



Dunottar News

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If anyone had told me in February that we would be ending term early with all schools closed across the country, I would never have believed them. These are truly unprecedented

times which will challenge us all. We have a great team here at Dunottar and their tenacity and commitment never fails to impress me.

When Storm Dennis threatened to scupper the Ski trip, the team were undeterred; they created a new travel schedule overnight and replaced the flight with a lengthy coach journey. Pupils' spirits remained high throughout and they enjoyed an incredible week, being a credit to the school as always.

Despite our classrooms being shut at the end of term, we aimed to teach every pupil, every lesson. Despite a few glitches here and there, we managed it, thereby ensuring continuity of education for all our pupils.

Sadly, many of our events and activities had to be cancelled this half term, but we were able to host an inspiring Digital Careers evening, a thought-provoking WW1 cross-curricular day for Year 9 and a fascinating Science Symposium attended by our own pupils and over 40 pupils from the Warwick School in Redhill.

As we break for Easter, I hope you all stay safe and healthy.

Mark Tottman
Headmaster



Storm Doesn't Deter Dunottar Skiers

At precisely 6:20am on Sunday 16th February the Dunottar ski trip departed Gatwick from outside the Premier Inn, North Terminal at bus stop 15. The ski trip did not originally plan to travel by coach, but due to a storm the flights were cancelled the day before. Luckily, due to quick planning, a twenty-three hour coach journey was planned to Andorra. The coach departed, full of high-spirited, but slightly tired students and teachers.

The coach arrived a few hours later, at a port in Dover, ready to board the ferry. The group arrived fairly swiftly in France, although feeling a bit sick. We began the gruelling journey to our hotel in Andorra. We stopped regularly for food along the journey and drove through France and Andorra. Everyone tried to sleep, but with limited success. Eventually, we arrived in Andorra. We limped up to our hotel, dragging our suitcases behind us, and finally got into bed at around 5am.

Continued overleaf...



Dunottar School

To keep up to date with news from Dunottar in between monthly newsletters, visit www.dunottarschool.com, find us on Facebook, Instagram or follow us on twitter.

Open Mornings

We will be hosting a number of Open Mornings in the Autumn Term for all pupils looking to join Dunottar in September 2021.

15th September 2020

24th September 2020

14th October 2020

3rd November 2020

19th November 2020

(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 visit our website
www.dunottarschool.com/admissions
We look forward to seeing you at Dunottar!



After the prior sleep deprivation, the entire trip took a slow morning to recover. We explored our hotel, got our skis and boots fitted, ate breakfast and well... mostly slept.

The afternoon marked our first outing to the slopes. We embraced the hot weather and started our journey to the slopes. Although we were feeling tired, we all were excited to finally get skiing. We took to the slopes and had fun.

In the week that followed, everyone improved immensely at skiing. The slopes were perfect for beginners and challenging for the more experienced. We skied in the mornings and afternoons, before going back to our hotel exhausted.

The trip skied all the slopes their resort had to offer -- most of the slopes were uneventful, but a few resulted in mass falling over.

Whilst we were not on the slopes, we could enjoy the many amenities of our hotel. Students challenged their teachers to pool matches, mainly losing to them. In the evening, students got to play games, use the pool and spa, and complete quizzes. One student recalled: 'It was an exciting trip and I loved skiing. I liked going down the slopes really quickly. Probably the best week of my life!' Everyone really enjoyed themselves and came back feeling positively exhausted.

The trip was a very good experience and a very exciting week. Another student quoted, 'the trip was such a good experience! It was amazing to spend a week away with my friends. I would definitely recommend it for those who want to go next time.' As you can see, the trip was definitely a success. All the students returned home exhausted, but ecstatic about the week they had just had.

A massive thank you, from all the students who went on the trip, to the teachers who ran and organised it!



Digital Careers Evening

On Thursday 27th February Dunottar hosted a Digital Careers evening featuring four guest speakers, all independent consultants working in this sector.

Technology Consultant Paul Taylor, Product Analyst Robert Kigozi, Investor and IT Advisor Dan Hawker and Agile specialist Gillian Barnsley each gave a presentation on how they accessed the industry, covering career entry points with key advice for those interested in working in this sector.

"It was a fascinating evening, that showcased the variety of work within a sector that is still in its relative infancy. Common themes emerged from all the speakers; the message that a career in digital is fast-paced, varied, creative and allows you to continuously learn new skills".

Sally Berry – Head of Computer Science



STEM Careers Workshop

We hope to be able to reschedule the STEM Careers workshop, which was due to take place on 24th March, in the Autumn term.

Science Symposium—Genetic Engineering

On Wednesday 11th March Dunottar hosted another exciting Symposium about Genetic Engineering, attended by 42 year 10 Dunottar pupils and 42 Year 11 pupils from The Warwick School.

Headmaster Mark Tottman, opened the Symposium, which was chaired by Doctor Charles Pasternak, the President of The Oxford International Biomedical Centre.

Pupils enjoyed inspiring talks by Dr Julia Lambret Frotte (from the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford) about "The past and future of genetic modification", followed by Dr Philip Hublitz (of the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University Oxford), who gave an exciting introduction to "Engineering genomes".

Pupils took part in lively break-out discussions following each presentation, to develop a series of questions which they posed to each speaker.

"Dunottar is very lucky to be hosting another Science Symposium and the calibre of scientific discussion between Dunottar and Warwick pupils was excellent. I must thank Charles, Julia and Philip for their passion in delivering another outstanding day."

Mrs Davison, Head of Biology



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
Olivia C	10	Academic Distinction	MFL
Isabella G	10	Academic Distinction	MFL
Jessica C	10	Academic Distinction	MFL
Charlie H	10	Academic Distinction	MFL

Successful Remote Learning Roll-Out

Thank you to all the parents who have sent messages regarding the successful roll-out of our remote learning programme. Our aim was to teach every pupil, every lesson this week and we are delighted that we have managed to achieve this goal. Here are just some of the supportive comments we have received so far:

"A quick note to say thanks so much for all the efforts the team are putting in during these trying times. My daughter has been in her room pretty much all day, to hear chatting, laughing, discussion, going on all day, giving her focus and structure, protecting her and her classmates from as much disruption and impact as possible is Brilliant!! So, so appreciated!! Thank you so much."

"I'm very impressed with the remote learning so far. The kids seem really engaged. Thank you for all the amazing energy and enthusiasm from the teachers."

The lessons have been very engaging and my daughter is enjoying the format. We might all participate in PE today! Thank you Dunottar!!

"Really impressed with @DunottarSchool home learning. Hardly seen my son, it's like he is at school. I love the fact the teachers are able to communicate with the children like a real lesson. I think he is secretly enjoying it!"

"It's been a very positive experience. They have been busy, maintained learning and been communicating. The structure has been really useful this week. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work this week."

Building Update

Despite the recent bad weather, building work for the new Assembly Hall is continuing to progress well. The brickwork is 60% complete and the roof felt and batons are being installed. The steel structure for the lobby area is now complete and the internal block work is nearing completion. Work continues on the installation of the water tank for the sprinkler system.



WW1 Cross-Curricular Day

On March 4th, the History Department successfully ran their third cross-curricular World War One day for all Year 9 pupils. They were able to participate in activities run by various departments which related to the First World War and were provided with the opportunity to learn new things, as well as experiencing the value of cross-curricular learning.

Some new activities this year included the use of Morse code run by the Science Department and a different perspective on rationing from an Australian angle. Pupils also created an iMovie about the experience of soldiers in wartime. There were inter-house football and drill competitions during the day.

The History Department would like to thank all the departments involved for making this another successful day and the pupils who embraced the opportunities provided.



Photography

Photography Workshop for Year 5 Competition Winners

On Friday 28th February, we hosted a photography workshop for the three finalists of our recent photography competition open to all Year 5 pupils in the local area.

Two pupils from Reigate Parish School and one from Banstead Prep attended the workshop hosted by Dunottar's award-winning photography department, led by Mr Huxley.

With just a little guidance pupils took to the photography studio, where they learned how to adjust the lighting to capture images, utilising Photoshop to download and manipulate their visuals.

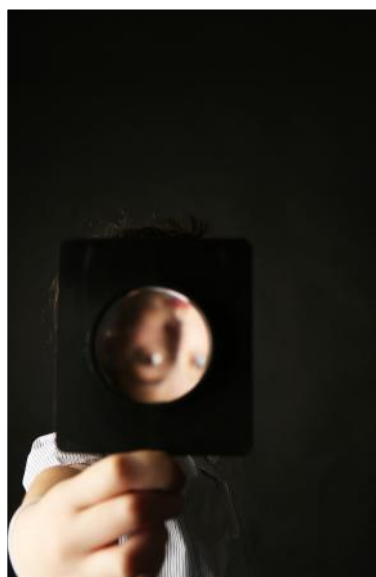


"We were incredibly impressed by the intuition and natural ability of the finalists, they very quickly navigated their way around the photography studio, working collaboratively to produce a fairy-tale inspired image of their own imagining".

Mr Huxley – Teacher of Photography

Images of the Week

Each week, Mr Huxley chooses a selection of images that his photography pupils have created to be his "images of the week". This week's images come from his Year 7 Photography Club's project on "Distortion".



Informal Concert

On Wednesday 11th March we held our termly Informal Concert. There was a high standard of music making taking place and it was a perfect opportunity for pupils' talents to shine. A number of pupils performed on more than one instrument! Well done to all involved!



School Musical—We'll Be Back!

It was with a heavy heart that we let the cast of 'How To Succeed' know that the musical would have to be postponed. Unfortunately, following the government's announcement to avoid pubs, restaurants and theatres, it was the only choice left to us. Throughout our rehearsal period, I have been struck by the impressive commitment, enthusiasm and energy of the whole ensemble, whose hard work and dedication had resulted in a brilliant show. From Toby C's slick smooth-talking protagonist to Max B's gut-busting irate CEO, from Abigail G's doe-eyed love interest to Felipe G's plotting simpleton, the show is filled with funny, cheeky and very silly moments delivered perfectly by the cast. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the entire ensemble over the last few months, thank you for all your hard work. But it's not over yet!

If there's one thing that's struck me since joining Dunottar in September, it's the dedicated resilience of the pupils. I know that right now, they're feeling disappointed that we got so close to performing (we practised the bows just the day before the announcement!) and weren't able to. But, I also know

that come September, they will be back and raring to go. I think that we are very lucky in these times of uncertainty to have a new date for performance on September 10th. This will mean that, at the start of next academic year, we will have several days of full-on workshopped rehearsals recapping dance routines and revisiting lines until we are as close to perfect again as we can be. However, it also means that we have an opportunity to share the amazing talent and creativity of this fabulous cast and I hope that when the time comes, we will see all of you in the audience.

Mrs van D



Theatre Trip to "I Think We Are Alone"

On Thursday 5th March, GCSE and A level Drama pupils went to watch 'I Think We Are Alone' at the Theatre Royal Stratford East in London. The pupils were, as always, a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the show. The show was an immensely powerful piece written by Sally Abbott and performed by the theatre company Frantic Assembly. It followed the, at first seemingly separate, lives of six characters each with loneliness in their lives. However, as the play continues their paths intertwine and moments from the past, present and prospective futures link each of them to each other.

'Two sisters are estranged and bicker over text. Their brittle and aggressive language is pushing them further apart when what they really want is to meet, clear the air and talk about the events that happened when they were young girls that haunt them still.

Josie is not allowing grief to get in the way. All of her focus is on what is best for her son, Manny. She desperately wants him to fly but can she let him go?

There is a person-shaped hole in Graham's heart and it's driving him to some dark places. When a stranger returns an act of kindness both find themselves opening up and connecting in a way that might just bring a bit of light in. There is beauty in this. This was meant to happen!'- www.stratfordeast.com



As a group, we were struck by the innovative use of staging and lighting to create a variety of locations, atmospheres and spaces. Using movable Perspex partitions, the cast moved fluently between stories. The use of lighting was particularly striking and inventive, giving us lots of ideas for our own lighting designs. However, it was the message of the play that was most thought-provoking: 'That our relationships are fragile, that love and understanding are the most important aspects of our lives.' If we are reminded of one concept from our visit, it is the importance of staying connected with those we love.



Dear Year 11 and 13...

The end of the school year came about very quickly for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils but they gathered together in true Dunottar spirit to enjoy their last day together at Dunottar.

Dear Year 11 and 13,

Myself, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Boden would like to commend you on the hard work and diligence that you have shown to your A Level and GCSE courses. We are proud of how you have taken on board the challenge of these exams as well as the other hurdles you have overcome throughout the year.

We appreciate that these are difficult times for you, but please do remember that the government will make the process of awarding fair and you will get the grades that you have worked for. Your hard work over the last two years will not have been in vain.

With the very best wishes
Mr Cooper, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Boden.





..... And, just like that, school is out! I can't quite take it in if I'm honest. I'm wandering around the house like a lost sheep! As emotional and unsettled as

we all are, we are all in the same boat that we can't disembark from for some time - there is no fast forward button. But we will disembark and what a party we are going to have.

In such uncertain times, it is important that we stop and think about those working harder than ever to keep us safe - the NHS, our food shops, our Government, our public services. Whatever our personal views on policies and strategies, we can never thank them enough and we must respect and follow the guidance. And our school for looking after our children these past few weeks and ongoing as we get our heads round "distance learning"!!

To our Year 11 and 13 students and families (I include myself - parent not student) - your plans have been ripped apart but you will be OK. You will be better than OK - day by day, day by day.

If any of you have time, please do get in touch with local groups that support our community. The Red Cross, Help The Aged, Redhill and Reigate Live at Home Scheme (we will post links separately).

And, if the PTA can be of any support to any of you, if you have anything you would like to share - please message us at

info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk.

We are not cancelling our Sunday Funday in June - perhaps we will all be able to gather for an outdoor afternoon of fun and games. And, if it can't go ahead in June - we will find another time. Let's just wait and see....

Your PTA

Keeping Active at Home

Keeping active and maintaining fitness is really important during these difficult times. Our fabulous PE department have put together a host of resources to allow you to keep fit and have fun—this is for everyone, not just the pupils!



We've set up a club on Strava. It uses GPS to track your walks, runs and cycling. The app is free, as is basic membership, it can be downloaded to your smart phones.

If your garden permits, or government advice allows you to go outside with social distancing maintained, we'd love to see what you're all getting up to physical activity wise. Pupils, parents and staff!

If you choose to, once you've become a member and downloaded the app, please search "Dunottar School Community" under Clubs or use this link <https://www.strava.com/clubs/DunottarSchool> and join.

We strongly recommend you don't display your whole name, i.e. use "Joe B" instead of "Joe Bloggs" (for pupils).



Twitter Quizzes

Starting on Friday 27th March at 7pm. The Dunottar Sports team will be hosting fortnightly Sports Quizzes via Twitter (@DunottarSport). It's really simple to join in, so get yourselves involved as a family!

Twitter Challenges

On top of PE lesson work, please keep an eye out for our #DunottarDailyChallenge or #DDC. Both parents and pupils are encouraged to submit their efforts.

DLS

We are building a library of exercises, sport-specific and not, on the DLS. Your child will be able to access these resources and share them with you. We encourage you to do them as a household where possible.





Football

The second half of the football season followed a similar pattern to the first with the weather causing havoc, meaning that unfortunately, we had a lot of games cancelled. The amount of rain that fell between January to March will be up there in the record books and the Old Reigatian's lake that was formed is good evidence of this. Despite all of this, all teams managed to get some games played, but nowhere near as many as we would have liked.

On Saturday 8th February we had a block fixture against Ewell Castle with wins for our U12A, U12B, U13B and U14A teams. To make up for some of the lost fixtures we played some midweek games against Claremont Fan Court School, with the highlight of these being the games that took place on Friday 14th February. We took our U12A, U12B and U12C teams to Claremont on this day and came away unbeaten, with 2 wins and a 0-0 draw for our U12C team who showed great resilience and solidarity in defence. Our next fixture was scheduled for 29th February but was lost to waterlogged pitches. On 7th March we managed to get three U12 fixtures played against Sutton Grammar School for Boys and the highlight of these games was a well deserved 2-0 win for our U12A team. On 14th March we played our last Saturday fixtures against Wilson's School. We managed to get two U13 fixtures played, with two assured wins and both teams keeping clean sheets. We had fixtures scheduled against St Dunstan's College scheduled for 21st March and our House Football event on 28th March but these we cancelled because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition to our Saturday fixtures, our 1st XI team played a total of 7 games on a Wednesday

afternoon this term, with 4 wins and 3 losses. The standard of football has certainly improved this year and it's been great to see the team gel quickly after their first loss as they went on to win the next 3 games.

The standout performance of these wins was a 4-1 win against RGS Guildford, which saw Henry in Year 9 put in a man of the match performance in goal, making Dunottar history in the process by being the youngest pupil to play for the 1st XI team. This term we had four 1st XI players scoring hat tricks, with Lenny scoring 2 and Codey and Conor getting one each. The team has been captained by Marcus this term who has done a great job in this role. We would like to wish all of the boys in the team that are moving on at the end of this academic year all the best in their next ventures.



Our football team of the term this year goes to our U12As, who also made Dunottar history by keeping 4 clean sheets in a row and therefore going 240 minutes without conceding a goal, an impressive feat. Our manager of the term goes to Mrs Boden who got her U12Bs playing some great attacking football, whilst also being solid at the back. We would also like to give a special mention and thanks to Chris (Year 13) and Conor (Year 11) who both completed an FA referees course and gave up their Saturday mornings to referee our home games.





Netball

We somehow managed to squeeze 87 netball fixtures in with every single girl in Years 7 - 9 competing for the school despite the poor weather and global pandemic!

The season started with a block of fixtures against the RGS B and C teams which proved a close contest across the board with Dunottar coming out only 8 goals ahead of the RGS teams. We also met some tough opposition from Lingfield College, CD Phoenix and CLFS. Towards the end of the season we took on the Claremont teams within our games lessons which proved very worthwhile, again, with only 8 goals between the two schools overall. We also played some well contested games against Manor House and RAA.

Our seniors have played against Reeds, Woldingham, Ewell, RAA, Claremont, CLFS and Gordons. It was with great sadness that we did not manage to host our Senior Versatility Tournament, but, we did manage a final Year 11 versus Sixth Form versatility in the final games session. Victory was taken by the senior team! I would like to thank all our fantastic netball players who are moving on to new ventures in September and hope that you will continue to play and inspire others.

Our most successful team this term has been the U12A team, ably led by Miss Grant, and the U15Bs who have also only conceded one game came a very close second. The U13B team have secured a 63% success rate closely followed by the U13A and U13C teams who both finish the season with a 50% success rate. The U13A team have sunk a whopping 180 goals this term!



Dunottar Welcomes British Steeplechase Champion

In February, we welcomed 3 x British 3000m Steeplechase champion, Rosie Clarke to Dunottar. Rosie hosted warm up and conditioning sessions for our younger pupils, putting them through their paces. Working with our A Level PE pupils and Sports Scholars, Rosie provided inspiring insights into how she progressed from school to becoming an elite athlete.





TOP TIPS TO MANAGE YOUR WELLBEING

Stay Positive, Keep Learning

It's hard for even the most optimistic among us to stay positive when the news is all doom and gloom. It's true that we need to take this virus seriously, but we do not need to become a COVID-19 expert, nor fill our minds with every detail from dawn until bedtime. Instead, let's try to keep positive so that we have the energy and resolve needed to better cope during this difficult time. Here are some things we can all try to do as a family:

1 LIMIT YOUR INTAKE

You could watch 24-hour news channels, read endless tweets, or visit countless websites and be bombarded with the angst of the moment. Instead, choose a single news source and decide how much limited time you'll spend with it each day. Then stick to your plan.



2 STICK TO A ROUTINE

Keep getting up and going to bed at set times. This is enormously important for your mental and physical health. Plan your day with time for work and play. This will help you stay positive, calm and productive.



3 MAKE TIME TO BE CREATIVE

Paint. Write. Bake. Play. Dance. Make!



4 LIMIT SCREENTIME

Especially as our learning has gone online, now more than ever we need to be mindful of how we use screen time and try to do as many things in the real world as we do in the virtual. Remember, no screens an hour before bedtime!



5 GO OUTSIDE, STAY ACTIVE

Spending time in the sun is essential for wellbeing. Make time everyday to be outside in your garden. If you don't have a garden, use the 'one exercise a day outside' rule to get out for a walk with your family wherever you can safely. Staying active is really important, even little and often, to keep fit, boost your mood and build your strength.



6 TALK, SHARE, BE GRATEFUL

The next few months will be challenging, and it's normal to have worried or anxious feelings. Talk to family and friends online and share how you feel and if you are able to, listen to others. Reach out to your immediate community especially those neighbours or relatives that are isolated. Be grateful for each other.



Visit www.dunottarschool.com for more information on COVID-19 and managing your wellbeing

