



Dunottar News

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To see and hear pupils and staff actively engaged in learning in school is so refreshing after the period of lockdown. I am delighted with the way that Dunottar

pupils and staff have just got on with school life, which is rich and varied. I have thoroughly enjoyed dropping into lessons, watching our cricketers develop their skills and supporting the cast of the musical, Sister Act, as they prepare for two performances later in June. The community is alive and well, no more so than last Friday at the eagerly anticipated (and much whatsapped!) Staff vs Parents football match which took place at ORRFC, with Covid-19 compliant hospitality in the clubhouse after the game.

This week, we said a fond farewell to all our Year 13 pupils. They have shown true Dunottar spirit through what has been a very difficult year and we wish them all the best with their endeavours as they move from A Levels to university, gap years and work. We look forward to seeing them all again, along with all the Year 11s, for the Prize Giving celebration on Friday 18th June.

After half term, we have a full and busy schedule. Years 7 and 8 will be collaborating across departments in Arts Week to put on an abridged version of Macbeth, while pupils in Years 9 and 10 will enjoy the delights of Culture, Community and Charity Week. Pupils in year 12 will undertake our UCAS programme including how to write their personal statement and how to apply to universities, apprenticeships and gap years. On the penultimate day of term, we will be holding our annual Sports Day, led by our inspiring PE team, at ORRFC.

Best wishes
Mark Tottman
Headmaster

Year 13 and 11 Celebrations

After what has been a particularly difficult year for our Year 11 and 13 pupils, this week they were able to relax and enjoy their end of year celebrations.

On Wednesday, our Year 13 pupils enjoyed a special celebration lunch with the Sixth Form teaching team, followed by some very competitive, old school sports day activities outside in the sunshine. There was also an interesting mix of outfits on Dress Up Thursday! Year 11 received their commemorative hoodies and will be taking part in some games and activities later on today.



DofE is Back!

We were delighted to be able to invite pupils working towards their Silver DofE Award to attend their Expedition Training Day at Dunottar on Sunday 25th April. The training was run by staff from Bright Expeditions and included skills and knowledge needed for their expedition such as navigation, camp craft, route planning, first aid and kit advice. The expedition will take place on the South Downs in June.



Charity

Year 9 Fundraising Activities

Our Year 9 pupils have been busy raising money for their two selected charities—Macmillan Cancer Support and Guide Dogs UK. Pupils designed a three-part fundraising initiative, which started with sponsored car washing taking place at lunchtime over the last two weeks. Staff have been eager to donate their hard earned cash, in exchange for a shiny, clean car! Pupils also offered their car washing services at home to friends and family, in return for a donation to their chosen good causes.

The second event was a half-termly mufti day, held on Friday 21st May. After half term, pupils will be participating in a fancy-dress endurance event as part of their activity week. Full details are yet to be revealed... watch this space!

If you would like to support this fundraising initiative please [DONATE HERE](#).



Dunottar Cricket Teams Go From Strength to Strength

In what has been a very damp start to the cricket season, we have managed to have great success across both boys' and girls' cricket programmes this half term, in particular in the U14 and U15 county boys cup competitions.

Our U15 boys cricket side made it to the quarter finals of the county cup after beating Caterham School by 30 runs and beating Reigate Grammar School by ten wickets. After a very close game, they lost to Trinity School by just four runs.

Our U14 boys have made it to the quarter final due to be played after half term against Wilsons School, after beating Lingfield College in the first round and Caterham in the second, by seven wickets.

The U12 girls finished in third place in the Surrey County Starburst Soft Ball Cricket Festival held at Ewell Castle on the 11th May, beating Guildford High, Ibstock Place, Collingwood College and Kingsdale Foundation along the way.

The U12 girls also had great success against Emanuel School on Friday 14th May, with both A and B teams bringing home a win.

On top of excellent performances within fixtures against internal and external opposition teams, we have been incredibly proud of the regular weekly attendance at our after-school training sessions, which has seen great numbers from start to finish.

This term goes down in history at Dunottar as it saw the school put out its first ever 1st XI side who have played external matches vs Reigate Priory, Ewell Castle, Royal Russell and St Johns.

As a school, we look forward to some excellent block fixtures coming up after half term against Cedars, Royal Russell, Felton Fleet, as well as our yearly house cricket event.

We wish everyone a restful half term.



Robotics Engineers in the Making

Pupils in Year 7 have been learning how to code Lego Mindstorm robots in their Computer Science lessons. They've been set diverse team challenges such as using ultrasonic sensors to make the robot stop as it approaches an obstacle. Design and engineering skills were developed by building Lego attachments for the robots (and modifying them repeatedly!) These attachments were then used to rescue an object and return it safely to base. Amongst the successes were some recalcitrant robots who had a mind of their own, but that only added to the fun and noisy competition.

Computing is about solving problems with creativity; there are many job opportunities available for pupils with these in-demand skills. In the future, robots will be part of our everyday lives and industry forecasters predict that demand for pupils with technical and creative ability is set to increase. I hope we have some robotics engineers in the making.



Pupil Mental Health Live Event With Hyphen

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, on Friday 14th May our Year 9, 10 and 12 pupils attended a virtual event with a mental health guest speaker. Aadarsh Gautam, aka. Hyphen is a rap artist and mental health spokesperson who has been featured in the Evening Standard, Metro and on the BBC talking about his experiences with mental health.

His talk was honest, relatable, and meaningful. We appreciated his mantra of "Sleep Well Keep Well" and "Be Open" as it resonates with everyday life no matter what your circumstances. He was brave to admit he'd had his own struggles, showing vulnerability, and turning it into a strength which felt empowering for us as listeners. The anonymous, interactive Q&A session at the end really gave pupils the opportunity to be honest and ask questions they might not have been brave enough to openly ask. It was an inspirational, uplifting talk despite the heavy themes.



Junior Maths Challenge

Well done to all of our year 7 and 8 pupils who participated in the Junior Maths Challenge this year. Special congratulations go to Millie B who achieved a silver certificate and best in school.

The following pupils received silver certificates:

Millie B
James B
Martha C
Adam G
Jess W

The following pupils received bronze certificates:

Ahaan C	Johnny H	Ruaraidh M
Olivia C	Josh H	Joe M
Maia C	Emily I	Khyan P
Edward C	Grace I	Sasha S
Will C	Wilbur J	Molly T
Sophie D	Francis K	Louisa W
Filipe D	Michael L	
Thomas D	Sadie M	

Understanding Your Teenager—Nicola Morgan

In this interactive and engaging webinar, Nicola Morgan – the teenage brain woman – provided parents with scientific evidence and research into understanding teenage brains, minds and lives; how wellbeing affects learning; the truth of screens and social media; dealing with exam stress and anxiety; the science of sleep; the art of resilience and the benefits of reading for pleasure (readaxation!) It was fascinating to learn about brain bandwidth (think broadband bandwidth) and how this is relevant to wellbeing, stress and performance. As with broadband, when something is occupying a lot of bandwidth, other tasks happen more slowly and less well. Nicola explained that teenagers often feel that they are not in control and it is important for young people to put their energy into what they can control for positive wellbeing. She described this as a four-legged table – 1: food and water, 2: physical exercise, 3: sleep and 4: relaxation. Nicola stressed the importance of relaxation. Relaxation is not a luxury but a vital and integral element of good wellbeing. If one 'leg' is weak, the whole table collapses.



Nicola highlighted some simple and fun things that teenagers can do to help look after their wellbeing and provided expert advice regarding practical strategies to help parents during the Q&A session. Nicola has answered all Dunottar parents' questions in a blog post on her website www.nicolamorgan.com/all-articles.

At Dunottar, we aim to work in partnership with parents to offer support and guidance for any challenges or concerns our pupils face.



Staff vs Parents Football Match Leaves Staff Victorious

Friday 21st May saw the rematch of our annual Parents vs Staff 11 a-side football match. Bragging rights were up for grabs following the 2-2 draw the last time these two sides met. Both sides had large squads and had players making their debuts which definitely improved the standard, including the player of the match for the parents' team, Mr Eggleton.



The game was played in very testing windy conditions down at Old Reigatians RFC which led to a very close and cagey affair. The first half was

tense with neither side wanting to overcommit. The busier of the two goalkeepers was the parents' man in the sticks, Mr O'Connor, who made several key saves. The deadlock was eventually broken on the 35 minute mark when the staff team were awarded a freekick inside their opponents' half. Mr Taylor stood over the ball and played a lofty ball over the top of the parents' defence to an unmarked Mr Everett who volleyed the ball across the goal into the far corner. The first half ended 1-0, so all was to play for in the second half.

When the game resumed the staff team picked up where they left off playing some great football but with no end product. The parents' team threatened but

struggled to create anything in the final third of the pitch. The staff team doubled their lead around the 60 minute mark when they were awarded a corner which came into the box but then made its way back out to the corner taker, Mr Myers, who put in a dangerous ball across the 6 yard box. Again, unmarked at the back post and running in to finish was Mr Everett to make it 2-0 to the staff. The parents' team responded well and got on top in the later stages of the game. They eventually broke the lock with 10 minutes to go when Mr Harper saw his shot rebound off the post to Mr Haylock who tapped in. The last few minutes of the game saw the parents' team go all out on the attack which led to the staff team having chances to finish off the game on the counter attack, but, thanks to some great saves from Mr O'Connor, they were unable to do so. The parents' team continued to push on and created a few half chances but the staff team managed to hold on for a 2-1 win. They took the PTA cup trophy back to Dunottar with them and they now have bragging rights for next year's game, which we hope to play on Saturday 26th March 2022 after house football.



History

The Black Tudors and Votes for Women

Year 7 and Year 8 historians have been learning about the Black Tudors and the campaign for votes for women respectively. Their lessons have been based around the recent scholarship of historians Miranda Kaufmann and Dr Fern Riddell, in their books 'Black Tudors' and 'Death in Ten Minutes'. What has particularly resonated with pupils has been the existence of blacks in England in the Tudor period who did not face racist challenges and the labelling of the suffragettes as 'terrorists'. This has provoked some really interesting discussions.



Year 5 Upcycling Challenge Winners Announced

Early this spring we invited pupils from local primary schools to take part in an upcycling challenge, to repurpose unwanted recyclable items.

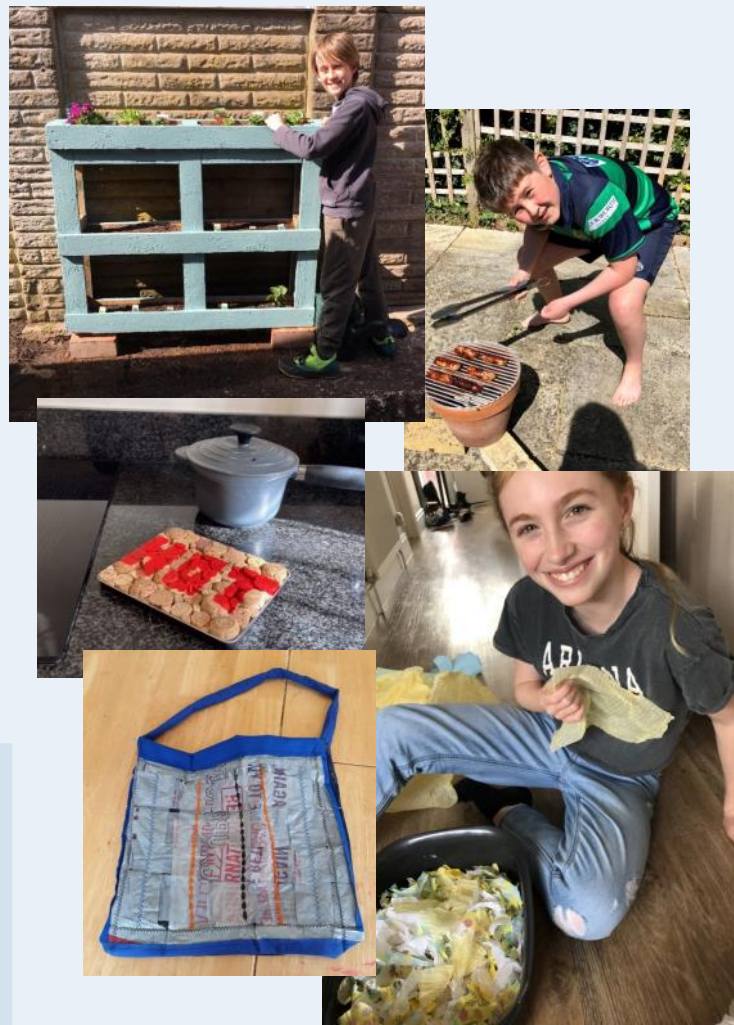
The idea was to communicate the value in 'repurposing', which eliminates the need for recycling (removing the associated energy costs).

"The standard of entries was particularly high for this challenge, with some truly original thinking that saw everyday household objects transformed into stunning new and purposeful objects." Mark Tottman, Headmaster

First prize was awarded to Arthur for his vertical garden. The judging panel, comprising Mr Tottman and Dunottar's physics department, found this to be most fitting with the upcycle theme – to take wasted wood and turn it into a piece that is visually appealing and sustainable.

Runner-up prizes were awarded to Henry for his upcycled handbag made from used plastic bags, Lila for her seeded notepaper made from waste wrapping paper and Daniel for his upcycled trivet made from discarded corks.

Headmaster Awards for creative thinking were also awarded to Owen for his hose reel bookshelf, Edward for his bicycle wheel clock and Ted for his flower-pot barbeque.



Our latest activity for Year 5 pupils is a photography competition. We would like you to have fun creating a word from everyday objects and shapes. If you can make out a letter of the alphabet in an object, then take a snap!

Further details about our Photography Competition can be found [here](#).

The deadline for entries is **Friday 11th June**.

Pelican eMagazine Cover Design Winner

Congratulations to Year 7 student Millie! Millie has designed this stunning front cover for the next edition of the Pelican, which will feature the best of our book, television and film reviews. She'll shortly be receiving a £10 Amazon gift voucher!



PTA May Update

It seems like we are now well and truly hurtling towards the summer, we just hope that the weather has caught up by the time you're reading this!

We have been busy this half term and are looking forward to the last half of term and beyond....

Ice Cream Friday!

To embrace the hopeful return of the summer weather we are now planning ice cream Friday to cool everyone down on 25th June.



Donut Day

We were delighted that our 500 Krispy Kreme donuts helped to bring some cheer on a cold and windy Friday in May.



Resources for school

We've been shopping for the school as well. Last week four wooden picnic tables arrived at our school and a further three garden benches are also on their way, following the request from students for more outdoor seating. Photos to follow.

We have also helped kick start the new Gardening Club – 2 storage sheds, plenty of compost and a selection of tools. The PTA will continue to support this project that encourages students to get outside which we all feel is more important than ever after months stuck indoors throughout winter on Microsoft Teams!

Continuing our community support

Our Foodbank support has continued this term, with parents responding to rallying calls for donations to Loveworks and St Matthew's Foodbank. We donated a record 26 bags, our highest number yet. Thanks so much for your generosity, the Foodbanks are extremely grateful as they continue to support individuals and families in our local area.

Join us on Instagram!

We are now live on Instagram @dunottar_school_pta – we will be keeping you up to date on all PTA activity so come and follow us and check out our grid.

We can't wait to finally see and meet you!

We really hope you've enjoyed the virtual events we've organised over the last seven months. We are now starting to plan for the Autumn when we very much hope we will be able to organise in-person events. We have plans for a return to school social and a quiz night – we will be in touch with more details.



We would love your ideas and help as we head towards the start of another school year. We are a small and friendly group always trying to think of new and interesting ideas to support the school, our children, the wider community and, of course, spread some joy amongst us parents and carers.

Please get in touch on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) or email us at info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk

Have a great half term break.





Introducing the New Heads of School

Earlier this month, we announced the appointment of our new Heads of School team comprising Sophie N, Head of School, supported by Deputy Heads of School, Cameron L and Hope B. Sophie and Hope are also part of our Sixth Form prefect ambassador team who 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.



Sophie—Environment

Throughout the year, I have worked with Mr Cotton researching various initiatives we can undertake, to do our bit for the environment. We plan to reinvigorate the eco-club and Dunottar's own version of the golden boot challenge to encourage people to look at more environmentally friendly ways to travel to and from school.

Hope—PSHE

I hope to get pupils' input on what they would like to cover in PSHE lessons, to ensure they get the most out of the sessions.

Upcoming Events

We are pleased to invite you to listen to our Chamber Ensemble Concert and Virtual Summer Concert which will be broadcast online. Details on how to watch the concerts will be circulated closer to the time.



Year 7 2022 Admissions—Key Dates

For pupils looking to join Dunottar in September 2022, below are the key dates for Admissions:

Registration Deadline:

30th September 2021

Scholarship Application Deadline:

30th September 2021

Warrior Learner Assessment Day and Interviews:

9th October 2021

Academic Entrance Assessments:

13th November 2021

Scholarship Assessments:

w/c 15th November 2021