

# DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

## 20th March 2026 edition

It has been another incredibly busy and enriching period at school, with students engaging in a huge range of activities beyond the classroom. Our recent STEM Week was a huge success, with pupils taking part in hands-on investigations, problem-solving challenges and inspiring workshops that brought science, technology, engineering and maths to life.

In Performing Arts, students have been rehearsing with real energy and commitment, showcasing their talents and delivering wonderful performances of Seussical Jr. It has been fantastic to see so many students involved and such creativity and confidence on display.

Trips have also played a key role in broadening students' experiences. History visits to the Imperial War Museum and the English visit to the Globe Theatre

provided powerful cultural and historical insights. Meanwhile, the Mini Plant trip, organised by the Design Technology team, once again gave students a valuable look into modern engineering and manufacturing in action.

Finally, our Duke of Edinburgh participants successfully completed their practice expedition. They demonstrated resilience, teamwork and determination throughout, and are now well prepared for their assessed expedition. We are proud of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all students across these opportunities and thankful to each and every member of staff who gave of their time to organise each trip.

Shaun Allison &  
Chris Woodcock  
Co-Headteachers

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# STEM Week

This week we celebrated **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths** during National STEM Week 2026. This year's theme, "**Curiosity – What is your question?**", encouraged students to explore scientific ideas through hands-on investigation and practical experiments.

Our Year 7 students explored four exciting challenges. They designed **wind turbines** to test which blades spin the fastest, investigated **parachute shapes** to see which falls the slowest, built **water filters** to explore how clean drinking water could be produced for space missions, and carried out a **crime scene investigation** to identify unknown substances using forensic techniques.

Year 8 students explored how **fossils** form and created their own trace fossils, investigated how **natural dyes** can be made from plants such as spinach and red cabbage, examined the science behind **why onions make us cry**, and tested how **geometry strengthens structures** by building paper bridges to see which design could hold the most weight.

Year 9 students investigated **floating and boat design**, tested which substances produce the most **gas when reacting with vinegar**, and explored how **astronaut foods compare nutritionally** with fresh foods by testing samples for sugar and vitamin C.



*Science Technology Engineering Maths*

# STEM Week



Students across KS3 were also treated to a lesson with special guest Dr Jon Wilden from the University of Sussex who spoke about spectroscopy. Students had the opportunity to try out this specialist equipment to see if they could identify the elements found in different substances with some spectacular results!

**Further photos here.**



90 selected students from year 7 & 8 took part in a STEM workshop for computing. There were 2 hourly workshops running through the school day for groups to learn from Alan O'Dongue from EXa foundation about all the careers and possibilities that can come from studying STEM based subjects with in school and beyond. Alan quickly got to know the students and used interactive QR codes for them to give feedback along the way. Some of the students were then set different problem solving tasks. The morning group for example were set the task of trying to break into a 4 digit padlock, another group played a game of role simulating a computer hacking attack.

*Team Durrington*



# Whole School Musical



I directed my first whole-school musical at Durrington in July 2003, having joined the school in 2002, and over the years I've been fortunate to experience so many highlights and memorable performances. However, *Seussical Jr.* truly stands out as one of my favourite shows to direct.

From the very beginning, the cast have brought an incredible sense of fun, energy and enthusiasm to every rehearsal. Their hard work and camaraderie have shone through on stage, creating something genuinely special. They have been a wonderfully supportive and kind group of students, embracing every challenge and wholeheartedly committing to even the most wonderfully wacky *Seussical* ideas.

While the talent on stage is undoubtedly exceptional, what fills me with the greatest pride is the way they have supported one another and the joy they have taken in sharing their work with audiences.

Mrs Isham - Director of Performing Arts

[Read the full story here.](#)

*Going beyond our best*

# Music events coming soon!



## Library Live Concerts

Our Library Live mini concert series will launch in the Summer term. Students will have the opportunity to perform an acoustic set at lunchtimes every Tuesday (week A) - in the style of NPRs Tiny Desk Concerts!

## Battle of the Bands Final

This exciting event showcases the incredible musical talent of our students, and we'd love for you to join us. The bands will be competing for the ultimate winning prize ... a day in a professional recording studio at the Playroom, Arundel.



*The Durrington Journey*

# Imperial War Museum



Sixty of our year 9 students recently visited the Imperial War Museum London to support their studies of the Holocaust and the Second World War. As part of the visit, students took part in a Holocaust Education workshop which proved to be both moving and thought-provoking.

*“The Imperial War Museum was just so insightful and I learnt so much! It’s a great trip for history lovers.”*

**[Read the full story here.](#)**

## Mini Plant trip

Forty-three year 10 Design & Technology students visited the iconic Mini Plant in Oxford where they experienced how thousands of parts come together to produce up to 800 Mini’s per day. This trip enriched the students’ understanding of production/assembly lines, quality control and assurance checks, robotics, automation and new technology, and overall was a fascinating educational experience.



**[Read the full story here.](#)**

*Extra-curricular*

# The Globe Theatre

Miss Lamper had the pleasure of leading 70 of our Year 9 students on a trip to London to see Romeo and Juliet performed at the world-famous Globe Theatre. This was to support students' study of the play in their English lessons and gave them the opportunity to experience the play in the home of Shakespeare.

"I loved seeing the play performed by professionals and I enjoyed witnessing Shakespeare's language being used. The Globe itself was also extremely interesting!"  
Eric in year 9



[Read the full story here.](#)

## DofE Practice Expedition

Three teams of Bronze DofE students completed their practice expedition across the South Downs this weekend with highlights included spotting 30+ hang gliders above Devil's Dyke, plus learning from a few off-route moments! Well done to all students for their teamwork, resilience and great effort!



[Read the full story here.](#)

*Enrichment opportunities*



## 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

- Year 11 GCSE Revision Support evening - Tuesday 24th March
- Last day of term - Friday 27th March - early finish at 12.35pm
- First day of the Summer term - Monday 13th April
- Term dates for the academic year 2026 / 2027 can be found [here](#)

*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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