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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

09 June 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

It's been quite a week! We have woken up to the prospect of a hung parliament, and the pouring rain (are those two linked?), but with a real air of optimism and expectancy around the children. For the Year 8's, this has meant the completion of their Common Entrance exams today. Their calm diligence has been something to behold and I look forward to them being rewarded with some impressive results next week.

Our Year 5's returned from their PGL trip having had a wonderful three days away. The activities were great fun, the behaviour impeccable and even the weather held up for them. My thanks go to the staff who looked after the pupils so well during their time away. The Year 4's are currently enjoying the first of their 2 days at High Ashurst, although I hope that they have packed their wellies! I am sure that the Upper School pupils will have their fingers crossed for sunnier climes during their Trip Week, which begins on 19 June. In the meantime, we've got Regional Athletics, various Music and Talent Concerts, Year 8 ACE Trips and an African Drumming Workshop to look forward to next week. I can't wait!

Leatherhead Pre-Prep French Day May 2017

Before half term a group from Year 8 travelled down the road to visit the Leatherhead Pre-Prep to participate in their French day and help Madame Roscoe serve in the French café, play French boules and games with the Pre-Prep children. All the children had dressed up in "bleu" "blanc" and "rouge," some had moustaches and others wore Breton stripes! The children spoke beautiful French to the Year 8's and had fun singing in French, practicing greetings, eating croissants and the more adventurous sampled French Brie! It was a fabulous opportunity to practice speaking a different language whilst playing and having fun with the older children. The Year 8's rounded off the morning listening to Madame Roscoe read a story in French to Mrs Potter's nursery children! I am reliably informed it was the first time our Head Boy Josh had visited the Pre-Prep since he moved up to Year 2 ten years ago!

Susie Taylor



STEAM Day 2017 - Environmental Awareness

On Friday 26 May, Downsend once again collapsed the curriculum to think and learn about the world around us through the medium of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths). Starting the day with an assembly on creativity and looking more deeply at a building using innovative, environmentally friendly ergonomics introduced the children to the idea that a variety of skills and knowledge can be used to solve problems. The school then split into three working groups, Year 2 and 3, Year 4 and 5, Year 6,7 and 8 to look at more focussed areas of saving our world.

Years 2 and 3 – Habitats and Endangered Animals

The learning objective of their topic was to understand how and why the world has endangered animals and habitats. Using an Art project of decoupage, the children created house plant pots that will be used around the school to raise awareness of endangered animals in the jungles, oceans, grasslands and woodlands. They then looked at camouflage and how animals use this to increase their chance of survival.

Years 4 and 5

The learning objective here was to understand the need for clean water and use this knowledge to design and build a prototype for a water collecting system. Working in house teams across the years, 25 water catching systems were created! Although some were limited in their overall practicality, the overriding success could be seen in the team work, problem solving and collaborative learning that this project required. The teams with the best collaboration completed the most successful designs. Alongside this project, they also learned about up-cycling and why this is so important to the environment through turning a juice carton into a wallet and an old map into a book.

Years 6,7 and 8

The Upper School were introduced to their STEAM activity a couple of weeks earlier during an assembly which looked at the exploitative and environmentally damaging nature of some areas of the fashion industry. With the knowledge that 95% of discarded clothing can be recycled or up-cycled, their challenge for STEAM Day was to put on a fashion show doing just that.

Each House was given the task of designing and making six outfits from bin bags, paper and scrap fabric. Their ability to work effectively as a team was put to the test as they delegated roles and responsibilities. Once jobs had been allocated, the teams got to work designing and making their outfits. It was fantastic to see such creativity and imagination at work!

After lunch, the comperes took to the microphones and the models strutted their stuff down the catwalk like professionals! Ranmore's 'criss-cross' theme, which ran throughout their collection, was designed as a stand against the negative impact of fast fashion. This thoughtful response, as well as their creative outfits, was the reason for Ranmore being judged as the winning house. Many thanks to our judges, Mrs Green and Mrs Haylett, who put Norbury in second place, with Headley and Wisley in joint third place.

Julia Aylen, Head of Art and Tamsin Grocock, Head of Science



PGL

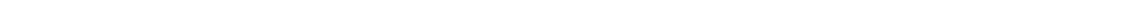
Following on from the half term break, the Year 5 pupils were excited to be heading off on their annual PGL Trip. The weather didn't dampen their spirits and as we arrived they were very excited to find out their rooms and explore the PGL site. We were introduced to our fantastic groupies – Georgie and Joyce who engaged brilliantly with the group.

Day One involved groups taking part in numerous activities and the sun gave us some hope of good weather! Fears were overcome as pupils took to the abseil wall and trapeze. Team building skills were built up as groups took to the lake for the raft building and our budding Robin Hoods tested their accuracy in the archery field.

After a hearty breakfast Day Two the pupils took to the climbing wall, challenging themselves to how far they could climb in a minute. Darkness fears were overcome in the tunnel trail as the giant swing sent pupils to new heights. Team work was yet again a feature of the day as pupils helped one another on the trapeze and climbing wall.

The boys and girls were a delight to accompany on the trip and all the staff were impressed with their manners and behaviour, well done Year 5!

Marie Sievewright



Dragons Den

We are desperately calling some dragons! We are in need of parent volunteers to take on the following roles for our Dragons' Den on June 28 (AM only) and June 29 (all day): A Managing Director; Finance; Sales and Advertising. If you can help, please get in touch.

Dee Vanstone



DPA Uniform Shop Update

The DPA Uniform Shop urgently needs more uniform stock, particularly for Lower School sizes. Please deliver any clean and labelled uniform to the school office reception before the end of term.

The DPA would also like to ask for additional volunteers to help at the sales. Only a couple of hours per term/year will really help! (Dates and times will vary according to availability).

Please e-mail uniform@dpaschool.org.uk for more details.

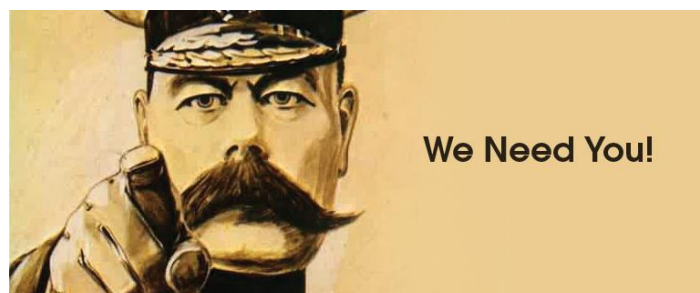


News from the DPA



DPA Committee ongoing news

We know we keep saying this same message, but we really do need some more parents to come forward and take over on the committee for next school year. Many of our current committee are leaving after serving their maximum 3yrs and a few are at the end of the Downsends journey with children moving onto their next schools. The committee is a really fun group of mums, who above all, want to do all they can for the children now and in the future at Downsends. We have actually made lifelong friends along the way and yes theirs hard work but lots a fun too. **WE NEED YOU !!!**



Family Fun Day

The family fun day is going to be on Sunday 24 September. If anyone is interested in helping at this event (particularly from the Lower School) please contact me Admin@dpaschool.org.uk

PS: CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE (Downsend Parents Association)

Maxine Homewood, DPA Secretary

A Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children



You are invited to attend...

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
- Managing self-talk
- 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 a range of tools and techniques, so that parents can help their children navigate the primary school years with confidence.

Date and time: Tuesday 20th June, 9am – 1pm

Venue: The Pavilion, Downsend School

Price: £50 per person

For more information and to book, please visit www.jp parentingcoaching.co.uk, or contact Julia Philpott on: julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk
07967 497779

Music Update

Year 3 Instrumental Scheme

All pupils need to bring their instruments in for both music lessons until after the Summer Concert.

3PM Wednesdays and Thursdays

3MB Tuesdays and Wednesdays

3JC Wednesdays and Thursdays

3EF Mondays and Wednesdays

Upcoming Events

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

National Children's Choir of Great Britain

The National Children's Choir of Great Britain auditions will take place in November this year; dates and venues are:

Birmingham	19 November 2017
Exeter	19 November 2017
London	04,25 and 26 November 2017
Manchester	18 November 2017
York	19 November 2017

The auditions are for entry into both the Junior Choir (upper voices age 9 – Year 9) and the Senior Choir (SATB, girls Year 10+ and boys with changed voices). The choirs meet twice a year, at Easter and in the summer, for 6 day residential courses.

If you would like any further information about NCCGB, please email Kim Reffell on info@nccgb.com or call 07894 021279.

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

Artist of the Week

Artist of the week is Maya B in 8S for her fruit inspired Pop Art work

Well done Maya!.

Julia Ayles



Downsend+

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.

[Booking Form - Summer 2017](#)

[Summer Holiday 2017 Description](#)

[Contact Form](#)

[Price Information](#)

Rebecca Peek

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 12 June	1.15-1.45pm 5.30pm	Yr 8 After Common Entrance programme begins (ACE) Lower School House Assembly Informal Flute & Violin Concert, Music Room
Tuesday 13 June	11.00-12noon pm 7.00pm	Yr 3 New Children's Event Yr 4 New Children's Afternoon Rock Band Evening, Dining Hall
Wednesday 14 June	All Day All Day 5.30pm	Yr 2 Trip to Windsor Castle Yrs 5, 7 & 8 African Drumming Workshop Informal Guitar Concert (Dean Smith), Music Room
Thursday 15 June	All Day 12.45-1.15pm	ACE Box Hill Hike Upper School House Assembly
Friday 16 June	Assembly All Day 7.30pm	Yr 5 Downsend's Got Talent Yr 7 Trip to Nower Wood DPA Summer Ball, RAC Club
Saturday 17 June		Yr 8 Trip to Rockley Departs

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.

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[Downsend +](#)

[Downsend Matters](#)

[Maths Clinic](#)

[School Sports](#)

[Sports Fixture Line](#)

[Parents' Swimming](#)

[Weekly Music Practices](#)

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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

Downsend Sports Bulletin

If you do not already receive the Downsend Sports Bulletin on a Wednesday and would like to start receiving it then please email your details to editor@downsend.co.uk to be added to the distribution list.

Inspiring young minds

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