



Dunottar News

www.dunottarschool.com

T:01737 761945

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It has been lovely to see our pupils continuing to enjoy so many of the different aspects of school life this term. In early October, our Year 11s spent an excellent day tasting what life is like in our Sixth Form. They put on their best suits, attended Sixth Form lessons and mixed with our current cohort. In the evening we held a parents' reception where families were able to meet with various teachers and engage with the A Level subject options on offer here at Dunottar. On Saturday 6th October we hosted a highly successful taster morning for 146 prospective pupils who were able to enjoy lessons from cracking codes to dissecting squid, and from building robots to cooking apple pie. We also welcomed Dr Francesca Greatorex to speak about Performing Arts at the first of our Careers Networking events.

Pupils have been out and about on several exciting trips including the Year 8s to Hampton Court, the Art scholars to a sculpture park and a theatre trip to see 'The Jungle'. Rehearsals for Othello are well underway and you are cordially invited to come to that performance. We have had some inspirational 'themed weeks' including Modern Languages week, with its various language activities and international lunches, and 'Circus week' where pupils tried out unicycling, walking on stilts and juggling clubs. We were also delighted to have been able to contribute as a community to the charity Loveworks through our mufti day. In total, we donated 445kg of food to help people less fortunate than ourselves.

There is no doubt that this has been a busy month and I wish you all a very pleasant and restful half term break.

Mark Tottman
Headmaster



Bringing History to Life at Hampton Court!

On a gloriously sunny day at the end of September, Year 8 travelled to Hampton Court Palace to support their study of the Tudors in their History lessons. The pupils visited the Tudor State Apartments and the Kitchens to give them a real flavour of what life was like in Tudor times. They also enjoyed spending time in the Maze without getting too lost! For many students, the highlight of the trip was the study session with a costumed Tudor who led us through both the religious problems of the Tudor period both in England and abroad and also the dilemma facing Queen Elizabeth's advisers when she was seriously ill from smallpox and without an heir.

In groups, pupils discussed the positives and negatives of the claims of Mary, Queen of Scots and Lady Catherine Grey and there was much debate to be heard. It is so important for the pupils to take these opportunities of bringing the classroom History to life!



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 Mornings

Tuesday 6th November

Monday 26th November

(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

Tue 6 Nov	Open Morning
Wed 7 Nov	13+ Entrance examinations "Safe Drive, Stay Alive", Year 12 Year 9 & 10 Morrisby Profiling Tests
Mon 12 Nov	Sports Career Evening 6-8pm PTA meeting 7.30-9pm
Wed 14 Nov	Year 11 Morrisby Profiling Tests
Thu 15 Nov	Autumn Informal Concert 4.30-5.30pm
Fri 16 Nov	Children in Need "Splat the Teacher" event
Sat 17 Nov	MUN Conference
Sun 18 Nov	Othello Rehearsal
Mon 19 Nov	Whole school musical auditions
Wed 21 Nov	Year 10 Parents' evening
Fri 23 Nov	PTA Christmas Fair 5.30-8pm
Sun 25 Nov	Othello Rehearsal
Mon 26 Nov	Open Morning
Tue 27 Nov	Year 12 Team Maths Challenge
Wed 28 Nov	Shakespeare Schools Festival 6-10pm Year 12 & 13 Morrisby Profiling Tests
Thu 29 Nov	Year 8 Parents' evening
Fri 30 Nov—Sun 2 Dec	Year 11 Geography field trip
Sun 2 Dec	Scratch Music Messiah
Tue 4 Dec	Year 13 English students lecture day
Thu 6 Dec	ABRSM Music Examinations Year 12 Parents' evening
Fri 7 Dec	Mufti Day
Sat 8 Dec	Caring at Christmas
Sun 9 Dec	YMCA Santa Run
Wed 12 Dec	Carol Service (Andrews, Davids) 7.30-8.30pm
Thu 13 Dec	Carol Service (Georges, Patricks) 7.30-8.30pm
Fri 14 Dec	School breaks up at midday

See full calendar at www.dunottarschool.com

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to everyone for contributing towards our food donations to Loveworks throughout last week. The amount brought in exceeded our expectations and the comments we received from Loveworks are a testament to that.

Graham Humphries, who visited the charity committee a couple of weeks ago, said our donation looked like at least one month's supply of food when he picked it up on Friday.

"WOW!! What a wonderful donation! Please pass on our thanks to your students, parents and staff. This will enable us to help local people with real need immediately and into the late Autumn."

Another team member commented, ***"I am delighted to report that the total weight received from Dunottar School was 445.17 kilos! This is an incredible contribution."***

Upcoming charity events

- 5th November - Poppy collection
- 16th November - Children in Need
- 7th December - Mufti day
- 8th December - lacrosse match, old girls vs Dunottar girls for Heal Kids and Care for the Family

Prospective pupils get a taste of Dunottar

On Saturday 6th October, we welcomed 146 Year 6 and Year 8 students from 27 local schools to our Taster Morning. The prospective pupils were able to choose two activities from an exciting range including using their maths skills to break codes; baking seasonal pastries; performing a poem; learning about high-speed flash photography; using computer aided design and a laser cutter to make a keyring or bag tag; learning how to programme and produce a robot; a cricket masterclass; fabric printing; a hocus pocus potions class; a history crystal maze; and dissecting a squid.

Sue Edwards, Head of Admissions, commented: "The purpose of the taster morning was to give the children an opportunity to experience life at Dunottar and to start to form friendships with potential new classmates. We wanted the students to have fun and get to know the school a little better, helping them to feel relaxed and able to do their best when they return to sit their entrance assessments."

When asked by Mr Tottman how many of them had learned something during the morning, every hand went up! They all seemed to enjoy themselves on the day and we were pleased to have been able to give them a little taste of life at Dunottar.



La Semaine des Langues

The week commencing 24th September was celebrated as “Languages Week” in Dunottar to coincide with the European Day of Languages, celebrated every year on September 25th.

Our pupils (and staff!) were treated to a vast array of activities designed to enthuse everybody to learn another language and see languages as a skill for life, not a subject!

We all enjoyed our catering staff’s themed lunches: Indian on Tuesday, Spanish on Wednesday, Italian on Thursday and traditional English on Monday!

Our now traditional Film night was very well attended by Lower School pupils who thoroughly enjoyed the French story of friendship between a young boy and a dog set in the Alps in WWII... they also enjoyed the flavoured popcorn!

Russian club kicked off that week and two Sixth Form pupils took it upon themselves to educate the younger pupils in the History of Russia. Mrs Pennels taught them some of the basics of the language and the club promises to be a popular and long-lived one.

We launched the EDL “design a t-shirt competition” during House Assembly. If one of our pupils wins, there will be thousands of t-shirts printed with their design for EDL 2019.

Every assembly during the week contained a language theme and many teachers took on the challenge and greeted pupils in a foreign language. There was even a Physics lesson taught partly in French.

Merci à tous!... Looking forward to next year already.



Art Scholars Visit the Sculpture Park

As part of the Art Scholars programme we visited the Sculpture Park in Churt, Surrey. The sculpture park was really good at giving us a whole range of ideas to consider when developing our own ideas and sculptures. There were plenty of different shapes, colours and textures. There was also a variety of scales - some pieces were enormous, while others were very small and hidden within the surroundings. There was a difference in styles - many of the pieces were purely abstract, and some were more figurative. The scale often depended on the materials used like old shoes, moulded and carved into sheets of

metal and wood. Also old compost bins, other every day plastic, wooden, metal and many more unusual objects were used to create dramatic, interesting and unique sculptures.

It was also interesting to see how natural materials that may have come from the park itself were used to produce animal forms such as deer and birds of prey. Huge metal flowers in bright colours contrasted with the trees and undergrowth to create a surreal feeling as we walked through. I was particularly inspired by a beautiful metal bird with its wings outstretched and pyramids made of mirrors that reflected the environment. I am looking forward to starting work on some of my own ideas for the ‘Dunottar Sculpture Park’.

Estelle, Year 9



Year 7 Thoughts on Settling in at Dunottar

Our Year 7s recently wrote to their old Primary Schools and Prep Schools to let them know how they are getting on at Dunottar. Here are a few extracts from their letters.

"I have settled into Dunottar wonderfully. There are lots of cool clubs such as Physics and DT Club"

"I am really enjoying it here at Dunottar. I have been on a camping trip. We did crate stacking, rifle shooting, rock climbing and laser tag."

"In the first week we went on a great 2 day/night trip and it was BRILLIANT! We did a lot of activities and had loads of fun."

"I have made lots of good friends. I also do lots of clubs like food and nutrition and girls football. Dunottar's playground is so cool as it has a zipwire that sooo FUN because you go so high."

"I have done lots of fun things so far at Dunottar. I have gone on a fantastic school bonding trip and had an amazing languages week. I have made lots of new friends and have met some lovely teachers."

A Taste of Sixth Form for Year 11

On Thursday 4th October, our Year 11 pupils had an insight into life in our Sixth Form. They arrived at school in business-wear and were treated to pastries and hot drinks to welcome them to the day. After a talk about the structure of the Sixth Form at Dunottar from Mrs Hammond (Head of Sixth Form) they attended three A Level-style lessons with their peers investigating new subjects, such as Politics or Psychology, or discovering the world outside of GCSEs in subjects they are already studying such as Maths, Music and P.E.

After having their brains tantalised with the exciting shape of things to come, the Year 11s tucked into a buffet lunch in the Ballroom, where they got a taste of having a quiet, Sixth Form-only space in which to socialise and work - clearly this will be even better next year in the fantastic new building.

After lunch students donned trainers and went outdoors for a team-building afternoon where they crossed fields of lava, levitated basketballs and defused bombs (or used the skills

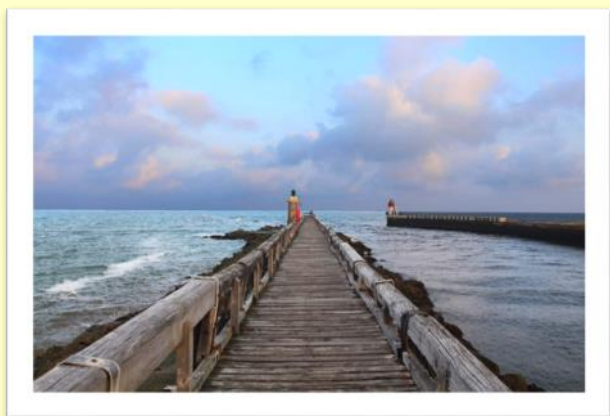
required for these tasks at least!). They worked with members of their House both in their year, and the year above - pupils who will be in their form in Sixth Form. That evening pupils returned to school to have an in-depth chat with subject teachers about the A Levels on offer at Dunottar, and started the journey to establishing the best course of study for their future.

All-in-all, an enjoyable informative day was had by all, and we look forward to running this event again next year!

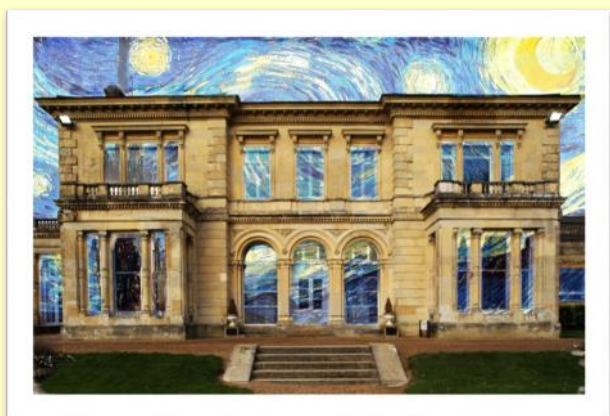


Mr Huxley's Gallery: Images of the Week

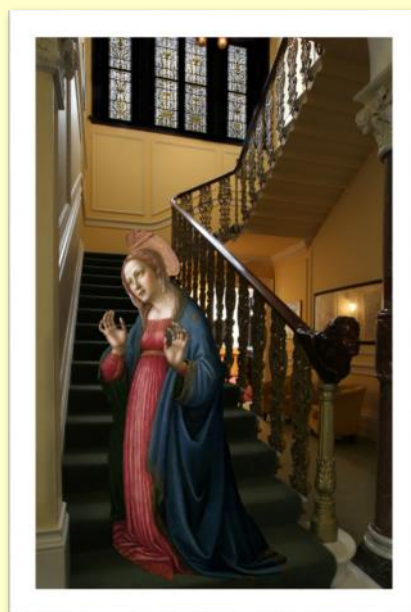
Each week, Mr Huxley chooses a selection of images that his photography pupils have created, to be his "images of the week". Here are a selection from October.



Ned, Year 11—*'showing a sense of space'*



Olly, Year 12



Year 7 Poetry Slam

This half-term, Year 7 pupils have been studying a range of poems, exploring how writers use structure and form to make the reader think, feel and imagine. As part of this scheme of work, pupils created their own poems and experimented with poetic form. Pupils and teachers selected a range of the best poems, and the budding young poets and their families were invited to take part in the Year 7 Poetry Slam on 2nd October. Our budding bards and future laureates were treated to pizza and they then had the opportunity to showcase their poetry to teachers, peers and parents.

A huge well done to our wonderful young writers and the English Department for hosting such a smashing event.



Dunottar's New-Look Careers Advice and Guidance Programme

Since the launch of the new **Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)** programme in September, we have had some exciting and varied guests. We have also introduced **Morrisby Profiling** to support pupils in their careers exploration.

Morrisby Profiling

The Morrisby Profile is one of the most widely-known and sophisticated services in careers guidance. For the past 50 years, the company have been at the forefront of assessing aptitudes, learning and personal working styles, to inspire and help young people make informed decisions about their careers. As well as taking an objective assessment of aptitudes, Morrisby also take interests, working style and academic achievements into account to create a comprehensive, holistic and individually tailored analysis on which to base future career decisions. Pupils in Years 9-13 who have signed up for this service will be taking the aspiration and aptitude tests in November.

Careers Networking Events

At the beginning of October, Dunottar alumna Dr Francesca Greatorex came to visit the school to launch our excellent programme of Careers Networking Events (CNEs). Having left Dunottar in 1970, Dr Greatorex went on to train in Production Management at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and work in the West End on shows such as Jesus Christ Superstar and Chess. Dr Greatorex delivered a fascinating insight into the world of stage and sound management and how the industry has changed and developed over the last few decades. Having worked with big names such as ABBA and Helen Mirren, Dr Greatorex's key message to those looking to

work in the industry is to stay curious, you never know what might happen and what opportunities might arise. Pupils from all year groups are encouraged to meet our guests and develop their networking skills at these events.

Careers Assemblies

Years 9 and 10 enjoyed a brilliant Careers Assembly delivered by Border Force Officer Andrea Freathy and her four-legged canine colleague in the second week of October. Officer Freathy and Charlie, the drug sniffer dog, demonstrated the incredible aptitude of Charlie's nose for sniffing out contraband items... such as a placebo drug planted in Miss Wilshaw's left sock. Officer Freathy told of exciting stories that have led to Charlie becoming the number one sniffer dog in the country. From scouting out Class A drugs at Gatwick Airport, to wading through icy waters to search vessels, there is never a dull day for this dynamic duo. Officer Freathy informed our pupils of the skills and competencies employers look for in those looking to pursue a career in Border Force.

For the latest information of the CNEs coming up, check the poster outside the Main Hall. As always, we are looking to expand our careers provision. If you or someone you know would like to come in and deliver a talk to our pupils, please do get in touch with Miss Wilshaw.



Subject Snapshots



Year 9 enjoy their first CAD (computer aided design) lesson in the new D&T CAD Room.



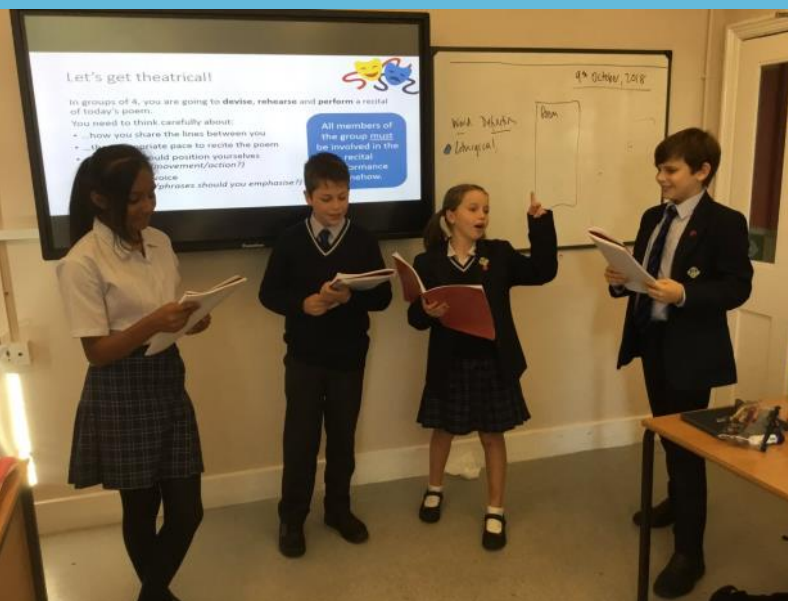
Year 11 geographers have been playing Top Trumps to investigate the cost, environmental impact, durability and appearance of hard and soft coastal management techniques.



In Geography, Year 10 have been drawing global atmospheric systems on balloons.



Year 12 historians have been preparing PowerPoints on their iPads ready for seminar style presentations.



In English lessons, Year 7 pupils have been performing an elegy to familiarise themselves with rhetorical devices, repetition and liturgical lexis.



Year 8 consolidate their study of characterisation in 'Beowulf' by creating life-size cut outs of the main players, filled with relevant vocabulary, to inspire their own character descriptions.



The Most Moving Theatrical Experience – “The Jungle”

On Monday 8th October, the drama GCSE, A level students and Year 9 scholars went to see ‘The Jungle’ at The Playhouse Theatre, London. The Jungle tells a story of loss, fear, community and hope in the Calais refugee camp. We hear the heart breaking stories of the refugees, how they came to be at the camp and the sacrifices they make to get to England; to safety.

The play is centred round a restaurant built by one of the refugees which becomes a symbol of hope and solidarity, as well as a determination to survive and not be forgotten. To say the play was moving would be an understatement, and made me realise how lucky I am to have what I have, and the education I am able to experience.

A particularly moving and poignant moment in the play, showed a previously divided camp coming together through music. The cast sang, played instruments and danced together; it was a melting pot of cultures and I was struck by

how beautiful the scene was. They were able to find light where there

was no hope, for a moment forgetting the horrendous traumas they had been through. The use of real footage of the camp, as well as those who did not make it that far was extremely powerful and difficult to watch. It made the plight of the refugees so real to me, and I left feeling as though I wanted to help and make a difference.

‘The Jungle’ was one of the most moving theatrical experiences I’ve ever had and I would definitely recommend it to others to see. If I had to sum up the play in three words they would be inspirational, realistic and heart-breaking.

Anna, Year 10



Year 11 Visit Ham House

On Monday 15th October, Year 11 History students travelled to Ham House in Richmond, the historic environment site this academic year for the Restoration part of their GCSE course. The students began their visit with a very informative outdoor architecture tour by one of the house’s knowledgeable volunteers. One of the interesting pieces of information that we learnt on this tour was that some of the bricks used on the house had actually originated from Reigate!

Students then spent time in the different sections of the house, including the Queen’s apartments, built specifically for King Charles II’s wife, as well as the servants’ quarters in the basement. At every turn, there were clear examples of the wealth and high status of its owners during the Restoration period.

Overall, the day proved to be very interesting and no doubt brought the students’ learning to life.



News From the PTA

Let us start with a huge thank you for the support you have shown the PTA so far this term!

We all enjoyed a hugely successful Macmillan coffee morning in September and raised an astounding £725.75. Thanks again to all those pupils and parents who baked/provided a fabulous selection of cakes. Year 7 and 8 never fail to amaze us with their baking talents. The tables were bursting full of wonderful cakes - with some so expertly decorated that they looked too good to eat! Thanks to all those who came to help out too. A great morning for a fantastic charity.

Macmillan was followed closely by our annual Quiz Night. An enormous thank you to Mitchell & Summons, our Quizmasters for keeping us on our toes and keeping our brains whirring. To all who joined us - we hope you had fun!

The Autumn term continues to be a busy one for us with two more important events in the diary. Caring at Christmas (Saturday 8th December) is our annual lunch for local elderly residents living alone, and we also have our Christmas Fair on 23rd November. Further details will be sent out shortly.



Dunottar School PTA Christmas Fair

**Friday 23rd November 2018
5.30pm - 8pm**

**Students, parents, friends and family all welcome -
the more the merrier.**

Your help is needed with:

1. HAMPERS for our Christmas Hamper Raffle (we need Christmas food (non perishable)/prosecco/decorations/gifts/toiletries/crackers, etc... so we can make amazing hampers)
2. TOMBOLA STALLS (we need CHOCOLATES & BOTTLES of any kind)
3. THE SECRETS STALL (we always have a wonderful secrets stall for children to choose and wrap presents for family and friends - please send in any unwanted gifts/ nearly new items suitable for presents for parents or siblings)

We will start collecting all the above after half term. Collection bins will be in reception. Please help us as much as possible.

Next PTA Meeting

Our next PTA meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 12th November at school. We need new members to join us so please come along to this if you can.

Have you joined yet?

Dunottar School Lottery - dunottarschoolpta.co.uk/lottery

Easy Fundraising - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dunottarpta/>

Classlist - www.classlist.com (and search for Dunottar School)

Building Update: Sixth Form Centre

After a busy summer clearing and preparing the ground for the new Sixth Form Centre, the construction team have now begun work on the footings for the new building. The bore holes for the pile foundations are in place and construction of the building's steel frame will begin in mid November.

Whilst the pupils are enjoying their half term break, one of the next developments will be the digging out of a 20m bore hole which will create a new soakaway for waste water.

With heavy-duty digging going on outside, there is also a great deal of preparation work taking place inside the existing buildings. Work is being carried out to prepare the openings, where the new building will be joined to the existing school block, whilst the utilities contractors are working on the installation and connection of gas and electrical cabling.

Responsible for overseeing the project is Estates Manager, Andy Cotton. One of his priorities during this phase of



development at Dunottar, is to recreate some of the original features that would have been found on the original building during the 1930s. With the help of several images taken during the 1930s, Mr Cotton is keen to restore the building's appearance to it's former glory and ensure that the new buildings integrate well with the listed status of the site. If anyone has any old photos they would be happy to share with Mr Cotton, please let the school know.

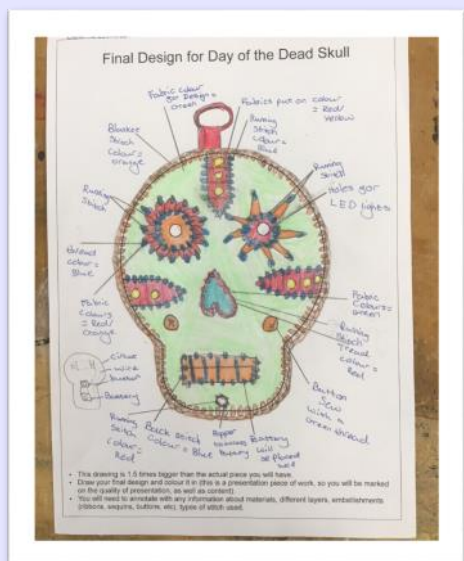
Progress reports on the building work and further images will be posted on Twitter and the school website.

Be Outstanding...

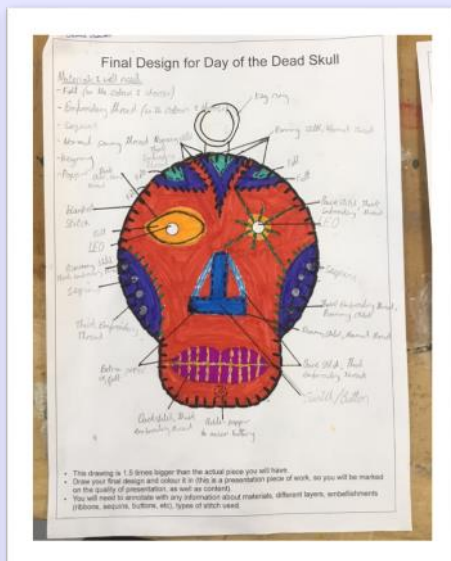
Well done to all our pupils who have shown curiosity, creativity and commitment across the curriculum this half term. We are delighted to be able to recognise some of the most inspiring examples here.

Pupil	Yr	Award	Subject
Cameron M	8	Academic Distinction	D&T
Jamie B	8	Academic Distinction	D&T
Emily K	7	Academic Distinction	Science

Cameron M



Jamie B



Emily K



Emily's model of solids, liquids and gases was very impressive.

Sports woman of the month

Romilly H

Romilly has been attending the Surrey netball workshops this half term, which culminated in the Surrey Academy trials where she gained a place in the Surrey Academy, comprising the top 50 players in the county. It was pleasing to discover that she was rated as a top centre court player by the selectors due to unquestionable control through the mid-court, decision making and powerful passing. As well as this, she has demonstrated amazing supportive leadership skills within the Dunottar lacrosse team through her continuous positive encouragement. She continues to strive for excellence.

Sports man of the month

Woody A

Woody has made a superb start to sport at Dunottar. He is a key member of the rugby A team, which saw him being rewarded with captaincy for the first game of the season, a game that we won against Royal Alexandra and Albert School. He also captained the Year 7 football team who made Dunottar history by becoming the first team to make it past the first round of the ESFA Small Schools' National Cup, a feat that Year 10 also achieved that same week. The team beat Caterham School 2-1 after extra-time, with Woody scoring both of the Dunottar goals.

Team of the month

U15 Lacrosse

The U15 Lacrosse team have concluded the first half of the term undefeated, with 3 out of 3 wins against Heathfield, Walthamstow Hall and Claremont. They have worked hard in training to develop a variety of successful tactics in attack, such as a 'pick' and 'stack'. These have been successfully implemented in all matches and they have maintained composure in some tightly contested games. The defensive unit have been crucial in applying pressure, gaining turnovers and therefore keeping us ahead of the opponents. A special mention to Tabby M for playing up a year group, helping the team out as goalkeeper and even gaining player of the match.



Join the Dunottar Santas at the YMCA Santa Run

Calling all walkers and runners! We would love as many parents, pupils and staff as possible to sign up to take part in the YMCA Santa Run on **Sunday 9th December at 10.30am**. The course covers three miles and is open to walkers and runners alike. All participants will receive a Santa suit as part of their entry and we will also have our own blue, Dunottar-branded Santa hats.

To enter visit: www.resultsbase.net/event/4623

Please enter Dunottar School into the team / club field when entering your details online.

Join Dunottar Swimming Club!

A reminder to all parents and prospective parents that Dunottar's excellent pool facilities are available for use by all members of the Dunottar Swimming Club between the hours of 1630 to 1800 on Saturdays and 1730 to 2000 on Sundays. If you would like to join the Swimming Club it costs £130 p.a. for 2018 (subject to review for next year). Membership is for individual adults. Children swim free of charge but each child must be with an adult member. People joining part way through the year pay pro rata for the remaining weekends.

Please email: dunottarswimmingclub@hotmail.co.uk for further details.





as awesome creativity. However, they have been undone by singular moments of excellence from the opposition, as well as highly organised defensive play.

Rugby

U12

The U12 boys continue to impress with the good start that they have made to the rugby season. This is aided by the fact that over 85% of the year group are attending the after school training session each week. Squad selection for both the A and B team is more difficult than it has ever been, yet there is still great team spirit and camaraderie. The boys have greatly benefited from being coached by Mr Burgess in their Friday games session, our strength and conditioning coach who formerly worked at Swansea Football Club. Areas for particular development are ensuring that our defensive line all pushes up together, not leaving any gaps for our opponents to exploit, as well as our ability to get in to support a breakdown quickly. The boys also need to work on having depth when we attack and using width. At the time of writing this we are yet to play Epsom College, which will be a very tough game, but we look forward to seeing the boys implement into this match what we have worked on in training to address these areas of development.

U13

The Under 13 A team have had mixed fortunes so far this season although they have always played with real spirit and determination. Two good wins and two losses is a good return so far but we all hope that the second half of the season garners some more consistency. We were beset with injury for a couple of our games which hasn't helped, but with a full strength side we travel to Epsom College this Saturday to hopefully tip the balance into the win column again. The boys deserve a good rest over half-term and I look forward to the second half of the season. Colder mornings, darker days and lots of rain...what is there not to look forward to!

U14

The U14s continue to show tenacity and the desire to improve in their most recent displays of rugby. An excellent squad training session led to marked improvements in forward play and running different plays from rucks and scrums through both forwards and backs. This means as a squad we are a huge threat in attack and when in possession of the ball. At times, the U14s have shown phenomenal hands and excellent speed in moving the ball from one side of the pitch and back as well

Because of this, a big focus on scrum positioning and rucking has been evident in the last few training sessions, to try and get some more discipline in the way our defense works. If the side can combine all the elements together, they have the potential to cause any team trouble on their day. At the time of writing, the squad are hosting The Cedars School, from Croydon on Saturday 13th October.

U15

The under 15s have had a tough start to the season but are starting to play some excellent rugby. Our squad has been stretched, but the boys have shown great team spirit. Our first win came against Ewell Castle. Our lineout dominance providing quick ball for our backs to show what they are capable of going forward.

In open play, the team are starting to play a quick running rugby that will continue to improve. As we progress through the term more facets are being brought into our play in all areas of the game. Our attacking options are improving. There are exciting times ahead for this talented squad.

1st XV

The 1st XV continue to show signs of development and improvement. Whilst they are a naturally small squad, their cohesion and sense of togetherness is admirable. On October 6th the boys traveled to Claremont for a fixture against their 1st XV. In foggy conditions, the match started in a cagey manner, eventually a lucky intercepted try saw Claremont take a 7-0 lead. Our 1st XV showed themselves off defensively with a number of good tackles, limiting the metres gained by the opposition. Our speed and effectiveness at the breakdown as a team was our downfall as repeated phases of pressure took their toll and Claremont went over again late in the first half. Rallied by their tenacity and courage, Dunottar took positives from the first half and built on this with a try early in the second half courtesy of captain and fly half Tom. Eventually, Claremont won the game 19-5, in a scoreline that didn't reflect the closeness of the fixture. At the time of writing the squad are heading to Croydon to play The Cedars School on Saturday 13th October.

Continued overleaf...



RAAS have provided tough competition. Continuing their commitment to training and adopting a positive and growth mindset under the guidance of Mr Lowe and Mr Davies, will see the boys develop as individuals and as a team, and results will follow suit.

Last and by no means least, we have enjoyed launching our truly first 1st XV this year. The boys have shown their quality in Wednesday afternoon sessions and put this into practice on the pitch against RAAS's U16s and Wilson's 1st XV. The Dunottar 1st XV showed their potential by taking both sides very close. Focusing more on team collaboration in attack is the key going forward. Increasing the level of support when forwards and backs alike break the gain line, will see the side instantly become an even greater threat in attack, and they showed signs of this development vs Wilson's. Defensively, improving their line speed and ability to all press as a line will also limit the momentum opposition runners can generate. With soon-to-be-fit players expected to return to the side shortly, the future looks bright for this talented group of hard working students.

Lacrosse

Another month has passed and there is a great vibe around lacrosse at Dunottar, particularly if you are down at Old Reigatians when it comes to match time on Saturday mornings. The support at home games has been great and seems to help some of the girls find another gear as they play in front of their friends and family. We look forward to seeing this support continue to grow and are happy to help explain what is going on if you are not sure how lacrosse is played.

As for the teams themselves, the U12 team are thriving under the guidance of Miss Grant and the rate at which their skills and gameplay are progressing is exciting to see. Their throwing and catching is where improvements are most notable and the major focus for now is boxing out and securing groundballs in competitive game situations. They have now won three and drawn one so are carrying momentum in to their last fixture of this half term, a triangular against St Helens and Haileybury.

After a tough opening couple of games the U13 players have worked hard with Mrs Bambridge on improving their marking in defence, settling in and around the fan, transitioning in midfield and protecting the ball. The result of this focus and determination has seen them achieve comfortable back to back victories. It is great to see how eager this squad is to develop their game and we look forward to seeing even more impressive play emerge from the girls as the season continues.

Miss Colman's U14 squad have suffered a few narrow defeats and then played brilliantly when they nearly beat the year above and again when they whitewashed Heathfield 9-0. The

team is transitioning to playing a more inclusive style of team lacrosse and gradually realising the benefits that good player positioning and reliable stick skills can bring. If the concentration and commitment to improving as a team returns to the exceptional place that it was in for the entirety of last season, then this team will start to turn those narrow losses into comfortable wins.

Since the rude awakening of the year below nearly beating them, Mrs Pieters' U15 players have shown some real grit and determination to grind out a couple of very close wins and extend their unbeaten winning streak to four games on the trot. The current focus areas for this team are creating more goals from settled play and knowing when and how to use accuracy and power with shooting, to improve the conversion rate of the many goal scoring opportunities they are already creating. As well as feeling more confident holding the ball when in pressured situations, this team are showing tremendous promise and are on track for a very impressive season.

This first half term has been tough for the senior team with the absence of year 13s due to university visits, the addition of players that are new to the sport finding their feet and a few unfortunate injuries that thankfully were not too serious. Lots has been learned from the first two games and the team has gone to work on how to mark more effectively in defence as well as how to clear the ball as a team. With a squad of twenty all training and available for matches next half term we are optimistic about the progress this group will make. The girls have two fixtures, one triangular, one tournament and an alumni charity match scheduled, so it is set to be a full but enjoyable second half to the season for the seniors.

