



### **Year 7 team-building days a great success**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September year 7 students took part in two days of team-building activities. The two days were packed with fun and laughter as the newest members of Team Durrington bonded and worked together in a series of different tasks and activities.

The year group was split into two, with one half heading outside on day one whilst the other half took part in drama activities, and then vice versa on day two.

Outside in the sunshine the students taking part in the activities on the field had 25 minutes per challenge to gain as many points for their team as they could. The challenges ranged from 'the gutter challenge', which saw students working together to hold drainpipes in order to get water from one bucket to another, to 'the crate challenge', where students had to make a tower of crates building from the bottom up. There was also 'the spider web challenge' where students had to pass through a large net without touching the ropes, and 'walk the plank', where they all had to travel across a series of stone slabs using only one plank of wood. The other challenges were 'the magic carpet', 'the ski race', 'the kart challenge' and 'the team pull.' Each team had a team captain (a new one for each challenge) and were assisted by a student from Worthing College Sports Academy.

Despite getting pretty wet the students had a fantastic time and the different characters in each form group began to emerge. The team-building days are a great way for the year 7 students to cement friendships and learn about how important working together is. Comments from students included 'it really helped build up my confidence', 'it was really fun', 'it helped me make new friends outside of my form group' and 'being the team captain taught me leadership skills.'

The drama activities were led by year 9 and 10 students and focused on learning about the importance of kindness and how our actions affect others. The students worked in small groups and after gathering ideas about the subject matter they devised a short performance piece. These were then shared with the wider group and initiated conversations and debate. Again, this activity is a great way for students to work together and explore a key value of life at Durrington; kindness. Students really enjoyed this day too saying 'it was really good fun devising the pieces and showing them', 'I learnt a lot about people' and 'I loved watching the year 9s and 10s perform.'

Chris Davis, Head of Vocational Activities and lead teacher for these team-building days says, 'it is great to see the students having such a wonderful time during the team-building days. Having two days of fun, engaging and challenging activities at an early point in their Durrington journey ensures they are bonded as a year group and ultimately helps them settle into secondary school life.'

