



# Durants News

## A note from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

### Growing Numbers

Durants will be opening 2 additional classes next year due to the increasing demand for places. We will have a second group in our Satellite provision at Winchmore. We will also be using the art room as a classroom in order to accommodate all the pupils that need a place from Russet House. The Governors felt that this was the right thing to do for those families. Pupils will continue to do art sessions but these will now take place in classrooms.

### Attendance

At our recent progress meetings for all our pupils we have been taking a close look at attendance. Those pupils who are in school the most do the best and I would urge all parents to ensure all pupils are in school every day. We will be writing to all parents where a pupil's attendance falls below 95%. We do know that attendance can be difficult for

## Our New School Website

We are currently in the process of improving our school website.

Please keep a look out at [www.durants.enfield.sch.uk](http://www.durants.enfield.sch.uk)

The website will be going live soon!



some pupils so please contact us if you are having a problem with ensuring your child has good attendance. Our average attendance is currently 92% and it should be 95%. Please help us to improve this.

### Parent Governor Election

I am delighted to inform you that Louise Butcher will be the new Parent Governor at Durants. Louise will join Nisha Walling as parent representatives on the Governing Body. Both ladies will support the other governors in ensuring that the school does all it can to ensure that all pupils at Durants make the best possible progress.

I hope you all have a good Easter holiday and that everyone returns refreshed on Tuesday 18 April.

Best wishes

**Peter De Rosa**  
Head Teacher

## March 2017

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# Cygnets Parent Information Sessions About Autism

Parents/Carers from Durants School and other Special Need Schools attended the 'Cygnets Parent Information Sessions About Autism' here at Durants.

The course consisted of 6/7 weekly information sessions where parents/carers found out more about Autism and learnt strategies to support their child. These sessions covered Puberty, Sexual Wellbeing and Relationships. These sessions are run by Autism Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists in a supportive and confidential group.

If your child/young person has Autism, in full time education and is between 7 and 18 years old, the course is **Free** and will be available to you. To find out where and when the next sessions are please visit the following website: [www.enfieldasa.org.uk](http://www.enfieldasa.org.uk).

The parents/carers commented on the friendly atmosphere and how important it is to share views and knowledge with other parents/carers who are in the same situation. One parent added that she had made some lovely new friends who she will definitely keep in contact with.



## Class Outings

Lots of class outings were held this term.

Silver Class have been actively promoting positive social interactions in age-appropriate outings.

They have been inviting other classes including Emerald, Gold and Bronze classes to accompany them out to the cinema and shopping.

So far these outings have included; The LEGO Batman Movie, Beauty and Beast and shopping in Enfield and IKEA.

They look forward to engaging in more outings, including more classes and being more ambitious.

Red Class and Blue Class had fun playing a game of bowling at Hollywood Bowl.

Indigo Class and Amber Class enjoyed trampolining at Jump Giants.



## Enfield Schools' Music Festival 2017

On Wednesday 15 March, Durants pupils took part in the recent Enfield Schools' Music Festival 2017 at the Milfield theatre. The boys and the girls' choir all performed and there were individual performances from Sara Gayle Sanderson, Ashwath Pushparaja Sekaran and Andrew Bammeke.

All our pupils were joined by Venavi Drums in a stunning drumming piece.

We were very proud of all them and hope that other pupils will have the chance to perform in next year's show.



## Durants Parents' Council Auction Night

On Wednesday 15 March, Durants Parents' Council Group (DPCG) organised another Auction Night at the Toby Carvery on the A10.

The night was packed with marvellous items for Auction, amazing raffle prizes and an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

The food and decorations were well suited for the event and the excellent music enticed a little bit of dancing enjoyed by both young and old.

The event brought parents/carers, pupils, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, friends and family together giving the evening an energetic atmosphere of fun and laughter.



This hugely successful evening raised in excess of £1,600.00 for DPCG, who will use the funds towards organising days out, entertainment and a variety of social events for pupils and their families during school holidays.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make this evening a huge success, especially The Toby Carvery staff on the A10, Nathan

Muir our musician and the staff, parents/carers, families and friends of Durants School.

## Jack Petchey Awards Evening

Jack Petchey Awards Evening was held at the Millfield Theatre on Tuesday 21 March. Three of our students received their awards from Jenny Tosh at the evening ceremony that showcased young people from all over Enfield, singing, dancing and receiving their awards. They also had their photo taken with the deputy mayor.

Naveed Rafiq, who is now at Barnet + Southgate College, Daniella Bolanga and Alexander Tytler all waited patiently for the que to collect their awards.

Not only is this an example of achieving an award with work/behaviour in school, but also to be able to be part of a much larger event shows what worthy winners they are.



## Enfield Schools' Dance Festival 2017

On Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 March, pupils from Durants School took part in the Enfield Schools' Dance Festival 2017 at the Millfield Theatre.

The performance included other Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools as well as SEN Schools within the London Borough of Enfield.

This year theme was a 'Scientific Approach' and pupils chose 'Fit & Healthy' from the Science Curriculum.

The pupils choreographed their own performance and the group was led by Jonathan in Silver Class.

It was a fantastic show and enjoyed by all who participated and spectated.

Thank you to parents/carers and staff who attended and supported this Dance Festival!

A huge thank you to Marion Corum-Ware and her staff at the Enfield P.E Team for organising and welcoming Durants as a part of this annual event!



# Panathlon Challenge

London and Essex Swimming Finals held at the London Aquatics Centre, Olympic Park – 24/03/17

Seven students from the Upper Department, representing London North took part in the swimming finals at the London Aquatics Centre against swimmers from all over London.

Our first view of the pool was of Tom Daley diving from the 10m board! As we were shown our seats, I wondered how we could swim in such a deep pool, but not to worry – the floor of the pool was adjusted to the right height!

A sense of competitiveness prevailed (amongst the staff + student supporter), we were anxious, we shouted encouragement, we swam our hearts out and...came a fantastic second overall!

We received a trophy and certificate from Liz Johnson, three times medal winner at the Paralympics.

Well done, Aaron, Ashwath, Benni, Labib, Jonathan, Shahid and Zoe!



## Easter Holiday

**Easter Holiday commences on:**

**Friday 31 March to Monday 17 April  
2017**

**School will finish at the normal time  
of 3.00pm on  
Thursday 30 March 2017**

## School Re-Opens

**School re-opens for all pupils on:**

**TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2017 at the  
normal time of 8.50am**

**Enjoy the Easter Holidays!**