



Dunottar News

www.dunottarschool.com

T:01737 761945

twitter.com/dunottarschool


2018 has got off to a flying start! We were delighted to welcome so many pupils to our 11+ entrance assessments at the start of January. We were impressed with the enthusiasm, intelligence and spirit we saw

on display and we look forward to welcoming many of them as new joiners in September.

It wasn't only our prospective pupils taking exams in January, as our Year 11 and Upper Sixth students took their mock GCSE and A Levels. With our current Year 9 pupils attending their GCSE Options Evening, our Year 11s focussed on selecting A Level and Sixth Form Enrichment options and Upper Sixth students beginning to receive university offers, we have turned our attention to the importance of making well-informed choices. Our Careers Forum for all age groups from Year 9 to Upper Sixth and the recent Mindfulness Workshop for our Year 11s, illustrate the variety of ways we are supporting our students at these critical points in their education.

Away from academic matters, pupils have been demonstrating a diverse and fascinating array of talents. Rehearsals for Oliver! are well underway; our Year 7s went up to the O2 arena for the Young Voices concert; our sports teams have played some great matches; the charity committee has been hard at work raising money; and our Lego Robotics team put in a fantastic performance at their first ever competition in London.

I am also delighted to announce that we have signed a partnership agreement with Surrey Cricket to be their Performance and Development centre in South East Surrey. 1,000 lumens of light and a four lane indoor net system will be installed over half term. This will give our boys and girls access to county standard cricket facilities on site at Dunottar and the opportunity to develop their skills.

I hope everyone on the half term ski-trip has a great time and that you all have a relaxing half term break.

Mr Mark Tottman, Headmaster

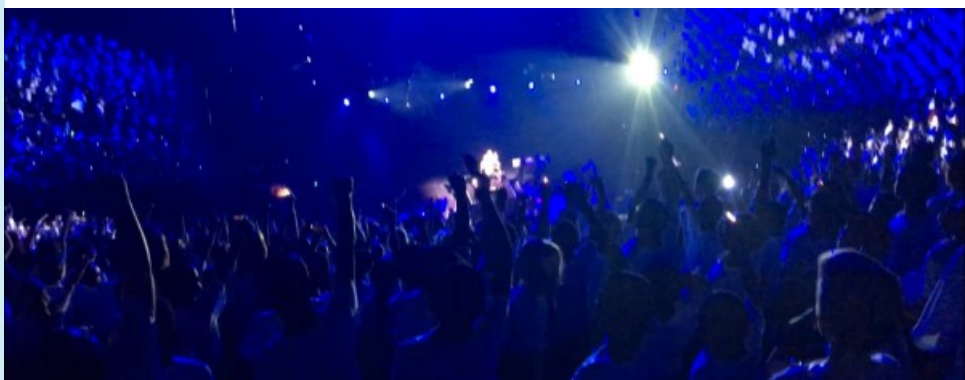
Young Voices Sing at O2

Our Year 7 pupils had an amazing experience at the end of January when they travelled to the 20,000 capacity O2 Arena in London to sing in front of an audience of thousands.

Our pupils joined 7,000 children from schools across the South East to perform songs to an audience of friends and family at a Young Voices concert. Young Voices is an organisation which believes passionately in inspiring the next generation to find their love for music. The programme at the O2 included a variety of performances such as songs, dances and solos by professional musicians, including soul singer Natalie Williams, 16-year-old Alfie Sheard and vocal harmony stars The M4gnets.

We asked our pupils to reflect on the experience and Barney said: "I enjoyed watching the really talented singers, bands and dance group. I particularly liked Urban Strides: their street dancing was absolutely amazing! It was also great singing alongside 7,000 other voices." Ciara added: "An amazing day! I love the feeling of singing with thousands of people. I loved the dances and when the lights changed colour, depending on the song."

Emily Pettet, Director of Music, commented: "We were delighted to return to the Young Voices concert after last year's success. It is so important for young people to grow up with music - this experience gives everyone an equal opportunity to participate and shine."



Dunottar School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

To keep up to date with news from Dunottar in between monthly newsletters, visit www.dunottarschool.com, find us on Facebook or follow us on twitter.

Open Morning

Wednesday 21st February
(10.15 for 10.30 start)

Our Open Mornings are designed to give you a real insight into a typical school day. You will hear from Mark Tottman, Headmaster, tour the school to see lessons taking place and chat with staff and pupils.

To book call us on 01737 761 945.
We look forward to seeing you at Dunottar!

Diary Reminders

Sun 11 Feb	Ski Trip to Grandvalira (until Sat 17)
Mon 12 Feb	Half Term (until Fri 16)
Mon 19 Feb	GCSE Food & Nutrition practical iPad Evening for Yr 7 Parents 6.30pm
Tue 20 Feb	GCSE Food & Nutrition practical
Wed 21 Feb	Open Morning
Thu 22 Feb	House Music Competition
Fri 23 Feb	Yr 9 WWI cross-curricular event
Sun 25 Feb	Oliver! rehearsal 10am-4pm
Thu 1 Mar	World Book Day
Sun 4 Mar	Oliver! rehearsal 10am-4pm
Thu 8 Mar	Current Parents' Open Event
Fri 9 Mar	Auction for Parents 7pm
Thu 15 Mar	Yr 10 Parents' Evening 6-8pm
Sun 18 Mar	Oliver! rehearsal 10am-4pm
Mon 19 Mar	Oliver! full technical rehearsal 4-6pm
Tue 20 Mar	Oliver! full technical and dress rehearsal 2.15-5.30pm
Wed 21 Mar	Oliver! performance to local primary schools 2.15-4pm
Thu 22 Mar	Oliver! performance 7.30pm
Fri 23 Mar	Mufti Day Oliver! performance 7.30pm
Tue 27 Mar	ABRSM music examinations
Wed 28 Mar	TERM ENDS 4pm

View full details of forthcoming events on the website
www.dunottarcalendar.com.

News from Dunottar PTA

Comedy Night

The 2018 PTA calendar kicked off with plenty of laughter on Saturday 27th January. Richard and the Out of Bounds team provided a great line up for us again for the Comedy Night, which was the perfect antidote to the long, dark winter January evenings. Guests arrived to hot Thai curry and, of course, a well stocked bar. It was fantastic to have over 140 people attend (including parents from other schools!) ensuring that the bar was kept very busy during breaks (and requiring a big trip to the bottle bank). The feedback has, once again, been really good and we were delighted to be able to raise more funds in support of the School. A big thank you to all those who came, and especially to those that organised entire tables, with friends from outside of school.



MUFTI and Cake Sale

On 2nd February, we were delighted to be fully supporting the School's chosen charity, Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). While pupils wore MUFTI and 'bad hair', the PTA hosted the ever popular cake sale. Once again, thanks to all the pupils and parents who supported by baking (and buying) some amazing cakes. We had enough left over to sell at the Year 7 disco in the evening as well. It was a really successful day and we were delighted to support the School and Charity Committee.

Lottery

We are delighted to announce our very own School Lottery. This is a great way for you to support the School whilst having a 'flutter'. We think it is really affordable, with a great opportunity to recoup your outlay and more!

Here's How it Works

- Go on to the PTA website www.dunottarschoolpta.co.uk where you will find a subscription form. Here you can either transfer £60 per annum to the PTA bank account, or pay £62 per annum via PayPal (£2.00 PayPal fee included) for 12 draws.
- This buys you one membership number (we will allocate) which enters you into the monthly draw. As a private lottery, we are only open to past and present families and staff at Dunottar School and you must be over 16.
- A bank transfer will go to the winner and each winner will be published in the school's newsletter. The prize money will be 50% of the membership fee taken that month. The remaining 50% goes to the school to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils.
- More details and a subscription form can be found on the PTA website. So, please can we encourage you to join - it's such an easy way to support the School.

Up Coming Events

Friday 20th April - Quiz Night...tickets available soon

Julie and the PTA
www.dunottarschoolpta.co.uk



Dunottar School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



Fantastic Robotics Challenges at First Lego League

Our trip to the First Lego League, a global science and technology competition with over 250,000 young people taking part each year, went really well in January and we had an amazing day.

We have been working on the challenge at Robotics Club and this was our first trip to a tournament. We took part in three rounds of the actual robot game against other schools and achieved our best result in the second round, where we got 2.5 missions correct. It was a nail biting finish as the judge, with about 20 seconds to go, said "You've just got enough time for one more". Charlie and Will stayed cool under pressure and were able to get the robot to drop the barrel into place on the buzzer - everyone watching jumped into the air!

We are really proud of all the work that the pupils put into the day and how they remained focussed and calm, despite the excitement and nerves as the day progressed. They also had to present a project idea, discuss how they worked as a team and explain their robot design and programming. Within the actual robot game, the Dunottar team came 7th out of 18; this was a great result as a new team but we are all sure we can do even better next time!

We have learnt a lot this season and it has been brilliant to see the passion and enthusiasm from the pupils who have been talking about ideas, improvements and what to do differently with their robot next year.

All pupils are welcome to join the club so come along if you want to challenge yourself and have a lot of fun in the process!

Charity Fever Hits the School

The Charity Committee voted overwhelmingly to support Great Ormond Street Hospital this term and we held events to raise as much money as possible.

The half termly mufti day had an extra twist with pupils and staff having a Bad Hair Day, the Dunottar PTA joined forces with the Charity Committee to organise a cake sale at break time and throughout the week students were competing to guess the number of sweets in a jar. Some students also chose to buy children's toys as gifts which will be delivered to the hospital during half term.

Well done and thank you to everyone for making this charity enterprise such a success. Our final total is £690 which is an amazing result - well done everyone!





Finding the Right Balance

January has been a busy month for those students who have had the pressure of mock examinations. Sitting mocks is important preparation for the summer exams, in terms of assessing academic progress and developing good revision techniques, and also in learning how to establish a healthy balance between work and finding time to recharge.

After their mocks at the start of this term, our Year 11 students attended a talk about mindfulness which thought about the coping strategies they could employ. They also participated in a Pilates session which helped them to unwind and demonstrated how physical activity can help maintain a healthy mind-set.



Stay Safe Online

This month one of the things we have been focusing on has been staying safe online and internet safety. Technology and the Internet bring a wealth of opportunities and possibilities for young people, but they also carry risks and need to be used responsibly and appropriately.

On 6th February we took part in 'No Tech 4 Breck' day when we were challenged to go for 24 hours without modern technology. The event was part of Safer Internet Day and the brainchild of The Breck Foundation which raises awareness about online dangers.

We also held our 'Virtually Safe' information evening for parents on 8th February. We hold these evenings annually to provide guidance and practical advice about the ways that, as teachers and parents, we can all take action to make children safer online. If you have any questions or concerns about online safety, get in touch with Mr Marc Broughton, Deputy Head Pastoral.

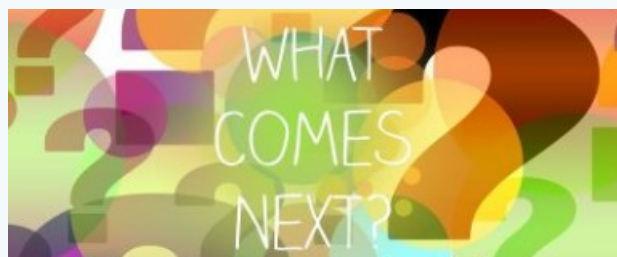
Exciting Futures

We have reached that point in the year when our Upper Sixth students are receiving University offers and finalising plans for when they leave school this summer.

This year's cohort have a really interesting array of ambitions for the next stage of their educational life, from English and Philosophy to International Relations, Paramedic Science and Aeronautical Engineering.

A fantastic quarter of the year group have offers from Russell Group universities as their first choice and we are delighted with the offers that all our students have received so far, including several Unconditional Offers. Good luck to all those still to hear from universities or workplaces.

Our focus will now be working with the Upper Sixth over the coming months to ensure that their exam preparation allows them to have the best chance of achieving their first choice destination.



Subject Snapshots



Deep concentration in Year 10's first English lesson of 'The Sign of the Four'. They're consolidating their knowledge of chapter 1 with a quotation-sort activity. Next step? Analysing and comparing!



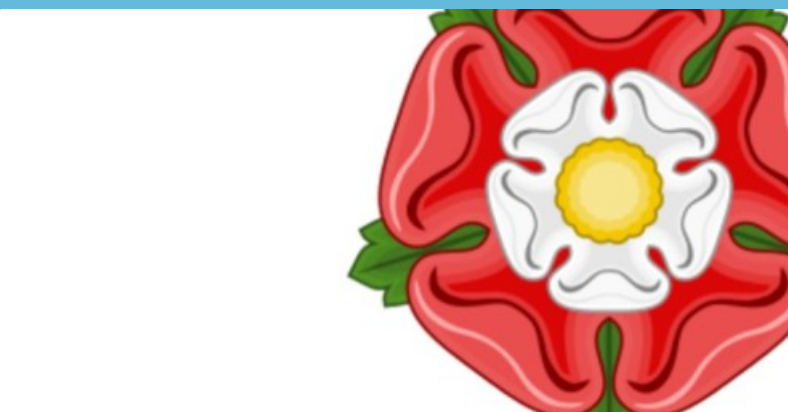
Great peer assessment in KS3 French—and effective feedback given to add complex structures.



Year 9 students have created their first mono-prints following a study of facial features and portraits. Next step? Developing personal responses to their own photography, using the mono-printing technique and embroidery.



Year 12 have been creating a cloud chamber to detect subatomic particles.



OCR are using Thea's A Level Tudor papers from the June 2017 exam as a model exemplar of a top level answer. Well done to the history department for nurturing Thea's potential and also to Thea, of course. Hard work pays off!



Year 11 Drama students have been working hard on their devised pieces. Great work!



Dunottar School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Year 7 Disco Fun

On Friday 2nd February our Year 7 pupils had a fun evening at a disco organised by a group of Year 11 students.

The Year 11 organisers planned everything - from choosing the black and white theme to sourcing the drinks and sweets on sale and decorating the hall. There were two hours of dancing, interspersed with some impressive "dance-offs" and games, all expertly led by the Year 11 team.

It was great to see the Year 7 pupils all dressed up and having such a great time. The final total raised is still being counted but well done to the Year 11 team whose hard work made it all possible.



Informal Concerts

We have enjoyed some delightful informal concerts this half term. From a lunchtime recital in the ballroom, to our early Spring Concert on Thursday 8th February, our pupils have spent time rehearsing and improving their chosen pieces before playing to interested and appreciative audiences. These informal concerts are a wonderful way to improve performance techniques and showcase the variety of musical talent at Dunottar. Look out for details of our next events.



DUNOTTAR SATURDAY MUSIC ACADEMY ~ for aspiring young musicians ~

The Dunottar Saturday Music Academy welcomes young musicians aged 5-18 both from Dunottar School and surrounding areas.

It provides an exciting setting for pupils to immerse themselves in musical learning and enjoyment through tuition and collaboration with others. The Academy is committed to musical excellence and aims to nurture young musicians through dedicated teaching and the provision of opportunities that are unique to Dunottar.

Musicians of all ability levels (including beginners) are welcome. Lesson times are arranged between the teacher and pupil; the Academy operates between 8.30am and 3pm on Saturdays.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Dunottar Saturday Music Academy, please visit www.dunottarschool.com/musicacademy or email Emily Pettet via info@dunottarschool.com.



Look out for details of how to get your tickets after half term!

22ND & 23RD MARCH 2018 7:30PM

**TICKETS: £8 FOR ADULTS,
£4 CHILDREN AND STUDENTS, £3 FOR OAPS**



Dunottar School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

...Continued from back page.

Injuries and illnesses to key players has meant that the team has suffered two defeats on the bounce to Cedars and Ewell Castle leading into the half term. We hope the squad comes back injury free and ready to go for next half term's football fixtures so we can see a resurgence of our fine early season form. Key improvements have come from James, in his new found role as a centre forward, and Tom who continues to develop his goal keeping and his distribution.

U14s: The U14s have made a strong start to this season. A thrilling match against an Epsom College team on 13th January, saw Dunottar take the spoils in a 5-4 win. An impressive first half, followed by a shaky start to the second half, led to a climatic finish. Following that the U14s beat Wilson's B team 4-2. In the last two fixtures to date, last minute goals from the opposition side have seen us have victory snatched from our grasp (Cedars School) and an exciting match against Ewell Castle ended in a 0-1 loss. Much like the rugby season, the squad has been bolstered by the introduction of some new faces to the school this year, but this has also allowed existing players to raise their own game. This is an exciting time for the squad as they now have some balance. Areas of focus are our aerial threat in attack and defence and general finishing/play in the final third.

U15s: The U15s had a terrific start to the season beating Wilson's 2-1 away from home. It was a fine defensive display which allowed the front players to be inventive and create many chances. The next match, once again away, was against Cedars School who managed to take an early lead. Dunottar fought back well but eventually ran out of steam. Once again a great team performance and something to build on.

The first home game of the season saw Dunottar come up against a very skilful side in Ewell Castle. They were well drilled and stormed ahead in the first half. Dunottar, inspired by Harvey's two fantastic goals clawed their way back, but once again ran out of puff and creativity towards the final minutes of the game. With Adam and Harvey as team captains and a team of solid and committed players the U15s have a great platform to push from and hopefully results will start to go Dunottar's way.



Sports Galore!



Sportshall Athletics

Congratulations to the Year 7 boys and girls who were selected at the indoor Sportshall district athletics event on 30th January. Both the boys and girls teams took overall 3rd place, with the boys coming third by the narrowest of margins and the girls putting in great performances in shotput, runs and speed bounce!

Swimming

On 1st February our Swim Squad took part in the district swimming gala and came fourth overall. Well done!

Indoor Cricket

We had a great afternoon when we hosted the South East Indoor Cricket Tournament on 29th January. We took a win against De Stafford and a narrow loss against Reigate School. It was a really good performance from our teams in both games with excellent displays of fielding, bowling and batting.

Basketball

Our U13 basketball team played Lingfield on 18th January. They put in a great performance and showed a big improvement from the previous game.

Sportswoman of the Month

Name: Lottie

Year Group: 8

Lottie has emerged as a very talented goal keeper in lacrosse where she often gains comments from the opposition's staff! She has impressively quick reactions and a keen interest and passion for the game. She makes numerous saves in each game keeping the team in a great position throughout. Lottie can also often be seen at our early morning fitness sessions.

Sportsman of the Month

Name: Mackenzie

Year Group: 9

Mackenzie has put in some excellent footballing performances this half term, dominating the midfield, working tirelessly in both attack and defence. He has contributed with a number of goals, including an important brace in the tight win against Epsom College. On top of this Mackenzie has represented the South Surrey district at the Surrey Schools' County Cross Country Championship at Reigate Priory Park, finishing a more than respectable 53rd in the county. Well done Mackenzie!



Netball and Lacrosse

After some close games at the start of the season, the U12s had their first Lacrosse win against the Royal School. The team kept a clean sheet and Rowie, Romilly and Issy G contributed to the 8-goal spectacle. Against Heathfield, the girls looked more settled around the fan after lots of work on attacking strategies in games, but were unable to convert the multiple shots on target and the game ended in a 2-2 draw.

The U13 Lacrosse team have shown great developments in their defence within games this term and have started looking at advancing their attacking strategies. They took a very convincing win over Heathfield and put out a very encouraging performance against some of the best teams at the County Tournament. The Netball team battled the elements at their Surrey Tournament. We have had a significant focus this term on defence which is starting to come through in our match play and the team took a really strong win against Ewell Castle.

The U14s have had a mixed half term in Lacrosse and Netball. In Lacrosse, they lost against the Royal School and at the Surrey Schools Lacrosse Tournament, they had one win. In Netball, the U14A and B teams started the half term with a loss against a strong Warlingham side. It was evident the cobwebs needed shaking off because a week later, the U14As won 6-5 against Caterham U14B and Dunottar U14Bs won 7-0 against Caterham U14C. The girls looked controlled and worked well in their teams to secure the wins. A special mention to Hope, CJ and Freya for getting POM.

At the upper end of school, the senior netball teams have started preparing for The Dunottar Shield Tournament. As well as this, the U15 teams took on some challenging matches at Caterham against older (and therefore taller!) teams. This tested our ability to adapt and use short, direct passes – a skill we need to polish.



It has been a busy and challenging first half of term and we look forward to continuing this pace after the holiday.

Football

U12As: After a slow and tough start to the football season, the U12s have gone from strength to strength. This has resulted in a recent 2-2 draw with Cedars, a game that could have been won had chances gone our way, and their best performance to date - a 5-2 win versus Ewell Castle. This game demonstrated our ability to hit teams on the counter attack, scoring three goals by doing this. In this short space of time the boys have learnt to play as a team, playing some aesthetically pleasing football. Areas of focus are our defensive shape and our ability to play out from the back. Let's hope this momentum continues after the half term break.

U12Bs: The U12B team had a tough start to the season with a chastening 10-1 defeat against Epsom College on the opening Saturday. They bounced back and regained much pride when challenged to a penalty shootout by the same side. Adam was inspirational in this, pressuring the opposition strikers in a "Shilton-esque" fashion to forge a narrow 1-0 defeat. The boys took many lessons away from this and trained hard. They took on Claremont on a Friday afternoon fixture and went down narrowly 4-0. The score line was not a true reflection of the ebb and flow of the game and our team performance.

Will M has been a giant in defence, bossing their attackers. Frankie has shown some nice touches at left back. When our wealth of keepers allowed for squad rotation Ben T had a blinder in goal allowing Captain Fantastic, Adam, to add Pirlo-like grace distributing the ball to our attack with style. Lessons have been learnt and in training the team are looking forward to the challenges ahead with strength and organisation bedding in at the back. It is a testament to this effort that in our most recent training session, teachers (most notably Mr Manning) struggled to find the back of the net!

U13s: The U13s started with a promising 5-0 win over Epsom College, where Dan stole the show with a fine hat trick. The team's new formation, accompanied by an outstanding work rate, has made it exceptionally hard for teams to break down the U13 defence and score past us. This was highlighted in a gritty 1-0 win second game of the season against a strong Wilsons' side; the goal coming from a long range strike courtesy of Jasper.

Continued on page 7...

