



ASPIRATION | EXCELLENCE | TRANSFORMATION

Newsletter

A celebration of half term highlights from our schools.



A Message from Sue Marooney, CEO DMAT and Executive Headteacher, DHS

May 2019

Another busy term has passed and much has happened in what is the shortest term of this year. The first half of the summer term has seen our year 2 and 6 students at The Laurels take their SATS and our year 11 students at Durrington High begin their GCSE exams. We are very appreciative of the hard work from staff and to parents/carers for their continuing support during this intense period. We are extremely proud of how our students are striving to do their best and we wish our year 11 students good luck with the rest of their exams. As we move into the final half term of this year we look forward to the many opportunities it will bring, especially those that allow us to celebrate our students' many talents and achievements, and the transfer days where we will welcome our new students. I wish you all a happy and restful half term.



Codebreakers Success

During this term students involved with the code breaking after school club were rewarded for successfully completing the National Cipher Challenge.

The team of 8 students worked throughout the Autumn term on a weekly cipher challenge which they solved using both their individual and team working skills. Over 400 schools took part and Durrington High placed a fantastic 18th. This term the team were presented with a copy of Michael Smith's *Station X: The Code Breakers of Bletchley Park* to both reward and inspire them further in their code breaking journey. Well done!

Archaeology day at The Laurels

Year 5 students from The Laurels enjoyed a fantastic day learning to be archaeologists. They took part in different tasks that were designed to help them understand the delicate and difficult process of excavating,



piecing together and identifying historical objects. The students

really enjoyed this interactive day as they worked in small teams to make some amazing discoveries.

DHS students amazing performances

Another fantastic term of brilliant performances at Durrington High as the Rock Challenge team headed to Portsmouth to participate in the Southern Premier Finals. They performed amazingly and took home awards for stage use, stage crew, soundtrack, concept, healthy lifestyle and lighting. Everyone had a wonderful time and it was another great chance for them to perform. Students also took part in Skoolfest at The Pavilion Theatre, again a credit to the school and winning several awards, including best original song for year 11 student Ellie Powys-Keck.

Laurels students enjoy enrichment trips

Reception and year 1 students enjoyed a day at Fishers Farm Park where they learnt all about the animals and workings of the farm. It was also a great way for them to build confidence as they explored the many activities on offer such as the zip wire and high ropes. Year 4 students had a great few days gaining independence, building resilience and working as a team as they spent 3 days at Mill Rythe. They took part in various activities such as canoeing, raft building, archery and climbing.





A successful Research Ed Conference



In April the Research School hosted its second ResearchEd conference hosting almost 250 delegates and 28 influential speakers which included Professor Daniel Muijs, Deputy Director Research and Evaluation at OFSTED, delivering a keynote address. Delegates, including headteachers, senior leaders and classroom teachers, came from all over the country to learn about the latest evidence-based research and how it can be applied in the classroom. The Research Team are currently planning the training programme for next year which will include the third ResearchED conference and see hundreds of teachers from the local area and further afield attending training sessions led by the expert teachers at DHS and The Laurels.



Exploring careers

Year 7 and 10 have been exploring what could be next as they took part in exciting careers opportunities. Year 7 students took part in a workshop led by the University of Brighton designed to introduce them to the idea of university. Half the year then went on to visit Brighton University for the day (the other half will visit in the Autumn term). Year 10 enjoyed a careers day in which students took part in 5 workshops including mock interviews and CV writing. The workshops were led by volunteer employers and the day was a great way for the students to discover the wide variety of career opportunities available and the various ways to achieve them.

Houses of Parliament visit

Year 6 students at The Laurels began this term with a unique opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. The students travelled up to London and toured the historic building learning about the past and current protocols. Local MP Sir Peter Bottomley also took time to meet the students and tell them about life as an MP. It was a truly memorable day and a really important experience for the students, allowing them to not only discover the history of the building but to engage with the important role both parliament and MPs have today.






Thinking about training to be a teacher?




Our SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) trainees are now heading into the final stages of their training and we are delighted that 67% of our primary trainees and 100% of our core subject trainees have already secured a position for September. If you are considering a change in career and would be interested in training to be a primary or secondary teacher then contact our OFSTED outstanding SCITT team on 01903 705671 or info@southdownsscitt.co.uk to find out more. Applications are still being accepted for a September 2019 start.

For regular news updates and more information about these stories please follow our social media channels and visit the school websites:





 Durrington High School
 @durringtonhigh
 Durringtonhighschool.co.uk



 The Laurels Primary School
 @laurelsprimary
 LaurelsPrimary.co.uk



 @dmateducation
 dmat.education