

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

27 June 2024 edition

At last, summer seems to have arrived! Let's hope the good weather continues for the rest of the term. As usual there has been lots going on over the last couple of weeks and lots of examples of our students making us incredibly proud.

We have been celebrating all aspects of diversity this week, through assemblies and lessons. As usual, our students have embraced this fully and have really enjoyed learning about a range of inspirational people from a range of different cultures and the incredible impact they have had on our society. This of course relates to one of our core KAPP values - Kindness. You can read more about our Diversity Week in this newsletter.

On Tuesday evening, the talent of our artists was on display at our annual art and design show. It was lovely to see so many of you at this event. We were all blown away by the incredible work on show that had been created by our students. A huge thank you to our amazing art department!

Our Y10 students have been working really hard on their end of year exams. They have responded to these in such a mature and positive way and deserve to be congratulated for the way in which they have approached their exams. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their efforts when the results come in and then building on this success in Y11.

As is this way at this time of year, we are also looking forward to celebrating students starting and finishing their Durrington journey over the next week. On Thursday we say goodbye to Y11 at the summer ball and the following week we welcome our new students who will be joining us as Y7 next year.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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DHS Diversity Week

Diversity Week in Durrington High School

By Joseph Waterer



From the week beginning Monday the 24th, Durrington High School is celebrating diversity in our community and the way in which different cultures have shaped our world.

During these four days, students will be learning about diverse individuals in each of their subjects – such as Guinness World Record holder mathematician: Shakuntala Devi. In History, students will be focusing on the importance of Muslim Scholars in the Islamic Golden Age and the differences in advancements between the Medieval Muslim world and the Medieval English world. In English, KS3 will be reading a range of LGBTQ+ texts from across the globe to explore the importance of recognising their contributions to literature. In Science, students will be learning about the intertwining of science and religion with a focus on how humans have evolved to be apart of different cultures. In Music, there will be a workshop on the background of the Reggae genre and how it has been influenced by the Windrush generation. Lastly, in PE, students will be taking part in various non-native sports from different countries around the globe to see how sports can impact culture worldwide.

by Joseph Waterer - Senior Student Leadership Team Member



In KS3 Art lessons, students will be taking part in a competition to draw what diversity means to them. This could range from drawings of native landscapes and wildlife, to symbolic images and representations from across the globe. Each of these drawings will then be judged by our house teams and the best will be displayed on the outside of the house offices. Those that aren't chosen will be displayed on a notice board in the school's front atrium to present our diverse community to all of our visitors.

Specifically for Diversity week, the canteen is providing a range of unique foods from cultures all across the world. This includes main meals from Asia and South America like Mexican beef chili quesadillas and Pakistani chana masalas. On top of our savoury options, there are a range of cultural desserts offered such as Strawberry marshmallow and krispie kabobs and Jamaican sticky ginger cake.

#proudoofDHS





In addition to the activities going on inside of lessons, we will be hosting a non-school uniform day on Thursday the 27th. With this, we hope to raise as much money as possible with a recommended £1 donation to our chosen charity: Equally Ours. Equally Ours is an organisation that brings together all people working all across equality, human rights and social justice to help make it a reality in everyone's lives. On top of this, there will be an Inset day on Friday the 25th.

**NON SCHOOL
UNIFORM DAY-
Thursday 27th of
June**

They are a charity that are
working together to help
ensure our essential
freedoms and rights are
protected!



In diversity there
is beauty and
there is strength

MAYA ANGELOU



**EQUALLY
OURS**

If you can bring in a
donation of £1 for the
EQUALLY OURS charity...

#DHS Diversity



DHS

Diversity

2024

We hope this week will help raise awareness for the minorities in our close and wider community to prevent further discrimination both inside and outside the classroom. Diversity is about embracing differences and the inclusion of all walks of life to promote equality in all environments. With further education such as nationally celebrated weeks like this, we aim to completely cut discriminatory and prejudicial behaviours from our school's community and the wider communities around us.



#TheDurringtonCommunity



DHS Teambuilding Day

Whole school team building day - going beyond our best through Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride

Our whole school team building day took place on Friday 14th June, with the aim to promote our core KAPP values.

Students spent the day working together within their form groups and took part in four different activities:

1. **Team Building** - Students completed several challenges including the team ski challenge, tug-of-war and crossing the river!
2. **Problem solving** - Students took part in time challenges including riddles, elastic band and string team cup stacking, plus many more!
3. **Inflatable Assault Course** - tutor groups worked together brilliantly navigating the obstacles as a team, showing their KAPP values by overcoming the obstacles together.
4. **Inspirational Speaker** - Alexander Slabinsky, a former professional tennis player who ranked as British no: 4 gave an inspirational talk to students which they enjoyed in our new Performing Arts Centre.

Going beyond our best



'The inflatable obstacle course was awesome, going through it with all my mates and racing my tutor was such fun.' Year 8 student

'It was really cool to see the teachers out of their comfort zone, the whole day was so enjoyable.' Year 10 student



#TheDurringtonJourney





The team building brought the school community together with all students throwing themselves, quite literally, into the activities. The school values of Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride were on display across all year groups and all activities.

The students were a credit to the school and tackled the group tasks superbly, whether that be working together in physical challenges or to break down problems in a more theoretically setting.

The guest speaker, Alex Slabinsky, commented on how respectful and engaging our students were during his inspirational talk in the performing arts centre.

As expected, the inflatable obstacle course was a particular highlight with students and staff working together to overcome the array of different obstacles.

It was a fantastic day and definitely something we will look to do again next year. Well done all.

#DHSTeamBuilding

Team Durrington



‘It was an amazing experience, Alex Slabinsky was so inspiring, I absolutely loved it.’ Year 9 student



‘Working with our forms to overcome the challenges was so much fun.’ Year 7 student



Kindness Aspiration Perseverance Pride



Performing Arts Centre



We were so excited to welcome an audience to our brand new performing arts centre for its first performance.

Our students were incredible and performed so well and we were extremely lucky to have ex-students return to perform for us.

The cast performed numbers from previous productions, as well as original compositions, and new numbers specifically for the performance.

#proudoofDHS

Opening Show



Audience members commented that it was like being in the West End and there were definitely some tears shed (mainly from Mrs Isham).

We can't wait to share more performances with you in our wonderful new space and have lots planned for the coming academic year.

Thank you to everyone who came along to support our fabulous cast and crew, and our VIP guests including retired DHS Deputy Headteacher Hilary McCall.

Going beyond our best



Careers Week

Durrington Careers Week took place from the 10th to the 13th June. All the activities were set out to help students explore a wide range of industries and ideas for the future.

Each morning Mr Henry delivered a briefing to students to promote the day's visitors and pose a question to discuss in their groups.

Topics included why people might choose to do volunteering and what is more important, money or job satisfaction?

Each lunchtime we welcomed a wide range of industry representatives. Students were able to visit the stands, ask questions, take part in activities and bank those interactions to help with future decision making.

Year 7 and 8 students had career passport cards which they could get stamped after a positive interaction with prizes available for the tutor group with the most stamps.



#DHSCareers

with the DHS Careers Team

There were a wide range of activities on offer. These included house valuations with Bacon and Co, forklift truck driving with Shoreham Port, bug handling with Brinsbury College and bridge construction with HOP Consulting.

Throughout the week it was a fantastic mix of positive engagement, fact finding and fun.

A new feature this year were the two 'Meet the Industry' talks in the performing arts centre. Representatives spoke to the students directly about their sector and the opportunities within it.

Featured businesses were Rolls Royce, The Army, HOP Consulting, Metricell, AAF Finance and HMRC Digital. These allowed more students to get involved.

There were also connected talks in lessons and additional videos recorded especially for the week.



#DHSNextSteps





Careers Leader Mr Henry said: “It was a brilliant week for students to explore their ideas and to be inspired. Careers learning rarely ends in a ‘eureka moment’ where you jump up and realise what you want to do for the rest of your life. It’s more about exploring lots of ideas and gaining the confidence that so many of them are possible. The students all did amazingly well, and they all know to visit the careers office or talk to their teachers if they want to develop those ideas into real life plans.”

#proudoDHS

Huge thanks go out to all our school partners who were involved:

- AAF Financial Services
- Applied Kilovolts
- Bacon & Company
- Brinsbury College
- Carpenter Box
- Chichester College
- Grace Eyre
- HMRC Digital
- HOP Consulting
- ITB Cyber Security
- Metricell
- NHS Sussex Trust
- Northbrook College
- Plumpton College
- Rolls Royce
- Shoreham Port
- The Army
- Travel Counsellors
- Watlow Eurotherm
- Worthing Osteopath Clinic



"A well organised event including thoughtful detail like a ledge for our remote controlled forklift toy. Students were very polite, engaged and asked good questions."
Shoreham Port

"The students were very engaged and asked lots of great questions. I liked the ability to talk to a select group, and then exhibit, with the opportunity to talk to all."
Rolls Royce

#DHSCommunity



The Durrington Art Show



It was an absolute pleasure to welcome parents/carers, family and friends once again to our Durrington Art Show.

The student work on display was yet again phenomenal and we are extremely proud of you all.



#DHSArt&Design



#proudoofDHS





#DHSCommunity



Going beyond our best



Trips & Visits

Computer Science trip to LEGOLAND

Last week the Computer Science department took 90 year 8 students to LEGOLAND where they took part in eight one-hour long Lego Spike robot workshops.

The students learnt how to build and program the robots to complete a number of set tasks with the aim to create a self-driving robot. Some of the groups used the colour sensors to get the robots to follow a green or blue line. Other groups had a go at the distant sensors on their robot.

A great deal of fun was had by the students as they practised their code, and eventually succeeded at the task they were set.

The students also got to enjoy the theme park, which was relatively quiet, and had a fun day out making lots of new friendships.

Well done to year 8 for making it a super day.



#DHSComputerScience



"I loved the LEGOLAND trip, the workshop was really good, I have struggled with the spikes before, but at the workshop they were great fun and I learnt so much." Rose in year 8

"LEGOLAND was amazing! The spike workshop was challenging but great fun, I did the advanced workshop where we had to program the spike to follow the coloured line." Samuel in year 8

"It was an amazing day, I learnt a lot from the workshop which was really engaging." Tom in year 8



#LegoSpike



Hampton Court Palace

The History department took 60 year 7 students to Hampton Court Palace to explore the significance of the Tudor period.

We explored the Tudor Kitchens, examining the scale of the operation it would have taken to feed Henry VIII's court.

We also visited the Great Hall and the magnificent Royal Chapel, as well as testing ourselves in the Maze, thankfully finding our way out with all the students!

The students participated in a workshop discussing the Religious Rollercoaster, exploring the dramatic changes in religious practices and policies during the Tudor period.

This workshop delves into the tumultuous shifts in religion under the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I, illustrating how these changes impacted the lives of ordinary people and the Royal Court.

We ended the day with a quick visit to the gift shop and then it was back to school with the year 7 students who were all a credit to DHS.



#DHSEnrichment

Year 10 GCSE Citizenship



This week seven GCSE Citizenship students went to the General Election: Youth Matters Debate held at The Angmering School.

We heard from five of the candidates standing for the General Election in the hope of becoming the next Worthing West MP.

Throughout the debate the students were able to vote on which candidate they felt represented their own views and would resolve current issues in the UK.

On the journey home students were discussing their views on political party policies and reiterated to one another the importance of voting to support democracy in the UK, with some students in support of the view of lowering voting age, whilst others opposed these views. It was fantastic to hear students continuing the healthy debate regarding politics between their peers.

The student's behaviour was exemplary, and we are extremely proud of them.

#DHSCurrentAffairs



Uniform - can you help others in need?

Do you have spare uniform items at home that are 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 our parents/carers for any donations of spare, good quality items of uniform with the aim of creating a stock that we are able then to pass on or sell on at very low (or no) cost to families in desperate need.

If you can help and have one or more suitable items to donate (be these blazers, shirts, skirts, shoes, trousers, PE Kit and/or even ties) please feel free to drop these in at the main office.

At the start of the next academic year we hope to have enough stock to be able to open our DHS uniform shop event. The shop will sell items on a not-for-profit basis with incoming funds being used to purchase more stock, making uniforms more accessible and affordable for our students and their families.

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.

Mrs Chester & Mrs Baker
Community Uniform Support

#DHSCommunity

Achievements outside the classroom

Year 7 DHS student Dominic started playing badminton when he was 7 and has been training with Sussex County since the age of 8.

He now trains 4 times a week at various locations across the county and represents Sussex in the Under 14s County Shires League.

He was awarded the Squad Member of the Year award a couple of weeks ago by his coach for his dedication and aspiration.



We are extremely proud of you Dom, well done!

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

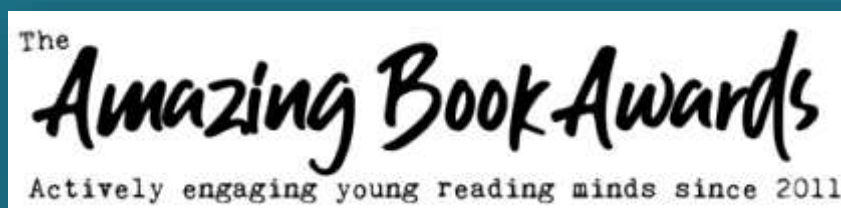


The Amazing Book Awards

Mrs Baker and Mrs Dacosta led another year of literary celebration with the Amazing Book Awards on 21st June along with students from our school Book Club and students from 26 schools across Sussex!

The packed out event saw 300+ people celebrating some of the BEST books in Young Adult publishing in the past year and having a chance to meet the authors themselves, hear about their work and get their books signed.

All our year 9 students were surveyed earlier in the year to help choose books from the long list to go forward for the short list. Our book club have been reading the 5 short listed books since March and have loved joining in with themed tasks about the books, winning their own copies, as well as competing in the ABA challenges: Get Caught Reading; Redesign the Cover and even a Book-themed Bake off!



Amazing Book Awards



THE SUSSEX COAST SCHOOLS AMAZING BOOK AWARDS

The
Amazing Book Awards
Actively engaging young reading minds since 2011





THE BRONZE AWARD went to ...

Ravena Guron for *Catch Your Death*!

A twisty Murder Mystery set in a snowed in mansion house... this one had our students GRIPPED all the way through!

“Wow! One thought after finishing it. BEST MURDER MYSTERY I HAVE EVER READ.”



THE SILVER AWARD went to ...

Benjamin Dean for *How to Die Famous*!

A glossy Murder Mystery set in the glitz and glamour of Hollywood, as a well loved but troubled series is returning to the screen. One of the lead actors is chasing down the truth behind what happened to his brother on set... who can he trust when he's hunting a murder in plain sight?

“Where do I even start with this book? The twists, the characters, THE ENDING!”



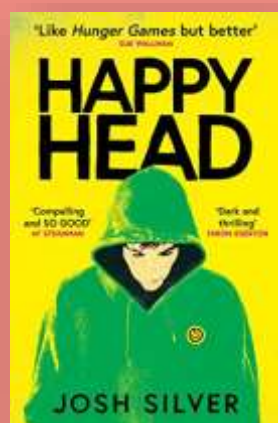
THE GOLD AWARD went to ...

Josh Silver for *HappyHead*!

Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he wants to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo.

The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the activities become, until it's clear there may be no escape...

“Funny, exciting, dystopian LGBT romance. Had me hooked within the first 3 chapters!”



the runners up are...



Tess James-Mackey's *Someone Is Watching You*

An abandoned prison. A deadly game. How far would you go for a dare?

“Creepy, atmospheric. All happens in one afternoon. Deals with bullying on a grand scale. The ending is so scary.”

Annaliese Avery's *The Immortal Games*

Mythological mayhem is unleashed at the annual Immortal Games, when 12 Greek Gods pick 12 mortal humans to compete for the ultimate prize...



“Full of fantastic mythological monsters, you won't guess what happens next!”



#DHSLibrary





Lunchtime Clubs Summer 2024

Day	Club	Year	Staff	Venue
Monday	Dance	All Years	Miss Johnson	Bistro
	Basketball	10-11	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Careers Club	All Years	Mr Henry	Careers Library
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
	LGBTQ+ Club	All Years	Sawyer	G31E
	Computing Club	All Years	Mr Burgess	F24
Tuesday	Dance	All Years	Miss Johnson	Bistro
	Basketball	10-11	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
	Careers Club	All Years	Mr Henry	Careers Library
	Computing Club	All Years	Mr Burgess	F24
	Nordic Club	All Years	Mr Chambers	G27M
Wednesday	Chess Club	All Years	Mr Borrett & Mr Venness	G21M
	Computing Club	All Years	Mr Burgess	F24
	Dance	All Years	Miss Johnson	Bistro
	Careers Club	All Years	Mr Henry	Careers Library
	Basketball	10-11	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
Thursday	Book Club	All Years	Mrs Baker & Mrs Dacosta	LRA
	Computing Club	All Years	Mr Burgess	F24
	Dance	All Years	Miss Johnson	Bistro
	Basketball	10-11	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Careers Club	All Years	Mr Henry	Careers Library
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro
Friday	Fashion/Textiles	9	Mr Bloomer	F03T
	Computing Club	All Years	Mr Burgess	F24
	Dance	All Years	Miss Johnson	Bistro
	Careers Club	All Years	Mr Henry	Careers Library
	Basketball	10-11	Mr Crane	Sports Hall
	Basketball	7-9	Mr Pickford	New Sports Hall
	LGBTQ+ Club	All Years	Sawyer	G31E
	Football	All Years	Mr De Gruchy	Astro

#GetInvolved



After-School Clubs Summer 2024

Day	Club	Year	Staff	Venue
Monday	Film Club	All Years	Mrs Baker	LRA
	Minecraft Club	7	Mrs Aston	F24T
	Lego Spike Club	8	Mrs Taylor	F26T
	Y7 Cricket Fixtures	7	Mr De Gruchy	PE Office
	Code Club	9	Mr Scott	F27T
Tuesday	Choir	All Years	Mr Gasson & Miss Maughan	F20T
	Drama Club	7-9	Miss Cross	Performing Arts
	KS4 Art Portfolio	10-11	All Art Staff	Art Rooms
	Eco Club	All Years	Mrs Steele	F29H
	MFL Film Club	7	Mr Gilbert	U06L
	French Club	8	Mrs Cooper	U03L
	Spanish Club	8	Ms Smith	U05L
	Y7 + Y8 Rounders Fixtures	7	Mrs Wallis-Taylor	PE Office
Wednesday	Y9 Cricket Fixtures	9	Mr Brombley	Pe Office
	Science Club	Y7	Mr Finch Miss Laming	G09S
	Science Club	Y8	Mr Morrice & Mr Gatenby	G11S & G13S
	KS4 Art Portfolio	10-11	All Art Staff	Art Rooms
	E-Sports Club	10	Mr Jackson, Mr Burgess & Mr Scott	F26T
	Rounders Club	All Years	Miss Johnson + Mrs Fuller	PE Office
	Y10 Cricket Fixtures	10	Mr Mott	PE Office
Thursday	Tennis Club	All Years	Mr Pickford & Mr Brombley	PE Office
	School Magazine	All Years	Miss Foster & Ms Stone	G32E
	Whole School Musical	All Years	Mrs Isham	Main Hall
	Gifted & Talented Art	Invite	Mrs Gray	Art Rooms
	Dodgeball Club	All Years	Mr De Gruchy & Mr Mott	PE Office
	Y9 + Y10 Rounders Fixtures	9-10	Miss Johnson & Mrs Wallis-Taylor	
Friday	Y8 Cricket Fixtures	8	Mr Pickford	PE Office
	School Band	All Years	Mr Gasson	F20T
	Dance Club	All Years	Miss Lamper & Miss Connolly	Main Hall
	Cricket Club	All Years	Mr Poole & Mr Burnett	Sports Hall

#DHSEnrichment



Term dates 2024/2025 reminder

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

- New intake day - Wednesday 3rd July
- Pride of Durrington awards night - Thursday 11th July
- Last day of the Summer Term - Tuesday 23rd July - students will be dismissed early at 12.35pm

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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