



"We are so pleased with your home schooling program. Our children are really enjoying their lessons and seem to be very happy. We appreciate how hard you are all working to create a 'normal' school day, albeit online, and keep the children's and our spirits up!"

Year 7 & 9 parent



Dunottar News



Last weekend's weather provided a welcome distraction from the challenges we are all facing and I hope that you were able to take time as a family to enjoy the snow.

As another week of remote learning draws to a close, I continue to be impressed by the tenacity and creativity our pupils are demonstrating. I have dropped into a number of lessons and it is great to see the wide range of activities, both on and off screen, that pupils are engaged in. From collaborative remote rehearsals for our musical production, to individual sporting challenges and creative modelling tasks in science, we continue to offer a rounded education for our pupils. In this newsletter, we have included some tips for supporting your child with remote learning.

Whilst we await further details of when we will be able to welcome pupils back to school, pupil wellbeing continues to be at the forefront of our minds. The cold winter months sometimes make it harder to go outside, but please encourage your children to get out into the fresh air whenever possible.

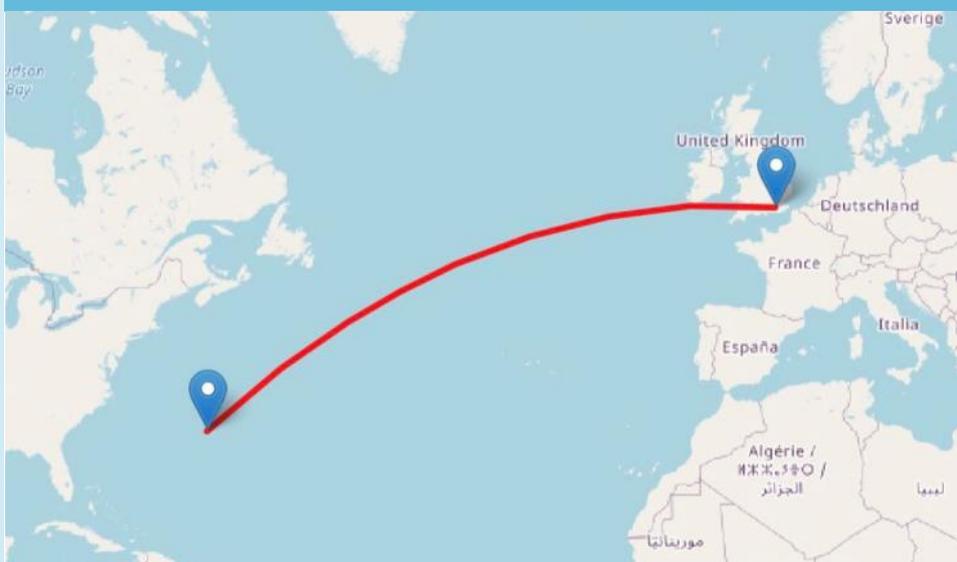
Stay safe and enjoy the weekend!

Mark Tottman
Headmaster

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Dunottar Tops the Table in Virtual Fixture

The United Learning Virtual Fixture took place on Saturday 16th January and once again, Dunottar topped the table for total number of miles/kilometres amassed as a community. Dunottar travelled further than a number of schools with a far larger cohort of staff and pupils on roll.

We were aiming for Dunottar School, St Lucia (6,779km), and we achieved a huge 5,272km. Given the weather, this was a great effort nonetheless. Well done to all those who got involved and helped the total.

As an entire United Learning community, comprising five competing schools, the overall distance was enough to get from London to the middle of Australia - just short of 10,000 miles.

Remote Learning Snapshot

Here are just a few examples of some of the excellent learning that has taken place this week.

Year 7 French: Les Galettes des Rois

Year 7 baked a *Galette des Rois* following a recipe in French for homework. The *Galette des Rois* ('king cake') is a dessert that is traditionally served in French households on 6th January, Epiphany, and sold in bakeries throughout the month of January. It is a central part of Christmas cuisine in France. Our pupils baked a frangipane version of the galette and went on to *tirer les rois* ('draw the kings') with their families. In this celebration, in order to ensure a random and fair distribution of the cake portions, it is traditional for the youngest person to place themselves under the table and name the recipient of each piece of the galette. The person who gets the *fève* (little charm placed inside the cake) becomes the king or the queen for the day and has to wear a crown.

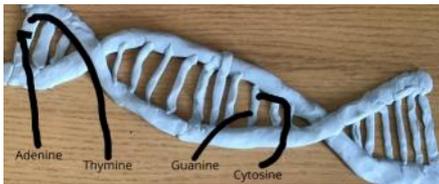


Whole School Assembly

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, Mrs Boden delivered a moving assembly to all pupils, highlighting the need to learn from the past to create a safer future.



Year 8 Science: Modelling DNA Molecules



Year 7 Biology: Flower Structures

Year 7 pupils have been learning about the structure and function of flowers. Pupils made their own modelling clay from scratch and constructed flower models.



Year 7 History: The Silk Roads Title Pages



Year 7 pupils have produced these title pages as part of a new enquiry based on the silk roads.



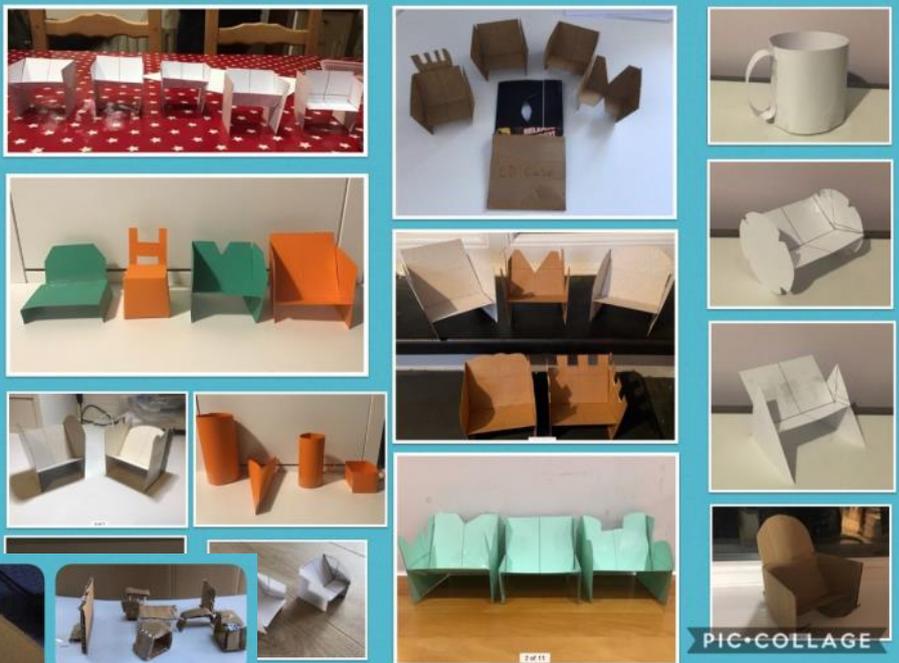
Remote Learning Snapshot



In D&T, pupils have been focusing on design communication skills such as sketching, presenting design ideas and developing sketch modelling techniques.

Year 8 D&T: Models of the Houses of Parliament

Year 9 D&T: Redesigning Seating, CD Envelopes and Mugs



Year 7 D&T: Scaled Models of Their Bedrooms

The quality of the models has been fantastic, showing creativity both in the design and the selection of materials. Whilst we cannot be in the workshop, it is important that pupils are still able to continue practical work in another form. We have been impressed with the creativity and tenacity that the pupils have shown in these last few weeks of remote learning.



FIFA Club

We are now into week three of the PlayStation FIFA21 Club. It's been great to have pupils from Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 joining us and having fun in the process. The 19 pupils that we have signed up to the club have been split into two teams, Dunottar FC, which is overseen by Mr Myers and FC Dunottar, which is overseen by Mr Everett. Each pupil is then given a position for each match that they play in. After playing 10 games in total, the score is currently seven wins to three 3 in favour of Dunottar FC. Sam K is also currently overall top scorer after some impressive performances!



Cooking Club



This week our young chefs in Years 7 and 8 had fun making these Malteser Slices. They all did a great job and the results look delicious!

Pelican e-Magazine

One advantage of the student Pelican e-Magazine club is that year groups can mix! Welcome to three sixth formers, who joined the club. Our student journalists have been busy preparing the next issue.



Book Club

Thank you to Miss Marvin, who has set up a virtual book club, open to pupils from different year groups. We had pupils between Years 7 to 10 attending on Friday. Our Learning Resource Centre Manager, Mrs Ridgers, was listening for reading ideas so that she can buy new books for the LRC!



Sister Act Rehearsals

Despite lockdown, we are continuing to run rehearsals for our whole school musical, Sister Act. The pupils have been really enthusiastic and haven't let lockdown dampen their spirits. We have a number of plans for performing our musical once we're back in school but,

for now, we're concentrating on making sure we're as confident and prepared as we can be.



Competitions

Can You Design the Cover of the Pelican e-Magazine?

Are you a budding artist? We're looking for a front cover for our next edition of the student Pelican e-magazine, which will go live just before we break up for half term.

The winner will be sent a £10 Amazon gift voucher!

We're looking for:

Something bright and cheerful because this is the start of the spring term.

A pelican somewhere on the front cover.

If you're interested in entering our competition, please send your picture to pelican@dunottarschool.com by **Monday 5th February**.



Don't Forget to Create Your Funny Faces

If you haven't already entered our Year 5 "Funny Faces" Art Competition, then you still have time to submit your entry. The competition is based on the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo, an Italian painter best known for creating imaginative portrait heads made entirely from objects such as fruit, vegetables, fish and books. We are inviting all Year 5 pupils from Prep and Primary Schools in the local area to create their own funny face from any objects they choose. Further details can be found by clicking [here](#). The closing date for the competition is **8th February 2021**.

We look forward to seeing your "Funny Faces"!



Geography Club

Year 8 Geography Club members have been celebrating Penguin Awareness Day. Pupils prepared an iMovie, interactive quiz, a word search, a fun facts PowerPoint and penguin jokes!



*Joke: "Why do polar bears and penguins not get on?"
"Because they are polar opposites!"*

Friday Music Sessions

Join us on Youtube at 5pm every Friday for our Friday Music Sessions. What better way to start the weekend! See the Dunottar Download or our social media channels for details on how to view the concert.



Asmir Begovic Goalkeeper Academy

We have been fortunate enough to be able to invite five of our pupils to be involved in the Asmir Begovic Goalkeeper Academy training programme. This programme consists of a weekly at-home training session where the goalkeepers perform a range of drills, working on improving their co-ordination, reflexes, mobility and reactions. They also take part in a Q&A session with a professional goalkeeper. Last week's Q&A was with Josh Clarke, a 16 year old goalkeeper, who has just signed a professional contract with AFC Bournemouth. Mr Everett, Director of Football, is very grateful for this opportunity that Head Coach, Jack Hadley and Asmir Begovic himself, have given to a handful of our pupils.



Meet the Pro—for Parents!

As a thank you for all your support during these difficult times, Mr Myers, Director of Cricket, is delighted to be able to invite Dunottar parents to an exclusive Meet the Pro session. On Friday 12th February at 9pm, we will be hosting a virtual Q&A session with former England and Surrey CC legend, **Adam Hollioake**.

Keep an eye out for further details in the Dunottar Download.

Wellbeing Walk

This weekend, we are encouraging all of the Dunottar Community to take part in a household/family Wellbeing Walk at some stage over the two days.

Taking time out of the weekend, to come together and embrace the wintery weather, donning your wellies and waterproofs if required. The benefits of a leisurely walk can not be overstated. So, as a PE and Sports department we would like you to get yourself outside this weekend for a family/household (or bubble) walk, whatever the distance. Be sure to laugh, smile, tell jokes, talk, share fun memories, perhaps even take on the Alphabet Challenge, capture a photo of something beginning with A-Z during your walk, sharing your favourite letter finds via Twitter/Sparkjar/email.



Dunottar School

Parents: Meet The Pro

As a thank you to the parents in the Dunottar School community for all your support during these difficult times, we are delighted to be able to invite you to an exclusive Meet the Pro session.

On Friday 12th February at 9pm, we will be hosting a virtual Q&A session with former England and Surrey CC legend, **Adam Hollioake**. The session will last approximately 40 minutes and will take place on MS Teams.

[Book your free tickets here!](#)



DUNOTTAR SCHOOL PTA – JANUARY UPDATE

If you did or didn't have a chance to read our update last week, here it is again! This week we are pleased to launch our [Justgiving page](#) where you can donate to our Covid Community Fundraiser and we are hosting another wine tasting slot on Friday 5th February, read on for more details....

A belated happy new year from the PTA – it's not the start of the new year that any of us would have liked but we have some fun things planned, as well as continuing to support our community.

COVID COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

We had all hoped by now that life would be a little easier. I don't think many of us had envisaged how much harder it was going to get.



Most of you will know that last summer we raised money to support East Surrey Hospital, our ambulance service, refuse teams and local care homes. Staff at East Surrey are once again stretched beyond belief and many members of our community have lost their lives, or are fighting for their lives.

Supporting our community continues to be the priority of Dunottar School PTA. As such, we have been in touch again with East Surrey Hospital to ask how we can support staff and have received initial requests for sets of tea/coffee/biscuits/soft drinks for the staff break rooms, as well as toiletries for the staff washrooms and for them to take home at the end of their long shifts.

The PTA is kick starting this fundraiser with £500. It would be great if we could reach

£2,000, matching the amount we raised last summer.

We are very excited to launch the [Dunottar School PTA Justgiving page](#). Any donation would be appreciated (we understand that many parents are experiencing financial adjustments at the moment so there is absolutely no expectation or obligation). We will trickle supplies through to East Surrey Hospital as funds allow.

FOODBANK APPEAL

In the Autumn term, we started our foodbank appeal and received so many generous donations of food and household items which we shared between Loveworks and St Matthew's Foodbank.

With the current COVID situation and children at home, we can't continue with our weekly collections. Sadly, the foodbanks are getting busier and they would appreciate any direct donations that you are able to make.

St Matthew's Foodbank

St Matthew's Foodbank update their list of most wanted items on a regular basis – visit www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk. You can drop off items as follows:

- the bins at the back of St Matthew's Church, Station Road, between midday and 2.00pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday - currently replaced by donation drop-off point at the Church Hall behind the Church due to the COVID-19 outbreak
- the bins in the Co-op shops in Redhill and Woodhatch
- the MediWISE Pharmacy in Brighton Road, Salfords.



Loveworks

The easiest way to support Loveworks at the moment is to make a financial donation but if you would like to donate items instead you can drop them off on Saturdays 10-12pm: Loveworks, Unit 4, Redhill 23 Business Park, Redhill RH1 2GD – please go to the large shutter door and either leave donations outside it or on the shelf to the left of the door. Visit loveworks.org.uk

DUNOTTAR SCHOOL PTA WINE TASTING HOSTED BY THE VINEKING



The end of dry January is in sight, so why not join us for an evening of wine tasting hosted by the Vineking. Their wine experts will talk you through five different wines (1/4 bottle of each) which will be delivered to your house beforehand (free within a five mile radius of the Vineking in Reigate). They can also supply deli boards to accompany your wines.

We have two evenings to choose from – Thursday 4th or Friday 5th February. The tasting will start at 7.30pm and last for approximately 90 minutes. Tickets are priced at £40 per household, with deli boards costing £20 each (vegetarian and vegan options available). We are also asking for a minimum £10 donation to our COVID fundraiser.

Places are limited to 12 households per evening. Tickets on sale now. Given that places available are low, we have future dates on hold should our lockdown wine tasting prove popular!

[Buy Thursday tickets here](#) [Buy Friday tickets here](#)

MARKETING HELP NEEDED

We are an active PTA focused on supporting our fantastic school and our broader community. We would love another pair of hands to help us with our communications, putting parent updates together and posting on social media. No previous experience is necessary, and training is available if needed. During term time, you would need to volunteer approximately four hours per month. Please email info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk for more info.

SAVE THE DATE – RETURN OF THE QUIZ!

50 families joined our first virtual Bond themed quiz back in November and so we are coming back for more! Hold Friday 26th March in your diary for the return of the virtual quiz team with lots more fun and surprises.



VIRTUAL WINE TASTING

4th & 5th February [Thursday tickets](#) [Friday tickets](#)

7.30pm (approx 1.5hrs)

Free delivery within 5 miles of the
Vineking Tasting Rooms

Charcuterie boards available at £20

Each household will receive 5 quarter bottles of wine

£40 PER HOUSEHOLD

+ a voluntary donation to our
Covid Community Fundraiser




Virtual work/insight experiences provide an excellent way to enrich pupils' studies, add to their personal statement or CV and their knowledge about how companies and industries work.

Please note that these events are not organised by Dunottar School and we would encourage pupils to always practice safe internet use. If your child does sign up for any of these events, please do let us know so we can keep a record of their experience and achievements.

Current Virtual Work Experience Opportunities

Young Professionals offer a range of free work experience opportunities taking place from the February half term and beyond involving companies such as: IBM, HSBC, PwC, Marks & Spencer, Vodafone, EY, CGI, Capgemini, bp, GSK and CIMA.

[Young professionals](#)



HSBC Work Experience: Aged 14- 18

Work Experience opportunities with HSBC will be available through June to August 2021. Open to all secondary school or college students in Y10 to Y13. Applications close on 21st February.

[HSBC Work Experience Programme](#)



Springpod

[Springpod](#) is a fantastic resource for pupils, parents and carers and currently advertises a variety of virtual work experience opportunities.



InvestIN – Paid for Experiences

Virtual opportunities are available before Easter or you can choose to book an 'in-person' experience for late April.

[InvestIN](#)



Insight into the World of Civil Engineers

Explore the world of careers in civil engineering with the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE). Watch the careers broadcasts to find out the what, why and how of careers in the civil engineering field. The events are specially designed for pupils aged 16-18 years and feature a Q&A of their top questions.

[Institute of Civil Engineers](#)



Apprenticeships

The 'virtual' National Apprenticeship Show will take place on 10th February.

[National Apprenticeship Show](#)



Degree higher and advanced apprenticeships are still available with highly reputable companies such as Unilever, Bae Systems, BP, GSK, Nestle.

[Find an Apprenticeship](#)

If pupils would like any help with accessing any of these opportunities or with any applications or career related questions they can contact me, Kate Hanlon, Head of Careers, at k.hanlon@dunottarschool.com



THE DUNOTTAR GUIDE TO REMOTE LEARNING

SET YOUR SPACE

Find a quiet area in your house where you can sit comfortably and focus.

Make it separate to your relaxation space. Ideally away from a TV screen or other distractions.



MAKE A SCHEDULE

Plan and structure your day to include work, downtime, exercise, fresh air and family time.



EAT AND DRINK SENSIBLY

Make sure you are eating 3 well balanced meals a day and drink plenty of water.

SEEK HELP

If you are worried or struggling with a piece of work, use an online tool to complete the work with classmates or contact your teacher.



GET DRESSED

Get changed out of your pyjamas into comfortable clothes to work in.



ENGAGE

Engage in live teacher contact where possible.



GET INTO A REGULAR SLEEPING PATTERN

Try and maintain some consistency with the time you go to bed and wake up.

LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Take small breaks if you have been on the computer for a long time.

STICK TO YOUR SCHOOL TIMETABLE

Planning and structuring your day will help bring a sense of routine.



Dunottar School