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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

23 June 2017



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Welcome from the Headmaster

With the Upper School pupils enjoying their residential trip week, the Lower School have enjoyed the run of the school this week. In balmy summer conditions, we have welcomed new Year 2 and Year 5 pupils for their induction days, marvelled at the Year 3 Summer Concerts and raised over £700 for Epilepsy Research UK as part of the Lower School Charity Afternoon. Whilst nipping into the sanctuary of the air-conditioning, I've also been able to keep up to speed with what Years 6 to 8 have been up to in Shropshire and France via the VLE. I know how much parents appreciate the blogs and photos, all of which indicate that a great time has been had by all.

The same can be said of the DPA Ball on Friday night, held at the RAC. A great time was had by all and I am extremely grateful for all the hard work put in by Jodie Pett and her DPA Team in organising such a brilliant event. A decision was made early in the evening to donate 25% of all money raised from the auctions on the night to the Grenfell Tower Fund. I am very proud of the message that sends regarding the importance of a caring community and hope that the £1500 donation to this important fund will offer

some small support after the terrible tragedy.

Ian Thorpe

Downsend's Got Talent 2017

This year no less than 12 acts took part in Downsend's Got Talent. We had a rock band, gymnasts, dancers, singers and instrumentalists. It was an incredibly entertaining hour and a showcase of wonderful talent from our pupils. In the end, the judges decided that James G with the song 'Somewhere only we know' should be in 3rd place. Aaryan S with a dance act came second. In first place was Hailey C with a gymnastics performance. In truth, there was only a few points difference between the first and the 7th acts.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Acts:

1. The Dream – 'Nothing Holding Me Back' - James M, Josie D, Oliver B & Josh B
2. 'Faded' (song) - Emily M
3. 'Shh' (clarinet) - Sophie S
4. Dance - Daisy W, Honey C & Bijou C-S
5. 'Somewhere only we know' (song) - James G
6. Gymnastics - Hailey C
7. 'Allegro' (piano) - Nevidu J
8. 'Symphony' (song) - Millie M & Anita B
9. Dance - Aaryan S
10. 'Counting Stars' (song) - Edward G
11. 'True Colours' (duet) - Amelia B & Ovee D
12. 'How far does it go' (song) - Gracie N

Seb Watts



Charities Update

Lower School Charity Afternoon

Great fun was had by all, as the children enjoyed spending the hottest day of the year participating in an exciting afternoon of games. Go-karting, swimming, space hoppers, an inflatable slide, parachute games, a giant buzzwire and football were among the activities offered. The children visited different activity zones around the school in their houses, having lots of time to play with their friends and get to know new ones too. Everyone was glad of a refreshing ice lolly to cool down! Thank you for all your donations. The total raised was £730.75



Sponsored Sunflower Growing Competition

We hope the sunny weather is helping your sunflowers grow tall as we head towards the finishing date for our sunflower growing competition. Sam's sunflower has grown past 65cm and should hopefully be as tall as him by the end of the summer. Please email any photos of your sunflower to natasha.ludlam@downsend.co.uk and return your sponsor form and money by **Friday 30 June**. Certificates and housepoints will be awarded to all who participate. We would love to see photos of how tall your sunflowers have reached by the end of the summer – do email them in at the start of next term. Thank you!



Sal's Shoes

As the school year comes to an end, many of us are sorting out old school shoes, trainers and wellies and here is an ideal opportunity for you to recycle your children's shoes. We are supporting a local charity called Sal's Shoes, which will send our shoes to communities in Africa where children have no shoes at all. There is a large collecting tub in the Peterborough Hall for you to drop off your shoes. **Please could you use an elastic band to pair the shoes together before donating.** Find out more about the charity here: <http://www.salsshoes.com/>



Natasha Ludlam

Fantastic Fun At Forest School

Year 2's problem solving and creative thinking skills were put to the test yesterday in a Forest School survival challenge. Some children set to work with tarpaulins, mallets, ropes and tent pegs to create their own make shift shelters, while others discovered how to whittle wood safely and tie sticks together to make tools and toys. Fire safety was also high on the agenda as the children were shown how to make sparks for the camp fire to heat their hot chocolate. However, they also learnt vital fire safety rules and the importance of only making fire with an adult.

By the end of the session, smiling faces and new found skills were in abundance.

2LB's Lauti said: "All the tents we made looked like a whole village!"

2YD's Sebastian Price said "I felt really happy because we had fun den making, whittling and making mud cakes!"

Year 2 Teachers



Summer Concerts

Year 3 demonstrated their creative and musical flair this week in their Summer concerts. Parents and carers were entertained by a range of animal themed songs and poems, which the children performed with confidence and enthusiasm! The children also performed three pieces in the inaugural Year 3 orchestra, showcasing the instruments which they have been learning throughout the year in our new Year 3 Music Scheme.

Well done year 3!

Marian Bayley



News from Our Pre-Preps

Anyone for tea? - What a wonderful day for a tea party! Last Friday, the Reception children at Ashted Pre-Prep had a very special afternoon when they invited their grandparents to school. The children proudly entertained their visitors with singing and poetry before they took them into the garden for afternoon tea. One of the grandpas said, "the jam tarts are the best that I have tasted!" which made all of the children beam as they had made them especially for the event. After the tea was over, the children took their grandparents to their classrooms and looked at all the wonderful photos that had been sent in. There was much chatter about school now and in days gone by. The smiles on the children's and grandparent's faces at the end of the afternoon, proved that this afternoon would become a treasured memory for them all.

Tess Roberts



Classlist Update

We now have over two-thirds of parents signed up to Classlist and over the summer we will be updating the site with our new classes for each year group.

If you haven't already signed up as yet, please take a few minutes to register by going to <https://www.schoolclasslist.com/> or download the classlist app from the Apple IOS store (the Android app is coming soon).

If you have any questions please contact Charlotte Staplehurst on charlottefeltham@hotmail.com

News from the DPA



The DPA Summer Ball 2017

A Huge Thank You

This time last week lots of us were preparing for the annual Downsend DPA Summer Ball held at the beautiful RAC Woodcote Park in Epsom. The rain clouds stayed away and we had a super evening filled with lovely food, dancing and the odd glass of fizz.

We had a fun 'Heads and Tails' game to break the ice at the start of the evening, with a winning prize of your child as Head Teacher for the day. Then after dinner we had the Headmasters auction with some wonderful prizes. We also had, for the first time, a great company called Lots4charity who came along to do an amazing silent auction.

Following the terrible Grenfell Tower fire earlier last week, it was decided and announced at the ball that 25% of funds raised on the night from the main auction and silent auction would be donated to the Grenfell Tower Support Fund. We are happy to announce that the total amount the DPA will be donating to the fund is £1500.

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event, hopefully a fun night was had by all. The amount raised on the night that will go to additional school projects is £5400. Also thank you to Hannah (our photographer and ex Downsend Pupil) for coming along and taking so many wonderful pictures, these will be available shortly via drop box and an email will go out to you all.

Upper & Lower Sports days

Volunteers needed to help with Refreshments

As most of you are aware the DPA run the refreshments at all the main site sports days, these are planned for next Wednesday afternoon and next Friday morning and afternoon. We really need some volunteers to help us (How good are you at mixing Pimms??). If any of you can spare some time please email admin@dpaschool.org.uk

Sessions are:

Wednesday 28 June (Upper School Sports Day) volunteers from 1.00pm

Friday 30 June (Yrs 4 & 5 Sports Day) volunteers from 9.30am

Friday 30 June (Yrs 2 & 3 Sports Day) volunteers from 1.00pm

Kind regards

The DPA Team

Music Update

Year 3 Instrumental Scheme

The scheme will come to an end next week. Please could all of the instruments be returned to school on Wednesday. You are welcome to keep the tutor book if your child will be continuing to use them. Information on how to sign up for lessons was sent out on Thursday. If you have any questions please contact me at steven.williams@downsend.co.uk.

Lower School Orchestra

The Lower School Orchestra will not be rehearsing during the final two weeks. Rehearsals will resume in September.

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 Olivia H in 4LC for her colourful patterned print.

Well done Olivia!

Hannah Shore



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 26 June	All Day 5.30pm	Yr 9 Induction Day @ St John's & Epsom College Informal Piano & Guitar Concert (Marina Salzedo & Jeremy White), Dining Hall
Tuesday 27 June	All Day Pm 2.30pm	ACE 'The Two Day Play' Yr 5 to 6 transition afternoon 2YdV Summer Concert
Wednesday 28 June	Am 2.00pm 2.30pm	ACE Dragon's Den Preperation Upper School Sports Day 2LB Summer Concert
Thursday 29 June	All Day 2.30pm	ACE Dragon's Den Presentations 2CW Summer Concert
Friday 30 June	Assembly All Day 11.00am 1.45pm	Sports Department & Charity Assembly ACE 'The Two day Play' Yrs 4 & 5 Sports Day Yrs 2 & 3 Sports Day

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](#)

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[School Sports](#)

[Sports Fixture Line](#)

[Parents' Swimming](#)

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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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Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

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