



# Durants News

Oct 2010

## Welcome to the new school year

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for this academic year. We have welcomed 13 new pupils and 7 new members of staff to Durants this term as well as a new local authority member to the Governing Body. All the pupils have settled very quickly.

Although there may be difficult times ahead everyone at Durants is remaining positive looking at what we can do rather than what we might not be able to do.

As always I would urge you to contact the school about anything that may be concerning you so that any issue can be resolved as quickly as possible. By working together we can continue to ensure all pupils make good progress.

## Finance

We are all now aware that there are likely to be some big cuts in public spending to come. As yet we have no idea how this may affect Durants. We have already become far more careful when spending so that, if possible, we can take forward a buffer for next year. The school's main priority at this stage is to ensure that we can maintain the good staffing level we currently have as this enables us to keep our pupils safe as well as help them learn. To support us we would ask that, when possible, you

We are delighted that we have been able to open our new sixth form block this term. £55,000 was spent last summer refurbishing and developing the classrooms next to the gym to turn them into brand new 6th form provision. There is now a common room, kitchen and dining areas as well as a computer room and a chill out room. This is allowing us to develop a more life skills and less school like curriculum for our older students as we prepare them to become adults and leave Durants.

Peter De Rosa, Headteacher



help us with voluntary contributions towards snacks, cookery resources and trips. Durants currently subsidises these activities but may not be in a position to do so in the future. I would stress that all contributions are voluntary and no pupil will be excluded from activities if their family are unable to make a contribution. We do appreciate and understand that some families may not be able to make donations due to their circumstances.

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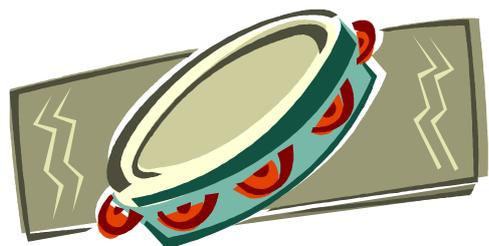
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## Therapy at Durants

We are delighted that we have been joined by our new Music Therapist, Emily Hurrell. Emily joins our therapy team that includes Maria Vassiliou-Varney, our Psychotherapist and Fiona Hoo, our Dance/Movement Therapist. The Therapy team are working together to identify the pupils at Durants who they feel would most benefit from their services. Parents will always be consulted before and given regular updates should their child receive any of the above therapies.



## Art Exhibition

After the tremendous success of our Art Exhibition at Forty Hall last term, we are very pleased to announce that the Durants Art Exhibition is coming to Enfield Town sometime in June next year!!!!

**BE PREPARED TO BE AMAZED!**

Watch this space ..... More details to follow .....



## Parent Support Worker

A new initiative this term is the appointment of a Parent Support Worker. As a staff we feel that we would like to be able to offer more support to all our Parents/Carers. The role will include ensuring Parents have up-to-date information, for instance on benefits, coffee mornings as well as signposting other services that may be useful. They will also be able to provide a link between school and home for Parents who may need extra support with things such as challenging behaviour. We are in the process of recruiting but will keep you informed of developments.

## 'GO4IT' Award

This year Durants School are hoping to become a 'Go4it' school. Go4it is a leading nationally recognised award process for schools in the UK. It demonstrates and encourages schools to be creative, innovative and show an adventure for learning with a positive attitude towards risk. Go4it helps schools inspire and challenge students in order to further improve their life chances. The school has to show evidence in nine specific areas. Our first task will be to organise an event during 'National Enterprise Week' with each class being involved in a 'Food & Drink' Challenge!

## School Car Park Areas

### **Important safety message for all Parents/Carers**

When using the school car park, please enter carefully and wait by the gate if minibuses are loading/unloading students and staff.

Thank you for your co-operation.

**PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY**

**MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT**

**5 MPH**

# Fundraising

A big thank you to all Parents/Carers for supporting Jeans for Genes Day. We raised **£52.00** and a cheque has been forwarded for this amount.



On 13 October we held a 'Wear it Pink Day' in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. It was a non uniform day and the pupils took part in various activities. Cakes and biscuits were on sale throughout the day. We raised **£263.80**. This includes an extremely generous donation of £150.00 from Ms Hussain, whose three sons attend Durants.



Train Walk—2010—As many of you know, the OASC Department went on a sponsored walk from Durants School to Durants Park to raise money for the National Autistic Society and our School. The LDD classes also had a non-uniform day to support us. We had a fantastic day engaging the community and cooled off in the splash zone at the park! We raised a total of **£397.50**.

Many thanks to everyone for their hard efforts. We had a great time and raised money for a great cause.

Again, thank you to all Parents/Carers, pupils and staff who have all supported these very worthwhile causes.



## See your child's Artwork printed on items

Very soon you will be able to purchase your child's artwork printed on various items such as mugs-, aprons, t-shirts, fridge magnets etc.

They will make fantastic gifts for Christmas!

Some information is included—please look at the leaflet inside this newsletter.

Further details will follow after half-term or you can speak to Ms Lillus (Art Teacher).



## Orange Class

Orange Class are continuing their daily walks this term. We hope to walk a total of 75 km before Christmas and have a trip to Southend. As a reward for all our hard work we will treat ourselves to some fish and chips.



## Older LD Department

The Older Learning Difficulties Department enjoyed two separate trips out last week. Silver class visited the 'Skills4London' exhibition at the Excel Centre near the Docklands. Some of them participated with pupils from other schools in a 'rowing competition' - a fantastic sight to see with thousands of students from all over London attending. Orange & Gold classes enjoyed a Wildlife project at Lee Valley Park. The highlight of the day was the bird watching activity, while some pupils made bird feeders, planted seeds and tried leaf rubbings. We must do it again!

## Clubs

The after-school-club — Step Into Dance—is in its fifth successful year. We are all looking forward to their future performances. Keep dancing!

'Durants Delicacies' the after-school cookery club has just started its second year. Pupils will again be preparing lots of scrummy goodies!!!



## Amber Class

Amber Class have been developing their independence skills this term by identifying what they would like to cook during their life skills sessions, producing a shopping list and going to the supermarket to buy their items each week.



## Future Events

Thursday 21 October—Younger ASC and LDD Departments—Spooky Activity Afternoon.

Thursday 9 December—Orange, Silver & Gold classes to see Aladdin at the Millfield Theatre.

Tuesday 14 December—Awards Evening.

Further details to follow

## Reminder - half term

Half Term holiday commences Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October.

One Inset Day has been arranged for Monday 1st November and school will be closed to all students on this day.

Students return to school on:-

**Tuesday 2 November 2010**

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## Parents Comment Slip

Please use this slip to send a comment into school. It can be your thoughts on the newsletter or on any other

matter related to the school.

Name:

Comment:

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