

## Year 7 embrace the wet and wild weather during exciting team building days – 4<sup>th</sup> October



A key part of the transition programme at Durrington High School is a team building day in which all year 7 students take part. The students are grouped together in different teams which mix up their usual company groups to give them a chance to meet new people. Each team takes on a range of 10 challenges, which take place outside and test their abilities to think strategically, push themselves and work together as a team. A new team leader is selected for each challenge and points are awarded depending on how successfully the challenge is completed. The teams were

also helped out by a Northbrook college Uniformed Services student. We were very grateful to the students for spending their time supporting and helping our students as they completed each challenge.

This year the students has to be extra resilient as not only did they have to take on the challenges but they did so in typical British weather! Both team building days were wet and windy but that did not deter our students as they embraced the day come rain or shine (which there was very little of!). The activities took place on the school field and included a gutter challenge in which students had to transport water through sections of gutter to fill a large bucket. And if the rain didn't make them wet this challenge certainly did! Another water-based challenge saw the students attempt to fill up a tall plastic drainpipe with water in order to release a small ball, which was made all the more difficult as the pipe was peppered with holes. Away from the water the students also took part in a spiderweb challenge in which they had to get their team through different sized holes in a rope web, and a plank challenge where they had to move 3 planks of wood to get from one spot to another with the whole team standing on the them at all times.

To end each day all the teams took part in the rocket challenge. They made paper rockets and then headed to the tennis courts to launch them using homemade launch pads. Each team launched their rockets to see whose would go the furthest. There was a clear winner with one rocket sailing out of the tennis courts!

The days were a great success, despite the weather, with the students working really well together throughout the day and showing resilience and determination in all the challenges. Chris Davis, who organised the days, said, 'The team building days are a great highlight of the first term at Durrington High School. Students enjoy themselves as they make new friends, build confidence and learn vital team building skills. They are also a great exemplifier to show students how to live out the values that underpin our school; kindness, aspiration, perseverance and pride.'

