

Autumn Term 2017 News

14th Year of Academic Success – 24th August 2017

The happy, smiling faces of students and staff conveyed delight, amazement and relief as students celebrated their GCSE results. Proud as ever, Sue Marooney, Headteacher since 2003, was full of praise of the Durrington team. "Schools are working in a time of unprecedented change with the level of challenge increased in all subjects and a two tier grading system using 9-1 in English and mathematics and A*-G in all other subjects. We needed more than ever for staff and students to reflect our school motto and to indeed 'go beyond their best'. Although we have a long established track record of success it still requires immense commitment, hard work, rigour in all we do and a relentless focus on excellence from all, to continue improving. Great teaching underpinned by subject expertise from staff, a determination to persevere, sustained hard work from students and strong support from home mean that, together, there is no barrier we cannot overcome". A few students shared their stories: "It took me so long before I felt I was getting anywhere, but my teachers didn't give up; she believed in me and eventually I started getting better marks." Another said, "I really wanted top grades and was happy to work hard, but what really made the difference was that teachers knew when to encourage me to keep going independently. They call it the 'good struggle' and when I needed them, they came alongside me and helped." Below is a small reflection of high attaining students; • Decs King achieved 7A*s and three grade 9s • Monte Wren achieved 6A*s, three grade 9s and a B • Carolyn Acevedo achieved 7A*s, two grade 9s and a 7 The new English and mathematics examinations saw 76% and 77% of our students achieving a pass (4 is approximately a grade C) and 62% achieving a good pass (5 is approximately a grade B) in each subject area. Alongside our consistent and sustained success across the board, we were delighted to have further increases in the number of students gaining the top grades, such as in chemistry where 50% of students achieved an A*/A and 90% students A*-C; 44% of students in geography gained an A*/A and 84% A*-C and art and design where 46% of student gained an A*-A grade and 100% A*-C grades. These are just a snapshot of the many successes this year. The government expected very few students nationally to attain grade 9s. At Durrington 29 students achieved this "gold standard" in one or more subjects. Recently appointed as one of only 22 National Research Schools, this will further accelerate progress as Durrington enters the next exciting phase of its development

Welcome to the new term – September 2017

I hope you have all had a super summer and start back refreshed and ready to go. Congratulations to our Y11 students who achieved excellent results and we wish them every success for the future. Our new Y7 students have made a fantastic start and we are delighted to welcome them officially onto the Durrington team. Our other students across Y8-11 have also made a very impressive start to the year. Everyone is ready to work hard and get involved as we begin our next stage of development as a school.

Ms S Marooney Headteacher

DHS Sports Report – 2nd October 2017

The year 7 football team started their season away at Angmering and narrowly lost 4- 3 despite being 2-1 up at the break. Goals were scored by Louie Austin, Kian Hatton and Camden Gill-Ibbertson. The boys have to win their remaining league fixtures to progress to the semi-finals. Man of the match was Louie Austin who was a pillar at the back for the entirety of the game. The year 8 football team had two fixtures last week. They lost their first game 3-1 to Littlehampton after going 1-0 up with a goal from Rafi Ahmed. The boys also played Worthing High last week. The first half was a 0-0 battle, however the team came out second half and were a lot more direct creating numerous chances and it was George Davey who took his chance, attacking a corner well which secured Durrington a 1-0 win. Man of the match were Ed Price and George Davey. The year 9 boys football team played Shoreham

at home in the local league, the boys defended resolutely but could not find that touch of magic in the box to win the game and eventually drew 0-0. Ryan Clarke was man of the match for an excellent all round performance including 3 or 4 good efforts on goal. The U15 netball team played Angmering and performed superbly. It was Tracey Li's debut for the team who played confidently at centre. The girls won 43-11, a fantastic win well done girls! The year 10 boys football team progressed into the second round of the national cup after comfortably beating Bishop Luffa 5-1. The team played some exciting football and defended well when asked to. Goals were scored by Josh Shaw, Luke Ellard, Nye Bowley, Ollie Cook and Levi Martin who was also man of the match for a superb display in midfield. The U16 netball team played an exciting match against Angmering on Tuesday. Betsy Glynn and Lexi Spurr kept calm and strong in the shooting circle. Ellie Middleton had a superb game at GD and then at centre. The girls won 28-7. The year 10 and year 11 boys both had Rugby games against Steyning last week. Both were hard games and we lost by 4 points in year 10 and 10 points in year 11 despite some excellent performances. The girls football team had their second league game away to TLA last week. The game was close as the two teams were evenly matched and unfortunately Durrington were disallowed a goal for a very close offside call. All the girls played extremely well battling hard to maintain a 0-0 draw. Special mentions go to the defence with some outstanding tackles to prevent TLA getting through on goal. Player of the game goes to Holly Harding, again her bravery and strength held off the strong TLA attack and also she created some close chances in the final moments of the game.

DHS Sports Report – 9th October 2017

The year 7 boys football team had their first home game of the season last week playing Steyning. The boys started very well and found themselves 2-0 up at half time with goals from Felix Doe and George Gilbert. We continued to dominate in the second half and ran out 4-1 winners with Camden Gill-Ibbitson scoring both second half goals. Man of the match was Ben Royal for strong display at full back. The year 9 boys football team played against an extremely strong Steyning side last week. Durrington created numerous chances early on but failed to capitalise. Steyning grew into the first half and took their chances. The boys responded well, outplaying Steyning for large portions of the game but on the day lost 5-2. Goals were scored by Nathan Williams. The year 9 basketball team progressed to the second round of the county cup with a 45-39 win vs Hazelwick. Adam Brows was man of the match. The U14 girls reached the finals of the district league with an outstanding win over Angmering 14-2. We defended well with some well-timed tackles keeping Angmering away from goal. The goals came from Amelia Lovelock and Jessi Lownds who both scored 4, Grace Watkins who got a hat trick, Katelon Goldsmith scored 2 and Evie Morgan scored 1. Special mentions go to Amie and Esther for some fantastic defending. Player of the game goes to two people this week for their hard work and skilful display, so well done to Evie Morgan and Katelon Goldsmith. The year 11 netball team played in the national school tournament on Saturday. The girls stormed their group, beating the likes of Ardingly and Roedean. They made it through to the quarter finals where they beat Seaford College 11-10 in a very exciting match. We then faced a very strong Brighton College team in the semi-finals. It was 5-3 at half time to Brighton. Unfortunately despite fighting hard we lost 12-6 which meant we finished 3rd in the tournament. An outstanding achievement! Players of the tournament go to Ellie Middleton and Betsy Glynn. The year 11 boys had their final rugby game of the season against St Andrews last week. It was a hard fought game with lots of big tackles but in the end St Andrews ended up winning by 10 points. Tries for Mike Landy and Patrick Clout.

DHS Sports Report – 16th October 2017

The year 7 boys football had 2 games beating Steyning 6-3 in the national cup and Worthing High School 4-1 in the district league. Camden Gill-Ibbitson, Felix Doe, Kian Hatton, Charlie Grover, Evan Hoarty and Mason Barton all scored with Evan Hoarty and Louie Austin being given the man of the match award respectively. The U13 girls football team beat Bishop Luffa 3-1. Goals come from Katelon Goldsmith and Grace Watkins. Player of the game Grace Watkins. The year 8 football team

beat Sion 5-1 with goals coming from Jack Lanigan, Jacob Hugill and Liam Healey. MOM Jack Lanigan. They also beat Steyning 3-1. Goals from Jack Lanigan and Josh Pike. Man of the match goes to Jack Nea. Year 9 boys football team beat SRWA in the district league 10-2, Sam Hack, Nathan Williams, Declan Clout, Matt Storm, Ryan Clarke, Connor Field and Zach Ball scored the goals. The year 10 rugby played against Shoreham and ended up losing by 10 points and finishing 3rd in the league. The year 10 basketball team bowed out of the county cup with a 35 – 12 loss to St Andrews. Much improved performance however from last year. Man of the match was Will Adams. Well done to all involved.

SSAT leading edge innovation grant – 18th October 2017

We are delighted to let you know that Durrington has once again been recognised at a national level for our innovative and progressive approach to education; this time in the form of a SSAT leading edge innovation grant. Selected from a large number of bids and competitive field we are one of just ten schools nationally to be awarded the grant and will be using the funding to drive our very own research project. The theme of the project will be on how we can use media messaging to positively impact on student engagement and progress. The project which will run across the 2017-18 school year will focus on year 10 and 11 students. When finished a formalised case study will be written up and positive results shared with other schools. This is another milestone in Durrington's continued journey towards educational excellence for all and complements the work of our own Durrington Research School.

Mr C Woodcock Deputy Headteacher

DHS Sports Report – 30th October 2017

U16's Girls football Tournament at Shoreham Academy. We lost 2-1 to Shoreham A's, we beat Shoreham B 1-0 and lost 3-1 to Davison. Amber Hazlewood scored two goals and Yasmine Henson scored an excellent long range effort. Player of the tournament goes to Amber Hazlewood. U15's National Cup game against George Abbott. A hard fought game in tough conditions. Alicia Offen scored an excellent long range effort, final score 5-1 to George Abbott. Player of the match goes to Abby Lanigan. The year 11 boys football team progressed in the county cup after beating Uckfield 5 - 2 with goals coming from Mike Landy and a hat-trick from man of the match Tom Chalaye. The year 11 boys had their final rugby tournament last week and finished 2nd overall; they played excellently throughout winning every game bar one. Stand out performances from Ciaran Laker, Patrick Clout, Cameron McKinder, Louis Crawley and Dan Torricelli. The U16s are through to the semi-final of the basketball county cup after beating Shoreham academy. Player of the game was Lexi Spurr on her basketball debut.

DHS Sports Report – 6th November 2017

Year 7 boys football team beat Shoreham Academy 4-0 in the district semi-final, goals were scored by George Gilbert, Evan Hoarty and Camden Gill-Ibbitson x2. Man of the match was Jack Yeo for sublime short stopping. Year 7 girls football had a County Cup fixture against a strong Imberhorne. Diana Chibinyana scoring for Durrington. Imberhorne were too strong and unfortunately Durrington lost the game. Player of the game goes to Diana Chibinyana Year 7 girls football had a tournament at TLA. Two Durrington teams entered, one team finished 4th captained by Poppy Sayers. One team finished 2nd narrowly losing to TLA 2-1 in the final. Player of the tournament Poppy Sayers. Year 9 boys football team beat St Andrews 4-0 in the district semi-final, goals were scored by Nathan Williams, Oliver Claydon and Ryan Clarke x2. Man of the match was Ethan Muirhead for a mature performance at centre back. U14 Girls basketball team beat Chatsmore 36-16 in the first game of the league. Most vital player was Mia Faris. Y10 football team had a fantastic 1-0 win against Warden Park in the 2nd round of the county cup. Wesley Diamond-Levy scored the goal. The Y9 basketball team were knocked out of the county cup losing a close game to St Andrews. The boys played

fantastically well but ended up losing 34-33. Player of the match was Adam Brows. The year 10 rugby team won their district final 12-10 last Wednesday against Shoreham. Tries from Connor Gurr and Man of the match Spencer Owen.

Stand Tall Project – 14th November 2017

Last Saturday saw the first event in this year's "Stand Tall" project and what an amazing day it was. Stand Tall is now in its second year. The project is aimed at year 7 female students and consists of a programme of weekend events in school. It focuses on helping students develop confidence, determination and demonstrate grit. These are the attitudes and skills that research has shown to underpin success in school and work, as well as contributing to children's wider development, well-being and readiness for life beyond school. The Stand Tall project launched last year to huge success and made a real impact on the students involved. We made a presentation about the project at the "Youth Sports Trust Conference" in Coventry, as well as having our findings published in the YST magazine. This year we have over 30 students participating. As well as the year 7 girls, we were able to develop the programme further, by having year 8 mentors who had gone through the programme the previous year. The day was split into three stages. We first presented the foundational elements of the programme and gave the students time to understand and reflect on the ideas shared. These were • This Girl can – Breaking Down barriers • Benefits of Exercise - The more you burn the more you learn! • Resilience and GRIT – Yes you can! We then explored these ideas in more detail through different physical activities, such as the final session on GRIT which saw the girls doing a sponsored skip for the British Heart Foundation. The girls go on to reflect upon each stage of the day, and here below we share some of their comments: Year 7 • Even if you don't think you are good at something, give it a go, and enjoy yourself • I feel more confident about doing new things • It's great to have "GRIT" it's great to push yourself and know you've made a difference either to yourself or to other people Year 8 • Being a mentor is challenging, as it's working with people I don't know. But it's amazing - I have new friends that are hard-working and confident - I'd definitely do this again • It was so fun and I loved it so much. I hope I can help again. It was nice to see the year 7's having the chance I had, because "Stand Tall" really helped me to be more confident At the end of the day we asked the girls to think about how they could transfer the positive experience they had into a series of next steps and personal goals; here are some of their ideas • I'm going to try to be more happy and smile more. I will also try hard in every lesson, even geography • Be more confident when facing new tasks • I am going to try to be more confident when I am working with people I don't know and be more brave to ask the teacher if I need help or put my hand up to answer a question It was so much fun for ourselves too, and such a privilege to work with the girls, and we are very pleased to see that it has seemingly already begun to have made an impact. As one student commented: "It has made me more confident and helped me Stand Taller" We look forward to continuing to work with the Stand tall girls throughout the year.

Ms Graney and Mrs Wallis Tayler

DHS Sports Report - 13th November 2017

The Year 7 boys football team lost 3-1 to Hove Park in the County Cup with Sonny Munns scoring the goal. The team also won the district beating St. Andrews 4-2. Goals scored by Ben Royal, Camden Gill-Ibbitson and Felix Doe. Player of the match was Freddie Coggin. The Year 8 basketball team narrowly lost their county cup game by 4 points against an extremely strong St Pauls. Player of the match was Harry Cooper. The Year 8 boys football team won the district semi-final 4-1 against Sion. Goals scored by Jack Nea, Jack Lanigan and Liam Healey. Player of the match was Alex Walker. The U14 girls basketball team continue their unbeaten run in the league after beating both Sion and SRWA comfortably this week. Player of the games was Keisha DannBrown. The U14's girls football team beat Hove Park 4-3 in the County Cup. Goals scored by Grace Watkins and Katelon Goldsmith. Player of the match Grace Watkins. The Year 9 boys football team lost 5-2 in the district final with

Ryan Clarke and Matt Storm scoring the goals. The team do progress in the county cup after beating The Forest School 2-1. Goals scored by Ollie Claydon and Ryan Clarke. Player of the match was Sam Hack. The Year 10 netball team finished runners up in the district league after beating Steyning in the first round but then narrowly losing to Sion. Player of the games was Caitlyn Campbell. The Year 10 Rugby team had district tournament last week, after winning the 1st game against Angmering we lost to both Steyning and Shoreham finishing 3rd overall. The Year 10 football team lost narrowly in the national cup to Hove Park. The final score was 3-2. Luke Ellard and Levi Martin scored the goals for Durrington. The year 11 netball team are district champions for the third year in a row after beating both Towers and Sion. Player of the games was Betsy Glynn.

Chestnut Tree House Donation – 16th November 2017



Chestnut Tree House donation At the end of the last academic year, the staff and students of Durrington High School participated in a whole school sponsored walk to raise money for charity. All the students had the opportunity to decide on the charities that would be supported and the two charities selected by the students were Chestnut Tree House and The British Heart Foundation. The walk itself took place from Durrington High School to Highdown Hill and back again over a distance of approximately 10km and every member of the school community participated in the event. Pete Kelly, Assistant Headteacher, who was one of the staff responsible for organising the sponsored walk said: "We are extremely pleased to be able to support such an important local charity in Chestnut Tree House. The work that they do for the young people of our area who have life shortening conditions is extremely important and we are delighted to be able to support them by raising money with this event." Pictured are two students Billy and Hollie who raised significant amounts towards the total, Chris Davis and Pete Kelly who organised the event, Caroline RobertsQuigley from Chestnut Tree House and Sue Marooney, Durrington High School Headteacher.

Tough Team Challenge – 23rd November 2017

Monday saw our first Tough Team Challenge with our year 7's. An assault course set up around the school; with the extra addition of a bit of MUD! It was a massive team event which saw staff and students working together. Each obstacle was over seen by a year 11 sports captain and every tutor group had a year 10 sports captain to help them around the course. The sports captains were excellent and really helped to keep the event running smoothly. Our year 7's really embraced the challenge with over 300 of them taking part. It wasn't a timed course but an event which would develop confidence, motivation, resilience and communication. They had to overcome some tricky obstacles including; the stepping stone challenge, the uphill cargo net, the slide, the tunnel of doom. The years 7's were stunning! It was Tough, they did get Muddy but they did rise to the Challenge! Some people got muddier than others! Finally some comments from parents on the event; My son loved it, thank you. His only negative comment was that they couldn't go round again! Would you like all the mud back? My son came back exhausted and filthy but had a brilliant time! Well done to you all, fantastic team event.

Dover Castle Visit – 7th December 2017



On Thursday 16th November, 60 year 9 students visited the wartime tunnels at Dover Castle. Having studied the evacuation of the Dunkirk beaches in 1940 (nicknamed Operation Dynamo) during their history lesson, these students had the opportunity to see the location where the evacuation was planned, as well as investigating the castle keep and the links between Dover and our current history GCSE. Year 9 students Becca Dore and Ava Hodgson kindly wrote out their experiences: 'Sixty year 9 students took a trip to Dover Castle as part of our history curriculum. We are currently studying Operation Dynamo and the rescue of British troops from Dunkirk which occurred in 1940. Dover Castle has a long history, dating back before William the Conqueror, who took control of the site in 1066. We explored the underground tunnels which expand under the castle for a total of over 3 miles. Our tour guide, Steve, led us to one of the oldest casements in which we were shown projected presentations of the dates and specifics of Dunkirk. These were fun and unique as well as educational. We also enjoyed the intimidating voice-over messages which added humour to the tour. We could see many names and numbers carved into the stone walls which are at least 200 years old. In addition to this, we looked at the Anglo-Saxon church and Roman lighthouse which are at the site. We found this fascinating because you could see where the stone had worn away since it was built nearly two thousand years ago. Lastly, we looked inside Dover Castle keep which included Henry II's bedroom, the kitchen and its facilities and many spiral staircases. The top of the castle was beautiful, overlooking the White Cliffs of Dover, and we could catch a glimpse of France. Overall the trip was both entertaining and educational. We enjoyed learning more about the evacuation of Dunkirk and Dover's long history. A huge thank you to all the teachers who made it enjoyable!

DHS Christmas community celebrations – 19th December 2017



It has been a busy week for the Performing Arts Department at Durrington High School. Monday saw the Junior Choir and some students in years 9 and 10 visit New Tyne Care Home to sing for the residents. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to provide entertainment for the residents and spread some festive cheer. Tuesday was our annual carol service at St Andrews Church, Tarring. So many students were involved in so many different ways; singing in the choir, soloists, readers and instrumentalists and the evening even saw the return of the staff choir! It was a wonderful evening in the community and the church was full of people starting their festive celebrations in style! On Wednesday some of the junior choir and some students in year 9 and 10 visited another care home in the community, this time they visited Highdown Court. Residents were enthralled by their performances and some couldn't help but shout out their congratulations!! Thursday was the night of our annual Christmas Celebration concert, with performances from students in their tutor groups sharing classwork from drama and music, year 10 drama students performing extracts from a recent production, instrumental groups, choirs, soloists and several Music compositions from classwork. The evening demonstrated how lucky we are to work with such dedicated and committed talented individuals who are even better when they work together! The theme for a number of the items performed by the department this year has been inspired by the schools renewed focus on kindness. The 'Be Kind' campaign is an initiative very close to our hearts encouraging young people to be respectful and responsible through random acts of kindness to family, friends and strangers. We asked audience members to spare a thought, prayer or sometime to those less fortunate than ourselves. At the end of the carol service, our retiring collection was for The Worthing Churches Homeless Projects and we raised an amazing £330.91. A special thanks to our wonderful music teachers Miss Maughan and Mr Dean who have worked tirelessly to give the students such amazing opportunities and have been singing and playing Christmas songs since October!!

End of term message from Ms Marooney – 20th December 2017

Dear all Thank you for making this term so successful and productive. To our parents/carers your continued support is so appreciated with home and school working together our students, your children are thriving. Particular congratulations go to Y11. It is recognised nationally that your year

group face great challenge, but how you are rising to that challenge! You have approached your mock examinations with great maturity and have been excellent role models for the rest of the school. Students have worked incredibly hard this year and it is important as well as celebrating the academic progress we reflect on the broad and rich range of successes achieved. Each company has had celebration assemblies where sporting prowess at local, county, regional and national performance has been praised. Performing Arts has taken music and drama to a new level with many excellent performances in school and our in the community, culminating in our Performing Arts evening last week. Our super student senior leadership have led our 'Be kind' campaign and we are trying to think of others more. Linked with thinking of others our fund raising has hit new heights with several thousands of pounds raised for charities. We have seen a noticeable difference around the school in our school community being more thoughtful and respectful of others. The well-being of our community is always a priority and as well as being fun to participate in the pole to pole challenge , 'tough team' challenge and Stand Tall project provided physical challenge and enjoyment. None of this would be possible without our amazing staff team who work tirelessly to support our students. I wish everyone who is part of the Durrington team a lovely Christmas and a super new year. Ms S Marooney Headteacher