

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

28 March 2024 edition

A huge thank you to our students for your hard work this term and also to you, our parents and carers for all you have done to continue to support both your child's learning and the school. We would also like to give a special mention to students who have engaged in one (or more) of the huge range of extracurricular opportunities this term; from DofE to Dance live, Computing trips to History visits there has been so much happening it's been hard to keep track of it all.

Immediately after the Easter break our new performing arts centre will be completed and will enter into regular use for the school. We are also looking forward to the National finals of Dance Live which take place in Portsmouth once again on the 23rd April. As winners last year it's incredibly

exciting that we are once again in the final!

Our sixth form consultation (the next step in the wider feasibility study) closes soon and indications so far show there is a positive feeling about this potential addition to the school. We will update you after Easter with any further developments. We also thank everyone who has responded to the consultation already and in particular for the many lovely comments made about our staff and school.

Once again we wish our students and families a happy and restful Easter break.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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Curriculum spotlight ...

The Performing Arts department is always a hive of activity where students can unleash their creativity and imagination and boost their confidence. Our year 7s have been keen to let us know what they think of their drama lessons.

“Drama lessons really help with confidence, especially when you first start and it was my first lesson at DHS which I really enjoyed.” Nathaniel

“I like drama as it’s all about being creative and being yourself whilst also embodying different characters, you can really express yourself without being judged.” Ava

“Drama’s a good subject where you can be creative and use your imagination.” Maximus





Performing Arts

“Drama lessons are fun as you can just be yourself, I also go to Dance Live rehearsals each week which is great and I have made new friends that also enjoying performing arts.” Tilly

“It is fun and exciting and it gives you a focus, like performing a speech which really helps your confidence.” Imran

“Drama is different to other subjects and it’s good to have something different, it’s fun and you can be creative.” Max

“Drama lessons boost your confidence in talking and acting in front of people and I have really enjoy my lessons at Durrington.” Louis





Music

This subject covers a broad spectrum from creating rhythmic compositions, song writing and vocal techniques, discovering the history of music as well as the future of music technology, including video games and films, there is something for everybody to enjoy.



"I enjoying playing the keyboards and I can now play 'In the hall of the mountain king' which I am really proud of." Amy in year 8

"I have enjoyed learning how to play the songs that I know as it is relatable." Harry



#Music



Students opting for music at GCSE level will go on to discover more about the many musical genres, as well as develop their own unique style and instrumental and vocal skills. They have the opportunity to showcase their talents in solo and group performances throughout their KS4 journey. Many of our ex-students continued their love of music and have gone on to study at Brighton Institute of Modern Music and further afield as they follow their aspirations in their chosen career.

“Music has always been something I enjoy doing and definitely something I would like to pursue as a career as I would like to work in a recording studio.”
Megan in year 10

“Music is a subject I enjoy and also something I do as a hobby. I enjoy working with others and sharing our creativity and I would potentially like a career in music in the future.” Jacob in year 10



#TheDurringtonJourney



DHS Whole School Musical

Mrs Isham and the Performing Arts team certainly know how to put on a show and once again the audience was wowed by a spectacular performance.

The dedication from the staff, who go above and beyond with the many months of planning and rehearsals, is worth every moment to see the students showcase their incredible talent.

This was also a time of reflection, as this was our final whole school musical event to be held in our main hall. Over the years many talented students have taken part in musicals, pantomimes, concerts, plays, 24 hour dancathons and productions, as well as rehearsals for Dance Live.

Next term will see the opening of our brand new state-of-the-art performing arts centre and we are all very excited for the future.



Sister Act JR.

"It's great performing with your friends and also supporting the younger members of the cast." Jacob in year 10



"I really enjoyed being a part of the thrilling experience of Sister Act JR, from the confident acting to the incredible singing it was amazing."

Jess in year 7

"Sister Act JR was an amazing experience, from the rehearsals to the costumes, the lights and the very shows themselves, they are amazing. It may be my first whole school musical but it definitely won't be my last."

James in year 7



"This was my first experience of doing a musical and my favourite bit was when James did his solo. I am really excited to do more shows especially in the new theatre."

Adela in year 7



"We have been rehearsing since Christmas so it's really nice seeing all the smiling faces in the audience and everything coming to fruition."

Joseph in year 10



Drama GCSE

What our students have to say on the subject

“I chose drama as it allows you to be creative and project your art form in a different way.” Isabel

“There is a mix of acting, costume design, lighting and set design and it increases your confidence.” Annabelle



“I chose drama as ever since I was a little I have enjoyed working together with different people and sharing what we have created and it helps build your confidence too.” Maisy

“I want to go into this field of work, performing arts, theatre production etc. so having the knowledge I gain from GCSE drama will help me in my future career.” Owen

“I enjoy creating abstract pieces about serious or intriguing topics.” Rex



#Drama

Performing Arts BTEC

“Performing Arts is more practical than the Drama GCSE as there are more creative components where we can create our own work.” Joseph

“Since I was little I’ve always wanted to be an actress. When I discovered drama at Durrington in year 7 this made me want to persevere to achieve this goal.” Kaycee

“My first performance was in year 2 in primary school and I have wanted to do drama ever since. I am really looking forward to the new performing arts centre opening here at school and taking part in productions.” Molly

“If Durrington High gets a 6th Form then I would definitely stay on to study Performing Arts. The new performing arts centre looks amazing and I can’t wait to perform in there. Also, the teachers are amazing.”
Otis



#PerformingArts





Dance Live

We have a proud history of our students achievements at both local and national levels in this competition, and will once again be performing in the finals next month. Our inclusive Dance Live team are true ambassadors for our school's ethos and represent Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride.

"I did Dance Live at primary school so I thought I knew what was going to happen but I was wrong. The teachers are extremely kind, caring and really funny. Dance Live has been really fun and the different students and new friends I've made are incredible. I think Dance Live is a great start to my Durrington Journey." Effie in year 7

"I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Dance Live team throughout my time at Durrington. It has given me the opportunity to be part of a team working towards a shared goal. Getting to dance and be on stage with friends is something I won't ever forget." Taiya in year 11

"Every year I look forward to Dance Live, it quite literally is the highlight of my year. I have met so many talented people since I started in year 7 . Nothing compares to the buzz and excitement of performance day, I will miss it so much when I leave." Finley in year 11

“Even though it is my first Dance Live I have really enjoyed every second of performing with my friends and everyone is so supportive. I can’t wait to perform in the finals with the team.” Eponine in year 7

“I have really enjoyed my Dance Live journey through the years as it has given me the opportunity to experience dance in a way that I will never get to do again. I have made many friends along the way and it has been the most enjoyable time that I will forever remember being part of my Durrington years.” Bella in year 11



“Even though this is my first time doing Dance Live I have really enjoyed it and won’t forget my first time doing it. I will definitely do Dance Live again and I have so many more fun memories. I can’t wait to perform again in the finals.” Maya in year 7



“I have enjoyed Dance Live since my first time in year 7 and have felt proud to part of Durrington’s Performing Arts team. It has been extremely great and an unforgettable experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.” Ollie in year 11



“This is my second year at Durrington and both years I have done Dance Live. In year 7 I was so nervous when we first went to Eastbourne and Portsmouth to perform our dance. But once we got there I was more excited than nervous and once we won I was so happy. This year when we went back to Portsmouth and our show got first place I was ready to work hard for the finals. I can’t wait, it is so exciting.” Ella in year 8



Year 11 Mud Run Challenge 2024

Well done to everyone who took up the challenge, your support for each other across the course was brilliant, your kindness, aspirations, perseverance and pride shone through! A special thank you to Ms Smith for organising this memorable event.



#TeamDurrington

#MudRun24



Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride



STEM week



To celebrate British Science Week the science department arranged a special STEM curriculum for our KS3 students to discover more about the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

During the week various workshops, guest speakers, competitions and new and creative STEM lessons were delivered across years 7, 8 and 9. This was to raise the profile of STEM and inspire students to continue studying STEM subjects, as well as discover career opportunities and the future steps needed to reach their aspirations.

#Science

#Technology

#Engineering

#Maths





During the week students took part in hands on lessons including;

- a Bucky Ball workshop delivered by Dr Jonathan Hare
- bioplastics
- iodine clocks
- evolution
- time dilation
- crystals
- reaction times
- speed of light/sound
- and a whole lot more!

Thanks go to Mr Finch and the science team for organising this brilliant week.



STEM Festival

At the end of a brilliant week in science the students were delighted to showcase their work at our STEM Festival.

Parents and carers, families and friends were invited to come along and see the students achievements, as well as discuss with them what they had learnt during the week.

Our students were certainly inspired and we look forward to many more STEM events in the future.



#TeamDurrington



#STEMFestival



DHS Platinum Academy



Inspiring alumni talks

Ex-student Serena Fellingham came in to meet our DHS Platinum Academy students last week. During her time at Durrington Serena was head girl, and took part in Dance Live and many performing arts productions, all of which helped to put her in a strong position when applying for a scholarship at Lancing College.

After completing her A Levels at Lancing College Serena spoke of her continued journey as she decided on her future career path and she is now studying geography at the University of Manchester.

Thank you Serena for sharing your experiences of further education and inspiring our current students.

#DHSAlumni

St John's College Oxford



University aspirations

The year 10 Platinum Academy students had the opportunity to experience life at one of the world's best universities when they visited St John's College Oxford.

"It was an amazing experience, the range of aspects covered in the college and the information delivered was very intriguing. The tour was great and it was nice to see the college campus. I had a lot of fun and overall enjoyed the trip. Many thanks to the school and Oxford for taking/having us." Iman

"The trip has given me an insight into what University is and if I want to go or not (which I do now) because I have learnt about life, community and how they learn and it's such an amazing place – the history, architecture and reputation. I enjoyed looking around Oxford and being told about how life is at Uni and options to take for the future by students." Siaana



National Sporting Success



Huge congratulations to year 10 student Siaana who took the silver medal at the Taekwondo heavy weight girls Black Belt at the English Championships!

Siaana recently won a bronze medal at the British Championships and certainly has a bright future ahead of her in her chosen sport.

An incredible achievement, well done Siaana.

National Elite Championship



Enormous congratulations to Evie who performed two great routines at the British Schools Gymnastics Association; National Schools Trampoline Finals 2024 at the Telford International Centre, to become Y10-14 National Elite Champion representing Durrington High School!

A phenomenal achievement Evie, we are extremely proud of you.

Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance & Pride



This term we have given out a total of 1,994 KAPP badges and Seahorse awards! Students have received:

83 Kindness awards
65 Aspiration awards
1,595 Perseverance awards
195 Pride awards

36 Bronze Seahorse awards
15 Silver Seahorse awards
5 Gold Seahorse awards
1 Platinum Seahorse award

This is an incredible achievement and we are extremely proud of you all. A special mention to Malala House who are the winners of the KAPP Cup this half term.

House staffing changes

Welcome Miss Lamper to the Deputy Leader role in Seacole and also Miss McDonald to the Deputy Leader of year 7 role. Miss Clarke and Miss Hewett will also be splitting the leadership of Attenborough this term with Miss Clarke leading Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Miss Hewett on Thursday and Friday.

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

The Student Senior Leadership Team 2024



We are delighted to announce our Student Senior Leadership Team for 2024/2025.

Congratulations to Joseph, Armin, Callum, Zac, Jacob, Greta, Ruby, Ellie, Ellana and Bethany, you will be fantastic ambassadors for our school and we are looking forward to seeing what you bring to your new roles.

We would also like to thank all the year 10s who applied to be a part of the Student Senior Leader Team, we were impressed with the extremely high standard of your applications, video introductions and interviews during the selection process and we are proud of you all.

Going beyond our best



Update from Malala House



Wow what a half term Malala has had!

We have looked incredibly smart and demonstrated the school ethos through modelling "Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride" in all we do.

We are incredibly proud of a number of our year 10s whom applied for the Student Senior Leadership Team – we are thrilled that Joseph and Ellana were successful in their application. They will be fantastic role models for our younger Malala students.

We, as a House, have worked really hard on improving upon our attendance and are now regularly in Silver or Bronze position – still aspiring for Gold!

Please continue to encourage your young person to come into school each and every day, where possible.

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

#KAPP Cup winners



We were really pleased to welcome Mr Burgess as Deputy House leader, he has made a fantastic start and will be a real asset to Malala Leadership. We also wish Ms Lamper, tutor of 9MLa, all the very best in her new role as Seacole Deputy Company Leader, she will be greatly missed in the Malala team.

It was my absolute pleasure to invite Mr Fuller (Deputy Headteacher) into Malala celebration assembly on Monday. He was able to award the nine Seahorses certificates and badges.

It was also fabulous to be able to bring the KAPP cup home to Malala House – we had a triumphant win with 186 KAPP badges being awarded this half term. We hope you all have a wonderful Easter holiday and look forward to many other successes for Malala in the Summer term.

Bethan Woodall-Jones - Malala House leader

#TeamMalala



Inspiring Future Teachers

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TRAINING TO TEACH IN YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS?

Come along to our get into teaching event and find out how you could embark on a career with excellent progression opportunities where no two days are the same.



Thursday 18th April / 18:00 – 19:00
Durrington High School, The Boulevard, Worthing, BN13 1JX

REGISTER HERE



The Durrington Journey



Diary Dates

- Last day of the Spring term - Thursday 28 March
- First day of the Summer term - Monday 15 April
- Year 10 consultation evening - Thursday 25 April
- Bank Holiday - Monday 6 May
- Main GCSEs start - Monday 13 May

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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