



03 February 2017

Welcome from the Headmaster

With reference to Entrance Examinations and pre-testing, we continue to receive news regarding Downsend pupils. This time next week, all Year 6 pupils will have received their offers and, in an increasingly competitive setting, our children have again performed admirably. Indeed, the most positive news is not that they do well in the 'exam' element, they excel in the interview where Senior Heads, without fail, comment on their rounded nature and love of learning in all its forms. My thanks goes out to all those who have helped prepare the children for what can be a stressful process, with such outstanding results. There will inevitably be some who receive disappointing news and we are on hand to assist parents with the next steps, in what can be an upsetting period.

Year after year we never cease to be amazed by just how well Downsend pupils do in gaining scholarships to their Senior Schools and this year looks like it will be no different. The following awards were confirmed this week, which reflect the varied talents that we aim to foster. Very well done to all.

Emma Ames - Head's Award, Box Hill

Issy Baileff - Sport, St John's

Rory Davidson - Academic, St John's

Rory Davidson - Sport, St John's

Yasi Fryer - All-Rounder, St John's

Adam Geddes - Sport, St John's

Harry Goodman - Sport, Box Hill

Jess Hyde - Sport, St John's

Eliza Klein - Sport, St John's

Matilda Laidlaw - Art, St John's

Mya Murphy - Sport, St John's

Katherine Vann - Academic, Box Hill

One of our aims for this year is to develop a programme to help parents negotiate the difficult journey that is parenting and all its challenges, from E-safety to the new GCSEs, adolescence to home learning. News of the first such programme is advertised below and we do hope that it will be of interest. Getting the best out of children is

a partnership and we very much value your role in achieving this aim.

Finally this week, a request to our parents. On the way in to work this morning a news story captured my interest. Petrol prices are at their highest for 2 years. With this and environmental concerns in mind, please remember to turn off your car engines when waiting for your children at pick-up.

Ian Thorpe

Change to Calendar



Year 5 STEAM morning - Friday 10 February

Due to administrative reasons, we are swapping the Year 5 STEAM morning next week to Year 6. Year 6 will now be taking part in the STEAM morning and should look forward to a morning of team work, problem solving, design and construction.

Please be reassured that we will continue to develop the enthusiasm in STEAM subjects in Year 5 with a similar activity in the Summer Term.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via tamsin.groocok@downsend.co.uk

Tamsin Groocock

Year 2 Rumble in the Jungle

As part of our current Humanities topic (People and Places), Year 2 headed off to Newbury to experience the dark, damp humidity of an indoor tropical jungle. The children were amazed by the scale of the plants and fascinated by the stingrays, tortoises and tiny poison arrow frogs they discovered while exploring. However, the real highlight of the day was spotting the Rainforest's star attraction – a two-toed sloth that not only made a rare appearance, but treated us to a sleepy yawn and a winning gaze.



This is what the children had to say about their trip:

It was amazing. We walked in and the sloth was hanging above us eating leaves! Grace H (2LBu)

It was terrific. I liked seeing the blue and green poison dart frogs. Natalia T (2LBu)

The rainforest trip was epic because we were lucky enough to see a sloth eating. George D (2CW)

The rainforest looked very tropical and there was lots of wildlife there like pythons, birds and scorpions. Aston S(2CW)

I loved the different colours of the animals. Pravini J (2YdV)

It was hot and sticky when we went inside. Dominic R (2YdV)

The Year 2 Team

Year 8 Update

A big well done to all of the school prefects who delivered last Friday's whole school assembly. The theme was geared around celebrating their time at Downsend whilst also admitting that we all make mistakes and that learning from them is the key.

All pupils have continued their sterling efforts both inside and outside of the classroom and have been eagerly earning housepoints (for academic and sporting work), credits (for good citizenship) or commendations (for

academic or sporting or citizenship) and I'm delighted that the following were awarded the Headmaster's Bronze Commendation badge for reaching 300 points:

8AD: Maya B, Elisha B, Ethan C, Charlotte H, Leon M, Jacob S, Ben S

8JH: Freya C, Emma P

8MT: Jake B, Oliver C-W, Toby R, Fraser S, Ellie T, Douglas Y

8SG: Finlay C, Daniel G, Anna R, Caroline W

There are some pupils who are not far off from earning their Bronze badge so keep up the good work and keep pushing yourselves. Some of the first recipients of this new award from last term have been storming ahead and are now close to earning their Silver badge, so I hope to be awarding these shortly. Watch this space!

Lee Silva

Downsend Warhammer Club

We had painting and a match in progress as last week's session. All the boys are very happy!



Warhammer is available to all Upper School children each Friday from 13.30-14.10.

Rob Temlett

DPA



It's Quiz Night tonight! Please don't forget to download the app and bring your iPads! We have over 70 people attending and are looking forward to seeing if the parents can beat the teachers this year. Doug and

Adrian are on curry duty this afternoon. I'm going to sneak in and see if they need a taster!

Meanwhile we are still interested in anyone who wishes to join us as a 'Friend' and help with event planning. Thank you to those who have already contacted me.

Jodie Pett

Next Week @ Downsend

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 7 February	pm 6.30pm	Year 8 trip to 'Woman in Black' Year 2 & 3 Parent-Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 8 February	6.30-7.30pm 6.30pm	Year 1 Pre-Prep Evening Year 7 Parent-Teacher Interviews
Thursday 9 February	All Day	Year 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend
Friday 10 February	am am	Year 6 STEAM Morning Upper School Scholarship Tests

Music Update



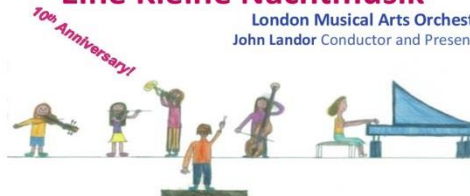
Saturday 18 February 4.30 - 5.30 pm

MINI MAESTRO Family Concert

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ

MOZART Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

London Musical Arts Orchestra
John Landor Conductor and Presenter



Mini Maestro Family Concerts continue on Saturdays:
11 March 4.30 pm Baroque Favourites, 22 April 4.30 pm Handel & Schubert

Tickets: £8 (under 16), £10 (adults)
Box Office: 020 7766 1100

SPECIAL OFFER: 3 CONCERTS FOR THE PRICE OF 2
Contact the box office for details

www.LMAorchestra.com

2016 HW00, registered charity no 327296



Informal Music Recital

Well done to Bronwen R, Isobel R, Fraser S, Brandon G and Alexander W for giving fantastic performances during our Informal Lunchtime Music Recital this week. The audience was amazed by the level of talent on display!

Whole School Orchestra

The Whole School Orchestra is taking part in the Children's Trust Surrey School's Concert at St John's on Sunday 5 March from 2-4pm. Tickets are now available and can be purchased from the following website. Please purchase them as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/surrey-schools-concert-2017>

We are scheduled to have a rehearsal at St John's at 12.15pm. Drop off time will be 11.30-11.45am

Trumpet Workshop with Louis Dowdeswell

For all young trumpet and cornet players! 26 March 2017 at Westfield Primary School, Woking. Workshops begin at 10am with an Informal Concert at 3pm. More information can be found at the following website: www.surreymusicclub.com/events_calendar/item/13025202

Upcoming Events

Sunday 5 March **2.00-4.00pm** - The Children's Trust Surrey Schools' Concert (Whole School Orchestra)

Thursday 9 March **All Day** - St Christopher's Music Festival (Selected Y2 pupils)

Sunday 12 March **10.00am-12.00pm** - Chamber Choir perform at Music for Youth (The Connaught School, Aldershot)

Monday 13 March **1.15-1.45pm** - Informal Music Recital (Selected pupils)

Wednesday 22 March **6.00-7.00pm** - Informal Drums and Guitar Concert (Mr Precious and Mr Bradfield)

Thursday 23 March **7.00pm** - Performance of Y6 Production 7pm (Dining Hall)

Friday 24 March **7.00pm** - Performance of Y6 Production 7pm (Dining Hall)

Tuesday 28 March **7.00-9.00pm** - Spring Concert 7pm (Sports Hall)

Friday 21 April **7.00am** - Chamber Choir tour to Belgium departs

Monday 24 April **10.45pm** - Chamber Choir tour to Belgium returns

Easter Music Courses

There are a number of music courses available to our musicians over the Easter period. Here are a few that have been recommended:

Join the Buzz Brass course **3-7 April** at the Purcell School, Hertfordshire

Feel the Beat Percussion course **3-7 April** at the Purcell School, Hertfordshire

www.brass-academy.co.uk

Summer Music Courses

www.musicmakers.co.uk/ have come highly recommended and they are offering a number of courses in July and

August suitable for ages 5-18.

If you can recommend any other courses, please let me know at steven.williams@downsend.co.uk.

Instrumental Lessons at Downsend School

If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsend with one of our tutors then please email the Director of Music at steven.williams@downsend.co.uk. For more information about how the music lessons work, please click [here](#). Currently we have tutors for the following instruments:

Flute, Recorder, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba, Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Mandolin, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Percussion, Ukulele, Violin, Viola and Piano.

If your child would like to play an instrument that is not listed above, please let me know and I will try to source a tutor for you.

Music Clubs & Ensembles

Please click [here](#) to download this term's schedule.

Steven Williams

Young Voices 2017

On Friday 20 January Year 5 travelled to the O2 arena in London for an exciting day out with 7,010 other enthusiastic young school children to sing in front of their parents. Just when we got there we had a lovely cooked pizza baked by Pizza Express before 3 hours of tiring rehearsals led by Mr David Lawrence. We quickly left the main arena as most people were hungry after the exhausting, but fun, singing. As all the sandwiches were getting munched the Young Voices crew were getting ready for the big event.

When the very first set of parents entered the arena, a surge of excitement and adrenaline swept through everyone's body but everyone started to calm down when the concert itself started. The arena looked amazing with everyone inside holding their light and from the first song Five Guys Named Moe to the last song of Ain't No Mountain it was the best school trip ever. Then the sad moment happened of having to leave the O2, it was a thing that no-one wanted but we had to as the concert was finished and besides it was well past everyone's bedtime! From the moment we stepped onto the coach to when we left the coach it was a sensational trip.

A big thank you to the Young Voices crew, Pizza Express, the parents and mostly all the staff that used up their time to come on this trip and especially Mr Williams. I and the whole of Year 5 would like to thank you so much.

Oliver F

Music Update



Saturday 18 February 4.30 - 5.30 pm

MINI MAESTRO

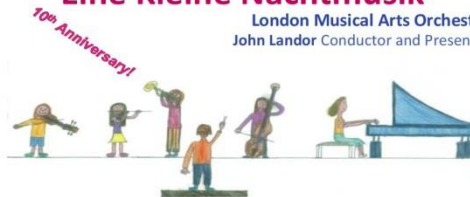
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Oliver F

DownsendSki 2018

Deadline for Canada Ski Trip 2018 deposit is Wednesday 8 February. If there is not enough interest, the trip will revert back to Europe. The trip is open to all in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Dee Vanstone

Lower School House Chess Competition

Congratulations to all the competitors who started the House Chess Competition on Wednesday break time this week. It was great to see so many of our younger pupils able to play the game and productively use their wet break! Good luck to all the remaining competitors.

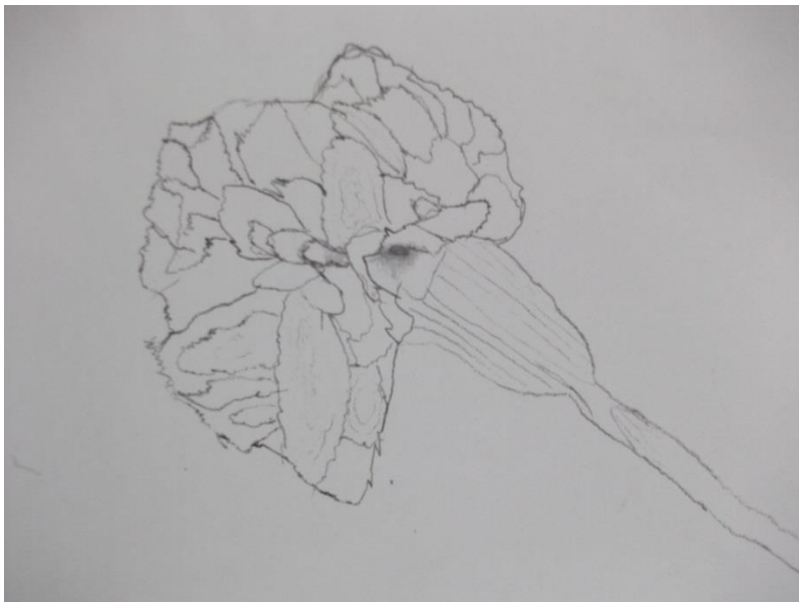




Jon Albert

Artist of the Week

Congratulations to Curtis T in Year 4 who drew a fantastic flower! Great observational skills.



Hannah Shore

Year 8 Trip to 'Woman in Black'

Please note that Year 8 will be going to see 'Woman in Black' on Tuesday and they will return at approximately 6.30pm.

Dee Vanstone

Rotary Club Competition

We wish our Public Speaking team of Meharpal G, Robert McG and Ollie G the best of luck in the second round of the Rotary Club competition to be held in Oxted tomorrow.

Misunderstood from the X Factor

The Upper School is being treated to an assembly from Misunderstood. The duo were on the X Factor a few years ago. They will be performing to the pupils and then delivering a presentation on cyber bullying, discrimination and British values. This promises to be a great fun event. If the pupils from the Upper School wish to bring in money up to the value of £5, the duo will be selling wristbands and signed pictures.

Dee Vanstone

News from Leatherhead Pre-Prep

The children in Reception have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about China and Chinese New Year this week. They have tried some Chinese foods using chopsticks, made lots of Chinese lanterns and dragons, but the best part was when the theatre workshop came to visit. They all enjoyed dressing up as the different animals from the New Year story. We practised cleaning and decorating our houses and even got to take part in a dragon dance!



Gill Brooks

Parent Programme

A Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children

A 4-hour workshop for parents exploring resilience and how to use specific techniques to develop positive and resilient behaviours in children.



Resilient environments
Four dimensions of resilience
Emotional intelligence
Embodying resilience
Self-talk traps: "I can't do this!"
Encouraging accountability
Problem solving

Facilitator: Julia Philpott

Julia Philpott has a background in corporate executive development and is qualified in both leadership coaching and psychology. She combines these skills with her experience as a parent to offer tools and techniques so that parents can help their children navigate the primary school years with confidence.

Thursday 16th March 2017, 9am – 1pm

The Pavilion, Downsend School
Special introductory price £30 per person (normally £50)

For more information and to book:
e-mail jp@jpexecutivecoaching.co.uk or call 07967 497779

School Notices

Contact Details

Please email office@downsend.co.uk if any of your contact details change. Most communication regarding school matches, meetings and other general school information is sent via email or text message.

Medical Details

Please email nurse@downsend.co.uk if any of your child's medical details change or return a hard copy to the School Office.

[Music Clubs and Ensembles](#)

[Downsend +](#)

[Downsend Matters](#)

[Maths Clinic](#)

[School Sports](#)

[Sports Fixture Line](#)

[Parents' Swimming](#)

[Weekly Music Practices](#)

[Extended Day](#)

[Transport & Walking Home](#)

[Absence from School](#)

[Out of school childcare](#)

[School Uniform](#)

Downsend Times

Should you wish to add any additional family members to the weekly distribution list then please email their details to editor@downsend.co.uk

Inspiring Young Minds

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