



Durants News



Dear Parents / Carers

Finance

As you will know the Governors wrote to all parents recently explaining how tight the school budget is becoming. Thank you to everyone who sent the model letter to our MP, Joan Ryan. The Governors are working closely with the Local Authority to ensure the school has enough resources to provide the best education for all our pupils. We will continue to ensure we spend our resources efficiently and effectively and we will keep you updated on funding as we move forward.

Working with Staff

All our staff value the very positive relationships we have with our parents/carers. If a problem occurs, staff will work to sort it out as quickly as possible. Staff will always treat parents/carers with respect and I would request that

parents/carers do not shout or lose their temper with staff. We will always do our best. Working together, we will achieve the best outcomes for all our pupils.

Minchenden Update

The plans for the new Minchenden building in Southgate are now complete. If you would like to see them, they are in the main corridor near the office. It has taken a long time to get this far. It is hoped that the building will be ready for September 2018.

Happy Holiday

I hope everyone connected with Durants has a great Christmas holiday. Please enjoy the festivities. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to Durants on Monday 9 January 2017.

Peter De Rosa

Head Teacher

Gymnastics Festival

On Wednesday 30 November, pupils from Indigo Class and Yellow Class participated in the annual Enfield Gymnastics Festival at Edmonton Leisure Centre.

All pupils put on a stunning performance and we are all extremely proud of their achievements!



December 2016

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Class Trips

Silver Class has had a fantastic term! On Wednesday 30 November 2016, they adventured across London using the London Underground and other public transportation. They descended upon Covent Garden to browse through the shops and markets, tasting fine foods and chocolate! Silver Class decided to eat a fabulous meal at an Italian restaurant in Bloomsbury before taking in a top West End Show. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at the Theatre Royal on Drury Lane was an experience to remember and even better in its final golden year! Everyone had an awesome time and enjoyed the outing!



On Thursday 17 November, Gold Class went on a trip to The V&A Museum of Childhood. They had a lovely time looking at old and new toys and they had a seminar session all about puppets! They had a very exciting educational day out!



On Monday 28 November, Emerald Class went to Enfield Cineworld to watch the superhero film 'Doctor Strange' followed by McDonald's. They found the film absolutely amazing and they all had a fabulous time!

D Factor Christmas Tour 2016



Thursday 8 December 2016 saw Durants School Christmas Production. This year's theme was based on the popular TV programme 'The X Factor.' Pupils from Amber, Indigo, Yellow (followed by Glenn's fabulous rendition of Ed Sheeran's 'Sing'), Red, Pink, Blue, Emerald, Beige, Andrew B (Lilac Class) sang 'We Wish You

A Merry Christmas' and 'Last Christmas' along with playing the keyboard, Green, Bronze, Gold and Silver Classes participated in singing/signing, dancing and acting along to Christmas Pop Classics. The Upper Boys Choir sang 'Jingle Bell Rock', Ashwath from Silver Class, played 'Silent Night' on the keyboard and we

heard an amazing solo from Sara, also from Silver Class, singing 'Tis the Season to Rock the Party'. Closing words came from Peter De Rosa and we also saw a heartfelt speech and presentation showing the valuable work and support that the Parent Council provide for our families.



The parents/carers were thrilled with the talent and fun that came from 'D Factor Christmas Tour 2016.'

Our Music, Dance and Drama Co-ordinator Caroline Briers did an excellent job organising and creating an spectacular, enthusiastic and exciting production!!!

Christmas Carol Church Service

On Monday 12 December 2016 Durants attended a Christmas Carol Church Service with Waverley School at St James Church.

We heard amazing readings from Emerald, Yellow, Amber, Silver and Bronze Classes and prayers from some of our pupils.

Pupils, staff and parents/carers then all joined together and sang Christmas Carols.

A big thank you to all parents/carers that came!



Leaver's Awards Evening

On Wednesday 14 December 2016, we held our Leavers' Awards Evening.

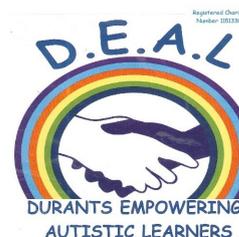
Pupils who left Durants in the Summer Term attended with their families to receive their AQA Award Scheme Certificates.

The Jack Petchey Young Achievers of 2015-2016 also received their certificates.

Entertainment was provided by two students in the Upper Department performing individually. 'Tis the Season to Rock the Party' solo singing by Sara from Silver Class and 'Silent Night' on the keyboard by Ashwath, also from Silver Class.

Thank you to everyone who came and a special thanks to DEAL for the fabulous hampers and prizes for the raffle!

We raised an amazing £260! This money will go towards supporting pupils on their out and about sessions for the forthcoming year!



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 16 December 2016 Durants hosted a 'Christmas Jumper Day' where all staff and pupils got into the festive spirit and wore a Christmas jumper to school.

Amber Class ran a Christmas themed cake sale with lots of Christmassy yummy treats which was a great success!

There was a competition for the best Christmas jumper for staff and pupils and the winners were Silver Class TA Jacky and pupil was Tamoya from Red Class! Congratulations to both of them!

We raised an amazing £246 for DEAL and 'Save The Children!' A big thank you to all pupils and staff who took part!



Festive Tea Towels

A massive thank you to everyone who has supported Silver Class in their charitable Christmas fundraising project.

They were inundated with orders for their unique Festive Tea Towels and so the Silver Class elves were very busy producing these hand printed textiles.

Thank you so much for your fantastic support!



Upper Department News

Panathlon Swimming Gala

Well done to students in the Upper Department who participated in the recent Panathlon Swimming Gala at Northumberland Park School against seven other teams from North London.

After all the scores were counted, Durants School were announced the winners! Durants will now go through to the final at the Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Friday 24 March 2017! WELL DONE!!!



Big Lottery Funding

In June, Durants made a successful application to the Big Lottery Funding for a Gardening Project. We have received just under £10,000 for the project and have employed 'Organiclea' from Walthamstow to lead the project.

Currently, six raised beds have been placed in the sensory garden and lessons are underway with students in the Upper Department.

We are also hoping to further develop the project through 'Know Your Onions' which will entail a visiting chef working in school and then we will be selling our produce at Enfield market in the summer.



End of Term Arrangements

School will finish for the Christmas holiday at the normal time of 3.00pm on **WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2016**

School will re-open for all pupils at the normal time of 8.50am on **MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017**

