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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

8 September 2017



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[Welcome from the Headmaster](#)

The first week of term has flown by and I have been heartened by the way in which our new pupils, staff members and parents have settled in. Thank you to everyone for making them all feel so welcome! After a long, restful summer break it can sometimes take some time to become comfortable with new routines, but I do hope that you have found these relatively easy to adjust to. Use your information booklets, calendar, school website, VLE and schoolssports for reference but if you need any further help, please do ask and we will do our best to advise. This morning's assembly, as your children will tell you, was about not judging a book by its cover and thinking through problems rationally – we'll all try to embrace this concept this year.

Over the summer months, we carried out a number of refurbishment works to ICT 2, Peterborough Hall, various toilets etc. We also completed Phase 2 of the Car Park and improved the security around the perimeter of the site in the form of new fencing and controlled gates. We are always looking to balance an inviting campus with a secure site and hope that the new systems become quickly embedded. I am aware that the surrounding traffic has been dreadful on the Epsom side due to the number of roadworks. To assist with the Car Park flow in the mornings, the following guidance will ensure that everyone uses the Car Park safely and sensibly.

If you plan to get out of your car when dropping off your child, please drive to the Lower Car Park and park, walking in front of the Sports Hall entrance to the Turret;

If you plan to drop your child off without going into school yourself, please drive to the drop zone at the front of the school and allow your child to make their way along the pedestrian walkway to the crossing before entering at the Turret;

If the drop zone is full, please drive clockwise to the A24 side of the car park, where there remain a number of spaces, and allow your child to walk along the pedestrian walkway and into school. With Phase 2 complete, there are also likely to be spaces available along the one-way system towards the exit

Ian Thorpe

New Staff

The following members of staff all joined Downsends this week:

Mrs Nicole Allison	Head of Music
Mrs Ida Ashworth	Head of Latin
Mrs Alison Caldwell	Learning Support Assistant
Mr Tomas (Tom) Harmsworth	Gap Year Assistant
Mrs Jacqueline (Jackie) Jackson	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Judy Houlden	Teacher of Spanish
Miss Rosie Kendrick	Teaching Assistant
Miss Emma Morgan	Gap Year Assistant (autumn term only)
Mrs Jodie Newberry	KS2 Class Teacher & Head of Yr 4
Mr Marc Popham	KS2 Class Teacher
Mrs Sally Temlett	KS1 Class Teacher
Mr James Walker	Gap Year Assistant
Miss Chelsea Wilby	KS1 Class Teacher
Ian Winmill	STEM Technician
Mrs Wendy Bruce	Facilities Manager

We hope that you enjoy meeting them and know that you will extend a warm Downsends welcome.

Ian Thorpe

Welcome Back

Just a brief message to say how impressed I am at how the Upper School children have started the new academic year. They've been smart, polite and full of enthusiasm in their lessons so far. We look forward to seeing all of our Upper School parents at the forthcoming information and 'meet the tutor' evenings. Just a reminder that our target for all Upper School and Lower School children is to ensure they are smart, well prepared for their lessons and punctual at all times.

Karl Newland

E-Safety

Following the success of last years parent/pupil workshop on e-safety and digital citizenship, we have arranged an Upper School evening workshop with Childnet, the leading organisation working with young people on social media and online behaviour, to enable both parents and children to use the Internet and online platforms safely and productively. Given the importance we place on establishing good habits in this area and to establish open lines of communication on this topic between school, parents and pupils, we politely request that at least one parent from each family in the Upper School attend this workshop with their child/children. The date of this event is Thursday 28 September at 7pm.



Dee Vanstone, Head of PSHE

School Student Council

Welcome to the new form representatives in Year 6 who will work with the School Student Council to continue to make improvements to the school.

Rob Temlett





Music Update



Music

Success

Well done to the following pupils who passed their music exams over the summer holidays.

Oliver Berryman	Alto Saxophone	Grade 1	Distinction
William Elkeles	Alto Saxophone	Grade 1	Distinction
Rylie Herbert	Alto Saxophone	Grade 1	Merit
Matt Kuchel	Alto Saxophone	Grade 2	Merit
Fraser Spalding	Alto Saxophone	Grade 7	Merit
Millie Milne	Clarinet	Grade 1	Merit
Isobel Roberts	Clarinet	Grade 5	Pass
Oliver Berryman	Descant Recorder	Grade 3	Pass
Joshua Berryman	Descant Recorder	Grade 4	Pass
Octavia Mackie	Descant Recorder	Grade 4	Merit
Meharpal Grewal	Drum Kit	Grade 3	Merit
Joshua Berryman	French horn	Grade 1	Distinction
Noah Bourne Waterhouse	French horn	Grade 1	Pass
Joel West	Guitar	Grade 1	Distinction
Alexander Wilmer	Guitar	Grade 1	Merit
Edward Klein	Guitar	Grade 2	Merit
Tom Dolphin	Guitar	Grade 2	Pass
Joe Mumford	Guitar	Grade 2	Pass
William Russell	Guitar	Grade 3	Pass
Aidan Moore	Guitar	Initial grade	Distinction
Hector Mackie	Jazz Alto Saxophone	Grade 4	Pass
Brandon Grocock	Piano	Grade 2	Distinction
James Williams	Piano	Grade 2	Merit
Hector Mackie	Piano	Grade 3	Merit
Nevidu Jay	Piano	Grade 3	Merit
Elsbeth Willox	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Anita Ballantine	Piano	Prep Test	n/a
Martha Gale	Piano	Prep Test	n/a
Olivia Brember	Piano	Prep Test	n/a
Anoushka Sutton	Singing	Grade 1	Distinction
Eva Reilly	Singing	Grade 1	Merit
Evie Staplehurst	Singing	Grade 1	Merit
Olivia Hallett	Singing	Grade 1	Pass
Sophie Barrows	Singing	Grade 2	Merit

Tilly White	Singing	Grade 3	Merit
Jessica Jane Ling	Singing	Prep Test	n/a
Lily Bishop	Singing	Prep Test	n/a
Natalia Tilly	Singing	Prep Test	n/a
Amy Nelson-Jones	Theory	Grade 2	Pass
Alfie Bullingham	Trumpet	Grade 1	Merit
Charlie Burchell	Trumpet	Grade 1	Merit

Year 2 Recorder Sessions

All Year 2 pupils will be required to bring their recorders into school for one of their Music lessons.

2CW – Mondays

2YVD – Tuesdays

2ST – Thursdays

2LBu - Fridays

Music Clubs and Ensembles

Music rehearsals will start from Monday 11 September (with the exception of all Rock Bands which will start week commencing Monday 25 September) as follows:

Mondays

Lower School Choir with Mrs Allison (10.15-10.45am) – Years 2-5

Upper School Choir with Mrs Allison (10.45-11.15am) – Years 6-8

Tuesdays

Chamber Choir Rehearsal 1 with Mrs Allison and Mrs Bayley (8.00 - 8.30am) – Years 3-8

Lower School Rock Band I with Mr Bradfield (10.15-10.45) – STARTING TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Upper School Rock Band I with Mr Bradfield (10.45-11.15) – STARTING TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Lower School Orchestra with Miss Woods and Mrs Allison 12.45 – 1.15

Whole School Orchestra with Mrs Allison and Miss Woods 1.15 – 1.45

Wednesdays

Brass Band with Mr Boote (8.00-8.30am) – Years 2-8

Lower School Rock Band II with Mr Bradfield (10.15-10.45am) – STARTING WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Upper School Rock Band II with Mr Bradfield (10.45-11.15am) – STARTING WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

(Please check with Mrs Allison before attending the Whole School Orchestra – Pupils who are around Grade 1 standard or above can take part even if they have not yet taken an exam)

Thursdays

Lower School Percussion Club with Mrs Allison (10.15 – 10.45)

Upper School Music Scholarship Club (10.45-11.15am) – Years 6-8

Chamber Choir Rehearsal 2 with Mrs Allison and Mrs Bayley (1.15-1.45pm)

Fridays

Whole School Orchestra with Mrs Allison in the Sports Hall (8.00-8.45am)

Chamber Ensemble with Mrs Allison 10.45 – 11.15 – by invitation, details to follow



Rock Band Auditions

Auditions for the Rock Band will take place on Tuesday 19 September in the music room at 10.15-10.45 a.m. for Lower School pupils and at 10.45-11.15 on Wednesday 20 September for Upper School pupils. Pupils can play or sing a piece of their choice. Pupils who were in a Rock Band last year do not need to re-audition. Pupils can sign up in the Music Department.

Chamber Choir Auditions

All those involved in Chamber Choir will also be required to attend either the Lower or Upper School Choir. For new pupils, Chamber Choir auditions will take place on Thursday 14 September at 10.15-10.45am for Lower School pupils and on Friday at 10.45 - 11.15 a.m. for Upper School pupils. No preparation is necessary as the children will learn to sing a song during the auditions.



Instrumental and Singing Lessons at Downsend School

If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsend with one of our tutors then please email the Head of Music at nicole.allison@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.

Nicole Allison

Saturday Morning Sports Club

We hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays and that your child has settled back into the new term. For those existing parents who enjoyed the 'Downsend Sports Club' last year, it will recommence this Saturday 9 September at the same times:

Reception and Year 1 9.00am-10.00am

Year 2 9.00am – 10.30am

For those new parents, a little additional information about this activity: the Saturday morning 'Sports Club' is run by Downsend staff at Main Site, as a method of providing additional sports coaching to all those girls and boys who are keen to participate. This club is solely for Downsend pupils at no expense and will continue to operate as a drop-in service; if you wish your child to attend, simply turn up. The club will run every Saturday (finishing on 9 December 2017) excluding the following dates:

21 October (Half Term)

28 October (Half Term)

4 November (Half Term)

25 November (DPA Xmas Fair)

The aim is to create a fun environment where pupils can develop an enthusiasm for sport, whilst playing with their school friends. The majority of the training is held on the main Astroturf next to the car park, although occasionally on the grass pitches or within the Sports Hall, depending on the weather and other school matches. Throughout the year a variety of sports will be introduced, all aimed at improving the fundamentals of balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination, speed, agility and most importantly fun! We ask that all pupils wear their Downsend sports clothing (shin pads for footballers), trainers and bring a water bottle.

Similarly to last year, refreshments can now be purchased from within the new Sports Pavilion.

We were delighted by the response last year and can already see the benefits that this ground work has generated within our sports teams; we look forward to seeing you this Saturday 9 September.

Jon Albert

Genie Lab Science Club

Genie Lab Science are starting a brand new Science club for years 2-4! We make learning science really fun and visual with plenty of hands on experiments from making 'Monster Toothpaste' and rockets to constructing hydraulic tipper trucks and mixing slimes! Each week we look at different topics with activities that the children can explore and bring home! Places will be on a first come first served basis.

The club will run every Wednesday after school starting 20 September (3.45-4.45pm) at a cost of £80 per term.

Join our Amazing
Genie Club


We are running an awesome science club at your school and you are invited!

- ⇒ Ever wanted to make monster toothpaste or find out how a rocket launches into space?
- ⇒ We make learning really fun and visual with plenty of hands-on activities and experiments to bring home!
- ⇒ Each week we'll look at different mind boggling topics!
- ⇒ All members will receive a Genie Lab wristband and an access all areas pass to our Genie Lab website with loads of mind boggling experiments!

**Every Wednesday
 5.45 to 4.45pm
 starts sept 26th!**

£80 per term
 (price includes all materials)

Web: www.genielab.co.uk TEL: 01483 811 890



Tamsin Grocock

News from the DPA



DPA Golf Day

On Friday 1 September the new academic year began in earnest when 21 parents and members of staff gathered at Banstead Downs Golf Club for the Downsends Golf Day. The glorious sunshine and excellent course conditions prompted some high scoring and rapid rethinks by the Handicap Committee! With prizes duly handed out, the evening ended with a BBQ and refreshments, much to the relief of all concerned. The golf was great fun, but the chance to mingle was just as enjoyable and I am sure that this will be the first of many such opportunities this year. With a host of DPA events on the horizon, I look forward to seeing you at one of them in the coming months. There are even plans for a Ryder Cup-style Parents v Staff Golf event. Watch this space!

Ian Thorpe



Welcome back to the new academic year. Please keep the evening of 28 September free for our **AGM** in the pavilion. All parents are welcome especially any interested in getting more involved with the DPA this year.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Uniform Shop



Intake/Drop Off

11 – 13 SEPTEMBER
8.00 - 8.30 AM

6 – 10 OCTOBER
8.00 - 8.30 AM

Please leave clean, labelled uniform in a bag outside DPA stockroom, or in reception.

Sales in the Social Area

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
3.00 – 4.30 PM

WEDNESDAY 11th OCTOBER
8.30 – 10.00 AM

For further information or to download labels, click Uniform in the Parent Portal of our website or click [here](#).

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 11 September	8.15-8.45am pm	Yr 5 'Meet the Tutors' Coffee Morning Lower School Maths Information Session
Tuesday 12 September	am 3.00-3.30pm 7.00pm	Fire Practice Yr 2 Parents Tea Yr 7 'Meet the Tutors' Evening
Wednesday 13 September	8.15-8.45am	Yr 3 'Meet the Tutors' Coffee Morning
Thursday 14 September	8.15-8.45am pm 7.00pm	Yr 4 'Meet the Tutors' Coffee Morning Yr 2 Teddy Bears Picnic Yr 6 Parents Information Evening, Tregenna Hall
Friday 15 September	Assembly	Mr K Newland

Downsend+

Downsend + has had a busy, successful summer and will return again in October Half Term from Monday 23 October to Friday 3 November 2017. Further details to follow next week.

Rebecca Peek

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.

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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