

Durrington High School Winter Lecture Series

2024—2025

As part of our ongoing work to ensure our students have access to the best extra-curricular and academic enrichment programmes possible, we are delighted to announce the “Durrington Winter Lecture Series” that will be taking place this season in our brand new, state of the art theatre. The Winter Lectures will give our students, staff and parents/carers the opportunity to attend a series of talks led by world leading academics in a range of subjects, linked but going beyond their normal school curriculum.

Who is invited?

The lecture series is open to all students in year 9 – 11. It is expected that students currently part of the Oxford Scholars Academies in year 9 and 10, and the Year 11 Platinum Academy will attend as many of the lectures as possible. Curriculum leaders and teachers will also be identifying students within their GCSE groups who may benefit from attending talks closely linked to those subjects.



A Lifetime (and some) of Cosmological Discoveries - The story of Einstein, Hubble, Planck, and Euclid — Alex Maraio

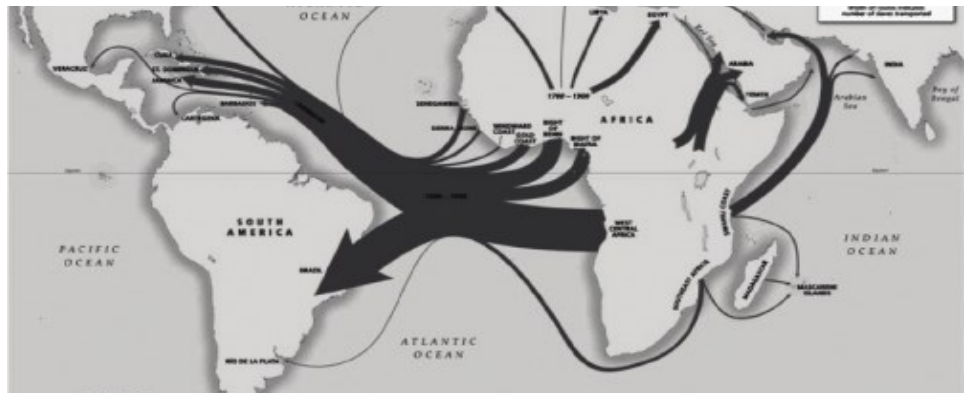
Date: 12th December 3:30pm—4:30pm

Kick starting our winter lecture series, we are delighted to welcome back former DHS student Alex Maraio to Durrington to discuss the fundamental physics of our universe. Described by Professor Kathy Romer, University of Sussex professor and international recognised astrophysicist, as “one of the best and most intelligent she has mentored”, Alex has been completing his PhD at the Institute of Astronomy, University of Edinburgh and will be talking to us about how our understanding of the Universe has been completely transformed over the past century, as we have progressed from studying just the solar system to studying distant galaxies, and the origin and eventual fate of our universe.

Durrington High School

Going Beyond Our Best through Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride





The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, empires and their afterlives

Date: 17th December 3:30 – 4:30pm

Professor Alan Lester is a leading researcher and renowned author in the field of historical geography, currently working at the University of Sussex. A fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Professor Lester has also held visiting lectureships at Rhodes University and the University of Fort Hare, among many other roles. This talk is perfect for all students in years 9 to 11, but especially for those currently studying GCSE Geography, History or Citizenship, as Professor Lester explores the legacy of the slave trade and its lasting impact on the empires involved.



Building Sustainable Peace

Date: 16th January 3:30 – 4:30pm

Dr Suda Perera is a lecturer in International Development (Anthropology) at the University of Sussex and holds a PhD in International Conflict Analysis. Her research focusses on approaches to dealing with violence in conflict-affected states. She has worked extensively as a researcher and advisor in Africa and the Middle East. This talk draws on her experience as a former peace builder in the Democratic Republic of Congo and explores how we can think about peace and rebuild societies after conflict.



Dr Oliver Steele is an Assistant Professor of Physiology, in the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at the University of Brighton.

Session 1 – Electrophysiology: the amazing way your brain controls everything you do! Date: 5th February 3:30pm—4:30pm

Our brains are incredibly complex organs that control everything about our daily lives. To do this, our brains generate signals which course throughout our bodies and control almost everything we do – even you reading this! Come and see these signals in real time, learn about the different ways medical professionals might read these signals and maybe even learn how to control someone else's arm in the process. Dr Steele will introduce the concept of electrophysiology with demonstrations, and possibly even (gently) electrocute a teacher or two, all in the name of science!

Session 2 – Endocrinology 101: hormones, systems, and self-regulation. Date 18th March 3:30pm –4:30pm

Hormones surge throughout our bodies acting as messengers that drive processes all around our bodies. Without these important signals we wouldn't feel fear, wouldn't wake up in the morning and would never go through puberty. Some of these consequences may be considered more disastrous than others... From superhuman feats of endurance to the man who feels no fear, all the way up to the tallest person alive - Dr Steele will explain how hormones are the true superheroes of our bodies.