



24 February 2017

Welcome from the Headmaster

I hope that the half term break was an enjoyable one. Looking forward is always a key theme for the Spring Term, which is often seen as the consolidation term. Pupils across Downsend build on the skills that they acquired in the Autumn Term, whilst pupils in Year 6 can look forward to the excitement of the Upper School with pre-testing firmly behind them. Our Year 8 pupils finished their mock exams this morning and, armed with the feedback received, they can look to make their final preparations for their CE exams in June. Plans are firming up for the various residential trips that will take place in the months ahead, with the Ski Trip and Choir Tour heading off in a month's time and Years 4-8 all looking forward to trips to locations as diverse as High Ashurst to Normandy. Life at school is clearly never dull!

Over the half term break there was considerable activity on site as we continue to improve the school's infrastructure and facilities. The raised walkway in the Car Park has improved safety yet further and the Sports Hall corridor is adorned with the latest sporting team pictures. Tomorrow we will complete the resurfacing of the Sandpit Playground. You will see this programme gather pace as 2017 continues with a new Art Room, Trail Playground and further Car Park development planned for the coming months.

I would like to commend the following pupils, all of whom are the latest Downsend pupils to be awarded Scholarships to Senior Schools. It is always heartening to receive external validation for the work that goes on in school, and the 26 Awards gained so far reflect the esteem with which Downsend pupils are held locally. Well done all, and good luck to those Year 8 pupils currently undertaking their own Scholarship assessments.

S Albert - Academic - Reigate Grammar
S Albert - Sport - Reigate Grammar
S Albert - Sport - Whitgift
R Davidson - Academic - Reigate Grammar
Y Fryer - Drama - Epsom
A Gilbert - Sport - Box Hill
A Hartley - Sport - Reigate Grammar
A Hartley - Drama - Reigate Grammar
H Kelly - Academic - Reigate Grammar
E Klein - Sport - Reigate Grammar

J Mumford - Sport - Whitgift
I Roberts - Music - Reigate Grammar
J Weeden - Academic - Reigate Grammar
D Yellow - Drama - Reigate Grammar

Finally, today we say farewell to Jo Milton, who leaves her role as Marketing Assistant. Over the past 18 months, Jo has been a key figure in the increased digital profile of the school, improving our digital footprint and producing our regular newsletters. She will be joining Ashted Hospital, where she will be looking after their Marketing and PR department. Our loss is most certainly their gain. We are fortunate that Jo remains a valued member of our parent body and that she will be replaced by Rachel Faulkner who will carry on Jo's good work in the years to come.

Ian Thorpe

House News

Positions	Lower School	Upper School	Overall
1st	Wisley	Norbury	Headley
2nd	Headley	Ranmore	Norbury
3rd	Ranmore	Headley	Wisley
4th	Norbury	Wisley	Ranmore

Well done to all the top achievers below, especially to Tilly and Tom Q, who are providing hard to knock off the top spots! Keep up the good work!

Top Achievers

Ellie S, Nilmi J, Amelia B, Maria B, Tom Q, Tilly W, Callum H and Matthew K





Consistency pays off as Headley win the latest House Point collection!

Jon Albert

Year 7 Housemaster's Commendations

Huge congratulations to this enormous crowd of Year 7 who have achieved their next Headmaster's Commendation Award – what a great start to the new half term!



Oscar S, Danny A, Diogo C-A, Sophie E, Ollie G, Rylie H, Adam H, Matthew I, Matthew K, Alice L, Hannah M,

Lucy P, Hannah G, Cameron B (not in photo),, Lauren D, Felipe G, Marco H (not in photo), Alex M-T, Katie M, Jonny P, Joe R, Chloe S, Sophia B, Chloe C, Tom D, Lukas E, Grier H (not in photo), Roman H-T, Fraser L, Daniel P, Tom Q, Ethan S, Kavishkar K, Emma B, James C, Turkay C-S, Ollie C, Eve J, Emily L.

Anna Mercer

Peer Mentors

Congratulations to the following:

Year 5 - Chloe M, Mia H, Marcus H, Khalil Visram, Amelie McG, Josh B, Harry H

Year 6 - Warren H, Rory D, Amelia B, Jules T, Tilly H, Rhianna D, Lexi McG, Jake W, Thomas M, Diego R-C

Year 7 - Chloe C, Lukas E, Roman H-T, Felipe G, Meharpal G, Francesca T, Amelia T, Lucy P

All of these children have successfully completed the training to become Peer Mentors at Downsend and are looking forward to starting in these prestigious roles this week in the new Peer Mentor room.

The Year 8 Peer Mentors are Anthonie K, Tilly W, Francesca B, Eden J and Louise O and will also continue in their role as Peer mentors. The Peer mentors will be on a rota system just three breaks a week to start with and they will all have the chance to de-brief from their sessions with a member of staff.

Dee Vanstone

Lower School Focus

It has been wonderful to see smiling pupils returning to the Lower School this week after a holiday filled with fun and relaxation both at home and abroad. Staff have been hearing all about skiing, safaris and even blindfolded rock climbing and have been witness to well-practised magic tricks, amongst other new skills. It certainly sounds as though everyone enjoyed a well-earned break.



The focus in the Lower School for this half of term is safety. With this in mind we are being particularly watchful about running outside of the playground. We currently have a number of injured pupils and staff and the only way to keep everyone safe is to ensure that pupils are walking around the school site. Staff are going to be strict on this and we would be very grateful if you could reinforce this message at home.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful half term and enjoys the brighter evenings and warmer days ahead of us.

Claire Kirkham

Year 6 Shakespeare Workshop

On Tuesday Year 6 had the privilege of experiencing the 'Box Clever Theatre Company.' As an introduction to the Shakespeare workshop, the actors asked for volunteers (well done, Hamin Y and Nadia A) to learn and perform a traditional Elizabethan Dance. The dance was somewhat graceful, yet amusing to all the children.

Then the children discussed the Globe Theatre and its seating. They learnt that The Groundlings are the ones on the floor with the cheapest tickets because they have to stand. The most expensive seats were actually on the stage and Jayen N and Leah F dressed up as rich Elizabethan Lords and Ladies and took their seats. We talked further about the life of Shakespeare and his plays through a quiz. As a Year Group, they listed eighteen which a most impressive score!

The actors challenged each other on their knowledge of Shakespeare whilst teaching us in the process. They then had to re-tell the story of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream with Jake T as Lysander, Zoe S as Helena, Rhianna D as Hermia and Jack D as Demetrius. It was a brilliantly acted scene.

Here are some thoughts from the year 6 pupils:

'It was the best Tuesday morning that I had in a long time! They had an extremely fun way of learning about Shakespeare. I was involved in a fight as Harry Hotspur and ended up dead.' Alex W

'I really enjoyed the workshop and it was a really good experience for everybody there. It wasn't just the actors that made us laugh and grin, the kids that volunteered to act as well, acted really well. Box Clever were really friendly and didn't make any of us feel left out which was really good.' Ben W

'The workshop was amazing! All of the actors were so enthusiastic about Shakespeare! We even got to act out the fight scene in Henry IV.' Katherine V

In the pupils' opinion, the workshop was a great experience for all and a good way to learn. They enjoyed the acting, especially that of the professionals and the mass dance at the end.

The English department

Whole School House Quiz



Before half term, each child in the whole school, completed a general knowledge quiz in form time. The results of this were used to make up teams for the final round of a University Challenge style quiz. This morning, during whole school assembly, each team from the four houses met. Mr Watts asked 10 starter questions (each worth 10 points) where the first to answer would then answer two following bonus questions (each worth 5

points). This was such a fun event and congratulations to the winning house Norbury.

The teams were as follows:

Norbury – Ethan C, Jonny P, Heulwen K, Alex W and Sienna R

Wisley – Maya B, Ethan S, William R, Shihong F and Zoe G

Headley – Robert M, Sophia B, Edward M, Bibi W and Louis S

Ranmore – Fraser S, Kavishkar K, Rory D, Angus W and Freyja B-W

Helen Black

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.

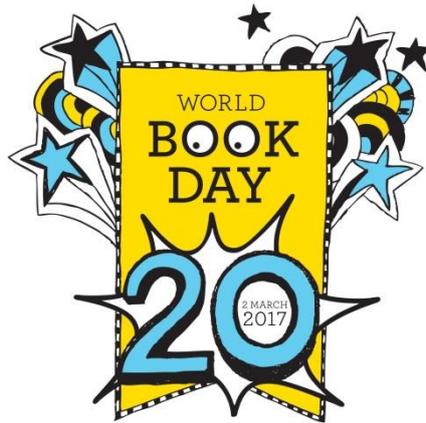


Ski Trip 2018

We will be returning to Prato Nevoso next year. 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.

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:

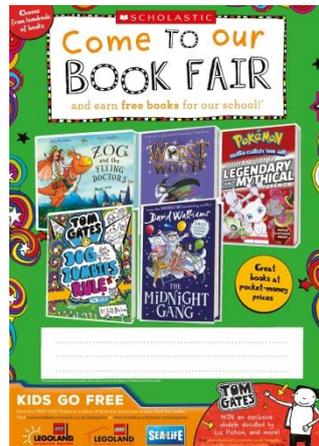
- All pupils from Years 2 to 8 to come into school dressed as a character from a book for a very special mufti day. Prizes will be offered for the best costumes. Staff will be joining in too! A contribution of £2.00 will be taken from each child to go towards our school charity.
- The library will be 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



We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair in school next week to celebrate World Book Day. There will be over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from and prices start from £2.99. Your child can also use their World Book Day £1 token towards payment.

The Book Fair will be open every break and lunch time for your child to come along and look at the books, they can also write a wish list of books they would like to buy and bring this home for you to look at.

If you are happy for your child to order and buy some books there are a variety of ways this can be done:

- They can bring in a Scholastic Gift voucher to spend at the Book Fair (which means you are happy for them to make their own choices on what they buy at the Book Fair). Gift Vouchers can be purchased online before the Book Fair at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents, or
- Books can be ordered and paid for by sending in the correct amount in cash or cheque (made payable to Downsend School) along with the wish list/order form. Please put the payment and form in an envelope with your child's name and form on it addressed to Mrs Karen Cresswell/School Librarian, or
- Books can be ordered and bought by parents on Thursday 2 March from 3.45pm to 4.45pm in the School Library.

We are really looking forward to hosting the Book Fair at school and don't forget that every book you buy rewards our School Library with fantastic new books for the whole school to enjoy.

Karen Cresswell

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

After Half Term @ Downsend

Date	Time	Event
Monday 27 February	All Week 1.15pm	8CE Mock Language Orals Week Lower School House Meeting
Tuesday 28 February	6.30pm	Year 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews
Thursday 01 March	All Day	World Book Day
Friday 02 March	am	Open Morning
Saturday 04 March	09.30- 11.30am	Pre-Prep Open Mornings
Sunday 05 March	2.00-4.00pm	The Children's Trust Surrey Schools' Concert @ St John's School

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

Unfortunately, I have made the decision to withdraw the Chamber Choir from the Music for Youth Festival on Sunday 12 March. This is owing to an unforeseen clash affecting a large number of our participants. The majority of pupils who are unable to take part make up Part 2 in the three part piece we have been working on. Without them, all of the pieces we have been rehearsing will sound unbalanced and too many changes will

need to be made to make it work.

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 Oliver G in Year 7 for his expressive clay head sculpture.



Hannah Shore

Rotary Young Writer Competition

A few members of Year 7 and 8 took part in this year's Rotary writing competition which took place last October. They had to write descriptively either as a piece of prose or a poem on the title 'Reflections'. I am pleased to announce that I have just had the results and Downsends have been most successful!

Congratulations go to the runners-up: Ollie G, Lucy P, Jonathan P, Alice L, Lukas E and Amelia F.

Huge congratulations to Hannah M who was a winner in the Poetry section.

Dee Vanstone

DPA

It's been all about finance this week for the DPA.

The Quiz night was a great success and we raised a staggering £767! This is the most ever raised at such a night in the 6 years I have been involved with the committee! A huge thank you to all that played a part and to all of you who attended. I would also like to add a very special thank you to Adrian and Doug from catering and the amazing curry. Pictures are available via the Facebook page.

On Tuesday we had a committee meeting where many school funding requests were approved and I am pleased to say we were able to agree the following:

- £400 Steam Day
- £1,000 iPads for the Humanities
- £500 Library new subject boxes programme
- £7,000 Outdoor classroom
- £2,000 Music (various instruments)

The DPA is proud to be able to assist the school with some of the extra touches that standard budgets don't cover and ensure that the children get as many facilities and benefits as possible during their time at Downsend. None of this would be possible if parents and teachers did not pull together and attend and support the events we hold. We are very grateful for all the support we receive and hope that visibility of how funds are distributed will encourage your further support at future events.

CHANGE TO PREVIOUS PROPOSED DATE

The next recycle day will be on Monday 24 April (and not Friday 21 April as previously advertised). Posters will soon be displayed around the school and a school comms will be sent shortly.

Jodie Pett

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

You can book your place by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/toolkit-for-raising-resilient-children-tickets-32230824263>

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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