

DOWNSEND TIMES

24 March 2017





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Welcome from the Headmaster

The Spring Term can often be the most testing, bookended by the exciting prospects of the Autumn Term and the warm glow of the Summer Term. We can look back at this Spring Term however with great fondness as the pupils and staff have ignored the long evenings in order to make the most of the many opportunities on offer. Our varied successes have been well documented this term and I, for one, have struggled to keep pace with the many activities that the children have undertaken. The last week alone has seen a very successful Year 6 Drama production (which I'm looking forward to attending this evening), a Maths Challenge/Puzzle Day, Drum & Guitar Concert, success at Surrey Hockey & Swimming and varied House Swimming Galas. The term will end with a fantastic Spring Concert next week, performed with the usual skill and enthusiasm to a packed Sports Hall, complemented by an impressive display of Art, Textiles and Technology. I can't wait!

This variety has been typified by another year of outstanding Scholarship success, and the latest batch of 13+ awards take this year's tally to 54, an astonishing new height. I am always delighted to hear of how much our Senior School partners value Downsend pupils, but never surprised; after all, I have the pleasure of spending time with them every day. Nevertheless, I want to congratulate the pupils below on their successes:

Epsom College Sport Exhibition E. Bain J. Bartholomew Academic St John's J. Bartholomew Sport St John's All-Rounder F. Beech St John's A. Feltham Academic St John's B. Fewings Sport St John's St John's B. Fewings All-Rounder D. Geddes Sport St John's E. Horvat All-Rounder St John's E. Jennings D&T St John's S. Klein Drama St John's A. Krause Academic St John's J. Martin Sport St John's L. Orr Academic St John's L. Orr Sport St John's P. Power Sport St John's J. Rudd Sport St John's A. Russell Academic Exhibition Epsom College A. Russell Drama Exhibition Epsom College A. Russell Sport Exhibition Epsom College J. Skertchly St John's Academic F. Spalding Academic **Epsom College** F. Spalding Music Epsom College E. Taylor Sport Exhibition Epsom College C. Tighe Sport St John's L. Tribe Sport St John's C. Webb All-Rounder St John's

Finally I want to reflect on the terrible events in Westminster on Wednesday. We watched with horror as the afternoon unfolded and then had to decide whether or not to carry on with our own Year 7 Trip to the Tower of London the following day. There was much soul-searching but, having discussed the matter with the relevant staff and agencies, we decided it was very much 'business as usual'. Parents were unequivocally supportive and the children enjoyed the day immensely. This was resilience and the very best of British values, in a nutshell, and I am extremely proud of the response of all concerned. Jo Cox's widow summed up Wednesday by saying it can be remembered for one act of evil, or thousands of acts of fortitude and kindness. He is an example to us all, and I hope that his inspiration will act as some solace to those affected by the terrible events, whom we hold very much in our thoughts and prayers this week.

Ian Thorpe

End of Term - Wednesday 29 March

Please be aware that term ends for the Lower School at 2.15pm (Upper School siblings may be collected at this time too). The remainder of the Upper School should be collected at 2.45pm.

There is no Extended Day service on Wednesday 29 March.

Seb Watts

Lower School Update

As we near the final term of this academic year, I would like to encourage our Year 2 families to begin the Summer Term by dropping their children off at the Turret Door, rather than accompanying them into the Year 2 area. This will enable them to feel more mature and help them to get more organised. I believe that this foray into independence will stand them in good stead when they move into Year 3 in September. Please rest assured that the Year 2 team will be there to help them during this transition.

I would like to wish a very Happy Easter to all of our Lower School Families. It has been wonderful to get to know so many of you this term and I am already looking forward to a very exciting summer at Downsend.

Clare Kirkham

Year 7 Tower of London Trip

On Thursday Year 7 visited London's most popular tourist attraction, the Tower of London. Last term we had studied the Norman Conquest and we saw the White Tower which was built by William the Conqueror. A guide dressed up as a Norman soldier told us all about the Norman Conquest, which was great fun. We saw the Crown Jewels, which were very impressive. Then all of groups in turn went to the Bloody Tower, the Torture Chamber and the White Tower where weapons and armour are displayed. It was interesting to see all of Henry VIII's armour from childhood to the suit he wore as a man – the size difference was quite remarkable! We enjoyed a packed lunch in the sunshine surrounded by the ravens and Beefeaters. After a quick visit to the souvenir shop we returned to school. It was a great trip and I would love to go back to the Tower as there is so much more that I could learn.

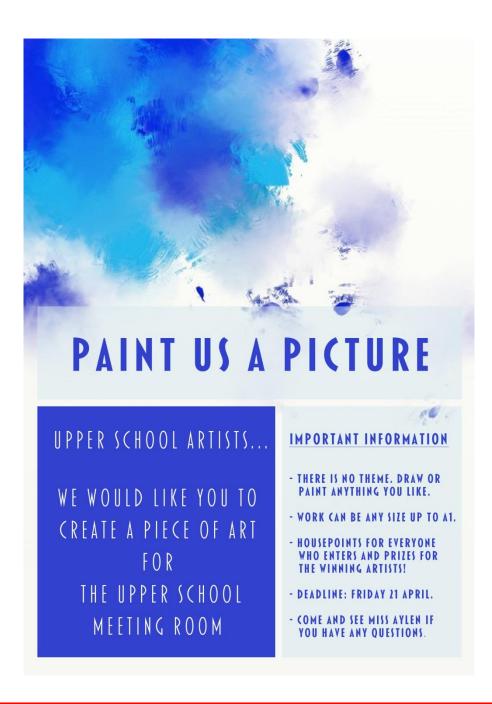
Lucy P, 7JA



Calling all artists!

The Upper School has a new meeting room for children and staff but it is in desperate need of some artwork to hang on the walls to make it a brighter space. If you are creative and have some time over Easter how about entering this competition! We look forward to receiving your entries after the holidays.

Anna Mercer & Julia Aylen



Year 7 Achievements

Congratulations to those who have been awarded their next Headmaster's Commendation: Amelia T, Charlotte M, Aimee M and Ted S - happy sewing!



A huge thank you goes to our Spring term Ambassadors who have done a fantastic job supporting their peers, friends and the staff as well as helping in the Lower School from 8.00am and the library; watch this space for the announcement of our new Ambassadors in the Summer term!



Congratulations also go to our top achievers this term from each form. This is determined by the number of house points, credits and commendations awarded through academic work, service to the school community and sport: 7JA Matt K, 7MS Cameron B, 7BD Tom Q and 7RH Eve J; our overall top Year 7 achiever of the term is Matt K (but hot on his heels is Tom Q) — very well done to you all!



As a Year 7 team, we would just like to say how proud we are of all the Year 7s as they have worked hard this term and have also been great company! Happy Easter to everyone in Year 7!

Mrs Mercer, Mrs Day, Mrs Sehgal, Mr Howe and Miss Aylen!

Year 5 History Mystery Day

Year 5 came in to school on Tuesday unaware that their historical source interrogation skills were about to be tested to the limit, firstly by the discovery of a suspicious death in the Peterborough Hall (culprit Mr Thompson; motive, recovery of stolen chocolate) and then by the real life case of Ötzi, whose body was found in the Austrian Alps in 1991, having lain perfectly preserved in a glacier for 40,000 years (killed by an arrow to the chest, culprit unknown).

Each team searched for clues in an archaeological dig, a prehistoric artefact handling session, a QR code treasure hunt using ipads and a source interrogation session in the classroom. Well done to all on your excellent teamwork and congratulations to Team 8 who were overall winners at the end of the day, and massive thanks to the Year 8 facilitators for guiding the teams.

Siobhan Baldock





Year 6 Junior Citizen Day – 17 March 2017

Year 6 attended a Junior Citizen Workshop last Friday run by the borough with various professional agencies informing the children of practical advice which will help to keep them safe.



UK Power Network

UK Power Network taught us to be aware of the dangers of electricity and how to keep ourselves safe. First we watched a model of a town that was showing people putting themselves in danger. For example, there were children climbing trees near power lines. They also told us what to do if we accidently kicked our ball into an electricity sub-station. They told us not to climb over the fence but to call them instead. The number to call is displayed on signs outside the sub-stations.

Fire and Rescue

The fire service spoke to us about how to stay safe in our homes. We were given advice about staying low down in a fire, as that is where the oxygen is, as well as ensuring that when we are outside, we should stay outside to wait for the Fire Service. They also gave advice about appliances, encouraging us not to charge our devices over night or leave dishwashers or washing machines running whilst we are asleep.

Jules T & Jake T, 6TH

Police

I loved the 'Stranger Danger' trick. I found it fascinating how most of us went like sheep to see the Queen's horse. At least a few of us stayed behind and refused to go with the lady. This woman asked why we were there and asked us to go with her. It was a hard decision but unfortunately I went with the pack. At least we now know not to go with strangers!

Jayen N, 6TH

Life Guard

Always keep an eye on the tide when at the beach. If you are walking by the cliffs or climbing, know the tides or you may get trapped and not able to return to shore. Look out for flags on the beach that tell you where it is safe for swimmers or surfers.

Jules T, 6TG

The Blue Cross

This animal welfare charity taught us how to avoid getting bitten by dogs and that people who love dogs are most likely to. The main thing that the lady told us was to keep your face away from the dog and if a dog is getting angry and growling you should stay still and turn your back on it.

Healthy Eating

Here we learnt that our diet contains a lot of sugar, partly because carbohydrates are broken down into sugars but also because sugar is naturally found in fruit and vegetables. We were told that we should not eat more than the equivalent of 7 cubes of sugar a day (24g). It was good fun learning about diets and keeping safe.

Thomas M, 6TH

Year 4 Team Building Day

On Friday 17 March Year 4 took part in Team Building Day. The day was filled with many exciting activities, with a focus on communication skills and working as a team. The skiing activity was a particular favourite! The children worked brilliantly in teams, showing how much can be achieved when we work together. Well done Year 4!

Amy O'Toole







Victorian Day

The Year 2s enjoyed a Victorian day dressed as maids, chimney sweeps, poor people and the gentry. They experienced a typical Victorian classroom with a blackboard, slates, chalk and a particularly strict teacher brandishing her beloved cane!

After a thorough check for clean nails and ears, the morning started with vocal gymnastics to ensure clear and crisp diction, chanting of times tables and also reciting and writing practice of the alphabet. They also enjoyed trying out outdoor Victorian games and finally a drill with Mr Roberts. An end of the day vote revealed the children prefer modern day school life!

Yvette De Vries







Year 6 Play: Roald Dahl: Revolting Grown-Ups

In 1984, when I was eight years old, Roald Dahl published the first volume of his memoir, called "Boy". I was astonished to discover that when he was eight, he went to the same prep school as me! Therefore, it has been a delight to bring extracts from Roald Dahl's childhood to the stage, along with scenes from some of his most famous books, in this, what would have been his one hundredth year.

Mrs Lucy Biszczanik and I have been rehearsing the Year 6 castmembers since January. They have had a lot of lines to learn and moves to remember, whether forming a beanstalk with their bodies or building a car out of school desks. I think they have done a brilliant job and deserve all the applause.

"All through my school life I was appalled by the fact that masters and senior boys were allowed literally to wound other boys, and sometimes quite severely. I couldn't get over it. I never have got over it." – Roald Dahl, "Boy"

At the centre of the play is Roald Dahl himself, played by four different actors over the course of the play: Theo T, Max T, Rory D and Hamin Y. Among the many problems they face were three horrible headmasters (played by Brooke T, Sophie B and Sofia H) who carry a threatening cane. The theme of "revolting grown-ups" comes across strongly in Dahl's writing and is emphasised by characters like the nasty sweet shop owner (played by Rhianna D), the mean Captain Hardcastle (played by Ben W) and the vicious Matron (played by Leah F).

In our play, several of the scenes showcased revolting grown-ups, from the violent mother in "Jack and the Beanstalk" (played by Lexi M) who beat her son (played by Diego R) with the handle of a vacuum cleaner...to the parents who allow their children to get away with all sorts in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"...to the Grand High Witch (played by Heulwen K) and the other wicked ladies from "The Witches", played so effectively by boys and girls in dresses, bald caps and wigs!

Fortunately, not all the grown-ups are so awful – Roald's mother (played by Kristy M) is a calm and sane presence in his life and he enjoys visits from Cadbury's representatives handing out free chocolate – although not as much as the audience did as our poor actors nearly got eaten on Wednesday by the excited Lower School audience!

The extracts from the books also showed that adults can be good, such as the entertaining Willy Wonka (played by Alex W). Children, however, can be pretty rotten. Take, for example, Bruno and Augustus Gloop – both played by Reuben L and who both come to a sticky end!

The audience were also treated to some musical numbers inspired by Roald Dahl's works, thanks to the musical direction of Mr Steven Williams. "Pure Imagination" from the film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and the title song from the Dahl-scripted "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" were enjoyable interludes, although perhaps best of all is "Revolting Children" from the West End musical "Matilda", featuring some exciting choreography from Mrs Elisa Hamer.

There is sadly no room here to mention everyone who participated, whether onstage or behind the scenes, but I am very proud of all the children and wish to extend my thanks to all the teaching, maintenance, catering and administrative staff, as well as parents, who have helped make this show a reality.

Christopher Bryant







Spring Art Competition

On Wednesday evening, King Edward's School in Witley hosted a reception for their Spring Art Competition. The brief had been to recreate a famous piece of art and there were some very imaginative creations on display. Congratulations to Alexander McGregor-Todd, whose 'Captured Collision of Five Van Gogh's' was awarded First Prize! And well done to Sophie Edison, Alice Lowe, Matthew Kefford and Fraser Spalding who exhibited their work alongside pieces from twelve other prep schools.

Julia Aylen







Ski Trip 2018

The deadline for the ski trip 2018 to Italy is now Monday 27 March. Unfortunately, this is the latest extension I can get so if you are interested in your child being a part of this trip, please confirm this interest with a deposit cheque of £300 by Monday.

If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to email me.

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 <u>click here</u> 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. Children attending Extended Day will be collected by a member of staff at 5.45pm and escorted to the Social Area. If your child will be making use of this facility, please could you fill out an Extended Day form and also let me know via email.

We will be rehearsing on Monday and Tuesday morning so please could you make sure that the children bring their instruments into school on both days.

The children should wear full school winter uniform with blazers.

Informal Drums and Guitar Concert

Well done to all of the pupils who played at the Informal Drums and Guitar Concert on Wednesday evening. You all performed brilliantly! I would also like to give a special thank you to Mr Bradfield and Mr Precious for all of their hard work.





Upcoming Events

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.

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

Design and Technology Update



Programming and flying drones, building buggies and soldering have been balanced with fair trade and recipes from around the world in the

with fair trade and recipes from around the world in the food room for the Year 8 pupils this term. Finishing the term with CAD work to create intricately cut greeting cards just in time for the end of term!

are so proud of their achievements.

Pupils from Year 3 to 8 have put their creative juices to work after school in Tech clubs this term. D&T ambassadors Ella H, Maya B, Callum H and Ben S have supported Mrs Hayward with junior tech club, helping the younger designers create some amazing CAM moving toys.

Library News - Spring Surprises 2017

The Spring Surprises 2017 reading list is available <u>here</u>. Have a look for some suggestions for books which will also be available in our library from April 2017.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break.

Karen Cresswell

News from the DPA



So we are very nearly at the end of term and we wish all of you a great Easter holiday. Thank you for the volunteers that have come forward for next week's Lower school planting event, we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday

Reminders for next term are:

Recycling Event - 24 April 8am - 9am (Sports Hall)

Remember the house with the highest weight in recycling gets a prize. So if you are doing a spring clean over the holidays please bag up any old clothes ready to bring into school on the day.

As you all know the DPA committee is a volunteer group of parents, most of which are soon to be at the end of their time here at Downsend, we therefore are putting out an urgent appeal for a new committee needed from September 2017. We need a new Chair, a new Treasurer and committee members, it really is a fun and friendly group to be part of and we run a whole mixture of events such as the Christmas fair, the school ball, the Lower School Easter events as well as quiz nights and coffee mornings. We need to stress that without volunteers coming forward to become the new committee the Parents Association at Downsend will cease to be. The great thing with anybody coming forward now, is that we will be here to hand over to you and show you the ropes!



Easter and May half term course descriptions are available <u>here</u>. 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 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 <u>here</u> 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

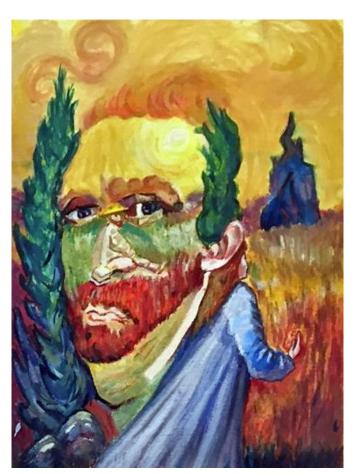
This summer's action-packed cricket course will be led by James Thompson and Alex Culhane, both ECB Level 2 Qualified Coaches. A fun course over 5 mornings for children in Years 3 - 5 and afternoons for children in Years 6 - 8. Both courses welcome children of all abilities to improve their batting, 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 Alexander M-T who is our Artist of the Week!



Julia Aylen

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event	
Monday 27 March	8.45-10.45am	Spring Concert rehearsal, Sports Hall	
Tuesday 28 March	8.45-10.45am pm pm 7.00pm	Spring Concert rehearsal, Sports Hall Lower School House Events Upper School House Events Spring Concert, Sports Hall	
Wednesday 29 March	2.15pm 2.45pm	End of Term for Lower School Pupils End of Term for Upper School Pupils	

Notice to Leave Reminder

We would like to remind Parents that if you are leaving Downsend at the end of the Summer Term, notice must be given before the first day of next term, i.e no later than Wednesday 19 April. Where Parents have not given a term's written notice, fees in lieu of notice will be applicable. To avoid missing this deadline, you may find it more convenient to give notice by Wednesday 29th March 2017, the last day of the Spring Term. Notice should be in writing and addressed to and received by the Head personally or the Business Manager on the Head's behalf. It is expected that Parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw a pupil. Full terms & Conditions are available to view on the parent Portal section of the website.

Carole Dickie

School Notices

Contact Details

Please email <u>office@downsend.co.uk</u> 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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Downsend School 1 Leatherhead Road Leatherhead Surrey KT22 8TJ

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