

# DURRINGTON NEWSLETTER

Kindness | Aspiration | Perseverance | Pride

## 6th March 2026 edition

It has been another busy and inspiring few weeks at school, with many examples of our students embracing opportunity, challenge and community spirit. Our Year 8 ski trip to Austria was a tremendous success. Students not only developed their skiing skills on the slopes, but also demonstrated fantastic resilience, teamwork and independence throughout the week. Trips like this create lifelong memories, and I would like to thank the staff who gave up their time to make such a wonderful experience possible.

Back closer to home, our Year 11 students recently took part in the ever-popular mud run. While it was certainly muddy, cold and challenging, it was also great fun and a real demonstration of determination and camaraderie. Events like this remind us that character is built through shared experiences that push us slightly outside our comfort zone.

We are also incredibly proud of the generosity shown by our school community in support of West Sussex Mind. Our recent charity kilo sale saw an incredible **467kg of clothes donated**, which has an estimated resale value of **around £9,340**. This is a remarkable contribution and a powerful example of our students wanting to make a positive difference beyond the school gates.

There have also been some wonderful opportunities celebrating literature and creativity. Students from

Year 8 and Year 9 recently visited Shoreham Academy with Mrs Da-costa to meet the acclaimed author **Sarah Crossan**. It was a fantastic experience for our students to hear directly from a successful writer about the creative process and the power of storytelling. Continuing the literary theme, we are also delighted that several of our students have recently become **published poets**, an achievement that reflects both their creativity and the strength of the support they receive from our English department.

Finally, a huge congratulations to our **Year 7 football team**, who reached the **quarter-finals of the national cup**. Although they narrowly missed out on progressing further, finishing in the **last eight teams in the country** is a tremendous achievement and one the whole school community is extremely proud of. Their commitment, teamwork and sportsmanship have been outstanding throughout the competition.

As always, these moments reflect the wide range of opportunities our students embrace every week – academically, creatively, physically and socially – and we are incredibly proud of all they continue to achieve.

Shaun Allison &  
Chris Woodcock  
Co-Headteacher

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# Year 8 Ski Trip



A group of Year 8 students headed off to St Johann, Austria for an adventure of a lifetime during the half term break.

It was an exciting week filled with mountain challenges, plenty of laughter, and even a little bit of falling over in the snow! Surrounded by the amazing scenery, our students really got stuck into the mountain lifestyle and made the most of every single moment on the slopes.

*“This was my first time skiing. It was the best experience ever and I had so much fun. I made so many new friends too, and got to speak to lots of new people. I would go again so many times if I could.” Maelys*

*“For my first time skiing I felt like I learnt hundreds of exciting new skills and met loads of new people. I am so happy for the opportunity to go.” William*

These trips are about more than just learning to ski; they are about becoming more independent and making memories with friends that will last a lifetime. Well done to everyone for making the trip such a success and for representing our school so well.

[Read the full story here.](#)

*DHS Opportunities & Enrichment*

# Year 11 Mud Run



On Sunday we took an unforgettable school trip to a thrilling mud run course packed with action and adventure! Around 100 Year 11 students took part in the experience — and every single one of them completed the course. From mud and water obstacles to trail running, climbing walls, cargo nets, and tunnels, students tackled over 100 exciting natural and man-made challenges.

It was a true test of endurance, strength, teamwork, and mindset — and a whole lot of muddy fun! Many students overcame obstacles they never thought they would manage, pushing past self-doubt and supporting one another every step of the way. Everyone rose to the challenge, and overcame more than they thought they could. The permanent obstacle course offered crawling, climbing, wading through mud, and splashing through water — delivering the ultimate experience.

A fantastic day full of resilience, determination, teamwork, and unforgettable memories. The staff who joined the day are in no doubt that this group of young people can overcome anything in the next few months!

[More photos from the event here.](#)

*Team Durrington*



# The KAPP Quest

The KAPP Quest was set by our Senior Student Leadership team with the aim to encourage our school community to take part in different challenges over the half term that reflect our core values of Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride.

We are proud to say our students rose to the challenge and it has been a pleasure to read through their completed passports and discover their personal achievements. Well done to everyone who took part. You have represented our KAPP values brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of you all!



*"I really enjoyed doing my KAPP Quest because it made me much more active over the half term". Daniel in year 7*

*"I enjoyed the KAPP Quest because it allowed me to explore many skills like baking, and planning my homework. I think it allows you to express your creativeness." Jen in year 10*

*"It was really fun and gave me activities to do, from baking cakes to having an organised list, it was great." Amelia in year 7*

*"I enjoyed it because it was nice to have an opportunity to get extra KAPP points and help people." Mitchell in year 7*

*"What I enjoyed about the KAPP quest is that I was able to go out of my comfort zone and do things I usually would not do." Lacey-May in year 7*



**Kindness Aspiration Perseverance Pride**

# West Sussex Mind Kilo Sale

The halls of Durrington High School were recently transformed into a hub of community action as students and staff came together for a cause that touches many lives: mental health. In a school-wide effort led by the school's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, we managed to collect an incredible 467kg of clothing to support West Sussex Mind's inaugural Kilo Sale.

The results were staggering:

- Grand Total: 467kg of high-quality pre-loved clothing
- Estimated Value: Approximately £9,340 expected to be raised for mental health services
- Top Performing Form Groups: A special mention goes to 8RBe (75kg), 8GHo (53kg), 7EGa (46kg), 11HKi (24kg), 11IBa (16kg), 10JCh (10kg), 9MHa (10kg) and 10EHi (9kg).



Mr Poole said: “As Anti-Bullying Leader at Durrington High School, I could not be prouder of the compassion, leadership and sense community demonstrated by our students. The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors once again showed that their role extends far beyond the school gates, they are advocates for kindness in action. Supporting mental health initiatives is a natural extension of our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all.”

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

*Going beyond our best*

# Meet the Author

Mrs Dacosta, our school librarian, took a group of Year 8 and 9 students to Shoreham Academy for an exciting visit with award-winning author Sarah Crossan.

During the event, Sarah delivered an engaging and insightful talk about her latest book, *Gone For Good*, her first crime and mystery novel written especially for teenage readers.

It was an inspiring experience for everyone involved and a memorable day for our aspiring young writers.



[Read the full story here.](#)

## Published Poets!

Congratulations to Elsa, Lucy, Bailee, Seth and Ben whose outstanding poetry has been published in the Young Writers Anthology!

An fantastic achievement, well done to you all!



*Get Durrington Reading*

# Year 7 Football



Huge commiserations to our incredible Year 7 boys' football team who bowed out in the quarter-finals of the **English Schools' Football Association Cup** last week.

The team delivered a superb performance, going into half-time at 0–0 after a determined and disciplined first half. Despite a hard-fought battle, the match finished 2–0 at the final whistle.

Reaching the quarter-finals of a national competition is an outstanding achievement and a true testament to your talent, teamwork and commitment. We are extremely proud of every single one of you for representing our school with such passion, resilience and sportsmanship.

Heads held high boys — what a journey!

*The Durrington Journey*

## 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

- INSET Day - Monday 9th March
- Prom outfit showcase and borrowing event - Tuesday 10th March
- STEM week - w/c Monday 16th March
- Whole School Musical - Wednesday 18th March & Thursday 19th March
- STEM Fair - Thursday 19th March

*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*



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