



10 February 2017

Welcome from the Headmaster

Firstly, I must thank the DPA for a fabulous Quiz Night last Friday and congratulations to the teachers who again came out on top!

Today we reach the end of another busy half-term and I am sure that we are all looking forward to the chance to have a break and recharge. Academically, this is always a key period, with 11+ exams and preparation for scholarships taking centre stage. With results from Senior Schools now in, I am delighted that our Year 6 pupils have performed so well, in the face of increasing competition for places. I congratulate them, and their teachers, on a job well done. Well over 90% of pupils now have offers of places at schools of choice; waiting lists will always move in the months ahead, so we are confident that this figure is set to rise, as last year's has done over the past 9 months.

This morning we had our STEAM Day, which saw Year 6 and 8 pupils using their skills acquired via Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths to solve a host of problems. The programme was fascinating and I am sure that our pupils enjoyed putting their skills to the test. This edition of the Downsend Times again reflects the richness of school life and I hope you enjoy reading about some of the successes that are contained within. I look forward to seeing you back at Downsend on Monday 20 February.

**HAPPY
HALF
TERM!**



Ian Thorpe

Misunderstood

Yesterday the Upper School were treated to a presentation by the duo known as Misunderstood. The band made it through to the Britain's Got Talent semi-final a few years ago. They performed a couple of numbers, danced, back-flipped and then had a talk with us all about issues such as online reputation and cyber-bullying which included some personal anecdotes too. Other topics that are at the forefront of PSHE delivery in schools today such as Diversity, Discrimination and British Values were also covered.

Four volunteers were selected – Meredith B, Ava G, Ethan C and Ellie T– were invited up to rap to their beat! Congratulations to Meredith who was a clear winner in the end. She has gone into a draw to win some headphones from the band.

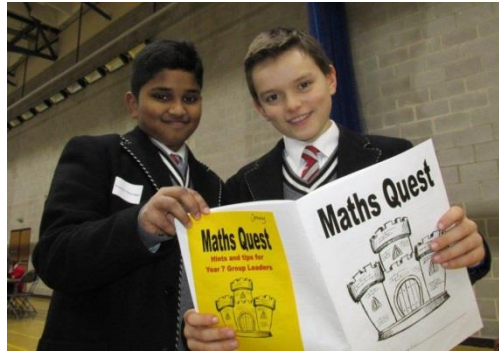


Serious messages were delivered in a fun bad original way and, judging by all the clapping, singing and dancing at the end, a good time was had by all!

Dee Vanstone

Maths Quest Conquered

Last Friday morning was very busy for Year 5 as they embarked on a Maths Quest where mathematical problems had to be solved to escape from a castle. The children enjoyed being led by some of the Year 7 children who, having been 'trained up' by Mrs Mercer and Mrs Langridge, were in charge of their teams. Lots of maths discussion was had by all and also many maths riddles were solved in the process - unlocking doors to get to different rooms, escaping from the castle kitchens and working out coded messages to get out of the dungeon to name but a few! Thankfully, all of the children managed to escape the castle and get their reward with superb guidance from their fantastic Year 7 leaders!



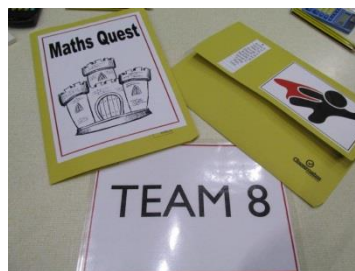
It was a mathematical challenge and I had a blast! I loved the last question where I needed to de-code the answer to find the instruction. I enjoyed the Year 7s supporting and helping us too! Joel W

I really enjoyed going through the Count's castle and solving all the puzzles. The Year 7s were giving us hints and helping us when we were stuck! Jacob S

I really enjoyed the Year 5s and the Year 7s working together on the Quest. I also liked the Year 7s helping us and supporting us if we were stuck – they were great! The riddles were amazing and we solved the Quest! Lauren B

The riddle round made me think differently to normal maths. I enjoyed how the Quest wasn't just straight sums and was proper problem solving. My favourite rounds were the dragon round and the kitchen round and I liked working with people who were not in the same set as me. Brandon G





Anna Mercer

Townsend Warner History Prize 2016-17

First Round

In January a selection of children from Year 7 and Year 8 took part in the first round of the Townsend Warner History Prize. This competition started 131 years ago and is one of the oldest institutions in the preparatory school world. It is not linked to any national testing or examinations but aims to provoke interest and delight in historical reading, facts and analysis. It regularly produces winners of remarkable calibre, writing history of much flair and knowledge.

The Prize consists of two papers. The first has 100 questions demanding one-word or one-sentence answers from world history with a strong emphasis on British history. Many are straightforward but some are a little more obscure. Over 1,000 students sat this paper last month and only the top 250 candidates qualify from Paper 1 to sit Paper 2.

I am very proud to announce the following results:

- Robert M – came 5th overall
- Fraser S – came 87th overall
- Callum H – came 111th overall

These three have done incredibly well and I wish them all the very best of luck for Paper 2 which will be held

towards the end of this month.

I would also like to thank all those children from Year 7 and Year 8 who took part. I was incredibly impressed with the high quality and range of knowledge that was displayed in what was a tough Paper 1.

Helen Black

Future Schools Advice for Year 5

I have now seen quite a few parents in Year 5 for one to one advice meetings. If you would like to make an appointment to see me please ring the school office on 01372 372197 (during school hours) and ask to speak to Colette Allen who will book you an appointment. Many thanks.

Seb Watts

Ski Trip

Ski Trip 2017 to Prato Nevoso, Italy

There will be an information evening on Wednesday 8 March in the Tregenna Hall at 4.15pm to discuss the trip. Please try to ensure that you attend as there will be a presentation of the trip, an information booklet handed out and a q and a session at the end. I look forward to seeing you there.



Ski Trip 2018

Thank you to those who responded to the proposed trip to Mont Sainte Anne in Canada. Unfortunately, there has not been enough interest to make this a viable trip. We are therefore returning to Italy and the resort that we are going to this year, namely Prato Nevoso. Having done the ski inspection trip already I am confident that this promises to be an amazing and memorable trip. The hotel is fantastic and right on a blue slope into the village and it has excellent facilities including a games room, a theatre for hosting activities and a swimming pool which is lifeguarded. The food is wonderful authentic Italian cuisine and the staff couldn't be more friendly. All rooms are en-suite. The ski area suits everyone from beginners to expert and

at a height of 2029m the snow record is good. There are many activities on offer from horse sleigh rides to night skiing to snow tubing. Indeed a school that was there when I visited has returned for 19 years so they must be getting it right!

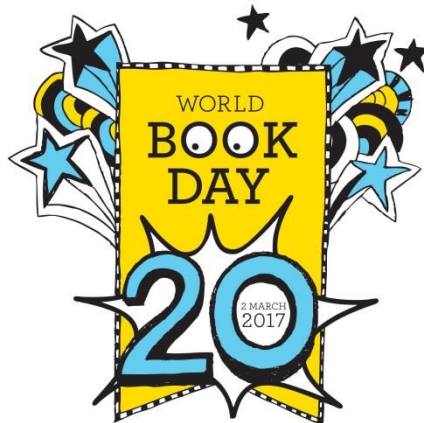
In order to secure a place on this trip, you will need to pay a deposit cheque of £300. This will need to be in school by Monday 6 March at the latest. The estimated cost of the trip is £1300 and therefore two further payments of £500 will be due in September 2017 and then January 2018. This price is estimated as the final cost will depend on numbers, but I am confident that it is likely to be very close to this.

Those parents who have kindly already paid a deposit for Canada will be contacted separately to discuss this option and whether the place on the ski trip will still be taken up.

A further newsletter will be sent out to all pupils in the current Years 4, 5 ,6 and 7.

Dee Vanstone

World Book Day on Thursday 2 March 2017



This year we are organising a day of great literacy-based activities to celebrate World Book Day. Here is a brief summary:

- All pupils from Years 2 to 8 to come into school dressed as a character from a book for a very special mufti day. Prizes will be offered for the best costumes. Staff will be joining in too! A contribution of £2.00 will be taken from each child to go towards our school charity.
- The library will be running a book fair all week: see elsewhere in this edition for more information.
- Upper School Book Quiz - which of the four Houses will win?
- The Upper and Lower School will combine for a paired reading activity. Years 2-4 can show Years 5-8 what they like to read for one period.

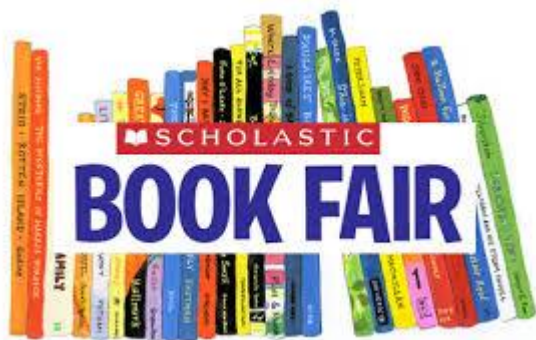
More information and additional activities will be confirmed nearer the time. Pupils can see the information they need, as well as a list of suggested characters, on the English page of the VLE: <https://downsend.fireflycloud.net/english>

Please note that most lessons will go on as normal on World Book Day.

Christopher Bryant

Book Fair

As part of our World Book Day celebrations there will be a Mini Scholastic Book Fair in the Library from Tuesday 28 February to Friday 3 March.



Children will have an opportunity to browse and create a wish list to bring home. There will be a variety of ways that books can be ordered.

Further information will be given after half term.

Karen Cresswell

English 500 Words Competition

After Half Term @ Downsend

Date	Time	Event
Monday 20 February	am	Townsend-Warner History Prize – Paper 2
Tuesday 21 February	All Day 9.00-10.45am	8CE Mocks begin Year 6 Box Clever Theatre (Shakespeare)
Thursday 23 February	All Day 12.45pm 6.30pm	Year 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Upper School House Meeting Year 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews

Music Update

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. We are scheduled to rehearse at St John's at 12.15pm. The children should arrive no later than 11.45am and are required to wear full school uniform. Please could you also provide your child with a full bottle of water. More information about where to meet and parking at the venue will be sent out shortly before the concert via schoolcomms.

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>

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir is participating in the Music for Youth Music Festival which is due to be held at the Connaught School on Sunday 12 March 2017. The Chamber Choir will be performing in session 1 which takes place between 10.00 and 12.00 pm. The children should arrive at the Connaught School no later than 9.15 pm and report to the Festival Reception Desk. We will only be performing for 10 minutes but all children are required to stay for the entire session to support the other participating acts. Friends and family are welcome to attend if there is space in the hall. This will be on a first-come-first-served basis. The children should wear full school uniform, including blazers, and bring a bottle of water.

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

Artist of the Week

Congratulations to Tilly W in Year 8 for her super screen-print!



Hannah Shore

Surbiton Hockey Club - Ladies 1st XI Ball Patrol Opportunity



Calling Year 7 and 8 Girls!

We have a great opportunity to be involved in a Surbiton Ladies 1st XI match on Saturday March 11 at Surbiton Hockey Club when they play Bowden Hightown at 2pm. We are looking for between six and twelve girls to represent Downsends school and be on ball patrol whilst the ladies play their match. This fantastic opportunity

gives you the chance to be part of the game, watch up close from the pitch side and see how the top players in the country play the game.

Surbiton are currently the top ladies side in the country, unbeaten in 51 games and are seeking their third consecutive Premier Division league title this season. Amongst the squad are three gold medal Olympic Champions and a further six players who have just recently been selected as part of the new Central GB squad looking towards the 2020 Olympic Games. Bowden Hightown are currently eighth in the premier league table.

To be on ball patrol you need to have a good understanding of the game as you will be expected to roll the ball quickly and accurately to the player taking free hits. You need to be able to concentrate and keep your eye on the ball and game at all times and work as a team with the other Downsends girls on ball patrol.

There may be an opportunity to meet the players before or after the match and have a photo with them.

If you are interested in this opportunity we would like you to write a paragraph about why you should be chosen to represent Downsends and what or who has inspired you the most to play or be involved in sport.

You can email your application to fiona.fitch@downsend.co.uk or print it out and hand it in to the PE Department. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Fitch.

Fiona Fitch

News from Epsom Pre-Prep



Pre-Prep Epsom was visited by Smartie the Penguin on National Internet Safety Day on Tuesday. He taught the children about the importance of being safe when using ipads, tablets and smart phones to access the internet. Smartie taught the children a song to help them remember the message.

Before you tap and click, click, click,
You need to stop and think, think, think
And tell an adult.

Vanessa Conlan

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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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road

Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ