

## Spring Term 2018 News

### Rock Challenge performance at The Hawth, Crawley – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018

Earlier than ever before the Rock Challenge team headed to Crawley on Tuesday 30th January to showcase this year's Durrington piece. The recent tradition of the team is to use the 8 minutes of performance to not only excite and delight but also to shed light on a not so often told true story. The last few years our pieces have been about using the stories of inspiring women who have made a difference and overcome adversity.

This year being no exception our piece draws its inspiration from the story of Elizabeth Fry with our piece "The Angel of Prisons". Elizabeth Fry said "It is an honour to appear on the side of the afflicted, known as the Angel of Prisons she was a Quaker, and prison reformer who transformed the lives of thousands of prisoners. Her ideas on criminal justice are still practised today. You might know her as the lady on the back of the old £5 notes.

Showcasing at Crawley is a real thrill as we get to see the piece performed in a lovely theatre space with full costumes, hair and make-up as well as lighting. Without the pressure of competing we also get feedback from the judges to help us refine our piece ready for the Southern premier in Portsmouth where we do compete. Last year in Portsmouth we came 5th in the competition with our piece the Barnbow canaries. This year we are hoping to come in the top 3; as this will allow us access to The National Finals which is only held every 4 years.

About 100 students take part across the year groups. Some are performers, others co-host, as well as back stage crew including lighting designer and video director. We have a lot of "kit" from a huge set which arrives in a truck, lots of hairspray and even more safety pins. The students love the day getting to see pieces from other schools and working together to make our performance the best it can be.

We drew first in the running order in Crawley which meant we had a lot of students to get ready for the 6.30pm start. There was a lot of back combing of hair and tons of face paint. The performance was amazing and as a school we are so lucky to have so many supportive parents; many of them in the audience.

Although not competing we did get the following awards of excellence this meant the judges gave us 9 or 10 out of 10 for the following categories: Choreography Performance skills Drama Costuming character Lighting Soundtrack Stage crew The team are already armed with ways we can improve the piece further for our performance in Portsmouth and hope to see many of you there!



### **Message from Ms Marooney – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

Dear parent/carer

I hope that 2018 has started well for you. We have had a super beginning to our year and new term. All returned refreshed after the Christmas break and it has been super to see great learning in action across our school. As you know we have been working closely for several months with The Laurels Primary School and I am delighted to confirm they are now officially part of the Durrington Multi Academy Trust (DMAT) as from 01.01.2018. Students and staff from both schools have already worked together in Science and PE and we will involve all areas over time. Durrington High School and The Laurels will each preserve those characteristics which make them unique but we will share common aspects as part of DMAT e.g. teaching and learning principles, staff CPD, policies and systems. There will be many opportunities for students and staff to work together which will enrich both communities. Back at Durrington High School, students from all years are involved in new elements of learning. We are really pleased with the way in which Y11 are approaching school and their studies. We held a mock examination assembly last week at which all students received their mock results. This is a successful strategy we have used as it creates the nearest match to what it will be like in the summer. This has motivated our students and they are working very well. Thank you to all who made our Y11 parents evening such a success; we had our highest ever attendance, representative of the strong team work which exists between home and school. Our PE teams have already had tremendous success in Basketball, Football, Badminton and Rugby, Y11 GCSE Drama students performed well at their examination evenings and our Rock Challenge team performed superbly at The Hawth Theatre, Crawley on 30 January. We look forward to Regional Finals in Portsmouth, April 2018. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the many great things ahead this year.

### **Badminton County Champions – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

DHS Badminton County Champions On the 1st February the Durrington High School Key Stage 3 Badminton Teams competed at the County Finals held at the Triangle in Burgess Hill. Both the Boys and Girls teams had qualified for this event by winning the area tournament. The Durrington teams, representing the southern area of Sussex, consisted of 4 players who worked collectively in doubles and singles matches against other schools. The girls team lead by Alyx Maskell won all of their group matches including some challenging ties against the Priory School and St Leonards Academy. In the final they faced Downlands Community School where they demonstrated a confident performance to be crowned County Champions. The boys team showed great quality in their group stages, beating tough opponents Tanbridge House three games to two to qualify for the final. In the final Durrington faced The Priory School and showed a determined performance to win the County round. Scott Haysom remains undefeated in both doubles and singles matches in the National School Championships. The teams now progress to the Regional stage of the competition to be held in March.





### **MFL Spelling Bee Competition – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017**

On Thursday 8th February, 22 Year 7 students competed in the 2nd Durrington High School Languages Spelling Bee final. The students had just 60 seconds to translate and spell as many words as they could from a list of 100, at random. All the students produced fantastic pronunciation of the French/Spanish alphabet. In a tight competition, the following students were successful. For French, 3) Daisy OHara 2) Joe Thomas, and the winner, Thomas Teissandier. For Spanish, 3) Kerem Deniz 2) Henry Grigg, and the winner, Damian VasquezSantana. (students pictured with Head of Department Mrs Graham and Assistant Head of Research Centre Ms F Haynes). A fantastic achievement for all involved. A massive well done from the Languages team and a thank you to all in attendance for their support of the students.



### **National Careers Week – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

National Careers Week 5th – 9th March Have you consider what you'd like to do when you leave school? Come and be inspired and speak to the experts. We'll have a range of industries each day. Take a look at the careers notice board in the main mall or come and see us in the careers department for more information. An exciting week worth of events during tutor time and lunch time. An opportunity for students across all year groups to meet people from business, further and higher education. Every day in the main mall students can get information and be involved in a range of activities. Our visitors will provide you with details on qualifications, skills and qualities you'll need for the job and or courses in further education. Start planning your future! Full timetable of events below:



**Durrington High Supporting  
National Careers Week  
Week of Events**



Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Tutor Time Activities	Tutor Time Activities	Tutor Time Activities	Tutor Time Activities
<i>How Many Different Jobs</i>	<i>Labour Market Information LMI</i>	<i>Social Media &amp; Finding a Job</i>	<i>Apprenticeships True or False</i>
Lunch Time Activities	Lunch Time Activities	Lunch Time Activities	Lunch Time Activities
<i>Meet the employer / Further education</i>	<i>Meet the employer / Further education</i>	<i>Meet the employer / Further education</i>	<i>Meet the employer / Further education</i>
Land based Careers – Plumpton College Army Careers Hair & Beauty – Richard John Academy Royal Air Force Catering & Hospitality – MET Northbrook Music – MET Northbrook Childcare – MET Northbrook University of Sussex Medicine/Science - GSK <i>Animals – Brinsbury College Day TBC</i>	Health Industries – Health Education England Hairdressing & Barbering – Look Fantastic Police – Sussex Police Sixth Form College – Varndean Hospital Apprenticeship – Worthing Hospital Fashion & Textiles – MET Northbrook Music – MET Northbrook University of Sussex Accounting – Carpenter Box	Hair & Beauty – Chichester College NCOP – Chichester College Childcare – Reflections Nursery Construction – Steve Willis Training Fashion & Textiles – MET Northbrook Business, IT – MET Northbrook Travel & Tourism – MET Northbrook University of Sussex Hairdressing & Barbering – Look Fantastic	Careers & Enterprise Company NCOP – Chichester College Police – Sussex Police University of Brighton University of Sussex Apprenticeships-JTL Training Finance- HMRC Medicine/Science - GSK Photography – Paul Noble
<b>LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES will take place in the Main Mall</b>			
<b>1.25 – 2.00pm (10 minutes earlier on Friday)</b>			
<small>Correct at time of printing, may be subject to change without notice</small>			
		A big thank you to all the local business, training providers and educational establishments for supporting this event.	

**Year 11 Stress Buster Challenge – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Over 120 staff and students took part in Durrington’s first "stress busting" mud run challenge. The event was organised as part of our wider strategy to promote positive well-being and mental health through physical activity. The timing was particularly important as year 11 students are closing in on summer GCSE exams and we wanted to provide them and their teachers with the opportunity to destress and have some fun at the same time. The mud run took place in Dorking on a course use for the established Nuts Challenge. It was a cold and wet day and there was tension in the air as the students gathered and boarded the coaches. As we arrived at the venue students and staff still had no idea what was awaiting them. Students were split into smaller groups with staff and then were released in waves from 12pm. The sheer volume of mud, having to get in/out of rivers and climb a range of obstacles made the day absolutely fantastic to be part of. We plan to organise many more events like this now! As part of our challenge we are also raising money for Samaritans. The links below provide both an opportunity to contribute and a view of what the course is like.



**STEM week at DHS – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

In aid of British Science week, Durrington High School had its very own STEM week (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) during 12th-16th March. Throughout the week students took part in various workshops, competitions and some creative STEM based lessons in all subject areas.

This was all in aid of raising the profile of STEM, inspiring key stage 3 students to continue studying STEM subjects, discover career opportunities and identify the steps needed to reach their aspirations.

To kick off the week 50 students went to the STEM Big Bang Fair in Bognor. Students were treated to a presentation with liquid nitrogen, demonstrations using virtual reality headsets and looked at aerodynamics in cars using wind tunnels. On Monday The Medical Mavericks came in to P.E to run Sports Science workshops with students throughout the day. The students had to 'Challenge the Champions' doing various activities.

The 10 challenges were:

1. Ball Throwing Speed
2. Watt Bike Power Test
3. 10m Sprint time – Upgrade option to the Accelerator
4. BATAK Reaction Wall
5. Jump Height Challenge
6. Standing Jump Challenge
7. Whole Body Strength
8. Hand Grip Strength
9. Hexagon Agility Test
10. 30'second Rowing Challenge

In science throughout the week year 8 students were learning how to make bee houses to raise the awareness of the declining population of bees and their importance in the environment. They also learnt how water filters could be a life changing innovation in countries where clean water is not readily available. Year 7 students learnt about life on the ISS (International space station) and had to make space suits as well as an engineering challenge to build a winch using wind power. Year 9 students learnt how science is used at the cutting edge of gastronomy and how bioplastics could be a solution to world's plastic problem. In maths students were asked to use their maths skills to develop their problem solving and investigative skills. This helped students understand the importance of maths outside a school environment. In geography students were looking at the importance of scientific innovation in areas where water needs to be cleaned. French and Spanish students enjoyed learning the vocabulary of the body and the solar system. In English student learnt about the forensic science profession and the global plastic problem. Jonathan Hare from the University of Sussex ran nanoscience workshops in years 8 and 9. Every student taking part was able to build and take home their own C60 Buckminsterfullerene. On Thursday 15th March Durrington High School had its very own STEM Fair. It gave students an opportunity to speak to parents, and discuss what they have been working on during that week. There was also a display from our STEM club who are currently building an electric car in association with the Greenpower project. The students are looking forward to hopefully racing their car at Goodwood racecourse in June.



### **Team Maths Challenge Success – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**

In March, a team of students travelled to Lancing College to participate in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge. The team consisted of four students in year 8 and 9: Aarash Jazayeri, Scott Haysom, Evie Thoms and Tamzin Bushnell. The competition was challenging, with many private schools taking part. The team from Durrington achieved a special mention in the first round for gaining the most points in the one hour session, and went on to finish in the top 10. This is the highest we have ever ranked in the Team Maths Challenge. The students worked incredibly hard to achieve this result and were an absolute credit to the school. Well done!

### **New Connect app ... Released Monday 26th March – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**

We are always eager to provide new and exciting opportunities for students of all ages. Giving students a chance to develop their understanding of the world of work, and how a business is run in 'real life', is something we feel passionately about. Last year, we were fortunate enough to be contacted by a local businessman, John Harris, who wanted to give young people the opportunity to design or create a business idea. John Harris commented "I would like young people to have the same opportunities in life that I have been fortunate enough to enjoy – opportunities created by themselves for themselves; to use their imagination to pursue their own paths rather than necessarily following the well-trodden ones of others and to build their own future, built on their own initiative, resolve and fortitude." The winning group created a business plan to create an app for students in school to access our Connect system that is already in place, so that students are able to view information easily (such as their homework tasks, map of the school and the rewards system) on mobile devices. Drew Bevan, Ellie Lossing-Smith and Grace Noakes, now Year 9 students, were delighted to be crowned the winners of this competition and to receive the funding from Mr Harris to set the initiative up. Ian Yardley, Managing Director of School Apps Ltd, met with the winning team to discuss their ideas for the app and was especially pleased with the suggestion of bringing an interactive school map onto the Connect platform. The feature will be particularly useful for new year 7 students, who will be able to view the map via a link from their online timetable in the app. We are really excited to be able to launch the app from Monday 26th March to the first two year groups – Year 10 & Year 11, with the remaining 3 year groups following in April. There are many features on the app for parents/carers, students and staff and we hope that it will work alongside the current Connect system. It will allow students to access a whole range of information such as; keeping track of the rewards they receive, accessing their timetable, a map of the school and homework. As well as this, students will have access to the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which will enable easier access to resources and revision materials. The winning students, Grace, Ellie and Drew commented "We took part because we wanted to get involved in the wider school community by creating a product or concept that students would find useful. We created an app which allows students to have easy access to view school information such as homework, rewards and extracurricular clubs. We are really pleased we won because it means we can have our idea made for students in order to aid them day to day around school." The 'Connect VLE' app is available for free on Apple's App Store and the Google Play Store.