

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

10 May 2024 edition

It's been another busy two weeks for all at Durrington as time has flown by. It's been great to see some sunshine with many students now making the most of our field and outdoor facilities at social times.

Year 11 are starting their written GCSE exams and we wish them the very best as they take these on at the end point of their Durrington Journey. We'd also like to say a special thank you to Assistant Headteacher Mrs Temple for her leadership of the year group, and her own, and other staff's tenacity in ensuring that no stone is left unturned supporting the students to achieve their very best this summer.

Mr Poole has continued to take forward our important Anti-Bullying project and we are incredibly proud that around 100 students (years 7-10) have successfully been interviewed and will shortly be taking up their role as Anti-Bullying leads within school; what an impressive group of young people. It's also been lovely to meet

some of our new parents/carers over the last few weeks as they have visited for coffee and a chat each Wednesday morning; we look forward to your children joining our team and their future as members of our great school.

Looking forward, there are many more exciting things to come during the remainder of the academic year. In a first for Durrington, Assistant Headteacher Mr Crane will be leading on a whole school KAPP challenge day on 14th June (more info to follow). We are also very excited about the formal opening of our new Performing Arts centre, in particular we will be welcoming back Durrington alumni who have gone on to achieve incredible professional success in the Performing Arts field.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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Durrington High School

Art & Design

This term year 7 are gaining knowledge and understanding of Cubism, referring to the work of Picasso and Braque.

Students will also develop their drawing and collage skills looking at how positive and negative shapes inspired cubist work.

In the second part of the term students will learn how to create a 3D cubist sculpture focusing on shape, form and surface texture.



"Art is fun and creative, and I really enjoy developing my sketching skills."



Year 8 are focusing on Aztec art symbolism and adornment. Students will enhance their 3D skills using techniques such as burnishing, peeling, pattern relief and casting. In the second part of the term students will learn how to create a 3D mask focusing on shape, form and surface texture/appearance.



"I like how calming it is, plus it is so much more creative than in primary lessons and the student work on display is really inspiring."

“Art is my favourite lesson, it makes me happy expressing my creativity.” Amy in year 7



“Art can be a challenge, which is good, as you learn new skills.”

As year 9 approach the end of their KS3 journey students study and explore post-painterly abstraction, referring to the work of Frank Stella and Leon Polk Smith. They explore different media techniques including papercraft, sculptural relief, folding, slotting with card and playing with line, form, shape and colour.



“I enjoy art as you have a free will to make and design things from your own imagination.”

Students who go on to study Art and Design at GCSE Level have the choice of Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography and Textiles Art. We are extremely proud of our students achievements in these subjects where they consistently gain a 100% pass rate.



“I really enjoy this subject and have taken it as one of my options at GCSE. It’s very calming and therapeutic and is a hobby that helps me to relax.”



GCSE Fine Art

Our year 10 artists are now half way through their GCSE course and we are extremely impressed with their creative talents, producing high quality work.

During the Summer term they will be focusing on architecture, looking at a range of historical eras and regions (Classical, Gothic, Regency), and a range of artists inspired by these styles including John Piper, Ian Murphy, Valery Koshlyakov and Piranesi.

Students are developing their techniques in block printing, oil pastel, watercolour, pen, wax resist, graphite, card construction and mixed media, as well as low and high relief.

Students will learn more about a range of architectural nomenclature to study and identify various architectural elements, and through thoughtful investigations, recording ideas and observations, experimenting with material and techniques, the students will present a final portfolio and sculpture.





Year 11 have now come to the end of their Fine Art GCSE course and here is what they have to say about their experience.

"I have really enjoyed art at Durrington and the teachers are so supportive and inspiring. I am planning on going on to study Fine Art at either Northbrook or Worthing College."

"Being able to express myself and explore different ways of creating art has been an important part of my Durrington journey."

"This subject is pretty cool as it encourages your creativity and imagination, and the teachers are great too!"

"I love art as you can go in your own direction and do what interests you. When I look back over my time at Durrington I realise just how far my artwork and style has grown."

"I am excited to see my work on display at the public art show at The Colonnade."



GCSE Graphic Design



GCSE Graphic Design is an exciting, visually creative course where students work with a wide range of techniques and processes, including drawing, painting, spraying, printing, card manipulation and digital images.



Students develop their skills in visual composition using typography, colour, tone and shape to produce graphic outcomes such as posters, illustrations and product advertising.



This term our year 10 students are developing their skills in mixed media and observational drawing skills, as well as experimenting with photography, card cutting and layering techniques.

Our year 11 Graphic Design students are finishing and refining their portfolios as they approach the end of their course and prepare for their forthcoming final examinations.

#GraphicDesign



GCSE Photography

Our year 10 photographers are currently exploring the theme of identity through photographic portraiture. A wide range of photographers such as Manny Robertson, Alma Haser and artist David Hockney are used as a source of inspiration.

Students will investigate and analyse the work of these photographers to inspire their own photographic developments and outcomes. They will then plan photoshoots and edit the photographs both digitally and manually.

They will also engage with a variety of mixed media techniques to physically manipulate photographs that include fragmentation, weaving, relief, stitching and painting. All these techniques will be used to distort, layer and abstract. The outcome of the project will be to create a three dimensional piece that explores the theme of identity through portraiture.

You will be able to see their incredible work on display at our art show this summer!



Reflections from year 11

"I have learnt new skills over this course including exposure, editing physically and digitally, light manipulation plus so much more."



"I have learnt how to use a camera properly and I have enjoyed learning about, and improving, my editing and presentation skills."



"I think it is fun to take photos. I was invited to Gifted & Talented Art club when I was in year 9 and I was introduced to photography. I really enjoyed it and now I am approaching the end of my GCSE course, I have learnt so much."

"It's a really creative lesson and you can express yourself in so many different ways."



"I chose Photography GCSE because it could help me get into modelling in the future as I will have a portfolio. Posing, angles, being confident in taking photos of yourself has all helped me to progress."



"I took this subject as in the future I have aspirations of becoming an animal photographer."



GCSE Textiles



"The environment in the art department at DHS is inspirational. The lessons are focused and you learn different techniques with various materials, and different machines. I am going on to BHASVIC to study Textiles at A level." Year 11 student



As our year 11 students come to the end of their GCSE Textile course and are busy preparing for their final examinations, our year 10s are working on their Steam Punk style and imagery.



This term they are developing their observational drawing skills, through experimenting with a range of media, materials and techniques. Students will explore and develop skills in reduction printing, machine embroidery, reverse applique, weaving, transfer printing and mixed media textiles. They will develop their own design and make a Steam Punk inspired hat using mixed media.

“When I started Textiles at Durrington I had never used a sewing machine, and now I am leaving with a 7 or possible 8 grade!”



“I like the creativity of the subject, there is no right or wrong. I am going on to study Fashion and Textiles at Brighton Met.” Year 11 student

In the second half of the Summer term year 10 will go on to develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of textile artists that have explored portraiture in their work.

Students will then explore drawing through stitching, and will experiment with a range of fabrics and other materials to create interesting surfaces and sample ideas before developing their large scale mixed media self portrait.

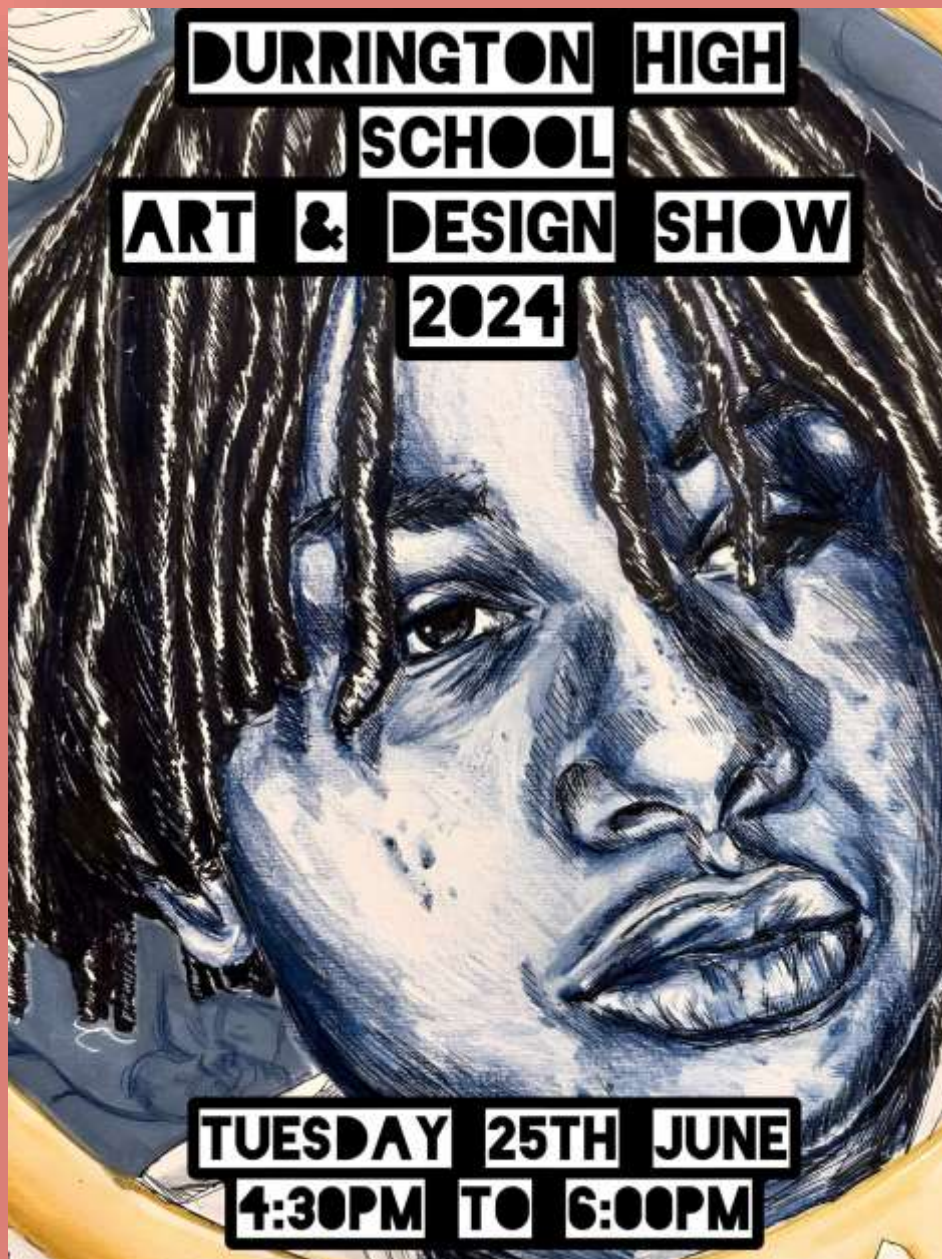
“I am going on to study Textiles at A level, as well as Law and Sociology. Studying practical and academic subjects will open up my choices as I like the creativity of Textiles, and that you have full creative liberty over your designs.” Year 11 student



The DHS Art & Design Show 2024

We are delighted to once again invite parents/carers, family and friends to our DHS Art & Design show which this year takes place on Tuesday 25th June from 4.30pm to 6pm.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to showcasing our students incredible talents.



Follow the DHS art Instagram page [*durrington_art*](https://www.instagram.com/durrington_art)



Best of the Best 2024

We are thrilled to be back at Colonnade House this year, exhibiting the work of our talented artists' from years 10 & 11.

Our students have once again gone beyond their best showing huge amounts of commitment, dedication and pride in all they do. As an Art department we are super proud of their achievements. Find out more [here](#).



DHS Best of the Best



Girls in Tech @ The Amex

Last week the Business and Computing department took 26 year 7 students to the American Express stadium in Brighton to take part in the Girls in Tech day organised by the Brighton and Hove federation.



The students were shown how to program Sphero robots, once they had learnt the basics of these they had to complete a series of challenges through the morning with the robots. Each team of students had their own ambassador to work with for the day from American Express.



The students had a talk about all the jobs in tech that exist at the stadium, and could see that many of them did not even link to football at all. The girls were also taken to an executive box where they got to see the pitch and learnt about the amount of technology that is used to maintain the pitch and also pitch side on match days.



After lunch the girls were tasked with designing and costing their own Theme Park, looking at costs of items and projected sales. Again, they earned points for which team could make the biggest profit. While half the teams were hard at work getting the business valuations done, the other half of the team were programming the Sphero ball to travel around their Theme Park.



The team points were totalled at the end of the day and we are delighted to say our DHS team, the Durrington Deciphers, were announced the winners and awarded with an Albion medal!

"I really enjoyed the robots and I liked making them weave in and out of the area. At the end, I learnt how to calculate income." Poppy

"I enjoyed using the robots and learning how to control them using iPads. I learnt how to deal with money and how to calculate prices." Alexie

"I liked it all but I liked the robots the most. I learnt how to calculate with money/profits and to control the robots." Lola

"I really enjoyed going to the Amex, it was a fun way of learning about STEM and it made me realise that there are a lot of jobs involving STEM that I should consider in the future. I liked using the robots and doing the budgeting challenge because I hadn't done much like it before and I learnt a lot more about coding. I would definitely recommend going." Olivia

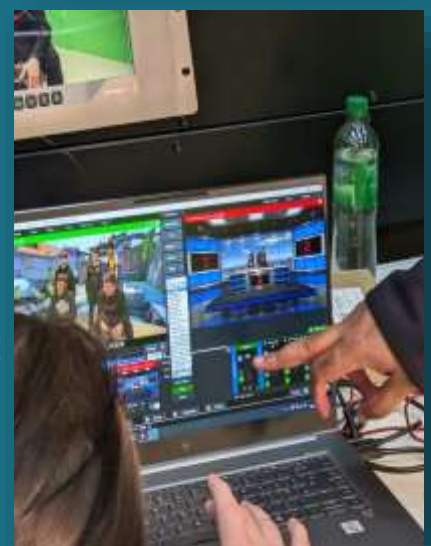


TECH Park @ Chichester University

The Computing department and the Careers team took 26 year 9 & 10 students to the TECH park at the University of Chichester to inspire and educate the students on some of the new opportunities open to them for further education.

We spent the day learning about E-sport at the University and what Uni life is like, including a tour of campus. The students heard what Uni life is like and how the studying is different from school.

The students were impressed by the state-of-the-art TECH department, from Mac suites to the top of the range PC suites, and they looked at sound and film studios and how the students use these in their University projects. We were lucky enough to have an hour with the two lead lecturers of the E-sports course who spoke to us about what a degree in competitive gaming was all about. This really inspired the students and they discussed the wide range of jobs the course leads on to. Competitive gaming is becoming a huge new career path and the course looks at the psychology behind the game play, the ethics of games, the business side of gaming and marketing. The students have to set up and host two major events, one online and the other a live event in the Universities large gaming arena. Our students got to meet some third-year E-sports students and spoke with them just ahead of their live gaming event in the arena. The University students talked about how large the live event will be, and the amount of work that is put into the set up of the event, from ensuring they have secured the best players, their



seating plan will be best for the spectators, and the lighting which will create the right atmosphere. They also have to plan the structure of the game play and the commentating.

The University students were very impressed to hear that the school has an E-sports club as this is something none of the third year students at the University had at school, and they were keen to swap stories with our DHS students on games they play and how to get big in the industry. We would like to thank the Uni students as they have certainly encouraged us to live play in the school league next year.

The university spoke to the students on what they need to do in terms of their gaming to get into the course and also what jobs it can lead to. Mr Henry accompanied us on this trip so if you were not lucky enough to attend the trip, but want information, please see Mr Jackson, Mrs Taylor or Mr Henry for more information.

"I really enjoyed the trip as it was an eye-opener to what University was like, and to learn about the E-sports course." Jude

"I learnt about the different courses, and I loved the racing machine." Ivy

"It was interesting learning about both the University and E-sports. We learnt about how University works and also about different careers you can take around E-sports." Lucia



Bletchley Park

A group of year 9 students spent the day at the site of the WW2 code breakers, where mathematical minds and technological achievements came together to not only help end the war early, but also shape the world in which we live in today.

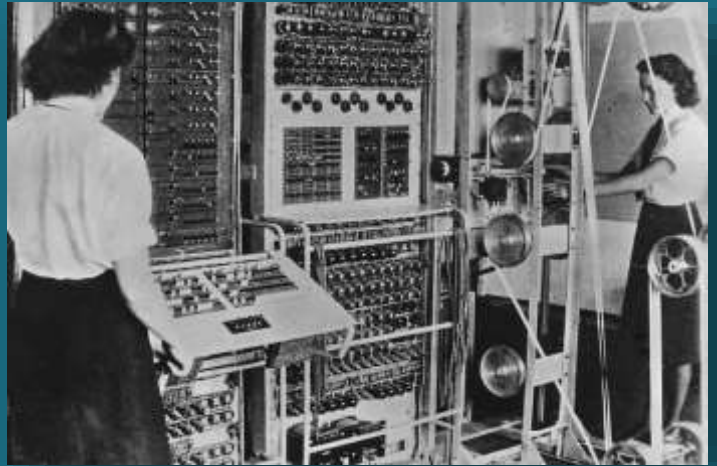
Students completed a cipher workshop, where they had to put their maths skills to use to break a series of cipher codes. During the tour of the site they also learnt how the code breakers had to use probability in their everyday life. They knew that some things were more likely than others and they worked out probabilities mathematically as a way to help narrow down the number of ways a message will have been encrypted.

From Alan Turing's office, to the ballroom of the mansion house, lunch on the lawns where many code breakers would have rested between long shifts, the students got a good insight to what life would have been like at Bletchley Park.



with year 9 maths and computer science

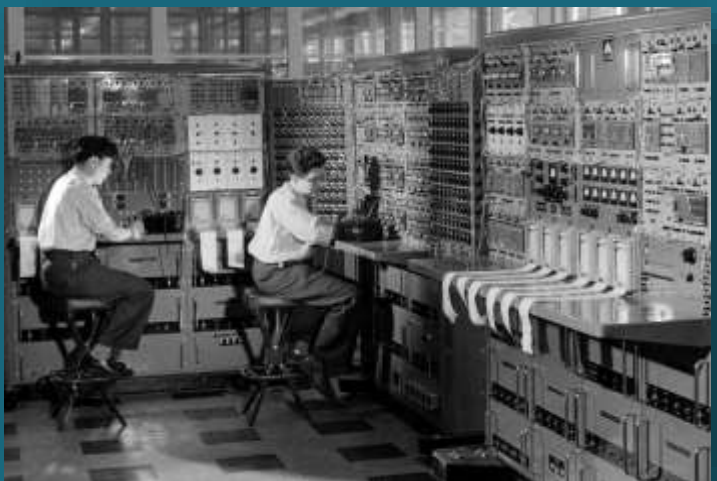
"I enjoyed how much we got to do and the opportunities the trip offered, from learning about the history of the place and the way it was used. I learnt how difficult and technical the technology they used was and I learnt the more in-depth history of what they did there." Max



"It was very fun and we learnt a lot about the enigma code and how they broke it at Bletchley Park. We had a workshop about enigma and we had a code-breaking activity as well. Plus we got to use an actual original enigma machine!" Reuben



"I learnt how difficult codebreaking was for the workers and how they would combat the mentally challenging workplace (such as using the tennis courts). There was a workshop on our tour where we tried Morse code and then a substitution cipher to work out who was the spy. It was brilliant!" Ashton





Pride of Durrington 2024

Based on the huge success of last year's Pride of Durrington awards evening, we are delighted to announce that it will be returning on Thursday 11th July 2024

We continue to be inspired by so many of our amazing students and having the opportunity to recognise and celebrate their outstanding achievements (both within school and the wider community) more formally.

How can you help?

We are asking for your help to make the celebration evening a resounding success. Specifically, we are seeking either individuals or local businesses to help us showcase how valued our young people are. Individuals and/or businesses could help by sponsoring a specific award and/or by contributing to the evening itself: decorations, catering or certificate printing, to name a few examples.

*Going beyond our best through Kindness, Aspiration,
Perseverance and Pride ... the Durrington Journey*

#TeamDurrington



We intend to recognise students in a wide range of categories and are therefore seeking donations of £25 to support each award as well as helping us to cover the cost of running the evening. If you feel your business is aligned with our key values of Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride, we would love to hear from you.

In return for your donation, we can offer:

- Your business name and details published in the event programme
- Recognition of your support shared on our social media pages
- Coverage of the night in the local newspaper
- The opportunity for you to attend the evening as a VIP

If you, or your business can help please do not hesitate to get in contact with us:

Email ledwards@durring.com, jfrost@durring.com to find out more information.

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride



Announcing Pride of Durrington 2024



Award categories

Kindness in the community awards

- Volunteer of the year
- Charity fundraiser of the year
- Unsung community hero award
- Peer support award

Aspiration awards

- Outstanding contribution to extra-curricular activities
- Commitment to sport award
- The spirit of adventure award



Perseverance awards

- Student of courage award
- Young achiever award
- Environmental champion award
- Overcoming adversity award
- The Sally Baker reading award
- Outstanding contribution to performing arts award

- Outstanding contribution to careers award
- Diversity Champion award

Pride awards

- Pride of company (special recognition/contribution) awards
- Headteachers special recognition award



DHS sporting success



The DHS U15 girls handball team travelled to Leyton last week to take part in the U15 South East regional stage of national handball competition.

The team won 3 out of their 4 games during the group stages, beating Chadwell Heath 4-3, Harris Academy Crystal Palace 6 – 0, Haywood School 4-0, and only losing to Rochester Grammar school 4-1.

The girls put on a strong semi-final performance yet were defeated by Putney School (who won the national competition as an U13 team two years ago) by 4 points to 1.

In the play off for 3rd and 4th place the Durrington team faced Rochester Grammar School, who they had previously lost to during the group stages. Hungry for victory the girls played brilliantly and won the game 7-0 to claim their overall 3rd place in the tournament.

The girls were an absolute credit to the school and played fantastically. Losing to a team who have previously won the whole national competition. Special mention to Harriet Hopson Northam who was the leading goal scorer for us. It was a real shame not to get through to the national stage but a very proud moment for DHS.

World Championships

Huge congratulations to year 7 DHS student Sierra and her cheerleading team Top Gun UK Lime, winners of a World Championship title!

Sierra travelled to the USA with her team to take part in the Cheer World Championships competition, competing against 185 other teams from around the globe. The team came away as triumphant winners of the All Star World Championships, and also placed first in the Youth Summit 2024!

Well done Sierra, we are incredibly proud of your achievements.



Durrington Partnership Programme

Our Durrington Partnership Programme aims to create stronger opportunities for school and home to work together, offer support and signposting for families with regards to learning and wellbeing, as well as providing more opportunities to gather family voice. If you wish to attend any of our events, please use the links under each heading to confirm your attendance.

We know that working together will help all of our students go beyond their best. We are stronger when working together.

Headteachers open surgery

16th May 2024 4pm - 5pm



This is your opportunity to discuss our school directly with the Co-Headteachers Mr Allison and Mr Woodcock, and Deputy Headteachers Mrs Allison and Mr Fuller. [Sign up here.](#)

Supporting your child with reading

23rd May 2024 4pm - 5pm



Reading is a key element of school and this session, hosted by the school SENCOs and literacy leads, is designed to help you support your child's reading at home. [Sign up here.](#)

Team Durrington



Meet the House Teams for current year 7s

6th June 2024 4pm - 5pm



Our House teams play an integral part of your child's time at school. Come and meet the teams and discuss your child with them directly as they progress into year 8. [Sign up here.](#)

New intake evening - new year 7 parents only

3rd July 2024 4pm - 5pm



What can new students to Durrington High School expect when they start their Durrington Journey in September 2024? [Sign up here.](#)

The Durrington Journey



Welcome to year 6

It was a pleasure to welcome year 6 parents and carers to our second transition coffee morning this week, prior to their children joining us as year 7s in September.

Our fabulous Student Senior Leadership Team were on hand to meet and greet, along with some of our year 7s who chatted with guests about their own experience of DHS.



Year 11 ... moving on

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies can now be ordered with the school logo on the front and 'Leavers 24 Durrington High School' on the back at a cost of £17.99. These hoodies will be available to pick up directly from Broadwater Sports 3 weeks after the payment deadline or they can offer postage. The hoodies are of a unisex size and can be ordered in XS, S, M, L and XL in a variety of colours.

Please follow the link directly to Broadwater Sports order page for more details and how to pay [here](#).

The deadline for orders is Monday 17 June 2024. For any queries, please contact Broadwater Sports directly via the link [here](#).

#TheDurringtonJourney

DHS Alumni

Durrington High School are so proud of ex-student Victoria Hitchens who flies off to Miami at the end of May to start rehearsals for The Wizard Of Oz onboard Royal Caribbean 'Icon of the seas', the largest cruise ship in the world! We wish her all the luck in the world on her exciting adventures.



We are always delighted to hear from our ex-students and discover more about their further education and careers paths. Please do get in touch by emailing socialmedia@durring.com

#DHSAlumni



Performing Arts centre



Durrington High Schools fantastic new Performing Arts Centre is now complete. We are really excited to add the centre to our lettings portfolio and are keen to hear from local groups/clubs who may be interested in hiring this fantastic facility. We are especially keen to hear from groups interested in booking the facility continuously throughout the year for a number of days across the week and weekend.

The space is multipurpose, with the seats retracted it is a fantastic open space suitable for a variety of activities, at the push of a button it transforms in to a wonderful venue with 335 tiered bleacher seats, state of the art audio and visual equipment, bespoke acoustics and its own changing facilities.

#DurringtonLeisure

at Durrington High School



Our school is open to the community every weekday evening, and all day/evening Saturday and Sunday. We have a fantastic and dedicated leisure team who are always available to help. The school has ample free parking and a café which is open on our busier nights and on Saturdays.

For more information or to arrange a tour please contact:
leisure@durring.com



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

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

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

- 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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