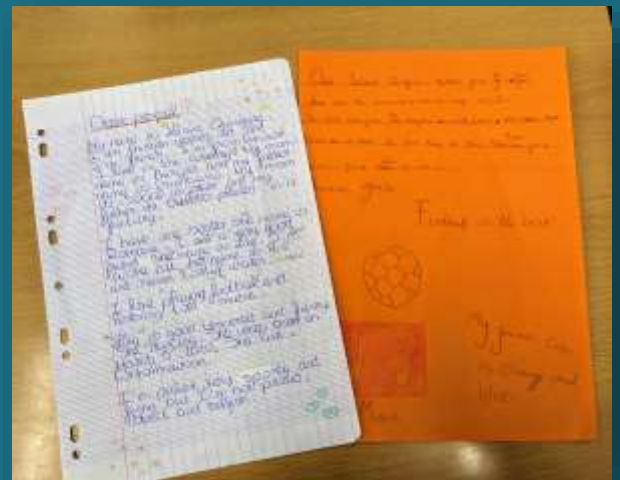
Curriculum spotlight ...



With year 7

Year 7 have received their first pen pal letters from their French peers at the Collège Jean Moulin, Albert, France. The students were very excited to open these and read the friendly messages inside.

Freddie said it was really good to open a letter from another student the same age who is at a High School in France and find out about their family, their pets and their way of life, which is very similar to ours.

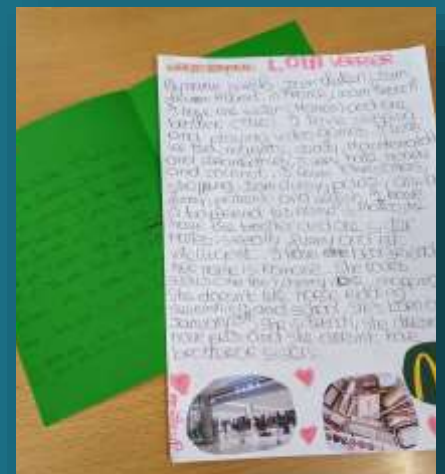


Modern Foreign Languages



Callum's pen pal is Tom and already he has discovered they have a lot in common as they both enjoy playing minecraft, tennis, and like to cook. Laura and Piper enjoyed reading about what their pen pals like to do, who their best friends are, and how many pets they have including gerbils and mice.

Year 7 are now writing their own letters in French and English which will be sent to the school in the next few days. The students hope their French counterparts will be able to translate their letters, and are eager to receive their replies.



Modern Foreign Languages



Speaking a second language, or even a third, expands your world view and opens you up to different cultures, as well as enhancing your future career prospects.

Many of our staff at DHS can speak a different language including; Italian, Japanese, Bengali, Arabic, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Hindi, Sanskrit, Greek, Polish, Swedish, Slovenian, Korean, Welsh and British Sign Language.

#MFL

Careers



Year 9 students discovered more about the benefits of speaking another language in their future career paths during a special assembly.

Coralie Bastien, from The Stephen Spender Trust, spoke about her career and the many different roles she has enjoyed as a translator. She also introduced students to the annual competition run by the trust which invites students to translate a poem into English. This year the spotlight is on Portuguese and you can find out more [here](#). Michael Grainger, a specialist careers advisor, also spoke about his own career journey and the opportunities that arose as a multilingual business man working in the global market.

Going beyond our best



The Stephen Spender Trust



A group of year 9 students spent the morning enhancing their language skills during a creative translation workshop run by The Stephen Spender Trust.



These workshops offer an introduction to translation, with activities based on translating comics, picture books, plays, poems and even sound effects!

Students covered a wide range of languages from around the world including Polish, Latin, Arabic, Russian, Spanish and Korean.

Translation workshops



Albert and Kristian said it was really interesting to look at so many different languages and to work out their meaning in English, and their relationship to other languages spoken around the world.



Aimee and Alisha enjoyed learning about the diversity of language and the context of their meanings in other countries, as well as how different the words sound.



Rhys and Reggie both said they really enjoyed the workshop as it was fun learning more about the different languages and translations.



Performing Arts trip

We were lucky enough to take 30 year 11s to see the amazing touring production of 'The Woman in Black' at the Theatre Royal, Brighton. The students were amazed by the outstanding acting of the cast and the clever use of lighting and sound provided them plenty to write about for their theatre review element of the GCSE exam. Some students may not find it easy to sleep over the next few nights as it was definitely a scary experience but all were enthralled and some said it was the best piece of live theatre they had ever seen.



British Library trip

A group of year 9 and 10 students visited the British Library recently and got to hear Malorie Blackman in conversation with Daps Draws. The students also enjoyed a tour of the library and saw the amazing collection celebrating the authors work.



Year 9 History trip



Year 9 History trip to the Imperial War Museum

Last week 120 year 9 students visited the Imperial War Museum in London to enhance their prior learning about the Holocaust.

This included participating in a workshop that helped them to understand the wider impact of the Holocaust, and touring the Holocaust Gallery where they had the opportunity to view and interact with a wide range of artefacts.

The students behaved impeccably and were curious to learn and came away with an even deeper understanding of the atrocities of war.



The Durrington Community

SUSSEX CAMHS PARENT/CARER WEBINARS

Sessions between 26 March 2024 and 16 June 2024

As a follow up to the recent Children's mental health week West Sussex CAMHS have launched a further series of bookable (but free) webinars primarily aimed at parents/carers. There are five upcoming themes which are:

- Managing challenging behaviour
- Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder
- Bereavement
- Supporting transition from primary to secondary
- Support for kinship carers

Sessions run at 10am and 7pm promoting access for all. Tickets are free but a booking is needed via: <https://ticketlab.co.uk/series/id/1206#/>.

We hope you find them useful.

As a reminder the already published (recorded) workshop videos can be found here: <https://www.sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-families-carers-and-professionals/parent-and-carer-workshops>



#TeamDurrington



Ex Durrington student Sally Brown (née Foskett) and her husband Antony are currently walking the entire British coastline, having set off from Bude in Cornwall on 15th May 2023 and aim to complete their mammoth trek by 22nd May 2024.

The couple don't plan any rest days during their journey and their ultimate goal is to raise £50,000 for the RNLI who celebrate their 200th Anniversary this year.

On Easter Monday you can join Sally and Antony on part of their walk as their 6000-mile hike passes through Worthing. At 9am on 1st April, Worthing's Town Crier Bob Smytherman will be at the start to see everyone off as the couple begin their walk from Worthing Pier to Bognor Regis Pier.

Everyone is welcome to join them, for all, or part of the route, and are encouraged to wear something orange or dark blue as these are the colours of the RNLI.

Funds raised on the day will be donated to Sally and Antony's Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/ukcoastwalk>

You can find out more and register your interest here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/385374714060388>

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Curriculum spotlight ...

Year 7

This term year 7 are looking at the arrangement and history of the periodic table, the properties of metals and non-metals, and chemical formulae.

They will also cover a 'Health & Disease' topic learning about the transmissions of pathogens, as well as food groups and malnutrition.

Currently they are studying forces and motion and the units of measure and conversions.



Year 8

Year 8s are busy discovering more about energy, how it is stored, and interpreting heating and cooling curves.

They are also looking at reactions, combustions, thermal decomposition, exothermic and endothermic reactions.

This term they will recap and build on their knowledge of organ systems,



Science

tissues and cells, and look at the role of the digestive system and enzymes, the nervous system and how it responds to the environment, as well as the respiratory system and the process of ventilation.

Year 9

This term students are embedding their knowledge of atomic structure and the reactivity and predicted outcomes of displacement reactions. They will also cover electrolytes and the reactions of ions during electrolysis.

Students will learn in more depth the function of the digestive system and the CNS and reflex pathway, as well as how gas is exchanged in the alveoli as part of the respiratory function, and the role of the circulatory system, including the structure of the heart and components of blood.

They will also be studying transverse and longitudinal waves and the effect of frequency and amplitude.



Year 7 science club

When: Wednesday after school

Where: G09S

Who for: Year 7

Who with: Mr Finch and Miss Lamming



This week the club have been designing their own lighthouses complete with flashing lights!

Year 8 & 9 science club

When: Wednesday after school

Where: G09S

Who for: Year 8 & 9

Who with: Mr Morrice and Mr Gatenby

Make your own lava lamps was the theme for this week's club!

Mr Morrice and Mr Gatenby gave a demonstration and then it was the students turn to make their own, it was very exciting and the results were brilliant.



#DurringtonHighScience

come along and join in!



"I like science club as there are lots more practical's and we do really fun things, and you learn so much too." Tahlia

"Science club is great as you get to do experiments and learn new things with your friends." Jaden

We do so many different experiments and what the teachers come up with for us to do is amazing." Holly



Science @ GCSE

Year 11 students are approaching their final GCSE exams which begin next term. Since September all students have had the opportunity to attend masterclasses across the sciences; biology, chemistry and physics. These take place before and after school and have been extremely well attended, enabling students to practice and embed key content and skills with subject specialists.



Future aspirations



“I want to challenge myself by taking A Level biology alongside maths and computer science because throughout year 10 and 11 my teachers have really inspired me and assisted my studies.”

James in year 11

“I want to pursue a career in engineering and study at university, this has prompted me to further my physics education as it is what I need. My teachers have all pushed me to continue my studies.”

Beau in year 11

“I decided to choose biology, maths, further maths and computer science at A Level. I chose maths due to it covering a wide range of topics which you can zone in on and it is the same with biology. Computer science is about development of ideas and logical/problem solving, and the sciences branch into chemistry, ecology (biology) and physics, which is applied mathematics. I want to go on to study at Oxford as I have been there on a trip and I believe I would learn a lot there, and my goal is to be a lecturer or do research when I am older.”

Anastasia in year 11



National Sporting Success

National Schools Shooting Championships

Congratulations to Durrington students Oliver Neal, Sophie Neal and Rachel Marshall who took part in the National Schools Shooting Championships.

Sophie placed 6th in the 10m junior rifle competition and Oliver placed 9th in the 6yd junior rifle competition, and Rachel placed 7th in the team rifle shooting event.

A brilliant achievement.



Well done to you all!

#Aspiration

British Trampolining

Massive congratulations to DHS student Evie who has been selected by English Gymnastics to the Junior England Trampoline Programme 2024.

This selection means Evie will train 4 weekends this year at Lilleshall National Sports Centre with the England Team. She will also have an opportunity to compete for England in Minor Internationals later in the year!

Evie was invited by British Gymnastics to the Designated Trial Selection Event for a place on the Great Britain team for the Junior European Championships. Evie performed three solid routines and was one of only 7 females ages 13-16 years in the country to trial for 4 places on GB Team!

We are delighted to share a photo of Evie at the English Championship where she won the Silver Medal.



Congratulations Evie on your incredible achievements!

#Perseverance



Community Sports Volunteers

Durrington students Megan, Sophie and Oliver Neal volunteer for Hedgehog Kids Triathlon Company who won a national award for the best children's triathlon in the South East.

Without their dedication as Marshall's, and their willing spirit and pride in what they do this award would not have been possible. Well done to you all!



#Pride

DHS Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to the year 7 basketball team who won the district tournament this week!



Not too many fixtures were able to go ahead in the PE department recently due to the high amounts of rain over the last couple of weeks.

However, despite the bad weather the year 9 boys rugby team managed to pick up their 2nd win in 3 games, beating TLA 35-25.

Year 8 rugby also picked up a big win against Steyning Towers, beating them 45-5. Despite the freezing conditions and waterlogged pitch, the boys persevered with tries coming from all over the pitch.

The year 11 boys football team are preparing themselves for a tough ¼ final against Claremont school, hoping that they can make home advantage count.

Unaffected by the weather the Year 7 girls netball team picked up a convincing win against TLA to continue their good start to the year. They will be looking to challenge for the district title.

#TeamDurrington



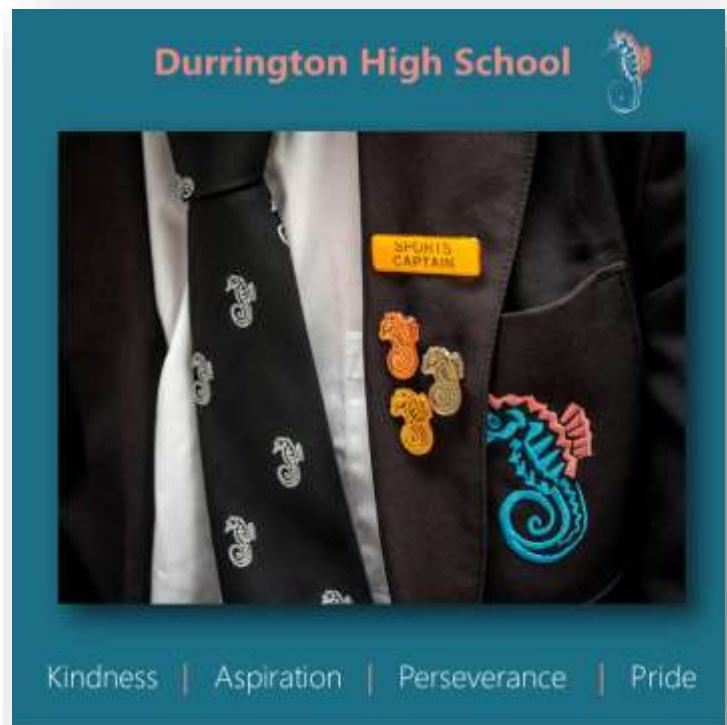
The Durrington Community

Uniform: can YOU help??

Do you have spare uniform at home that is clogging up drawers or cupboards?

Are you able/willing to support other local families/children in need? If so we can help!

We are asking parents/carers for any donations of spare, good quality items of uniform with the aim of creating a stock that we can then pass on or sell at very low cost to families in need.



If you can help and have one or more suitable items to donate (blazers, shirts, skirts, shoes, trousers, PE Kit, ties) please feel free to drop these into the main office. Once we have built additional stock we will be in touch about a date when our first DHS uniform shop event will run.

If we do sell on items this will be on a not-for-profit basis with funds being recycled into the purchase of new uniform.

Finally, we wish to thank you in advance for any donations made. Being able to provide this service to families/students who are living in very difficult circumstances will mean a great deal.

#TeamDurrington

The DHS Student Senior Leadership Team

Durrington High School



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Last week we launched our application process for year 10s to apply to become part of the SSLT as from September.

The deadline is today, Friday 1st March, and we are really looking forward to receiving your applications. Good luck everyone!

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Work experience workshop

Twenty six year 10 students took part in a work experience activity where they were introduced to the world of creative marketing and given a brief to launch a new plant based product for McDonalds.

They had to create their agency, consider their target market, decide how they were going to promote the new product and produce a campaign to present to the international marketing agency DDB. Every group used creativity, teamwork and communication to come up with great ideas.

Groups then presented their pitch to Christian Dluhosch, a global strategist for DDB who was hugely impressed with their efforts. Christian said, "*I thought the groups' individual*

outcomes were fantastic. From reframing to emotional need-solving, to promotional techniques – they approached the task in a naturally strategic way that impressed me greatly."



Feedback from the students was very positive and it was lovely to see groups working together and coming up with some amazing ideas. Huge thanks to our school Enterprise Adviser Laura Jones, DDB and the Careers Department for running the session.

#WorkExperience

Careers day

Year 10 took part in a whole host of activities during our careers day on the 9th February.

We welcomed sixty volunteers into school from local businesses and Further Education Colleges, and students took part in mock interviews, apprenticeship and post-16 transition workshops, CV writing skills classes, and the 'what's my line' job game!

In the Post-16 transition workshop students looked at their future options and the right path to take when considering future careers.

The apprentice workshops gave the students the opportunity to learn more about the different apprenticeships on offer and whether this would be a suitable option for them.



The mock interview workshops gave students the chance to practice their skills with local business providers and gain valuable feedback, as well as gain valuable advice on CV writing skills.

The 'what's my job' game gave students a fun and interactive way to improve their own questioning skills, as well as learn more about the wide variety of potential future careers.

Thank you to all our volunteers from local businesses and colleges for giving up your time to work with our year 10s as they continue on their Durrington journey.

#Careers



Work experience

This year we were proud to once again offer the chance for our year 10 students to take part in community work experience. We believe this is a hugely valuable way for young people to find out about the world as well as about themselves. This year over 240 students secured a work placement with the majority going out for 4 days in the last week before half term. Another 25 took part in our first ever in-school work experience event with McDonalds.

Many students secured their own places with our careers team supporting as well. Most stayed in the Worthing area with some travelling as far as Brighton, Burgess Hill and Gatwick. Students had SME lessons with a preparation assembly beforehand and were issued work experience logbooks to complete before and during their placements. Following their return to school they were encouraged to reflect on their experience and consider how it might shape them in the future.

The feedback we received from the employers was a pleasure to read:

GW Commercial Heating

"I would welcome Henry back any time and would recommend him to any employer."

Goring Primary School

"It is rare that we find ourselves so pleased with a student, but in Benjamin's case we really are. He is an outstanding student of yours and has represented Durrington with excellence."

SRit Ltd

"Their exceptional teamwork, punctuality, resilience and communication skills have made this journey remarkable. It's been a pleasure to mentor such dedicated individuals."

#NextSteps

The Durrington Journey

Equally as important was the positive student feedback.

Bethany at Orchards Junior School said *"I most enjoyed building a bond with the kids and I overcame my lack of confidence with other employees."*

James at Toybox Cafe said *"I learnt that I'm able to adapt and change to a different environment plus it boosted my confidence."*

We are so proud of them all. They will receive a certificate towards the end of term and the careers team are hugely looking forward to them referencing their experiences when they start to plan the next stages of their journey in year 11.

Keep an eye on social media for some spotlight looks at student experiences. A huge thank you goes out to every employer who gave their time and looked after them.



Jared in year 10 made this extremely impressive stone plaque during his work experience week with County Stone. Well done Jared, a brilliant achievement!

#FutureCareers



The world of work ...



Max Doxey

It has been an absolute pleasure having Max work with us in the office this week. His attitude, behaviour and punctuality were all brilliant. Rope-tackle is a busy, high-pressure environment, with a lot of different things happening. Max kept calm and focused, he was respectful and communicated well. He was well liked by everyone and joined in with conversations. He had some excellent, original ideas and it was great to have a young person's perspective. (Please can we keep him?!)

Ropetackle Arts Centre



Selina Cassell

Selina was an absolute joy to have in the salon, Selina has been really hard-working and confident. She has been willing to participate in every aspect of the salon. We wish Selina every success going forward.

Hair & Beauty Lounge



Alex Wood

It has been a pleasure to have Alex join us on the ward, He got stuck in from the moment he arrived, and worked with us well under challenging circumstances.

Should Alex decide to pursue a career in medicine, I have no doubt that he would make an excellent doctor.

University Hospitals NHS Trust

employer feedback

I would definitely 100% recommend Ruby to work with students with additional needs. She wasn't phased by anything! Her interactions with students and staff has been very professional. I can't believe she is only 15! Very mature!

Ruby, thank you so much for everything this week, you really have been amazing and inspirational for our students. Come work with us one day!

Oak Grove College



Ruby Fullwood

Alfie has been a joy to have in the team this week, he has been extremely hard working and picked all tasks set up easily with little help needed. In fact, Alfie performed the jobs given to him better and quicker than some new starters we had join the company last year. Alfie has done so well we are looking at the potential of him joining us in the summer months for a few days a week to help out. Alfie is a credit to the school and he should be very proud of the work he has done this week.

IGLU



Alfie Bowley

#Pride



The Platinum Academy



Over 90 members of the DHS Platinum Academy were invited to attend two inspirational talks by ex-Durrington students who both shared their journey since leaving the school.

Lila Hite joined the students via zoom and spoke of her fond memories of Durrington High and being part of the Student Senior Leadership Team. Lila went on to study at BHASVIC College where she took her A levels and is now studying Psychology at Bath University. One of the reasons Lila chose Bath Uni is because they offer a placement year and in September she will be travelling to Ghana where she will be volunteering at Evergreen Inclusive Academy.

This morning students returned to the Pavilion to enjoy breakfast and listen to another ex-student Sam Mahe. Sam is currently heading up the construction of our new Performing Arts studio, and he recounted his career path since leaving DHS, as well as his continued learning journey as he is currently pursuing a part time Masters Degree.

DHS Platinum Academy

Celebrating Year 9



Congratulations to our thirty 'Most Improved' and thirty 'Top Achievers' in year 9 who now have their names up in lights on our 'Going beyond our best' display board. We are extremely proud of you all!

English Stars of the month

Ruby Nederpel - for her great speech which she has clearly spent time on.

Scarlet Green - for always being focused, engaged and completing work to a high standard.

Princess Mansaray - for her speech which she has carefully thought about.

Dante Gater - for his thoughtful contributions to lessons and challenging himself.

Well done to you all!

Going beyond our 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

- INSET day - Wednesday 13th March
- STEM week - 18th to 22nd 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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