

DUNHURST, BEDALES JUNIOR SCHOOL

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

Aim 1

To develop inquisitive thinkers with a love of learning who cherish independent thought

DUNHURST

We are:

- maintaining as much freedom as is practicable from the pressures of testing, exam results and Common Entrance preparation
- continuing to develop a discursive approach to all subject areas and encourage philosophical discussions and thinking in classes, tutor groups and whole school debates
- launching a new academically ambitious programme, QI Junior, led and run by parents
- strengthening the pastoral role of Groups class teachers
- assessment truly informing learning, fully implemented by our new Director of Teaching and Learning
- raising our expectations and aspirations to ensure that all pupils are stretched and challenged, as is appropriate

We will:

- introduce a linking theme across the curriculum each year; Earth Exploration is the theme for 2010-11
- further commit to an ideas rich environment across all curricular areas in which pupils contribute to, and feel part of, a community of thinking
- use the Slave Trade project in Block 2 as an Independent Learning Project
- extend Learning Support into the classroom

Aim 2

To enable students' talents to develop through doing and making

DUNHURST

We are:

- ensuring that doing and making are involved in all kinds of learning, both in the creative arts, practical work and in intellectual pursuits
- acknowledging the value of the creative subjects in our allocation of lessons to them within the weekly timetable
- introduce more problem solving and team building opportunities, particularly into the Games curriculum, with a view to alternative-style competitions with other schools

We will:

- continue to timetable Outdoor Work across all year groups
- expand Outdoor Work to include use of parental expertise
- build a working kitchen on site
- seek to build a 'treehouse' classroom for more outside learning

Aim 3

To foster individuality and encourage initiative, creativity and the appreciation of the beautiful

DUNHURST

We are:

- offering numerous opportunities for pupils to organise themselves so that they learn good time management skills of both academic and free time and to induct all new Groups children to this end
- equally valuing creative arts with other subjects and ensuring timetable allocation reflects this
- drawing in external practical expertise, whenever possible, to enhance the curriculum, e.g. the artist-in-residence scheme and entrepreneurial and financial advisors for the Fair Trade Committee
- maintaining links with professional performers to assist with workshops, plays and skill based lessons and to produce a whole-school opera in summer 2011
- having whole day 'artistic' projects for the school community and offer opportunity to forge cross-curricular links and more fully creative activities across the school, for example, in science
- building 'quiet spaces' around the school for reflection
- celebrating beauty wherever we see it

We will:

- make full use of the new outdoor classroom to further encourage a creative outdoor learning environment
- encourage and fund Dance, photography and film as creative opportunities
- support the 'Green Team' to voice our community's commitment to 'green' issues

Aim 4

We will enable students and staff to take pride in the community's distinctiveness – to feel valued and nourished by the community

DUNHURST

We are:

- enabling the child's voice through school council, whole school meetings, assemblies, notices and committees and individual initiatives such as mock elections
- enabling older pupils, as peer listeners, to take an active role in the community by listening to the concerns of others
- offering numerous opportunities for pupils to organise themselves so that they learn good time management skills of both academic and free time
- acknowledging and celebrating highlights of school life in the annual celebration assembly
- working on promoting healthy lifestyle through the newly designed PSHE programmes
- committed to regular whole school productions

- providing an understanding of the school's history and ethos through Jaw, Badley Weekend and the Dunhurst Annual Lecture
- moving in-house individual counselling and family counselling to the centre of school life
- encouraging parents, through the Friends of Dunhurst, to contribute to the school development plan

We will:

- appreciate silence and the ability to be silent
- continue to provide Childtalk programme for parents
- offer personal and professional support and care to staff through appraisal and other means
- continue to offer the children opportunity to move forward with independent initiatives such as 'The Children's Play'

Aim 5

To foster interest beyond the school – engaging with the local community and developing an international awareness

DUNHURST

We are:

- enabling Block II to workshadow using placements which expose pupils to the world of adult careers and work
- running the HOPIT (Helping Other People In Trouble) annual fair every December with full pupil participation raising up to £8,000 for some 5 local and national charities
- expanding our ambitious Community Service programme involving local primary schools, Hollywater School (for disabled children) and the Fitzroy Centre (for adults with special needs)
- supporting links with the Miraflor Community in Nicaragua

We will:

- vary and increase the range of whole school tours and trips
- encourage staff and children to visit the Miraflor Community