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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

17 November 2017



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[Welcome from the Headmaster](#)

Our school was very much on show today with a healthy number of visitors joining us for our latest Open

Morning. As always, our pupils proved to be the perfect hosts, with our guides demonstrating their enthusiasm for all areas of school life. Our recent announcement clearly prompted the increased levels of interest and we hope that we were able to convey our vision for the expansion of Downsend. I have been heartened by the support and kind words of so many parents over the past week, with the overriding response being how exciting it is to be part of such an exciting, caring and forward-thinking school. On behalf of the staff at Downsend, thank you for this overwhelming show of solidarity – it means a lot to us all. That innovative approach to learning was very much in evidence at the Surrey Round of the Science

Quiz Challenge earlier in the week, won for the second year in a row by our teams. Well done Years 5 and 6 and good luck in the Regional Round!

On Wednesday, I hosted a Q&A session with Year 6 parents in the Pavilion, and will be scheduling similar events with Years 5 and 4 over the coming weeks. We will then proceed through the Year groups to ensure that we engage fully with our parents. The observations and questions were as insightful as they were valuable and I have already prepared a summary of the conversations, which we will circulate to all Year 6 parents today. This will form part of a central Q&A document, which we will make available to all parents, both existing and prospective. I will also be setting up a Parent Engagement Group, to meet half-termly, to assist with getting all of the details right over the next few months. If you are interested in joining this Innovation Group, please keep an eye out for further details.

Next week I will be attending the Cognita Global Conference and will not be returning to Downsend until Friday afternoon. I will have limited access to E-mail, but will try and respond to any messages I do receive. I will be deep in conversation with Senior Heads at our Cognita partners about the GCSE and DoFE provision, so it will be a fruitful and productive week for Downsend so please contact Mr Watts in the first instance or Mr Newland and Miss Black if you have a query about the Upper or Lower School respectively. It will be a busy week for the DPA as they prepare for the Christmas Fair; please do show them the same support you have shown to our school over the past week – that support goes a long way!

Ian Thorpe

Anti-Bullying Week and ARK Week

Downsend is currently in the middle of two important pastoral weeks in its calendar. This week we have marked National Anti-Bullying Week. On Monday we introduced 'Odd Sock Day'. This gesture of wearing odd socks highlighted that it is acceptable to be different rather than making fun of people who are. A simple action that makes this point. Throughout the week there has been an Anti-Bullying Workshop for the Upper School, separate assemblies throughout the school and individual PSHE classes focusing on anti-bullying.



This week we have marked National Anti-Bullying Week and on Monday we introduced 'Odd Sock Day'. Next week is ARK Week. ARK stands for 'Acts of Random Kindness' and is designed to be a proactive approach to enhance relationships throughout the school. It is about giving with no expectation of recognition.. The entire Downsland community will be taking part. So how does it work? Each class will hold a 'ballot' and be allocated a secret friend in that class.. We are keen for secrecy to be maintained throughout the week. The secret friend does kind and anonymous gestures throughout the week such as a note or a small gift. It begins on Monday and runs all week.



Seb Watts

Anti-Bullying Workshops

The whole of the Upper School were treated to a new Virtual Reality Anti-bullying workshop. All pupils were involved in a workshop where they were immersed into a bullying situation and had to make decisions on how each character acted, why they did what they did and what advice they could give them. It gave them an opportunity to really focus on both the victim and the bully in a most realistic way. If it has given the pupils a chance to voice concerns and highlighted the importance of reporting bullying incidents, it will have been worth it!



Bullying is a worrying part of many children's experience in school and can extend beyond to the workplace too. If we can do anything to make pupils more aware and able to tell someone about it, we will have helped in a small way. More than 16,000 people are absent from school due to bullying. We at Downsend would like to see this number reduced. With the introduction of the Peer Mentor scheme, the growing awareness in schools of Safeguarding, PSHE lessons and the tutorial system to name just a few of our pastoral initiatives, Downsend is committed to trying to reduce the incidents of bullying throughout the school.

Dee Vanstone

Mufti Day

Next Friday 24th November is the day before our DPA Christmas Fair. As is the tradition the children should come into school in mufti. the theme will be House Colours:

Ranmore Yellow

Headley - Green

Norbury - Red

Wisley - Blue

Instead of providing money the children are requested to bring things for the Christmas Fair Tombola.

Years 2&3 - Chocolate

Years 4&5 - Toys and Games (New or nearly new please)

Years 6,7&8 - Unopened Bottles

These should be collected from you on entering the school.

Seb Watts

News from the DPA

**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557



Downsend DPA Christmas Fair – Saturday 25 November



Volunteers Needed!

Dear Parents,

ONLY 1 WEEK TO GO till the annual Christmas Fair. You should have all received in your children's book bags, the hard copy of the DPA Christmas docs, as well as a book of Raffle tickets and a white Jolly bag for your child to decorate and fill. Extras are in the School Office.

We now have 26 confirmed stall holders as well as the usual school tombola's and Our super special guest FATHER CHRISTMAS, who I'm told is really looking forward to meeting you all and is sure that all the Downsend Children are on the 'Nice List'.

A message from your class rep should have come to you, as we need a lot of volunteers to man the stalls at the fair, please reply back to your rep or if you haven't got one to events@dpaschool.org.uk with when you can help, we really cannot run this event without your help and support.

Times we need people are:

- 10.45am -11.15 am
- 11.15am – 11.45am
- 11.14am – 12.15pm
- 12.15pm – 12.45pm
- 12.45pm - 13.15pm
- 13.15pm – 13.45pm
- 13.45pm – 14.15pm

Stall Slot allocation

YR 2	Will be in Social Area (45 Slots)
YR 3/ 4	Will be in Dining Hall (54 Slots)
YR 5	Will be in the Entrance (45 Slots)
YR 6 / 7/ 8	Will be in the Sports Hall (107 Slots)

We also desperately need volunteers to help with car parking on Saturday from 10am, Set up on Friday into the evening / Saturday morning from 7.30am and Saturday afternoon clear away from 2pm. Can you help with any of these??

Please send in any raffle ticket money and stubs in a sealed envelope addressed to the DPA and either leave at reception or in the DPA box down the hall from the turret (Next to extended day box). If you are sending in a cheque then please make it payable to the DPA.

Collection boxes for Jolly Bags and House Tables are in the turret area which I will clear each evening.

THANK YOU in advance for the effort and time we are asking you to make, it will, I promise all be worth it.

[Christmas Fair 2017 Checklist](#)

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

RAISE Writers Club



India Day

On Friday 10th November, Year 4 came to school dressed in Indian clothes or just bright colours. We experienced all sorts of fun activities, including cooking raita, making rangoli patterns, colouring in snakes and even some Bollywood dancing.

Mrs Newberry (Head of Year 4) said, *"India Day was an explosion of colour and we all really enjoyed sampling the tastes and cultures of India. The Bollywood Dance Off was my personal highlight."*

Mrs Sutton (Year 4 teacher) said, *"It was fabulous to see the year group working together and having so much fun. My highlight was also the Bollywood Dance Off."*

We would like to thank the Year 4 teachers for such a great day.

Lucy W and Zoe G, Year 4



Odd Sock Day

On Monday 13th November, the whole school had to come in wearing odd socks. This was all part of Anti-Bullying Week. People wore odd socks to show that everyone is different.

Miss Friend, Year 3 Teacher, said, "I think it is a great way to demonstrate and celebrate children's individuality. Everyone looks great!"

Imogen G from Year 5 said, "I'm wearing a black star sock because I feel that everyone is a bright star. I'm also wearing a white sock that says 'Girl Power'. I like the idea of Odd Sock Day because some people get bullied and I think it also shows that everyone is special."

Megan R, Year 5

Spectacular Science

There is never a dull day, week or month in the Science department and this week has emphasised that more than ever. It has been a week about enriching our learning of Science and inspiring young minds to think further about Science and how STEM subjects can lead to exploring the wider world and jobs.

On Tuesday, I took two teams of enthusiastic young Scientists to compete in the first round of the Quiz Club Prep Schools Challenge. Both teams performed extremely well and produced scores well over 1000. There were a number of questions where both teams scored 100%, showing clear learning and extension of recent topics in their Science lessons. Unfortunately only one team can triumph and for the second year in a row Downsend won with a score of over 2200, 500 points more than second place and beating their last year score by over 400 points. The semi-finals will take place on 06 December.

On Wednesday 15 November, I had the privilege of taking 10 Year 8 students to a TeenTech event at the Surrey Sports Park. Here they met leading specialists in Science, Technology and Maths and played with 3D printers, old and new technology and even worked as apprentices to build guttering. To understand more please read Hannah's blog below about the different activities they participated in and enjoyed. I was enormously proud when they were awarded with the 'top gadget' prize for their innovative 'I drive U drive' USB stick.



Hannah's Trip Blog

"Ten year 8 children were chosen from Downsend to go on the STEAM trip. Our trip to TeenTech was absolutely amazing. There were 320 children who took part in this extraordinary event, and to begin, we were asked to draw a picture of a scientist or what we thought a scientist looked like. When we had finished we were asked by a lady how many people had drawn women or girls as their scientist, 62 out of 320 said that they had. This may sound like a low number but only 5 years ago they only had 15 women drawn!

We then ran a formative assessment quiz which we answered on mini key pads to assess our understanding of STEM jobs, our enthusiasm and our belief in what a STEM job looks like.

In groups of 100 we completed a rotation of three things. The first event we did was to invent a gadget that we had to present in front of the other schools; we had 45 minutes to come up with an idea which we called "I drive, U drive". Our final idea was a high security car that controlled who was driving, how fast they were driving and where they were going: so that children driving or any other people who were driving. We had created a very secure car. We were so fortunate to have won the award "the best gadget" which was the last and best prize!

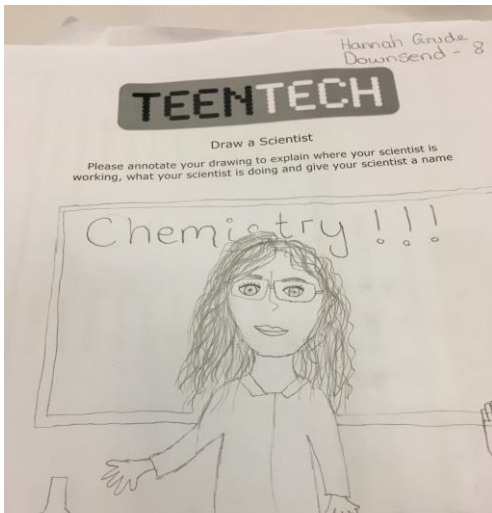
When we finished we went into the room next door, where we were looked at different companies. The first one was a facilities management company; they had actually worked on things like the Olympics and different car companies, we wore special kits, did some building challenges, which were harder than they looked. Then we went over to the 3D printing stand, where we learnt how to make plastic key rings with our names imprinted on them. They also showed us lots of different fragile models that had taken them a long time to make, they were pretty impressive!

Our final rotation were a few smaller but equally exciting expeditions. For example we resuscitated an almost real baby, understood how technology changed in the video and audio world, redesigned bird flu, drugs testing for our elite sports athletes, looked at how ships were made and finally learnt about the ever changing world of vaccines!

We thoroughly enjoyed this trip and came back looking more positively about STEAM jobs than we had done at the beginning of the day." Hannah G

Congratulations and Well Done to all the pupils who were selected to compete for Downsend on this occasion – Mr Thorpe has promised me a trophy cabinet if I continue to bring back the academic 'silver'.

Tamsin Grocock, Head of Science



Primary Maths Challenge

Well done to all the children in Year 5 and 6 who participated in the Primary Maths Challenge this week; the Maths Department are looking forward to seeing if anyone will go forward to the next round. Jack M in Year 6 saw that his competition winning poster advertising this year's event, was sent to schools around the world. We received this photo from Miss Weller, a previous teacher at Downsend, who is now teaching in Kuala Lumpur! Some Year 6 children thought they would send her their photo from Downsend.

Anna Mercer



Chess Club Update

Congratulations to Harrison J-H who took part in the West Surrey Chess Championships at Reed's School on Sunday and won a gold medal in his age group.

Request for Recycling Items

We are requesting re-cycled items: cardboard tubes and plastic trays (take away food boxes) etc, to be brought into school for Yr7 pupils who are in need of these items for their Science STEAM project.

Could all items be brought to Mr Winmill in the Science Department. Many thanks in advance.

Ian Winmill

Working in Partnership with Parents

MDA Research will be contacting a random selection of parents across our four school sites over the coming fortnight. The interviews will take no longer than 15 minutes and all answers will be noted anonymously by MDA; you can, therefore, be completely candid and open with your feedback. (All views

and comments will not be attributed to any particular parent and all data will be held securely at MDA and destroyed 6 weeks after the project is completed.)

I would be most grateful for your help with this and look forward to sharing the findings of the project, and what our resulting plans might be.

If, for any reason, you would prefer not to participate, please can you let us know by emailing office@downsend.co.uk by Monday 20 November and we will ensure that you are not contacted.

Julie Constable

Ski Trip 2018

A space has become available on the 2018 ski trip. If anyone is interested in their child going (Years 5 - 8) please contact Mrs Vanstone for further details asap.

Dee Vanstone

Charities Update



This year the school will be supporting the Royal Marsden Hospital. As has been the case in previous years, the charity has been chosen for its work with a member of our community. We hope you will lend your generous support to this very worthwhile cause.

Children in the Lower School have been busy getting ready to support this charity, by designing beautiful Christmas cards and gifts with Miss Aylen in the Art department. Each class has voted for a Charity Representative, who will meet termly to suggest fundraising events and help each form participate in the upcoming activities.

Here are a few of our charity representatives.



We are very excited to announce our first Lower School fundraiser which will be the Bake Off! and will be held during the week beginning 27th November. More details will be sent via a letter in SchoolComms.

We will also be holding collections for the charity after our Christmas nativity plays and carol concerts. Thank you for your on-going support for these events.

Mrs Graham and Mrs Ludlam

Sports Club - 18 November

Sports Club tomorrow morning will be held on the Tennis Courts, Sports Hall or Field depending on the weather. The Astroturf is being used for Hockey matches, therefore please bring the appropriate footwear.

Mr Albert



Music Update



Saturday 25 November - Lower School Choir, Upper School Choir, Chamber Choir and Whole School Orchestra perform at the DPA Christmas Fair.

The children should arrive at school no later than 11.30am and report to the Sports Hall. The performance is expected to start at midday and will finish at approximately 12.45pm. School uniform is not required but it would be nice if the children could wear a Christmas hat or Christmas jumper!

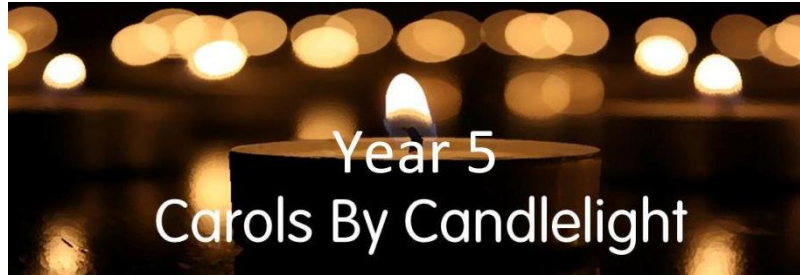
Wednesday 29 November - Mr Boote's pupils perform at the Informal Brass Concert (6pm in the Social Area).

Entry will be via the Sports Hall Entrance which will be manned from 5.30-5.50pm. The concert should last approximately 1 hour.

Tuesday 5 December - Chamber Choir perform at the Rainbow Trust Christmas Concert, St Nicolas Church, Bookham (7pm).

- Due to space constraints we will only be taking pupils in years 5,6,7 and 8 to this event.
- The organisers have allocated rehearsal times for each of the performing groups - our rehearsal time is 5.50-6.10pm
- Please can pupils be at St Nicolas Bookham to register at 5.30pm.
- Year 7 and 8 pupils who are involved in the Spamalot rehearsal that afternoon will be transported to Bookham by minibus after their rehearsal.
- The concert starts at 7pm and is expected to finish at 8pm.
- Please can Parents collect their children from St Nicolas Church, Mrs Allison will be signing them out at the end of the Concert at approximately 8pm.
- There is no parking at the church itself but there is a car park behind the Co-op in Bookham, diagonally opposite St Nicolas Church..
- Tickets can be booked [online](https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/events/bookham-carol-concert-2017) at <https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/events/bookham-carol-concert-2017>

Wednesday 13 December - Year 5 Carols by Candlelight Concert at St George's Church in Ashted.



Thursday 14 December - Chamber Choir, Upper School Choir and Whole School Orchestra perform at the Upper School Carol Concert (5pm in the Sports Hall).

- The Carol Concert starts at 5pm.
- The children are required to wear full winter uniform i.e. jumpers, blazers, tights for girls and long trousers for boys.
- At the end of the school day on Thursday, all Upper School children who are involved in music ensembles are expected to go straight to the Social Area where refreshments will be provided.
- Lower School pupils who are in music ensembles and who finish at 3.45pm must go to the Music Room where they will be supervised by a member of staff.
- Children can be collected from the Sports Hall at the end of the Carol Concert at approximately 6.15pm.
- All parents of participating children are welcome to attend.
- This is a ticketless event.

Music Clubs and Ensembles

For a full list of Music Ensembles please see [here](#).

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 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

Artist of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Zoe G (4MP) for her excellent tonal drawing of a thistle.

Well done!

Julia Ayles



Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 20 November	All day 1.15-1.45pm	ARK Week Lower School House Meeting
Tuesday 21 November	6.30pm 6.30pm	Yr 4 Parent Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall Yr 6 Parent Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Wednesday 22 November	9.30-11.00am 4.45pm 6.30pm	7+ Assessment Morning 7+ Activity Afternoon SEN Parent Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Thursday 23 November	12.45-1.15pm	Upper School House Meeting
Friday 24 November	Assembly All day	Lower School Assembly Mufti Day
Saturday 25 November	11.00am – 2.00pm	DPA Christmas Fair

Downsend+

We are open in the Christmas holidays from Monday 18 December – Friday 22 December and are now taking bookings.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861 280 or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[October, Christmas and February Course Description](#)

[Christmas 2017 Booking Form](#)

[February half term 2018 Booking Form](#)

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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