

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

20 June 2025 edition

As we move towards the end of another successful school year, we are already thinking about and planning for next year. One of our key priorities will be celebrating and developing the vital role that reading for pleasure plays in your child's development—both academically and personally. At school, we see time and again how regular reading builds not just vocabulary and comprehension, but also empathy, imagination, and confidence.

Reading for pleasure is distinct from reading for homework or study. It's about finding joy in stories, ideas, and characters. When students read for enjoyment, they're more likely to achieve higher grades across all subjects. But beyond that, they gain a lifelong habit that supports mental wellbeing, focus, and creativity.

You, as parents and carers, are key partners in nurturing this habit. Encouraging your child to read at home—even just 15 minutes a day—can make a huge difference. Talk to them about what they're reading, visit the local library together, or share your own

favourite books. Creating a relaxed reading space at home and limiting screen time before bed can also help make reading a natural part of their routine.

We're proud of how our brilliant LRA staff, teachers and teaching assistants promote reading for pleasure, both in and out of lessons. But the greatest impact comes when home and school work together.

Let's continue to inspire our young people to discover the power and pleasure of reading—not as a task, but as a gift. We'll be sharing more of our plans on this, with you in the new school year.

As always, huge thanks for all your ongoing support. We hope you get the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine over the coming weeks.

Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

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Careers Week 2025

Inspiring futures at Durrington

From 9th to 12th June, Durrington High School hosted an inspiring Careers Week, packed with opportunities for students to explore future pathways and discover a wide range of industries. Each morning began with a briefing from Mr Henry, highlighting the day's visitors and sparking discussion on careers abroad and how jobs have evolved. Quizzes and activity sheets helped get everyone involved. Lunchtimes brought a vibrant mix of industry guests. Students could chat, take part in activities, and gather useful insights. Year 7s collected stamps in their careers passports, with prizes for the top tutor group.



Visitors offered something for all interests - from house valuations with Bacon and Co to bug handling with Brinsbury College and bridge building with HOP Consulting. Worthing College's sports challenges and a farming stand with a real tractor were student favourites. Industry Spotlight talks expanded this year with sessions from Rolls Royce, HOP Consulting, Gatwick Airport, and local colleges. Fiona from Grace Dance gave an inspiring talk on starting your own business. New this year was early access for supported students and over 65 classroom visits where professionals gave mini-talks and answered questions.



Mr Henry reflected:

"It was a fantastic week. We reached more students than ever and created a real buzz. Careers learning should be about fun and discovery - and our students did brilliantly. Huge thanks to all our visitors."



What our guests had to say:

“A very rewarding experience, given the opportunity to engage and influence young lives. The young people at Durrington High are interested in what we had to say, offered insight that we can take back to the business and are genuinely interested in the community they live in and contribute too. Thank you for having us.”
Southern Water.

“This is an amazing opportunity to allow DHS students the chance to experience a range of opportunities that are ahead of them for their future careers. We loved presenting and talking to students with regards to Worthing College Sport in terms of our pathway and also advice on being a success in the sports industry. We would love to be back next year!”
Worthing College Sports Department



“The event was well organised and utilised by all year groups. All the young people were extremely polite, friendly and inquisitive - credit to the school.” *Southern Water.*

“Coming to DHS to speak to a whole year group felt daunting, but the whole thing was organised so well and there was a very high expectation of students listening respectfully, so we as speakers felt really appreciated. So many students came to chat at the lunchtime stands and asked lots of questions and engaged in conversations about their ambitions for the future.” *Grace Dance.*

Our students commented: “It was fun to look around and explore the different careers whilst also getting input from the person who does it.” “It helped me figure out the career I want to do and I got lots of information about it.”



Learning Resource Area

Our Learning Resource Area has over 15,000 books in a range of genres for all our age groups, as well as reference books, study guides, magazines and newspapers. It is a large, peaceful and relaxing educational and social area which opens at 8am each morning for students to visit prior to period 1. Students can also visit during break and lunchtimes, as well as after school until 4pm, where they can use the computers, choose a board game to play with friends, catch up on homework, or select a new book to read. Everyone is welcome.



Our LRA staff team continue to build upon our close partnership with West Sussex Libraries. Recently we were delighted to host George Barber, Families & Wellbeing Librarian, who came in to speak to the students about the West Sussex Summer Reading Challenge, and the volunteering opportunities this brings. **You can read the full story [here](#).**

Learning Resource Area

LRA quote of the week designed by Diana Yanush in year 9



Last week we said a sad farewell to our year 11 librarians who have been fantastic in helping out in so many ways during their time at Durrington High. Mrs Dacosta, LRA Manager, organised a farewell gathering with the LRA student team, and the year 11s were rewarded with thank you gifts, and then had the opportunity to make their own leaving speeches, which were truly heart-warming.

Thank you to Matilda, Joe, Izzie and Charlie for all your help, you have been brilliant and will be missed. Remember ... keep in touch!



LRA Appeal

We would be extremely grateful for donations of magazines, games and puzzles for our students to enjoy. If you have anything suitable you are willing to donate you can drop it into reception during school hours. Thank you!

LRA word of the week ... Discrimination



Book World Magazine

Mrs Dacosta, our LRA Manager, gave an interview to Book World Magazine and is the very first feature in their new Behind the Stacks series.

Book World Magazine said: "We honestly couldn't have kicked it off with anyone better. Mrs Dacosta is known as the book matchmaker and she's changing the way students think about reading, one perfect recommendation at a time. From 'Blind Date with a Book' to reading through recipes, from graphic novels to audiobooks, Mrs Dacosta's library isn't just a room it's a refuge. A launchpad. A place where every kind of reader finds their way in. Durrington High School, your librarian is something special."

Students and staff will be able to read the full interview in Book World Magazine Issue 5 which is available in the LRA now!



Going beyond our best

Success on the sports field

The Year 7 athletics teams competed at the district Super 6 event at Angmering last week.

Both teams competed in a variety of track and field events, with the girls team finishing in 1st place and will now represent the Southern Area at the county competition in a couple of weeks!

Amazing work girls 🏆



Durrington Transition

It has been an absolute pleasure to meet all the brilliant year 5 and 6 students who have taken part in our taster sessions. We are looking forward to meeting more of you, along with your parents, at our open mornings next month.

Thank you to all our super subject ambassadors for making everyone feel welcome.



#ProudofDHS



Pride of Durrington 2025



This year's Pride of Durrington awards are quickly approaching and we want your help with some of our special award categories. If you know of a student that you believe should be nominated for one of awards below, please complete the form and in no more than 150 words tell us why.

Charity fundraiser of the year. Do you know of a student that has taken part in raising money for charity this year? If so, how much did they raise and for which charities?

Volunteer of the year. Do you know of a Durrington student that has been involved in volunteering over the course of this academic year? How have they made a difference? Does the charity hold a special place in your family?

Unsung hero of the year. Is there a DHS student that you know of that deserves to be singled out for praise? Do you know of a student that does not seek praise but absolutely deserves public recognition? Let us know.

Peer support award. Students supporting students is what life is all about at DHS. Would you like to nominate any student for this award?

[Make your nomination here](#)

We can't wait to read your nominations and celebrate all the amazing students in our community.

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

Success outside the classroom

Congratulations to Vincent in year 7 who recently competed in the Fencing National Finals competition in Sheffield and finished an overall 9th in the country in his age group!

Vincent has been fencing for 2 ½ years with Worthing Fencing Club who train here at Durrington High School on Friday evenings. He has progressed in the sport and has taken part in many competitions. In January this year Vincent won the Sussex County U12 Epee, he then went on to finish in 2nd place in the South East Region Youth Championships and BYC Qualifier, which meant he qualified as 1 of 8 from the South who were invited to compete at the National competition in Sheffield.

Vincent said; “Fencing is an inspirational sport and I would go to any means to improve on.”



#ProudofDHS



S'koolFest 2025



On Tuesday 3rd June the best of Sussex schools' new music gathered to perform at the Pavilion Theatre S'koolFest 2025. The theatre was buzzing with energy as the bands lit up the stage, including our very own talented Durrington musicians.

Year 8 students Finn McKeown, Jamie Ward, Sophie Hopkins and Marcus Dixon rocked the stage with their performance of Locked Out of Heaven.

Louie Smith in year 11, Alfie Day in year 9, Harry Ward in year 10, Jamie Ward in year 8 and Jacob Grant in year 11 gave an impressive performance of Message in A Bottle.

Year 11 student Joseph Waterer, alongside ex-Durrington student and previous Head Girl Grace Bridger, performed together with their superb duet singing Take Me to Church.

#S'koolFest2025

Durrington Musicians

"S'koolFest was such an amazing experience and we all enjoyed it so much. It was such a great venue and we were so glad to be invited there." Sophie in year 8

"I found the experience interesting and fun. It was great to play on a stage at Worthing Pavilion." Jamie in year 8



"It was incredible. I loved it so much and had a great time." Marcus in year 8

"It was a great experience to play at the Pavilion with all the other amazing bands and in front of such a big and supportive audience." Finn in year 8

The event was sponsored by Music Northbrook and UniConnect, who said;
"The talent, passion, and pure joy on display from these young musicians was nothing short of incredible. A huge shout out to every student who performed – you're the future of music, and the future looks very bright!"

We are extremely proud of all our amazing musicians who took to the stage and put on incredible performances, you are all superstars!

#TeamDurrington



Modern Foreign Languages



45 year 8 and 9 students had the opportunity to travel to London to visit the prestigious BFI Southbank Cinema as part of our Modern Foreign Languages enrichment programme.

They enjoyed watching a variety of short French films, aimed at boosting their language skills, and took part in interactive activities specifically designed for KS3 MFL students.

Everyone really enjoyed the experience and had plenty to say about it on their return:

"I had a great time on the MFL trip as I got to improve my French skills whilst also having lots of fun! The venue was amazing and the films were really helpful and enjoyable." Olivia in year 8

"I loved the film at the end as the dog was so cute." Poppy in year 8

#DHSMFL

BFI Southbank Cinema trip



"It was wonderful! We got to watch some extremely cool short films in French, each one different than the other." Caden in year 8

"I found the trip very entertaining due to the French films we watched, I thought that it might be hard to understand but I understood most of it! It really improved my French." Jasmine in year 8

"The French trip was a great day out! Seeing all the sights in London, watching a movie in an amazing venue with your friends, as well as the coach ride there with our French teacher, Madame Farah, who definitely kept everyone entertained." James in year 8

Thank you to Miss Smith and the MFL team for organising this fantastic trip.

#Trips&Enrichment



Term dates

Summer term 2025

Tuesday 22 April – Tuesday 22 July
INSET Day - Friday 27 June

2025 / 2025

Term dates for the academic year 2025 / 2026 can be found [here](#).

Clubs

Our full clubs list for the Summer term 2025 can be found [here](#).



Diary Dates

- DHS Art Show - Tuesday 24th June
- Year 11 leavers assembly and Summer Ball - Wednesday 25th June
- INSET day - Friday 27th June
- Pride of Durrington Awards - Thursday 10th July
- Sports day - Friday 11th July

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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