



Dunottar News

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I have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming all our pupils and staff to Dunottar this term. Our classrooms are buzzing once again with pupils who are delighted to be back at school with their friends. Our exciting co-curricular programme is up and running, the sports department is delivering innovative and challenging physical activities and fifty Year 10 pupils have taken part in the popular Bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme, testing their route planning skills over a three-day expedition on the North Downs. We're embracing bubbling, staggering and zoning and our school routines are going well. It really is great to be back!

I would like to thank the staff for the way they have adapted to the "new normal" and for making the return to school a seamless transition for our pupils. A big shout out also to Mary and her team for serving everyone a fabulous hot lunch every day – that's about one lunch every 15 seconds by my calculations!

We have received very positive feedback from parents of our new Year 7 cohort who are settling in well to life at Dunottar and enjoying the challenges and opportunities that senior school brings.

Next week we will be introducing our new Heads of School team. Our Year 13 pupils delivered excellent speeches at the hustings which were watched virtually by the whole school community. Pupils and staff have voted and there have been two rounds of interviews. Well done to all those who had the courage to put themselves forward for leadership opportunities.

I am proud of the way pupils, parents and staff have all pulled together to get us back to school. The Difference is Dunottar.

With best wishes,
Mark Tottman
Headmaster



Year 7 Bonding Activity Day

Due to COVID restrictions, this year's Year 7 bonding activity day took place on-site in the beautiful and extensive grounds at Dunottar. Our new pupils took part in a carousel of activities throughout the day, including campfire cooking in the woodlands, creating iMovies, drama skills and sports challenges. Everyone had a fantastic day and we have been so pleased to hear from parents that pupils have settled in really well and are loving Dunottar!

More pictures overleaf.



Year 7 Bonding Day



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze Award Training for Year 10

The balmy weekend of 12th – 14th September saw over 50 Year 10 pupils take to the trails for a three-day training and practice hike, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Camp craft, map reading, route planning and survival skills were the focus of this three-day expedition that covered many of the stunning routes on the North Downs Way, from Reigate to Headley Heath and the surrounding area. Pupils will put these newly learnt skills to the test during an unchaperoned assessment expedition later this year.

Miss Pettet, Director of Music and Duke of Edinburgh Centre Manager at Dunottar School commented, "I'm delighted we were able to run this expedition within the current COVID guidelines with our partners from Bright Expeditions.

We are a school that is passionate about the benefits of taking pupils outside of the classroom to learn to work with and within nature and the confidence this builds. I'm looking forward to watching our Year 10 pupils put their newly learnt skills to the test later in the year".



UK Maths Challenge

In June, selected Year 7 and 8 students participated in the postponed UK Maths Challenge. The challenge consisted of a series of mathematical problems that needed to be solved in one hour. Here is an example of the questions they were required to answer:

Susan is attending a talk at her son's school. There are 8 rows of 10 chairs where 54 parents are sitting. Susan notices that every parent is either sitting on their own or next to just one other person. What is the largest possible number of adjacent empty chairs in a single row at that talk?

A 3 B 4 C 5 D 7 E 8

The results are in and the following pupils performed especially well:

Silver award

Advaith B
Izzy G
Niamh G
Mark T (Best in school)
Jack G

Bronze award

Manny J
Isabella P
Aoife M
Matthew C
Jessica B
Alphi B-W
Persephone A-P
Olivia W-E

Bronze award

Joseph M
Ruaraidh M
Dominic F
Ahaan C (Best in year)
Martha C
Emmanuelle A-P



New Partnership with Dorking Wanderers FC



We are delighted to announce that we have signed an exciting partnership agreement with Dorking Wanderers Football Club.

As a result of the partnership, pupils were able to attend trials for Dorking Wanderers Youth Development teams. Six successful pupils will now be playing for the youth team this season in the U12, U14 and U15 age groups, whilst

others have been offered places in the Dorking Futsal Fever Academy.

Dorking Wanderers Football Club was established in 1999, and in a short space of time has steadily climbed the non-league pyramid from park football to the National League South. The Youth Development teams are trained by UEFA qualified coaches who help players develop the technical, physical, social and psychological skills necessary to maximise their potential.

Matthew Everett, Head of Football at Dunottar School commented, *“Dorking Wanderers FC is a successful, family club which has seen rapid growth in its short existence. The club is hugely ambitious and it is really exciting to be in partnership with such a forward-thinking, local football club.”*

Our football teams will also have the opportunity to compete against the Youth Development Teams at the multi-million pound Meadowbank Stadium in Dorking town centre.

Richard King, Head of Youth Development at Dorking Wanderers FC added: *“We are excited to be working with Dunottar School and developing their football provision. The aspirational ethos of the school fits well with our approach at Dorking Wanderers. Many thanks to all involved for bringing this initiative to fruition.”*



Congratulations to Jack H, George K, Max E and Henry M who will play for the U12 team, Seb P (U14) and Henry O (U15).

Taster Morning for Year 6 Pupils—10th October

We will be holding a Taster Morning for all Year 6 pupils who have registered for our 2021 Entrance Assessments. The Taster Morning will take place on Saturday 10th October. Pupils will be able to visit Dunottar for a fun morning of outdoor activities, get to know the school a little better and meet potential future classmates. Throughout the morning, pupils will take part in a range of activities, in small groups, from orienteering to Bush Tucker Cooking, led by our friendly teachers, and experience first hand what school life is like at Dunottar.

Pupils must be registered by 30th September to attend the Taster Morning. Please register online at: <https://www.dunottarschool.com/admissions/admissions-process/registration-form/>



Co-curricular Clubs

This week saw the return of our much loved co-curricular activities! Last term, pupils enrolled in a number of remote and virtual activities which helped to keep them connected and involved. Now that we are back in school, we are excited to launch our new programme. It is very important to us that we continue to offer pupils a varied and broad offering in spite of the challenges posed by social-distancing, so we have carefully adapted the programme to comply with the current guidelines. Our vision is to build a culture in which every pupil at Dunottar is engaged in the co-curricular programme throughout their school career. Despite restrictions, we hope that the current offering will give pupils good opportunities to engage, collaborate with others and develop their interests outside of the classroom.

The new timetable sees the return of many of the most popular clubs such as bee-keeping, LEGO robotics, dissection, photography and the Pelican e-magazine to name a few. There are also some exciting new additions for pupils to get involved in such as the Podcast Production Club, target shooting and morning yoga as well as an exciting range of sport and music options.

The full timetable can be viewed on the school website:

[Co-curricular Timetable Autumn 2020](#)



Heads of School Hustings

On Tuesday, our Year 13 pupils took part in the Heads of School hustings. Delivered virtually, each pupil had just two minutes to win the support of the school community with their manifesto for the Head of School position. Candidates delivered strong speeches, each outlining their vision and strategy for leading the pupil body at Dunottar. Staff and pupils were able to vote for their preferred candidate, creating a shortlist of pupils who progressed to the next round involving an interview with the Headmaster and the Director of Sixth Form. The successful candidates will be announced next week.

Well done to all those who put themselves forward!



Dunottar School Cricket First XI Baggy Blues

Pupils who represent the Dunottar School boys 1st XI for cricket will be presented with a baggy blue playing cap. The baggy blue is a new tradition that the school has put in place starting in 2021. Every cap will be numbered from 1 upwards, meaning each cap number is unique to the individual who is wearing it.

This year's first XI will see the start of the new tradition, one which we hope will be rich in history.

Thank you to JT Cricket Academies for sponsoring the first 15 caps to have been ordered. We are very much looking forward to this becoming a very sought after aspect of a pupil's sporting time at Dunottar.



Autumn Term Cricket



This half term we are playing cricket on Saturdays for both boys and girls with internal fixtures. We have given teams IPL / Big Bash names. We are running this as an internal tournament to get as many pupils involved and playing as possible. On Saturday 5th September, we had roughly 110 pupils playing cricket in Years 7 & 8 alone, whilst the Upper School held training for Rugby and Lacrosse.

Years 9 & 10 will also be playing Cricket on alternate weekends during the first half term within their own mini IPL / Big Bash format.

We have created a link with JT Cricket Academies and are playing external fixtures via a JTCA Dunottar Invitational XI midweek against local cricket clubs. This is a great opportunity for pupils from our school to play external fixtures when most schools (including Dunottar) are not playing external weekend fixtures.

Finally, we are holding First XI training for boys and girls every week on a Wednesday to ensure that we are ready to play in April / May.

As a school we are also due to be going to Desert Springs in April 2021 as a pre-season training camp. We are keeping our fingers crossed this will still be possible.



The Return of Sport

Following our return to school, the PE Department has been able to implement lots of the planning that was completed during the summer holidays, in relation to the current climate.

The Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils will now work their way through components of fitness during their fortnightly PE lessons, exploring the idea of 'fitness for life'. We will spend time testing different components, looking at where they fit into sports, and, more importantly, active lifestyles. Ultimately, we will be supporting all pupils to build strong positive relationships with exercise and physical activity in their lives through school and into adulthood, irrelevant of sporting ability.

We've been extremely pleased to have continued with our typical Games programmes involving rugby (boys) and netball/lacrosse (girls). Whilst we are a little restricted by individual sports' respective stages of return on their roadmaps, it has been a really positive experience as teachers and coaches, to once again see pupils in this environment developing and thriving.

Higher up the school, we've used this time to evaluate our offerings, and think outside the box for our traditional 'options'. In light of this, we have launched our first Orienteering, Mountain Biking, Outdoor Fitness, Yoga/Pilates and Couch to 5k sessions. These options have proved very popular, and are all set in and around our wonderful and challenging grounds at Dunottar.



Rugby

In the absence of competitive fixtures our return to rugby has been focused around redeveloping rugby specific fitness, using carousels with varying foci for the students to rotate around. So far this term these carousels have included; Coach Small's Rugby Gorilla Burpees & Walkouts, agility and sprints (with and without ball), line speed discipline and fixing a tackler to capitalize on overlaps. In addition, we've spent time in each session

looking at gameplay and decision-making through touch rugby, with



15 minutes of restricted contact factored in on occasions in line with RFU guidance. We're looking forward to some intraschool Saturday touch fixtures within year groups.



Netball and Lacrosse

It was so exciting to see all the girls on the courts and lacrosse pitches for pre-season training at the end of August. The long break has been tough but has developed clear independence in terms of personal fitness and we will continue to maintain this throughout the term. Our new Year 7 cohort has shown great enthusiasm and skill and we are really looking forward to seeing them develop this year. Our Saturday program this term will be an equal split between cricket, lacrosse and netball with lots of game play being the focus. Many of our girls have also continued to train for their clubs outside Dunottar and it is great to hear of the many Dunottar girls now representing our two most local clubs – Dragonflies (Lacrosse) and Reigate Roses (Netball). We also have several students attending trials for the County Netball Academies over half term and we wish them the very best of luck.



Runottar!

Whilst Parkruns are looking to make a return in mid October, we are looking into the idea of running our own weekly Dunottar Community Fun Runs. The idea is that the event will take place around the Old Reigatians playing fields, covering a 2km course. There will be a window of 90 mins for Dunottar parents/families to come and run/walk/jog the route as a household, maintaining distance from other families/pupils at all times. There will, of course, be more information about how this would work, but if you are keen to be involved, please let Mr Manning know by emailing: s.manning@dunottarschool.com

