



"The transition to online schooling at Dunottar has been amazing. I can't believe how quickly everyone was up and running and the girls are both working all day - unlike a lot of other children I know."

PARENT, YEAR 7 & 9

Dunottar News



I hope you all enjoyed the long Bank Holiday weekend and VE day celebrations.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Remote

Learning survey recently. We are always grateful for your feedback on how we are doing and I look forward to reporting back to you on the results before the half term break.

With half term rapidly approaching, I am delighted to see how engaged pupils remain with their home learning and the creativity in the tasks they are undertaking.

Our co-curricular programme continues to deliver additional opportunities for pupils to interact with their peers and engage in new activities.

I am thankful to all the staff for their hard work during this period. We have all had to adapt to a new way of working and their energy and enthusiasm during this time has been inspiring. I have particularly enjoyed all the quizzes and challenges that they have been running.

With so many school events unable to take place at the moment, I am delighted that we will be hosting our first ever Virtual Summer Concert in June, showcasing the talents of our Dunottar musicians.

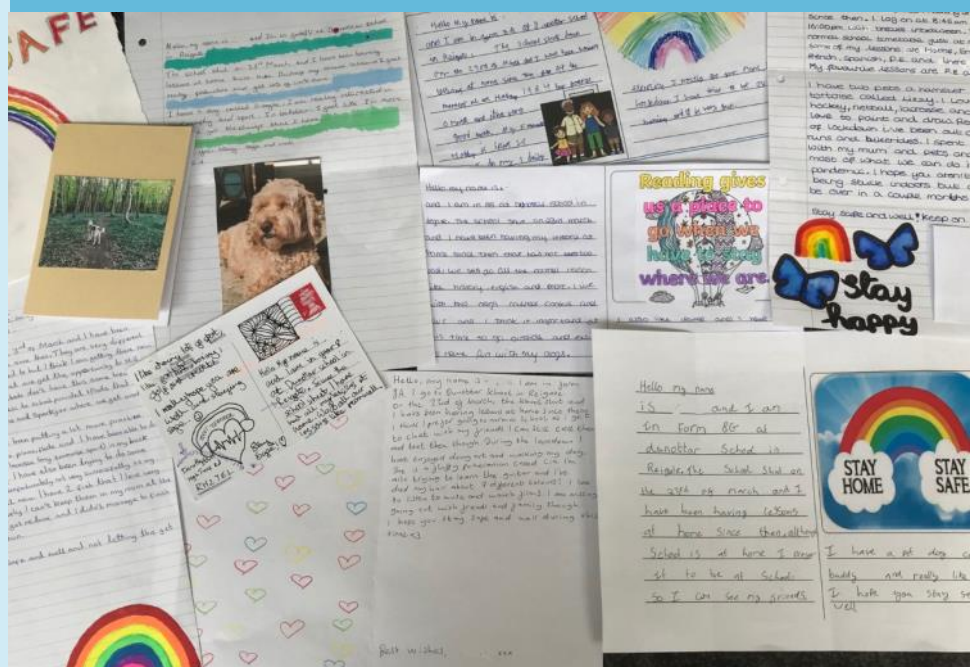
Enjoy the weekend and take care.

Mark Tottman
Headmaster

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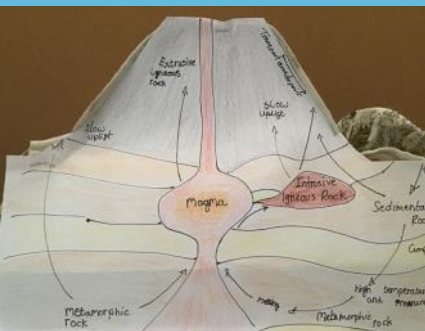


Pupils Write to Local Elderly Care Home Residents

Year 8 have been very busy writing letters to over 200 elderly residents who live alone in the local area. The lockdown restrictions have meant that many elderly people have been left feeling very isolated, no longer able to receive visitors or engage in outings and activities. We hope that the letters from our pupils will provide some much needed contact with the outside world and bring a little bit of sunshine to their day.

Letters will distributed by the Live at Home support team and other local community volunteers next week.

Remote Learning



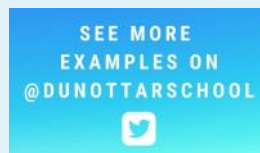
Year 7 Science

Mr Taylor's science class were asked to produce a model to summarise their previous work on the rock cycle. Everyone made a great effort to produce some excellent work that really illustrated how rocks are moved around over thousands of years to form different types.



Year 8 Spanish

In Spanish, Year 8 pupils have been describing ideal houses. They have made lovely recordings using BookCreator and VoiceRecordPro on their iPads. Their written work demonstrated an excellent manipulation of the language covered so far.



Lower School Music

Lower School pupils continue their journey of discovery around world music. This week we looked at and listened to Chinese instruments and music. Pupils then had a go at composing melodies based on the pentatonic scale.



Year 9 Music

Pupils have been looking at music forms and structures. They have been taking photos to represent binary, ternary and rondo forms.



Year 9 French

Year 9 have been learning about festivals, in particular, *Poisson d'avril*. They have written some jokes and designed their own 'poisson'.



Year 8 Science

Pupils have been designing simple machines in and around the house and garden using levers and pulleys.



Competitions and Activities

Acapella Challenge

The Music Department has launched a virtual music challenge! Can anyone record a song using the Acapella app and send it to us? Click on the image below to view Miss Pettet's first attempt.

TIP: pick a rhythmically straightforward song and use the click track!

Send your entries to e.pettet@dunottarschool.com



View performances on [@DunottarMusic](#)

Poetry Writing Competition



Can you write a poem about what you've learnt during this period of lockdown? We would love to read your entries. The competition is open to pupils in Year 5, all Dunottar pupils, staff and parents. See page 8 for further information and to download the entry form. Get writing!

Bake-Off Final



Calling all bakers! The final round of the Great Dunottar Bake-Off is upon us – are you up for the challenge?

Mrs French would like you to make two dishes that could be served at an afternoon tea. They

must be different e.g. one cake, one pastry.

Entry photos should be emailed to Mrs French a.french@dunottarschool.com by 25th May.



Headmaster's Quiz

This week's Headmaster's Quiz on social media tested your knowledge of Dunottar School during WWII.

1. In September 2014, Dunottar School became co-educational. When was the last time Dunottar School taught boys?
2. Like the whole of England, having enough food was a preoccupation. Which building now sits on the land used to grow vegetables and fruit during England's 'Dig for Victory' campaign?
3. Where did pupils often sleep and have lessons during the war?
4. In 1944 pupils sitting an R.E. exam were given extra time, why?
5. The Headmistress, Mrs Elliot-Pyle, considered closing the school during WW2, why did she change her mind?
6. Pupils' diaries during the war frequently mention feeling what during the winter months?

Answers:

1. Briefly during WWII
2. The Sports Hall
3. The wine cellar
4. A doodlebug, a V-1 flying bomb, dropped in the grounds. Wartime pupil Jean McPherson recorded in her diary: "SCHOOL 1944, with Doodlebugs. One landed, blowing out the windows (well wire-netted) above my desk—by that stage we were under the desks. It was the R.E. exam and we did it by fits and starts, as the V.I.s passed, and were given extra time."
5. Mrs Elliot-Pyle nearly closed the school but whilst she was considering this action, a new pupil who had crossed the common during a bombing raid arrived. She decided that the child had gone through so much that she would keep the school open, despite the difficulties.
6. The cold!

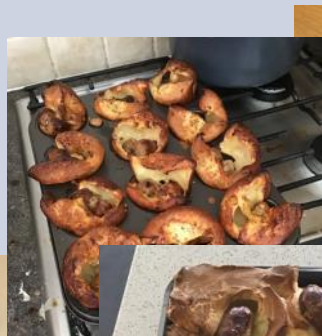
Look out for next week's quiz on [@DunottarHead](#)



Co-curricular

Cooking Club

Cooking Club have been busy again making some mouth-watering sausage popovers with red onion gravy—yum!

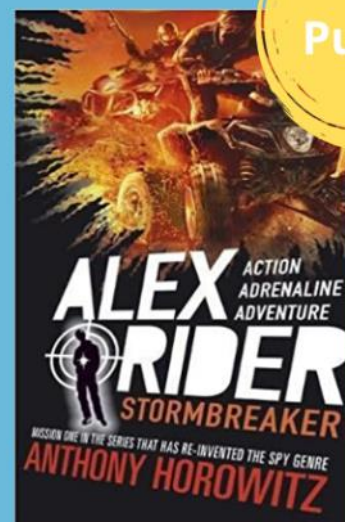


Book Club

Here are this month's top picks for both pupils and adults, from Mrs Tomlinson. We look forward to reading your reviews!

Dunottar Book Club May Book Pick

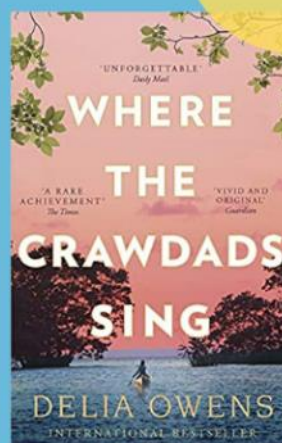
In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.



Pupils

Dunottar Book Club May Book Pick

'For years, rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So, in late 1969 when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life - until the unthinkable happens.'



Parents, staff &
Sixth Formers

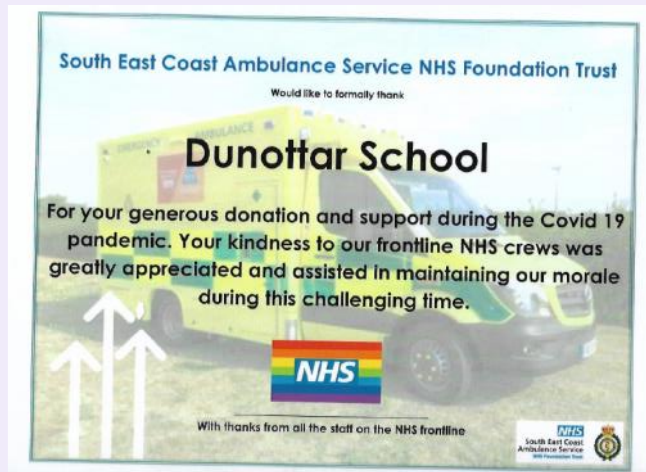


Thank You From the NHS

We were delighted to receive a lovely letter from South East Coast Ambulance Service thanking us for our generous donations. We wanted to share this with you and say a huge thank you to the whole Dunottar community who supported this PTA initiative!

Stay safe,

Jenni and Carol



"I JUST WANTED TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN RUNNING THE GREAT DUNOTTAR BAKE-OFF OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS. MY DAUGHTER HAS ABSOLUTELY LOVED TAKING PART IN THIS EACH WEEK - IT HAS REALLY GIVEN HER SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO AND SHE WILL REALLY MISS DOING THIS WHEN IT ENDS! IT HAS ALSO GIVEN THE REST OF THE FAMILY SOMETHING DELICIOUS TO EAT EACH WEEK WHICH HAS BEEN A FURTHER BONUS!"

Year 7 parent

Inside Dunottar—Teachers' Blog

This week sees our Headmaster, Mr Tottman, discussing his love of reading and the books that have influenced him.

"Dunottar's Headmaster discusses his love of reading and how it can improve our connectedness to a wider community by providing insights into the lives of others, inspiring creativity, challenging our thinking and cultivating empathy."

The book I am currently reading

Jo Nesbo's latest book, *The Knife*. Jo Nesbo is a bestselling Norwegian crime writer. *The Knife* is the twelfth-book in a series featuring Harry Hole – a rogue police detective. I am a fan of Nordic noir fiction! [Read more](#)



Be Outstanding...

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

Pupil	Year	Award	Subject	Comment
Emily, D	8	Academic Distinction	MFL	Stunning written paragraph on your ideal house using the sentence builder to really push yourself and develop more complex sentences.
Sofia, R	8	Academic Distinction	MFL	Sofia has been awarded an academic distinction for her exceptional work on la Francophonie. She created an excellent audio and video piece, presenting various French speaking countries in French and making great use of different time frames. I am so impressed!
Alexa, B	9	Academic Distinction	MFL	For filming a lovely video of her house with labels and a truly excellent accompanying paragraph using a range of language and complex structures.
Dhara, M	9	Academic Distinction	History	For an excellent independently researched essay on political ideologies.
Ben, T	9	Academic Distinction	History	For an excellent independently researched essay on political ideologies.
Sebastian, W	9	Academic Distinction	History	For an excellent independent essay on C20th political ideologies.
Charlotte, G	11	Academic Distinction	DofE	Charlotte produced an outstanding booklet detailing the skills she developed over the space of a year whilst cooking a variety of dishes for her Silver DofE award.

We would like to give a special mention to Sofia R who has been awarded three academic distinctions this term—really well done Sofia!



Live Violin Recital

Our very talented Director of Music, Miss Pettet, will be performing an online solo violin recital on Thursday 21st May at 7pm for parents and pupils to enjoy.

The link to view the performance will be sent to all parents in advance and will also be available on our social media channels.



Great Dunottar Bake-Off: Celebration Dessert

This week's creations were definitely cause for celebration! Some really stunning desserts this week. Well done to everyone who baked!



Star Baker

Amy (Yr 10)

Mrs French's comments: "A beautiful Victoria sponge cake with stunning piping and a very amusing take on a lockdown birthday."

Issy, Yr 10

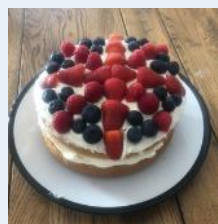


Mrs French's comments: "A beautifully made celebration chocolate cake with chocolate dipped strawberries and fresh raspberries. A wonderful use of fresh fruit."



Maela, Yr 6

Mrs French's comments: "A delicious Banoffee pie with a handmade caramel. Technically difficult and such skill shown."



Issy, Yr 8

Mrs French's comments: "A wonderful VE Day celebration cake. A creative use of fresh fruit to create a patriotic theme."

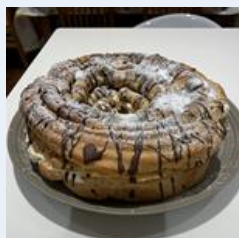
Paige, Yr 7

Mrs French's comments: "A wonderful cake made to celebrate imagination. I think the sentiment is captured beautifully."



Martha, Yr 7

Mrs French's comments: "WOW! A special mention! Paris-Brest choux pastry ring with whipped cream and chocolate ganache. A stunning dessert."



Bella, Yr 6

Mrs French's comments: "A wonderful, fun puppy creation. Such wonderful fondant work."



Jack, Yr 8



Mrs French's comments: "Pavlova! Always an excellent choice as a celebration dessert. The piping of the meringue is just lovely."

Ciara, Yr 7



Mrs French's comments: "S'mores with handmade marshmallow, another technically challenging dish, very well made."

Miss Pettet



Mrs French's comments: "A beautiful celebration cake. A well made and decorated cake. Welcome to the competition Miss Pettet."

Any, Yr 7



Mrs French's comments: "Yummy!!! Meringue, butter cream and hundreds and thousands, so pretty. Another technically difficult dessert executed beautifully."



LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN

Dunottar School Poetry Writing Competition

Calling all poets! We would like you to write a poem about what you've learnt during this period of lockdown, entitled "Lessons from Lockdown".

The winners in each age category will receive a £10 Amazon gift voucher.

The competition is open to pupils from Year 5 upwards, parents and staff.



*I've learnt
How to improve my teaching
With SparkJar and Teams.
I've learnt how to make, upload and tag
YouTube videos.
I've learnt how to use Zoom to chat with family and friends:
I have made more effort to connect.*

*I've learnt how to cut my fringe.
I've learnt how not to cut my fringe.*

*I have learnt three different recipes
For banana bread.*

*I have learnt the Marie Kondo technique
For folding clothes, sheets and towels.*

*I have learnt that to be in the fresh air is good for the soul:
I have explored new paths in the countryside with my daughters;
Taken up gardening as a hobby,
Growing from seed,
Spinach, broccoli, onions, carrots, kohlrabi, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, cucumber, loafah,
Alyssum, morning glory, sunflowers, stocks, pinks, Livingstone daisies, poppies and marigolds.*

*I have learnt above all
That the human spirit rises to defy adversity.
People on local walks have dressed as dinosaurs, a flamingo and unicorn,
Bringing a smile to their neighbours' faces.
We grocery shop for the vulnerable.
We applaud the fantastic NHS:
We admire, respect and appreciate all the frontline workers
Who put their lives at risk
To help others.*

Mrs Lewis

[**DOWNLOAD
ENTRY
FORM**](#)



Dunottar School

Entries should be emailed to k.lewis@dunottarschool.com by Monday 1st June. By submitting your poem, you agree to it being published in the Dunottar School newsletter.

DUNOTTAR SCHOOL PRESENTS

VIRTUAL SUMMER CONCERT

PERFORMING TOGETHER ONLINE

5th June 2020 | Years 7 - 8
19th June 2020 | Years 9 - 13
To be broadcast online at 7pm

FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Dunottar School



Dunottar School

Careers Resources

Whether you are planning to go to university, apply for an apprenticeship, organise a gap year, get a summer job or a full-time job, now is a good time to think about finding out a bit more about yourself. There are many online assessments available and they can be useful in giving you insights into your personality, interests and possible career directions. This information can be used when writing a CV, drafting a personal statement for university or when filling in application forms and preparing answers to interview questions.

Personality tests

These are all short tests. It would be worth saving the results.

<https://www.123test.com/disc-personality-test/>

<https://sacu-student.com/>

For more career-focused advice

The National Careers Service test is longer and more involved but does give you a great deal of information.

<https://www.truity.com/test/holland-code-career-test>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

For those pupils who have completed the Morrisby test, have a look back at that or complete the above tests and compare the findings.

PWC School and College Virtual Event—28th May 2020, 4.15pm

<http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/Events/ShowEvent/Virtual-Event-Starting-your-career-in-Business/907267>

PWC also has an employability hub that is filled with useful tips and interactive tools:

<https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/student-jobs/employability.html>

Interview advice

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/interview-types/323749-expert-performance-tips-for-skype-and-video-interviews>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/interview-questions/325225-the-top-nine-tricky-interview-questions-and-how-to-answer-them>

