

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

4th December 2025 edition

As the term draws to a close, our students have been enjoying some great trips. The Computer Science Department took a group of Y9 students to the TeenTech Festival at the Amex Stadium. Our students worked in teams to design a future innovation app to tackle a real-world problem, and we were delighted to hear that they won the award for Best Design! Alongside this, another group of students travelled to Port Lympne Safari Park in Kent, where they deepened their understanding of the world's ecosystems and how they interact. Trips like these are really important to us, as they help to supplement the brilliant learning that happens in our classrooms.

Over the next few weeks, students will be busy working on our annual Christmas Hamper and Stockings Appeal. Each Tutor Group will be given a box to fill and decorate. These boxes will then be distributed to local charities that rely on donations—such as long-life food products and personal hygiene items. This annual act of kindness and generosity by our students is always greatly appreciated by these charities.

As you will be aware, this term we have focused on encouraging our students to read more—both in and out of school. There is a huge amount of strong evidence suggesting that young people with good reading habits achieve better academically and have a stronger sense of general well-being. We have been monitoring this closely, and so far, 89% of Y7–9 students have read at least one book this term. This amounts to 2,091 books and 588,151 pages read—a fantastic achievement. However, we want to make this even better and ensure that all of our students read widely. With this in mind, please consider giving a book as a present during the festive season—books make an ideal stocking filler!

As always, thank you so much for your support. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Concert on 11th December and the Carol Service at St Andrew's Church on Monday 15th December.

Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

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Port Lympne Safari Park



Seventy year 9 students travelled to Port Lympne Safari Park in Kent on a recent geography trip. It was a valuable opportunity for them to deepen their understanding and experience of the world's ecosystems, including the processes and relationships within them. The trip linked directly to their current classroom learning, as well as the Living World unit studied at GCSE, giving students an early insight into the content should they choose it as an option.



#DHSTrips

TeenTech Festival 2025



The Computer Science department took ten year 9 students to the TeenTech Festival 2025 at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton.

The day was led by Maggie Philbin OBE, who has worked in radio and TV for over 30 years, parents might remember her from 'Tomorrows World'.

The students met and talked to large technology companies and industry leaders, and visited the Challenge Zone where they competed in simulated tasks that demonstrate real world work by major science and technology companies.

[Read the full story here.](#)



#DHSEnrichment



Christmas Hampers & Stockings

In true Durrington tradition we are once again launching our Christmas Hampers and Stockings appeal.

This year the Christmas Hampers will be known as Jingle Boxes, and these will benefit local charities who are reliant on donations of necessities such as long life food products and personal hygiene products.

Each tutor group will be given a box to fill, and there will be prizes for the best decorated Jingle Box, as well as the most content.

We are requesting donations for the Jingle Boxes over the coming weeks, with the official deadline on Thursday 18th December, the day before the end of term.



Going beyond our best

KAPP Charity Event



In addition to the Jingle Boxes we are also collecting for children's Santa stockings. We hope to fill these with donations of children's books, toys, games, colouring pens and pencils. These will then be given to children in our local community who are less fortunate.

Again, each tutor group will be given a stocking to decorate, and we can't wait to see the different Christmas themes and ideas they come up with.

We hope you will be able to start collecting and donating to this great cause and help us to sprinkle some extra joy this Christmas.



Proud of DHS



Dare to Dream

We were pleased to welcome Jack Hayes from More Radio back to Durrington to deliver a brilliant Year 10 assembly on kindness, confidence and dreaming big. His message built on the work students began in Year 9, and the year group engaged really well.



This also marks the start of the next phase of Dare to Dream, with volunteers from Southern Water now working as mentors for selected Year 10 students over the coming term. This forms an important part of our wider personal development and careers programme, and we are grateful to everyone involved for supporting our young people.

Last week we also welcomed Adam Virgo from the Love Local Jobs Foundation, who presented to Year 8 on the themes of self belief, resilience and dreaming big. Adam spoke about his journey to becoming a professional footballer for clubs including Brighton and Celtic, and how his resilience after a career ending injury at 29 led him into new areas of the game such as commentating and coaching.



[Read the full story here.](#)

The Durrington Journey

DHS Reading Ambassadors



Congratulations to our newly appointed Reading Ambassadors Amber B, James D, Mrinal S, Jamie B, Aisha M, Lewis A, Poppy L, Lewis C, Liv M and Poppy B.

Our Reading Ambassadors will play an important role in promoting reading at Durrington, and they are already working on their top tips to encourage other students to pick up a book or a magazine.

They will also be working on a student voice survey, leading talks at book club and assemblies, helping with displays around the school, encouraging participation in competitions, and playing a lead role in the forthcoming Amazing Book Awards!

Get Durrington Reading



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

- Christmas Concert - Thursday 11th December
- Carol Service at St Andrew's Church - Monday 15th December
- Last day of term - Friday 19th December
- First day of Spring term - Monday 5th January

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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Kindness, Aspiration,
Perseverance and Pride*



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