



# Dunottar News

[www.dunottarschool.com](http://www.dunottarschool.com)

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The Spring Term began with our busiest Year 7 entry assessment day to date. We were delighted to welcome over 200 pupils from 40 local state and independent schools who enjoyed an action-packed day of activities. We look forward to many of them joining us in September.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have taken their GCSE and A Level mock examinations. Lower down the school, following the Year 9 options evening, pupils have now made their choices for their GCSE courses.

Our Upper School drama pupils gave a powerful and emotional performance of the play "Adult Child, Dead Child", focusing on a young woman's fight with mental illness. Rehearsals are now underway for our upbeat school musical, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" which will take place at Dorking Halls on 26th March. Earlier this term, the Year 7 pupils joined thousands of other pupils from around the country to take part in Young Voices 2020 at the O2 in London.

In other co-curricular news, our two Lego Robotics teams put in fantastic performances at the First LEGO League Regional tournament in London, with one team winning the Robot Performance Award and the Championship Runners Up Award. They are on their way to the national finals in Bristol.

On the sports field, our football and netball teams have played a range of competitive matches, with players demonstrating their skill, tenacity and sportsmanship. We hosted two tournaments this term - the Surrey Under 14 lacrosse tournament as well as the East Surrey Lord Taverners regional indoor cricket tournament where our U13s finished the day victorious, earning their place in the county finals in March.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term break.

**Mark Tottman**  
Headmaster



## Double Win for LEGO Robotics Team

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January, two teams representing Dunottar School competed against 18 teams at the First LEGO League Regional tournament at Queen Mary University in London. Alphi (Year 8) gives his account of the day.

FIRST stands for FOR the INSPIRATION and RECOGNITION of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY. Each year missions are set around a theme, each team then needs to design, build and code a Lego robot to complete each of these missions. Points are awarded based on the completion of each task in the set time.

As a team we have been collaborating to create the best code and robot to enter into the qualifier. The day began with a 7am meet-up at school. As we arrived at Queen Mary University the atmosphere was buzzing. Teams from across the country had gathered to compete for a place in the UK finals. Amongst our competitors there

Continued overleaf...



**Dunottar School**

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# Open Mornings

Wednesday 29th April

Thursday 25th June

(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

Fri 14 Feb	<b>School breaks up 4pm for half term</b>
Sun 16-22 Feb	Ski trip
Mon 24 Feb	GCSE French mock speaking tests
Thu 27 Feb	Yr 11 Food & Nutrition exam Digital Careers Workshop
Mon 2 Mar	PTA Meeting
Wed 4 Mar	WW1 Cross Curricular Day Yr 9
Thu 5 Mar	GCSE and A Level Drama visit to "I Think We Are Alone"
Fri 6 Mar	St David's House Charity Day
Wed 11 Mar	Science Symposium Informal Concert
Thu 12 Mar	Beyond A Levels event
Fri 13 Mar	Yr 9+ Trip to Natural History Museum with Spanish exchange students
Thu 19 Mar	Visiting examiner for Yr 13 Drama performance
Fri 20 Mar	Mufti Day & Sport Relief
Tue 24 Mar	STEM Careers Workshop
Thu 26 Mar	School Musical performance
Sun 29 Mar	Bronze DofE training day
<b>Wed 1 Apr</b>	<b>Term ends 4pm</b>

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

were many different approaches, some seemed far more complicated than our own.

The first event was the robot design presentation. We showed the judges our coding and talked to them about our ideas and team approach. Each team needed to demonstrate the core values of inclusion, discovery, innovation, teamwork, impact and, last but not least, fun. To prove how we worked together using these values we created a board showing each of our assigned roles and how we demonstrated those aspects within our team.



Next came the project work. Our brief was to create something to improve our local area. We did this by creating an eco hut to help inform local children and adults about nature. This was originally created just for local schools but then evolved into being a wider community building. To help our presentation, we made a board and two models of what we thought the eco hut should look like.

The robot design was a key part of the competition. We were judged on the design of the robot and the attachments we had designed to complete the missions, how the team roles were divided and our coding for the missions. Teamwork was a key criteria that all groups were judged on. We spoke about how we identified the tasks and created roles – we created a board that described this.

The robot games were the main event that everyone was able to watch and they involved three rounds. Each round, teams were awarded points on how they completed the missions, for example, the robot pushing a lever to enable a swing to move, or triggering a crane to drop a blue crate to score points.

Both Dunottar teams competed and scored highly. It was really tense waiting all day to see who would get the best performing robot, and the points to add on to the other rounds.

One of the teams, Dunottar Rock Sliders, came home with two trophies, winning the Robotics Performance Award for the highest points on the robotics round and the Championship Runners Up Award, which reflected their core values working as a team and their innovative project design.

They will go through to the finals which are in Bristol on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*"I'm so proud of the pupils, they came up with a fantastic concept and worked seamlessly as a team to create innovative solutions"* - Mrs Berry, Head of Computer Science.



## The Importance of Innovation

On Wednesday 29th January, our Academic Scholars attended an inspiring presentation given by Mrs Pope, focusing on the importance of innovation. Drawing on her industry experience working on a project to create needle-free injections, Mrs Pope looked at how innovation, even when it fails, can fuel further innovation, as scientists strive to develop successful products. The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session.



## Performing Arts Careers Evening

On Tuesday 28th January we hosted a Performing Arts Careers evening in the Ballroom with a number of high calibre guest-speakers providing fascinating insight into their industry. Our guests included:

### **Freelance musician, Nathaniel Brawn**

Nathaniel juggles a busy timetable as a Viola player, a violinist for Stratus Music, a private music tutor and choral singer.

### **Actress, Jessica Clark**

Jessica is an actress experienced in both theatre and TV. She most recently appeared in the TV series 'Versailles'.

### **Director, performer and drama teacher, Stephen Sobal**

Stephen is a multi award-winning director, performer, teacher and the artistic director of "All in Theatre". As a director Stephen specialises in playful, physical and comedy theatre.

### **Partners of Shutter Audio LLP**

Tom Ford and Jonathan Murrill talked about their multi award-winning music production company.



### **Freelance technician and composer, Alex Lamy**

Alex is a composer for film, video games and television, he has worked for a number of high-profile composers including Hans Zimmer.

Speaking after the event, Ms Pettet, Director of Music commented, "*I was delighted to see so many pupils engaging directly with our guest speakers over refreshments. This event provided an opportunity to discover the realities behind working in the performing arts sector, with tangible advice and recommendations given out to pupils to help them build their experience and skills*".

## Upcoming Careers Evenings

Thursday 27th February	Digital Careers
Tuesday 24th March	STEM Careers
Thursday 30th April	Creative Arts Careers

Full details of the events, including how to reserve your place, will be sent out via the Dunottar Download.



# Pupils Create Holocaust Memorial Flame

Monday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day, a day when we remember victims of genocide or mass murder, from the Holocaust during World War Two to the more recent mass murders in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The logo for Holocaust Memorial Day is a memorial flame which symbolizes the commitment of the Holocaust Memorial Trust to remember and honour those affected and murdered during the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and the genocides that followed. To keep a flame burning you must tend to it, be vigilant and keep it burning.

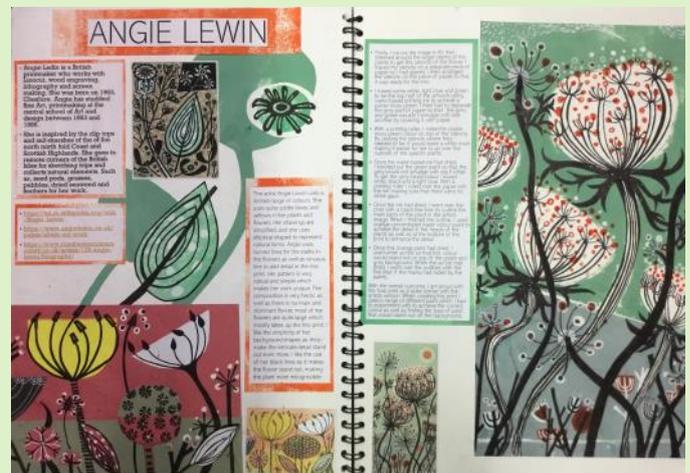
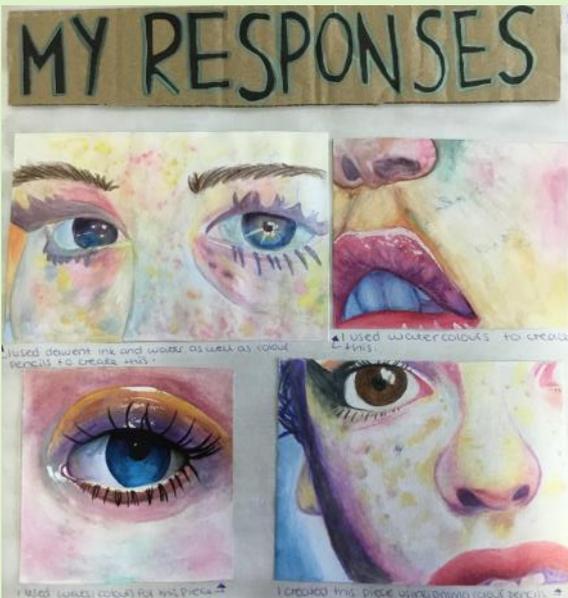
During form periods, pupils wrote the names of those who were persecuted on coloured paper, which once assembled, created Dunottar's own memorial flame. The flame is now on display in school.



## Be Outstanding...

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

Pupil	Year	Award	Subject
Wilbur J	7	Academic Distinction	MFL
Charlie C	8	Academic Distinction	MFL
Dhara M	9	Academic Distinction	MFL
Clara E	10	Academic Distinction	Art
Ruby B	11	Academic Distinction	Art
Katie B	11	Academic Distinction	Maths
Mia P	11	Academic Distinction	Art
James T	11	Academic Distinction	Maths
Joshua V	11	Academic Distinction	PE
Lilly W	11	Academic Distinction	Maths
Ella W-G	11	Academic Distinction	MFL



## Nation's Top Poets Inspire Year 11 Audience

On 24th January, Year 11 went to the Apollo Theatre in London, where they enjoyed a day of poetry presentations by a range of poets, including former Poet Laureate Carol Anne Duffy and current Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. Imtiaz Dharkar and John Agard gave fantastic readings of their poems, which were enjoyed by a packed theatre of Year 11 students from lots of different schools. A GCSE AQA examiner provided useful tips about how to tackle unseen poems in the exam. Students had the chance to take part in Q&A sessions with the poets and gained an insight into the mind of a poet. Thank you to Mrs Lewis for organising the trip.



## Budding Artists Find Inspiration at Tate Modern



45 of our Year 11 & 12 Art and Photography students visited Tate Modern on the 30th January to gain inspiration for their current projects. The Tate is an excellent place to find a wide variety of styles and subject matter for all our budding artists. Students produced some interesting studies from the exhibits and recorded additional visual information with their cameras. Much of this will provide the starting point for the externally set assignment and the personal investigations.

Many students found the work of American artist Ed Ruscha of value, with its mix of text and landscape. Others were intrigued by Dora Maar's work exploring the relationship between the

beauty industry and identity, as well as considering how her surroundings impact on her more abstract art.

*'I really found the visit to the Tate productive. It gave me insight into some interesting art works and encouraged me to explore different approaches to my own work and ideas' - Ruby, Year 11*



## Graphic Design Workshops for Art Scholars

As part of their scholarship programme, our art Scholars were lucky enough to work with a local artist, Sally, who specialises in Graphic Design. The five-week project took place on Tuesday after school in the art studios. The focus was text and lettering and how to develop different fonts through mark making.

At the start of the project the Scholars looked for the alphabet in unexpected places in their surroundings and used their iPads to record these letters. This helped them to become more visually aware and to look at shapes and forms from different points of view and for different purposes. The letters were then put together to form a composition. Additional studies were developed from these sources and the students learnt how to create new fonts using line and collage.

They are now looking forward to learning more about photography and software such as Adobe Photoshop.



## 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". This week sees some creative images on the theme of "Ink on Water" by Emily (Year 11) and "Animals" by Mia (Year 11).



## Year 7 Perform at the O2

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 80 Year 7 pupils arrived at the O2 Arena to sing in front of an audience of thousands.

Joining school choirs from across the country, to perform songs as diverse as Kusimama, Best of West and Shiny Happy People, this was one of the biggest children's choir concerts in the world and one of 23 concerts across England.

Guest appearances by Tony Hadley, The Shires and Ruti made this an extra-special occasion organised by Young Voices, which stages the school concerts to inspire a love of music and create memories for the children that will last a lifetime.

The concert also raised funds for Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity that provides specialist nursing care and support to young people with cancer.



Emily Pettet, Director of Music at Dunottar, said: "We had the most fantastic seats, with a birds-eye view of the singers and musicians. It was lovely to see all our pupils so engaged, in both singing and performing the choreographed dance moves."

## GCSE Music Conference

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Year 11 Music pupils attended the Keynote GCSE Music Conference in London which aimed to consolidate students' learning in listening, composing and performing. Throughout the day, pupils engaged in practical activities linked to the different areas of the course. Pupils found the event inspiring and relevant to their Music GCSE, particularly composing and performing, which the pupils will be completing in the lead-up to Easter.



## House Music

The competition was fierce this year in the S Club 7 themed "House Shout" competition. Freelance musician, Nathaniel Brawn, judged each house on their enthusiasm, participation, singing quality and performance, naming St David's House the winners with their rousing rendition of "Bring it all Back".



# Emotional and Powerful Upper School Play

On Friday 31st January, drama pupils in the Upper School gave a powerful and moving performance of the play "Adult Child, Dead Child". In the play, the unnamed protagonist is challenged with extreme discipline from their parents which subsequently has an impact on their life. Whether it's the eye-for-an-eye punishment from their father, or the hours of claustrophobic inactivity spent locked in the cupboard under the stairs, throughout the play, the emotional impact that comes from living with a family who would rather chastise than show affection was clear.

Well done to all those who took part!



## Building Update

Building work for the new £4.5 million Assembly Hall continues to make excellent progress. The concrete structure for the tiered seating at the rear of the hall is now in place, enabling the steel works

to get underway for the south side entrance lobby area. Work has been ongoing to install the timber roofing structure which is rapidly taking shape. Where the steel structure is in place, construction of the outer walls has begun, using the Flemish bond brickwork pattern, designed to blend in with some of the listed buildings on the site.





The PTA's first social of 2020 was a great success. **Out of Bounds Comedy** crew delivered fantastic sets to a crowded hall on the 1<sup>st</sup>

February. Our thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Please **save the date** for our summer function: SUNDAY FAMILY FUN DAY on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** from 3pm – 6pm.

The PTA has been thrilled to invite and fulfil requests for resources from staff/students this academic year. These include:

- Contributions to the Food Technology room
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manuals for the Psychology Department
- 8 items for the Physics Department
- CAD software for the DT Department
- Lego Robotics equipment for the Computer Science Department
- A Beta Maxi Heat Press, Princess Pleater and Paper Stix Machine for Textiles
- An Industrial Trolley for the Estates Team



Our big **push for 2020** is to get more parents and those in the extended Dunottar community to sign up to our 2 initiatives. At the moment we have less than 1% of our parent body on board!

So please click the links below and sign up for us:

<http://www.dunottarschoolpta.co.uk/lottery>

(PTA lottery: 50% of funds in prize money with monthly draws)

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dunottarpta>

(easyfundraising to raise funds for the PTA every time you shop online)

Thank you  
from Carol & Jenni on behalf of your PTA



# Dunottar Get Active Challenge Results

A huge congratulations to the 120 people who swam, ran, walked and cycled their way through January. In total, we covered a total of 6,985 miles, the equivalent of driving all the way to Nepal.

Medals will be awarded to all those pupils that completed 15 miles in January at an assembly later this term. Simply Sports have kindly donated voucher prizes that will be awarded to four pupils selected at random.

An extra special shout also goes out to our pupils who recorded the most miles:

## Walking

Mark T - 125.5 miles  
Tom R - 136.9 miles

## Running

Keira P - 38.7 miles  
Austin H - 35.0 miles

## Cycling

Marcus K - 171 miles  
Jason C - 41.6 miles

## Swimming

Anya M - 7.7 miles  
Jack G - 6.1 miles

And now to the much anticipated adult competition! Our winners across each category are as follows:

Swimming - Thalia Hessey - 19.3 miles

Running - Nicky Grant - 122.7 miles

Cycling - Steve Kirby - 415.0 miles

Walking - Spencer Ogilvie - 297.2 miles

Congratulations to the four of you! You will each receive a Simply Sports voucher along with a medal. All participants who completed the 15 mile target in January will also receive a medal.

## Maths Week

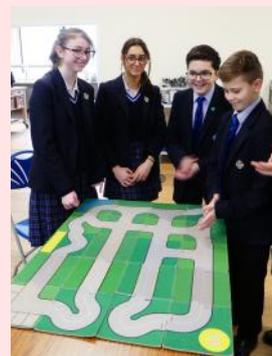
Maths week began with an assembly on the concept of six degrees of separation and how Mathematics can be used to model this. We discovered small world networks and their use in linking individuals in as few steps as possible. It turns out that Mrs Stringer and Boris Johnson can be linked through 4 degrees of separation, as can Mrs Budgen and Samuel L Jackson.

Activities that followed during the week included a puzzle challenge day for KS3. This involved pupils working in groups to solve a multitude of 2 and 3 dimensional puzzles. Pupils demonstrated real tenacity and curiosity in the manner with which they approached the challenges - true Warrior Learner traits.

Selected year 9 and 10 students competed in the UK Maths Challenge on the Thursday - results will follow.

## DofE Training

We have a large number of pupils doing their Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards this year and pupils have been training at school for the last two Sundays on their navigation skills, route planning, first aid and campcraft.



## Lacrosse

This term has been a lot quieter for the lacrosse teams, with Monday and Friday lunch-times being the only opportunity to get their hands on a lacrosse stick now. We are delighted to see that the ever keen year 7s and the core players from each team are turning up to these sessions to maintain their skills. This has been invaluable practice in particular for the Year 8 and 9 girls who have



competed in their age group's Surrey Tournaments, with both teams making it to the plate semi-finals in their respective tournaments.

For the first time in recent years,

Dunottar organised one of the county tournaments and off the back of it, are looking forward to hosting future tournaments at Old Reigatians.

For quite a few of the younger players once a week simply hasn't been enough, so they have also taken up training at, and playing for, Reigate Priory Lacrosse Club (RPLC) at the cricket club on Sundays.

This term has also seen the start of Dunottar reaching out to local primary schools to introduce lacrosse at Micklefield and The Hawthorns. These sessions have been very well received and some of those girls enjoyed the sport so much that they are already involved with the expanding junior programme at RPLC. This mutual support between RPLC, Dunottar and the local primary schools is helping lacrosse to grow and develop in the area, at an exciting time where the sport is going through rules testing with a view to it becoming an Olympic sport.

After missing a few years, this next term will see Dunottar resuming their entrance to the National Schools Lacrosse Championships at U13, U15A and the Senior A Team levels. Schedules for this event have just been released and the tournament will

take place at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre at the end of February and beginning of March.

[www.nationalschoolslacrosse.com/schedule](http://www.nationalschoolslacrosse.com/schedule)

In what is left of the Spring Term after that, we have the Year 7 Surrey Tournament and the Coloma Cup to look forward to. In the Summer Term, there will be a primary schools lacrosse tournament to be hosted at Old Reigatians with the Dunottar Alumni game to follow, concluding lacrosse at the school for this year.

## Cricket

On Monday 27th of January Dunottar hosted the East Surrey Lord Taverners regional indoor cricket tournament. The event was a great success with five teams entering from the East Surrey region. Schools participating included: Dunottar School, Reigate School, Oxted School, Warlingham School and The Beacon School.

In a tournament that started at 11:00am and ran throughout the day, our U13s impressed throughout with accurate bowling, sharp fielding and dominant batting.

We ended the day victorious after winning 4 from 4

with Reigate School giving Dunottar the closest battle. Dunottar managed a 6-wicket win vs The Beacon School, Reigate School, Warlingham, and a 62-run victory vs Oxted.

The U13s are looking forward to playing in the county finals at The Ashcombe School, Dorking on Monday 23rd March where they will look to go one further than last year and be crowned County Champions.





## Football

The football season kicked off on Saturday 4th January with great attendance at pre-season training, despite very cold conditions. Saturday 11th January saw us take on Epsom College, putting out U12ABC and U13AB teams, registering 1 win, 1 draw and 3 close losses. Our U14A team also took on our U15A team in an inter-school fixture on this day, with the U15A team taking a 3-2 win in a very well matched fixture.

Unfortunately, the weather has played its part so far this half term, meaning that our block fixture on 18th January against City of London Freeman's was cancelled as a result of waterlogged pitches. On Saturday 25th January, we had a very successful block fixture against Cedars School, winning 4 and losing 2 fixtures. The highlight of this block fixture was Will's sublime goal for the U14A team as he showed great technique to score directly from a corner.

Saturday 1st February saw more fixtures being cancelled due to waterlogged pitches, but we did manage to play 2 games against Dulwich College, which ended in 2 narrow losses. Our U12A team also played our U12B team in an inter-school fixture with the U12A team taking a win in this one. The U12B team should be proud of their efforts though, in particular Tom, who made a number of excellent saves in the game.

At the time of writing, we are yet to play Ewell Castle and are looking forward to finishing this half term with a well matched block fixture against them, as well as some midweek fixtures against Claremont Fan Court School.

Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward to our remaining Saturday fixtures after the

February half term, as well as our **House football event**, which takes place on **Saturday 28th March**. After the house football event, we will have our annual Dunottar Staff vs Parents 11 a-side charity football match. If you wish to take part in this match please email Mr Everett ([m.everett@dunottarschool.com](mailto:m.everett@dunottarschool.com))

### 1st XI

At the timing of writing, our 1st XI football team have played 3 games, winning 2 of these and losing 1. The first game was a narrow 2-0 loss against City of London Freeman's and was a game that we could have won, had chances gone our way. It was great to see the spirit shown by the team who bounced back the following week to beat Cedars School 5-2, with the boys putting in a well-rounded performance. What was particularly impressive was our response when conceding in this game, as both times we conceded, we were able to quickly go down the other end and score, to nullify any momentum that our opponents may have gathered from scoring. This game was then followed up by a 5-3 win against Wilson's, with the team playing some great possessional football in this game.

A special mention should go to Lenny and Codey who have both scored hat tricks for the 1st XI team, with Lenny's coming against Cedars and Codey's against Wilson's. Mr Everett and Mr Ogilvie hope that the momentum of these performances and results can continue when we take on RGS Guildford on 12th February and in our remaining fixtures after the half term break.





## Netball

The netball season has started with great enthusiasm and energy from all year groups. We have played RGS, Epsom College, Portsmouth Grammar, Lingfield, and Ewell Castle; all providing good competition and exciting games. Some of our most noted results are as follows:

U12A v RGS Bs	17-7
U12B v PGS	7-0
U12D v Lingfield D	5-2
U13A v Epsom B	32-4
U13B v Epsom C	16-9
U14A v Epsom B	19-16
U14B v Epsom C	14-13
U15A v RGS B	27-10
U15B v CLF B	13-12
U15C v CLF C	8-12

Our Senior As were a little rusty in their first few games in terms of timing and spacing, however, there were also positives to build on in their defending end and the ball was moving with conviction from player to player. With a little work in the practice sessions the cobwebs will be truly blown away!

The Senior Bs had an easy start to the season winning a comfortable 24-3 against Reeds School. However, we were a little unbalanced in the mid court with players running into the same space and some passes were made to static players at the shooting end, all of which will be corrected as the season goes on. Defence however, were alert and hungry for the ball and created many turn overs.

Our Senior Cs have had a very positive start with 2 wins and a draw against some very tough opposition, and have demonstrated some beautiful circle defence, setting good distance and gaining rebounds. Some good decision making on court led to possession and the creation of space through the game. I feel there are more great games ahead for this team.

It has been a joy to field so many teams this season seeing a whopping 78% of girls out playing netball in the lower school and 62% in the upper school. With 45 games played already and the highest percentage win rate of all our competitive sports this year so far, we are really excited to see what the teams will achieve for the remainder of the season!

