

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

4 April 2025 edition

As another term draws to a close at Durrington, we want to thank you all for your unswerving support. It's been lovely to receive a number of messages from parents and carers recently, letting us know how well their children are thriving at school. This means a great deal to us.

It's also a great opportunity to celebrate the many successes of our students this term. Those of you who came along to our production of *Mary Poppins Jr*, will know how fabulous this was...you could say it was 'practically perfect'! This was the first full performance in our new 'Performing Arts Centre' and our lovely students certainly lived up to the occasion.

We have also had our annual STEM week. This saw students taking part in a range of interesting science and technology related activities. For example, Year 9 participated in three themed workshops, focusing on changes in the brain, animal adaptations and chemical changes. It was great to see our students throwing themselves into the new challenges that these workshops presented them with.

Alongside this, our Y7 girls rugby team put in a great performance at a recent rugby tournament, 34 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition last weekend over the South Downs and it has been lovely to celebrate the successes of our Y10 students work experience week.

And finally, Y11 really are on the last leg of the run up to their exams. They really are working incredibly hard in lessons and in P0 and P7. To support their independent study at home, this site is really useful for parents and carers - <https://www.fromthesidelines.uk/study-hacks>. It provides really practical tips to help your son/daughter during this critical time in their education. Please do find some time to relax and unwind over the Easter holidays and, as always, thank you for all that you do to support our work here at school.

*Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers*

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Curriculum Spotlight

Year 7

This half term our year 7s have been focusing on how to keep safe online looking at the use of social media, the spread of fake news, and the dangers of grooming. You can find out more here:

[Year 7 link](#)



Year 8

Our year 8 students have been looking at skills needed for life after school with budgeting and handling money. They also looked at their own skills and began to think about what career path may best suit them.

[Year 8 link](#)



Year 9

In year 9 students have been exploring the UK's political system, how voting and elections work, and the many different roles within government, as well as how laws are made.

[Year 9 link](#)



SME @ DHS

SME & Citizenship

Year 10

During the second half of the Spring term the year 10s learnt about the importance of maintaining their mental health through sleep, exercise and taking time for themselves, as well as preparation for their exams.

[Year 10 link](#)



GCSE Citizenship

This term students have been tackling questions around democracy, including our voting system, what our main political parties stand for and how governments are formed.

[GCSE Citizenship link](#)



SME Platinum Academy workshop

This week students from our Year 10 Platinum Academy attended a 'Global Justice' presentation delivered by Mrs Gaskell, our Head of SME, as part of our St John's College Inspire programme.

[SME Platinum Academy link](#)



Going beyond our best



Mary Poppins Jr



Camaraderie, fun, laughter and lifelong memories made. What a wonderful time we have all had producing and creating Mary Poppins Jr, we are delighted that so many people came along to watch the performances. Each and every student was outstanding and gave every second on stage every ounce of energy producing high quality performances, but what stood out to the team this year was how kind each and every cast member was to one another and to the staff. Everybody was so supportive of one another and we could not ask for more than that. It was a real honour to be able to share the dress rehearsal with our year 7 house and student feedback from all audience members was how professional and slick the performance was. I am always humbled and inspired by our staff and students and this year was no exception. Anything can happen if you let it.

Mrs Isham, Director of Performing Arts

[More photos from the show here.](#)

SME Debating Club

Debating club takes place every Tuesday lunchtime in S2 with Mrs Leney and Mr Smith and is open to all year groups.

Topics for debate covered during the Spring term included:

- It would be good to be globally famous
- There should be a universal language
- Teachers should be replaced by computers



Each session we divide into 2 groups, plan our arguments and then hold a debate. You don't necessarily get to argue for your own point of view! Everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

Clubs @ DHS

Our full clubs list can be found [here](#).



#TeamDurrington



DHS STEM Week

In support of 'British Science Week', we were delighted to once again hold our annual STEM week (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), during the week of 17th – 21st March 2025.

During this week various workshops and creative STEM lessons took place across the KS3 curriculum, along with guest speaker Dr Jonathan Hare, plus a competition to design a STEM poster with a focus on 'Adapt and Change', the theme of this year's British Science Week.



Our aim was to raise the profile of STEM, and inspire our students across years 7, 8 and 9 to deepen their knowledge and discover potential further education and career opportunities as part of their Durrington journey.

You can read the full story here: [STEM Week 2025](#)

Science Technology Engineering Maths

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

At Durrington, anti-bullying remains a core priority, deeply connected to our values of kindness and pride. We understand that implementing effective anti-bullying strategies is essential for creating a safe and supportive learning environment. These strategies help prevent harmful behaviours, enabling students to focus on their academic and personal growth. As a school, we are committed to proactively addressing bullying, empowering students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



We are also continuing to provide additional training for our student anti-bullying ambassadors. These sessions will focus on developing their leadership, communication, and role-modelling skills, helping them gain the confidence to support their peers daily.

You can read the full story here: [Anti-Bullying Ambassadors](#)

Student Leadership



Term dates

Spring and Summer 2025

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

Diary Dates

- Last day of the Spring term - Friday 4th April
- Bank Holiday - Monday 21st April
- First day of the Summer Term - Tuesday 22nd April
- Bank Holiday - Monday 5th May
- GCSE exams commence - Thursday 8th May

The Durrington Journey



KAPP awards

Our system of KAPP rewards and recognition ensures we are able to award students for going beyond their best in a variety of ways. You can nominate your child on the link [here](#).

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](#)

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride



*Going beyond our best through
Kindness, Aspiration,
Perseverance and Pride*



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