



*Enjoy the half term break!*

## Dunottar News



Looking back over the last 7 weeks, I am so proud of what Dunottar has achieved. We have created a climate of normality as far as we can and everyone is cherishing the face-to-face time that

being in school gives us. Our classrooms are buzzing with aspiration and learning, with knowledge sharing and with problem solving.

We have adapted our co-curricular programme to provide opportunities for pupils to explore new activities, to learn new skills and to extend their friendship groups. This term we have expanded our offering with several new activities, including podcast club and target shooting, which are already proving to be very popular options.

The Modern Foreign Languages Department ran a very successful programme of activities for Languages Week, including a film night, bingo and a music competition. The inspiring virtual 'Languages Bake Off' raised over £1,500 for Macmillan Cancer Research.

I am delighted to say that building work is almost complete on the new Assembly Hall. I hope that it is not too long before we are able to invite you in for a concert, play or musical production.

As we break for half term, I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your continued support.

With best wishes,

**Mark Tottman**  
Headmaster

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## Virtual Bake Off Raises Over £1,500 for Macmillan Charity

Instead of our usual Macmillan Coffee Morning, this year the Dunottar PTA teamed up with the Languages Department to run a Virtual Languages Bake Off for Year 7 pupils. Our eager bakers competed in various different categories including, 'Most Creative Cake', 'Best Fit for the Theme' and 'Best Cupcakes'. Parents were invited to make a donation to the event, and raised an impressive £1,568 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Well done to all our winners and runners up and a huge thank you to the Dunottar Community for their generous donations.

## New Heads of School Appointed

We are delighted to announce that Lucy and Joseph have been appointed as joint Heads of School for the academic year 2020/21. We would like to thank all of the Year 13 pupils who put themselves forward for this prestigious leadership role and to commend all of them on how well they prepared, presented and interviewed. Kicking off their responsibilities, Lucy and Joseph delivered inspiring presentations to our Year 11 pupils last week, during their "Introduction to the Sixth Form" assembly.



## Public Speaking Competition Winners

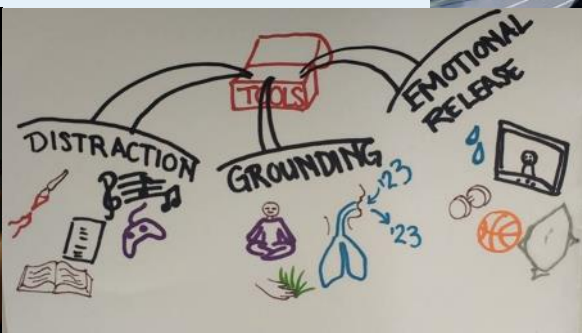
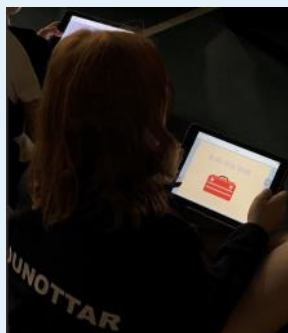


On Friday 25th September, five Year 11 pupils took part in a public speaking competition, delivering speeches from their GCSE in English Language. We had a very enjoyable Q&A session at the end of each presentation. Thank you to Dr McClure for organising the event and also to Deputy Head, Mr Broughton, for adjudicating.

Congratulations to Lila for winning the competition! All of the participants were rewarded with Amazon gift vouchers.

## Wellbeing and Mental Health

At Dunottar, we recognise the importance of wellbeing and mental health, especially in these times of change and uncertainty. Our Head of Wellbeing has been running a series of assemblies about 'Coping with Change' and helping students to build their own 'Wellbeing Toolbox' on their iPads, helping them understand different types of feelings and looking at various techniques they can use to enable them to cope better.





# Co-Curricular Clubs

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are delighted to have been able to run some of our postponed Duke of Edinburgh training expeditions this half term. A record number of pupils have successfully completed their Bronze and Silver practice expeditions with character, tenacity, positivity and good humour! Training took place on the beautiful North Downs Way for the Bronze groups and on the stunning South Downs for the Silver groups.



## Co-curricular Clubs in Full Swing

We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many pupils taking part in our extensive co-curricular programme this term. Our Sixth Formers have been producing their first podcasts, the beekeepers have been tending the hives, challenges have been overcome in LEGO robotics, clay animal models have been made in Art Club and our bakers have been cooking up some tempting treats in Cooking Club. With so many activities to choose from, we need more days in the week!



## Academic Distinctions

Well done to all our pupils who have been awarded Academic Distinctions this half term.

**We would like to give a special mention to Holly J who has been awarded three academic distinctions —fantastic work Holly!**

| Pupil         | Year | Award                | Subject   | Teacher's Comment   |
|---------------|------|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Max, E        | 7    | Academic Distinction | English   | Excellent short story homework. Max displayed a very impressive handling of complex vocabulary, use of paragraphs and direct speech. He had proof-read his work thoroughly and corrected his errors. It really is <b>exceptional</b> .  |
| Paige, S      | 8    | Academic Distinction | Geography | For brilliant research and presentation about the savanna biome. Paige went the extra mile and created models to accompany her project.   |
| Christiana, W | 8    | Academic Distinction | MFL       | Christiana has extended beautifully and her adjectival agreements are spot on.  |
| Martha, C     | 8    | Academic Distinction | MFL       | Martha has extended beautifully and her adjectival agreements are spot on.  |
| Holly, J      | 8    | Academic Distinction | Maths     | Holly began a piece of work on adding and subtracting fractions in class, she developed her own, mathematically valid, method to solve these problems, checked it worked for all examples and then spent the evening completing the task set. This was not a requirement and she has gone over and above the expectations I had set. Holly challenged herself answering the "apply" questions which required her to identify common misconceptions and correct answers. |
| Holly, J      | 8    | Academic Distinction | Music     | Holly produced an outstanding poster on the Beatles and their music which was very well-presented and detailed. She spent time and care on the extension task by analysing one of their songs and made accurate use of musical vocabulary to clarify her points.  |
| Holly, J      | 8    | Academic Distinction | MFL       | Holly wrote extended sentences describing personalities manipulating a variety of adjectives and making sure that she got the agreements right. This is impressive for a Year 8 student. She had sentence builders as support but demonstrated a clear understanding of genders. Well done Holly!   |
| Mark, T       | 9    | Academic Distinction | MFL       | For excellent preparation of his CAT speaking exam and being able to speak fluently for several minutes about his family and his relationships with them. His answers were of a very high standard, equivalent to what is expected at GCSE in the general conversation part of the exam.  |
| Sebastian, W  | 10   | Academic Distinction | English   | Sebastian produced a highly detailed and extensive piece of homework for English. He showed great maturity and sophistication in his written work and engaged with complex themes within the text. Sebastian went above and beyond in the level of detail and development in his writing and was graded a 7. A fantastic start to Year 10.  |
| Rosie, K      | 11   | Academic Distinction | MFL       | Rosie has been awarded an Academic Distinction for scoring full marks on her foundation paper (Written). She extended beautifully and used complex structures effectively.  |
| Olivia, G     | 11   | Academic Distinction | RS        | A fantastic summer project with brilliant explanations of the sacraments. It also looked great!   |
| Amy, S        | 11   | Academic Distinction | DoFE      | Amy has produced a superb collection of sugar crafted dishes as part of her Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. She really has gone above and beyond with this and recorded her progress in a sketch book complete with photos and detailed annotations.  |



## Great Dunottar Bake Off—Series 2

With GBBO returning to our TV screens this Autumn, Mrs French has launched the second series of the Great Dunottar Bake Off which will run alongside the televised series. Each week, she will choose a recipe from the latest episode and film a cookery demonstration. Entrants will then have 7 days to complete their bakes and send in their photos.

We are delighted to announce the winners of the Week 1 competition: Pineapple Upside-Down Cake.



### Star Baker

Casper, Year 7

#### Mrs French's comments :

"Beautiful presentation, I really enjoyed seeing all the photos of the cooking process. Your caramel is a perfect colour and the custard is very well made. Congratulations Casper!"

Mrs French's comments : "Excellent piping and beautiful presentation. They look uniform and very neat. Wonderful baking!"

### Runner Up

Will, Year 10



Mrs French's comments : "Such creative presentation and beautiful piping! Well done Will."



### Runner Up

Hannah,  
Year 11



### Runner Up

Adam, Year 10

Mrs French's comments : "Very nice presentation, lovely colour on the bake. Great start to Bake Off. Well done Adam!"

## PTA October Update

Hi everyone,

I'm sure you're all as glad as we are that we have made it through to half term with our kids still in school. Enormous thanks go to all of the school staff for their efforts in keeping the school operating safely.

As outlined in our first update in September, as a PTA we have been busy trying to work out how to best focus our efforts in these difficult times. We have agreed that over the next few months our primary focus should be to help parts of the community where we can, as well as bringing families of the school together through different types of fun events and activities. We will continue to raise funds for the school but expect, and hope, that we will be able to do this to a greater extent in the second half of the year.

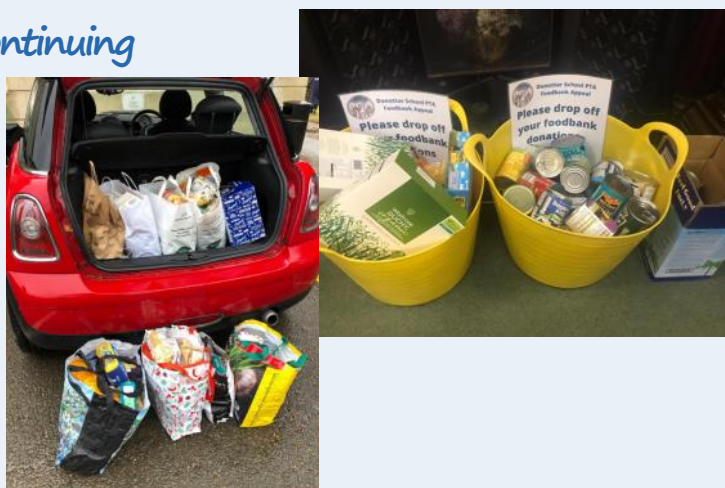
Thanks to all new parents who have become involved in planning our various activities. If you can't help out in an organisational capacity please support us by joining one of the events we have planned over the next few months!

Best wishes

Carol, Justine and the PTA team

### PTA Foodbank – Weekly Collections Continuing

We have made an excellent start to our weekly food bank collections to support Loveworks and St. Matthew's Foodbank. Sadly, the need for foodbanks seems to be increasing and so we will continue coordinating collections and deliveries each week. We hope this provides an easy way for you to support the foodbanks – just by popping a tin or packet of food into a school bag each week. Yellow collection buckets will remain in Reception ready for donations and will be collected and distributed to St. Matthew's Foodbank and Loveworks on alternate weeks. Look out for items most wanted on our Facebook and Classlist updates.



### PTA and Languages Macmillan Bake Off

Well done to all the Year 7 bakers and the school community for raising such a huge amount for Macmillan. We were pleased to be able to fund the prizes for the Bake Off and play a small role in the judging. Congratulations to Libby for winning the PTA prize – we hope it tasted as good as it looked!



### Nearly New Sale—Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Our next Nearly New Sale will take place on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 2.30pm**. If you have items to donate please ask your child to leave any sealed bags in Reception labelled PTA NEARLY NEW. If you would like to receive the proceeds from the sale (less the PTA charge) please ensure that all items are individually labelled with your name, item size and item type.

## Dunottar PTA Christmas 2020

While we can't hold the Christmas Fair in the usual way we definitely all need a little Christmas cheer this year! The PTA have put together some fun, COVID-friendly events for the festive season:

- *Secrets Room* - On the 11<sup>th</sup> December pupils will be able to choose a surprise present for parents, siblings or grandparents. In order to offer this exciting event we will need your donations of any unwanted presents after half term. More details nearer the time.
- *Wreath Making* – We will be holding a virtual wreath making class for parents and friends of the school on 26th November and to bring some extra festive cheer there will be a tie-in with the Vine King! All proceeds to charity.
- *12 Days of Christmas* – In the past, we have run a shopping event supporting local businesses. Due to the rule of six, we are unable to run this event this year. However, we want to support our local businesses who have previously attended the event by offering parents and friends of Dunottar exclusive offers. Follow us on Facebook as we will be featuring these businesses throughout November @DunottarschoolPTA
- *The Christmas Chocolate Challenge* - A game for the children and staff to enjoy in school!
- *Foodbanks* – We have decided this year instead of the usual hamper raffle, we will be asking for all donations that would previously have been given for the hampers to instead, be given to foodbanks. We have been supporting local foodbanks for several weeks and want to continue our support over the festive season and into 2021.

## Dunottar PTA Quiz

We have a really fun evening planned for our first virtual quiz, so please put **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** in your diaries! As the nights are getting darker, and the rule of 6 makes getting together with friends more challenging, we hope to offer a night of laughs and challenges – as well as offers from a local cocktail company and the Village Brasserie in Reigate.

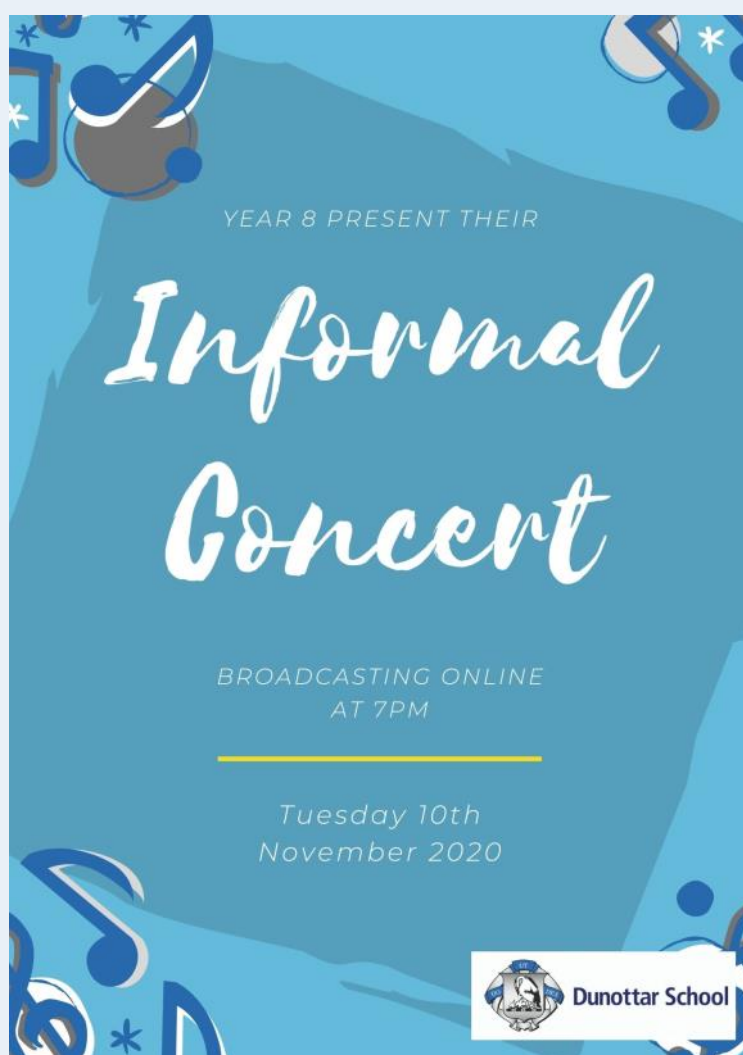
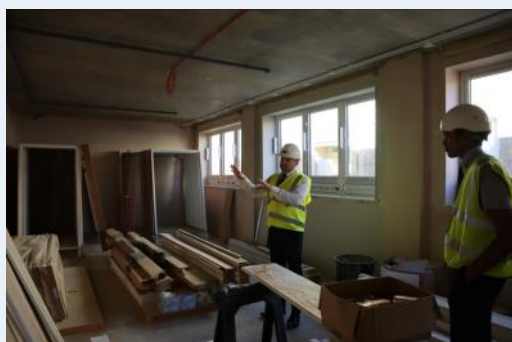
More information to follow soon!





## Pupils Receive Sneak Peak of Performing Arts Centre

Last week, our Year 11 GCSE Music pupils were treated to a sneak preview of the new Performing Arts Centre due for completion at the end of the year. The £4.5m Assembly Hall and Performing Arts Centre will house a 500-seat theatre, as well as music and drama practice rooms. The modern building will be equipped with all the latest audio and visual equipment, providing an enhanced performance experience for our Dunottar performers. We can't wait!




YEAR 8 PRESENT THEIR

# Informal Concert

BROADCASTING ONLINE  
AT 7PM

Tuesday 10th  
November 2020



Dunottar School



## A Great Start to the Season for our Dorking Wanderers

It is great to see six of our Dunottar pupils, who now play for Dorking Wanderers FC, making full use of the excellent facilities at the multi-million pound Meadowbank Stadium. All six boys have made a great start at DWFC and their respective teams have made an equally impressive start to the season. Keep up the good work!



## Girls Selected for Prep Schools' Lions Team

On Sunday 11th October, three Year 7 Dunottar pupils attended a trial for the Prep Schools' Lions Team. The team comprises the most talented Independent School footballers across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey. We were thrilled to hear that all three girls have gained a place in the U12 team and will be going out to play in the Gothia Cup in Sweden next July (the world's largest youth football tournament).

Huge congratulations to Lily, Heidi and Jessica!

## Fitness, Skills and New Physical Activity Sessions

We have continued to focus on fitness and skills training in our Games lessons this half term, with pupils showing real passion and commitment to their sports – great work! Our Seniors have been enjoying an exciting array of new activities, including Pilates / yoga, mountain biking through the grounds at Dunottar (including carving out their own trails!), orienteering, Just Dance and mixed netball.

