

# Dunottar News

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The term has started very well indeed. You can sense a real buzz about the school and it is lovely to see so many boys and girls across the different year groups just enjoying being at

Dunottar. Our new year 7s thoroughly enjoyed their overnight camp at Bentley Copse and I was lucky enough to meet up with them before breakfast to hear stories of the badger who sneaked in to steal camp food! Our year 9s had an equally good time on their camp at Blackland Farm.

All of our co-curricular clubs are up and running. We have rolled out our iPad programme across five year groups and trained the pupils – although I sometimes feel that it is they who are training us! Pupils also played a leading role in Week 2 assembly in which they presented their experiences from the summer trip to Zambia.

A number of successful events have already taken place. Our Careers evening was very well attended by parents and pupils who heard about the excellent opportunities that Miss Wilshaw has for them. If you are able to help in any way (with talks or internships) please let us know. Crispin Blunt MP ran a thought-provoking question and answer session with our Sixth Form who quizzed him on a wide range of interesting global and domestic topics. Our first Open Morning was well attended by local families. And we were treated to an outstanding performance from our Chamber Choir at the Harlequin Theatre. Led and conducted by Charles Thompson, pupils from 25 years of Dunottar's illustrious music history sang traditional and modern pieces in concert.

**Mark Tottman**  
Headmaster



## Diary from Zambia

During July, 15 Dunottar pupils set off for Zambia to work for a local charity, organising and leading lessons and activities for Zambian street children. Pupils were helping the 'Chisomo Street Kids Project' in Lusaka, Zambia. The project supports the street children of Zambia, children who are forgotten or ignored, victims of the global HIV/AIDS crisis, or just of systemic and crushing poverty. Chisomo offers a safe haven for them where they can receive shelter, food, clothing, education and counselling. The programme aims to reintegrate street children into their home communities and families. Pupils delivered five days of creative and educational lessons and activities for the street children. The following are extracts from their diaries.

**Day 1:** This morning we woke up to meets and greets with zebras, giraffes and monkeys. We have divided all supplies for our first teaching day tomorrow, feeling really excited to meet the children.

**Day 2:** After waking up to an amazing breakfast of cucumber, bread and eggs, we set off to meet the children. We began by teaching them English. At lunch time we were taught how to eat Zambian food with nothing but our right hand. We ate Nshima and beans. It was interesting and surprisingly delicious!



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# Open Mornings

Wednesday 3rd October

Tuesday 6th 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 2 Oct	Art Trip to Churt Sculpture Park Poetry Evening for Yr 7
Wed 3 Oct	Open Morning
Thu 4 Oct	Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day Sixth Form Open Evening
Fri 5 Oct	PTA Quiz Night
Mon 8 Oct	Theatre Trip for Yr10-12 Drama pupils Theatre Trip for Y9 Performing Arts Scholars
Fri 12 Oct	Mufti Day
Sun 14 Oct	Scholar's Showcase Rehearsal
Mon 16 Oct	Year 11 History Visit to Ham House
Thu 18 Oct	Music and Drama Scholar's Performance
Fri 19 Oct	<b>School breaks up for Half term</b>

See full calendar at [www.dunottarschool.com](http://www.dunottarschool.com)

## Taster Morning for Prospective Pupils

We're really looking forward to seeing our prospective pupils who are registered for 11+ and 13+ entry in September 2019 (or deferred 13+ 2021) at the Taster Morning on Saturday 6th October.

We hope you'll enjoy a fun morning getting to know a little more about life at Dunottar, meeting some of our staff and spending time with some possible future classmates and friends!

**Registration Deadlines:** Please note that any pupils who wish to take entrance exams for 2019 entry must be registered by the relevant deadline.

**11+ Registration Deadline:** 30th November 2018

**13+ Registration Deadline:** 31st October 2018

*Please check our website or call our Admissions Office if you have any questions about applying for entry to Dunottar School.*

Day 5: Today was quite emotional because we had to say goodbye to our first groups. At the residential centre the children were so enthusiastic to see us again as they all remembered us, we did teaching in the morning, mostly writing letters and we played a big game of bingo too. At the drop in centre we were greeted with familiar happy faces and glad to see a handful of new children excited to join in with piggy in the middle, shortly followed by Pictionary. Later on we spent time with individual children working on their literacy and maths skills.



Day 6: Our first destination was at a women support group in George's compound. The support group was very emotional and eye opening. As we started a Q&A session with the women, they told us about their financial struggles and it made us all realise how lucky we are to have the things we take for granted. These women live on 10 kwacha a day, equivalent to 10 pence. While at the support group we had a chance to buy items that the women made and they appreciated our enthusiasm.

In the afternoon we met up with the children from Chisomo Drop in Centre, at Eureka Campsite. It was great to see familiar faces and some new ones. They were really excited to see us again and we shared some dances together and played a highly competitive football match. We all had a great day creating stronger friendships with the children and we were all sad to see them leave.



## Model United Nations Conference

On Saturday 22nd September, we proudly represented Nigeria and Montenegro at ReIMUN 22, a vibrant Model United Nations conference that we have been attending for four years. This time, however, we were able to put forward two teams from both Junior and Senior MUN clubs. We had



delegates in various committees, such as Environment, Economic & Financial, Disarmament & International Security, Social, Cultural & Humanitarian, amongst others. The topics under debate were wide ranging and included such challenging and current topics as bioterrorism, child labour, religious expression, over-exploitation of natural resources and territorial claims in the Arctic.

Debate was lively and our delegates held their own well. A most enjoyable Saturday! If you think this could be of interest to you, why not come to W3 during Friday lunchtime and see what it is all about?



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## Year 7 and 9 Team Building Adventures!

In the first week of term, Year 7 went off to Bentley Copse for two days of exciting activities and team building challenges. It was a great opportunity to make new friends and face new challenges whilst having loads of fun. They tried pedal cart racing, laser tag, climbing, crate stacking, rifle shooting and a series of taxing teamwork challenges. When not involved in their activities, lots of the pupils relaxed by playing mini games of cricket and football, or talking in their tents and draining the vending machine of all its goodies. After a delicious supper, we had a roaring campfire with plenty of singing and even some solos led by our very own Year 7s! They braved the weather and camped overnight, even fighting off a curious badger in search of food! On Friday, we held an inter-form group game of capture the flag and it was amazing to see the pupils working together and running around, full of energy despite their early morning wake up.

It was a fantastic two days and the staff were really impressed by the enthusiasm, teamwork and tenacity shown by all – what a brilliant start to the year!



Year 9 pupils had a fantastic time on their team building residential to Blackland Farm during the first week of school. They scaled the climbing wall, then put their trust in the rope – and the instructor – as they took the plunge by abseiling down. They shot arrows, with a varying degree of accuracy, and seemed to spend more time in the lake than their kayaks. They joined a frog in the pool and screamed as the crate tower toppled. They cooked and toasted marshmallows over an open fire and Mr Kokott experienced his first ever 'smore'. They mastered the art of putting up old fashioned canvas tents, which fortunately stayed standing throughout the night - just!

Everyone had a great time and it was the perfect opportunity for pupils to get to know each other better.







## Pupils Celebrate GCSE and A Level Success!

Well done to all our pupils who received their GCSE and A levels this summer!

At A Level, every pupil passed and 93% of pupils got into their first choice university, with others securing prestigious apprenticeships in leading companies. At GCSE, 96% of pupils achieved five or more 9-4/A\*-C grades including English and Maths and one in four pupils achieved at least one of the coveted grade 9s.



## Successful iPad Roll-Out

In September, we launched the iPad roll out across Years 7, 9, 10 and 12. This involved 250+ iPads being dispatched to our pupils to allow us to bring learning alive both inside and outside the classroom.

Our Year 7 students embraced their training morning and started to create inspiring books using BookCreator. Within their session they learned to app smash and manipulate Microsoft 365 tools ready for the start of their learning journey at Dunottar.

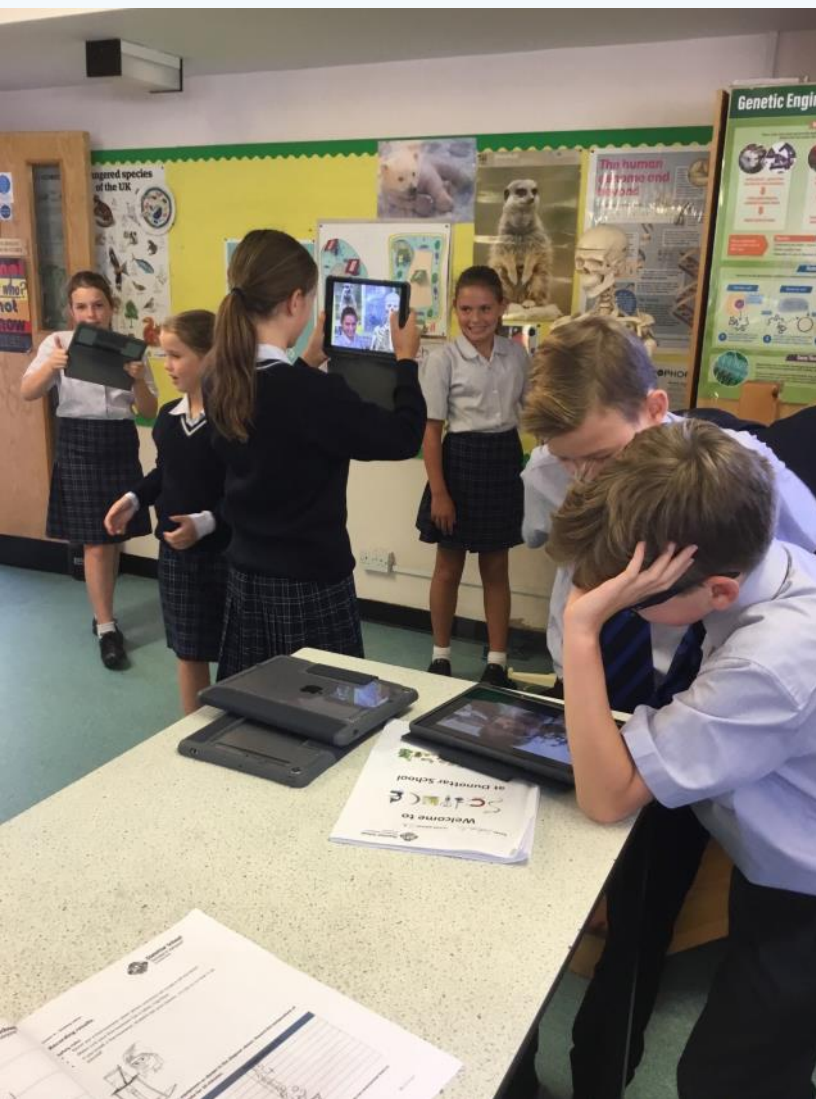
In only a few weeks, the iPads have enabled our pupils to work independently and explore their learning in more depth than a textbook alone would allow. We have seen our pupils across the school use iPads to create circuit training videos in PE and safety films in Science. The quality of debates on controversial issues has improved through deeper research. Pupils have prepared and delivered presentations, accessed resources and carried out detailed investigations all within a short but exciting start to the term.

The interactive nature of the classrooms allows teachers to differentiate effectively.

One Year 7 pupil said: *"I can access what we have done in class easily on the DLS. Using BookCreator has helped me learn new vocabulary easily as it reads to me in French."*

One Year 10 pupil stated: *"I created my own revision cards on Quizlet and I can access them when I want."*

We have Dunottar pupil experts, known as iLeaders, in different year groups who are on hand to develop and model the use of specific apps for pupils. Exciting times ahead!



## Photography: 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 September.



India, Year 11



Joe, Year 11

## Co-Curricular Corner

Struggling with your homework? Feel like you need some extra help on a topic you covered in class?

Come to

**Maths Mastery**

Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime in W6  
12:40 – 13:40

Please bring your book and equipment!

A poster for 'Maths Mastery'. It features various mathematical symbols in colorful circles: an equals sign, a plus sign, a minus sign, a multiply sign, a divide sign, a less than or equal to sign, a greater than or equal to sign, a pi symbol, and a calculator. The text is in a mix of purple, blue, and black fonts.

New club! The Dunottar School Climbing Club had a great first session at K2, Crawley on Friday afternoon.





# Ask the Head... Pupils pose some interesting questions to Mr Tottman



## ON BEING HEADMASTER

### Why be a Headmaster?

As Headmaster, I enjoy the opportunity to work with young people and shape the whole environment in which they learn. The role requires inspiration, creativity, gravitas and high standards and it is hugely rewarding to be at the heart of the school community. Leading Dunottar, at a time of growth and innovation, is a real privilege and an amazing opportunity. I want to create an exciting legacy.

### What did you do before you joined Dunottar as Headmaster?

After university, I worked for 8 years in strategy and marketing for two companies in the UK service industry and for 7 years as a management consultant in a variety of business sectors around the world. I became a teacher in my mid-30s. I have been a Head of Department, run a Boarding House, been a Deputy Head and led an Admissions and Marketing team.

### What is your salary?

Less than it used to be in business! However, I am more interested in job satisfaction and doing something worthwhile than in pursuing the corporate dollar.

### On a scale of 1-100 how would you rate your job (if it is not 100, why not?)

98.6. It's an excellent job which I enjoy more than any other that I have done. With so much going on, to score 100, I would need to be able to be in two places at once.

### Is the best thing about being a Headmaster when every child has left at the end of the day?

Absolutely not! A school is only a school because of the pupils. The best thing is being able to help every child to leave happily, fulfilled and more confident at the end of every day so that they can't wait to come back tomorrow.

### What was the hardest part of your job last year? Turning down a role in the staff Christmas panto.



## ON SCHOOL

### What do you think makes Dunottar different from other schools?

We are a small school based in a gorgeous manor house, where every pupil is known as an individual. Our caring staff actively nurture and encourage pupils to develop their character as well as to do their best academically. There is a family friendly feel about us with a spirit and a buzz that I have not yet felt in any other school.

### Most important subject to learn at school?

Different subjects help you learn in various ways; it would be wrong to imply there is a hierarchy. Most important are the skills and character that you develop from being at school – creativity, resilience and moral values to set you up for later life.

### What is your pet peeve regarding student behaviour?

Lateness. Being purposeful and on time gives you a chance to be the best you can be, and helps to support the experiences of everyone else.



### Opinions on LGBTQ+ in school?

It is important for every individual to be who they are. Dunottar will continue to encourage this approach for all pupils whilst I am Headmaster.

### Which element of the building work are you most excited about?

Buildings are buildings; pupils and teachers matter more to me. I am excited that the new Sixth Form centre will give pupils the opportunity to have their own, university style space in which to live and learn. The completion of the 500+ seat Assembly Hall will give pupils the chance to practice music and drama in a modern environment and the whole school to convene in style and comfort.

**Most memorable moment from last year?** Front row, watching the final night of Oliver! There was an intensity and camaraderie about the performance, underpinned by a philosophy of inclusivity. Everyone who auditioned and wanted to be involved was able to play a part.



## OUTSIDE SCHOOL

**Favourite lager?** Tiger.

**Favourite beer?** Oxford Gold

**Dark blue or light blue?** Dark blue.  
Always will be.

**What is your most embarrassing moment?** Windsurfing on holiday in Greece. I overestimated my abilities, picked up some offshore winds and ended up closer to a shipping lane than the beach. I had to be rescued by a lifeguard in a kayak.

**Do you support Tottenham because of your name?** No. It's purely coincidental! My Dad is a Spurs fan, so it runs in the family. I was brought up on a diet of Hoddle, Hazard and Ardiles.  
Audere est Facere.

**What sort of student were you when you were at school?**  
Inconsistent; occasionally geeky; moments of genius.

**Favourite sport?** To watch and to coach: Rugby. To play: Football. To play badly: Golf.

**Favourite school lunch?** Fish 'n chip Fridays, as well as Mary's Quorn, sweet potato, spinach and lentil curry. She gave me the recipe and I've had a go at cooking it at home.



**If you were on death row, what would you choose for your last meal?**

To delay the inevitable, I'd opt for the 'As much as you can eat, All Day Breakfast' and eat it very slowly. If it's an evening meal, then vegetable dhansak with a peshwari naan.

**What do you do in your spare time?**

Travel, catch up with friends and family, hit golf balls and ride my road bike around Surrey.

**If you could do any other job, what would it be?** Head Coach of England Rugby or a comedy script writer.

**If you could be anywhere in the world, doing anything at all, where would you be and why?**

Kanagawa, Japan, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, Rugby World Cup final. Smiling for the winning team photo after beating the mighty All Blacks 30-0.



## Crispin Blunt, MP pays us a visit

On Friday 7th September, our Sixth Form pupils welcomed their MP, Crispin Blunt into school to answer their questions.

Pupils quizzed Mr Blunt in a lively question and answer session, covering a variety of topics, including the UK justice system, LGBT rights, the importance of protecting Reigate's greenbelt, the NHS, and his thoughts about how Brexit will impact young people in the future.

Mr Blunt said: "It was a very stimulating session in which the students asked a wide range of questions. They're a very informed sixth form."

Headmaster Mark Tottman commented: "We encourage a breadth of thinking and learning in our Sixth Form, and I was delighted that our students were able to question their local MP on topics which really matter to them. This was an excellent, stimulating and thought-provoking event. It was a great way for our Sixth Formers to finish off a busy and exciting first week of term."



# LAMDA Speech and Drama results for 2018

With so many pupils taking LAMDA Speech and Drama Examinations this year we had two exam sessions, one in March and one in June. Pupils took examinations in Acting Solo, Duologue or Combined, from Grade 2 up to Grade 7 (Silver Medal). Students had to learn by heart and perform to an examiner, two to three pieces of drama, and then answer questions in a knowledge section. Pieces ranged from 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations' by Alan Ayckbourn and 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare. Grades 6, 7 and 8 are recognised within the UCAS tariff for UK University Entrance. Congratulations to all pupils who took the assessments!

## ACTING SOLO GRADE 2

Sebastian W – Distinction

## ACTING COMBINED GRADE 2

Sophia M – Distinction  
Dhara M – Distinction  
Mackenzie-Blue R – Distinction  
Barney H – Distinction

## ACTING SOLO GRADE 3

Rosie K – Distinction  
Oliver D – Pass  
Toby C – Distinction  
Lucas F – Merit  
Olivia C – Distinction

## ACTING DUOLOGUE GRADE 3

Marika A – Distinction  
Ava T – Distinction  
Holly P – Distinction

## ACTING SOLO GRADE 4

Ruby O'C – Distinction  
Hope B – Distinction  
Tilly M – Merit  
Leia L. P – Merit  
Ruby B – Distinction  
Jemma F – Merit  
Holly N – Distinction  
Isabel C – Merit  
Aylin B – Merit

## ACTING SOLO GRADE 5

Oliver W – Merit

## ACTING DUOLOGUE GRADE 5

Olivia H – Distinction  
Rachel H – Merit

## ACTING SOLO GRADE 6 – BRONZE MEDAL

Joshua L – Distinction  
Jazmine G – Distinction  
Rosalind W – Distinction  
Harry W – Distinction  
Jemima S – Distinction  
Arusha E – Distinction  
Megan F-H – Merit  
Erin O'B – Merit



## Be Outstanding...

Well done to Dhara M in Year 8 for receiving the first Academic Distinction of the term.

Pupil	Yr	Award	Subject
Dhara M	8	Academic Distinction	French

## Pupils raise nearly £8,500 for charities

Throughout the 2017-18 academic year, pupils at Dunottar have raised a total of £8,461.84 for national and international charities.

These charities ranged from Alzheimer's Society, a charity that supports those affected by dementia, to Kids for Kids, an organisation that aims to help malnourished children in Darfur, Sudan.

Our charity committee of pupils voted to support a different charity every half term. They then organised fundraising through cake sales, MUFTI days (wearing their own clothes for the day) amongst other initiatives.

Mathematics teacher and head of fundraising, LucyAnne Chessell, said: "The pupils, led by our enthusiastic charity committee, should be proud of their fundraising achievements. I am very much looking forward to the students' ideas for the 2018-9 academic year."



# Subject Snapshots



“Who’s winning?” Year 12 students test each other on terminology using activities they have created on Quizlet.



Year 7 have been learning about the bowed string family. They learnt how to play in time, developed their musical awareness, and demonstrated ‘arco’ and ‘pizzicato’.



Year 9 are studying war poetry in English. They’ve been giving presentations on war and propaganda.



Year 12 physicists investigating velocity vectors with toy cars.



Year 10 Spanish working hard in groups to improve their translation skills.



Year 8 have been learning some basic stitches for their electronic textiles project.







## Lacrosse

The attendance at pre-season training was excellent and set us up nicely for a great start to the season. Cobwebs were dusted off the sticks and all the work and progress from last season was re-visited. We are fielding full teams in all five age groups this season with the U14's putting out an A and a B team for some fixtures.

The U12 players have certainly impressed us with their ability to progress in a new sport. Their attitude and hunger for knowledge at training led through to an outstanding first match where we certainly had the upper hand in terms of tactics and took an exciting 7-1 victory. The focus will be on consolidating the basics (throwing, catching and ground balls) as we progress through the season.

The U13s took on a mixed age team from The Royal School which was challenging. There were some great transition passes through the mid-field and into attack where the team showed an emerging ability to keep the ball safe and utilise opportunities in the fan. There is a little work to do on communication in defence so that there are no unmarked players threatening the goal. The final result 4-6 was one to be proud of as some of the opposition were 2 year groups above!

The U14 and 15 teams have a great sense of energy and desire to compete this season. It is an exciting time as competition for places on the teams in these year groups is rising. The teams are learning and starting to implement more advanced tactics and the levels of skill being shown on the pitch are at an all-time high. The two teams competed against each other for their first fixture with the year 10 team taking the victory but only by one goal! We are very much looking forward to taking on some of our local schools this season with the firm aim of taking some wins!

The senior team have enough players this season to field a full team and training has started in earnest. They are benefitting from the expert guidance of our new Head of Lacrosse, Mr McColl who hopes to develop the sport at this level to

generate a senior squad who are fully competitive in the local arena. We look forward to seeing the team develop and prosper.

## Rugby

It was so pleasing to see such large numbers at both pre-season sessions on the 1st and 3rd of September. Boys with experience of rugby and boys new to the sport, enjoying one another's company in the pleasant setting of Old Reigatians.

Our first opponents of the season have been two strong, rugby-playing schools in Glyn and Royal Alexandra & Albert (RAAS). In the opening fixtures against Glyn, the U13s won 20-15 thanks to a try from Leo in the final play of the game. This was then followed up by a disappointing loss to RAAS, where defensive structure and discipline was our undoing.

The U12 A and B teams, had an opening weekend of training and an in-house competitive contact match. Hopes were high for this squad following the session, and they didn't disappoint a week later when the As won 20-10 and the Bs locked horns with RAAS in a 20-20 thrilling draw.

The U14s have shown progress already this term and have had the squad bolstered by a number of handy new joiners. Two tough games have resulted in two losses, but looking at the fixture card ahead, coupled with the rugby they are showing, the results will come good very soon. The U15s have had an equally tough start to the season. The quality of their collective tackling has been one of the sides downfalls, and time is being invested to address this, with the goal of redeveloping the teams confidence in contact. They are a strong team with pace throughout the squad. The contests with Glyn and 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's sessions, and put this to 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

## Surrey Union Pony Club Dressage Victory

Dunottar pupil, Katie, was part of the Surrey Union Pony Club team who won the Open Dressage Competition at the Berkeley Group Pony Club Championship. 30 teams from all over the country took part in the competition which was held between August 17-21 at Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire. This is the highest level that the pony club can achieve for dressage. Well done Katie!



## 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.



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