

Image of the week, Jason, Year 11

# Dunottar News

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The new school year has started very well indeed. Our Year 7 joiners thoroughly enjoyed their overnight camp at Bentley Copse. Our Year 9s had a great day on the water at Mercer's Lake and our

Sixth Form cohort spent an action-packed day learning to paddle board, amongst other activities at the SHAC in Buckland.

The Year 13s are putting together their personal statements for UCAS and pupils have settled in very well to our academic routines, supported by our iPad programme and the use of *Sparkjar* for homework.

A number of successful events took place in September. We were delighted to welcome distinguished guests including Sir Jon Coles, CEO of United Learning, Sir Richard Greenhalgh, Chairman of United Learning, and the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead to the official opening of our Sixth Form Centre. Our Sixth Form Taster evening went down well, offering insight for current year 11 pupils and their parents into life in the Sixth Form. Our Careers programme kicked off with an inspiring selection of speakers at the Sport and Nutrition Careers evening. We also received a visit from the ISI Inspection team for a routine inspection of the school the outcomes of which are pleasing.

All of our co-curricular clubs are up and running with pupils being spoilt for choice with over 70 clubs on offer. Sports fixtures are well underway and I am delighted that so many pupils are enjoying playing in competitive fixtures in both rugby and lacrosse.

**Mark Tottman**  
Headmaster



## Mayor and Sir Jon Coles Open Sixth Form

Thursday 19th September saw the official opening of our new state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre, a stunning new modern building designed to complement the historic Grade II listed Palladian Mansion that forms the original part of the school.

The centre was officially opened by Sir Jon Coles, CEO of United Learning, alongside Headmaster Mark Tottman, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Reigate & Banstead, who unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion.

The Mayor, Counsellor Keith Foreman, commented, "*Dunottar School has quickly established a well-earned reputation as the local school of choice for parents seeking a supportive and rounded education for their children. The new Sixth Form Centre certainly provides an inspiring facility for pupils studying at A level*".



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To keep up to date with news from Dunottar in between monthly newsletters, visit [www.dunottarschool.com](http://www.dunottarschool.com), find us on Facebook, Instagram or follow us on twitter.



# Open Mornings

Thursday 21st 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

Sun 6 Oct	SSF & Music Scholars rehearsal
Mon 7 Oct	Drama trip to see Dr Faustus
Tue 8 Oct	Careers event: Business
	Isle of Wight trip parents' meeting
Fri 11 Oct	Mufti Day
	Yr10 Art & Photography trip to Kew Gardens
	PTA Quiz Night
Sun 13 Oct	Music/Performing Arts Scholars rehearsal
Tue 15 Oct	Year 7 Poetry Slam
Wed 16 Oct	Open Morning
	Shakespeare for Schools workshop
Thu 17 Oct	Scholars' evening
	Music & Performing Arts scholars performance evening
18–20 Oct	Yr7&8 Geography trip to Isle of Wight
<b>Fri 18 Oct</b>	<b>School breaks up for half term</b>
21-25 Oct	History trip to Berlin
Thu 31 Oct	Dunottar MBA Course
Fri 1 Nov	Dunottar MBA Course
Mon 4 Nov	PTA Meeting
Tue 5 Nov	Music Scholars' Trip
Thu 7 Nov	Concert at St Matthew's Church
	Humanities Careers Evening
Fri 8 Nov	Film Music Orchestra Day
Sat 9 Nov	Future Skills afternoon
Mon 11 Nov	NEA1 Food & Nutrition exam
Wed 13 Nov	Yr 13 RS Conference
	Yr 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive
	Informal Concert
	Yr 11 GCSE Drama Performance
Thu 14 Nov	Yr 10 parents' evening
Tue 19 Nov	Safer Choices evening
Wed 20 Nov	Shakespeare Schools Festival Performance
Thu 21 Nov	Open Morning
Fri 22 Nov	Ski trip parents' meeting
Sat 23 Nov	Saturday Academy Informal Concert
Sun 24 Nov	PTA Christmas Fair
Tue 26 Nov	Yr 11 Sixth Form Taster Day
	Yr 11 parents' evening to discuss A Level options
Thu 28 Nov	Yr 10 Theatre Trip—An Inspector Calls
	Yr 8 parents' evening
Wed 4 Dec	Yr 12 parents' evening
Fri 6 Dec	Mufti Day
Sat 7 Dec	Caring at Christmas
11/12 Dec	Carol Service at St John's Church
<b>Fri 13 Dec</b>	<b>School breaks up for Christmas</b>



## Year 7 Team Building Adventures

On Thursday 5th September, our new Year 7 pupils set off to Bentley Copse, Sherborne, for their team building residential trip. The purpose of the trip was for pupils to form new friendships and build relationships with their form tutors, their Head of Year and other staff who attended the trip, and this certainly happened.

Over the course of the two days, pupils took part in a range of fun and engaging activities. These included quad biking, climbing, air rifling, orienteering and team building. It was great to see so many of our warrior learner traits on display! The trip was the perfect way for this year group to start their time at Dunottar.



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## Year 9 Team Building at Mercer's Lake

On Friday 6th September, Year 9 ventured down to Mercer's Lake in Merstham, Redhill, for a day of team-building and water sports. From raft building to kayaking to windsurfing, the day proved a huge success for both pupils and teachers alike.

Little did the raft builders know that they would be setting out on the opposing team's raft which ensured a genuine attempt to keep them afloat once on the water. Mrs MacTavish and Mrs Pennels braved the water, Mr Myers flirted with the idea of getting wet, whilst the remainder of the staff thought it absolutely necessary to hold the fort on dry land.

Despite damp conditions, the pupils really enjoyed the day's events; an all-round success.



## Sixth Form Water Sports and Team Building

On Friday 6th September, our Sixth Form pupils headed off to the Surrey Hills Adventure Company in Buckland, for an action-packed day of water sports and teambuilding activities.

Pupils took to the water, testing their balance and coordination skills as they learnt how to stand-up

paddleboard, before enjoying some relaxation time as they took part in paddleboard yoga.

Back on dry land, groups of Year 12 and Year 13 pupils worked together to complete a number of team challenges and tested their bush craft skills, lighting campfires and whittling sticks.

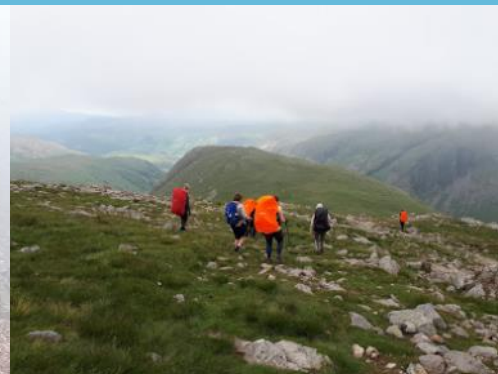




## Duke of Edinburgh

During the summer holidays, Year 12 undertook their Gold qualifying DofE expedition in the Lake District. They camped for four nights and covered a great distance (and considerable height) each day, carrying their camping gear and navigating their way eastwards from Ennerdale to Thirlmere near Keswick.

The team completed the expedition successfully and we wish them the very best of luck with their remaining sections for their awards, which, when completed, they will receive in a presentation from a member of the Royal family at Buckingham Palace.



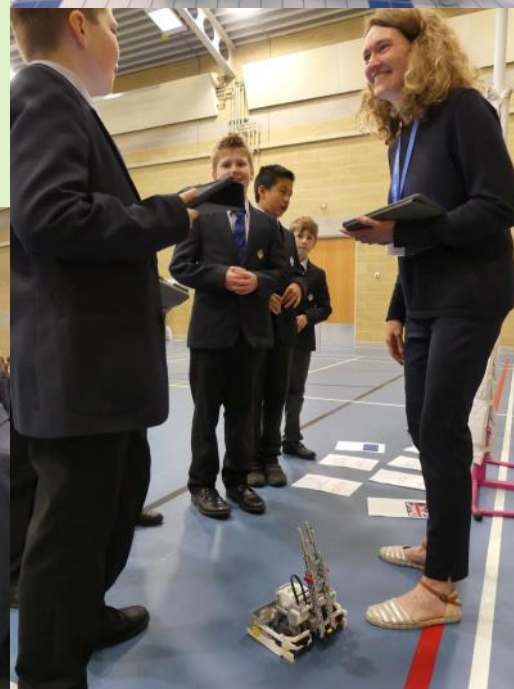
## Co-Curricular Fair Showcases Over 70 Clubs

With over 70 clubs on offer, pupils were spoilt for choice at this year's co-curricular fair. Staff and Sixth Formers promoted their clubs with costumes, demonstrations and activities at the annual event in the Sports Hall on Tuesday 10th September.

This year sees the return of many of the old favourites, including Lego robotics, dissection club, hockey club and rock climbing club amongst others. There are also many new and exciting clubs on offer such as rock band, mountain biking, 1-minute moviemakers and a post-16 STEM Club.

The full co-curricular timetable can be found on our website:

<https://www.dunottarschool.com/school-life/co-curricular>



## Year 11 Pupils Sample Life in the Sixth Form

On Thursday 12th September, our current Year 11 pupils along with their parents, gathered in the Dining Hall for our Sixth Form Taster Evening.

Following an introduction from Mr Tottman and Mrs Smithson, pupils took part in pre-selected, interactive A level lessons, giving them a real insight into learning in the Sixth Form. Pupils were able to experience first hand lessons in new subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Economics with Business, amongst many others.

Pupils from both Years 12 and 13 were on hand to provide their views on how different life in the Sixth Form is compared to lower down the school, as well as proudly showing off their new Sixth Form centre.



The evening was very well received by both parents and pupils, with one parent commenting, "We found the Sixth Form evening most interesting and useful with many of our questions answered."

## Sport Careers Evening

On Tuesday 17th September, the Sports Department hosted their annual sports and nutrition careers evening, with VIP guests from Sky Sports and the Belfast Telegraph.

This was the first in the series of 2019/2020 careers evenings which have been designed to provide pupils and parents with invaluable access to industry experts to inspire and ignite their curiosity.

Simon Manning, Director of Sport commented, "This year, we were delighted to welcome back to Dunottar Emma Paton (Dunottar Leaver 2005), who now works as a Sky Sports News Presenter and Reporter. Emma captivated the audience with her insights into how she accessed the profession, and how, through fierce determination, she realised her dream to become a presenter".

Alongside Emma, physiotherapist Fred Manning spoke to the pupils about his role, as both a clinical and football team physio. Fred was followed by James Tait, from the Belfast Telegraph, whose creative footage profiling the 'day-in-a-life' of a newspaper journalist provided a valuable reflection on the roles,

responsibilities and hours a journalist is required to dedicate to their profession.

The evening concluded with a presentation from Gary Laybourne (Head of Coaching at Coach Core Programme). Gary talked about his inspirational role educating 16-24 year olds who are no longer in education, providing impactful sports coaching apprenticeships that develop their talents providing them with a range of vital skills for sport, work and life.





# LAMDA Speech and Drama Results

In June, pupils took LAMDA examinations in Acting Solo, Duologue or Combined, from Grade 2 up to Grade 8 (Gold Medal). Pupils had to learn by heart and perform to an examiner, two to three pieces of drama, and then answer questions in a knowledge section. Grades 6, 7 and 8 are recognised within the UCAS tariff for UK University Entrance.

Congratulations to all pupils who took the assessments!

## ACTING GRADE 2

Ella T - Duo – PASS with MERIT  
Amelie Y - Duo – PASS  
Eva P – Combined – PASS with MERIT  
Izzy G – Combined – PASS  
James H – Duo – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Jack M – DUO – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Rhianna R – Duo – PASS with MERIT  
Tallulah W – Duo - PASS with DISTINCTION  
Advaith B – Solo - PASS with DISTINCTION  
Max H – Duo – PASS with MERIT  
Louis A – Duo – PASS with MERIT

## ACTING GRADE 3

Sophia M – Combined – PASS with MERIT  
Dhara M – Combined – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Barney H – Solo – PASS with MERIT  
Sebastian W – Combined – PASS with MERIT  
Annie L – Combined – PASS with MERIT

## ACTING GRADE 4

Caitlin W – Solo – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Holly P – Solo – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Frederick K-G – Duo – PASS  
Ethan A – Duo – PASS  
Alexander M-T – Combined - PASS with DISTINCTION  
Dominic C – Combined – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Toby C – Combined – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Oliver D – Combined – PASS with MERIT

## ACTING GRADE 5

Jemma F – Solo – PASS with MERIT  
Aylin B – Solo – PASS with MERIT  
Leia P – Solo – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Isabelle J – Solo – PASS with DISTINCTION  
Jack G – Solo – PASS with MERIT

## ACTING GRADE 8—GOLD MEDAL

Sharika P – Solo – PASS with DISTINCTION



## Building Update

Building work for the new £4.5 million Assembly Hall progressed full steam ahead over the summer break. Both the pile foundations and the basement plant room foundations have now been completed.

This building will have 500+ seats with a flexible stage, drama and music classrooms, practice areas and other facilities. We remain on track to complete this project for October half term in 2020.





Welcome back to school!

We hope that all our pupils are settling well into the new term, that you all had great summers, that memories were made and that the start back at school wasn't too much of a shock to the system! We would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to all new families. We hope that your children are successfully finding their way around Dunottar and that it is beginning to feel like home.

Autumn is always a busy term for us with quite a few events, which we hope are in your diaries. Please keep a watchful eye on Classlist, Dunottar PTA Facebook/Twitter for more information.

Lastly, we had to say farewell to some valuable PTA members this summer as their children moved on to new adventures. We wish them all the very best. This leaves your PTA with some gaps that need filling by you! If you think you can spare some time, however small, and would like to get involved with us and contribute to your school - please get in touch via email to Carol and Jenni at [info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk](mailto:info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk)

Have a fantastic term everyone and see you at the Quiz Night.

Many thanks.

Carol and Jenni



with Mitchell & Summons



**FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCT**  
@  
**DUNOTTAR SCHOOL**



**Please join us for our first PTA social of the year – Quiz Night!**

It's a great chance to meet other parents & celebrate the start of the school year.

**Cash Bar opens @ 7pm \* \* \* Quiz starts promptly @ 7.45**

Bring your own nibbles (some snacks on sale at the bar)

& buy your drinks at the bar.

**ALL parents, friends and adult family members welcome.**

Indicate which year group you'd like to be seated with or plan a table of 8

Please click on this link to let us know you'll be joining us (no charge)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/quiz-night-dunottar-pta-tickets-72398057539>

## Upcoming Events

- Friday 11th October  
**Quiz Night**
- Sunday 24th November, 2-5pm  
**Dunottar PTA Christmas Fair**
- Saturday 7th December  
**Caring at Christmas**

All new parents are asked to please sign up to Classlist [www.schoolclasslist.com](http://www.schoolclasslist.com) for all communications from the PTA.

To register visit the website, search for 'Dunottar School' and complete the registration form.

Please remember to download the Classlist app on your phone.





## Rugby

It has been an exciting start to the new rugby season at Dunottar. Our pre-season events were really well attended and this has helped the season get underway at a high standard. This year we're thrilled to announce that Brian Small is our Head Coach. Last year, he worked throughout the season with the 1st XV squad, and demonstrated what he is capable of implementing at Dunottar. Brian has years of experience as both a player and a coach.

### U12s

The numbers of U12 boys in attendance at pre-season training has been so pleasing to see, whether pupils have years of playing experience or they are new to the sport. The first weekend of fixtures saw the U12s play a developmental match at Old Reigatians, giving Mr Everett and Mr Thomas an opportunity to see all the boys within the competitive match environment. Following this, the next weekend saw us play against The Cedars School (Friday afternoon for the Bs and Saturday morning for the As). Both sides won their respective fixtures, showing good squad depth in the process. Competition for places will be high, which will help drive performance forward. Our next fixtures are against Ewell Castle.

### U13s

The U13s showed much promise last year, and have started this season well. Their focus is on playing more as a team, and less as talented individuals, something the boys are working hard to implement. So far, they remain unbeaten this season following successful, try-flowing victories against Glyn and The Cedars teams. Next up is a trip to Ewell Castle, who beat us last year.

### U14s

The U14s have had a tough start to the season, but have been supported by the intake of a few boys new to the school. They played the Glyn's U14As in the opening week of fixtures, which was a hotly contested game,

with Glyn eventually proving a bit more clinical when in our 22, than we were in theirs. The following weekend, saw the boys travel to The Cedars where injuries during the game made the difference. Trailing 12-7 at half time it was all to play for, with the slope to our advantage second half. However, injuries to Fin and Will early in the second half stretched us, and Cedars went on to win the game. The team is looking stronger week on week, and the future is exciting for this group of boys.

### U15s

Under the guidance of Mr Lowe, the U15s have also made a positive start to the season. In their opening fixture vs Glyn, the boys ran out comfortable winners. Showing their attacking prowess in the process. Mr Lowe is looking forward to working on sharp and slick moves within the backs, which he is already implementing. Due to Duke of Edinburgh taking place, the boys didn't have matches against The Cedars School.

### 1st XV

The 1st XV squad have also won two from two at the starting of the season. With Brian in charge, they are looking increasingly more organised and structured. Showing the ability to all make tackles, with great squad depth, coupled with searing speed amongst the backs. Two victories against Glyn's U16Bs and Wilsons' 1st XV have confirmed this.





## Lacrosse

With three weekends of the season already completed, lacrosse at Dunottar is looking to go from strength to strength. As the school expands, it is brilliant to see the interest in lacrosse growing and the PE department are striving to establish B teams in years 7, 8 and 10; a situation we could not have dreamt of just two years ago.

**Year 7:** Miss Grant's Year 7s have made amazing progress in the three weeks since the majority of the pupils picked up a stick for the first time. As well as the many challenging technical skills to get to grips with, including how to throw, catch, cradle and pick-up the ball, there is all the new information to take on board about the tactics, rules and gameplay of lacrosse. Their first fixture was against Godstowe Preparatory School who have been playing for a lot longer than two weeks. When being outplayed by a significantly more experienced opposition some teams can let it get them down, but the year 7s kept their heads up, showed how resilient they can be and improved dramatically throughout the game. To say this term has been a steep learning curve for the girls is an understatement and their perseverance is impressive.

**Year 8:** Year 8 had a brilliant turnout to preseason which was primarily focussed on getting the stick skills back up to scratch and explaining the different rules that have come with the change to lacrosse being ten-a-side instead of twelve. At their first fixture against St Georges Ascot, the girls looked a bit rusty in the first half and looked like the game could be slipping away from them. During Mr Ogilvie's half time team talk the girls listened attentively to the clear and focussed targets for the remainder of the game, and then went out to keep the second half score to all square, having been 4-2 up at one point.

**Year 9:** Year 9 have made a fantastic start to the season with their second year under the guidance of Mrs Bambridge. The girls made a slow start in their first

match against St George's Ascot but gradually remembered the foundations of their positioning, found a bit of flow and managed to grind out a 7-6 win against equally committed opponents. In training they have been building on their tactics from last year and are looking to create more goal scoring opportunities with a new style of attack that is suited to the 10-a-side game.

**Year 10:** This season Year 10 have great depth in the squad and games sessions are seeing players' skill levels improving across the board. This brings a new challenge for Mrs Pieters when it comes to selection as more players are pushing for a spot in the first team, some joining Reigate Priory Lacrosse Club to help further their development. This talented bunch had a tough first fixture against St Georges Ascot who were clinical in their finishing. Games sessions have allowed the girls to work on getting the foundations back to par in settled attack and fast break defensive situations, which in combination with specific goalie lunch sessions should see a dramatic improvement in the team's performance.

**Year 11 & Sixth Form:** Their first fixture was away at St Georges Ascot and even with an experienced goalkeeper and defensive players missing, the team shone in the first half with the score all tied at half time. Unfortunately, the team couldn't sustain the impressive first half performance and the score gradually slipped away due to too many missed or saved shots. Reflecting on the game, this talented group of lacrosse players have set their sights on greatly improving their conditioning, understanding more advanced tactics and communicating on the field in a way to defend, and score, against the best. One week after this fixture against Claremont Fan Court School, the Seniors have an even bigger trial in the form of the Senior Surrey Schools County Tournament.

