



"I would like to say how thoroughly impressed we have been by how quickly Dunottar adapted to the current crisis. The timetable has been pretty much uninterrupted, the teaching provision appears to be excellent, along with the extra curricular timetable. My son has been very well occupied."

Year 9 Parent



Dunottar News

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Although this is a shortened week, so much has been happening at Dunottar!

We started on Monday with a heartfelt assembly from the Year 13s who gave some inspirational messages to the pupils accompanied by a video of their time in the Sixth Form.

Pupils are continuing to work well at home, actively supported by our teachers. Learning is happening and co-curricular clubs are thriving too.

In recognition of the many challenges that pupils are facing, we have introduced The Forum to provide another outlet for pastoral care.

With all the hard work by pupils and teachers in the last four weeks, the long bank holiday weekend is very welcome.

I encourage all pupils to take a break from their screens and their school work this weekend, enjoy the sunshine and spend some time relaxing in the garden if at all possible.

Mark Tottman
Headmaster



Local History Month

The month of May is Local History Month and our Year 7 pupils have just embarked upon a short enquiry on this topic in their History lessons. They have been discussing what local history is and why it is important to study it. They have looked briefly at the history of Reigate or should I say 'Cherchefelle', as it is listed in the Domesday Book - 'the open space by the hill'. An alternative suggestion is that the name Reigate derives from the Roe-Deer Gate, as the town was situated near to the entrance of the de Warenne's deer park.

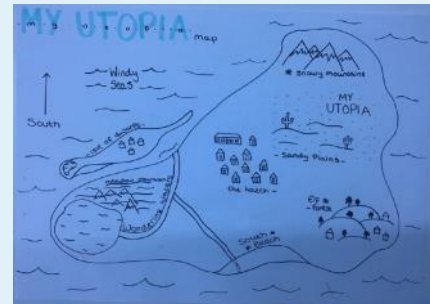
Pupils will also be looking at what the census can tell us about the High Street in Reigate in 1881 and 1891. Finally, a mini-project will be undertaken on either the history of the castle, caves or priory. Hopefully, we will be able to share some examples of this work in a future newsletter.

[illegible]

Maths: Bridging the Gap to A Level

As part of their study of dystopian fiction this half term, Year 8 pupils have been designing their own utopias and considering what could lead to their downfall.

Year 8 English: Utopias



Mi Cena

El fin de semana pasado salí con Boris Johnson. Fui a Londres en tren y fui a un restaurante muy caro con Boris. El restaurante se llama Le case de Seb. De primer plato comí pan y Boris, queso. De segundo plato compartí pollo y patatas fritas y Boris, una paella. De postre compartimos un helado de chocolate. Bebimos coca. Durante la de cena, hablamos de la política.



Spanish Food and Eating Out

This term in Spanish, Year 9 pupils have been learning about Spanish food and ordering meals in a restaurant or café. Pupils have revised the past tense by describing an imaginary meal out with a celebrity of their choice. Here are a couple of examples. Some Year 9 pupils will be cooking tapas for homework to get a flavour of the topic in the absence of a food tasting session at school!

Competitions and Activities

Badger Names Announced

Many thanks to all those who entered our competition to name our resident Dunottar badgers.



Look out for more news on the badgers on @DunottarSchool



We've had some great entries for our Year 5 "Funny Faces" Art Competition based on the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. For details on how to enter [click here](#).

Entries should be submitted by 31st May.



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 & Reigate.

1. What year was Dunottar School established by Jessie Elliot-Pyle?
2. What is Margot Fonteyn's connection with Reigate?
3. In what year did Dunottar become co-educational?
4. In what year was Reigate Castle demolished?
1448 1648 1848
5. In what year did Dunottar launch its partnership with Surrey Cricket to create a Surrey Cricket Development and Performance Centre?
6. What were the Reigate caves used for during WWII?
7. What building is Dunottar School named after and where is it located?
8. Reigate Heath Windmill is thought to be the only windmill in the world that is a..?
9. How many acres of beautiful grounds is Dunottar School set in?
10. Which type of food was Reigate known for in the 16th Century?

Answers:

1. 1926 2. She was born in Reigate 3. 2014 4. 1648
5. 2018 6. Public air raid shelters 7. Dunottar Castle in Scotland 8. Consecrated church 9. 15 10. Oatmeal.

Look out for next week's quiz on @DunottarHead



Co-curricular

Cooking Club

For their first practical cooking session, Cooking Club has been making spring rolls and they look delicious!



Beekeeping Club



It is at this time of year that our Beekeeping Club members would have had the opportunity to meet the Dunottar School bees for the first time at our onsite apiary. It is without doubt an unforgettable experience having over 40,000 bees greeting you for the first time, sitting on your shoulder and on the protective net in front of your nose - it takes a bit of getting used to. But once acclimatised, it is a fascinating multi-sensory experience. We are so lucky to be able to offer such an important experience to our pupils. Although we are currently unable to take groups of pupils out to experience beekeeping, the BBKA has been in conversation with DEFRA and confirmed that bees are livestock, so beekeeping activities can continue as is necessary to protect the bees and people. We are really thankful to Vince our Beekeeper who has continued to tend the hives at Dunottar.

In a recent update Vince informed us:

"The bees are doing well so far...and as a result of the weather they are all quite well advanced - probably about 2 weeks early. The school bees are really strong, and I had them on a double brood (which they had filled)



together with a super - so much so that I had given them a second super.

Both the school bees and one of mine were so large that I have split them, queen cells have formed and I will be managing them as two colonies until the new queen is laying. I plan to reunite them in early June to build a big colony ready for the main nectar flow".

There are a few technical terms in Vince's update, but it is safe to say our bees are doing very well. You can think of it this way, they are doing so well that Vince has added another level to their house. I think that might mean more honey!

Thank you, Vince, for all your help. We look forward to being able to offer this amazing experience to our pupils when the situation allows.



Further Deliveries to Redhill Ambulance Station



This week, the PTA has delivered further supplies of fresh produce to Redhill Ambulance Station.

Thank you to everyone who has donated funds to allow us to purchase these items for our amazing local key workers.

PTA New Faces Needed

We URGENTLY need new active PTA members. The end of this term will see a number of key and long-standing PTA members leaving the PTA as their children move on to new pastures. It is important to all of us that our PTA continues to thrive and grow as our school does.

If you fancy a new challenge, whether a current parent or joining the school in September, please can you get in touch with us, sooner rather than later, at info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk for a chat. We can tell you more about how we operate and provide details of the positions we urgently need to fill.



The Forum—Now Open for Pupil Feedback

This week saw the launch of **The Forum**, a dedicated online space, for pupils to let us know how they are finding learning at home and give feedback on their lessons and the work they are doing.

The Forum will remain open while pupils are learning at home, they can add feedback at anytime, and send us ideas whenever they get that light-bulb moment.

Access to The Forum is via an icon on the pupils' iPads. We look forward to hearing their thoughts and ideas!



New: Inside Dunottar—Teachers' Blog

We have also launched the first in our series of Teachers' blogs on our website. Dunottar's Head of English, Mrs Lewis, opens the series with the story of how she developed her passion for books and reading.

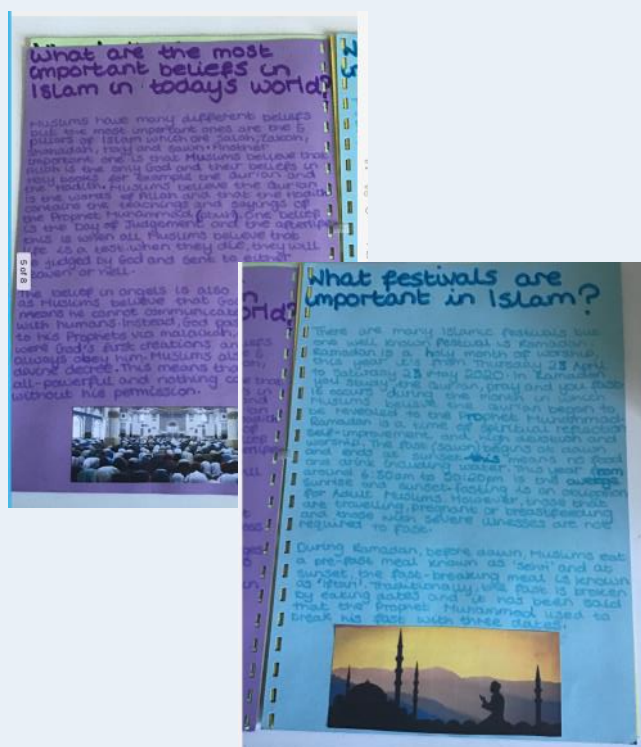
"When I was eight, my aunt visited, with her car packed to the roof with boxes of books that she had enjoyed as a child. There were so many of them, that my father built rows of bookshelves in my bedroom, rows so high that I needed a chair to reach the top one. It was from that moment that I became a voracious reader. I went on adventures with female detective Nancy Drew; learnt about hobbits, magic and dragons; and, rebelling against my mother, who had told me that I was far too young for Homer, grappled with The Iliad and The Odyssey. I was hooked..." [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 |
|-------------|------|----------------------|---------|---|
| Ruaraidh, M | 7 | Academic Distinction | DT | Excellent response to CAT assignment. |
| Rihanna, R | 8 | Academic Distinction | RS | A fantastic Muslim project (What does it mean to be a Muslim in today's world?) that showed commitment over several weeks. The warrior skill of independence had been shown throughout. |
| Sofia, R | 8 | Academic Distinction | RS | A fantastic Muslim project (What does it mean to be a Muslim in today's world?) that showed commitment over several weeks. The warrior skill of independence had been shown throughout. |
| Izzy, G | 8 | Academic Distinction | MFL | For carrying out some amazing research about Canada and writing detailed and complex French about her findings. |
| Tallulah, W | 8 | Academic Distinction | RS | A fantastic Muslim project (What does it mean to be a Muslim in today's world?) that showed commitment over several weeks. The warrior skill of independence had been shown throughout. This is one of the best projects I have seen for this piece of work in 5 years at Dunottar. |
| Milly, P | 9 | Academic Distinction | History | Milly produced an excellent essay in answer to the question 'Was Hitler to blame for the outbreak of the Second World War?'. She had clearly listened well in class and was able to express her ideas well showing description, evaluation and analysis. |
| Holly, C | 10 | Academic Distinction | MFL | Super 150 write up on holidays. |
| Eleanor, H | 10 | Academic Distinction | MFL | Excellent written answers to general conversation questions; detailed answers with complex structures and a range of tenses and opinions. |



Great Dunottar Bake-Off: Leftovers

There was a great selection of entries this week and some really creative ideas. Well done bakers!



Star Baker

Maela (Yr 6)

Mrs French's comments: "WOW! Who'd have thought? Doritos as part of a macaroni and cheese dish. It's also pleasing to see foraged wild garlic being used. This dish was right on brief!



James, Yr 7

Mrs French's comments: "Welcome to Bake-Off James! A very strong first week. Cod fish cakes with poached eggs. Special mention for your creative use of leftovers, excellent shaping of the fish cake and a beautifully poached egg.



Ciara, Yr 7

Mrs French's comments: "Hash browns with fried eggs made from left over boiled potatoes. A very good use of leftovers and a beautifully golden brown hash brown."



Hannah, Yr 10

Mrs French's comments: "Fantastic to see year 10 class work converted to such an elegant looking soup!



Mrs French's comments: "Indonesian prawn and crayfish rice. Another creative use of store cupboard ingredients. I'm sure this was as delicious as it looks."

Martha, Yr 7



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Online Resources

Whilst we are unable to host our Careers evenings at the moment, our Careers Department will still be providing support and resources to our pupils. There is a wealth of useful information available, from university virtual tours to articles discussing how to craft a CV, apply for a job and write a covering letter. Some useful websites and resources to check out are below:

1. There are virtual tours of universities and now might be a time to have a look at some prospective universities. This would be useful for all those students in Year 12.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>

2. For those pupils who are considering alternatives to university, this website gives some very useful information on school leavers programmes, outlining some of the advantages and disadvantages. There are also tips on writing covering letters, filling in application forms and answering some challenging interview or application form questions.

<http://purepotential.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/AlttoUniF.pdf>

3. This website gives some very practical advice on a whole range of subjects post 18, from career planning to finding out where to find job adverts and how to interpret them.

<https://www.brightknowledge.org/careers>

4. PWC gives some very useful information about employability skills.

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

5. Summer internships in the following areas are available. They are not free but may be of interest if you are thinking of a career in one of these areas: Investment Banking, Medicine, Engineering, Psychology, Filmmaking, Computer Science, Law, International Politics, Architecture, Entrepreneurship.

<https://investin.org/>



Sports Pub Quiz

For some light-hearted entertainment, don't forget the Dunottar Sports Pub Quiz, Friday at 7pm. Follow [@DunottarSport](#) to join in.



Remote Learning Resources

For a wealth of additional resources and activities for pupils and their families from sporting activities to well-being advice, book recommendations to recipe suggestions, take a look at our [Remote Learning Resources](#) page on our website.

Don't forget to check out the [#DunottarDailyChallenge](#) too!

Wellbeing During Covid-19

For information and advice on how to look after your family's mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic, visit our [Wellbeing page](#) on the school website.

