



# Durants News

February 2013

## Letter to Parents/Carers

Hopefully the dark nights and cold weather of winter will soon be behind us. We all know how hard it is to get up on dark mornings. All credit to all our pupils though, as well as the staff, who yet again have been working extremely hard since coming back in January.

Our attendance has remained very good and I would again urge you not to keep your son/daughter at home unless they are too unwell to come in. Similarly I would also ask that if you feel your child is too unwell to learn or will pass germs to others then keep them at home until they are better. This is all a fine balance but hopefully this will ensure all our pupils will be able to make the best of their learning opportunities. We will only ever contact you if we feel your child is too unwell to learn or will pass germs onto other pupils and staff.

## Charity Shop

Durants will be setting up our own charity shop in conjunction with Waverley School in the near future. We have acquired the lease on a shop at the bottom of Hoe Lane, about five minutes walk from school. The aim of the shop will be to:-

Raise money for Durants School

Provide work experience for our pupils

### Additionally Resourced Provision

Durants has been commissioned by the Local Authority to set up a new unit for pupils with autism in a mainstream secondary school. The aim of the unit will be to provide those young people with autism who could benefit from mainstream lessons access to mainstream lessons. We will be setting up a class in Winchmore School in September. We are currently assessing whether any pupils currently at Durants may benefit from such a provision.

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### Inside this issue:

A note from Headteacher	1
Charity Shop	
Coffee mornings	2
Trips	
Governors	2
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	3
Valentine cards	3
Art Room News	4
Fundraising	
End of Term	4
Transition	

Raise the profile and understanding of autism in the local community.

More information will follow but we would really like to involve our families in the running of our shop for those of you who may be interested.



## Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings have continued this term with Rose Asaro who is the NHS Oral Health Practitioner meeting with Parents to talk about Oral Health.

[Up and coming Parents Coffee Mornings:-](#)

Wednesday 6 March Language Development

Wednesday 22 May Language Development

Thursday 18 April Puberty

Thursday 13 June Social Stories

Please make a note of these dates.

Further details will follow nearer the time.

## ICT Bett Show

Last week I was able to attend the ICT Bett show in London. Here I was able to see the latest development in ICT software and hardware. It was very exciting to see how far technology has advanced over the last few years for schools.

We are now trialling some new software products with the hope that these will engage our pupils further in their lessons.

## Governors

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Catherine Lacey and Debbie Herrick for their invaluable support and contribution to the Governing Body for the last three years. Their term of office has recently ended. We now extend a warm welcome to Jo White (Teacher) and Kamini Jani (Teaching Assistant) who will be joining the Governors to ensure the school is run in the best interests of all the pupils.



## Silver Class Trip

Silver Class visited the Toyota Dealership on the Great Cambridge Road. We spent the morning being shown around and having the chance to sit in some of the cars. Most of the pupils liked the new Toyota sports car - the GT86! We took lots of photographs of the pupils trying out the cars. We also learned some interesting facts about Toyota, such as Toyota sells in more countries than McDonald's. At the end of the visit all the pupils were given a goody bag by the Toyota representatives Deborah and Alan. All in all we had a very enjoyable morning.



At the present time the teachers are looking at some new Maths and Science tools that are very visual and hopefully easy to use which will enable the children to develop their skills further in these curricula areas. I am hoping to gain some more free trials in the near future which will help us to decide which new software packages would best suit the development of ICT in the school.

Donna Latimer, ICT Co-ordinator

## Boccia

Some of you may have seen Boccia at the Paralympic Games in September. It is an up and coming sport and four of our pupils have had the opportunity to take part in training to become young officials. The training was organised by Marion Coram Ware from the Enfield Sports Development Team and each of the pupils will receive a certificate and will be given the opportunity to officiate at the London Youth Games competition in March. The pupils are Bruno dos Santos from Amber Class, Luke Busson, Tayfun Iktens and Siobhan Keane from Silver Class. Well done!

# The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme

As part of Durants School's aim to offer new opportunities to our pupils, the school is now registered with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme to enable us to run the Bronze Award for some of our pupils.

Pupils can participate from aged 14 and progress through the levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold) at their own pace and ability until they are approximately 25. They will learn new skills, attain a certificate for each course completed and develop their own sense of achievement through the challenges they have managed.

For the Bronze Award, participants must complete a Physical, Volunteering and Skill section, lasting between three and six months (usually one hour per week) as well as an Expedition with an overnight stay.

Nine pupils in the Upper School have already begun working towards completing their Physical section as well as the Volunteering sections. Plans for the Skills sections are already in hand and only when pupils feel ready to move onto the Expedition will they be put forward.

Good luck everyone!



## Gold Class project



As part of the school curriculum Gold Class had to do a team enterprise project.

The project was to design, make and sell Valentines cards in order to pay for a class trip.

The cards are being sold to staff.

## Athletics Trip

Amber Class and part of Red Class went to Lea Valley High School to take part in an athletics fun day, along with other SEN schools from the Borough. A great day was had by all, mixing and socialising with athletes from the other schools. The activity was run by Julian Golding, who was one of Britain's fastest ever sprinters over 200 metres. His time of 20.18 seconds (-0.2) ranks him 5th on the All-Time UK rankings. Julian later came into Durants School to present our pupils with a Certificate of Participation, for their efforts on the day.

## 6th Form Shopping

Since September all the 6th form classes, Lilac, Bronze and Green have been accessing the local shops and Cafés, practising their social and money skills. On a Monday, Bronze Class go shopping and to the Café in a range of local supermarkets, as does Lilac class on a Tuesday morning, while Green Class have to wait until a Wednesday afternoon to either walk/shop and go to the Café or go out in the minibus.

Well done everyone your community awaits!

# Art Room News!!!!

As usual we have been very busy in the Art Room. This year the pupils have been working very hard with clay. They all like the sensory properties of this material and they have created wonderful works such as tiles, pots, portraits and number plaques. They have been experimenting with different pottery techniques and coloured glazes. At the moment we are working on a project on gargoyles for our sensory garden so watch this space!!!!!!



## Fundraising

At the meeting of the Fundraising Committee on 7 February, it was agreed by the Committee to allocate £30.00 per child from the current funds for experiences over and above that of the normal curriculum.

Thank you for your support at our various fundraising events throughout the year which has enabled us to offer this opportunity to our pupils.

## End of Term

The half term break commences on: -

**Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February.**

School will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm on Friday 15 February.

An INSET Day has been arranged for Monday 25 February and school will be closed to all pupils on this day. School re-opens on **TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY**

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## What is Transition?

The Transition process for any student (and parent) can be particularly challenging, but for students at Durants there are many aspects that have to be considered, so each student has the opportunity for personalisation according to their individual educational, sensory and environmental needs.

A small team have been trying to simplify these areas and in doing so have developed information ('What is Transition' Leaflet) according to the processes involved in transition for students who leave Durants, so they will be ready to begin their new challenges in adulthood.

The leaflet will soon be sent to all students from Year 9 onwards. It sets out to provide an overall view of the stages where statutory features are highlighted and makes everyone aware of particular documentation. It also shows where the school will be responsible for completing individualised checklists, as well as providing the necessary information about placement and provision opportunities, funding, respite and healthcare facilities, all according to personalised requirements.

If any more details are required please contact either Karly Barker, Caroline Briers or Frances Sutherland.

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