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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

07 July 2017



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[Welcome from the Headmaster](#)

So, we come to the end of a busy and successful year, one filled with wonderful memories of children trying their best, with smiles on their faces, undertaking so many tasks and challenges. Over the past 36 hours, the Lower School have very much come to the fore, singing and acting their own highlights of the year with considerable aplomb and no little enthusiasm. Years 4-8 will look to do likewise this afternoon and we are looking forward to welcoming you all for what will be a fitting finale to the academic year. Our musicians are looking forward to performing under the marquee on the Sacred Lawn, and there are cold drinks available prior to the event itself. Our Year 8's are particularly looking forward to their final few hours as Downsend pupils.

What will I remember about this year? It's easy to focus on outcomes: musical concerts, plays, academic results and sporting triumphs. However, for me, it is the processes that I will look back on with most fondness: the initiative shown on STEAM days and the creativity of the staff members that designed them; the camaraderie shown on the sporting pitches or the stage; the resilience shown on the residential

trips and tours. In this way, we are truly preparing children for the challenges ahead, as we will demonstrate in presenting the inaugural Downsend Diplomas this afternoon. Lastly, I have been asked by a number of people to send them the quote that formed the beginning of my speech at the Year 2 and 3 Prize Giving yesterday. Here it is below in picture form: have a wonderful summer break and keep dreaming!



Ian Thorpe

Year 8 Commendations

Well done to the following pupils for still accumulating strong numbers of housepoints, credits and commendations to achieve their next Headmaster's award. This is particularly impressive given that there have been no lessons for Year 8 pupils since their CE exams.

Silver award:

Maya B, Charlotte H, Josh L, Jacob S, Ben S, Jake B, Toby R, Douglas Y, Caroline W

Gold Award:

Meredith B, Francesca B, Bella F, Eden J, Amelia F, Callum H, Tilly W

Lee Silva

Year 8 trip to Mimizan, South West France

I had the pleasure of taking the yeargroup to Mimizan in France following on from their stunning CE results. After over-night coach travel we arrived early on the Sunday morning at the campsite in the stunning surroundings of Le Lac in Mimizan. Whilst the pupils were tired, there was a buzz around as they headed for their tents to unpack and check out their surroundings.

Behind the tents lay hidden the glorious lake upon which the majority of our activities were based. Faces lit up on seeing the sandy beach which lay in wait for our cheerful and suddenly energised group. Activities throughout the week consisted of windsurfing, catamaran sailing, mountain biking, stand-up paddle boarding (the clear favourite) canoeing, kayaking and dinghy sailing.

There was also time to fit in a trip to the highest sand dune in Europe, the Dune du Pyla. The dune itself was breathtaking with one pupil's first reaction being "this is incredible". Having taken the obligatory group photograph at the top of the dune, the staff then watched with much amusement as pupils were sent off running / hopping / rolling / moonwalking back down the dune as they pleased. Who knew that sand would be so amusing to 13 year olds!

Over the course of the week we managed to take in the sights of two very different but beautiful towns in Arcachon and Mimizan Plage. In both towns we struggled to contain Mr Roberts from sampling every vanilla ice cream available. He managed four from one stretch of road – an impressive feat. More impressive was the behaviour and attitude from the pupils in the what can only be described as 'ridiculously hot' temperatures. We got into the 40's on a few occasions that week.

The journey home was a calmer affair until Ms Trulove and Mrs Hawes decided the Mamma Mia sing-a-long dvd needed to be played. Twice.

All in all this was a fantastic trip and the children were brilliant company to be with. My thanks go to Mr Dunning, Mr Turvey, Mrs Hawes, Mr Roberts and Ms Truelove for their non-stop energy, good humour and assistance with the running of this trip. The children had a great time and will take back many fond memories of their last residential trip with Downsend.

Lee Silva



Year 8 Farewells

This year seems to have flown by for the pupils and I can't believe we're now about to say our farewells. We've seen many successes over the year that it will make saying our goodbyes all that bit harder. They have been great company to be with, full of humour and energy, and on behalf of the tutors and myself we wish them the very best at their senior schools.

Lee Silva

Year 7 End of Term Update

The end to a very successful year for the Year 7 cohort, the tutor team and I have thoroughly enjoyed looking after your children this year and wish you all lots of rest and relaxation over the Summer holidays.

Final congratulations to the following commendation winners who have worked very hard on achieving their final badge at Downsend; next year their commendations change to bronze, silver and gold lapel badges: Oscar A, Kitty S, Alice L, Sophia B, Charlotte M, Danny A, Daniel P, Cameron B, Hannah M, Eve J, Jonny P, Chloe C, Diogo C-A, Fraser L, Rylie H, Ollie G, Hannah M, Ethan S, Tom D, Roman H-T, Hannah G, Kavishkar K, Felipe G, Aimee M, Ted S, Francesca T, Emily L and George T. Very well done to all of you, especially the black badge winners for reaching the last colour of the commendation system and to Lucy P who has already been awarded her bronze commendation badge!



I would also like to thank our Ambassadors for their work over the summer term, they have been busy with their different roles of responsibility and have carried out their roles with enthusiasm! Well done to Chloe C, Sophia B, Emily L, Tom Q, Katie M, Ollie C, Felipe G, Diogo C-A and Matthew I.



A huge pat on the back goes to the following children who have managed to go the whole year without picking up a debit; this is an incredible achievement and all teachers are very impressed with this accolade! Chloe S, Sophie Edison, Lucy P, Amelia T, Chloe C, Eve J, Lauren D, Katie M, Hannah G, Francesca T, Ollie G, Lukas E and Roman H-T.



Finally the whole year group would like to wish Diogo and Danny safe travels as they move back to their home countries for a new adventure over the summer – you will be missed by all of us and keep in touch!

Happy holidays to one and all and enjoy the summer sunshine!

Anna Mercer, Michelle Sehgal, Beth Day, Julia Ayles and Rupert Howe.

Year 8 The Two Day Play

As part of their ACE programme, Year 8 took part in a Two Day Play activity. They were divided into three theatre companies, which they had to brand before devising and then performing a brand new play out of thin air. The three new plays were staged on Friday afternoon in front of Years 6 and 7.

Mr Bryant, who led the activity, was very happy with the levels of enthusiasm he witnessed during the two days. Each of the three companies put in a lot of effort and produced something of which they could be very proud – although perhaps everyone who participated or watched now understands the importance of rehearsal and preparation a little better!

The performance began with Ethan – The Musical, created by the company White Whale. Events from the life (and the future) of one of the cast members were set to musical, with entirely original songs and raps performed by members of the company. Beginning with something Downsend has surely never seen

before on its stage, it encompassed everything from ballet to football, from a romantic wedding to a dastardly murder and tragic funeral. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show, although perhaps the scene changes could have been managed more smoothly!

Second to perform were Happy Chip, with their Agatha Christie inspired murder mystery entitled Four Murders And A Picnic. This featured infidelity, crimes of passion, suspicious servants and somewhat clueless detectives in a drama set in the 1920s. Some of the show's potential stayed in the rehearsal room as Happy Chip embraced the chaos of live performance, but a good time was had by all, whether or not they survived the story. The play was narrated throughout by a somewhat sheepish looking character who apologised for the mistakes!

Finally, the aspirationally named Reach For The Stars also produced a musical, although The Chicken Nugget Quest borrowed its music from YouTube. Nonetheless, the song-and-dance number (which bracketed the bizarre story of Ronald McDonald being sent by the Nugget Genie to defeat Colonel Sanders) was very enjoyable. I'm not sure everyone in the audience understood how a camel, a princess, a kamikaze penguin and a talking Big Mac fitted in to the plot, but nonetheless Reach For The Stars were the eventual winners of the Two Day Play challenge.

Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Christopher Bryant

Year 6 End of Term Update

Commendations

Congratulations go to the following children who have achieved their 3rd commendation badge as a result of all their hard work and effort. Well done!

Congratulations also go to Louis H and Zoë S from 6ST and 6DV respectively, who, having only joined the school since the Spring half term, have now achieved their 1st Commendation. Well done!

3rd Commendation

6DV - Sonny A, Ben T, Indigo T

6TH - Issy B, Yasi F, Amelie H, Mya M, Tilly H

6TG - Theo T, Amy NJ, Joanna H, Leah F, Rory D, Sophia B

6ST - Liam H, Eliza K, Lexi M, Louie P

1st Commendation

Zoe S, Louis H

No Debits

Congratulations to the following Year 6's, who have completed their journey through Year 6 and have done so without earning any behaviour points. Well done!

6ST - Liam H, Lexi M, Sofia H

6TG - Amy NJ, Jules T, Max T, Lachie T, Theo T, Hamin Y

6TH - Issy B, Amelie H, Tilly H, Kristy M, Rico S, Jake T

6DV - Eleanor L, Isobel R, Diego CR, Zoe S, Indigo T, Brooke T, Ava U, Katherine V, Josh W

A certificate of achievement was awarded in Monday's Assembly.

Robert Temlett

Lower School Councillors

The Lower School Councillors have had a very productive year and have helped enormously with amazing new ideas. Projects they have worked on have included ordering new playground toys and feeding back their survey results to the catering team to further develop our yummy school lunches.

The councillors today received their certificates for contribution in assembly today. A big thank you also goes to all the children in the Lower School who helped the Councillors with their amazing ideas.



Have a great summer and we look forward to a brand new council in September.

Yvette De Vries, Ljubica Carmody

Library News – Summer Sensations 2017



The Summer Sensations 2017 reading list is available [here](#). Have a look for some suggestions for books which will also be available in our library from September 2017.

Wishing you all a lovely Summer break.

Karen Cresswell

Music Update

Music success

Well done to the following pupils for passing their music exams:

Meharpal G	Grade 3 Rock School Drums	Merit
Joshua B	Grade 1 French horn	Distinction
Noah B-W	Grade 1 French horn	Pass
Alfie B	Grade 1 Trumpet	Merit
Charlie B	Grade 1 Trumpet	Merit

Evie S	Grade 2 Singing	Merit
Tilly W	Grade 3 Singing	Merit

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

Art Department Update



SUMMER IN THE ART ROOM

There has been a creative buzz in the Art Room this term, following its makeover in the Easter holidays.

Pupils (and staff!) have thoroughly enjoyed working in a bright and spacious studio and have been inspired to create some wonderful pieces of work.

Here are some of the highlights...

YEAR 3: Jungle Paintings

Pupils used their painting and colour mixing skills to create a jungle scene, inspired by Henri Rousseau's 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm'. Their fantastic paintings were then displayed in the Year 3 Art Gallery.



YEAR 4: Polyblock Printing

Pupils used natural forms as the inspiration for their polyblock prints. They experimented with different methods of printing and built up interesting designs by layering colours.



YEAR 5: Clay Houses

Pupils learnt how to roll slabs of clay and joined them together by 'scoring and slipping'. Once their houses were constructed, they worked carefully to cut out windows and doors.



YEAR 6: Clay Pots

Pupils learnt how to construct a clay pot, using a combination of pinch and coil techniques. They used a selection of coloured glazes to add interesting surface pattern to their pots.



ART SCHOLARS: Landscape Paintings

Taking inspiration from the school landscape, pupils developed their brush technique to create these vibrant landscape paintings.



YEAR 7: Famous Faces

Pupils chose a 'famous face' and created a portrait of them using the printing process of dry-point etching.



YEAR 8: Pop Art Paintings

Inspired by the work of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, pupils created their own Pop Art style paintings. Their use of block colour and bold outlines resulted in some very successful pieces of work.



With our best wishes for a lovely Summer break.

Julia Ayles

Design & Technology Summer Term Review



Design & Technology Department



Head of Technology: Mrs Day

Teachers: Miss Ayles, Mrs Crowe, Mrs Hayward, Mrs Kirkham, Mr Mitchell, Mrs Sehgal, Mrs Topa, Mr Turvey

The year ends in Design and Technology with a flurry of activity to finish projects.



The year 2 pupils moved from the Workshop to the Textiles Studio this term to design and make vibrant woven fish mobiles. These projects will be on display in the new term.



Exploration of lunar buggies in Year 3 produced some fantastically original designs. We have been delighted how the children have engaged with this project, using their initiative and Science skills to investigate and solve design problems, considering weight to power ratios, friction and balance. The Food Tech room saw an invasion from outer space with



the making of Martian Rice Krispie cakes. We were delighted to have played our part in securing the GOLD level award for Space Mark

scheme. Children have also used their graphic skills for moving pictures and superheroes.



Year 4 children enjoyed more baking in the Food Tech room with Mr Mitchell. Some great skills and understanding to help out more at home. In Textiles the children finished the year constructing Native American Wigwams, using CAD skills to create their repeat patterns and a range of workshop and textile studio skills.



Year 5 pupils lit up the workshop with animal inspired torches, learning about recycling of plastics as well as using their Science knowledge to build a working circuit.

Adventurous projects in Year 6 have produced some stunning lamps. Pupils have explored a range of materials and solved electrical circuit problems to ensure their lamps function has expected.



Following the huge success of the acrylic clocks, Year 7 pupils have used their CAD skills to design a logo for a fellow pupil, laser cut a stencil and print fabric using the sublimation papers and heat press. These unique patterns will be used to create a mobile device holder next term.



To round off their year in Design and Technology, pupils in Year 8 returned to the Food Tech room to make burgers, risotto and cheesecake with Mr

Turvey. They were also given an opportunity to reflect of their years at Downsend by creating a commemorative personalised shield using the laser cutter.



Our congratulations to Prize Winners: Year 6: Liam Huppke, Sofia Harding and Katherine Vann. Year 7: Ethan Sehgal, Chloe Smith and Francesca Thomas. Year 8: Coakes Cup for Technology: Maya Ballentine

Charity Update

Thank you for all your donations for Sal's shoes, we have received about 300 pairs! Here are 4NL hard at work sorting through them.



Lots of fun was had by all in the sunshine at the Upper School Charity Afternoon on Wednesday which also raised raised £875.37 for Epilepsy UK.



Jenny Graham and Natasha Ludlem

Downsend+

Summer 2017

Downsend+ starts on Monday and we still have a few spaces on most days and courses.

We have also added an extra course this summer for those who love to scuba dive. The PADI Open Water Referral Course is for children aged 10 years and over and will be held on Wednesday 23 – Friday 25 August. This course is the first step to becoming a fully qualified Open Water Diver and prepares the participant for the final 4 qualifying dives which are completed in open water at any PADI centre in the world.

For more details on this or any of our other courses or days please contact me on 07909 861 280 or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk.

[Booking Form - Summer 2017](#)

[Summer Holiday 2017 Description](#)

[Contact Form](#)

[Price Information](#)

Rebecca Peek

News from the DPA



Ball Photos

We have the pictures back from the ball and are looking to issue a link via email to those that attended rather than publishing publicly. An email should follow in the next few days. In the meantime, in case you missed it the photographer on the night was a lovely ex-Downsend pupil called Hannah Bellamy.

Hannah is just starting out and it was great to be able to support such a lovely young lady. If you are interested in Hannah's work she can be contacted at: hannah@bellamy.photography.
07825 867661. www.bellamy.photography

Sports Day

Last week ended with a very busy day for the DPA providing refreshments at Sports Day. The weather was just perfect and the children all seemed to be grateful for the ice pops we donated. On a slightly serious note, I wanted to clarify that the reason we ask for donations for drinks on the day is to a) save us from getting a license and b) to cover our costs. The ethos of the DPA is that we want **ALL** the funds we raise to be spent on worthwhile projects for the children's benefit and hope that this view is shared.

Golf Day

Golf Day is back! Friday 1st September 2017. Look out for the information due to be sent via school comms and the DPA Facebook page.

Have a lovely summer break.

Jodie Pett

Lamda Update

Autumn Spaces are available for Lamda lessons with Mrs Biszczanik from Years 2 to 8. Lamda is a wonderful way to increase confidence and creativity. We work on acting skills including voice, movement, physical theatre, mimework and improvisation as well as yearly Lamda exams during the Spring term. Lessons are held for 30 minutes during morning and lunchtime breaks.

For more details please contact Mrs Biszczanik at lucylu900@hotmail.com / tel: 07816 524 066.

Lucy Biszczanik

Next Term @ Downsend

Next Term @ Downsend



Date	Time	Event
Monday 04 September	All day	Staff INSET
Tuesday 05 September	All day	Staff INSET
Wednesday 06 September	08.30am 4.30pm	Autumn Term Starts Opro mouthguard fitting, Sports Hall
Thursday 07 September	2.30pm 4.20pm	Yr 5 Inter House Football Girls' Swim Squad Trials
Friday 08 September	Assembly 4.20pm	Mr I Thorpe Boys' Swim Squad Trials
Saturday 09 September	9.30am	Football v Rokeby U9 (H)

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 Times

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Downsend Sports Bulletin

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Inspiring young minds

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