



Durants News

A letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Minchenden Update

I am happy to tell you all that planning approval has now been given for the new site in Southgate. This means that the project will now be going out to tender. The official line from the Local Authority is that the Minchenden site should be open in time for the start of the school year in September 2018. We will keep you up to date on developments.

Staffing Update

Following recent interviews we made two new appointments to our staff. Our new recruits will be joining us on a permanent basis after Easter. We have also appointed Tashan Charles as a trainee teacher under the School Direct programme from September. Tashan has worked as a Teaching Assistant at Durants for 6 years and is now ready to train to become a teacher at our school.

Growing Numbers

Due to the increasing population in Enfield, we are experiencing a growing demand for places at Durants. It is possible we may need to create another

class at Durants as well as an additional class at the Winchmore Additional Resourced Provision (ARP). We are working with the Local Authority to ensure that we can accommodate this demand without compromising what we already offer to those students already at Durants.

Parent Governor Election

Directly after Half Term, we will be holding an election for a new parent governor. Alicia Meniru has been a parent governor at Durants for many years. She has been an incredible governor who has really supported the governing body to move the school forward. She will be a big loss to the governors but we would like to thank her for all the amazing work she has done on behalf of all the parents with children at Durants. Letters asking all parents if they would like to stand as a governor will be sent out directly after Half Term.

I hope you all have a good Half Term and everyone returns refreshed on Monday 20 February!

Peter De Rosa

Head Teacher

School Lunch-ParentPay

At Durants, all the students can have a very tasty and nourishing school dinner. Please could all parents/carers ensure that your ParentPay account is topped up. Some parents/carers have large debts. The maximum credit the school can allow under our debt policy is £11.50, which is the equivalent to one week's worth of dinners.

Once this limit is reached, parents/carers will be asked to provide a packed lunch until their account is in credit. If you are entitled to a free school meal, please ensure the school office sees your letter as free school meals cannot be authorised until we have seen the written confirmation.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

February 2017

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Siblings Group

Our first Siblings Group was held on Wednesday 30 November 2016 and it was a great success!

There were snacks on offer, Netflix and art & crafts. The younger siblings chose to make Christmas decorations and paint Christmas pictures, while the older siblings chose to watch films.

Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and the next Siblings Group will be announced soon!



Silver Souper Soup

At the end of last year a successful application was made for a Jack Petchey Small Grant and as a result, Silver Class are going to be making soups to sell to staff after the February Half Term. The pupils have made a short video to advertise their products as well as making a range of interesting adverts.

Finally, as part of our WRL (Work Related Learning) lessons, we are going to put everything together into a 'Souper' Soup Recipe Book, in which will be on sale to everyone after Easter.



Just Giving for DEAL

Neil Riches, a friend of Teacher Jamie Thaxton is running the London Marathon and would like to support Durants by raising money for DEAL.

He has so far raised £100.

If you would like to donate and help DEAL, please go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DEAL.Durants> to find Neil's Just Giving link.

JustGiving™

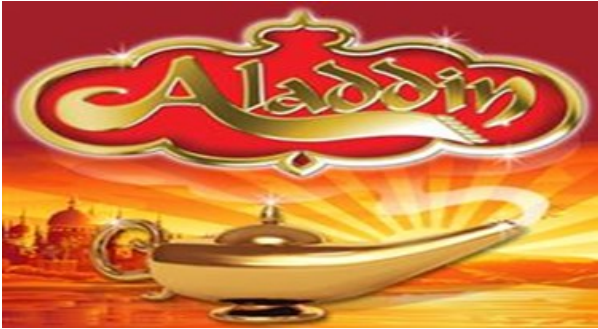
DONATE NOW ▶



Aladdin

On Wednesday 21 December 2016, Siblings Group boarded the school mini bus and went to see the Pantomime 'Aladdin' at the Millfield Theatre. Everyone had an amazing time and the siblings all got a little Christmas token to take home with them!

Thank you to Teaching Assistant Dan Nathan for driving!



Bronze Class Card Shop

I am proud to announce that Bronze Class is running an ongoing enterprise facilitated by Faith Ashemeza called 'Bronze Class Card Shop'. The young students aged 16+ will be undertaking various fun interactive activities, learning new skills and building on their leadership skills through service to their school and community.

They have so far raised £50 for DEAL.

WELL DONE BRONZE CLASS!!!



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 8 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 6/7 sessions 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 afternoon buses. This will enable the students to familiarise themselves with their new environment.

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

I would also like to draw your attention to the school's website that has further information regarding transition in the Upper department, as well as specific Transition information. Also, 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.

I will also keep you updated with any forthcoming Open days at Barnet + Southgate College or other transition events.

TRANSITION EVENTS:

EHCP workshop: Thursday February 23, Durants School - 9.45am - 14.30pm.

Barnet + Southgate Open Day: Saturday March 4 - from 10am.

Leaving Home workshop: March 14, Durants School - 2.00pm - 3.30pm.

Frances Sutherland
Head of Upper Department



M&M Theatrical Productions

On Monday 30 January, M&M Theatrical Productions came to perform 'Dick Whittington' for the school.

"Young Dick Whittington has heard that the streets of London are paved with gold, so its there that he will go to make his fortune!"

This show was fully funded by Happy Days and the Rotary Club.

The performance was a fabulous success, all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it and we hope to welcome back next year.



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 13 February to Friday 17 February 2017

School will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm on Friday 10 February 2017

Our Voice Transport Survey

Thank you to all of those of you who took the time to complete the Transport survey. We received 119 responses from parents.

The survey, findings at www.ourvoickeenfield.org.uk, showed that a number of routes/buses were unreliable, with some problem routes regularly arriving late. Equally, some routes were running smoothly and the relevant escorts and drivers received praise from parents. The survey has been discussed with, and given to, the Head of Transport, as well as the Head of the Joint Service for Disabled Children.

10 March 2017 at Dugdale Centre

The Transport Leads will be attending an Our Voice information session for parents on the 10 March 2017 at the Dugdale centre from 10am to 1.30pm if you wish to attend.



School Re-Opens

School re-opens for all pupils on:

MONDAY 20 FEBRAURY 2017 at the normal time of 8.50am

Enjoy the Half Term!