

# Looking to the Future: Appreciating our History





As we gathered to take the 90th birthday photo on the front of this magazine, I couldn't help but reflect on the school's past whilst also wondering what Dunottar will be like 10 years from now when the school turns 100.

Taking a school with such a long history and tradition through arguably its most momentous change, when it opened its doors as a fully co-educational school in September 2014, has been a huge responsibility. It was the character and the heart of the school that rallied such exceptional support during its hour of need and there was no doubt in my mind that this essence of the school needed to be as much a part of its new identity as its old one. Fortunately, pupils, parents and teachers past and present feel that throughout the change we have allowed the school to stay true to itself and have merely developed and modernised the educational offering around the elements of Dunottar which had it held in such affection. So I have no doubt that integrity, compassion and concern for the individual will be as important in the future as it is now and as it was 90 years ago.

However, a decade is a very long time in the life of the school and especially one which is growing and evolving at such a fast rate. So what do I think will have changed when we gather in 2026 to celebrate the school's 100th birthday? Well, based on the start we have made, the school will be full and also fully co-educational all the way through from Year 7 to the Upper Sixth, with roughly equal numbers of boys and girls in each year group. At lesson change over time I can picture the site as a hive of activity and, in the summer months, the grounds will be full of pupils of all ages enjoying the stunning landscape which is such an integral part of the school. Inside our classrooms, teaching is already excellent, but I am sure it will have evolved and we will see pupils producing work using tablet technology, including leaving themselves voice recorded annotations and collaborating online. I would like to think that we will be using technology even more creatively across the United Learning group of schools so that more opportunities will be available to join virtual classrooms and share in lessons taking place across the country. I hope that we might see Young Enterprise companies being formed across our schools, facilitated by virtual meeting rooms, and allowing new bonds of friendship to evolve across our group. Some of our pupils seem to think that teachers might have been replaced by robots with artificial intelligence but I'm sure that the creativity, passion and intuitive response of a real life teacher will be needed for a long time to come!

As the school hits 90 it is apparent that it has expanded from the original mansion house to include fantastic additions such as the sports hall and swimming pool, as well as science laboratories and the Waterlow Block. We have really tried to exemplify our direction of travel as a modern, progressive, exciting school through recent refurbishments in the library, science laboratory and swimming pool but to support Dunottar in becoming a thriving secondary school the site will evolve further in the next decade. When Dunottar turns 100 there will be a new classroom block, a much larger Sixth Form centre to accommodate a Sixth Form cohort that will be bigger in number than the school has ever held in its history and an exciting performing arts space. I'm also delighted to say that I'm sure the 37 year old 'temporary' classrooms will no longer be on site! However, our stunning grounds and building are an intrinsic part of our identity and all developments will respect and protect this for generations of pupils to come.

Dunottar seems to have held a very special place in the heart of the Reigate community and this was one of the reasons that I was so keen to become headteacher of this school. Its reach stretched far beyond the school gate and when it turns 100 I hope we will have delivered some really tangible impact in our community. It is a privilege to educate so many wonderful pupils but this year we have begun to develop partnerships with pupils in other schools which I hope will be flourishing in 10 years' time. Our sports department has linked up with St John's Primary School to offer PE lessons to younger pupils and our Sixth Form are developing their leadership skills through this process. Next year we also hope to be sharing the expertise of our history department with primary age pupils in Reigate. Dunottar's motto is 'Do ut Des', meaning 'I give so you can give', and I would like to think that we will be embracing this philosophy through a rich and varied programme of commitment to our community. Building links with other schools and other children is one of the ways I hope we will see Dunottar embodying this in the future.

When Dunottar was founded by Mrs Jessie Elliot-Pyle she was determined that her pupils would reach their potential through hard work, self-discipline, good manners and consideration for others and she held very high standards for the pupils in her care. When I came to Dunottar I was initially too busy and too focused on the future to give much thought to the school's history. But, without even really realising it, we have stayed very close to those original founding principles. We expect our pupils to be the very best that they can be, and we expect them to do this whilst upholding good manners

and consideration to all others. I hope that these values will shape our students' lives, just as they have shaped the lives of the many individuals who have passed through the doors of Dunottar School over the years. In the year that we celebrate Dunottar's 90th birthday, I think that despite the many recent changes to Dunottar and its rebirth as a co-educational school and a member of the United Learning family of schools, Mrs Elliot-Pyle would be proud that the heart of the school and the values it holds dear are as evident today as they were in 1926.

There are times in life when you know that you are doing something really special that you will carry with you forever, and I know that being headteacher of Dunottar will be one of them. It has been a startling journey, to see the school embrace its new identity whilst holding on to the values and ethos it has fostered for 90 years and to feel the full force of the love that people have for our school. I have no doubt that these values and its ethos will be equally important in another decade and that the affection in which our school is held at 90 will see it treasured in the hearts of another generation of our pupils when we celebrate our centenary.

ROWENA COLE, Headteacher

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## History of Dunottar

1940s

1960s

1980s

1990s

2000s

4th May 1926

three pupils, the school began at Rona Lodge, 3 **Brownlow Road** 

Junottar

- With just



Late 1920s – Moved to 76 Blackborough Road

1930 - Cronks Hill, later called Magnus Lodge, was purchased

**1933** – Moved to the mansion house at High Trees



**1934** – The first Upper Fifth Form take the Oxford Examinations



1939-1945 - Dunottar remains open during WWII with reduced pupil numbers and staffing



1951 - Mrs Elliot-Pyle retired and Miss Florence Shepherd becomes Headmistress





1961 - Mr Elliot-Pyle decided to sell the school

**1965** – Miss Mabel Hamilton becomes Headmistress





**1974** – The new swimming pool is opened



1976 - The school's Golden Jubilee celebration includes a pageant which features every pupil in the school

1978 – Major building work creates a new wing to the Junior Dept

1977 - The Silver Jubilee

marks 25 years on

the throne

1985 - Miss Jane Burnell becomes Headmistress

1987 – October storms bring down many trees and Gatwick airport is visible for the first time!

**1988** – The school becomes a day school as boarding is removed

**1989** – A team of Dunottar pupils swim the channel

1982 - The Falklands War

O Levels and the National

Curriculum is introduced

1989 - Tim Berners-Lee

invents the world wide

web; the first successful

email communication

follows in 1990

1988 - GCSEs replace



complete the Three

1991 - Four additional

Peaks Challenge

**1997** – Dunottar Chamber Ensemble has its first foreign tour to Venice

1990 - A team of pupils **2001** – Mrs Jeanne Hobson becomes Headmistress

> 2006 - Mrs Jane Hellier becomes Headmistress

**2009** – Mrs Nikki Matthews becomes Headmistress



United Learning 2014 – Mrs Rowena Cole becomes Headteacher

**2014** – Dunottar joins

**2014** – Boys join Years 7, 9 and 12

2015 – Dunottar is co-educational from Year 7 to Upper Sixth

2015 – The new library and a fully refurbished laboratory are opened and iPads become a useful tool in the classroom

2016 – The swimming pool is refurbished

2012 - The Diamond

Jubilee marks 60 years

2016 - We celebrate our 90th birthday

of her reign

21st April 1926 -

Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary is born



**1935** – Penguin

the public

the throne

paperbacks are launched

to make contemporary

writing affordable for

1936 - King Edward

King George VI takes

**1936** – The Jarrow

**1939** – Britain is at

war with Germany;

unemployment

and poverty

WWII begins

March highlights mass

VIII abdicates and

1926 - Scottish inventor and engineer John Logie Baird publically demonstrates television for the first time

torv

itish

**1928** – Women over 21 get the vote

1928 – Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin

**1936** – Elizabeth becomes heir-apparent

> BBC Children's Hour 1945 – As part of the war effort, Elizabeth is in the

**1940** – Elizabeth makes

her first public speech on

1947 – Elizabeth marries Prince Philip Mountbatten

1948 - Prince Charles



**1944** – Butler's Education Act creates the 'tripartite' school system of grammar, technical and secondary modern schools



1948 – The National Health Service is established

1948 - The Olympic Games come to London and are dubbed 'the Austerity Games' as rationing is still in place

1950 - Princess Anne is born

1952 - Following the death of her father, Elizabeth becomes Queen Auxiliary Territorial Service Elizabeth II; her coronation takes place in 1953



1951 - The Festival of Britain boosts post–war morale

**1953** – Scientists James Watson and Francis Crick publish their discovery of the structure of DNA

1955 – Commercial television begins with the first ITV broadcast (BBC2 followed in 1964 and Channel 4 in 1982)

1956 - Concerns about pollution leads to the Clean Air Act

**1964** – Prince Edward is born

is born

1960 - Prince Andrew





1964 - Labour Govt promises comprehensive schools for pupils of all abilities

1965 - The death penalty was abolished

1966 – England won the World Cup

1969 - Concorde made its maiden flight

1969 Voting age is lowered to 18

1971 – Decimalised currency is introduced

1972 – School leaving age is raised to 16

**1973** – Britain joins the European Economic Community

1978 - Louise Brown, the world's first test-tube baby, is born

1979 - Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female prime minister



Jubilee marks 50 years but the year also sees the deaths of the Queer Mother and Princess Margaret

**2000** – The Oueen

Mother turns 100.

becoming the first Royal

to reach her centenary

**2002** – The Golden

2007 – Elizabeth II becomes the longestliving British monarch



serving British monarch





**2005** – The Kyoto Protocol on measures to control climate change comes into force

1994 - The National Lottery

1996 – Dolly the cloned sheep is born

1994 - The Channel Tunnel

**1994** – CofE ordains the

is officially opened

first women priests

is launched

1998 - The Good Friday Agreement is ratified





**2012** – London 2012 Olympics are hailed a triumph

> 2016 - Referendum decides GB will leave



## Dunottar's Early Years

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# A Name with Heritage

Our school name comes from Dunnottar Castle in Scotland. The castle has an imposing cliff–top perch, 15 miles south of Aberdeen and was the seat of the Earl of Marischal of Scotland for centuries. In 1651 the Honours, or Crown Jewels of Scotland, were taken to Dunnottar Castle for safe keeping. Mr and Mrs Elliot–Pyle, the school's founders, visited the castle on their honeymoon to Mrs Elliot–Pyle's homeland in Scotland in 1925. It is thought that she

perceived the minds of the children at her school to be 'precious jewels' to be nurtured. We don't know why the school's name is spelt with a single 'n'!



# The Foundations of a Distinctive School

Mr and Mrs Elliot–Pyle had met while teaching at Radnor Boys' School in Redhill and, the year after their marriage, used their savings and a small inheritance to set up their own school. On 4th May 1926, Dunottar School began life at Rona Lodge, 3 Brownlow Road with just three pupils: Jean and Eileen Bristow and Wray Wykeham–Martin. The school proved popular and the growth in numbers prompted several moves, first to Blackborough Road and then to Blandford Road where they remained for three years. In 1930 the Elliot–Pyles decided to buy a property, rather than continue renting, and purchased Cronks Hill House at the end of High Trees Road.

At that time pupils were accepted from 5 to 15 and studied for the Junior School Certificate, which was taken at 13, and the School Certificate at 15. There was a staff of eight and, in addition to the academic studies, pupils did needlework, singing, dancing and eurhythmics, elocution and piano. The school used a field in High Trees Road for netball and went to Reigate Baths for swimming. Accounts of the school from 1930–33 recall bonfire parties, displays of gym, Greek dancing and an annual July Garden Party.

Mrs Elliot–Pyle wanted a school and grounds which would better suit the growing school community long–term but within a year of moving to Cronks Hill there was a waiting list of pupils and she was having to limit the number of pupils she could accommodate. The High Trees Estate came onto the market at a fortuitous time and, in 1933, the Elliot–Pyles bought High Trees House and its twelve and a half acres for £5000.

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## A Dunottar Education

From the start, Mrs Elliot–Pyle's traditional values of courtesy, self–respect and consideration for others were central



to Dunottar's atmosphere. Recollections of Mrs Elliot–Pyle paint the picture of a forceful personality and she set an example, which she expected her pupils to follow, through hard work, self–discipline and good manners.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, education for young women was less academically rigorous than today. It was widely assumed that women would not pursue careers after they were married and so high levels of academic achievement were not the norm. However, by the early 1930s, the curriculum at Dunottar was broad and included arithmetic, algebra, geometry, English, geography, scripture, history, French, Latin and nature study. Pupils also received extra tuition in music, ballet, dancing and elocution, while their physical well–being was well catered for with tennis, netball, gym, country dancing and swimming.

## Location, Location, Location...

Dunottar's new home at High Trees had many advantages (both in the 1930s and today!). It was walking distance from Reigate town centre and, as Mrs Elliot-Pyle quoted in her prospectus, Dr Clement Dukes of Rugby had written an article on the subject of 'School Hygiene' which recommended "the top of a hill, facing south... protected from the north and east by a shelter of trees" to be the best



The Surrey Mirror discussed Dunottar's move to its new premises in 1933:

"The final steps are being taken to complete the purchase of the well-known and delightfully situation property known as High Trees by the principals of Dunottar School, now at the top of Cronks Hill. This represents a bold policy on the part of the principals, Mr T. D. Elliot-Pyle and Mrs Elliot-Pyle, M.A., and has been impelled by the growing needs of the school, which have emphasised the inadequacy of the present accommodation.

High Trees will afford all the additional space required without sacrifice of position or accessibility. The mansion stands in lovely grounds of about twelve and a half acres in extent with beautiful terraced gardens and woodland. It occupies a lovely position, close to Redhill and Earlswood Commons, is situated on a Southern slope with an altitude of four hundred feet, and has the advantage of being away from main roads and commands a magnificent view unsurpassed in the Home Counties. It is a stately house, approached by a carriage drive, with entrance lodge and contains only two floors."





Our School in Wartime

Over the course of 90 years it is hardly surprising that Dunottar has many stories to tell but some of the most dramatic are from the years during World War II. When war was declared in 1939, the school role shrunk to around 80 pupils and it reduced still further, to around 40 pupils, as the war progressed. Legend has it that Mrs Elliot-Pyle was considering closing the school but just as she was thinking that closure was the only option, a new pupil arrived who had crossed the common during a bombing raid. Mrs Elliot-Pyle decided that she couldn't possibly close the school when the child had gone through so much to get there, so made up her mind to remain open despite the difficulties and small numbers for the rest of the war. As was the case across the country, having enough food was a preoccupation and the land where our sports hall now sits was used to grow vegetables as the school 'dug for victory'. Staff and pupils often heard bombs falling and the wine cellar, the old door to which is in the tiled corridor leading from the mansion block, became the school's air raid shelter where lessons even took place if the raids were particularly bad. Although a bomb fell in the grounds of the school on one occasion, the school itself survived the war without damage. After the war, 1944's Education Act brought significant changes to education in England but Mrs Elliot-Pyle focused on re-establishing the normal routine of school life at Dunottar which had been so disrupted during the war years.



# Memories of Dunottar

we boarders had a lovely time as we had a pony and trap, in which we went for outings and pienies at weekends. We were also taken to places of interest, such as windsor eastle, and museums. Dur dear Mrs Elliot-Pyle treated us just like her own children and used to tuck the boarders up in bed at night. When I first went, I remember the staff as Miss Francis, Miss Wade and Miss Thatcher and then Miss Evans, Miss Swain and Miss Barron who remained a great friend for many years and often came to stay. There was great excitement in 1930 when Dunottar moved to cronks Hill. All this time the school was growing and had a waiting list of children who wanted to come to the school on the hill'. We now had several more boarders, a matron, a Mademoiselle and more with Mrs Lovett - the best teacher I ever had - and the person who inspired my great love of English and Drama.
Reciting Chaucer's Prologue in Old English. Art with Miss Sinclair in the art room, next to the swimming pool. Playing 'ponies' in the rhododendron bushes in the grounds. The 'Dell' and avoiding lacrosse at

Susan Bachasi (née Hughe: at Dunottar 1972 to 1977

There are far too many memories to choose just one, but here are a few...Being cake monitor at Chamber Ensemble rehearsals. School plays The Insect Play, Hiawatha, Fame and Cabaret. Lacrosse matches, climbing in 'the tree' - but only if you were in year 7! Geography trips to the Lake District, Great Yarmouth and not to forget, Tanzania! Chamber Choir excursions to sing Evensong. I could go on! I'm so pleased that I'm still friends with many old my Dunottar friends so we can continue to reminisce for many

March Russell at Dunottar 1994 to 200

## Winifred Bard (née Harper-King) at Dunottar 1927-1932

One of my stand-out memories is of the lacrosse tour to the USA in 1999 (I think). We had lots of fun raising the money to make the trip possible - including an auction of promises and selling a cookery book of our favourite recipes. And the trip itself was great - making friends, playing lacrosse against schools in New York and Washington DC, and having fun with the teachers. Happy Days.

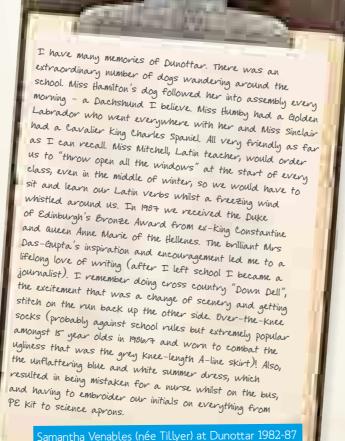
Jenny McMaster at Dunottar 1990s

unottar was a very beautiful place when I the splendour was kept up for some years. The not houses provided grapes and peaches for the Elliot-Pyles and there were two gardeners to stoke the boilers for these, to clip the box hedges in the parternes and weed the gravel there, and mow the lawns that lay below the terrace. Down in what we called "the dell" the rhododendrons were magnificent purple, crimson and white.

Gillian Cockshut (née Avery) at Dunottar 1933-1943

I was a boarder at Dunottar in the 1970s when we were affected by the three day week and power cuts. we would sit in the dark in the ballroom with candles and tell ghost stories. we also had parties at Halloween where each of the dormitories had to put on a playskit. We would start preparing for it within a few days of the start of the Autumn Term. I have a memory of being dressed up as Piglet from Winnie the Poon!

Kathryn Vile (née Leech) at Dunottar 1971 to 1977



## Our 90th Year

It would be fair to say that our 90th year has been one to remember! It has been the year in which we welcomed our first fully co–ed Year 7 and had our first co–ed School Captain Team in the Upper Sixth. We all have favourite moments which have summed up the special atmosphere, sense of fun and belonging which characterise life at Dunottar. Here are just a few highlights to serve as a record of a very special year in our history.

#### September

We started the year as we intended to go on with a truly inspiring Prize Giving speech from GB and England hockey goalkeeper, Maddie Hinch. Maddie's story of aspiration and determination held the valuable message that the journey to the top may not always be smooth but, if you aim high, work hard and respond with courage and conviction, then incredible results are possible.









The start of the new academic year also saw our new library and the first of our fully refurbished laboratories completed. The new spaces are contemporary, inviting and interesting which pupils have really enjoyed.

Our Year 7s had their first adventure of the year on a residential trip to High Ashurst. Team games, low ropes challenges, an obstacle course, camping in tepees and braving the high ropes was the perfect chance to make new friends. Not to be outdone, our Year 9s faced their own challenges on an adventure teambuilding day run in beautiful sunshine within Dunottar's grounds.











The sporting season got off to an exciting start with our U12 rugby team securing their first win and our lacrosse and netball teams out in force. Kicking off the year's inter–House competitions, we saw personal bests and new records set in a gruelling cross–country race!







#### October

- Eagle Radio presented a really interesting assembly, followed by workshops exploring issues surrounding Social Media Law and Ethics. With social media such a fundamental part of everyday life, the workshops were the ideal forum to talk about how to be safe and responsible in the digital world.
- We welcomed over 100 prospective pupils to our brilliant Taster Morning. It was a lot of fun seeing them try out activities which included everything from intrepid climbers scaling the outdoor climbing wall to budding secret agents using their mathematical knowledge to crack a code.



students explored St Peter's Basilica and Sistine Chapel and visited the Pantheon, Roman Forum, Trevi Fountain and Colosseum and learnt a huge amount about this atmospheric and fascinating city.



 October saw our co

–curricular clubs really getting underway. From sports and fitness clubs which are great for improving health and teamwork, to clubs which expand knowledge such as 'Dissection Club' or 'Model United Nations' there were so many exciting things to try.





#### November

 Boys and girls from all year groups braved November's weather to triumph on pitch, field and



court. We hosted our first indoor girls' cricket tournament and our Year 8 netball team was unbeaten. Boys put in impressive performances on the rugby pitch and on cross country runs. In lessons, practice sessions and competitive matches we saw pupils of all abilities and all ages demonstrate their 'warrior' principles of tenacity, courage and determination on a daily basis.

- Our Year 11 pupils organised a fantastic Hawaiian disco so the Year 7s could let their hair down as they neared the end of their first term at Dunottar. Highlights of the evening included posing for the photo booth, the limbo competition and of course learning classic dances such as the Macarena and the chicken dances, both expertly led by the Year 11s and Miss Field!
- The wonderful Dunottar Chamber Choir won The Russell Cup at the Woking Music Festival.
- Mrs Turner organised and hosted a Scholastic Book Fair in our fantastic, refurbished library which was open every lunchtime for pupils to visit and which raised funds that could be reinvested to continue improving the library resources.
- Two of our Lower Sixth A Level History students gained places on the Lessons from Auschwitz programme run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. They had an initial visit to London to meet the other participants



allowed them to acquire a deeper understanding of the history they are studying. The History Department organised a team of staff

and pupils to tend WWI war graves at St Mary's Church, Reigate. It was part of our programme of events to mark Remembrance Day which included 'Remember the Fallen' assembly two minutes of silence.

### December



We loved the Santa Run, organised by East Surrey YMCA, at the Priory Park. Over 600 runners took part and the turnout from Dunottar was brilliant; we led the way in performance, spirit and attitude. Lily (Yr7) and Lauren (Yr8) were first and second in the girls' race, while Conor, Josh and Ben (Yr7) were second, third and sixth respectively in the boys' race and Mr Manning was first across the line in the men's adult race!

The Dunottar School Carol Service at St. John's Church saw a record number of students across all year groups taking part. The church was full and

the spirit of Christmas was in full swing. A careful balance between musical performances and readings helped to communicate the true meaning of Christmas and created a very uplifting atmosphere. It was a memorable day for our performers and the whole school community.



Year 9 students went to Warner Bros. Studio for an exciting and eye-opening Harry Potter tour. The Art/Design Technology trip inspired the students as they discovered the vast array of artistic and creative careers available within the film industry. Imaginations were fired and lively discussions ensued about the variety of career pathways from set construction, prop manufacturing, CGI, visual effects, special effects, graphics, sculpting, creature shop, animatronics, prosthetics and makeup, concept artists, set design and model maker to name but a few!













Our Love Dunottar PTA hosted a 'Caring at Christmas' lunch for older people from the local community. Almost 80 senior citizens, mainly associated with Age Concern, the Methodist Homes Association and the Woodhatch Centre, attended the lunch. Pupils volunteered to sponsor a guest, while Tesco Gatwick Extra donated boxes of chocolates and The RG group donated gift bags of food and blankets. It was a real team effort; Love Dunottar PTA, teachers and friends provided transport and served tea and coffee to their visitors, while pupils mingled with their guests, served food, chatted over lunch and provided entertainment from playing musical instruments to singing and dancing. It was a very special day.



#### January

- We welcomed a wonderful group of prospective pupils to our entrance and scholarship assessment days. We were impressed by so many of the children and it was a pleasure to have them at Dunottar....we're really looking forward to many of them joining us permanently in September!
- Over a thousand United Learning students came together at the Lyceum Theatre in London to sing, perform and celebrate as a group. Featuring choral groups, ensembles and solo performances, students from independent schools and academies performed music from Zimbe!, an imaginative fusion of traditional African song and jazz which seeks to bring communities together.
- Our GCSE and A Level Art students visited the Saatchi and Tate Galleries to explore a wide range of artists and their varied conventions of representational and abstract representation of imagery and genres. The students used what they learnt to develop their own studies in response to the artists and their individually chosen themes.













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• We enjoyed more inter–school United Learning collaboration when our Year 8 pupils went to Greenacre School to spend a day learning how to lead their own social action project. The training was provided by Diana Award, a charity that encourages, empowers and engages young people in social action.



 We kicked-off the new term with our Year 7 football team taking part in the South Surrey 7-a-side Tournament. The boys really applied themselves and played well as a team against some of the best

some of the best players in the district. At the Surrey County Lacrosse Tournament our U14 team had a great day and showed real determination and skill securing impressive wins against tough competition.





#### February

 We joined with around 300,000 pupils across the UK to be part of an out-of-this-world science lesson, which took place via satellite link from the International Space Station. Led by British astronaut Tim Peake, pupils crouched down, spun around and touched their toes in a game of follow my leader. Our budding scientists particularly enjoyed watching Tim dissolve a vitamin tablet in a drop



of water, which then fizzed and expanded. It was an awe—inspiring afternoon; maybe some astronauts or astrophysicists of the future were sitting in our hall!

Dunottar's History Department received a silver
 Quality Mark from The Historical Association. The
 mark recognises the excellence of history provision
 in a school and our history teachers received very
 positive feedback including the comment that they

"harnessed their extensive and detailed subject knowledge to ensure that students were not only engaged, but very much enjoyed their history lessons."



Music was a prominent theme in February. Miss
Pettet led a musical assembly during which we
learnt about the power of music to unite and
inspire people and the Sixth Form music enrichment
students gave a great performance. We were thrilled
to welcome the English Pocket Opera Company
as part of an exciting national tour with United
Learning. Then we held our much anticipated
inter–House singing competition at which each
House performed a Disney song; the winners, St.
David's, gave a fantastic rendition of 'Under the Sea'.



 Year 8 had a busy day in London when they visited the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Science Museum. At the V&A they studied shapes, symmetry and tessellations of Mughal architecture. At the

Science Museum, they were engrossed in learning about radio waves, and even constructed a CB radio!



 Our pupils got actively involved in fundraising to support the new Macmillan Support Centre

at East Surrey Hospital. Mr Broughton took some members of the Sixth Form to visit the new centre and find out more about what it does. Arun was one of the students to visit and he also decided to 'Brave the Shave' – in front of a school hall packed with pupils and staff cheering and offering their support – to raise money for Macmillan. Arun was inspired to raise money for the charity when his best friend's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. This also brought back memories of his grandmother, who passed away four years ago from breast cancer. He explained: "I wanted to do something positive to help people and their families with cancer. An English teacher at my last school did 'Brave the

Shave' and I thought, why not? I wanted to shock everyone in order to get as much publicity as possible for Macmillan."





#### March

• A girl, a lion, a scarecrow and a tin man...in March Dunottar staged 'The Wizard of Oz', with performances over two nights directed fabulously by Mr Charlie Watts. It was a brilliant production with fantastic scenery and costumes, wonderful characterisations of these much–loved characters by the leads and an excellent supporting cast. As the final curtain came down we were already looking forward with anticipation to next year's production!

• We expanded World Book Day into a whole week of literary events. In assembly we watched a video about what 'teachers—who—don't—teach—English' were reading and held quizzes and competitions. On World Book Day we had moments to 'drop everything and read' throughout school and across Years 7–9 Book Bingo! went from strength to strength.

• We held elections for the 2016–17 School
Captain team and were very impressed with the speeches which hopeful candidates made in assembly so that pupils could vote. For 2016–17 School Captain is Jacqueline Hill, the Vice Captains are Arrie Henley, Arianna Meneguel–McGill and Megan John and Maisie Stoneman will be Sports Captain.

• Our Lower School pupils set themselves some amazing challenges for Sports Relief. Twelve sprinters beat the individual marathon world record by completing the marathon circuit as a continuous relay of 25m sprints in two hours, zero minutes and twenty seconds. Another group collectively climbed the height of Mount Kilimanjaro by completing the steep climb from our bottom pitch up to school a gruelling 250 times. Some pupils brought their bikes to school and cycled a 500m circuit of the school sixty times. The cumulative total of their ride was the equivalent of riding from school to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Others ran the equivalent of the 2,909 steps of the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa in Dubai, by running up the flight of stairs that leads to Mrs Cole's office 111 times. Fifteen swimmers swam a combined 62km, covering the distance between Dover to Calais...and almost back again! We added up the total of everyone's contribution and it was in excess of 400 kilometres, which is the distance from Earth to the International Space Station. Having initially set a fundraising target of £1000, we upped our own target to aim for £2000 and we smashed that too!

 There were some hotly contested House competitions in March. St George's put on an impressive display winning House Lacrosse, Lower School Football and Netball, while St David's took the win in the Lower School Rugby. Away from the sports fields, creative talents were put to work in the House Photography competition.













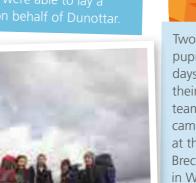


#### April



Six netball teams travelled to Paris for the Disney Netball Tour during the holiday. After settling in to cabins at the Davy Crockett Ranch, the teams prepared for three days of intense netball and some Disney fun! The trip included lots of matches, coaching from elite players and fitness and agility work. The teams achieved great results in the tournament matches and, at the presentation dinner, every team received a trophy. The students were amazing warriors, embraced all the trip offered and gained many positive comments on their great attitude and fun seeking personalities.

Year 9 students spent a day in and around the town of Ypres, Belgium to support their studies of WWI. They visited Talbot House, a haven for the soldiers, and at Essex Farm Cemetery saw the grave of local Dorking boy, Valentine Joe Strudwick, who was only 15 years old when he died in the war having signed up aged 14. The day ended with the moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate where three students were able to lay a wreath on behalf of Dunottar.









#### May

 The sun came out and we enjoyed our wonderful grounds. From playing on the zip-wire and building dens at lunchtime, to joining new clubs such as Bushcraft club, the summer term always reminds us how lucky we are to have this amazing space!

Our Upper Sixth students have made an enormous contribution to school life and have always been lots of fun. Their last day 'prank' before revision leave was more a work of art that a practical joke when they newspapered an entire classroom with considerable skill and attention to detail! We'll

miss them.

We had fun getting stuck into summer sports. It was exciting to begin our first ever cricket season, including a new partnership with Salfords Cricket Club, and the U12s and U15s didn't waste any time getting wins under their belts. Boys and girls took to athletics track and field and we enjoyed competitive rounders matches and tennis fixtures.





#### June & July

We joined in the United Learning's
 Spirit of Rio programme of celebrations – we might not be able to be in Brazil but we can get into the Olympic spirit!



- Our young athletes put in fantastic performances at the District Championships.
- Year 10
   historians went
   on a fantastic
   trip to the
   Imperial War
   Museum in
   preparation
   for controlled
   assessment
   about the Home
   Front and Year 7
   explored Reigate

Caves.







 We held our own EU referendum so that students could learn about the important political decision being made by the country.



We re-opened our beautifully refurbished swimming pool



Years 7 and 8 spent an afternoon learning about business principles. The lively and engaging exercise taught them about costs revenue and how to maximise profit.

Our Lower Sixth had a week of enrichment activities during which they visited the Houses of Parliament and spent a day learning about leadership.





Year 7 visited the Royal Albert Hall for a matinee performance of Holst's 'The Planets' by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The music for each planet was accompanied by real NASA images of those planets, projected onto a 24-foot screen.



Our Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh teams set off for their qualifying expeditions equipped with their essential kit and plenty of 'warrior' spirit, determination and enthusiasm.



Year 8 enjoyed a Gryll-Mears type survival Bushcraft day during which they imagined they were stranded on an island, made seating and tables from pallets, gathered food to cook on an open fire and created willow lanterns.



We welcomed our new pupils, who will be joining in September 2016, to school for the day and had lots of fun getting to know them.

Four Dunottar pupils went to Wellington College in July with students from other United Learning schools and academies as part of the Global Social Leaders Catalyst programme. The programme, part of a group-wide enrichment initiative, aims to develop leadership skills, to nurture confidence and empower young people to go on to lead successful projects at their own school.







 Sports Day was a fantastic morning of sporting triumphs, warrior spirit and inter-House fun! Parents, pupils and staff gave enthusiastic and encouraging support from the side-lines as the whole school came together to take part in an impressive array of track and field events. When the final results were in, St George's were victorious.

## Our Birthday Celebrations









As the exam season came to an end and the summer holidays approached, we made time to celebrate our 90th birthday...

- Mrs Cole gave a fascinating assembly reflecting on the school's history and looking towards its future so that we all learnt a bit more about the Dunottar community.
- We held an inter-House baking competition to make the best birthday cake – the winning cake impressed our catering team judges by featuring the school crest and hand-made profiteroles! This was followed by a lunchtime party which involved yet more cake.
- The Love Dunottar PTA held a wonderful evening party at Denbies Wine Estate and the Dunottar Society of former pupils enjoyed a day of memories, celebrations and catching up with friends and meeting their families at their reunion which they held at school.

Thank you to everyone who has celebrated with us and has been part of Dunottar this year; it has been a wonderful year and one that we will all remember as we look forward to the next 90 years!



We asked our Year 7 pupils to use their creative writing skills and imaginations to describe a typical day at Dunottar, to conjure up what school will be like when we reach our 100th birthday or to tell us what they'll be doing in 2026. Here are some of their brilliant ideas.

A Day in the Life of a Dunottar Pupil in 2015

At Dunottar you can never quite tell what's going to happen, as each day is unpredictable and exciting!

A typical morning at school would be that I would come to school and go straight into my classroom where my entire form is already there. After either form time or assembly, I would go to my first class which can vary from RS to drama.

At break EVERYONE goes to the lunch hall where cookies are for sale, nearly everyone forgets money so I find myself and others lending people money which hopefully they'll return.

After three more classes comes lunch (which is my favourite part of the day!). The best meal is definitely paninis of course! Lots of Year 7s like me love to play "man hunt" in the woods which is in our school grounds. Just the other day we came across a deer which I stupidly thought was a kangaroo – oops!

In the afternoon my form does a special thing that, instead of saying yes, we say a form of tapas! Who doesn't love tapas? Following afternoon lessons, we get ready to go home and relax...also known as homework!

**LOTTIE STRINGER, AGE 11** 





IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A WHOLE
NEW REALITY AT DUNOTTAR SCHOOL
WITH THE LATEST TRENDS THAT ARE
CHANGING THE WAY WE EXPERIENCE
THE WORLD. DUNOTTAR IS THE
SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE WHICH IS
ELECTRONIC WITH A CAPITAL E!

In 2026 Dunottar School will provide some robot teachers and the pupils will have jetpacks for time efficiency to travel to lessons and sports fixtures, so exciting times ahead! Advances in future technology and virtual reality will enhance the pupils' school experiences and aid learning.

Innovative inventions in 2026 will transform school life. A lift from the lower sports pitch will provide quick access to the main school and there will be virtual sports fixtures played with schools all over the UK and around the world which will take the school forward to more exciting and challenging times.

School lessons will now be aided with electronic planners suggesting the best websites, books and information to aid learning and there will be an electronic hovering device for each pupil at the end of each lesson to store information and inform the location of the next class.

The future is connected and Dunottar will be the school leaders in their innovative concepts for the future in 2026 and still provide an excellent choice for pupils in their future learning and careers. Technology and designed products will enhance school life and provide the power to drive each pupil's school life forward to ensure the success and happiness of each individual.

LILLY WILSON, AGE 11

#### I THINK IN 10 YEARS' TIME, WHEN I AM 21, I WILL OWN MY OWN PATISSERIE IN THE HEART OF PARIS.

I will have trained from age 18 until 20 at the famous Tante Marie chef academy and specialise in desserts and pastry chef techniques. I was offered a job in Paris as a pastry chef by the most famous dessert chef in France. After living there for one year, I met a man called Pierre who offered me the use of his grandma's empty shop to set up my patisserie in.

In Paris, I live in a very colourful and beautiful street around the corner from my patisserie. The street is called Rue de Lanccone. The house I live in is beautiful, I love it so much. It has two storeys, filled with baking books and pictures of my family. I share it with my two best friends, Cecile and Francois, who were friends with Pierre at the time I met him. Francois is an interior designer and Cecile is a wedding dress designer. Pierre is also 21 and is a French student studying Art and English. He wants to become an art teacher.

My patisserie is very multi–sensory style inspired, and stands out from the crowd for this reason. It is called Rue Patisserie de Fleur. I own the patisserie and work full time. I hire the best French pastry chefs to work for me. My beautiful earl grey infused miniature swiss rolls with a surprise are known throughout Paris.

That is where I think I will be in 10 years.

**RUBY O'CONNELL, AGE 11** 



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## 9TH MARCH 2016 – SYDNEY AUSTRALIA 33.8650°S. 151.2094°E

I'm sitting in a café, its 08:40 and I'm just about to head to work. I've just ordered a coffee and a croissant to get my day started. It's getting hot already. I was lucky to get this job through a friend I met while back–packing in Bangkok, Thailand 13.7563°N, 100.5018°E.

Since leaving university, where I studied Biology

and Drama (a strange combination I know!), I decided to go travelling for a year. I started out in Kerala, India 8.5074°N, 76.9730°E where I was lucky to get volunteer work for a month at an Elephant Sanctuary.

My next adventure was in Bangkok where I worked in a bar overlooking a beautiful beach. This is where I met my Australian friend and how I ended up where I am right now. I feel very lucky to be on this amazing journey but I also looking forward to getting back to my family in the UK. I've got to go now, my coffee and croissant have just arrived... yummy! Until tomorrow...

**RUBY BAMBRIDGE, AGE 12** 

#### IN TEN YEARS' TIME...

I would hope to be starting my first full time career in playing football for a premiership team. I would hope to be living in a modern house on the coast so I have access to the beach. It would be my ambition to own a German Shepherd as well as a cat who would get along like friends. My hobbies would include: international travelling including Australia, New Zealand, Greece, Fuerteventura and the Bahamas, but of course I would have to visit in-between seasons. I would like to be able to cook and hold parties for my friends and family, especially nice barbecues on warm summer days by the heated swimming pool and hot tub. I know 22 would be a little young, but I would be thinking about a family. I would also like to have a Bugatti Veyron and a Lamborghini Adventador with purple LED lights on the bottom. If I was to become a successful footballer, then I would like to help out training younger kids that enjoy playing football. Also I would like to donate money to charity for those in need and the homeless.

NATHAN ASHKURI, AGE 12



# Marking Dunottar's 100th Anniversary

This month marks Dunottar's 100th anniversary. Looking back over the years, it seems just like yesterday when I started in the academic year of 2014. 2014 was a significant year for us, as it was the year that the school went co–ed. A handful of brave boys joined in 2014, and then in 2015 we had our first group of Year 7s where the balance between boys and girls was about the same. Many of those original Year 7s have gone on to become successful ambassadors for Dunottar.

Across all our year groups, we now have a balanced mix of boys and girls. We are now at our fully capacity of 500 students. Although the local community have asked us to get bigger, we have chosen to stay relatively small for a high school so that we give individual attention and deliver our motto...

## "the best in everyone"

Being part of United Learning we now provide a wider range of subjects to our students. It is normal for small groups of students to 'dial-in' to lessons which are given from other locations in the Group. iPads have largely replaced books, and many of our students remember the days when the book bags were very heavy to carry. Our world has shrunk, and we have responded by offering many more languages. A student's choice of subjects is very personalised which means that students are doing the subjects they are passionate about.

Although we've increased in number, we have not lost our beautiful grounds and forest. For sports we decided to offer activities like fencing, handball and table tennis so that we did not need to use up large outdoor spaces for sports fields.

Dunottar is ranked in the top 50 schools across the country. Parents choose us for their children because they know we have high academic standards and also because we have strong values that we believe in.

It has been a privilege being part of the Dunottar journey these past 10 years, and we welcome the challenges of the future.

A MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER, MRS ROWENA COLE (AS IMAGINED BY JAMES THOMASON, AGE 11)

# What Dunottar is going to be like in 2026!

Dunottar is going to be full of children with hovering chairs and holographic tables. The children can order their lunch at the beginning of the day on their iPads. The teachers will have electronic pens which write what you're thinking. The children will have to wear uniform. In PE the balls that you throw will have a special technology so when you think of the person that you're going to throw to it will fly there. There will be a choice of fashion class or car class (the teachers will be your models). For cooking an electronic mixer will mix the ingredients and in chemistry there will be fire proof clothing so you can walk into fire. In other science lessons there will be a room like space without gravity. When you paint, the paint brush will paint the picture in your head if you ask it to, all these things will be done on your personal ability. If you are struggling to understand you will have a personal teacher on your iPad. You can record the experiment in class or record the lesson on your iPad. You might have a robot teaching you now and then, when your teacher is sick. In geography when you are studying counties or places you will be able to wear a virtual reality mask. However, when you walk around the School you will still get lots of smiles and friendly 'hellos' as we've always had and we always will!

**ELLA WILSON GRIMSHAW, AGE 11** 

# Welcome to the new Dunottar School, 2026

In 2026, Dunottar will be full of new ideas and technology like a lift from the bottom pitch to the school, preventing students from sore, throbbing legs.

Tired of being late to your fun lessons? Don't worry because in 2026 Dunottar school will have zip wires from classroom to classroom, making walking to class as fun as going to a theme park!

The 2026 Dunottar students will have personal iPads for each lesson which will be safely stored in their roll auto-bags, the best bag with built-in wheels that move by themselves. So don't worry about that back cramp you had.

In 2026, all students will be blessed with the whack–it racket, the perfect tennis racket which automatically scans were the ball is and hits it for you as well as Andy Murray.

Also, Dunottar School will be full of new intelligent and curious students, eager to learn in the Dunottar family–like environment, just like the past pupils did previously at Dunottar School.

Dunottar School is the school of new discoveries and strong friendships.

LEIA PASCAL, AGE 12

# Happy Memories and an Exciting Future

My memories of being a pupil here revolve around the three things I loved: English lessons, lacrosse and friends. Well, they say school shapes you and those three aspects certainly have shaped me. I teach English and am passionate about education; the most exciting part of my current job is driving forward the teaching and learning and supporting teachers to keep thinking of innovative and fresh ways to engage and stretch our young people. Although my lacrosse days are over thanks to a skiing injury, keeping fit and sport remain an important part of my life. And decades after we first met, the godmother to my children is my closest friend from Dunottar.

The school has changed a great deal since I joined in January 2015 most notably because the numbers of students have swelled and there is a new vibrancy to the place that is infectious. At its core, it remains the same happy and nurturing environment that it was all those years ago but I feel we expect more

from our pupils now. We want to challenge pupils to take risks in their learning, to develop a real intellectual curiosity which they will carry throughout their lives. Our warrior learner ethos is new and exciting and unashamedly pushes pupils beyond their comfort zone to achieve the very best that they can. We are preparing them for a world that is very different in so many ways with the rise of the internet, the demise of a job for life and the ease of global connections. Yet in many ways the values

our parents wanted to instil in us remains relevant and at Dunottar we place a huge amount of importance in helping our students become people who have integrity, loyalty and a sense of fun.

As an SLT, we had a clear vision of where we wanted the school to be but I am not sure any of us truly believed it would happen as quickly and as successfully as it has so far. We still have a great deal we want to achieve and that drive to keep improving and to make this school the most fantastic environment it can be for our students will never stop motivating us. As one of the south east's leaders in value-added education we will continue to think of how we can motivate and inspire our young people from a range of abilities to achieve all that they can inside and outside the classroom. And now I have been here over a year, I have managed to dispel my inherent terror of the entrance hall where all those years ago, I was banished to the 'mat' for a

minor misdemeanour. This torture consisted of standing on the 'mat' which was placed directly opposite the Head's office (now our meeting room). Outside was a traffic light and as I stood on the mat, I fixated on the light, willing it to stay red. I don't remember it ever being green or indeed ever seeing the Head (let alone talking to her) except for in assembly and on speech day so lucky for me, she never emerged to deliver my reprimand. What a pleasure it is to walk through the entrance now and appreciate the splendour of the mansion block, full of busy children, chatting and laughing and hearing a chorus of Year 7s effusively bellowing, "Hi Mrs Cole". As I said at the start, I loved my time here as a pupil but one thing is for sure: Dunottar is even better this time around!

PIPPA SMITHSON, Deputy Head (Teaching & Learning)



# Dunottar School, no looking back, well perhaps just a little bit...

The opportunity to work in a school with as much potential as Dunottar was too good a chance to pass up, so when I was made aware of the job at Dunottar, ("you know the small all-girls school at the top of the hill") I felt I had to explore it further. I was ready for a change and ready for a challenge and so on Friday 15th March 2014 I accepted the role as Dunottar's Deputy Head. I still reflect on that decision and a slight fear thrills through my veins. I had accepted a job in a school with a roll of 118 pupils, with very few boys and without knowing who the new Headteacher would be! Only now do I fully understand how much of a gamble this could have been. I am however delighted to report that it was not a gamble at all; as I write this article I know that the roll next year will be 250+ pupils, nearly half of all new starters are boys and Mrs Cole and I get on wonderfully well (nearly all of the time).

The first year, as expected, was a whirlwind with lots of new hats to wear and lots of questions that I had to appear confident in answering! I will always remember that first day on site in September 2014 when I arrived early, before the school was even open, and spent time wandering the grounds. It was a glorious late summer morning and although I knew it was going to be hard work, I also knew that I'd made the right choice. From the start staff, pupils and parents made me feel very welcome.

As you can imagine there have been many occasions over the last two years which have filled me with immense pride but there are a few that I want to mention here. Our first Prize Giving is a good one to start with, sensing that parents really

wanted the school to work and buying into what we were trying to do made us feel very positive. Our first entrance assessment day in January 2015 created a similar positive feeling about how the school was doing. The agonising anticipation as we waited for acceptance forms to arrive and then watched places fill up was another experience I'll never forget. The way the whole school has embraced the co-educational transition also brings great satisfaction. Boys had rarely set foot on Dunottar soil before 2014 and although in that first year they were very much a minority, the first co-ed cohort paved the way for many others to follow.

What's also been great for me is the real diversity that this job brings. One minute I can be in the midst of watching the chamber ensemble playing wonderful music in the hall and the next I can be foraging in the woods to source a spot for an outdoor classroom. No two days are ever the same and that's what makes my role so enjoyable. Dunottar continues to thrive and grow and there are many different events, almost on a daily basis, that would warrant mentioning in an article of this nature. Our continuing journey will bring with it fresh challenges, new pupils and more memories and as we build towards a full, vibrant and happy school I know

that Dunottar will continue to succeed in all that it does. Happy 90th Birthday to us!

MARC BROUGHTON, Deputy Head (Pastoral)



And the final word goes to our first ever co–ed School Captain Team: Izzie, Connor and Markeila

Over the past two years there have been many positive changes at Dunottar. Without the support of the leadership team, none of this would have been possible. The ethos of the school has been maintained, and pupils are nurtured to reach their potential. We have gone through changes, but the integrity and friendliness of Dunottar has been retained. The school has been a wonderful place to grow up, and we feel so grateful to have been representatives of the pupil body here. From bottom pitch to the swimming pool, this school is unique, and we will always have fond memories of our time at Dunottar.

Here's to the next 90 years, dream team out! The Flash, the Sass and the Maths









# THE DIFFERENCE IS DUNOTTAR

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