



Summer Term News 2020

Team Durrington Step into Summer – 16th July



On Sunday 12th July almost 450 staff, students and their families took part in a virtual event to mark the end of the summer term. 'Step into Summer' invited all members of Team Durrington to complete a distance of 3km, 5km, 10km or 20km by walking, cycling or running. Everyone who signed up was given a race number to wear whilst taking part and encouraged to set off at around 9.30am.

To help everyone feel connected participants were also asked to send in photos proudly displaying their race numbers, which they did in droves. The school social media pages were abuzz with a variety of celebratory photos and happy smiling faces. So many families entered together and students met up with their friends (socially distanced) to take part. There were even participants in Oxford, France and Australia!

It was a beautiful sunny day and some people took to the seafront, enjoying the sea breeze and waving to others taking part. Many enjoyed the stunning scenery of the South Downs, visiting Cissbury Ring, Arundel and Devils Dyke among other places. Year 9 student Amelia Farley and her mum completed just over 5k walking along the seafront from George Vth Avenue to Splash point and back, saying, 'We were overtaken by Miss Wolstenholme running and Mr Poole on his bike. We also said hello to Mrs Wallis-Tayler. We had a lovely paddle in the sea on the way back.' Year 10 student Alex Walker, who walked with fellow year 10 student Ed Price said 'We had a great time and want to thank everyone at team DHS.' LRA Manger Mrs Baker said, 'We had a great long walk this morning, the dog enjoyed a swim along the way too!' Year 8 student Amelie Crutchlow 'had a brilliant time, did 3km walking then jumped on bikes for the rest all along our wonderful seafront and down the pier' with her mum and sister year 10 student Neve and friends Jess Townsend and Laura Heeley.

Mr Woodcock, Head of School said, 'We were determined to finish the school year by coming together in a safe way. The idea of all taking part in a physical activity at the same time meant we could mark the end of term together yet apart. It was wonderful to see so many students enjoying the occasion with their families and spending time together.'

Step into Summer was a huge success and testament to the fact that although the school year has been unlike any that has been experienced before, the Team Durrington spirit remains the same; positive, determined and supportive.





Durrington students complete a 24-hour run to raise money for #DHS4NHS – 29th June

Following on from the success of the #DHS4NHS 5km and 500 challenges, four brave students decided they wanted to take on a challenge of their own and continue raising money for this important campaign. All funds raised as part of #DHS4NHS go directly to Friends of Worthing Hospital and the total now raised is £4520 (plus £951.85 in Gift Aid).

It was a family affair with sisters and cousins Freya and Erin Cummins and Isla and Evie Knapp took on an incredibly tough challenge – the P24 – in which they ran 1.12 miles every hour on the hour for 24 hours. They did an amazing job, covering then distance of a marathon in 24 hours with little rest in between each run. They run took place on the longest day, beginning at 8am on Saturday 21st June with the last run at 7am on Sunday 22nd June. We are hugely proud of their initiative, drive and community spirit as well as their physical strength and determination.

They were supervised and encouraged on every run by mum /Aunty Lori, who said 'It was difficult to keep us all fueled throughout the run and although not as hard on the body as a real marathon it was mentally far harder, as it would have been so easy to give up due to tiredness and pain. I'm really proud of the four girls who did a great job.'

Here the girls reflect on the experience:

Isla Knapp (year 11)

'Over the 24hrs we ran 7 different routes including one on the beach at 5am to watch the sunrise. We had a 20-minute snooze each and a lovely shower as well as the occasional dip in the pool. We walked the routes from 1am to 4am as we were just too tired but other than that we ran most of them. We managed to sleep for 4hrs once we had finished completely and then had a massive breakfast to start the day. We are all very tired and rather sore but it is definitely worth it for the bragging rights we all have now.

One of the most difficult parts for me was the half way run as it felt like you should be about to finish but we still had over 12 miles to go and my knees started to hurt, but our Nana came to our rescue with pain relief gel to cure our ailments!

The last run was also incredibly hard as we were so tired and sore, plus it had started to rain, but we got through it and now I couldn't be more proud of us all. It was also one of the best parts as we knew that we were so nearly finished and we were joined by Grandma, and other family members who ran with us (socially distancing of course) and gave me the boost I needed to finish.

My favourite moment was the beach run at 5am as we were joined by Run Academy Worthing and we got to watch the sun rise. It was also amazing to have the fire pit which kept us awake during the night!



Erin Cummins (Year 10) *'I also found the most difficult part was getting to mile 12 and then realising how much your legs hurt and how tired you were whilst also being aware that you were only half way. I loved the beach run at 5am and the 4am run because it was starting to get lighter outside which meant that we were almost finished. I felt tired and sore the next day but felt much better the next day.'*

Evie Knapp (Year 9) *'I found the most difficult parts were the runs we did during the heat of the day, I much preferred the evening runs as the temperature was cooler. At the end I was proud that I had done it, I felt good in the morning but a bit sore.'*

Freya Cummins (Year 8) *'The most difficult part was sitting down for 50 minutes and then having to do it all again! The best part was finally finishing and being able to sleep and rest my legs. At the end I felt very tired and sore but very proud that I had done it.'*

Well done girls! A fantastic family effort and wonderful to continue to raise money for Worthing Hospital. If you would like to donate the Just Giving page is still open [here](#)



New sports facilities under construction at Durrington High School – 19th June



Durrington High School is delighted to confirm that the construction of the new sports hall is well underway. Following the approval of plans earlier this year work began 6 weeks ago and much progress has been made. The impressive skeleton structure, using approximately 625 tonnes of concrete and 25 tonnes of steel, is now in place. Sue Marooney, Executive Headteacher, said, *'It is really exciting to finally see the tangible beginnings of a project that has long been in the planning. This*

development is of huge significance to our school and the local community and I am delighted with the progress made so far. I look forward to the huge positive difference these improved facilities will make once completed.'

Following a lengthy and thorough tender process Collinson Construction were appointed to carry out the works. They say:

"Collinson Construction are incredibly proud to be working in partnership with Durrington High School on such an exciting project. As a family owned and run business, we pride ourselves on our strong company ethos and values which also mirror the schools. Our clients are at the heart everything we do thus resulting in superb projects and solid relationships being built.



We cannot wait to see this project develop, and look forward to the students having access to use the full range of facilities upon completion of the project. We have seen first-hand how these amazing sports hubs allow students to develop their fitness and wellbeing, in a safe and secure environment. As well as providing them with a creative space to learn and grow."

Alongside construction of the sports hall the existing outdoor courts are being updated and resurfaced, Netball and Tennis will be the primary sports. These new courts will also have the added benefit of LED floodlighting, this will significantly increase their usability and enhance the quality of play throughout the year. These vast improvements will not only serve the Durrington High students but the wider community too.

Both the sports hall and courts have been designed to meet all Sport England requirements, providing safe, high quality facilities to suit a variety of sports. The hall will have markings for Badminton, Netball, Basketball, and five a side Football. Four Cricket practice lanes are also included. To complement and enhance these facilities further fully controllable LED lighting will be installed, this will be capable of producing up to 1000LUX, the recommended level for indoor cricket. An indoor viewing gallery for spectators runs along one side providing great views of the action. The new facilities are connected to the main building and will form a central sports hub for our amazing PE team.

Matt Angell, Estates Director, said, *'We are so pleased with the progress of this exciting project and are looking forward to its completion, which should be in the Autumn term. We are of course ensuring that the building work complies with current social distancing measures, the health and safety of our staff and students is paramount. Once completed these state-of-the-art facilities will be of huge benefit to our students, giving year-round access to a high-quality indoor venue alongside a much-improved outdoor surface. We hope to build on our existing relationships with local clubs as well as exploring new opportunities to enhance leisure activities within our community.'*



DHS rise to the challenge; raising money and producing vital PPE equipment for the local community – 12th June

During the past few months Durrington High School have been doing all they can to help the local community in these difficult and challenging times. During the Easter holidays they launched a charity campaign, DHS4NHS, to raise money for Worthing Hospital. Over the course of 7 weeks the school community completed 5km or 500 challenges which ranged from running or cycling 5km to doing 500 sit ups, trampoline bounces and yoga moves! The school social media accounts were buzzing with celebratory photos of the challenges and, most importantly, the donations came rolling in. The combined efforts and generosity of the staff, students and their friends and families raised an amazing £4961.64 (including gift aid). This was also a fantastic way to bring the school community together and do something positive during this time.



In addition to the fundraising staff brought in hundreds of food and household items which were donated to Worthing Food bank. Additionally, as part of a number of weekly creative challenges set for students, they were invited to design a thank you card to be sent out to key workers at the hospital and local care homes. Over 100 designs were submitted and the top 10 were printed and distributed, bringing smiles to those who received them. Louise Wallis-Taylor, one of the organisers of the challenge said, 'The DHS4NHS campaign has been such a success in both raising much needed funds for our local hospital and in keeping the Team Durrington spirit alive during a time when we are not able to be together physically. The positive impact has been far reaching and we are super proud of everyone involved.'

As well as the much celebrated DHS4NHS campaign one member of the Durrington Team has gone above and beyond in contributing to helping those in need during the COVID 19 pandemic. Sue Slater, Design Technology Technician, put her skills to good use and started to make PPE by way of visors. She started off by making just under a hundred visors which were delivered to two local care homes, but it soon became clear that demand in the community was high and more were needed. Materials were ordered in and as soon as they arrived Sue set to work. To date over 1000 visors have now been produced and delivered to local care homes and hospices, the majority of which have gone to St Barnabas House, who said 'Your generous and thoughtful gifts will allow more care for our patients and their families in a safe manner, for which we cannot thank you enough.'

Manager of Country Lodge Care Home Debbie said, 'Thank you so much for the visors you made and delivered today, much appreciated.' Abbotswood Care Home Manager Alison said, 'I would like to thank you very much for your donation of visors, they are amazing and myself and my staff are so thankful.'

Matt Angell, Facilities Director, who oversaw the production and delivery, praised Sue saying, 'We are very proud of Sue's efforts and delighted to have been able to contribute to keeping our heroic key workers safe as they care for those who need it. Sue has done an amazing job in producing so many visors and helping our local community during this crisis. It was great to be able to put our design and technology specialist equipment to good use during a time when our students are unable to.'

Sue herself is very happy to help, saying, 'I am really pleased to be able to use my skills and the facilities at DHS to help protect our local caregivers during this time. It is great to be able to do something positive in this situation.'

The school has also made great progress with online learning as students are continuing with their time tabled lessons remotely. Key worker children have also been able to access the school, not only during term time, but the holidays too, thanks to the generosity of staff volunteering to come in.

Chris Woodcock, Head of School, said, 'This is an extremely challenging time for all schools and communities. Here at DHS we are immensely proud of our staff for delivering live lessons every single day and our students, the majority of which have made exceptional efforts with their home learning as well as giving back to our school and wider community.'

Apart but still together – live learning at Durrington High – 3rd April

The past few weeks have been an incredibly challenging time for the whole country, as the Coronavirus pandemic has seen us all have to dramatically adapt our daily lives. Schools have been forced to close to the vast majority of pupils and school leaders have needed to react quickly to find new ways of learning. At Durrington High School the past two weeks have proved a great success with



students across all year groups engaged and motivated as they learn from their homes, thanks to our fantastic distance learning approach.

Shaun Allison, Head of School Improvement, explains, 'During this period of closure we were determined to ensure that we maintained the high-quality learning experience that our students deserve – albeit from a distance.' To achieve this the school has implemented Google Classroom which was set up by the school's IT services team before the school closed. Alongside the technical set up, some very hasty training was put in place for all teachers, focusing on distance teaching using Google Classroom. Students were also given guidance on using the app during tutor time.

Despite the short time frame for preparation, thanks to hard work and a fantastic team approach the school was ready to launch on the first day of school closure. The great advantage of Google Classroom is that it replicates the normal school day; when students log in at home the classes and lessons that they would normally have on their timetables are shown. Teachers are online at the same time the physical lesson would be taking place, setting the work and asking and answering questions in a similar way to how they do during a normal lesson.

Shaun Allison says, 'Rather than just simply setting work for students to complete, we are trying to fully embrace the idea of 'distance teaching'. As one of only 32 research schools in the country, we have made sure that everything we know about effective teaching is still being implemented, just at a distance. A number of teachers are recording 'Loom Videos' to explain key ideas for students to use during lessons, to replace the traditional 'teacher at the board.' Executive Headteacher Sue Marooney adds, 'We feel the best way to keep students learning and engaged with school is by keeping our routines, contact and communication as stable as possible. This is why we have adopted this approach. Our teachers are fully committed to supporting our children through a thorough programme of distance learning so that when we do return to school they are in the best possible position.'

Staff and students have responded to this new way of working brilliantly and parents/carers have been very supportive, with many praising the school via email and on social media with comments such as, *'Just a big thank you to the school for keeping our children in education. Keeping to the school timetable keeps the children with some familiarity.'*, *'Day 3 of home schooling and I haven't had to do a thing at home. Google Classroom has been great. It is so reassuring knowing our children are still getting an education. Thank you Durrington for being so proactive. You're not only supporting the children but taking the pressure off the parents as well.'* And *'Well done DHS - engaging learning and so good for them to have structure to their day in such crazy times.'*

Alongside the distance learning there is a robust programme in place designed to support the wellbeing of all students during this period of prolonged isolation. The wellbeing team are available via email and telephone, including counselling sessions, alongside dedicated wellbeing and safeguarding Google Classrooms. There is regular communication with students via video message and letters to highlight key ways to look after their wellbeing, encouraging them to keep to a structure, explore breathing exercises/meditation, connect virtually with friends, be kind and take part in physical activity.

Each week a new mental and physical challenge is set for students and staff. The weekly challenge encourages all students to have a go at something different. The first week saw many students attempting to create an origami swan and complete as many 'keepy uppies' as they could with a toilet roll! The school's social media channels are also helping to keep the school community alive; during the past two weeks they have been bursting with evidence of excellent distance learning and photos of home learning set ups – this can be viewed using the #DHSDistanceLearning hashtag. The weekly



challenge attempts are also shared via Facebook and Twitter which helps the school community to 'see' each other and offer support and encouragement.

Chris Woodcock, Head of School, says, 'It is so important to keep in touch with our school community during this uncertain time. As a school we are incredibly supportive of one another and very much have a 'Team Durrington' approach. We are very aware of how isolating this situation can be for our staff, students and their families and want to offer all the support we can to get through this difficult time. We do not know how long this period of closure will last for, but we do know that at Durrington High School we will continue to adapt as needed, putting our students first and focusing on our core values of kindness, aspiration, perseverance and pride. And of course, we very much look forward to when we can welcome our students back to the school building when it is safe to do so.'