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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

28 April 2017

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Welcome from the Headmaster

Last week, I had the very great privilege of accompanying the inaugural Choir Tour to Belgium. The four day trip combined concerts in stunning venues such as Ghent Cathedral, with cultural visits and the 29 pupils clearly enjoyed the event. They were a real pleasure to be around and I am grateful to Mr Williams for his organisation of this worthwhile event, as well as this staff and parents who supported it. We will certainly be repeating this musical experience in the coming years.

With sporting fixtures now up and running, the new Art Room in full swing and preparations for summer exams underway, the Summer Term is very much starting to flow fully. I do hope that you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend, after which we will continue that momentum, hopefully with the sun on our backs.

Ian Thorpe

Lamda Success

Well done to all of the Lamda students this year who passed their exams with flying colours! We had 17 Distinctions and 31 Merits in a variety of exams ranging from Solo Preparatory to Grade 5 Acting.

Particular congratulations go to Kitty M, Emma B, Anna R, Edward G and Zoe G who were placed in the top Distinction band (90-100 marks).

Lucy Biszczanik

Chamber Choir Belgium Tour

Well done to the Chamber Choir for making our first ever music tour to Belgium a very memorable experience. You were all fantastic ambassadors for Downsend throughout the trip! You performed with panache and behaved impeccably at all times. I would also like to thank all of the parents who came out to watch the concerts. We felt an incredible sense of pride and were lucky enough to share it with you in such beautiful surroundings!

Steven Williams

Year 6 learn about the Torah and the Synagogue

Year 6 has started studying Judaism this term and on Wednesday Reuben L (6DV) prepared and delivered a talk to the whole year group on two aspects of the faith. Reuben brought in a Torah scroll to show Year 6 and explained how the scrolls are so special that they are treated with huge respect. He showed the mantle that covers the scroll and explained that they are often decorated with a crown, a breast plate and bells. When the Torah is read a yad (a pointer) is used so that the reader does not lose their place but still does not touch the parchment.

Reuben explained the differences between Orthodox and Reformed Jews and told us the synagogue is not just a place of worship but also where social gatherings happen and children go to learn Hebrew.

Reuben had put a huge amount of effort and thought into his presentation and I was extremely proud of him and how confidently he talked to his peers. Year 6, in return, listened attentively and asked thoughtful and sensible questions.

I am very grateful to Reuben for all his hard work and for being so willing to give this presentation.

Sue Dinnage

Year 8 Newsroom 'Bootcamp'

8S were treated to a Newsroom 'Bootcamp' delivered by former Downsend pupil and local newsreader and journalist John Young as part of their programme of activities for after their scholarship exams. The workshop was centred around teamwork and collaboration, working under pressure and decision making, as well as testing their presenting skills using an autocue and news headlines. The pupils acquitted themselves very well with John commenting on their very positive attitude and the maturity with which they tackled the various tasks. Well done!

Lee Silva

Summer Ambassadors

Congratulations to the following children for being selected as our Year 7 Summer Term Ambassadors. The tutors and other staff look forward to working with you and seeing you be excellent role models to the younger children.

Matthew I, Diogo Camilo-Alves, Tom Q, Chloe C & Sophia B (job share!), Ollie C, Emily L, Felipe G and Katie M.

Very well done!

Anna Mercer

STEAM Leaders

At Downsend we want to promote the collaborative learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM) as we believe that an understanding of the links between these subjects and practising the key skills across the curriculum will help to inspire and encourage pupils to develop their enthusiasm in these areas.

As part of this initiative we have appointed 10 STEAM ambassadors to help us continue to inspire,

promote and lead STEAM subjects at Downsend.

Congratulations go to:

Ethan S, Daniel P, Francesca T, Alexander M-T, Sophie E, Jonny P, Sophia B, Hannah M, Fraser L, Cameron B

Tamsin Groocock

Ski Trip 2018

Please note the final deadline for signing up to the ski trip 2018 is Tuesday 02 May. I do hope that there are a few more interested parties out there as it would be very sad to cancel the trip altogether, especially after the success of this year's trip. A deposit cheque of £300 needs to be received by Tuesday at the latest.

More information on next year's trip can be downloaded here.

Dee Vanstone

New Art Room

The art room was refurbished during the Easter holidays - here are a few Pupils enjoying the new facilities.

Julia Aylen

Year 8 CE Clinics

Please encourage Year 8 CE pupils to attend the relevant subject clinic to help them top up on their weaker areas. These have been running every week since the spring term and should be attended where necessary.

Lee Silva

Day	**Morning Break** **10.45am to 11.10am**	**Lunchtime** **1.45pm to 2.10pm**
Monday	**RS** JG R1	
Tuesday	**Latin** SG Latin Room	**Science** TG Lab 1
Wednesday	**Geography** AD Geography Room	
Thursday	**History** HB History Room	**English** E2 CB
Friday		**Maths** AM M2

Music Update

Music Success

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

Clara T	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Indigo T	Grade 1 Oboe	Merit
Angus W	Grade 2 Guitar	Merit
William E	Grade 1 Guitar	Merit
Brandon G	Grade 2 Electric Guitar	Distinction
Rylie H	Grade 3 Electric Guitar	Merit
Sam W	Grade 3 Piano	Merit
Imogen G	Grade 2 Singing	Distinction

Orchestral Open Day at Caterham School

Caterham School are holding an Orchestral Open Day on Sunday 21 May (10-4pm). Details and a sign-up form are available online at:
http://www.caterhamschool.co.uk/co-curricular/music/orchestral-open-day/.
The deadline is **Tuesday 02 May.**

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

Easter Volunteering

During the Easter break, Bibi volunteered as a Meals on Wheels helper delivering hot lunches to vulnerable and older people around Bookham, Fetcham, Leatherhead and Dorking. She volunteered a total of 14 hours during which time she delivered 84 hot meals and 12 frozen meals. Often the MOW volunteer is the only person some of the recipients see in a day, so she enjoyed having a quick chat with them all when she dropped off the meal - and also sadly perhaps the only hot meal of the day!

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

News from the DPA

The DPA started the Recycle collection this week, and yesterday received a cheque for £204! Thanks to everyone that donated; to Birgit, Maxine and Rosi for running the event and to some lovely Mum's from year 2 that volunteered to help.

The recycle events seem to be very popular and is a quick and easy way for us to raise funds. We therefore intend to continue running events twice a year (April and October). The added benefit is that we have a good reason to clear our cupboards (and then have an excuse to go shopping!).

Everyone has been asking about the Summer Ball and we are pleased to hear that parents are already planning tables. Tickets will go on sale next week so look out for the booking form which will be sent via school comms. This has been a sell-out event for the past 3 years and as a result we are expecting

tickets to go quickly. We will be operating a first come first served policy and all bookings must be via email so that we can fairly monitor this.

Plans for the Ball are going well and last night the DPA sampled some very nice wines – It's a tough job but someone has to do it!

TREASURER NEEDED URGENTLY!

Meanwhile we are still looking for parents who may be interested in joining the committee next year. In particular, we are looking for a treasurer and would welcome anyone that could facilitate this role. Our current treasurer is a year 8 parent who leaves the school this summer so we need to act quickly in order to setup a handover.

We are willing to consider assorted options for the treasurer role; such as a shared role with a key financial reviewer and an administrator, so please contact us if you think you have something to offer at admin@dpaschool.org.uk

Have a good weekend everyone!

Jodie Pett, DPA Chair

Downsend Chess Club

As usual in the Spring Term, the Downsend Chess Club took part in the annual UK Chess Challenge which attracts over 60,000 children in schools and clubs up and down the country.

Khalil V won all his games and lifts the trophy for first place. Khalil qualifies to go through to the next stage of the competition called the Megafinal which takes place on 29 April. Also qualifying by scoring the highest points in their age groups were: Stefan J, Alex D, Adam V, Naomi B, Daniel R, Aaryan S, William E, Luke W, Brandon G and Bronwen R.

Congratulations and good luck at the Megafinal.

Mrs Vannucci, Chess Club

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

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 02 May	All Day	Yr 3 trip to Butser Ancient Farm Park
Thursday 04 May	All Day	Yr 2 trip to Bay Pond
Friday 05 May	Assembly All day	Mrs R Cole, Headteacher Dunottar 8S trip to Dover Castle
Saturday 06 May	am	Open Morning

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

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Inspiring young minds

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