

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

26 April 2024 edition

What a start to the Summer term! Our fantastic new theatre is officially open and being used, we came third in the national finals of Dance Live, our year 11 boys narrowly lost out in the district football final, all of our GCSE languages students have now completed their oral exams and alongside this 4 school trips have already taken place. Our KAPP values have shone through in each and every one of these different events and activities. Most of all we want to say a huge well done and thank you for the commitment shown by both our staff and students.

Aspiration challenge year 7

Shortly before the Easter break year 7 forms competed head-to-head in their next KAPP challenge. This time the challenge set was to try

and memorise the name of the capital city of every country in the world (over 200 in total!). With an incredible 25/25 in the final quiz 7RPR were announced as winners this week with 7OSA narrowly being pipped at the post after achieving a still excellent score of 22/25. It's been great to see how the students engaged in the challenge alongside their tutors and how this fostered a sense of teamwork. With their graduation into their house team on the horizon and sports day later this term there certainly is much to look forward to for our lovely year 7.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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The DHS Performing Arts Centre

Durrington High School are extremely proud to share the next phase of our ongoing investment in our school, ensuring we have the best facilities for our students and staff to teach and learn.

Our Performing Arts Centre has taken a number of years of planning and over a year of construction, we are delighted with the result and the fantastic opportunities the centre will give our students. The centre is world class and gives our students a space which is reflective of their exceptional talent.

The centre is approximately 900m², it boasts electronic retractable bleacher seating for 335 people with additional loose seating taking the total capacity to 500. The space has been acoustically designed to ensure the capabilities of the audio system, the vocals within production and clarity of sound from instruments is maximised.

Back of stage are changing rooms complete with show relays and access to the first floor, the technician's box, mezzanine level and Dance studio.

The technician's box is situated at the rear of the theatre and controls the state-of-the-art sound, light and visuals.



“We want our students to aspire to be the absolute best. In order to do so, they deserve the very best facilities. This is why we are so delighted with our new Performing Arts Centre. It will enable our incredibly talented students to perform in an inspiring environment.” Mr Allison



There is a 7.5m wide projector screen which is paired to a high specification laser projector, and there are 11 speakers which form the surround sound system and 35 stage lights. The ability to live stream and record is built in with adjustable cameras.



Our new Dance Studio has a sprung floor, mirrored wall and ballet barres, an audio system with integrated speakers is included alongside display equipment. The whole centre is air conditioned and has under-floor heating throughout.

Rehearsals are already underway for our first production taking place later this term!



Mrs Isham, Director of Performing Arts said: “I have been like a child in a sweet shop since Easter, every spare moment has been taken up exploring the brand-new theatre. I cannot believe how lucky the staff and students are to have such an exceptional space. Our dance live team have completed their final rehearsals in the space and have commented on how it is a better space than some professional theatres. The state-of-the-art lighting and sound are simply superb and the students will gain so much from using this versatile space. I can’t wait for our opening gala concert on 13th June and to get started on next year’s performances!!!!”



Spotlight on extra-curricular clubs



Year 7 Science club have been looking at actual brains and then making their own brain map hats! All year 7 are welcome to come along every Wednesday after school in G09.

“There are so many things I like about science club, plus I can bring my knowledge learnt at the club into my lessons at school.” Effie



We have two basketball clubs that run during lunchtimes, one for years 7 to 9, and a separate one for years 10 & 11. It's a great way to improve your skills, get to know new people and burn some energy!



Year 9 code club takes place every Monday after school in F27 with Mr Scott and is for year 9 students.

“Code club is great as it expands on the science and IT knowledge that you get in lessons.” Freya



Computing club is yet another extra-curricular club that takes place each lunchtime and is open to all. Come along to F24 and join in!

Book Club meets every Thursday lunchtime in the LRA and everyone is welcome, the club are currently reading the nominations for this years Amazing Book Awards, and will be attending the ceremony later this term.

"I enjoy reading a lot and it's definitely in my top 3 favourite things to do." Austin

"Book club is great as we get an introduction to the best books out at the moment." Eric



Year 8 Lego Spike club - afterschool every Monday in F26

"This club is great as you get to build things and it's really fun. You learn different programmes through trial and error and you can add something new to your Lego Spike bot every time." Harrison



Extra-curricular @ DHS

Chess club takes place every Wednesday lunchtime in G21 and is open to all students.



"Chess club is a great place to spend time with your friends, eat your lunch, and play a challenging game. I'm getting quite good at it, it's like having an invisible talent!"



We are extremely proud of our 50 year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students who are currently planning their next expedition.

The DofE award scheme includes a variety of challenging activities that develop confidence, self-esteem and many other skills.

Current year 9 students who are interested in taking part will be able to apply for the new cohort in September of this year.





Football club is open to all and takes place on the astro turf every lunchtime. This week we have even enjoyed a rare bit of sunshine!

Year 10 E-Sports club - every Wednesday after school in F26

Students are learning League of Legends and aim to enter the national E-Sports competition next year and compete against other schools. The club are on the look out for new members who want to learn this team sport so come along and find out more, no experience necessary.

"It's fun to learn new games and play with your friends, plus you learn new skills too." Kristian



#DHSclubs





Year 8 Science club have been discovering secret codes!

Come along and join in every Wednesday after school in G13.

“We learn so much at club and get to carry out really fun experiments with our friends.”

Dance club is open to all year groups. Come and join us in the Bistro dance studio at lunchtimes throughout the week.

“It’s really good fun to come and learn new dance routines. We have lots of choices of styles and follow the moves on the big screen.”



Film club takes place in the LRA every Monday after school and is open to all. The current film is Eragon, which tells the story of a farm boy who finds a mysterious stone in the mountains.

Although students are enjoying watching the film they said they found the book far more captivating.

#TheDurringtonJourney



Are you creative, do you enjoy writing? Then come along and write for the School Magazine.

Every Thursday afterschool in G32, all students are welcome.

“It’s a fun experience and I get to write what I want.” Samuel

“I also like how there are multiple challenges and competitions.” Josh

“There are so many nice people to meet at this club.” Nathan

“The poem I wrote at this club was published in a book, the Integer’s national edition!” Erin

#DHSCreativity



Extra opportunities @DHS

Year 7 minecraft club - every Monday after school.

"I really like playing with my friends and creating our own worlds and learning how to survive in them. It's good fun and it improves your skills."
Elliot



Careers club - open to all every break and lunchtime in the Careers library

"I like finding out more about different subjects and IT technology and in the future I plan a career as a medic." Ebin

"I enjoy coming to this club with my friends as we can sit and chat about our interests. In the future I would like to have a career in animation, modelling and rigging." Taylor



At Durrington we are extremely proud of our enrichment programme. From sports clubs to computer programming, and performing arts to languages, we offer something for everyone.

There are further opportunities to improve your language skills at French and Spanish club which is open to all year 8s . This club takes place after-school on a Tuesday and you can come and find us in U03 and U05.

“I like coming to Spanish club as it helps me to improve my language for when I go back to Spain.”



Year 7 MFL Film Club

This club takes place after school on a Tuesday in U06 with Mr Gilbert. The club are currently watching Asterix Le Gaulois.

“I enjoy watching films in different languages as it helps you to learn and understand new words which also helps you in lessons.” Jaden





New sports club for the Summer term include Rounders, Cricket, Athletics and Dodgeball. These clubs are open to all with Rounders and Athletics taking place after school on a Wednesday, Dodgeball afterschool on a Thursday, and Cricket afterschool on a Friday. Come along and join in!

LGBTQ+ club takes place on Monday and Friday lunchtimes in G31. Everyone is welcome to come along to the Monday session, whereas the Friday session is for KS4 only. This club is a safe space for all students where they can chat with like-minded individuals, ask questions and make new friends.



#GetInvolved



Other clubs on offer include:

Choir - Who for: all years. Where: F20. When: Tuesday afterschool.

Drama - Who for: KS3. Where: Performing Arts Centre. When: Tuesday afterschool.

Eco club - Who for: all years. Where: F29H. When: Tuesday afterschool.

Nordic club - Who for: all years. Where: G27M. When: Wednesday lunchtime.

School Musical - Who for: all years. Where: Performing Arts Centre. When: Thursday afterschool.

School Band - Who for: all years. Where: F20. When: Friday afterschool.

Dance club - Who for: all years. Where: main hall. When: Friday afterschool.

Plus sports fixtures take place throughout the week.

To view our clubs list for the Summer term 2024 follow the link here: [Clubs list](#)

#DHSEnrichment



Ski trip 2024



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

Fifty year 9 students spent seven days enjoying the slopes and learning new skills, as well as making new friendships and life long memories.

As well as all the fun on the slopes skiing and sledging, students also took part in lots of planned activities in the evenings and enjoyed bowling, competing in a fun quiz night, and much laughter and entertainment at the karaoke event!





"I really enjoyed the ski trip, the memories I made I will never forget. It was amazing to be able to try something new. The scenery was beautiful and I loved every second of it." Maddie



"My experience of skiing was great, I loved every day on the slopes. I got put into the top group on my second day which made me notice how the skiing instructors really pay attention to your skiing. The teachers were great fun, especially on karaoke night. They always had stuff for us to do even when we missed a few hours skiing because of the weather. Overall it was an amazing experience and I would definitely go again." Maisie



An Easter trip to Paris

The Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages departments took a three day trip to Paris over the Easter holidays. Forty-five year 10 and 11 students enjoyed plenty of activities including sight-seeing in Montmartre and Place du Tertre. They also had a river cruise on the Seine and climbed the 56 floors to the top of the Montparnasse Tower. On their final day everyone had fun visiting Disneyland Paris, despite the weather!

“The Paris trip was so much fun, the teachers were so incredible and had organised so many opportunities and events for us. It was a beautiful city and Disneyland was magical. We made memories that will last a lifetime! We made new friends and it was a really lovely community feel. I loved it and would recommend DHS trips to everyone.” Ruby

“The trip was fun because I’d never been to Disney before so that was interesting. I liked being able to explore Paris with my friends and do some sight seeing as the sights were very pretty and it was good fun.” Tamara





“I had never been to Paris before and it was amazing to go and travel with my best friend. The coach journey there didn’t feel too long and I was very excited to walk around Paris and go to Disneyland. Being able to walk around Paris by ourselves was amazing. We went in shops and restaurants and got lots of souvenir’s. At the beginning of the day when we were in Disney the weather wasn’t very different to England as it was chucking it down! But after the sun came out and everyone went on so many rides and bought stuff from the gift shops. We saw loads of amazing buildings, one was over 42 floors high and we got lots of pictures.” Indiya

#DHSopportunities



Year 7 Aspiration Challenge

Aspiration: *aim high, dream big and believe you can get there.*



Our world is a better place because of many incredible people - what they do and what they have done.

What's exciting is the next incredible person could be YOU?

Our challenge for year 7

Learn the capital cities of all the countries in the world!

Mr Woodcock set this challenge for our year 7s and as it was a huge task to complete in a week students had to rely on teamwork, strategy, and their brilliant collective brains to win!

Year 7 tutor groups were excited to take up the challenge and between them began to memorise the 200+ countries and their capital cities throughout the world.

Between them they planned their strategy, thinking about the best way to learn and remember things, and most of all plenty of practice during tutor time.

At the recent year 7 assembly Mr Woodcock was delighted to announce the overall winning form group 🏆🏆🏆

#TeamDurrington



Congratulations to 7RPr

Form group 7RPr managed to achieve an incredible 25 out of 25 in the final quiz making them the overall winners of the Year 7 Aspiration Challenge 2024!

It was a closely fought contest with 7OSa coming a close second with another brilliant score of 22 out of 25.

All students have really engaged with this challenge and worked together creating a great team culture within their form groups, well done to you all.

"I thought it was an incredibly fun experience and it was very interactive. I am very happy that my form won the competition." Jack

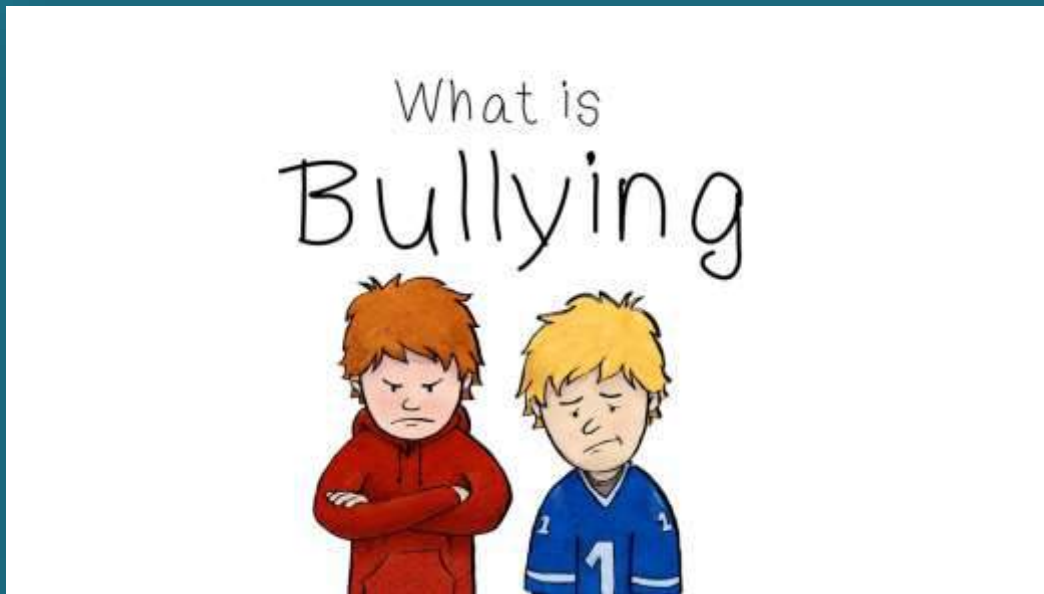
"I found it great fun working with my friends and completing the challenge." Ben

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride



Anti-bullying Ambassadors

Last week Mr Poole ran special assemblies across the Houses focusing on anti-bullying and introduced our team initiative to make sure everyone feels safe and has someone they can go to for help.



Bullying is the **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**. It can happen face to face or online.

Information shared from a **National Data Survey** found the following:

39% experienced
cyber-bullying

55% had been
bullied about the
way they looked

The 4th most
common reason for
calling Childline

90% of girls
reported sexual
bullying

10% bully others
frequently

35% never tell
anyone

*If you're always trying to be normal, you will never realise how amazing you can be'.
Maya Angelou*

Students were reminded of the various ways to report if they see or experience bullying, including our new Anti-bullying Ambassadors.

- ⇒ Anti-Bullying email address (ABC@durring.com)
- ⇒ Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (staff and students)
- ⇒ Tell a trusted adult, tutor, teacher, House team
- ⇒ Encourage to speak to friends who will then report
- ⇒ QR codes all around the school

Student Ambassadors - Your opportunity to get involved

As well as Staff Ambassadors, our students also have the opportunity to get involved and apply and train as a student Anti-bullying Ambassador. Any student who would like to become part of the anti-bullying team have been invited to complete an online application, which was available on Arbor with a closing date of Wednesday 24th April.

All the applications are now being reviewed and interviews will take place by 17th May 2024. Successful students will then take part in special training and on completion be awarded with their Anti-bullying Ambassador badges on 7th June.

We will be sharing updates on our staff and student Ambassadors over the coming weeks.

#DHS Anti-bullying Ambassadors



Meet the Student Senior Leadership Team 2024/2025



Jacob Grant- Ever since I walked through the doors here at DHS in Year 7, I have enjoyed every aspect of school life and can't wait for this opportunity to be part of SSLT. Over my time here, I have grown as a person in the school environment and taken part in extra-curricular sporting and performing arts activities. All members of staff have been supportive of my learning journey and have encouraged me to achieve and surpass my own expectations of myself.



Beth Evans- Ever since year seven, I have been involved in everything I could be at Durrington. From dance live to sports events and competitions and have loved every moment. I take pride in all my work inside and out of school and am hardworking, confident, and trustworthy. I am so grateful to be a part of SSLT and thank the teachers and staff at Durrington who helped me get there. I look forward to sharing all my ideas to improve the school best I can.



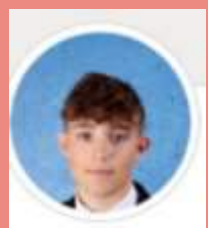
Ruby Fullwood- When I joined Durrington in year 7, I immediately felt the strength of our community and the positive attitude of Team Durrington. Throughout my time here I've really enjoyed being a part of that team, whether that's taking part in events in the Performing Arts department each year or getting stuck into every opportunity. I have made so many fantastic memories so far on my DHS journey, and I'm looking forward to making many more as part of your SSLT.



Greta Hite- Ever since year 7, I have always strived to achieve my full potential at Durrington High School. I have had the best time here so far and can't wait for the next step at Durrington, being part of The Senior Student Leadership Team! I have loved being part of a team and have been proud to represent the school in a number of sport tournaments and dance live events. My Durrington journey has been amazing so far and I am so grateful for the positive experiences I have had so far and can't wait to make more memories!!



Ellie Leaver- I love getting involved in activities and events at school whether that is related to sports, drama, dance, or open evenings. My favourite club is Dance Live as you are able to show your creativity and work together as a team to put on an incredible show which boosts people's confidence and resilience skills. I love to get others involved as much as possible and find something that suits everyone, so everyone feels included in our school community.



Zac Wood- Hi, my names Zac and I'm looking forward to representing you as a part of this year's SSLT. I'm passionate about playing sport and am very competitive. I enjoy playing football, being outside and being with friends. I'm sure that we can make this next year a very successful one and I look forward to working with all of you in the near future. Please let me know if there's anything I need to change.



Callum Cummins- Hi my name is Callum and many of you will recognize me from my application video, and as a student from Durrington High School, I'm not just proud to represent students as a member of the SSLT, but I'm also passionate about sports and carpentry. Being able to combine my hobbies and passion for Durrington makes me even more excited to be part of this incredible community. One reason why I will be proud to represent the students of Durrington is I will be able to listen to your ideas or contributions that would make Durrington a better school and share them with the SLT.



Armin Merati- Hi my name is Armin, many of you will recognise me from my application video with the transitions, thanks to your votes I am now a proud member of the SSLT at Durrington High School. Not only am I excited to represent each and every one of you as an inquisitive academic but also as a passionate athlete in the sport of basketball. In addition, I am striving to become a connoisseur in the realm of mathematics and its sister subjects.



Jo Waterer- Hi, my name's Joe and I'm one of the new SSLT members for the 2024/25 year. Over 4 years at Durrington, I've taken part in countless sports events, extra-curricular experiences, and in-school responsibilities. I've built up a great relationship with both teachers and students through Performing Arts and one on one interactions. I've achieved great academic success in all subjects with my position on the Platinum Academy. I'm a skilled writer and enjoy public speaking; having taken assemblies and interviewing many for the school wide newspaper. Outside of school I play football and captain my team (Up the Atoms)."



Ellana O'Loughlin- "Never give up on what you want to do. The person with dreams is more powerful than the one with facts" -Albert Einstein. I joined Durrington in year 9 and have never once felt more encouraged to do my best than I do here. I am constantly striving toward my aspirations and I'm proud of all my achievements with this school. I started as quite a timid person and all the teachers and students have helped me to gain more confidence than ever and inspiration to help people the most that I can, so I look forward to helping you as well!



Launching our brand new Student Council

We want to know what you think about our school!

To help find this out we have set up a whole School Council.

The council consists of a form rep from every single year in 7, 8 and 9. This group will meet once a half term and will have the opportunity to bring issues and concerns to the Student Senior Leadership Team, who will then take these issues on to the Headteachers.

This new initiative was launched this term and during period 1 students were able to learn more about the role, take the time to consider if they were right for the position, and discuss ideas within their form group.

The right person for the role?

To be an effective form rep you need to ...

- Care about what your peers in your form think of the school and listen to what they have to say
- Be prepared to share this information with the rest of the school

#StudentCouncil



STUDENT COUNCIL



- Act as a representative for your class, year group and school
- Take pride in our school community

Students were then asked to apply, and if there was more than one candidate in a form group then it was put to a vote.

We are delighted to say our Student Council has now been formed and the first meeting will take place today during breaktime. Our new reps will be given a special form rep badge to show that they are a representative.

At this first meeting there will be an open forum and our new reps will be expected to bring with them any ideas or issues that they think are important to our community, as well as share why they are proud of our school.

Our new Student Senior Leadership Team will also be there to listen and take part in discussions and are keen to be involved, working together with our Student Council representatives.

We are really looking forward to meeting all our awesome representatives and listening to what you have to say about our school community, sharing our ideas, and working together to enhance The Durrington Journey for everyone.

#TeamDurrington



Durrington High School Alumni

Former pupil Joe Bunker discovered a love for music and drama at Durrington High, where he performed in concerts, pantomimes, plays and musicals and studied GCSE Drama. He went on to study A levels in Music and Drama at Worthing College and cut his teeth on musical theatre as a rehearsal pianist for Worthing Musical Comedy Society and musical director of their youth company shows before studying English at Jesus College, Cambridge.



He spent much of his time at university as a musical director of shows and concerts, and was President of the Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society. After graduating, Joe moved to London where he has been MD for a number of musicals and twice been voted Best Musical Director in the Off West End Awards (Offies).

He is currently the Musical Director of the hit West End show Operation Mincemeat for which he received an Olivier Award nomination for Outstanding Musical Contribution. The show itself won the Olivier Award for Best New Musical in a ceremony held at the Royal Albert Hall.

Durrington are so proud of him and his achievements even if it makes Mrs Isham feel very old!

#DHSAlumni

Hi my name is Jessi Lownds, I attended Durrington High School in 2016, in 2022 I moved to America, Chicago, Illinois to play football. I've almost finished my first year at this college and the experience is amazing. I know a lot of girls at High School tend to start dropping out of sports because they believe it won't go anywhere, I thought so too, but now I'm playing semi-professional football with loads of amazing international students. This is a great experience to play high intensity football, explore the world and different cultures, and meet friends all over the world!



I play for Illinois Central College, this is a 2-year college with a whole sport centre just for the athletes and we have a stadium we use for home games. We travel to different states in the US to play against other schools with high achieving football players.

Former Durrington pupil Mickey Demetriou is a professional footballer playing for Crewe Alexandra. Mickey was recently named England Football League 2 'Team of the Season 2024' at the awards ceremony held at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane in London!



Dance Live!



I am so proud of each and every member of our Dance Live team. To reach the finals for the second year running and to place in the top three is an outstanding achievement and is a testament to their hard work and professionalism. But I am proud of them for so many more reasons, they are fun, hard working, dedicated and so supportive of one another. They all responded to our sometimes harsh feedback with good grace and always were striving to improve their skills and performance levels. A special thank you to our year 11s within the team who will be missed so much as they move on to pastures new. The whole dance live team wish year 11 the best of luck in their upcoming exams. Mrs Isham - Director of Performing Arts

“My Dance Live experience was really fun especially being placed you have this feeling of winning and it’s a really amazing feeling.” Nancy in year 7

“I really enjoyed participating in Dance Live because everyone was so supportive and kind.” Ruby in year 7

#DHSPerformingArts

Senior Finals 2024



Going beyond our best



Term dates 2024/2025 updates

Please find below a few updates in advance of the new school year. These updates relate to scheduled INSET days and a small change to the timing of the school day.

Timing of the school day from September 2024 onwards

The updated timing of the school day will be as follows.

- **Arrival:** All students expected on site by 8.40am each morning
- **Fridays:** The Friday timetable will become standardised with the other days of the week. This means that students will now finish school on Fridays at 3.10pm (the same as every other day of the week)

Dates of the 2024-25 academic year

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2 September – Friday 20 December

Half Term

- Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

INSET Days

- Monday 2 September
- Tuesday 3 September
- Friday 22 November

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 January – Friday 4 April

Half Term

- Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

INSET Days:

- Thursday 23 January
- Friday 24 January
- Monday 10 March
- Tuesday 11 March

Summer term 2025

Tuesday 22 April – Tuesday 22 July

Half Term

- Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

INSET Days:

- Friday 27 June

Bank holidays

- Monday 21 April
- Monday 5 May

The Durrington Journey



Diary Dates

- Bank Holiday - Monday 6 May
- Main GCSEs start - Monday 13 May
- Half term - Monday 27 May to Friday 31 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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