

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

7 November 2025 edition

We wanted to say a huge well done to our Senior Student Leadership Team and a big thanks to every single one of you who supported the Share a Story campaign before half term. Over 5000 books were donated which shows phenomenal generosity and such kindness. We know that those receiving books (in both local primary schools and further afield) will really benefit.

In other news our Scholars Academy has also been in full swing with the various year groups engaging in sessions on offer. It was particularly lovely to visit the year 8 group as they began to explore the theme of charity and it's role in society.

Our fabulous performing arts team and a huge cohort of students took part in an unforgettable 24-hour musical production the weekend before half term. It was a

brilliant showcase of so many individual's talent; from first rehearsal to final curtain, their energy and collaboration were remarkable.

And finally, many of our year 7 had the opportunity to visit Arundel Castle on one of the multiple trips kindly organised by the History department. The visits offered a perfect mix of history, exploration and having the chance to meet new people in the year group. The visit days were action packed and the students came back with huge smiles on their faces.

Thank you to all staff, students and families for the support that make all of the above activities and moments possible. It is great to see our school community continuing to go from strength to strength.

Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

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KAPP Charity Challenge

This term, Durrington students have once again demonstrated their kindness and community spirit through our 'Share a Story' initiative which forms part of our wider Get Durrington Reading campaign.

The project, which has been led by our Senior Student Leadership Team, encouraged students across all year groups to donate their much-loved children's books to help local primary schools and charities. The goal was to share the joy of reading with young people aged 4–12 who may not have books of their own. We asked students to bring these in and make towers in their form groups, with a competition for who could build the tallest tower!

The response from our school community has been incredible, with some form groups accumulating towers almost as tall as the ceiling!



#Kindness #Aspiration #Perseverance #Pride

Share a story



Thanks to the generosity of students, staff, and families, we have collected a total of 5190 books! From classic picture books to exciting chapter books, these donations will now be passed on to local schools and community organisations, where they will inspire new readers for years to come and gift the joy of reading to those who may not otherwise have access to books.

Our Share a Story project has also been a brilliant opportunity for students to embody our school values of KAPP (Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance, and Pride). Students have shown kindness through their selfless donations, aspiration by supporting others to learn, perseverance by helping to promote the challenge, collect and deliver the books, and pride in being part of a school that makes a difference in our community.



[Find out more here.](#)

Team Durrington



Scholars Academy



The Durrington Scholars (year 7 and 8) and Oxford Scholars (year 9 and 10) started their programme of super-curricular events a week prior to half term.

Year 7 started the first of two sessions on creative writing where they took eating a sweet from a pleasant moment to a richly detailed piece of writing regarding each of their senses. Year 8 began their journey of planning and launching a charity campaign closely linked to their chosen school subject.

Year 9 were taken on a trip through time to experience Viking culture and address some of the common misconceptions as well as writing some Viking poetry, and year 10 were studying the psychology behind the justice system by trying to answer questions such as “should all crimes be punished?” and “are all guilty confessions reliable?”

Success outside the classroom



Congratulations to Mason in year 7 who recently took part in the Matt Fiddes Martial Arts International Championships. Over 2000 people attended on the day, with children and adults competing from all over the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

In the competition he took part in 3 categories and earned a Bronze Medal in Hand Drills and a Gold Medal in - 10 Kick Combo. Mason has done fantastically well, and is hoping to be invited to the 2027 Championships in Australia!

Mason has been studying Mixed Martial Arts since June 2024 and will be grading for his Brown Belt. Mason attends his MMA classes weekly, and is also supporting his instructor with classes in the hope of progressing to a Junior Instructor Role in the near future.

Well done Mason, an incredible achievement.

Proud of DHS



24-hour musical production



Once again students at Durrington excelled, managing to put together a musical production in just one weekend. All the students involved were a credit to the school and the performing arts department throwing themselves into the challenge and making friends and memories along the way.

They worked really hard as a team with students from KS4 taking responsibility and leading others in choreography. A special thank you to ex-students Beth Evans, Isabel Cole, Ambrose McDohnagh and Finley Lillywhite who gave up their weekend to support the department with all aspects including creating programmes, sorting costume and choreographing dance numbers. A fantastic weekend!

"I loved every second of the 24-hour musical. It really made me feel like I'm fitting right in at Durrington and even though it was very long and tiring I didn't want to leave!" Elijah in year 7

[Find out more here.](#)

DHS Performing Arts



Year 7 History trip

Year 7 visited Arundel Castle as part of their history studies. The students were greeted by a tour guide who led them around the castle grounds and historic rooms. They learned about the castle's Norman origins, its development over the centuries, and the important role it played in English history.

The tour guide shared stories about the families who lived in the castle and pointed out features such as the Great Hall, the Keep, the oubliette and the beautiful gardens. Students asked thoughtful questions and showed great enthusiasm throughout the visit. The highlight for many was climbing the stone steps up to the Keep, where they enjoyed spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

The trip was both enjoyable and educational, helping students deepen their understanding of medieval life and castle architecture. Overall, it was a successful day that brought history to life outside the classroom.

[Find out more here.](#)

The Durrington Journey



Term dates

Autumn term 2025

Wednesday 3rd September to Friday 19th 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

- BBC Bitesize careers day - Friday 7th November
- Battle of the bands –Thursday 13h November
- INSET day - Friday 21st November
- Year 8 Consultation evening - Thursday 4th December

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*



Durrington High School
The Boulevard
Worthing
West Sussex
BN13 1JX

01903 244957
admin@durring.com
durringtonhighschool.co.uk