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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

21 April 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Easter break and that batteries are fully recharged in readiness for the Summer Term, always my favourite part of the year. Clubs are already in full flow, with the children really enjoying being outside in the fresh air, bathed in sunshine. The break was a productive one, with the Lower School pupils already making the most of the new Trim Trail Playground. Likewise, our newly refurbished Art Room has been the centre of attention, receiving the thumbs up from the pupils, as well as Miss Ayles and Miss Shore! There have been some tweaks in the car park too, although the roadworks along the A24 have created congestion again at peak times. As frustrating as this is, it looks like more

time needs to be allocated to getting in and out of school. We'll try and let you know when this work is scheduled for completion.

You may be forgiven for asking why I am writing this piece from a cross-Channel ferry! The wonders of modern technology allow me to do so whilst accompanying our inaugural Choir Tour to Bruges, along with 30 very excited choristers. We'll publish a report and photos in next week's Downsend Times, but suffice it to say that we are thoroughly looking forward to the opportunity to perform in another country. It should be a great few days.

Ian Thorpe

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 how about entering this competition! We look forward to receiving your entries by Friday 28 April.

Anna Mercer & Julia Ayles



Ski Trip 2017

After an early start at Downsend we all left ready, organised and excited for the week ahead. The flight to Nice went smoothly and, having waited for Tilly's iPad which she cleverly left on the plane, we were on board the coach through France and into Italy. The weather was cloudy and as we began to wind our way around the hairpin bends up to the village of Prato Nevoso, the abundance of green was somewhat unnerving! By the time 52 children excitedly disembarked the bus at the Hotel Mondole, it was snowing quite heavily which was a huge relief! After a quick look at rooms, we all grabbed ski socks and headed off to the ski hire shop. This was a painless experience as they had everything ready for us and even served us over two shops to make it even quicker!

On returning to the hotel, it was dinner, unpacking and we all fell exhausted, but excited for the next day, into bed! Waking the next morning brought a wonderful surprise. It had snowed heavily all night and everything that had looked green now resembled a winter wonderland. What a great way to start our first day on the slopes. There was much fiddling to negotiate fitting the ski boots. Six instructors met all of us and each group took to the slopes, whether that was the magic carpet with the beginners or the furthest flung chairlifts for the advanced group. Lunch back in the hotel was a noisy affair where everyone told tales of their first morning on the slopes. This was followed by an afternoon ski school and a superb quiz night brilliantly organised by Mr Thompson and Mr Mitchell. The staff team were doing very well until it came to the current music round where we failed miserably and ended up coming a poor second to the Year 7 boys' team.

The remainder of the week we spent looking for the best snow and we were rewarded on Wednesday when, having got soaked by skiing in the rain, (not a pleasant experience), the rain turned to snow and after a hot chocolate and chips in a mountain restaurant, everyone was feeling upbeat again! This was followed on Thursday by a coach trip to the nearby Artesina, where the beginners had to negotiate a drag lift for the first time. After a few attempts, everyone made it up successfully and the snow was worth the wait! A welcome hot lunch in Hotel Margueris was followed by more skiing and a return to Prato. The fiercely contested Jester's Hat was awarded daily for the 'numpty of the day' voted for by others. This was taken home by Francesca B who discovered that skis don't move very fast on grass!

Activities ranged from a walk through some fascinating and huge caves, tree and rope climbing, a film night, a traditional games night where I was taught some new card games and the Year 8's were given the opportunity to have a drink (non-alcoholic – don't worry!) and play 'Spoons' with the staff – a very loud and competitive experience! Probably the two highlights of the activities were the pizza and disco

night in Mal Notte, a restaurant at the top of the mountains from where you could see both the sea one way and the peaks of the mountains the other. As much pizza as they could eat was followed by a great fun disco where DJ Dolphin expertly mixed sounds ensuring that the dance floor was full until we sadly had to leave! The other highlight came on the final night when many brave people sang Karaoke much more tunefully than the staff team! This was followed by an awards ceremony where many of the children won prizes. The big prize, Star of the Tour, was won by Eden J who stood out by being the most helpful tourer to all!

This was a ski trip first and foremost and all the children were awarded medals and certificates, some being awarded with the most improved or the best skiers in their groups. Whether they mastered a snow plough turn, jumped for the first time or went off piste, everyone challenged themselves and should be very proud of their achievements. This medal ceremony was conducted by all the ski instructors in a mountain top restaurant in brilliant sunshine with music playing to help the party atmosphere. A great finale to a brilliant week!

It was a pleasure to be the trip leader on this trip and I was extremely proud of the children's enthusiasm, perseverance, manners and team spirit. I do hope to see many returning to the slopes next year!

Dee Vanstone





Ski Trip 2018

After a very successful and fun-filled week in Italy in spite of the challenging snow conditions, we have decided to change the venue for next year's ski trip as you will have probably seen in the school comms sent out this week. As the seasons are becoming ever more unpredictable, we are going high next year to try to access the better snow.

The ski trip 2018 will be going to Les Deux Alpes and there is still time to register your child for this trip. A newsletter has been sent out with all the details but, in order to secure a place on this trip, there will need to be a deposit cheque of £300 given in to Mrs Dee Vanstone by Friday 28 April 2018. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. Those who have already given me a deposit cheque for the ski trip have a confirmed place, but please note the increase in price due to the location of the new venue.

Dee Vanstone

Music Update

Music Success

Well done to the following pupils for passing their instrumental exams.

Matthew K	Grade 1 Alto Saxophone	Distinction
Sophie S	Grade 1 Clarinet	Distinction
Katherine V	Grade 1 Guitar	Distinction
Zoe S	Grade 1 Guitar	Distinction
Adam V	Grade 1 Flute	Merit
Rhianna P	Grade 1 Flute	Pass
Jack M	Grade 1 Snare Drum	Pass
Isaac N	Grade 1 Percussion	Distinction
Ralphie A	Grade 2 Percussion	Merit
Daisy W	Grade 2 Drum kit	Merit
Adam G	Grade 3 Drum kit	Distinction
Oliver G	Grade 1 Piano	Distinction
Imogen G	Initial Piano	Distinction
Jack M	Grade 3 Piano	Merit
Leyton T	Grade 3 Piano	Pass
Jessica N	Grade 1 Piano	Pass
Sophia B	Initial Piano	Merit
Final C	Initial Piano	Merit
Nastia N	Initial Piano	Merit
Caitlin B	Initial Piano	Distinction
Ines M	Initial Piano	Distinction
Bronwen R	Grade 6 Trumpet	Merit
Megan R	Grade 3 Trumpet	Distinction
Polly G	Grade 2 Trumpet	Merit
Olivia H	Grade 1 Trumpet	Merit
Alex D	Grade 1 Trumpet	Pass
Louis S	Piano Prep Test	Pass
George R	Piano Prep Test	Pass
Will H	Piano Prep Test	Pass

A special well done to Bronwen R for being accepted to the Royal College of Music Junior Department. A fantastic achievement!

Rehearsals next week

Please note that the following rehearsals will be cancelled next week due to the Chamber Choir trip to Belgium:

Upper School Choir

Chamber Choir

Lower School Percussion

All other rehearsals will take place as normal.

Upcoming Events

Friday 19 May	Informal Voice Concert (Hayley Griffiths) 5.30pm
Monday 22 May	Informal Piano Concert (Sarah Cobby) 6.00pm
Monday 12 June	Informal Flute and Violin Concert 5.30pm (Miss Woods and Mr Bayley)
Tuesday 13 June	Rock Band Evening 7.00pm
Wednesday 14 June	Informal Guitar Concert (Mr Smith) 5.30pm
Monday 26 June	Informal Piano and Guitar Concert 5.30pm (Mrs Salzedo and Mr White)
Thursday 06 July	Yrs 2 and 3 Prizegiving pm
Friday 07 July	Yrs 4-8 Prizegiving pm

Summer Music Courses

<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.

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

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

Marathon News!

Good luck to Miss Seivewright as she takes part in the London Marathon this Sunday 23 April. If you wish to support her raising money for the school's charity Epilepsy UK, her fundraising page is below.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MarieSeivewright>



epilepsy
research uk

NCT Nearly New Sale

The NCT are using our main Hall on Saturday 29 April for a nearly new sale. The NCT are providing a free table for Downsend parents to sell items. For more information please contact Branch.Leatherhead@nct.org.uk

Preloved parent,
children and
baby goods

Profits go to NCT Charity



NEARLY NEW SALE 29th APRIL 2017 -
DOWNSEND SCHOOL, LEATHERHEAD

Come and sell your children's old (but
good condition) toys and clothes and help
support the NCT – tables cost £20 and
you keep all your profits!

Start time 10:30am – 12:30pm.
Volunteers and NCT members get priority
entrance. Entrance costs £1 per person.

For more information and to buy a table please visit
www.wsl.org.uk/leatherhead/leatherhead_school/nearly_new_sale



Saturday Sports Club

Recommences tomorrow morning at 9am with cricket and rounders. All pupils from Reception to Year 2 are welcome to attend.

Jon Albert

News from the DPA



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!

Maxine Homewood – DPA Secretary

Downsend+

The May half term course description is 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 - 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

Head Lice

There has been a recent incidence of Head Lice in Year 3. We would ask that parents/carers please read the below advice regarding detecting and treating head lice. The best way to stop head lice infection is to do detection combing regularly.

Head lice are small parasites (about the size of a sesame seed when fully grown) that live very close to the scalp. Nits are not the same as head lice – they are empty egg cases which stick to the hair and they are harmless. You only have head lice if you find moving lice (not a nit).

Anyone can get head lice, adults and children, and they do not care if the hair is dirty or clean, short or long. Regular hair care may help to spot lice at an early stage and the best way to stop infection is for families to check their heads regularly using detection combing. Never use insecticidal liquids or lotions to prevent infection, or just in case and do not treat unless you are sure that you have found a living, moving louse.

If you would like further information on Head Lice, please contact the School Nurse – 01372 385409
nurse@downsend.co.uk

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 24 April	8-9am	DPA Recycling Collection (Sports Hall) Lower School House Assmebly Chamber Choir trip to Belgium returns
Thursday 27 April	All Day Am 12.45-1.15pm	Yr 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend 8S BBC Newsroom 'Bootcamp' Upper School House Assembly
Friday 28 April	Assembly	Mr T Haynes, Tonbridge School

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](#)

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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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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

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