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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

17 March 2017

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Welcome from the Headmaster

As we near the end of a busy and successful Spring Term, there appears to be no sign that the pace is slowing. Today is Team Building Day for Year 4, and Victorian Day for Year 2, whilst the Year 6s have a Junior Citizen Event at Epsom Downs this afternoon. I am indebted to my colleagues who have worked so hard to put these days together. They typify what we are trying to create in terms of educational provision at Downsend: a curriculum that inspires creativity and curiosity, improves grit and resilience, develops teamwork and caters for a range of learning styles.

As you read on, you will see that Creative Arts is now taking centre stage, with the forthcoming Year 6 production and the Spring Concert to come, and the LAMDA and ESB activities having been concluded so successfully, it is lovely to see such confidence and enthusiasm being demonstrated in this area.

On Monday the new Downsend website will go live. The change has been brought about as all Cognita school websites have been moving across to a new platform, making them easier to administer. We are the penultimate school to make this move which tells you something about the fact that our current website was, in many ways, very effective. With this in mind you will not see significant changes although the pictures are even newer, some aspects easier to negotiate and a more user-friendly set of Parent Portals. We hope you like the new site.

Ian Thorpe

Townsend Warner History Prize – The Results

Last month Robert M, Fraser S and Callum H made it through to the last round of the prestigious 'Townsend Warner History Prize'. Only 250 candidates from the initial 1000 made it through to this round. This final paper was a two hour exam where the boys had to answer questions based on a wide range of topics. The paper is designed to give pupils a chance to show off their knowledge of history as well as the opportunity to write with flair and imagination.

Robert M came 5th and was awarded a certificate and a voucher; whereas both Fraser S and Callum H were awarded 'Highly commended' coming a respectable 85th and 95th. I am incredibly proud of the boys; their achievements are fantastic especially considering the tough competition they were against.



Helen Black

Year 6 Play

Tickets for the play will be available from the office and parents will be advised as soon as they are made available. Call times for cast and backstage team are as follows:

Monday 20 March finish at 6.00pm (Tech Rehearsal)

Tuesday 21 March finish at 6.00pm (Dress Rehearsal)

Wednesday 22 March finish at normal end of school – no evening rehearsal

Thursday 23 March finish at normal end of school, then back in school for 6.00pm. Evening performance starts at 7.00pm. Expected pickup at 8.30pm

Friday 24 March same as Thursday 23 March.

Please can all backstage pupils wear black trousers and black top for all performances and rehearsals. Cast members should know what they need to wear as a costume list has been sent out previously.

Any queries contact Christopher.bryant@downsend.co.uk

We hope everyone enjoys the show!

Christopher Bryant

Evacuee Morning

The Year 6 evacuee morning was such great fun and everyone entered into the spirit of things, arriving in authentic costumes. The morning began with a very interesting assembly lead by Sofia's grandmother, Mrs Januszewska, who came to talk to us about the experiences of her family during the war. She brought many special items to show us including medals, a prisoner of war chain and a wedding outfit made of parachute material. Next we made paper gas masks to get a feel for what it would have been like to wear one.

We concluded the morning with tasting of some food kindly made by parents following ration recipes. We tried things such as syrup sponge with grated potato, carrot biscuits, wartime chocolate cake and lemonade. Despite the strange sounding ingredients, they tasted surprisingly good!

Isobel Roberts



Commendations

Bronze Commendations:

I'm delighted that more Year 8 pupils have picked up over 300 points (a combination of housepoints, credits and commendations) to achieve their Bronze Commendation which were awarded yesterday. Congratulations go to:

Matt K, Jackson R, Suzanne de L-R, Edward J, Anthonie K, James M, Robert M, Jess N, Billy P, Clara T, Leyton T, David C, Poppy P, Yuvi S.

Silver Commendations:

A sterling effort by the following pupils has seen them move on to the Silver Commendation. Since the new Commendation system was introduced into Year 8 this year, they are the first ever recipients of this award. They have all achieved a fantastic score of over 700 points and are now working their way towards the Gold Commendation. Well done to all – a stunning achievement!

Meredith B, Amelia F, Callum H, Susannah K, Tilly W

Year 6 Trip to the Globe

Last Friday the whole of Year 6 went on a trip to the Globe Theatre. This trip comes towards the end of a project we have been studying which began with Box Clever (a visiting theatre company) giving an introduction to the world of Shakespeare and his plays. We have been looking specifically at the Scottish play and the children were given a chance to visit one of the Globe's drama studios where they acted out various scenes from the play mainly involving Macbeth and his wife. They acted using Shakespearian language and got to understand the motivation of these two characters better. We were then given a tour of the Globe and even Mrs Vanstone who has been visiting the theatre for years learnt a new fact! The Groundlings were so-named after a German fish known as a 'Grondling' who come to the surface of the water and open and close their mouths. The Groundlings reaction to the actors and the plays were supposed to resemble these fish!

After a quick lunch fortunately without rain on the steps on the South Bank, it was either into the shop or viewing a sword-fighting demonstration where we were shown all the different weapons used in Shakespeare's plays along with the actual combat moves. The children were given a chance to touch these weapons. Following this, we went around the exhibition which gave us a chance to look at the theatre through the ages, costumes, musical instruments, armour and even Elizabethan dancing!

It was a great day enjoyed by all and Year 6 were a credit to the school both in terms of the knowledge they brought to the trip and behaviour.

Dee Vanstone

Book Fair



Thank You!

Thank you so much for your involvement with the Book Fair that we held in our Library recently. Your purchases have meant that we have received 'rewards' that we will use to buy new books for our Library. Heads of Departments and Staff are making recommendations across the range of curriculum areas and pupil 'Library Advisers' will be making sure that the children are involved with the choices too.

I know that many of you received very long 'wish lists' from your children but it has been lovely to see the excitement on their faces when their books arrived and to see so many of them relaxing and reading their new books in the Library

Karen Cresswell

Ski Trip 2018

Just a reminder that the deadline for signing up to next years' ski trip is Friday 24 March. All those who are interested should pay a deposit of £300 which needs to be returned to Dee Vanstone along with the permission slip. If you are interested but are worried about committing at this stage, please could you indicate your interest via an e mail to me.

Click [here](#) to download the form for further information.

Dee Vanstone

Music Update

Spring Concert – Tuesday 28 March

This year's Spring Concert will feature the following:

- Examples of Art, Design Technology and Textiles work from a range of pupils from Year 2 – 8
- The Chamber Choir
- The Lower School Choir
- The Upper School Choir
- All School Rock Bands
- The Whole School Orchestra
- The Lower School Orchestra
- The Brass Ensemble
- Samba/Percussion Club

The concert will start at 7pm and should end between 8.30 – 9pm. At 6.30pm we will open the doors and invite the audience to have a look at the Art, Design Technology, Food Technology and Textiles work on display.

This event is not ticketed but should you wish to attend, please [click here](#) to book via our school booking system. If your child is performing, they should arrive no later than 5.45pm and report to the Social Area. You may enter via the Sports Hall Entrance.

Informal Music Recital

Well done to the following pupils for giving fantastic performances during the Informal Concert last Monday.

Jonathan P – Violin
Josie D – Electric Guitar
Sarasa M – Flute
Octavia M – Recorder
Caitlin B – Piano
Horatio M – Violin
Alexander C – Piano
Chloe S – Piano
Hector M – Saxophone

Joshua B – French horn
James W – Drum kit

Music Success

Building upon her success from last week, this week Octavia won her recorder solo category in Godalming and was also awarded the Norris cup for the best recorder solo year 6 and under. Well done!



Upcoming Events

Saturday 18 March	Y6 Production Rehearsal 10.00-1.00pm
Wednesday 22 March Bradfield)	Informal Drums and Guitar Concert 6.00-7.00pm (Mr Precious and Mr
Thursday 23 March Hall)	Performance of Y6 Production 7.00pm (Dining
Friday 24 March	Performance of Y6 Production 7.00pm (Dining Hall)
Tuesday 28 March	Spring Concert 7.00pm (Sports Hall)
Friday 21 April	Chamber Choir tour to Belgium departs 7.00am
Monday 24 April	Chamber Choir tour to Belgium returns 10.45pm

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 03-07 April at the Purcell School, Hertfordshire.
www.brass-academy.co.uk
Feel the Beat Percussion course 03-07 April at the Purcell School, Hertfordshire
www.brass-academy.co.uk

Surrey Arts Music Courses 03-07 April at Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Redhill
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/surrey-arts/music/easter-music-course>

Summer Music Courses

Britten Music Course 18-23rd July at Gresham's Prep in Holt, Norfolk
www.greshams.com/bmc

<http://www.musicmakers.co.uk/> has 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.

Steven Williams

Rocking with Rhythm at Ashtead Pre-Prep

Ashtead Village was vibrating last Friday with the sound of African drumming. Could you feel the beat? We were thrilled to invite Ray Watters to our school, to help us celebrate our Creative Arts Day. He arrived with a wonderful array of African drums and the delight on the children's faces as they took part was magical. I think you will be able to see from the photos how much the children gained from this exciting experience. Thank you Ray for a great way to end the week.

Tessa Roberts



Science Week at Epsom Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep Epsom have been predicting, testing, measuring, observing and recording as part of British Science Week. They have been looking at the changes that happen when colours are mixed, bread and meringues are made, coins are put into different liquids, plants are put into different coloured water and what happens when different solids and liquids are mixed, to name just a few of their experiments and investigations!

Vanessa Conlan



News from the DPA



We are hop hop hopping towards the end of term, looking forward to a great Easter break. On the last day of term **29 March** we have the Lower and Upper school events and look forward to lots of happy smiles from the Children. We do still need volunteers to help with the lower school planting event 10am – 12 noon email: admin@dpaschool.org.uk remember parents and grandparents can get involved.

Also after the fun of the Easter break we will have the recycling event, so if you are doing a spring clean over the holidays please bag up any old clothes ready to bring into school on **24 April** 8am – 9am in the sports hall, remember the house with the highest weight in recycling gets a prize.

Meanwhile we are still looking for anyone who wishes to join the DPA as a 'Friend' and help with event planning. We also need people who are interested in joining the committee as many of us are about to finish with our time at Downsend. Thank you to those who have already contacted us.

Maxine Homewood – DPA Secretary

Downsend+

Easter and May half term course descriptions are available [here](#). Please note that the contact information form should only be completed once during the academic year 2016-17 unless your contact details change during the year.

[Booking Form - Easter 2017](#)

[Booking Form - May Half Term](#)

[Booking Form - Summer 2017](#)

[Summer Holiday 2017 Description](#)

[Contact Form](#)

[Price Information](#)

Summer 2017

Our Summer 2017 programme is now complete and we have plenty of exciting days and courses over the 8 weeks, our 'Wednesday Specials' will be back, together with our Friday BBQ lunches. Please do contact me if you have any queries on 07909 861 280 or email me downsendplus@downsend.co.uk.

Please also note that we still have space on all our days and most courses at Easter but time is running out to take advantage of our pre booked rates as these must be received 10 working days in advance. Our special offers on our Summer Tennis and Cricket Camps expire on the 31 March so please do take advantage of these offers and book early. Details of both the Easter and Summer programmes together with our Special Offers can be found on the website www.downsend.co.uk.

Summer 2017 Tennis & Cricket Courses

We will be running cricket and tennis courses again this summer. Please click [here](#) to download the booking form.

All morning tennis courses will run from 9.00am to 1.00pm and the years 3 - 5 cricket course will run from 9.00am to 1.00pm and the years 6 - 8 cricket course will run from 12.00 noon till 4.00pm. All

courses will include a mid session snack and a hot lunch, finishing with a barbeque lunch each Friday. The 5 session courses will cost £150. However, all courses booked and paid for in full by 4.00 pm Friday 31 March will be charged at £125.

Tennis Courses

All abilities aged 6 - 13 years

This summer's action-packed tennis courses will be led by Amanda Beaumont and her team of LTA coaches and are aimed at children aged between 6 - 13 years. The course will comprise of instruction on basic techniques, practice drills, match-play, together with singles and doubles tactics appropriate to age and ability. In addition there will be plenty of fun games for all ages, with competitions on the final morning. Great fun to be had by all!

Cricket Courses

All abilities - Years 3 - 5 and Years 6 - 8

This summer's action-packed cricket course will be led by James Thompson and Alex Culhane, both ECB Level 2 Qualified Coaches. A fun course over 5 mornings for children in Years 3 - 5 and afternoons for children in Years 6 - 8. Both courses welcome children of all abilities to improve their batting, bowling and fielding ability through a variety of fun activities and games. Whether you are new to cricket or want to improve your cricket come and join us.

Please feel free to [email us](#) if you have any enquiries.

Rebecca Peek

Artist of the Week

Well done to Monty H in 4LC who created this delicate plaster cast by pressing plants into clay and creating a mould which was then filled with plaster.



Julia Ayles

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 20 March	2.30pm	Technical Rehearsal for Year 6 Production
Tuesday 21 March	All Day 2.30pm	Year 5 Curriculum Collapse Day Dress Rehearsal for Year 6 Production
Wednesday 22 March	2.30pm 6.00pm	Performance of Year 6 Production to Lower School Informal Drum and Guitar Concert, Dining Hall
Thursday 23 March	All Day All Day 2.30pm 7.00pm	Year 7 trip to Tower of London Year 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Performance of Year 6 Production to Upper School Performance of Year 6 Production to parents
Friday 24 March	Assembly All Day 7.00pm	Maths Department Maths Challenge/Puzzle Day Performance of Year 6 Production to parents

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](#)

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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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