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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

16 June 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

With the school bathed in sunshine, and preparing to host our U9 Cricket Tournament in ideal conditions, we waited with bated breath for news of our external results from our Senior Schools. For Year 8 pupils, these represent the culmination of their hard work over many years and I am delighted to say that they have passed this final test with flying colours. Achieving 80% A-B grades is something of a magical threshold for Prep Schools, and very few achieve this figure. We achieved it two years ago, securing 81%, but normally score between 76% and 79%, a band we have operated in for 6 of the last 7 years.

This year the Downsend Year 8's have achieved 88.7% A*-B grades. Indeed, over 58% were graded A*-A alone. I could not be more thrilled for the pupils, and more proud of the staff. Just as importantly, the Year 8's have been wonderful company on the recent ACE Trips to West Wittering and Box Hill. They are the most wonderful role models for our younger pupils and a real testament to what young teenagers can achieve. I know that they will enjoy a well-deserved trip to France next week, much as the Year 6 and 7's will be relishing their week away. I wish them all well and look forward to hearing their stories when they

return.

With celebration very much in the air, many of you will be joining us at the DPA Ball tonight, at the RAC in Epsom. The Committee have arranged glorious weather and it should be a wonderful event. As the Committee prepares for its final event of the year, they will also be looking ahead to next year. The new Committee is already being formed and I am grateful to those parents who have stepped forward to assist. If you are interested in joining this wonderful group of helpers, please contact the Chair, Jodie Pett, who will be delighted to hear from you.

Finally, good luck to our U11 Swimming Relay teams, who will be taking part in the National ESSA Finals in Sheffield, and to Mrs Haylett, who begins her maternity leave as she prepares for the birth of her first child. We look forward to announcing news of the latest addition to the Haylett family in the next few weeks.

Ian Thorpe

Year 3 Trip to Wakehurst Place

Year 3 enjoyed an action packed day at Wakehurst Place last week. The children were immersed in a variety of exciting activities themed around our Science topic 'Plants'. We investigated plants growing in different conditions in Wakehurst's very own laboratory, created ephemeral art pieces based on Andy Goldsworthy's famous works and even had the opportunity to take away our very own 'memory sticks'. We were fortunate to avoid the torrential downpours, and the children's behaviour was impeccable. Well done Year 3!

Marian Bayley



Primary Maths Challenge

And the winner is....



Jack Martin, Age 10

Downsend School, Surrey

The PMC team would like to say a massive **thank you** to everyone who took the time to send in entries to the PMC Poster Competition. All 137 posters went on display at The Mathematical Association Annual Conference and we asked

delegates to pick their favourite. It was a tough choice as they were all so good, but it was decided that Jack Martin from Downsend School in Surrey came out on top with his imaginative use of mathematical symbols and numbers as letters; well done Jack!

We have uploaded all poster entries to the Primary Mathematics Challenge website to show off your pupils artistic skills;

<http://www.primarymathschallenge.org.uk/poster-competition>

After reading through the feedback and suggestions from last year, this year we would like to email a '**Question of the Month**' every month to all 2017/18 PMC participants, to get your pupils into the swing of PMC. When you order your packs of PMC you will automatically be added to the mailing list for the 'Question of the Month'. The earlier you order the more you receive!

Year 2 Windsor Castle Trip

This week the Year 2 children visited William's oldest and arguably the most famous castle at Windsor. Here they were enthralled by its looming towers, heaving stone battlements, magnificent works of art, tapestries, treasures and the complex defences offered by this impressive castle.

The children have discovered first hand that the most important purpose of a castle was the defence of the monarchy. As William the Conqueror exerted his reign on England, he built more than 30 castles across Britain to fortify himself from attack by the native Anglo Saxons.

We all had a thoroughly enjoyable day!

The Year 2 Teachers



Year 4 High Ashurst Camping Trip

Last Friday Year 4 continued the long Downsends tradition of celebrating the end of their year with 24 hours of team-building and problem-solving fun at High Ashurst. We built forest camps, started fires, roasted marshmallows, sharpened our orienteering skills and stepped outside our comfort zones on the high ropes.

After an exhausting but brilliant day of activities, we were treated to hot chocolate and biscuits around the campfire and joined in some hilarious campfire songs led by Miss O'Toole. We slept in the tepee villages, with the last child going to sleep at about 12am and the first waking up with the dawn chorus at 4am!

Catering was excellent, with a choice of 3 course meals for dinner on Friday evening and a fantastic full English breakfast on Saturday morning. The staff enjoyed the trip as much as the children, despite the lack of sleep!

Here is a selection of what the children had to say:

"I loved the high ropes. I managed to cling on with just one hand!" James W

"It was fabulous! I loved climbing the high ropes, even though it was scary!" Ava

"I adored making the shelters and building a campfire." Sebastian

"I liked singing songs round the campfire. My favourite was Miss Black's shark song!" Megan

Amy O'Toole





News from the DPA



It's Summer Ball Night!

The DPA are all excited about tonight's Ball: dress, shoe and make up ready thanks to the lovely Rosi Green's amazing skills (it pays to have a makeup artist on the committee!).

We look forward to seeing you all for what promises to be another great ball. The Headmaster's Auction has several amazing prizes and this year for the first time we have a company running a silent auction for us. We are hopeful of beating last years fundraising but above all we want everyone to enjoy themselves.

Easy Fundraising

Don't forget to register and use the Easy Fundraising link when shopping. It's such an easy way for us to raise money but we really are not making the most of it!

You're raising for Downsend Parents Association. In the last 30 days, your cause has raised £25.05 and recruited 2 new supporters. You have your very own cause page where you can sign up new supporters. Click on the link below to register.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/downsendparentsassociation/>

New Members

We have some more potential new members joining us at our meeting next week so our messages are being read! We still need more new members and with the end of the school year approaching, I ask that anyone with even a slight interest email me at admin@dpaschool.org.uk and I will arrange a meeting when we return to school in September.

Facebook

Keep abreast of DPA events and fundraising by joining our Facebook community. All suggestions on the page are welcome and if you have any photos you are willing to publish please email them to admin@dpaschool.org.uk and we will post them.

<https://www.facebook.com/DownsendParentsAssociation/>

Jodie Pett, DPA Chair

Music Update

Informal Concerts

Well done to all pupils who took part in the Informal Flute, Violin and Guitar concerts this week. You all performed brilliantly. A special thank you to your wonderful teachers for all of their hard work!



Rock Band Evening

Well done to all of our school Rock bands. The concert on Tuesday was outstanding! I am really looking forward to watching you perform again in a few weeks.



African Drumming Workshops

On Wednesday the whole of Years 5, 7 and 8 had a go on an African drum called the djembe. We had an outside teacher who had previously lived in Africa for a couple of years, teach us some amazing rhythms. First of all, we were taught how to play e.g. where the bass and the treble on the drum was and then we played rhythm 1. At first we were all out of time but he managed to get us together - it was musical harmony! Then we played rhythm 2 which was equally as good and mouth dropping. Traditionally in Gambia there would be ten djembe players playing different rhythms and then people would dance to it. We played it all as one group but it was still just as fun. Finally half of us played rhythm 1 and half of us

played rhythm 2. We managed to all play in time and have lots of fun. It was really great! Afterwards we had a bit of time to make up our own rhythms and shared them with each other. This was a great team building activity and I hope the future Year 7's will have just as much fun as we did.

By Meharpal G in Year 7



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 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 Sophie E in 7JA for her wonderful landscape painting.

Well done!

Hannah Shore



Architecture Club

There will be no Architecture Club next week.

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.

At present all days and courses have spaces but some courses are filling up fast, so don't delay in getting your forms in.

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 19 June		Yr 3 Art Gallery Week Yr 6 Residential Trip to Shropshire Departs Yr 7 French Trip Departs Yr 2 New Children's Afternoon
	pm	
Tuesday 20 June	pm	3MB & 3PM Summer Concert
Wednesday 21 June	pm	Lower School Charity Afternoon
Thursday 22 June	All Day pm pm	Yr 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend 3EF & 3JC Summer Concert Yr 5 New Children's Afternoon
Friday 23 June	Assembly	Lower School Assembly Yr 6 Residential Trip to Shropshire Returns Yr 7 French Trip Returns Yr 8 Trip to Rockley Returns

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

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](#)

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[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

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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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

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