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# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

08 December 2017



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### Welcome from the Headmaster

You could be forgiven for thinking that the last fortnight of term, in the run-up to Christmas, as a time for winding down. This may be the case at some schools, but the reverse is certainly true here at Downsend. Over the past few days, the Year 2 and 3 pupils have demonstrated confidence and talent in equal measure during their nativities, making all of the adults in the room extremely proud. This same sense response was evident in the Dining Hall yesterday evening, following the hugely successful first night of performance of the Year 7 and 8 production of 'Spamalot'. Putting on a Monty Python show with 11 to 13 year olds is a brave move but one that certainly paid off. The quality of acting and comic timing was as impressive as it was heart-warming and I know that Mr Bryant is extremely proud of his cast, and rightly so. If you have a seat at the sold-out performance tonight, you are in for a treat!

On Wednesday, we hosted the Prep Schools Science Quiz Southern Round, having retained the Surrey title last month. As well as organising the event, Mrs Grocock and her Science department prepared the team brilliantly as they overcame KCS Wimbledon, Westminster-under-School and Alleyn's amongst

others, to be crowned Regional Champions and secure their place in the National Finals next term. Just another example of Downsend pupils aiming high and reaching their goals!

Next Friday we will be bringing down the curtain on a busy and successful Autumn Term. The final Assembly will contain a range of performances from the children to summarise the many contributions they have made to school life over the term. I am sure there will be much to report regarding the many activities planned over the next 7 days.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## **End of Term**

Please note:

- The last Extended Day is on Thursday 14 December for all Downsend Site parents.
- Leaving Times on the final day of term Friday 15 December are as follows:

**2.15 pm Lower School and older siblings**

**2.45 pm Remainder of Upper School**

*Seb Watts*

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## **Lower School Christmas**



Well done to all of our wonderful Year 2 and Year 3 children this week! Your performances of 'Follow the Star' and 'Baubles' were simply brilliant and had faces beaming and toes tapping all over the Peterborough Hall. What a fantastically joyful way to welcome Christmas to the Lower School this year!

Coming up next week for the rest of the Lower School are the following:

**Year 4** Monday 11 December 2.30pm at St John's School, Leatherhead (please note that parking is limited, so we would advise parking at either the Swan Centre or at Downsend and walking from there).

**Year 5** Tuesday 12 December 5.00pm at St George's Church, Ashted (please note that parking is limited, so we would advise parking in the roads nearby and walking to the church). Parents are asked to collect their children at the end of the service. Year 2 and 3 siblings returning from the Pantomime will be cared for at school until parents are able to collect.

*Clare Kirkham*

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## Christmas Post Boxes

These are situated in the Turret and each Year Group has its own box. Please ensure envelopes are clearly labelled with first name, surname and class. The post boxes will be emptied daily.

*Helen Black*



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## Year 3 Christmas Nativity

What an incredible week it has been in Year 3! The children have continued Downsend's festive celebrations by performing their Christmas Nativity to their Parents and Grandparents this week. They have all put in lots of hard work and dedication to learn their lines and perform their songs beautifully and professionally. The teachers are so proud of all they have achieved, and the children have had lots of fun. Well done Year 3!

*Marian Bayley*



## Upper School Carol Concert



A reminder that the Upper School Carol Concert is on Thursday 14 December. The concert will take place in the Sports Hall at 5.00pm.

As this is our annual Christmas Celebration, the expectation is that all Upper School Pupils will attend this event, whether they are performing or are part of the audience. Refreshments will be served in the Sports Hall from 4.30pm and the event is scheduled to finish at 6.00pm.

To assist with our planning, please could you indicate whether you will / will not be attending the event and how many adult seats you will require by emailing [office@downsend.co.uk](mailto:office@downsend.co.uk)

*Karl Newland*

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## Year 7 & 8 Play - Spamalot

This term, Year 7 and 8 have been working hard to produce the school play, **Monty Python's Spamalot**, adapted from the West End and Broadway hit which was adapted from the classic 1970's comedy *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* which was in turn adapted from the stories of King Arthur!

This is a high energy play with many songs, dances, costume changes and larger-than-life characters, so it's a relief that the running time is only a little over an hour. Audiences responded well to the final performances, although without a doubt the younger Downsend pupils' favourite scene was the rude French taunters! Not the most sophisticated scene, but always very funny.

At the centre of the play is King Arthur (Meharpal G) who gets increasingly exasperated with the difficulties he faces on his quest. Always with him is his servant Patsy (Emma B) who bangs coconuts together to simulate a horse and usually has sound advice. These two superb actors provided a great backbone for the play and are given the musical's most famous number, "Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life".

The Knights of Camelot – who entertain the audience with a dance routine that threatens to collapse the stage – include the comedy stylings of Matthew I as Sir Bedevere, Ted S as Sir Lancelot, Felipe G as the

nervous Sir Robin and a mud-gatherer called Dennis (Ollie G) who morphs into Sir Galahad in time to present a rousing rendition of "The Song That Goes Like This".

One of the most memorable turns came from Rylie H as the Lady of the Lake, who belts out several numbers. It has been a pleasure for the Musical Director, Mrs Allison, and I to see Rylie work hard during this rehearsal process and blossom into a confident, hilarious diva capable of stealing the show whenever she sings.

Although there were many more standout performances and memorable musical numbers, I would like to praise our backstage team. This was the first show we have mounted with our brand new lighting rig and desk, operated by Matthew K, Joe R and Ben M without professional assistance. Sound was operated by Roman H-T and Harry M, similarly flying without a net. These five boys did a tremendous job, but I was also pleased with the pupils tasked with other backstage activities such as costume and props.

Many people helped out with this production, but I would like especially to thank Miss Ayles, who created much of the set and many of the props with assistance from the pupils; Mr Bradfield, who helped us out significantly with microphones; Mrs Allison, who juggled her work on this show with managing the various Christmas concerts; Mrs Hamer, the choreographer who brought songs like "Finland" to life; and Mrs Byszczanik, the energetic assistant director.

Well done, Year 7 and 8 – a memorable show to end a memorable term!

*Chris Bryant*

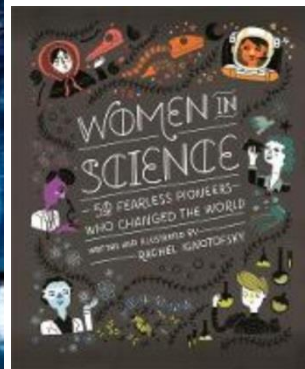
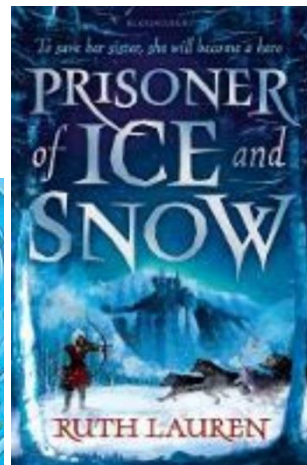
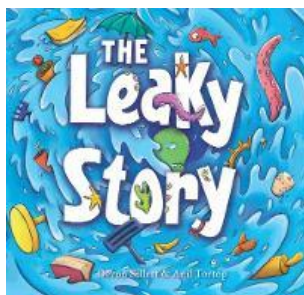






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## Library News – Winter Wonders 2017



The Winter Wonders 2017 Book List is available [here](#). Have a look for some suggestions for books which will also be available in our School Library from January 2018.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break.



*Karen Cresswell*

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## News from the DPA

**Downsend  
Parents'  
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

### **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?**

If you still have Christmas shopping to do you could raise money for the school without spending an extra penny, just buy your items via the Easy Fundraising link and the school gets a percentage of spend. [Easyfundraising](#)

### **DPA CHRISTMAS FAIR 2017 – The Figures**

Last week I promised the figures of how much we took at the Christmas fair, well you out did yourselves **raising £6500** profit so far! This will enable us to support many large projects that will benefit all of the children at Downsend. **THANK YOU.**

### **HOUSE TABLE RESULTS**

The Winning house was **HEADLEY** well done for all your great selling, but in fact all the houses did well and there was only £27.15 between first and last place, so very close.

**WELL DONE CHILDREN FOR YOUR GREAT SELLING**



Other High profit stalls were:

- The beautifully decorated Jolly Bags which raised just over £417.00
- The Toy Tombola raising £420.00
- The Bottle Tombola taking £388.00
- The Chocolate Tombola taking £377.00
- The Raffle which we really supported by you all, taking a whopping £1567.00.

Thank you for all your efforts and donations for making this one of the most successful fairs Downsend has held.

### **WHAT THE DPA IS ORGANISING IN 2018 (Other things will be added)**

**Jan/Feb** - Quiz night or Comedy Night Dates TBC

**March** - Book sale in Library

**Easter** - Craft activity with Lower school, Activity with Upper school

**Friday 15 June** - **DPA Summer Ball**, [Painshill Park](#) Cobham

**Summer** - Sports Days (Whole school) Catering

*Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair*

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## **Quiz Club Finalists – another trophy but this time Gold!**



On Tuesday afternoon 9 schools attended Downsend for the semi-finals of the Quiz Club Prep School Science competition. With Kings College Wimbledon, Westminster Under, Alleyns and other formidable prep schools in attendance we knew we had tough competition. However, we also knew that we had a strong team comprising of Angus W, Geoffrey L, Brandon G and Khalil V.

The competition was indeed challenging with the top 4 spots in close competition for most of the 40 questions and we left it to the penultimate question to confirm our 1st place position. The team answered

questions on topics ranging from Space to our ear, from Scientists to discoveries and did so with over 83% accuracy. They beat Westminster Under by 110 points with an amazing score of 2170.

The National finals will take place in February and may be held in the Bristol Robotics Laboratory. Congratulations to our team and good luck for the finals.

*Tamsin Grocock*



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## **Christmas House Singing Competition 2017**

Move over 'X Factor' because this morning's Christmas House Singing Competition 2017 was 'Scher-mazing'! Each House performed their own versions of well-known Christmas Carols or Pop songs in front of a panel of judges and the rest of the school. We even had our own Dermot O'Leary in the guise of Mr Thorpe. Lyrics had been re-written, choreography rehearsed and vast amounts of props, especially tinsel, adorned the children and some staff. Miss Seivewright had even dressed herself as a Christmas Tree and Oliver G had created a Jingle Bell rap for Headley! The excitement in the Sports Hall was tangible and the pressure on the judges was immense. The quality of each House's performance was phenomenal and a massive thank you to the staff and children alike for the huge efforts they put into this. This year's winners were Ranmore with their own version of the '12 days of Christmas', but it was very close! Well done to you all, a wonderful way to end the week, particularly seeing how the children from the Lower School and the Upper School worked together – what a highlight!

*Jon Albert and Helen Black*

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## House Football & Hockey

This morning we not only had the delighted of the House Singing Competition, but we also announced the House Football and Hockey winners across the school. All of the individual competitions throughout the term were added together and the winners are as below:

### House Hockey:

1<sup>st</sup> Ranmore - 36 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Wisley - 34 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Norbury - 28 Points

4<sup>th</sup> Headley - 20 Points

### House Football

1<sup>st</sup> = Ranmore & Wisley - 34 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Norbury - 30 Points

4<sup>th</sup> Headley - 26 Points

Well done to all the children for their efforts, we know they love competing for their Houses and should be proud of this term's achievements. Next term, good luck to all in the Netball and Rugby competitions.

*Mr Albert*



Congratulations to the Chamber Choir for some really beautiful singing at the Rainbow Trust Concert this week. There have been so many compliments from parents and friends who were there.



**Please note** - can we ask that the whole school orchestra please bring your instruments into school on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

**Monday 11 December** - Year 4 Christmas Concert @ St John's Chapel - Monday 11 December 2.30pm (please note that parking is limited, so we would advise parking at either the Swan Centre or at Downsend and walking from there).

**Wednesday 13 December** - Year 5 Carols by Candlelight Concert at St George's Church in Ashted. Please see above for more information from Mrs Kirkham.



**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 6.00pm.
- 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](mailto: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*

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## **Artist of The Week**

This week's Artist of the Week is Louie P. During the Year 7 trip to Watts Gallery, the pupils took part in a painting workshop and this is Louie's fantastic landscape painting.

Well done!

*Julia Aylen*





## Chess Club Update

### Results for Lower School Chess Club.

1st Place: Lucas R = Trophy

2nd Place: Jake S = Gold Medal

Joint 3rd Place: Harrison J-H - Silver Medal

Joint 3rd Place: Ethan L - Silver Medal



### Results for Upper School Chess Club

In first place and not losing a single game was Louis H. His challengers hot on his heels coming second was Khalil V and Aaryan S coming third. Leah F was the top girl player.

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 11 December	pm	Yr 4 Christmas Concert @ St John's Chapel
Wednesday 13 December	8.45-10.45am 1.00pm 5.00pm	Rehearsal for Upper School Carol Concert Yr 2 & 3 Pantomime Trip to Woking Yr 5 Carols by Candlelight, St George's Church
Thursday 14 December	8.45-10.45am Lunch 5.00pm	Rehearsal for Upper School Carol Concert Christmas Lunch Upper School Carol Concert, Sports Hall
Friday 15 December	Assembly am 2.15pm 2.45pm	Final Assembly – Mr I Thorpe Lower and Upper School Christmas House Activities Term Finishes for LS Pupils Term Finishes for US Pupils

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## Downsend+

With only a week to go before the Christmas Holidays Downsend+ has space available on all days, but please do remember bookings must be received **10 working days in advance** to receive the pre-booked rate.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861 280 or email

[downsendplus@downsend.co.uk](mailto: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*

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# School Notices

## Contact Details

Please email [office@downsend.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@downsend.co.uk) to be added to the distribution list.

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# Inspiring young minds

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