



Dinnington High School Newsletter

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Welcome

We hope you enjoy our latest newsletter! As ever, I am immensely proud of all that our students achieve in so many different ways and the support they receive from their teachers. Almost weekly, we are wishing good luck to students who take part in such an array of sporting, dance and racing activities. This newsletter provides just a small glimpse of all that our awesome students do.

There is always an array of highlights for us to reflect on each year. One of my annual favourites is the 'Random Act of Kindness Week' (or three weeks as it is at Dinnington). A huge thanks to those of you who supported the effort by sending cans for the food bank or warm things for the Cathedral homeless project. A special feature this year was the reflection on how we are kind to ourselves and look after our own well-being.

Another favourite day for me is World Book Day. Seeing staff putting in so much effort to dress up as famous literary characters is fantastic. Hearing staff reading from their favourite books to students is even better.

As you will see when you pop up to school, we finally have our smart new fencing. It has been a long wait and we are very grateful for the temporary fencing we were lent, free of charge. We are all pleased to have the new fencing so that we can be even more confident about keeping students safe while making the site look more professional.

We are also proud of the improvements we have made in terms of our contribution to reducing climate change. Our dining service now has a number of biodegradable food

wrappers and cutlery, instead of plastics. We have recycling bins for paper and cans. We are also in the middle of a big project to have new boilers (for which we got a grant) so we should be more efficient at keeping our school warm.

We finished the year with a fabulous Sports Presentation, Rewards trips, Celebration Assemblies, foreign trips, Sports Day, Duke of Edinburgh and, in the last week, a whole week with our new Y6 students. We never have a quiet week at Dinnington as we strive to give students a wide range of experiences to enhance their learning.

As ever, we remain hugely appreciative of your support as parents and carers. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter if you want to keep up to date even more often.

Twitter: @dcsch
Facebook: @DinningtonHigh

With kind regards
Ms Staples

School News

Rewards Ceremonies

Our end of term rewards ceremonies were well received by students and parents. There were rewards for commitment, achievement and attendance, with students nominated by subjects and senior leaders. Parents were invited to attend and enjoyed a glass of non-alcoholic fizz whilst watching their children collect their awards. Well done to all our students. We're very proud of you.



Normandy

A group of 26 students and three staff visited Normandy in Northern France in July to improve their French language skills and to experience French culture. They travelled on the Eurotunnel to France where they stayed at Château du Tertre. They visited Ambrières Boulangerie and participated in a town trail, they visited the old town of Fougères and its beautiful castle and also visited the beautiful Mont Saint-Michel. They bought food in a local market to show off their language skills and prepared a meal with the produce purchased. A fun time was had by all, with numerous photos shared on Facebook so we could enjoy along with them.



'The BIG Show' is best ever!

The BIG Show returned to Dinnington High School. It featured Dinnington students performing a showcase of dance and gymnastics routines, trampolining, singing, playlets and spoken word.



There were a number of highlights including the fantastic dance showcase, led by dance students Becky Tyler and Hannah Ford. They had raced from competing in the Rotherham Schools Dance competition, where they took the bronze award for both the KS3 and KS4 categories to perform at The BIG Show.

The BIG Show raised a brilliant £380 for the Sports Tour 2020 and a great night was had by all. Brian Rossiter, chair of the Trustees of the school, attended the performance and said, "It was great to see our young people in action in so many ways. Everyone involved from the gymnasts, dancers, singers and spoken word performers to the front of house and backstage teams were amazing."

Fundraising

Our staff are a talented, compassionate group and this extends to their families too. Mrs Harrison, who is a much-valued member of our Engage team has told us about her daughter's fundraising drive for MHA, a charity that supports older people who are lonely or isolated. MHA was featured in the BBC One series, 'Our Dementia Choir'. Natalia shaved her head in March and then did a 140ft abseil down the Owen building at Sheffield Hallam University. You can support her at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/natalia-harrison> - Mrs Harrison is rightly a very proud mum.



World Book Day Celebrations

Students at Dinnington High School had an amazing day celebrating World Book Day. Students took part in a wide range of competitions across the school. Year 7 student, Hannah Day, and Year 8 student, Safa Mizra, came first and second respectively in a book competition organised by Miss Dickinson. Throughout the day staff across the school wore stickers with a title of a book that they have enjoyed, and students competed to note down as many as possible. The winner, Hannah, collected a fantastic 35.

Across the day staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and transformed their departments. The Living Faculty were the winners, with a brilliant take on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.



Starter Pack

For the second year Kindness & Co has provided a starter pack for all new Y7 students. Students received a bag, water bottle, stationery, a book and a range of items to help their well-being. Kindness & Co is a local community group and rely on donations and volunteers. Thank you so much for making our Y7 students start a little easier – we know parents really appreciate it too.

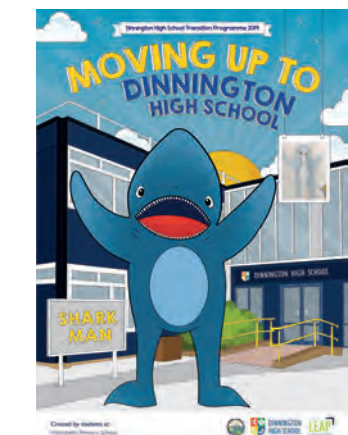
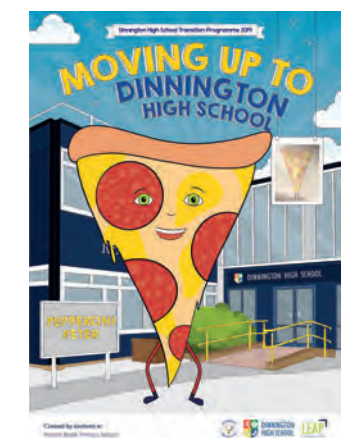
You can follow them on Twitter: @Kindness_Co

Transition

Transition Workshop Winners

Emily from Engaging Education visited all our primary schools in the summer. The Y5 and 6 pupils took part in a competition to create their own superhero. The results were amazing and the best one from each school has been turned into a professional poster! The winner will be given one and their school will also have one to display - we are proudly displaying them all. What a talented bunch. The winners were:

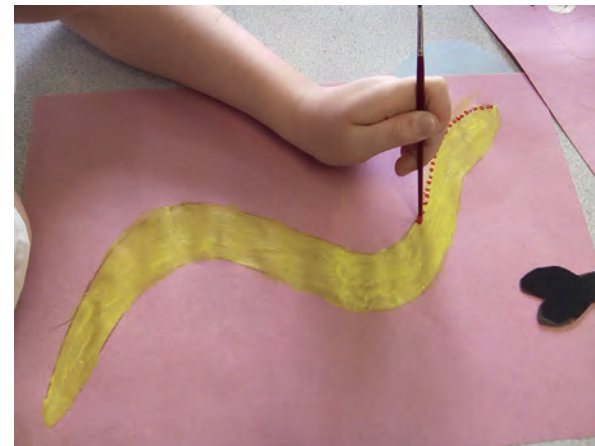
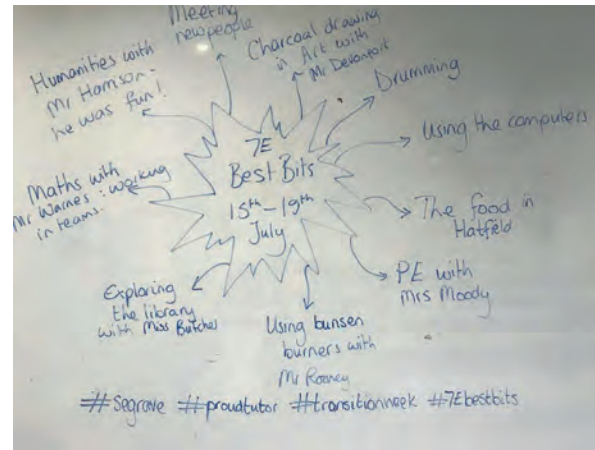
Maja – Anston Greenland Primary School
Hattie – Laughton All Saints CofE Primary School
Mikayla – Anston Park Junior
Jo – Woodsetts Primary School
Ellie – Laughton J&I
Ronan – Anson Brook
Isabel – St.Josephs Catholic Primary



Transition Day, Staff Highlights

What Staff said about our new Y7s

- Mr Williams has been really impressed by 7B in English this morning who have given some fantastic verbal answers about the text they were looking at. 7B have also followed expectations brilliantly and demonstrated outstanding listening skills.
- Y7 are all working hard to try to be on the awards board at the end of the week, prizes to be won for those who impress their teachers this week. This might not be just for academic success or P.E. prowess but for an act of kindness, looking smart or showing great social skills.
- 7O have just completed the maths relay, and were the most enthusiastic and most competitive group so far, with one group (bossed by Cassidy...) scoring the highest so far. Well done!
- From Miss Dickinson: I had the new 7E last lesson yesterday, who were fab. Students showcased their excellent oracy skills as we had lots of quality discussions around characterisation, and students started to craft their own creative stories. 7E were also really interested to hear about our enriching Debate Club, with many expressing that they couldn't wait to join in! Looking forward to meeting the other Y7s later this week.
- 7H have had a fantastic science lesson learning about safety in the lab and how to use Bunsen burners and making different coloured flames.
- In tutor time this morning, we shared our favourite bits of the week with each other. We're already making memories. This is just some of what we have enjoyed and we're excited for September.
- 7S were fantastic this morning! Lots of fab class discussions about our source text and students were brilliant at building on each others' ideas in a really respectful way. What a polite and well-mannered group.



• Form 7A have decided to sponsor a dog through Dogs Trust for the year! (Well, I will be on their behalf). They are very excited and all seem really enthused that we are doing something worthwhile as a class and have already started thinking about charitable works to do as a Y8 group (Steady on guys!) They left for lessons with a spring in their step and I am confident they are all going to have a brilliant Thursday - Mrs Mennell.

• I had 7H period 3 today and they were genuinely all amazing! They had so much prior knowledge of the countries and continents that make up our planet. I am really looking forward to seeing them again tomorrow.

• 7S had a fantastic pair of lessons with me today. P2 they learned about laboratory safety rules and listened carefully and attentively. This meant that P4 this afternoon they were trusted to light Bunsen burners for the first time. They all worked really sensibly and carefully and managed to get their Bunsen burner licences signed off by myself Mr Cole.

• Y6 students worked hard to solve a design problem in their technology lesson today. The students used some impressive creative skills to build prototype mobile phone stands. Well done them.

• Thought you might like these pics from 7B's science lesson today. They learnt how chemists find out what different inks are made from using chromatography. Then then made their own chromatograms and made them into troll hair.

We are so pleased with the positive start Y7 have made this September. Our focus is on respecting yourself and allowing yourself to be the best you can be. If we respect ourselves as a precious individual then we also respect everyone around us.

First Day

My first steps in new shoes,
rubbing blisters, red and raw, with each step away
from home.

With each step, my stomach churns,
rolls over like a cement mixer,
pouring dread-filled grey sludge
into each and every thought.

The closer I get,
an army of giants surrounds me,
and I'm lost, lost on a storm-tossed ocean,
as I try to swim my way out of the staring crowd.
Then I see it -
another ocean, vast and huge,
of towering buildings,
filling my vision with phantom fears:
one named loneliness, stalking me like a ragged
ghost,
and another named worry, whispering tales
of being flushed away or hated and laughed at,
forever and ever.

Soon though the crowd sweeps me
through those emerald gates.
I pass into the future and I find

friends. Old friends and new,
and friendly voices, understanding words.
I don't look back but forward to wherever my
next steps take me,
in shoes that are already starting to fit a little
more.

**This poem was written collectively by 7S in
their lesson with Mr Price**



Celebrating Results Day Success!

We are delighted with the significant improvement in Year 11 GCSE & BTEC exam results this year in all areas as well as for sixth form maintaining high standards.

Year 11s' results are the school's best for a good number of years and the best results since the end of modular exams and the move to final exams in GCSEs.

The hard work and determination of Dinnington students and staff is paying off with these significant improvements in results," said Mr Barsby, Executive Principal for LEAP MAT, of which Dinnington is a member school.

Year 11 highlights

Students gaining Grade 4+ in English and maths has risen to 53%, which is 10% up on 2018, and 5+ in English and maths has risen to 28% (up by 9% on 2018).

Almost all subjects have seen some strong improvements this year comparing students' respective starting points; others have sustained positive results from the previous year. Some subjects have achieved phenomenal improvements this year; a few of our many highlights are identified below:

Art: Grade 4+ risen to 91%; Grade 5+: risen to 88%. Biology: Grade 4+ risen to 91.4%; Grade 5+ risen to 72.4%. There are improvements in physics and chemistry too.

History and Geography have seen substantial improvements in : Grade 4+ and 5+ from last year.

French and Spanish have maintained strong results. Technology and photography have both seen rises of over 70% in Grade 4/C and above compared to 2018.

Improvements are also evident in vocational subjects despite media furore over Pearson changing boundaries. For example, Health & Social Care had risen to 77% of students achieving a Level 2 pass and above, and Engineering has risen to 88.9% of students getting a Level 2 Pass and higher. Childcare has maintained results above 90%.

On all the key measures for secondary schools, we have improved significantly. Huge well done to the class of 2019, many of whom are now Year 12. Massive thanks to their teachers and the support from their families.

Year 13 Highlights

We continue the excellent results in vocational courses: triple Health & Social Care, Engineering and Sport courses all Distinction and Distinction*. These are alongside more good A'Level results. Across all qualifications 38% achieved A and A* (or equivalent) grades and 51% at B+ or equivalent. A considerably higher percentage of students received unconditional offers for their university places compared to the national average: 58% of DHS students (25% nationally).

All but one student have gone on to their first choice or in a few cases their second choice university. Nick Chapman, one of our football scholars, has already headed off to Quincy University in the USA as a football scholar. Alex Scriven has been accepted into the Army to study as a mental health nurse; an impressive achievement after a tough recruitment process. A number of students take other routes after 6th form. Examples of these include Jack Bowker, now Councillor Jack Bowker, who has started a pharmacy technician route alongside his local government responsibilities. Other students' next steps range from apprenticeships in hairdressing to accountancy.

Our highest attaining student this year was Mateusz Duda with top grades in maths, physics and sport. A lot of students had strong progress from their GCSE results reflecting their hard work. "Whatever their preferred pathway has been, we are proud to have been a part of the journey of our fantastic Y13 students. We congratulate them all and wish them well," said Mrs Moody, Head of Sixth Form.



Sporting Update

Sports Presentation 2019

Sports Presentation 2019 was a really big deal for staff and students. We honoured students from numerous disciplines who compete locally, nationally and in some cases internationally. Our primary schools' sports partners were also celebrated - nominated by our very own Mr Kay who works closely with them.

There were awards for teams and individuals across all year groups. The awards were presented by Christa Cullen who is a GB hockey player who won bronze in London and gold in Rio. As well as bringing her medals along for students to see and feel, she spoke inspirationally about her story and the challenges she has overcome to perform at the top level.

Students and parents gathered after the presentation ceremony and talked passionately about their sport and their determination to succeed. Ms Staples said, 'Dinnington High School has always been synonymous with sport, a huge breadth of disciplines, at all levels. Our community, both in and out of school, is hugely committed to supporting children in whatever sport they choose, from pre-school upwards. We are very proud of the part we play in developing and supporting that tradition.'



Sports Champions

Excerpts from FB/Twitter

More celebrations are needed to recognise **Bella Crane** who took part in the English trampolining championship finals on Saturday 13th October.

She competed against the top 16 trampolinists for her age group in England, at the Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

Bella performed fantastically and came an incredible 6th. This is a truly phenomenal result by one of our most modest Team Dinno athletes. The PE department is super proud of her personal achievement of sporting excellence.

On the eve of another busy half term, we are celebrating more sporting talent. This excellent photo is of Y9, **Maddison Rainey**, who celebrated her team's rugby league success in the National League under 14s semi-final. Well done Maddison and team! Fingers crossed we hear of your success in the final.

Megan Bruton and her team Intensity Cheer and Dance competed at the Future Cheer Circus Spectacular over the first weekend in March. Her troupe placed 2nd in the Senior Hip Hop competition and 4th in the Senior level 2 Cheer Competition. Yet more stories of students achieving and being part of excellence! Well done Megan.

Louise Clark and her team Doncaster Belles beat Sheffield Wednesday 6-0 in the Sheffield and Hallamshire Women and Girls League Cup finals this morning! Excellent to see Team Dinno players flourish for their clubs.

We are so incredibly proud that one of our amazing ex students is currently on our TV screens!! **Melissa Burgin** is running the line in the Womens FA cup final, live now on BBC one!! Go Mel Go!!!!

Huge congratulations to **Ellie, Sophie and Bradie**, who with their team finished 6th in the world at the Summit Cheer finals. This is such an amazing result, we are so looking forward to hearing all about their experiences on their return.

We are so proud to celebrate the ex-team Dinno and present Reading footballer **Jade Moore** has been selected into the Lionesses squad heading to the Women's World Cup!! We will of course be cheering her and the whole England team on, hoping for more than last time's bronze medal finish. Congratulations Jade!

Huge well done to **Niamh Jones** who competed in the Yorkshire Region Synchronised Swimming Competition yesterday in the 15 and under category, competing against six other teams; she gained a Silver Medal. Additionally, within the individual figure competition, she came fourth out of 63 swimmers. #AchievingExcellence #Proud

Huge congratulations to **Ava Gunby**, Y7 who competed in the Yorkshire synchronised swimming competition in the under 15 category alongside Niamh Jones, winning a silver medal for her team South Yorkshire Swans. #veryproud

A massive well done to **Ellie Walker** who won a gold medal for High Jump in the County Championships on 11th May. #superproud #dinnostudentsarethebest

Congratulations to **Maddie Ward** who has been selected to represent Nottinghamshire County Girls U15s cricket team and **Leno Palmer** who will be representing the UK in a dance competition in Italy in June. Good luck to both of you!

Massive CONGRATULATIONS to Dinnington Town U14s who have ended the season on a high! They are division B champions and cup winners, and are looking forward to division A next season. Many of the boys attend DHS and both coaches and parents are very proud of the hard work and dedication they have shown this season!

Congratulations to **Lauren Normandale**, who after trials has secured a place within the athlete development scholarship to study in the USA and play football with First Point USA. She will spend the next two years building her portfolio before securing a scholarship place. We are thrilled to support her in her sports dreams, great work Lauren!

Sports Champions



Ashleigh Baillie



Ava Gunby



Caitlin Few



Ellie Roberts



Jade Moore



Lauren Normandale



Louise Clark



Maddison Rainey



Maddison Rainey



Megan Bruton



Mel Burgin



Nick Chapman



Summit Cheer Finals



Niamh Jones



Rachael and Sophie



David Chapman

Caitlin Few has had a busy and successful May riding. At the start of the month she competed at Royal Windsor in the international qualifiers, sadly missing out on placings. Last weekend she competed again at the Hambleton County Show in the Royal International Horse Show qualifier (intermediate). Here she received her RHIS ticket and was home produced champion!

Huge congratulations to our very own **Ashleigh Baillie**. Ashleigh has been competing in the North East Regional Swimming competition and has not only walked away with a silver medal and three bronze medals but also 8 national qualifying times! Ashleigh will go on to race in August against the top 25 athletes in England where she is already ranked 1st in the country for 400m freestyle and is in the top 10 for all her other events! - Amazing news and we are super proud!

We are really proud that **Sophie Kershaw** in Y8 will be representing Great Britain at the World Gymnaestrada in July #achieving excellence

Congratulations to **Maddison Rainey**, Y9, who has been selected into the U14 West Yorkshire Rugby League squad! This is the first step onto the RL English player pathway.

We are so excited for **Rachael and Sophie** in their new GB kit. Lots of gymnastics training and big beaming smiles.

Ellie Roberts in Y11 competed at the Elite Cheerleading Champs in Germany a few weeks ago (in between her GCSEs!). She competed as part of the Level 6 Trailblazer Allstar Senior troupe. Her team secured a fully funded place at World Cheer Champs again next year, so she's back to Florida!! This competition is for the highest level cheerleaders so is a real achievement for Ellie and her teammates.

And if that wasn't enough...cheerleading standards have risen so much that a new Level 7 (basically, elite+) category has been created. On Saturday 22nd Ellie and her team competed in the inaugural Level 7 event at Jamfest in Liverpool...here they were only awarded Level 7 European Jamfest champions! No biggy.

Best of luck to **Nick Chapman** who is presently en route to Quincy University in the USA to study and play football. He will train twice a day, seven days a week over the next few weeks as he settles in to life as a student athlete.

We are so excited to see how you develop over the next four years and know you'll perform as you always have done - with grit, guts and honesty!

Team Dinno always, enjoy your American adventure. We've loved touring the world with you!

David Chapman in Y11 has been busy this season with a Bronze medal in the Northern Counties 200m earlier this year. More recently David competed in the Yorkshire Track and Field championships, he finished 2nd in the 400m with a time of 51.7seconds - 0.20 seconds outside of the National time!! In the 200m at the same event he narrowly missed out on a podium finish by 0.06 seconds. Congrats David - fingers crossed for another season of PRs.

The LEAP Vision

Achieving excellence is the overriding ambition of our Trust. We place students at the centre of everything we do, creating a culture of success and a love of learning which enhances students' achievements and their personal, social and emotional wellbeing.

We achieve our vision through:

Excellence for our Students

Inspiring, challenging, engaging and supporting all of our students to achieve excellent outcomes irrespective of their starting points. Every student is provided with a clear progression route to the next stage of their education and career.

Excellence for our Staff

Driving excellence in teaching and learning, and implementing a knowledge-rich curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of all students.

Excellence for our Schools

Enhancing central and shared services to maximise organisational and cost efficiencies.

Excellence for our Communities

Building positive partnerships with our parents, primary schools and the wider community



ARW

Andy Riches
CEO



wb

Wayne Barsby
Executive Principal



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