

# DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

**2 May 2025 edition**

We're very grateful that so many of our staff gave students the opportunity to take part in a range of foreign trips over the Easter break. From a whirlwind tour of the geography of Iceland to the ski trip in Austria, from the cultural experience of Paris to the history trip to Berlin, there was much on offer.

With the formal GCSE written exams starting in under two weeks we want to say a big well done to each and every one of our year 11s who have already worked so hard on their revision, and secondly remind them that every single bit of revision during the exam period will make a difference.

Just before the Easter break we were sad to say goodbye to our 2024-25 Senior Student Leadership Team. They have been a fantastic group of young people to work with this year and truly added to the strengthening of our school community. In the next newsletter you will meet their replacements, our newly elected SSLT and hear more from them about their plans for the exciting year ahead.

*Shaun Allison &  
Chris Woodcock  
Co-Headteachers*



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# International Trips

## Skiing

Forty-four year 9 students had a superb week in the Austrian mountains on the DHS school ski trip. Fun packed days of skiing, along with various evening entertainment including bowling, sledging and karaoke, led to a week that has hopefully given them memories that will last a lifetime!

[Full story here](#)



## Paris

Forty-five students in years 10 and 11 went on a four-day trip to Paris where they enjoyed exploring the areas around Musée Rodin, Montmartre and Montparnasse. They also went on a Bateaux Mouches river cruise and took in the sights of the French capital. Lasting memories will be of visiting the illuminated Louvre building and watching the dazzling lights displayed on the Eiffel Tower. Their final day was spent at Disneyland Paris, where the students got to try the rides, meet the Disney characters, and watch the spectacular fireworks display.

[Full story here](#)



*Extra-curricular enrichment*

# Austria, Iceland, Paris & Berlin

## Iceland

The geography department took thirty-eight students in years 10 and 11 to Iceland during the Easter break. Iceland is one of the most geographically fascinating countries in the world with an abundance of physical geological features which were of fascination to our students. It is a land of active volcanoes, cascading waterfalls, erupting geysers, awe inspiring glaciers and geothermal features, wrapped up in a centuries-old uniquely Nordic culture. Iceland is unrivalled for multi-disciplinary geographical learning anywhere on Earth and our students had a trip of a lifetime.



[Full story here](#)

## Berlin

Forty of our KS4 students travelled to Berlin over the East holidays and took part in a trip of a lifetime exploring the sites of the city whilst deepening their knowledge and understanding of Germany and Cold War topics covered in their History GCSE. During their three-night stay they visited the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and took a walking tour on WW2 and the Cold War. They also visited the Allied Museum, as well as the Stasi Prison and the Berlin Wall Memorial. Before their departure on their final day, they also got to visit The Wall Museum, the East Side Gallery and the Reichstag building before heading for the airport and returning to the UK.



[Full story here](#)

*The Durrington Journey*



# Senior Student Leadership Team 2024 / 2025



On behalf of the SSLT and the entire year 11 cohort, we want to say a huge thank you for all the work done by staff members over the course of this year. You have thrown yourself into every SSLT initiative, offering your time and care with enthusiasm and gusto. Your support through these challenges has been truly amazing and we couldn't be more thankful: it wouldn't have been possible without you! We especially want to thank the efforts of Mr Frost for everything he has done for us - SSLT simply wouldn't be the same without you. We're also incredibly grateful to have the guidance of Mr Woodcock and Mr Allison to help bring our ideas to life, Mr Crane and Mrs Temple on behalf of year 11, on account of their continued dedication and support for pushing us to go beyond our best. We are so grateful for this opportunity and are incredibly excited to see what the next year of SSLT have in store.

The Senior Student Leadership Team

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# Headteachers Special Recognition Award

Congratulations to Ethan in year 7 who recently represented England at the HaBaWaBa Drenched Mini Water Polo tournament held in Spain.

Ethan travelled with the England representatives to Tarragona, near Barcelona, during April and together they competed in six matches taking on opponents from around the world including Portugal, Spain, Malta, France, Andorra and Egypt. The England team played superbly yet were sadly defeated during the three group stages by teams who went on to win first, second and third place.

Prior to the tournament, Ethan and his team members from Drenched Mini Water Polo, took part in fundraising events to help raise the funds required to get them all to the competition. Starting in November they took on the challenge to swim or walk 995 miles, the distance from their base at Windlesham House to Barcelona. In total they swam an incredible 1375.68km! They also took part in a family walk covering 5 miles across the South Downs, and by working as a team, with a group ethos stemming from the HaBaWaBa organisers, they persevered and made sure they all finished together as one team.

Mr Woodcock, Headteacher, said:  
“It's always fantastic to hear about our students achieving success outside of school. In chatting with Ethan it was clear to see that he has worked really hard to get to the standard he is currently performing at, it was also fantastic to hear that he has the goal of taking part in the Olympics when he is older.”



*#TeamDurrington*



# Term dates

## Summer 2025

### 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

- Bank Holiday - Monday 5th May
- GCSE exams commence - Thursday 8th May
- Half term - Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

## Clubs @ DHS

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



*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](#)

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



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