



# Durants News

**February 2016**

## A letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

The Spring Term at Durants has started very well. This is the term we really push all the students to ensure they make really good progress. They are all sorted in their classes, know the staff well and are used to the routines so this is the best time to stretch them.

If your child does have homework please support them to do it. Do, of course, talk to your class teacher about homework if you have any questions.

Our Parent Council are organising a fund raising auction (details on Page 4) in March. I hope as many of you will be able to support this event. Fund raising is becoming increasingly important for schools and Durants is no exception as our funding from the government is

reduced. Money raised will go towards ensuring Durants can continue to provide the highest possible service to all our pupils and families.

As always please do contact myself or Rachel for whatever reason. We are always here to support you with your young people.

Best wishes

**Peter De Rosa**  
Head Teacher

## Internet Safety Coffee Morning

On Friday 15 January we had an 'Internet Safety' Coffee Morning.

Parents/Carers learnt how the school keeps pupils safe whilst they are here at Durants and suggestions for keeping the family safe whilst using the internet at home.

Thank you to Peter, Costa and Kay on organising an informative coffee morning and thanks to all those parents/carers who attended!



**Durants School**

**4 Pitfield Way**

**Enfield**

**Middlesex**

**EN3 5BY**

**Phone:** 0208 804 1980

**Fax:** 0208 804 0976

**E-mail:**

office4@durants.enfield.sch.uk

**Web:**

www.durants.enfield.sch.uk

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## Inclusive Zone Basketball

On Friday 15 January, the pupils of Amber Class attended an open wheelchair basketball session at Southbury Leisure Centre.

Durants, along with several other schools in the borough, participated in the sport for the first time and overall showed enthusiasm and prowess towards the activity.

Well done, boys!



## Step Into Sport

On Monday 25 January, Luke Busson and Elidjay Diambuana of Silver and Amber Class respectively attended a Sports Leaders event at Vale School at Northumberland Park Community School in Tottenham. Along with other SEND schools in the boroughs of Enfield, Haringey, and Barnet,

Luke and Elidjay partook in small workshops aiming to empower young men and women with disabilities in leading sporting activities.

The day included presentations by British Wheelchair Rugby paralympic athlete and Captain of the Great Britain National Wheelchair Rugby Team, Steve Brown and Middlesex County Cricket Club Disability team bowler Joel Kiffin.



## Young Ambassadors Assembly

On Thursday 28 January, some students in the Upper and Middle Departments had the chance to access an assembly and workshop organised by the WE Group (Their motto is *'together WE can change the world'*).

The organisers felt that the students who participated were fantastic and were encouraged by the work they did together and that it was the start of a great journey in working together, leaving us with lots of ideas as well as a WE Schools Kit that looks at taking action in the community easy!

We now have a local community contact, an Educational Programming Coordinator, who will support Durants through the journey to WE Day on Wednesday 9 March at SSE Arena, Wembley. I am hopeful we will get some tickets.

If you wish to find out more information please take a look at the websites [www.weday.com](http://www.weday.com) and <http://volunteerteam.london.gov.uk/#s>

# Art & Design

Last term in Art & Design pupils from Yellow, Bronze and Amber classes had the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops lead by the artist Giles Leaman.

They created 3D structures such as robots and puppets using recycling materials.

Everyone enjoyed the challenge and they had great fun using their imagination and problem solving skills to create amazing pieces of work.

Well done everyone!



# Transition At Durants

Just a few words to let you all know what developments have taken place with Transition in the Upper Department this year.

We will be having about 13 students leaving in July 2016 and most of those will be attending the Centre of Excellence for Learners with Learning Difficulties at Barnet + Southgate College.

With this in mind I have managed to secure a room at the College for 11 sessions with funding from Enfield and plan to travel by public transport from Durants school (121) directly to Southgate, making use of their facilities and room at the college for an hour's lesson and then return to Durants by bus in time for lunch.

I shall be taking two small groups each for approximately a six week block of sessions to enable the students to familiarise themselves with the new environment.

Although these are early days, I am hoping to run this type of transition programme for the students (funding permitting) going to Barnet + Southgate in future years.

For students transitioning to other placements, we are planning to put similar programmes in place as resources (both human and physical) are available.

**DON'T FORGET:** If your young person is coming up to 18 within the next six months, please make sure you have visited alternative after school provisions/respite that might be suitable and continue when they have eventually left Durants.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

**Frances Sutherland**  
Head of Upper Department



# Face Front Inclusive Theatre

On Tuesday 2 February, Face Front Inclusive Theatre came to perform 'It's My Move' for the school.

"It's My Move" is an interactive drama piece, featuring a cast of professional artists with and without learning difficulties, exploring the theme of transitions for young people.

It focused on Education, Health and Care Plans, the 'Local Offer' and, most importantly, emphasizes, the change in the law in an accessible way, so that young

people begin to understand their right to choose, make informed decisions and express their choices!

The piece was presented within a 75-minute interactive show and additional workshops. The play used drama, music, movement and non-verbal communication (including film and Makaton sign language).

It was a great success!



## M&M Theatrical Productions

On Monday 8 February, M&M Theatrical Productions came to perform 'Cinderella' for the school.

"Life isn't easy for poor Cinderella. Everyday her wicked stepmother; Maudline, forces her to cook, clean and tidy up after her nasty stepsisters; Germaline and Vasaline..."

The performance was a fabulous success and all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it!



## Sainsbury's Active Kids!

It's that time of year again!!!

Durants is collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers.

With your vouchers we can purchase active and cooking experiences for all pupils!

Your help will be appreciated!



## Half Term

**Half Term break commences on:**

**Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2016**

**School will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm on Friday 12 February 2016**

## Inset Day

**An Inset Day has been arranged for Monday 22 February and school will be closed to all pupils on this day.**

**School re-opens for all pupils on: TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY at the normal time of 8.50am**

## Parent Council Auction Night

The Parent Council are pleased to announce that they will be organising an Auction Night on the 11 March 2016 from 6.45pm to 10pm.

Please keep this date free in your diaries as tickets will soon go out on sale. It will be a great evening full of fun and entertainment ... with amazing bargain deals!!!

Further information to follow soon.

