

DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

30th January 2026 edition

Another very busy fortnight at Durrington, with a wide range of trips, events and competitions taking place. The second Battle of the Bands heat once again showed what talented and hardworking students we have across the school. There were some stellar performances from all those who took part in Heat Two, and we are very much looking forward to what promises to be a hotly contested final in April.

We've also had a really important couple of weeks with our Year 11s as we look to kick-start their preparation for the summer GCSE examinations. Mr Atkins delivered a superb mock results assembly, providing students with an excellent structure and a huge

amount of support to help them begin their journey towards success this summer. A key message that resonated with many was:

“Champions do not become champions when they win the event, but in the hours, weeks, months and years they spend preparing for it.”

Finally, it was great to see our brilliant Year 7 boys' football team progress to the last 16 of the National Cup. A home fixture awaits in the next round which take places later this afternoon — we know you can do it!

Shaun Allison &
Chris Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

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Battle of the Bands Heat 2

Heat 2 of Battle of the Bands delivered an exciting evening of live music, as three talented bands took to the stage to compete for a coveted place in the Final this April.

With a last-minute withdrawal from one band, only a single automatic spot in the Final was available on the night. This also means that a *Wildcard* act will be selected from those that did not progress through the Heats, keeping the competition wide open.

Opening the evening were **Stupidity**, who kicked off their set with *Fluorescent Adolescent* and maintained a strong rock groove throughout. Their confident song choices stood out, earning particular praise from Mr Alison, especially their performance of *Where Is My Mind* by Pixies, his favourite band.

Next up were **4/4 Bar**, who brought pop classics to life with energetic performances of *Blame It On The Boogie* and *Locked Out Of Heaven*. One of the youngest bands in the competition, 4/4 Bar impressed the judges with their confidence and style. A special mention goes to Sophie Hopkins, who fronted the band with stunning vocals while simultaneously playing piano.



[#DHSmusic](#)

Performing Arts



Closing the night were **Slither**, whose technical brilliance and polished performance set them apart. From intricate guitar solos and driving drum beats to grooving basslines and commanding vocals, their set showcased a high level of musicianship. Performing *Sweet Child O' Mine*, *Welcome to the Jungle*, and *You Give Love a Bad Name*, Slither demonstrated that every element of their performance had been carefully crafted, from lighting and setlist order to stage presence and audience engagement.



While all three bands delivered outstanding performances, it was **Slither** who secured the automatic place in the Final.

Further details about the Final will be announced soon, and will include our *Wildcard* act **Amplified!**

Keep an eye out for the Final posters, this is one night of live music you definitely won't want to miss!

#DHSenrichment



Durrington Partnership Programme

Durrington Partnership Programme for families

Spring and Summer term 2026



Our **Durrington Partnership Programme** creates opportunities for school and home to work together and celebrate the success of our students.

Events for the Spring and Summer terms include the Year 7 celebration and graduation to House Teams, Year 9 options evening, Year 10 support evening, KS3 English achievements awards, Library book awards, our prestigious Pride of Durrington awards, plus many more.

We know that our partnership will help all of our students to go beyond their best. We are stronger when working together.

Team Durrington

Year 11 mock results assembly



Our Year 11 students received their GCSE mock examination results last week during a special assembly — a moment to reflect, refocus, and rise to the final steps in their Durrington journey.

At Durrington, getting better never stops. Through focused revision, dedicated use of SAM Learning, and extra sessions before and after school, our students are showing real determination and belief in their potential. With just eleven school weeks until the GCSE examinations begin, we are immensely proud of their resilience, commitment, and drive to go beyond their best.

Period 0 and 7 revision timetable can be found [here](#).



Going beyond our best



Science Live

Forty-eight Year 10 students travelled to Brighton Dome to take part in this year's Science Live event. This inspiring experience gave students the opportunity to see and hear from five of Britain's leading scientists, including Professor Robert Winston, Professor Andrea Sella, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Professor Gilly Forrester and Dr Anna Ploszajski. Each speaker delivered engaging and thought-provoking talks, powerfully demonstrating how science offers real solutions to many of the world's most pressing challenges.

The day was both exciting and intellectually stimulating, with students actively engaging in discussions and raising questions directly with the scientists. On departure, each student received a comprehensive booklet containing detailed information about the speakers, further insights into their lectures, and valuable exam-success advice from an experienced chief examiner.

The visit proved to be highly inspirational, encouraging students to explore the world of science in greater depth. Many are now beginning to consider future educational pathways and careers within science-based fields, highlighting the lasting impact of this enriching experience.



Extra-curricular

DofE Hike



Last weekend, our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students successfully completed their second training day hike, covering an impressive 12km route around Steyning and Cissbury.

Preparation began on the INSET day, when students returned to school in the afternoon to carefully check their equipment, including their cookers, which they later used to prepare a warm pasta meal—an important part of building independence and expedition skills.

The hike took place on Saturday, with students setting off promptly at 9am, full of excitement after their original December hike had been postponed due to stormy weather. This time, conditions were much more favourable, with dry skies and a strong southerly breeze. Their route took them around and over Cissbury Ring, with a well-earned halfway break above Steyning Bowl, where students used their cookers to make hot drinks before continuing on to complete their planned journey.

The team are now looking ahead with enthusiasm to their practice expedition next month, where they will continue developing their teamwork, resilience, and outdoor skills.

Duke of Edinburgh Award



Term dates

Spring term 2026

Monday 5th January to Friday 27th March

Half term

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

INSET days

Thursday 22nd January, Friday 23rd January
and Monday 9th March

Clubs

Our full clubs list for the Spring term 2026 can be found [here](#).



Diary Dates

- Work Experience Week - Monday 2nd February
- Dance Live - Wednesday 4th February
- Year 9 Options Information Evening - Thursday 5th February
- Year 10 Careers Day - Friday 6th February
- Year 9 Consultation Evening - Thursday 12th February

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*



Durrington High School
The Boulevard
Worthing
West Sussex
BN13 1JX

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