



Dunottar Welcomes Cricket Legend - Ian Bell

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Dunottar News

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It has been a joy to welcome pupils back to school during the last three weeks and to see them reconnecting with

their friends. Whilst it has been a year like no other, with the national vaccination programme well under way and with the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions, I hope we are moving towards brighter and more normal times.

Last week we hosted five-time Ashes winner Ian Bell and the Editorial team at The Cricketer magazine, led by Simon Hughes. Their annual Club Cricket Bat Testing Day was held here at Dunottar. Pupils raved about the day, citing it as "unforgettable" - a truly inspirational experience.

Our Year 9 pupils enjoyed a morning of cross-curricular activities last week as part of their WW1 studies, designed to broaden their appreciation and understanding of this world-changing event.

Outside the classroom, our co-curricular clubs are in full swing and pupils have enjoyed being back on the Sports pitch for training. We are all looking forward to the return of Saturday fixtures in the Summer term, if restrictions allow.

Weather permitting, I hope you are able to reconnect with family and friends this Easter and I wish you all a safe and relaxing break.

Best wishes

Mark Tottman
Headmaster

Dunottar Hailed "a Secret Surrey Star" By Tatler

We are delighted to announce that Dunottar has been given a glowing review in the Tatler School Guide 2021, describing the school as "a secret Surrey star" and praising the pastoral care.

Each year, Tatler's team of researchers gathers information on the UK's finest independent schools, to produce a shortlist which will feature in their prestigious guide. Schools are not just chosen for their academic results or their outstanding facilities (although these are closely looked at). To feature in the Tatler Schools Guide schools must offer the whole package – holistic pastoral care, a focus on character education as much as pure academics, and the ability to accommodate and nurture all their pupils, resulting in well educated, but most importantly, happy children.

This is the first time that the school has featured in the guide since becoming co-educational in 2015.

*"Parents rave about the warm and nurturing atmosphere at Dunottar, which is something of a secret Surrey star, set in a Palladian-style mansion in 15 beautiful acres just outside Reigate town centre. According to one mother, the pastoral care at this co-ed (it was all-girls until 2014) is 'second to none', with a very strong community ethos and great value placed on knowing every child as an individual and developing their character. 'The personal attention you get as a parent is outstanding too,' adds another mother. 'An email is replied to the same day and often followed up with a phone call to discuss any issue with real insight into your child.' **

The full review is available to read [here](#):

*Tatler Schools Guide 2021

Year 7 Smash Their Fundraising Target

Whilst many of our charity events couldn't take place this year, our Year 7 pupils were determined not to let COVID-19 get in the way of their fundraising efforts. Pupils set themselves a variety of physical, mental and practical challenges, to be completed throughout the month of February, in order to raise money for their four chosen charities: Sight for Surrey, The Donkey Sanctuary, Air Ambulance Kent, Surrey and Sussex and the International Tree Foundation.

The challenges included washing cars, bake sales, cooking for family, long distance bike rides, half marathons, swimming 200 lengths, running 3km every day for a month, walking on all fours, litter picking and even running 5km in an inflatable dinosaur suit! We are incredibly proud of the creativity and tenacity of our young pupils and are delighted to report that they smashed their £2,000 fundraising target and have raised an incredible £2,569.22! Well done Year 7!



Co-Curricular Clubs Back in Person



It has been wonderful to see pupils enjoying our range of co-curricular activities, since school re-opened on 8 March. From dissection club, to photography, singing, cooking, book club and first aid—there is something for everyone to get involved in!



Bat Testing With Ian Bell and the Cricketer Magazine

On Monday 22nd March, we were delighted to welcome five-time ashes winner Ian Bell to the school, along with the team from the Cricketer magazine, for their annual Club Guide Bat Testing Day.

Pupils spent the morning testing out over 50 new cricket bats for the magazine, following which the Editorial Team from the Cricketer would record their ratings and feedback on the build quality, performance and feel of the equipment.

The beautiful spring day provided an excellent photo opportunity with Ian for both the pupils involved and the keen cricketing members of our teaching team. Ian also presented the first of our baggy caps to First Team Captain, Harvey.



“The experience was amazing. To be in an environment with people with so much cricketing knowledge was a joy. So much to learn, with the likes of Ian Bell. It was a fantastic experience and I would like to thank the school for this opportunity.” - Advait



After lunch, Ian, along with Simon Hughes, Editor of the Cricketer, hosted a skills masterclass for pupils, followed by a lively Q&A session.

Those taking part were a credit to the school, with the Editorial Team and Ian commenting on their enthusiasm and willingness to learn, especially in the coaching and Q&A session. Their passion for the sport shone through in the Q&A with interesting questions being directed at Ian.

Annabel, Year 11 commented, “It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget.”

Director of Cricket, Mr Myers, remarked “The Cricketer Club Guide day was superb. The pupils and staff involved enjoyed the day from start to finish. The opportunity to meet and be coached by a five-time ashes winner does not come along every day and the pupils thrived in a Q&A session with the England legend, asking mature and insightful questions.”

We look forward to seeing pupils putting their skills into practice on the cricket pitch next term.



Photos courtesy of Paul Carroll and The Cricketer Club Cricket Guide 2021 .

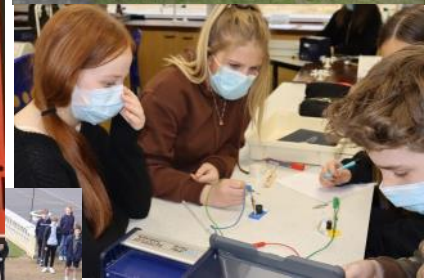


Year 9 Cross-Curricular World War 1 Activities

Last Wednesday, pupils in Year 9 took part in their cross-curricular World War 1 morning. After an introduction by Mrs Boden about the local aspect of the war, there was a house drill competition ably led by Mr Manning, with George's House being declared the best drillers. Pupils then participated in three different sessions during the morning. Activities included cracking morse code, baking Anzac biscuits, making model Sopwith camel aeroplanes and learning about the geography of the battlefields, to name just a few. The purpose of the morning was for pupils to learn about different aspects of the First World War that they would not have studied in lessons and also to allow them to broaden their knowledge in subjects other than history. The football matches on the bottom pitch in recognition of the Christmas Day truce in 1914

were fiercely contested and the overall winners were Andrew's House.

The history department would not only like to thank the Year 9 pupils for their willing participation in the event, but also, all the departments who contributed and without whom the day would not have been possible.



Wanting to return to school,
English, geography, maths and football,
Doors opening met with cheers,
Reuniting with my teachers and peers,
Wanting to see the sports field,
Warrior learning with my sword and shield.

Work with collaboration,
Independence plus a lot of creation,
Uniform pressed and ready,
Raring to go but must take it steady,
Face mask on follow the rules,
I can't wait to return to Dunottar school.

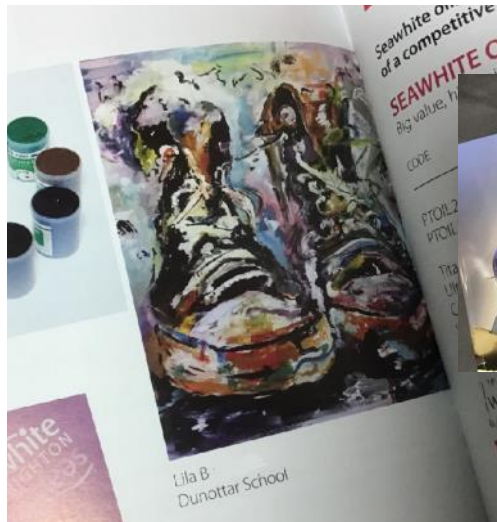
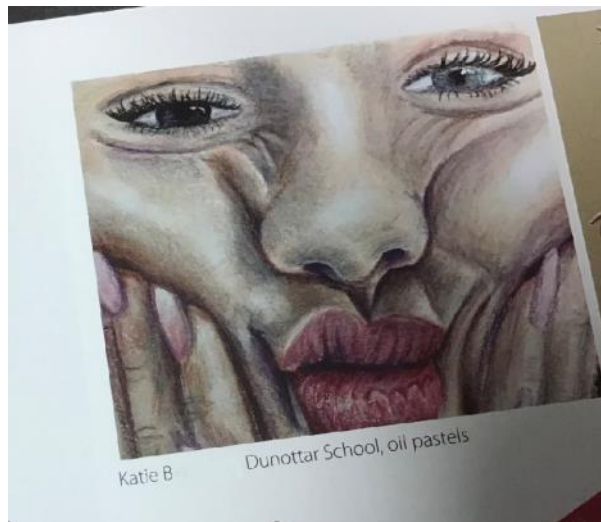
Year 7 Poetry Writing

As part of their English homework earlier this half term, our Year 7 pupils were tasked with writing poems using a specific rhyme scheme and rhythm.

Max wrote an excellent poem, which was particularly topical and relevant, during the period when schools remained closed. Lovely to see the Warrior Learner behaviours included as well! Well done Max!

Pupil Artwork Featured in Seawhite Catalogue

The art department was delighted to see that two of our pupils, Katie B and Lila B, have pieces of their artwork featured in the 'Seawhite Catalogue' this year. The Seawhite company is used by schools, colleges and universities across the country for their art supplies so the work will be viewed by thousands of people for the next 12 months. Well done to both girls!



Lottie B is also to be congratulated on her entry to the UL international art competition earlier this term.

Sixth Form

Introducing our Sixth Form Ambassadors

Our recently elected Sixth Form prefect ambassadors have been tasked with focusing on five key issues which affect all young people today —Mental Health & Wellbeing, Sport & Charity, PSHE, Diversity & Inclusivity and the Environment. In this issue, we hear from two of our teams about their ambitions in their new roles.

Sitara and Scarlet are the Ambassadors for culture and diversity at school.



"We want to create a more inclusive environment in a constantly progressing world, where culture and diversity are being discussed more openly and frequently. We will work with members of staff and pupils to encourage discussion and broaden the mindset of everyone in the Dunottar community. We are producing newsletters every half term that we encourage you to read, providing details about upcoming cultural festivals."

Lottie, Freya, Tilly and Joe are the Ambassadors for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

"We have been working hard to improve this particular area of school life. We have already produced our first wellbeing magazine, Oasis, and are working on the next edition. Young people's mental health is an extremely topical issue at the moment and we feel it is important that our pupils feel supported in all areas of school life, as well as outside of school."

Spotlight on Mrs Thorne, Head of Geography

There is no doubt that the past year has brought to the fore how dedicated and passionate our teachers are about their profession. Switching between remote learning and being back in the classroom, getting to grips with new technology and different ways of teaching and interacting with pupils has been an enormous challenge, but one that the staff here at Dunottar have responded to with creativity, energy and enthusiasm.

For many of our teachers, their passion for teaching goes beyond the walls of Dunottar, sharing their expertise and knowledge with the wider teaching community. Mrs Thorne, Head of Geography here at Dunottar, gives us an insight into what else she has been up to recently.

“Developing teaching expertise has always been a priority for the Geography Department and I have been fortunate to have been working with Tutor2u on a range of commissioned projects over the last couple of years. This has given me access to a wide range of resources and ideas on delivering content, particularly focusing on exam technique.

This term, I have been co-presenting and also writing a number of ‘Revision Blasts’ for GCSE and A level geography which use some really innovative Retrieval Practice ideas to strengthen knowledge and identify gaps in learning. These sessions are delivered to a live online audience who can participate in the chat through YouTube. The sessions are recorded and posted on YouTube, along with the slides which are circulated to schools across the UK.



Many of these ideas are making their way into our lesson planning and schemes of work, to offer our pupils some really engaging and interactive retrieval activities. Pupils are also using the pre-recorded sessions to support the development of exam technique scaffolding and to extend our young learners at GCSE level.”

The Revision Blasts for A level can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5fYVmAipFU>

Mrs Thorne has also had two more articles accepted for publication in the *Wideworld* and *Hodder* publication for GCSE Geography. Her article on Lagos will feature in their July issue and an article on London Gateway port in the November edition.

Careers

Easter Entrepreneur Challenge—Open to All Year Groups

An exciting digital challenge to support young people to develop an enterprising mindset and prepare for the world of work as they see what business they can create with just £10 and 4 weeks.

<https://www.10xchallenge.org.uk/support/>



Supported by



Year 5 Bee Sanctuary Competition Winners Announced

Thank you to everyone who entered our Year 5 Bee Sanctuary Design Competition—we received so many interesting and creative entries. We are delighted to announce the winners of the competition are:

1st Prize: George Fairhurst

2nd Prize: Ivo Bagnall

3rd Prize: Lyla Shortall

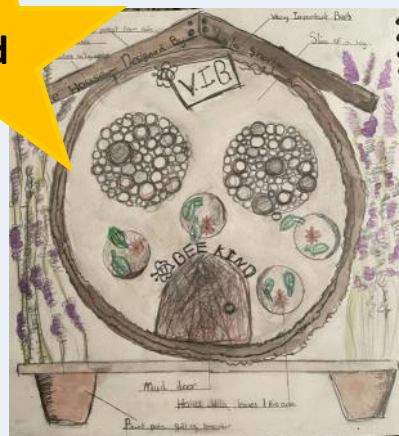
Our talented winners each received a selection of bee-related prize goodies for their amazing efforts.



1st



2nd



3rd



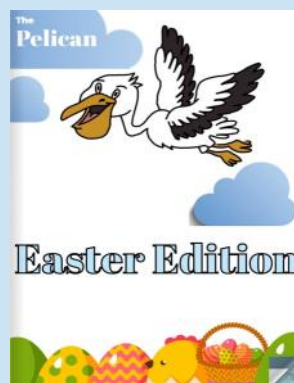
Our latest activity for Year 5 pupils involves upcycling. Can you find an item that would normally end up in the rubbish bin and turn it into something that can be used in a different way?

Further details about our Upcycling Challenge can be found [here](#).

The deadline for entries is **Monday 19th April.**

*Pelican eMagazine
Cover Design Winner*

Congratulations to Jamie in Year 10 for designing the front cover of the next edition of the student Pelican eMagazine! A £10 Amazon gift voucher is winging its way to you!



Academic Distinctions

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

Pupil	Yea	Award	Subject	Teacher's Comment
Will, C	7	Academic Distinction	English	Excellent effort and attainment in his recent CAT, in which he gained full marks for analytical writing skills.
Will, C	7	Academic Distinction	English	Excellent attainment in his CAT, in which he analysed a poem. He is attaining high marks in the KS3 mark scheme, which was designed for Years 7-9.
Georgie, F	7	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Well done Georgie you produced very good writing in the Spanish CAT
Harry, L	7	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Well done Harry you produced very good writing in the Spanish CAT.
Bella, M	7	Academic Distinction	English	Excellent effort and attainment in her recent CAT, in which she gained full marks for analytical writing skills.
Maëla, MG	7	Academic Distinction	English	A fabulous piece of analytical writing, showing a mature engagement with the words and devices used by the poet.
Sofia, N-V	7	Academic Distinction	MFL	Sofia has been awarded an Academic Distinction for her fantastic film in which she has used different forms of joker with opinions to talk about Bobbies (shoes). She has worked extremely hard on her pronunciation.
Henry, S	7	Academic Distinction	DT	Excellent model making skills for geometric shapes lesson and homework.
Grace, T	7	Academic Distinction	MFL	Grace created an amazing movie with captions about sports and activities in which she wrote superb sentences with opinions.
Louisa, W	7	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Fantastic writing in Spanish CAT showing you had remembered to include key points.
Evie, W	7	Academic Distinction	MFL	For her perseverance and the quality of her work. This is exceptional. She has made excellent use of her sentence builder to extend her writing.
Thomas, B	8	Academic Distinction	RS	Thomas has produced a wonderful piece of work and expanded his knowledge through further research. It was lovely to read!
Ella, C	8	Academic Distinction	RS	Ella has produced a wonderful piece of work in her most recent CAT. Her attention to detail was fantastic and so were her responses. It was so lovely to read!
Maia, C	8	Academic Distinction	RS	Maia has produced a beautiful piece of work for her most recent CAT. It was a pleasure to read such wonderful work and your independent research was fantastic.
Dominic, F	8	Academic Distinction	RS	Dominic has produced an outstanding piece of work for his CAT going above and beyond. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading his work and I'm very proud of what he has achieved.
Chloe G-D	8	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Well done in Spanish Reading and Translation CAT achieving over 80%.
Ciara, H	8	Academic Distinction	Science	Ciara achieved 100% in her Sound CAT, which shows her incredible resilience and aspiration - especially since we began this topic during lock down. In my 16 years of teaching I've never marked a paper where the pupil achieved 100%!
Holly, J	8	Academic Distinction	RS	A fantastic (extended learning opportunity) homework. Immense time and care has been put into a project that scored full marks.
Holly, J	8	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Well done Holly in your Spanish Reading and Translation CAT achieving over 80%.
Ruaraidh, M	8	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Ruaraidh submitted an excellent piece of revision for his recent writing CAT in Spanish including vocabulary and structures that we have not covered in class and organised his revision notes excellently. The quality of the notes and the content included are of Foundation GCSE level.
Lucy, P	8	Academic Distinction	RS	Lucy has produced a lovely piece of work for her most recent CAT. It was so lovely to read and your attention to detail was fantastic. I thoroughly enjoyed reading your response.
Lolita-Belle, R	8	Academic Distinction	RS	Lolita has produced a beautiful piece of work for her recent CAT. It was so lovely to see and hear you present this to me with your family's help.

Academic Distinctions

Pupil	Year	Award	Subject	Teacher's Comment
Olivia, S	8	Academic Distinction	RS	Olivia has produced a beautiful piece of work in her recent CAT and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading this. I loved her design and her attention to detail.
Paige, S	8	Academic Distinction	DT	For exceeding the assignment expectations for making a model of the Houses of Parliament, and demonstrating excellent designing and making skills.
Freya, W	8	Academic Distinction	DT	For pushing herself to complete making all seven 3D geometric shapes in lesson to a high quality and then making two of the challenge shapes as homework.
Natasha, H	9	Academic Distinction	DT	Excellent card model of Tower Bridge, showing fantastic model making skills
Natasha, H	9	Academic Distinction	Geography	Tash produced a fantastic piece of work on the Three Gorges Dam in China. She produced a power point covering all the aspects she was asked to include in plenty of detail and presented it in an effective manner.
Manny, J	9	Academic Distinction	History	Excellent curated museum exhibition presentation on 5 key weapons of WW1 and their significance.
Kezia, O	9	Academic Distinction	Geography	Kezia produced a fantastic piece of work on the Three Gorges Dam in China. She produced a PowerPoint covering all the aspects she was asked to include in plenty of detail and presented it in an effective manner.
Sofia, R	9	Academic Distinction	DT	Sofia has produced an outstanding piece of work on what she imagines a Smart Home of the Future to look like. She came up with a wide range of devices that would make our life more comfortable, had devices to save energy and also covered security devices. The drawing of her future home was absolutely superb.
Sofia, R	9	Academic Distinction	French	For her super written work in which she used time phrases, the perfect tense and justifications effectively. She extended all her sentences by using complex structures and combined tenses effectively. This is very impressive.
Tallulah, W	9	Academic Distinction	Geography	Tallulah created a fantastic piece of work on the Three Gorges Dam. She presented her research as a video including changing images in the background. She covered all the information clearly and in detail.
Ayaan, A	10	Academic Distinction	Spanish	For showing amazing tenacity and improving a piece of writing so that it was executed at the most outstanding level achieving 31/32 using some very complex language.
Lydia, C	10	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Amazing grammar learning of present and future tenses.
Lydia, C	10	Academic Distinction	Spanish	An excellent 150 words that achieved full marks. What an outstanding standard for Year 10!
Sophia, F	10	Academic Distinction	Spanish	Amazing grammar learning for present and future tenses.
Dhara, M	10	Academic Distinction	Spanish	For extensive and excellent revision work on the topic of school.
Lila, B	11	Academic Distinction	Art	Excellent standard of work, creative use of colour and materials.
Lottie, B	11	Academic Distinction	Art	Excellent standard of drawing and creative use of colour in the natural forms project.
Rebecca, C	11	Academic Distinction	Art	Excellent progress, creative use of materials, media and techniques.
Clara, E	11	Academic Distinction	Art	Excellent standard of work with fantastic use of colour.
Olivia, G	11	Academic Distinction	Art	Excellent progress and creative use of media throughout component 1.
Rosie, K		Academic Distinction	English	Rosie produced a grade 9 essay in response to a task in which we were reviewing the process of planning, structuring and organising ideas. The fact that Rosie was able to produce such high quality work in the available time is commendable.
Aimee, P	11	Academic Distinction	Art	Excellent progress throughout year 11.



PTA Spring Term Update

Considering we've all been pretty much under house arrest since Christmas, it's been quite a busy term for the PTA.

We managed to squeeze in two social events with our Wine Tasting Evening and travel themed Quiz Night. Our Nearly New Sale on Saturday was busier than ever - there has clearly been lots of growing during lockdown.

Thanks to your generosity we have exceeded our COVID in the Community Fundraiser target and, if we include school lunch donations, it takes us to just over £3,000. Thank you all very much! This has allowed us to continue supporting our community in difficult times. To date this year, we have supported ESH (with toiletry supplies as requested by ITU staff), St Catherine's Hospice, our ambulance crews and this week we delivered 12 coffee machines to the CEO of ESH.

The PTA sponsored DofE pen pal scheme is underway and going really well and our food bank continues too.

And, finally 423 Easter eggs for some extra special people.

Before I go, thank you to those PTA members who have worked so hard this term - you know who are you.

Happy Easter and I hope the Easter Bunny delivers you all an abundance of chocolate!

A Letter to our Children

Our very own stars, our very own key workers.

On behalf of the PTA team, we want to say a monumental thank you - **YOU ROCK.**

March 2019 - one year ago - when your worlds were turned upside down overnight and you were told:

- * stay home,
- * don't see your friends,
- * don't play sport,
- * don't go out,
- * don't go to school!

And then this term - repeat all that again!

You should ALL be incredibly proud of yourselves, as we are of you. You've experienced a rollercoaster of emotions this past year - from loneliness, anger, sadness, frustration, boredom, confusion and more. You even had to master home learning via Teams on the iPad.

But, as hard as it has felt at times, you've done it and for that alone we are all hugely proud of you.

You have shown how great you are - resilient, adaptable, courageous, capable ... all these skills and more that will make you even greater stars in the future.

Be proud.

You absolutely ROCK.



Easter Activities to Support Wellbeing

Easter is almost here and we're all looking forward to a break and (hopefully) some sunshine!

While some lockdown restrictions are lifting from 29th March, allowing six people or two households to meet outdoors, Easter gatherings will certainly not be what they usually are. Many of us will be praying for sunshine to allow us to spend time with some family and friends outside. We have included some suggestions below to help you stay connected to those whom you might not be able to see during the holidays.

- Crafts with the kids - if your children can't be with loved ones this Easter, you could ask them to create an Easter card to send to include them in your family day.
- An Easter cake bake-off on Zoom - if you have competitive family members, you could have a competition to see who can create/decorate the best Easter Cake.
- A live Easter egg hunt - you could live stream an easter egg hunt via Zoom or Facetime with loved ones so they can feel like part of the fun with the kids.
- Live Lamb Cam - if you have little ones who love visiting the baby lambs during Easter, while we can't visit farms at the moment, Walby Farm Park in the Lake District have set up a live lamb cam so your little ones can watch the lambs! Click here: <https://www.walbyfarmpark.co.uk/lamb-cam/>
- Hide a Cadbury's easter egg - if you want to add a bit of excitement to your easter gifts this year, Cadbury's have created a digital 'find the egg' hunt. Using their website, you can drop a digital egg in a specific spot and once the recipient finds it, they'll receive a real Cadbury's easter egg in the post.
Click here: <https://worldwidehide.cadbury.co.uk/select-egg>
- Create your own outdoor cinema/picnic/pizza party with friends (if you don't have a projector then simply set up your laptop or iPad). Click here for ideas <https://www.idealhome.co.uk/garden/garden-ideas/how-to-make-an-outdoor-cinema-169950>



Finally - spending time in green space or bringing nature into your everyday life can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing. For example, doing things like growing food or flowers, exercising outdoors or being around animals can have lots of positive effects including:

- ◇ Improving your mood
- ◇ Reducing feelings of stress
- ◇ Helping you take time out and feel more relaxed
- ◇ Improving your physical health
- ◇ Helping you be more active



Look out for the next issue of our wellbeing magazine, Oasis, next term.

