

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

24 October 2024 edition

What a first half term! We simply can't believe how the time appears to have flown by and just how much has been packed in to the last 7 weeks. The last fortnight alone has seen 140+ year 11 and 20+ staff taking part in the annual mud run, the quite brilliant musical in a weekend featuring over 100 students in all year groups and so much more. Many of our sports teams have recorded multiple victories and are progressing both locally and nationally in various competitions. It has also been lovely to see so many KAPP nominations being sent in by parents and carers; these recognising the amazing contributions that individuals continue to make in our local community and to better themselves. The SSLT's Food for

Though challenge collected just under a tonne of food for those in need in our local area.

It has also been lovely to see the students so settled in their lessons and their learning. Going around the school each day we are so proud of the effort and focus they put into their lessons and know this is making a real difference to their learning. We hope the students have a lovely and restful half term break and we look forward to seeing them all refreshed on Monday 4th November.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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Curriculum spotlight



Year 7 started their Durrington journey identifying key hazards in a science lab and describing how to reduce risks. Students can now name the key rules for safely working within the labs, as well as competently use equipment and apparatus such as Bunsen burners and microscopes.

Students are currently looking at cell structures and comparing types of cells in animals and plants. This term they will also cover a topic on energy, looking at different energy resources, how the national grid works, as well as energy stores and transfers, conduction and insulation.

Our year 8s are learning about cells energy, unicellular and multicellular organisms, and their functions and adaptations. They will look at eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells and specialised cells. They will also be looking at other elements, compounds and mixtures, explaining distillation and pure substances; diffusion in liquids and gases; atomic structure and PEN number.

Science @DHS

Science



Students in year 9 are working on microscopy, including magnification and equations, and conversion of units in biology. Practical lessons will cover forces and space scalars and vectors, looking at the effect of forces and energy changes. They will also look at forces and pressure changes in atoms and bonding atomic structure and electronic configuration.



The Durrington Journey



Curriculum spotlight ...



Year 10 Trilogy students are currently looking at their Unit 1 paper, studying cellular structures, cellular transport and diseases in Biology.

Triple Science students are working on Biology, Chemistry and Physics with their three teachers. Biology classes are working on cellular structure and transport; Chemistry classes are working on ionic, covalent and metallic bonding, whilst Physics classes are working on the end of their energy topic, that features energy stores and transfers.



Going beyond our best

Science



The year 11 Trilogy students are currently studying for their Unit 2 papers, working on genetics and inheritance, along with biodiversity and climate change.

Triple Science students are working on Biology, Chemistry and Physics with their three teachers. Biology classes are working on homeostasis in action, studying kidney function and thermoregulation; Chemistry classes are working on the organic chemistry of carboxylic acids, esters and alcohols, whilst Physics classes are working on velocity-time graphs and pressure.



#FutureScientists



Curriculum spotlight ...

Year 7 science club

This half term students have been looking at how buildings are made structurally safe through making concrete and testing its strength with our own concrete recipes.

Students have also embarked on a murder mystery that has hit our school with a dead body being found in G15, the students have to find the killer before they strike again!

They conducted chromatography on a note that the very cheeky killer left to whittle down the suspects. The club will now examine the crime scene for fingerprints in order to catch them!



Science Clubs

Science

Year 8 STEM club

This half term, we have been investigating various scenarios that could occur if a meteor was to crash on Earth. We have made our own acid rain to see the damaging effects, we have experimented with growing plants using artificial suns, and have used microscopes to view organisms that will likely survive a meteor impact. To finish our half term investigation, we will be looking at how crater sizes can vary.

Next half term, we will be investigating the benefits of different materials, and how they are used in the world. It would be great to see you there!



#DHSEnrichment



Curriculum spotlight ...

Science department ambassadors



Congratulations to our new Science department ambassadors!

Ethan Tester, Alex Meadows, Matas Vainovskis , Wilfred Preston-Cook , Caden Evans, Nethini Gunasena, Harrison Lyons , Shay Reeve, Grace Mabiza, Henry Hall, Austin Searle, Isabella Duggan and Jerome Mathew.

#StudentLeadership

Science

Behind the scenes

The science tech team at DHS includes Maggie Williams, Sam Baker, Alex Searle and Catherine Bourner. Maggie is the Senior Technician in the team, having joined DHS originally as a Teaching Assistant and then moving to the science department in 2011. There is a true team spirit and camaraderie between the staff who all work well together ensuring every single lesson is ready to go, from chemicals and agar dishes, scalpels and sheep eyes, to Weetabix and nylon tights which are used as an example of the digestive system.



With 14 state of the art laboratories, 5 periods and up to 70 lessons to prepare for each day, ranging from year 7 to year 11 GCSE education, it is a busy environment demanding careful planning. The technicians begin their day ensuring all work areas are safe and ready to go and then begin the task of gathering whatever resources are required for that day's learning.

Whilst students take a break mid-morning, and again at lunchtime, the technicians are busy re-stocking the individual laboratories so lessons flow seamlessly. The science technicians at DHS provide a vital role in assisting the smooth running of the curriculum, and their passion and enthusiasm for the school, and the students' learning experience, radiates throughout the team. They are particularly proud of the annual 'science week', which although demanding in the preparation is worth every moment to see the students faces uplifted, enlivened and engaged.

#TeamDurrington



Curriculum spotlight

Art KS3

Year 7 started their year with an introduction into art appreciation and the different types of art to trigger open discussions and debate. Students will create their own graphic logo design and explore and experiment with a variety of materials and techniques. They will also look at the work of contemporary illustrator Mark Herald and use this knowledge to influence their own work.



In year 8 students are developing their skills in observational drawing, perspective and colour theory. They will explore a range of media and techniques in landscape art, through paint, collage, colour and textural mark making. Research and analytical skills will be developed this half term through looking at relevant artists, and students will use this knowledge to influence their design ideas.

#DHSArt

Art



Year 9s have begun the year looking at African art and cultural history, developing their knowledge and understanding through researching Adinkra symbols, figure sculptures, Ankara cloth and traditional masks. Students will develop skills in observational drawing by exploring a range of media and techniques that include oil pastel, tonal pencil / pen sketching and lino printing.



#DHSCreativity



Curriculum spotlight



Art GCSE

The year 10 GCSE art students have begun their course developing their portrait skills in painting, using acrylic, watercolour and oil pastels. Their focus is observational skills, using expressive brush marks and use of colour, warm, cool and contemporary, as well as flesh tones. Students are developing their skills in rendering eyes, nose and mouth working towards a final large scale self-portrait.



#DHS Talent

Art

Artists in year 11 are studying a range of classical and surreal art via a range of media including drawing in pen, pencil, oil pastel, watercolour, acrylic, print making, photography and sculpture. They will also investigate work from a range of surreal artists including Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte, Giorgio de Chirico and contemporary photographers; Antonio Mora, Alexander Bellissimo and John Stezacker.



#DHSArtists



Curriculum Spotlight ... Art



Graphics GCSE

Year 11 graphic students are studying traditional and contemporary Japanese art, graphic design, sculpture and architecture. They are using a range of media including drawing in pen, pencil, watercolour, print making, card relief/paper manipulation and photography. The students are investigating work from a range of sources and contemporary photographers, and are offered first hand observational opportunities in the Victoria & Albert museum visit.

#DHSGraphics



#proudofDHS



Curriculum spotlight ... Art

Textiles GCSE

Year 10 textiles students are gaining knowledge of the Steam Punk style and imagery and developing their observational skills through experimenting with a range of media, materials and techniques. They are also developing skills in reduction printing, machine embroidery, reverse applique, weaving, transfer printing and mixed media. Students will go on to create their own mixed media Steam Punk inspired hat.



#DHSTextiles



In year 11 students are exploring and researching relevant textile artists and various styles of drawing, photography and textile sampling. Students will develop a personalised exploration of a range of ideas, materials, techniques and processes referring to the work of these artists.



Going beyond our best



Curriculum spotlight ... Art



Photography GCSE

The year 10 GCSE photography students are becoming confident in using the manual settings on the DSLR camera and are exploring the different elements of composition and viewpoint. They will engage with practical activities investigating the formal elements in photography, the effects of lighting, shutter speeds, aperture and depth of field, double exposure and using photoshop to edit and manipulate images.

#DHSPhotography



Year 11 photography

Our year 11 photography students are working independently researching relevant urban photographers and experimenting with their own urban photoshoots. The students will go on to develop personalised exploration of a range of ideas, techniques and processes referring to the work of others.



The Durrington Journey



Curriculum spotlight ... Art

Art ambassadors



Congratulations to our newly appointed Art Department Ambassadors Amy Burt, Louie Chate, Rebecca Steggell, Olivia Yard, Eleanor Chrystal, Scar Kinnett and William Ogunyemi.

Art clubs

- Year 10 and 11 GCSE Art portfolio enrichment takes place after school on Wednesday and Thursday in the art department
- The year 9 gifted and talented art club will start after the half term break

#DHSAmbassadors



Art exhibitions

The art department are proud to hold their annual public art show in the Colonnade Art Gallery every summer. It is a fantastic opportunity for the local community to see our students exceptional talent.

Art trips

The art department run a number of trips throughout the year including:

- The Tate Gallery
- Photography trip to Brighton
- Pallant House Gallery
- Victoria & Albert Museum

#DHSEnrichment



Year 11



This special evening is designed to celebrate all the hard work our students have already put into their GCSE journey and boost their confidence for the remaining year to come.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers, and the evening started with welcoming drinks and nibbles for the students and their families. This was followed by the award ceremony itself held in our state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre.

#DHSCelebration

Celebration evening

The students hard work was celebrated with awards of excellence and perseverance across the curriculum.

We were also treated to some brilliant live music during the evening with three of our school bands entertaining the audience.



Well done to you all, we are very proud of you.



Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride



24 hour production



Students in the performing arts department set about the annual challenge of staging a musical production in the space of one weekend. Students from all year groups were divided into teams and each student was involved in choreographing, learning and rehearsing musical numbers on Saturday.

Sunday morning saw us technically run the performance, a dress rehearsal Sunday afternoon and then a packed performance to parents on Sunday at 5.30pm.

#DHSPerformingArts

Performing arts



We are so proud of each and every student, their talent shone through but what made this more special was how supportive, kind and encouraging they all were of one another. The fun and enjoyment was highlighted by audience members as it was contagious and we ended the evening with a standing ovation. As always I am so grateful for my team of staff and the amazing ex pupils that continue to give up their time to support us all.

Mrs Isham

Director of Performing Arts

#DHS Talent



Year 11



On Sunday 13th October over 140 of our incredible year 11 students (as well as a huge number of staff) braved a tough mudder course at Henfold lakes.

The course involved students tackling various challenges with some overcoming fears to take part.

The students were a credit to our school and showed real resilience and perseverance through the course. We are so proud of each of them for taking part!



Year 11 Mud Run 2024

Mud Run 2024

- **Kindness** - supporting your team members



- **Aspiration** - trying a new challenge (suitable for any ability)



- **Perseverance** - completing the course



- **Pride** - making a positive contribution to the school community

#TeamDurrington



DHS published poets!



Creative Writing Club: Working alongside the Young Writers

Six of our incredibly talented students were chosen to become published poets. They are Leo McBean, Marley Edwards, Freddie McGeorge-Hinks, Hollie McCullough, Grace Packer and Sophie Hopkins. They each had to write a poem playing with perspective and having to see the world from somebody else's eyes. Congratulations to you all, a brilliant achievement!

#TeamDurrington

History Ambassadors



Our fabulous History Department Ambassadors have been selling poppies during the last two weeks and have done a brilliant job raising funds for the Royal British Legion.

TeenTech Sussex 2024

35 year 9 students took part in the TeenTech Sussex 2024 Festival Virtual Innovation Live Event yesterday. The students were introduced to an exciting interactive programme to help them understand the wide range of opportunities across digital, science and technology.

They were also set a challenge to come up with initial ideas on the theme of 'Future Technology' which they will take to the in-person Festival Day later in the year.



#DHSStudentLeadership



Term dates 2024/2025

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

- Year 7 form tutor drop in – Thursday 14th November
- Ex Year 11 certificate collection - Thursday 21st November
- INSET day - Friday 22nd November

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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