



*Merry Christmas from
everyone at Dunottar School!*

Dunottar News

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Our term has ended on a festive high with a delicious Christmas lunch prepared by our fabulous

catering team, a live stream of our traditional Carol Service from St John's Church and some festive themed fun from our Sixth Formers and staff - a great way to round off 2021.

I must say a huge thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard, sometimes in very difficult circumstances, as we continue to offer the very best educational opportunities to our pupils during these continued uncertain times.

There have been many highlights from the last half term—from musical concerts to sporting achievements, charity events to baking competitions. Our pupils have been brilliant in how they have approached school life this term with enthusiasm, creativity and tenacity. They are true Warrior Learners!

I wish you all a safe and relaxing Christmas break.

Best wishes
Mark Tottman, Headmaster



Christmas Lunch

On Friday 10th December, pupils and staff donned their Christmas jumpers to raise money for Save the Children. We are pleased to say we raised £280 for this worthy cause.

To add to the already very festive atmosphere, our fabulous catering team served up a delicious Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, for all 460 pupils and staff as well! A huge thank you to everyone involved for making this event such a success!



Music—Concerts and Performances Galore!

Concert at St Matthew's

In November, our talented musicians gave a lunchtime concert at St. Matthew's Church in Redhill. The audience enjoyed the debut performances of 1000 Volts and the West End Singers, alongside solo performances by Ben W, Lily A, Anya T, Alexa B, Wilbur J, Chloe G-D, and Alexander S. Well done to all the musicians involved!



Informal Concert

Also in November, the Music Department was thrilled to host the first Informal Concert of the year. Performances ranged from 'Jupiter' (from Holst's *The Planets*) to Nirvana's 'Smells Like Teen Spirit'. Miss Pettet, Miss Reynolds and Mr McGibbon were very impressed by the number of students who signed up to play, and it was lovely to see so many first-time performers take to the stage.



Ensembles Concert

In December, the inaugural Ensembles Concert was a huge success. Although we were disappointed that we could not welcome a live audience, the pupils rose to the challenge of recording their music and put on some fantastic performances. A special mention must go to Mr Fernandez, Oscar DS, Morgan S and Josh G for their fantastic work lighting the stage, and producing audio and visual recordings of the event.



The Dunottar Choral Society is Recruiting!

We are a friendly choir comprising parents and friends of Dunottar, and we meet in term-time on Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.45pm (including a tea break). Rehearsals take place in the Ballroom. We sing a wide range of music, including classical, modern and musical theatre styles, and we welcome all singers, regardless of experience. To register interest, or with any enquiries, please contact e.pettet@dunottarschool.com.

We hope to see you soon!



Lunchtime Music Theory Lessons

Group lessons with Miss Reynolds,
starting in the Spring Term



Why study music theory?

- Grade 5 Theory is a prerequisite for ABRSM Grades 6-8 practical exams.
- Boost your GCSE and A Level understanding

Ideal for:

- Current or potential GCSE and A Level Music students who have not studied theory
- Anyone who learns an instrument or sings

Sessions will be on Monday, Wednesday or Friday lunchtimes, depending on numbers and your availability.

To sign up, and for more information and enquiries about fees, please contact e.reynolds@dunottarschool.com.



Academic Distinctions

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

Pupil	Year	Award	Subject	Teacher's Comment
Anya, H	7	Academic Distinction	Form	Anya has been a brilliant creative force in organising the form assembly. She's written the script for a play, directed the actors, and has taken on an acting role herself.
Maya, W	7	Academic Distinction	RS	Maya went above and beyond for her Religious Studies assessment. She produced a newspaper, instead of just an article, about the story of Genesis. The presentation was outstanding and the information was of great detail. Well done Maya!
Ruaraidh, M	9	Academic Distinction	MFL	Ruaraidh achieved 14/15 in a recent speaking photocard cat and 15/16 in a 90 word written task. Ruaraidh has worked very hard all term and has a warrior linguist approach to his language learning.
Emily, I	9	Academic Distinction	Drama	Absolutely SUPERB performance of extract of the play DNA for CAT. Emily demonstrated real maturity in the emotion she showed in her performance. It was completely engaging, and believable.
Holly, J	9	Academic Distinction	Drama	Absolutely SUPERB performance of extract of the play DNA for CAT. Holly demonstrated real maturity in the emotion she showed in her performance. It was completely engaging, and believable.
Holly, J	9	Academic Distinction	MFL	Holly achieved 14/15 in a recent speaking photocard cat and 15/16 in a 90 word written task. Holly has worked very hard all term and has a warrior linguist approach to her language learning.
Matthew, C	10	Academic Distinction	French	On top of an excellent term in French where Matt has worked tirelessly and contributed to all lessons, he went above and beyond in his preparation for the French oral CAT and correspondingly got a grade 9, exceeding his target grade. Outstanding.
Lewis, B	11	Academic Distinction	English	Outstanding presentation at the Speak Out Challenge.
Lewis, B	11	Academic Distinction	English	For collaborative team-working skills as chief editor of the Pelican magazine, taking on the bulk of proofreading and editing when Seb was ill. Lewis spent eight hours editing the magazine, showing great attention to accuracy and precision. He took enormous pride in the layout and presentation of the magazine. He did an excellent job!
Mark, G	11	Academic Distinction	Spanish	CAT 2 Speaking Mock Spanish achieved Grade 5 at Foundation. Mark gave his best spoken response to date in the Foundation speaking exam, giving confident replies and showed he had revised and practised very well. In class, Mark has shown excellent engagement, questioning, and clear note-taking this term which has clearly helped him both in speaking and listening.
Annie, L	11	Academic Distinction	English	Outstanding presentation at the Speak Out Challenge.
Annie, L	11	Academic Distinction	RS	A fantastic mini homework project that went above and beyond what was expected.
Henry, M-S	11	Academic Distinction	French	Henry identified his targets really early on and has attended every French intervention session at school. He has put in a lot of effort at home and worked consistently hard in lessons. Consequently, he has significantly improved and achieved his target grade in his French mock oral. Well done, Henry!
Dhara, M	11	Academic Distinction	MFL	CAT 2 Speaking Mock achieved Grade 9 at Higher. Dhara gave a virtually flawless spoken response to all aspects of the Higher speaking exam. Additionally, Dhara secured full marks in a listening paper under test conditions, and continually independently researches new vocabulary which she then effectively puts into practice.



Pupil	Year	Award	Subject	Teacher's Comment
Georgia, R-J	11	Academic Distinction	English	Outstanding presentation at the Speak Out Challenge.
Georgia, R-J	11	Academic Distinction	RS	A fantastic mini homework project that went above and beyond what was expected.
Livi, Vel	11	Academic Distinction	RS	A fantastic mini homework project that went above and beyond what was expected.
Seb, W	11	Academic Distinction	English	Outstanding presentation at the Speak Out Challenge.
Seb, W	11	Academic Distinction	English	For effort, dedication and commitment to the Pelican Club magazine. At one point, as chief editor, he even logged on to Teams and attended remotely when he was ill.
Isabella, G	12	Academic Distinction	English	Excellent analysis of two texts in English literature, in which she explored ideas using feminist and Marxist critical theory.
Abigail, G	12	Academic Distinction	English	Excellent analysis of two texts in English literature, in which she explored ideas using feminist and Marxist critical theory.

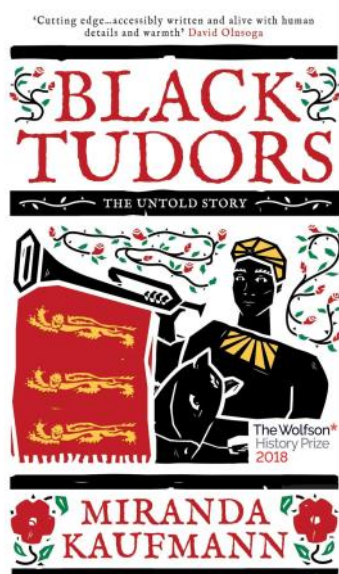
Speak Out Challenge

In October, the English department hosted its annual Year 11 Speak Out Challenge, judged by Mr Tottman and last year's winner Lila. Congratulations to Seb for being our 2021 winner, and also to our runners up Lewis, Annie and Georgia. All the finalists received an Amazon gift voucher.

Thank you to Dr McClure for organising the event.



History Department—Remembrance and Black Tudors



Thank you to the History department for their Remembrance Assembly earlier this term which focused on the war in Afghanistan.

The war in Afghanistan, 2001-2014



Black Tudors

Year 8 pupils have been enjoying learning some more diverse history this half term through their study of the Black Tudors based on the book by historian Miranda Kaufman. They have been intrigued by the individuals they have studied such as John Blanke, who featured on the Westminster Tournament Roll of 1511 as a trumpeter in the royal court of Henry VIII, Jacques Francis a salvage diver working on Henry VIII's warship, the Mary Rose and Mary Fillis who was a seamstress in London who was baptised into the Anglican Church.

Pupils have been fascinated by the lack of racism in Tudor society and have asked probing questions such as 'so, when and why did racism develop?' which they will begin to understand a little more in their Year 9 history lessons.



The Winner of the Great Dunottar Bake Off is....



Congratulations to Caspar for his incredible baking! Mrs French was very impressed with your beautiful presentation and creative ideas.

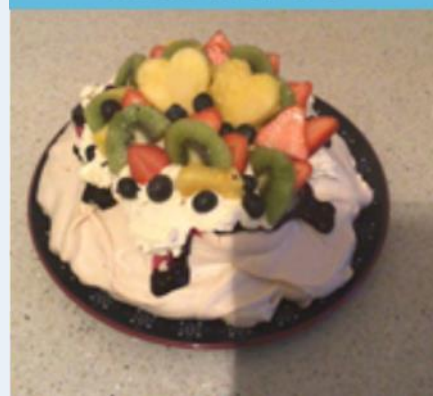
Our congratulations also go to our three runners up Ursula, Sophie and Maëlla.

In the house competition, St Patrick's took first place, followed by St David's in second, St George's in third and St Andrew's in fourth place.

Well done to everyone who took part—we have some very talented bakers at Dunottar!



Runner up
Maëlla M-G, Yr 8



Year 5 Christmas Baking Competition

We would like to invite any pupils in Year 5 in the local area to take part in our exciting Christmas Baking Competition, based on the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. Further details on how to enter the competition can be found [here](#).

Please send photographs of your entries to bcreative@dunottarschool.com by 5th January 2022.

Have fun baking over the holidays!



BEBRAS – Oxford University Computational Thinking Competition

All KS3 students, along with those taking GCSE and A Level Computing, took part in this competition in November. There were a number of logical thinking puzzles to solve online in 40 minutes. Over 280,000 children in the country took part. Well done to everyone!

The person scoring the highest mark at Dunottar in each category was :

- Juniors - Max R
- Intermediates - Evie H
- Seniors - Alexa B and Jasper S
- Elite - Tom P

The following students were awarded special Gold certificates for achieving a score in the top 10% in the country:

- Year 7: Max R, James L, Thomas V
- Year 8: Evie H, Daniel R, Tabitha C, William S, Grace T, Sofia N-V
- Year 9: Thomas DMM, Khyan P, Emmanuelle A-P, Ciara H, Sarah D, Ella C

The puzzle on the right is an example from this year's challenge.

Click here: [Challenges - UK Bebras](#) for this year's questions. If you fancy yourself as a logical thinker have a go!

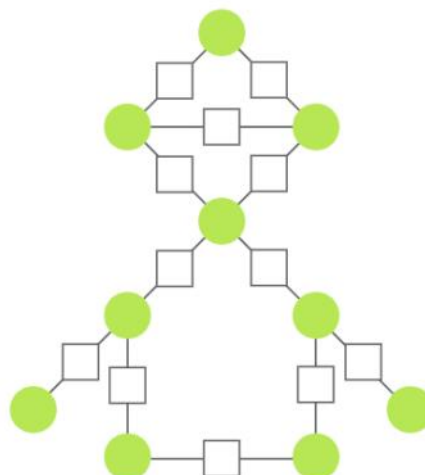
A town planner has decided that every village needs to have at least one grocery store near it. A grocery store is said to be near a village if it can be reached without passing through another village to get to it.

In the diagram below:

- Green circles represent villages.
- Squares represent where grocery stores could be opened.
- The lines connecting them represent streets.

Task:

Click on the squares in the map below to open the minimum number of grocery stores that will satisfy the town planner. (Remember to press Save when you have finished.)



The 12 DAYS OF DUNOTTAR SCHOOL PTA! Here's what we have been up to...



1. East Surrey Hospital Pyjamas Appeal

With your help, we collected four huge bags of pyjamas to go to children who need to stay in hospital over Christmas. Thank you!

2. Foodbank collections

You have continued supporting Loveworks and St Matthew's Foodbank with a fantastic collection last week. Let's hope this Friday is our best collection yet to support people in need over the holidays.



3. The Lucy Rayner Foundation – Working in Partnership

In our October newsletter we wrote about the COVID fundraiser donation we were going to make to The Lucy Rayner Foundation, and a few weeks ago we were able to hand over a cheque for £3,000 to Becky and Jenny (Lucy's sister and Mum). At a time when the mental health of our younger generation is being so challenged, providing support for local mental health and well-being is important.



We are also really pleased to announce that Dunottar is going to work with the foundation to bring more mental health education into our school, for our children and staff.

And what better way to "KICK" start 2022 (burn off the mince pies) than with a friendly but competitive charity football match.

Friday 28th January 2022, under the floodlights at South Park FC, a Dunottar football team will play The Lucy Rayner Foundation football team.

Calling all would-be Maradonas - we need a Dunottar Team! If you know Ronaldo or Sala could you check their availability and if that doesn't work, if you've got a pair of football boots, vaguely know the rules .. email Rebecca at info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk and join in the fun for a very worthy cause.

Keep the date free to come and support your school - more details to follow. It will be a fun evening for all.



4. Star Tents

With more events needing to take place outside, and with such lovely grounds in which to host events, the PTA have bought two fabulous star tents for the school to use.

5. Winter Warmer Drinks

It was so lovely to see so many guests at our first in-person social event for almost two years. With the fire pits roaring and new star tents decorated with fairy lights, we enjoyed an evening of drinks, Pizza Project pizza, chilled out music and toffee vodka shots. We think this will become a firm fixture on the PTA calendar.



6. Nearly New Uniform Sale

We ran our nearly new uniform sale back in October, rehoming outgrown Dunottar uniform and raising funds for the school in the process.



7. Treats for Everyone!

After a long Autumn term, we figured everyone needs a festive treat! Christmas wishes to all of the pupils and staff from the PTA (chocolates will be delivered on the last day of term).

8. Gin Tasting at the Vineking

Following the success of last year's virtual wine tastings, this week we hosted a gin tasting evening at the Vineking. Look out for photos on Dunottar PTA Facebook and Instagram.



9. Christmas Wreath Making with The Giant Pledge

We were once again delighted to co-host some wreath making sessions with The Giant Pledge with the proceeds going to support their fantastic appeal which

supports the paediatric oncology team at The Royal Marsden. The creative juices were flowing and Christmas tunes playing as wreaths were made to adorn front doors in Reigate and beyond!

10. The Secrets Stall

A long-held Dunottar tradition, this week has seen the PTA organise the Secrets Stall where children can choose to buy surprise gifts for their parents or family members. Look out under the tree for your secret!



11. Save the Date for the Return of the Quiz!

The quiz team are gearing up to host a love-filled special quiz on Friday 4th February. We'll be in touch early in the new year with more details so, for now, save the date, and get the Trivial Pursuit out over Christmas.



12. And That's a Wrap!

All that remains is to wish you all a fabulous Christmas break and a great start to 2022. While we haven't faced the same level of disruption as last year, we know that circumstances have still been very challenging for the school and our thanks go to all of the staff at Dunottar for doing such a great job of keeping everything running. Thanks for your support this term and we look forward to achieving more as a PTA next year.

If you'd like to join the PTA, particularly if you are interested in helping with social media and communications, please contact us! info@dunottarschoolpta.co.uk

We are a very friendly bunch always looking for new people and new ideas.



Dunottar Football Cup Success

For the first time ever we've seen two of our football teams progress to the last 16 of the English Schools' National Cup. Our Year 9s were the first team to progress through to the 4th round after a convincing 4-1 against Lancing College. Our Year 8 boys matched this feat beating Archbishop Tenison's CofE High School 4-2. Both sides have been drawn against Lingfield College in the last 16 with the Year 9 boys unfortunately losing their closely contested tie 4-2 on Monday 13th December. It was a great experience for the boys who got to play this game at Dorking Wanderers Stadium, Meadowbank Football Ground and they had their peers there supporting them. The Year 8s are away to Lingfield with this tie being played in January and we hope that they can make history by becoming the first Dunottar football team to make the quarter finals of the cup.



Rugby

It's been great to return to a full season of competitive rugby following a year's absence from the sport. There have been some great games throughout the season across all age groups. Irrespective of the results, in individual games, or throughout the season, each team has come on considerably, representing the school exceptionally well, and displaying the Warrior Learner characteristics in abundance on the rugby field.

The U12A were unbeaten all season, but came up against a very strong and well organized Epsom College outfit in their final game. There is great hope for this team moving forward, and competition for a place in the A squad is evident, with wonderful strength in depth and boys knocking on the door from the squads below.



The U13s have been a pleasure to coach all season, and combinations of injuries/unavoidable unavailability to some of the more influential players impacted us throughout the season. However, the progress shown from the start of the season to the end was clear and evident. Tackling and rucking principally came on in leaps and bounds. The respective squads' attitudes and work rate cannot be faulted.



The U14A and B team have also had good campaigns. The U14A team put in some huge performances throughout the season, often against far stronger and bigger (in stature) opponents. The way the boys conducted themselves in adversity at times throughout the season, is also worth noting - a credit to the school. The U14Bs have trained and played with enjoyment throughout the term, and we look forward to seeing this continue as they move into the U15 ranks next term.

The U15s have had a stellar season. Mr Lowe has invested huge time and effort into their tactical and technical understanding of their game as individuals and as a team, and the squad have been motivated and engaged throughout. The season finished on Saturday as a B team take on Claremont Fan Court once again. However, for the A team, the season has culminated in two strong wins against Ewell Castle and RAA, where team defence was the crucial factor, as both games were won without a point being conceded. We look forward to seeing how this group of boys develop as we move to sevens and ultimately U16 rugby next year.



The U16 and U18 XV squads have had a number of fixtures this year, displaying exceptional camaraderie throughout the season. Again, injuries have plagued the team at different stages. But it was a reflective final game vs Whitgift on 8th December, as the Year 13s played their final 15-a-side game for the school. Three of the boys would have played in the first Year 7 rugby match for the cohort many moons ago, vs Caterham at Reigate Rugby Club in 2015. What a journey these boys have been on, having been the original first co-ed 11+ entry, in many ways trailblazing the way for the success that has followed. As well as how they've developed as rugby players, with many now playing club rugby, and in the case of Ollie, Surrey County selection once again this year, what is most pleasing to see is how these once young and fresh faced 11 year olds are now fantastic and mature young adults.

We now move to the 7s season alongside football, with some form of tournament entries for all age groups, and the U14s and U16s will represent the school at the National School Sevens at Rosslyn Park too.

Netball

This term, Aces High Performance Netball Club have started their Surrey Squad using Dunottar as their training base. Many of our Dunottar pupils have earned a place in the squad and are benefitting from the high quality coaching delivered by Rowena Fairclough. Our partnership with London Pulse Netball also continues with representation in the Pulse Hubs for some of our high flyers. Many of our pupils are now representing top quality clubs and are competing in the Surrey Junior Netball League or South Regional League, in addition to their Saturday Dunottar fixtures. We are extremely proud of all of these pupils and of the following girls who have made our honours board:

Keira P – Surrey Academy
Aimee D – Surrey Academy and Pulse Hub
Cerys G – Pulse Hub
Jemima W-W – Pulse Hub
Lolita R – Pulse Hub



Our students have shown great resilience this term with training and fixtures. Whilst we are lucky to be back enjoying fixtures, the teams have had to adjust and accommodate to the ongoing effects of Covid. After the Christmas break, we are set for a full Saturday programme and developing some links with new schools.

Festive fun at the annual December "Mash Up" tournaments.



Lacrosse

Now we are halfway through the lacrosse season our teams are all in great positions as we build up to the season finale of the National Schools taking place from 19th to 22nd March.

In order to help all the girls progress even faster, we are starting sessions before school on Mondays and Wednesdays that will be open to all years every week. These sessions will be focussed on individuals' needs whether it be passing, catching, cradling, dodging, defending, goalkeeping or shooting. We can't emphasise enough how important it is for the girls to regularly pick up their lacrosse sticks and practise. To help with this, there will be rebounders permanently available so that the girls can practise in any break or lunch time regardless of whether the sports hall is available. Regular videos on Sparkjar will be playing a bigger role in developing the tactical side of the girls' lacrosse and will hopefully help parents to understand the game better as well.



As with other sports, one major area that we are encouraging as a department is for the girls to attend clubs outside of school. Reigate Lacrosse Club, formerly known as Dragonflies, is the main chance the girls will get to train and play more regularly in the SEWLA (South East Women's Lacrosse Association) Junior Leagues. Both year 7 and 8 pupils are eligible for the U13 team, but currently, there are only year 7s attending. It would be great to see this continue to grow with the year 8s that have expressed interest also getting involved. The Year 9s and 10s have started training under floodlights on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:00pm at Reigate Rugby Club. We're hoping that a few more girls joining

their ranks will allow us to arrange friendlies to re-establish the U15 team that fell by the wayside as a result of Covid. Our Senior team players have been training and playing with the Reigate Senior team, improving greatly and winning some close games this season.

We have also had students representing the school at Regional Talent Pathway and competing in the U15 and U18 SEWLA Super Counties tournament. These are fantastic opportunities for the girls involved and we wish them all the luck as they progress.



Cross Country

We are immensely proud of all our pupils who represented the school at the District Cross Country in November, held at RAAS.

Special congratulations go to the two teams who took the District Team title—the Year 7 boys and the Year 9 girls. Well done!



Volleyball

In September this year, our sports department made Dunottar history, with the introduction of the school's very first recreational volleyball club, led by Coach Fernandez and Mrs Pieters. Just two months later, a very excited and nervous **Dunottar Warriors Volleyball Team** played their first fixture against Christ's College (Guildford), supported by a team of proud parents and coaches.



Careers Update

During this autumn term, the careers department have arranged multiple talks in order to get pupils thinking about the future.

The term kicked off with some ex-pupils talking to our current Sixth Formers about their university and apprenticeship experience, describing the benefits of both routes and giving some useful survival tips for university.

Psychology is now one of the most popular courses to study at university and in September we had a fascinating talk from Clinical Psychologist Laura Baxter, giving details of both the job and the routes into the career. Crypto currencies were the subject of the next talk from Dom Longman. Although a highly technical and niche industry, the message was clear that these industries employ a very wide range of skills and very much look for the rounded student, with a wealth of “softer skills”. An emotional talk was led by ex - policeman Spence Ogilvie in which he read a poem on the harsh realities of being in the police force. This talk highlighted the passion often required to follow a career caring and protecting people. The final talk this term was delivered via a performance by Enact Solutions to Year 9 on the multitude of careers in the NHS. This was a highly energetic, entertaining, and informative performance highlighting the enormous number of different roles within the fifth largest employer in the world.



Issy J and Jess M

“The NHS performance was very engaging—you learnt a lot in half an hour!”

Yasmine, Year 9

“I went to the NHS Talk which was very helpful. The performance showed many different aspects of jobs in the industry and gave us many options to think about.”

Freya, Year 9

The careers department would welcome any parent who would like to contribute to the programme by talking to the students about their career or industry.

Community

Caring at Christmas

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to run our Caring at Christmas event on site for elderly residents of Reigate and Redhill. Parents, staff and pupils have therefore adapted the event again this year and we are delivering 250 Christmas cards, handwritten by pupils in years 7 and 8, 150 gift bags filled with goodies and a happy Christmas Flier from Dunottar. Deliveries began on 13th December.



Dunottar School Open Events in 2022

We will be hosting a number of Open Events in school in the spring term. These events will involve a presentation from Mr Mark Tottman, Headmaster, our Deputy Head Academic, Mrs Janine Hislop and our Deputy Head Pastoral, Mr Marc Broughton.

Tuesday 25th January, 4.30pm
Thursday 3rd February, 4.30pm
Thursday 24th February, 4.30pm
Tuesday 1st March, 4.30pm
Tuesday 29th March, 4.30pm

To book your place please visit
www.dunottarschool.com/admissions or call 01737 761945
We look forward to welcoming you to Dunottar.

Key Dates for Year 7 2023 Admission

If you are planning on applying for a place for your child in Year 7 2023, please note the following key dates:

Registration Deadline:	28th September 2022 at 9am
Scholarship Application Deadline:	28th September 2022 at 9am
Warrior Learner Assessment Day and Interviews:	8th October 2022
Academic Entrance Assessments:	12th November 2022
Scholarship Assessments:	w/c 14th November 2022

Congratulations!



A huge congratulations to Tallulah who won the Junior Gold Star Ballroom and Latin American competition and is the 2021 Junior ISTD champion.



Well done to Jemima who got the chance to play with her Aces netball team at the Copperbox Arena during the Fast Five Netball championships.

