

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

3 October 2025 edition

Time seems to have flown by since the start of term as we head into October. Our new Year 7 students have made an excellent beginning, quickly adapting to the routines of secondary school and already showing great enthusiasm for learning, getting involved in clubs and making new friendships. Their energy and kindness have been a real credit to them and you all. We've been delighted too, to see how well our year 10 and 11 have stepped up to the challenge of their GCSE studies.

In the last week we have also launched our school-wide reading

strategy; we know that being a fluent reader sits at the heart of academic success and we are committed to ensuring all students have the skills, confidence and enjoyment needed to thrive. You will see more opportunities and initiatives around reading in the weeks ahead.

Please also look out for our new "pride points" email. These are similar to house points and recognise students for the quality of their effort, work and homework too.

Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

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Team Durrington

Our year 7s are now 4 weeks into their Durrington journey and it is great to see them take the opportunities on offer and enjoy the wide ranging facilities. So many of them have become involved in clubs, and even represented the school on the sports field! Their class teachers speak of them with pride, and you can read their comments, along with student comments below. Year 7 you are brilliant!



“As their house lead, I have been incredibly proud of how the year 7s have settled in. They have got to grips with their classes incredibly quickly and are looking super smart in their new uniform. I have had multiple members of staff comment on their fantastic behaviour and confidence to ask for help. Well done Year 7! “ Miss Vaughan



“I love everything about Durrington High School as it is so much fun.” Tegan in year 7

“Year 7 have made a brilliant start within PE, incredible effort in every lesson and some outstanding performances in both Gymnastics and Basketball.” Mr Poole



“I love art because it gives me a chance to be creative.” Tess in year 7

Year 7

with Year 7

"I love Durrington High School, it's an enjoyable school that gives you lots of opportunities." Kian in year 7

"I've been blown away at how happy, smiley and polite year 7 have been. What a bunch of superstars and with such a bright future ahead of them!" Mr Woodcock

"My favourite lesson is History because the teachers are fun and they make it very interesting." Evelyn in year 7

Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start in Geography since the beginning of September. They have shown **kindness** in working together, high **aspirations** in their learning, and great **perseverance** when tackling new challenges. We are full of **pride** in the effort and enthusiasm they bring to every lesson." Mr Atkins

"The teachers are really nice and I am really enjoying computing." Dexter in year 7

"My two year 7 groups are a joy to teach, they love being in our computer science labs and so many have joined one of our clubs already." Miss Taylor



Team Durrington



Team Durrington

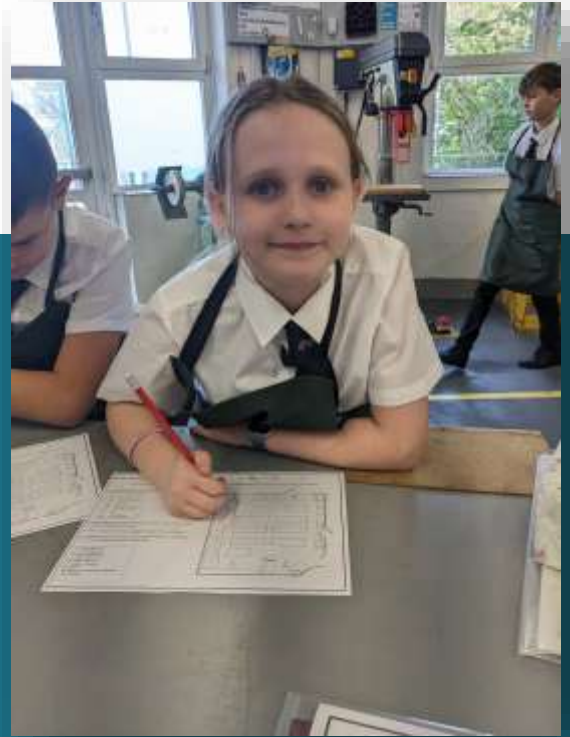
"I like the facilities and the school in general and my favourite subject is PE because I really like sport." Mitchell in year 7

"It has been great to see Y7 approaching their French and Spanish lessons with such enthusiasm and willingness to learn. They are building on what they have learnt at primary school and it is amazing what progress they have made in both languages. They are already able to have short conversations with their peers even if it is a new language for them." Mrs Cooper

"My favourite subject is computing, I love the teacher and learning about how to keep my accounts and emails safe." Lily in year 7

"Our year 7 cohort have settled very well into maths. They are already showing more independence in their work, pushing themselves to keep going with challenging questions. They also have the confidence to try something out, not worrying about if they make a mistake, just focusing on putting in the effort. Well done year 7!" Ms Paver

"I like computing because you can do interesting things." Amber in year 7



The Durrington Journey

with Year 7



“My form 7ALu have settled in really well - I am so proud of them. So many of them came to our Open Evening and helped out in the art department as they are keen to talk to Year 6s about how great Durrington is and how not to be worried about the size of the building. They are also smashing it in the DHS reading challenge and are top of Year 7.”

Ms Lupini

“I have made new friends and my favourite subject is PE as I love playing sports.” Ella in year 7

“Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start in Drama and Music, eagerly learning new skills and building friendships along the way. Their energy in lessons and enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities highlight their dedication and the exciting beginning they’ve made to life at our school.” Mrs Isham



“The best thing about Durrington is the clubs, the teachers, the opportunities and just the atmosphere and the school in total.”

Florence in year 7

Fantastic, well done year 7, we can’t wait to see what you achieve on your Durrington journey!



Going beyond our best



Senior Student Leadership Team

The Durrington High School Senior Student Leadership Team are delighted to launch their new charity drive 'Share a story'. The idea is that students and staff bring in old books suitable for children aged between 4 and 12 which will be donated to local charities.

This event will take place on 13th October and we hope as many of you will be able to get involved in this charity event.

Please note: donations should not be brought into school before this date.



Share a story

**Durrington High School.
Charity event 2025.**



If you have old books at home that are no longer being used, why not let somebody else enjoy them?

This year we want to give back to other schools and charities by reusing our books.



Going beyond our best

Charity KAPP event

What is it all about?

We are asking for you to bring in your unused books to be reused by other children in different schools and charities.

Our aim is:

- To spread and support our school's idea of, "getting Durrington reading", but now to "get everyone reading".
- To promote reading, as it is extremely important in helping our minds grow.
- To help the community and give to those less fortunate.

Over the course of the event, there will be a competition between forms in houses on who can collect the most books in height by stacking up all the books your form has collected to see who can make the tallest tower of books.

The form with the tallest tower will win a prize.

Individuals who bring in the most books will also be recognised and given a prize.



Our criteria:

- The books need to be in decent condition (not falling apart or missing pages)
- Books should be suitable for ages between 4-12
- All books are brought in between the 13th and 24th of October.

Please try and bring in as many books as you can to help the community.

Good luck!

Proud of DHS



Year 10 GCSE support

Our **Year 10 GCSE Support Event** takes place on:
Thursday 9th October 2024, 5.30–6.30pm

The event is designed to equip you with the knowledge and strategies to best support your child and keep them on track over the next two years.

The evening will include presentations on:

- The three core subjects (English, Maths, and Science)
- The key methods of assessment your child will undertake throughout their courses
- Strategies for effective learning, along with practical suggestions on how you can support your child at home

To reserve a place at this event please use the link [here](#).



Year 11 revision classes

We are pleased to confirm that our full Year 11 revision programme is now underway.

Sessions will be held in the morning from 8-8:30am (Period 0) and afternoon from 3:15-4:15pm (Period 7) and are designed to give your child the very best chance of success in their upcoming examinations.

Students began planning their attendance to sessions last week, please speak to your child about which sessions they will be attending and how doing so will help to accelerate their progress.

We know that with the support and encouragement both at home and in school, our Year 11s can achieve truly brilliant results.

Day	Period 0. 8-8:30am	Period 7. 3:15-4:15pm
Monday	Subject: Biology (Week A only) Staff: Mr Finch Room: L1	Week A • Computer Science
	Subject: Biology for all (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Wardell Room: G165	Week B • Geography • PE • French/Spanish • Citizenship • Drama
	Subject: Chemistry for all (Week A + B) Staff: Dr Kyle Room: L3	
Tuesday	Subject: Geog (Week A only) Staff: Miss Townsend (Paper 1) & Mrs Steele & Mr Richards Room: F36H & F29H & F28H	Week A • Maths
	Subject: DT Theory (Week A only) Staff: Miss Gerlings Room: G07T	Week B • Maths
	Subject: Physics (Trilogy) (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Finch Room: L1	
	Subject: Biology for all (Week A only) Staff: Mr Wardell Room: G165 Week B	
	Subject: DT - NEA (coursework) (Week B only) Staff: Miss Wade Room: G08T	
Wednesday	Subject: Science (Week A + B) Staff: Mrs Chan Room: G12s	Week A • Science
	Subject: DT - NEA (coursework) (Week B only) Staff: Miss Gerlings Room: G07T	Week B • DT • History • Business • Music
Thursday	Subject: Textiles (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Bloomer Room: F03T	Week A • English
	Subject: PE (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Pickford Room: G19	Week B • English
Friday	Subject: Chemistry for all (Week A + B) Staff: Mrs Temple Room: G02	Week A • Art • Graphic • Photography • Textiles • Dance
	Subject: Chemistry for all (Week A + B) Staff: Dr Kyle Room: L3	Week B • Science



Year 11 careers event & Young Geographer of the Year competition

Step into your future - Year 11 Careers Evening



Thank you to our fantastic careers team for putting on a superb event that inspired our year 11s with their future choices.

We would also like to thank the exhibitors who came along to talk to the year 11s about the opportunities available to them, including 8 colleges, 3 sixth forms, and 10 training providers and employers.

The evening was a great success and it was lovely to receive so many positive comments from parents, carers and our brilliant year 11s!

Young Geographer of the Year competition

We are thrilled to share an unmissable opportunity for all Durrington High School students: the Young Geographer of the Year Competition!

This exciting challenge gives our students the chance to showcase their imagination, curiosity, and passion for exploring the world we live in. Even better, it runs in partnership with the prestigious Royal Geographical Society's national competition.

Full details [here](#).



Success beyond the classroom

Congratulations to Ethan in year 8 who recently travelled to Croydon to take part in trials for the National Water Polo Talent Centre — a rigorous 2.5-hour session in the pool, where he was assessed on both his swimming and water polo skills.

Last week Ethan and his family were delighted to hear that he has been selected for the programme! Out of approximately 40 young athletes who took part in the trial, only 10 were offered places — so this is a truly remarkable achievement.

The National Water Polo Talent Centre is a prestigious Swim England initiative designed to provide elite coaching and development for promising young players. It serves as a key pathway to elevate the performance of England and Great Britain's national water polo teams, with the ultimate goal of preparing athletes to compete — and thrive — on the international stage.

To be accepted into this four-year national training programme is an incredible achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of you Ethan!



We are extremely proud of our students achievements outside of school, and delighted to share their successes. Please do let us know if your son or daughter has gone beyond their best!



Term dates

Autumn term 2025

Wednesday 3rd September to Friday 9th December

Half term

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October

INSET days

Wednesday 3rd September, Thursday 4th September
& Friday 21st November

Clubs

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



Diary Dates

- Year 10 GCSE support evening - Thursday 9th October
- Year 11 celebration evening - Thursday 16th October
- Musical in a weekend - Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October
- Year 11 mock support evening - Thursday 23rd October
- Half term - Monday 27th to Friday 31st October

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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