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# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

5 January 2018



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### Welcome from the Headmaster

I hope that you all enjoyed a happy Christmas period and are looking forward to the New Year. As always, this time of year gives the opportunity to reevaluate goals and targets and 2018 should provide plenty of these. One of the most exciting will be the start of the construction of the new Arts Centre, which we will be finalising over the next couple of months. It will be great to have the final visuals available for all to see.

Some of our Year 8 pupils have already achieved one of their key goals in gaining Scholarship awards from their chosen Senior Schools. Many congratulations to the following pupils:

Emma B: Drama (Reigate Grammar School)

Lauren D: Academic & Sport (Reigate Grammar School)

Alex M-T: Art (Box Hill)

Tate S: Sport (Box Hill)

It is always wonderful to see such breadth represented, one of the many benefits of a varied curriculum. I am sure that there will be many more awards to follow in the weeks ahead.

This morning the following cars were observed parking in the bus stop to drop kids off rather than using parking bays:

Car reg:

6226 MH (silver Mercedes)

12 DAD (black VW van)

NU53 AOF (Honda CRV)

KE14 WUW (dark grey Mercedes)

G5 GHM (white Range Rover)

FA05 WPM (silver Mazda)

LB61 DGO (dark grey Nissan)

This ultimately prevented a bus being able to safely park in the bay to drop kids and having to wait for cars to pull away. One car (12 DAD) was still parked in the bay when the bus finally managed to pull in and park.

It might be worth another reminder that there are plenty of parking bays and it only takes a few more minutes to drive round and park!

With very best wishes for a happy and successful 2018!

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Cybercrime Warning - School Fees

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents to be extremely vigilant when paying monies to the school. This is in light of a recent spate of phishing attacks targeting independent school parents in connection with the payment of fees, as reported by the Independent Schools Council and the media [here](#).

Please beware of phishing emails in relation to fees and check the bank details you are using for your payments are correct. **We have not changed our bank account details, have no plans to do so and would only ever communicate such a change to you formally – not in an email at the point of invoicing for payment.**

Fraudulent emails can appear official. If at any time you receive anything you feel is suspicious, please email or telephone the school directly on the usual telephone number/address, not one contained within the email. Paying fees by Direct Debit will also significantly reduce the risk of fraud.

Meanwhile we are continuing to ensure our own cyber security given these cases in other schools. Thank you in advance for taking extra care so we can all remain vigilant to fraud.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## News from the DPA

Happy New Year from the DPA Team!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year break and welcome to the new families who have joined Downsend this term. The team certainly needed the break after a very busy term of fundraising! But no rest for the wicked, we are onto preparing our next exciting events....

### **DPA Quiz Night**



## DPA Quiz Night & Curry

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, 7:30 – 11:30  
Downsend School Leatherhead

It's on Friday, 23 February and details will be sent by school comms shortly. Tickets are only £15.00 per person and include the quiz, a Curry, DPA Cash Bar and Music Bingo - what more could you ask for? It's always a fun night so do join us! Get a Table together from your year group or class, or leave it to us!

## **Uniform Shop**

### **URGENT APPEAL**

We are still appealing for somebody to take over the day to day running and sale organisation of the Uniform shop. We already have a number of fantastic volunteers but we need a coordinator to run things. CAN YOU HELP????

Sales are normally once every 6 or so weeks and can be on any day you choose as long as you have volunteers available.

If we cannot find somebody to run things in the next few weeks we may be forced to close the Uniform Shop service to the school. If you are interested and want to chat through the bones of what is actually involved please phone me on 07894 016056.

### **Parents Summer School Ball**

**Date: Friday June 15th 2018**

**Venue: Painshill Park, Cobham**

Posters and full details to go on soon

Thank you for reading and speak to you all next week.

*Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair*

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## **Maths Clinics**

Year 8 Level 3 CE & Scholarship: Monday or Tuesday Break Times: 10.45-11.15am M1

Year 8 CE: Tuesday Lunchtime: 1.45 – 2.10pm M2

A schedule of topics to be covered is posted on the VLE and outside M2 so children can select which weeks to attend to help boost their knowledge.

*Anna Mercer*

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## Music Update



### Exam Results

Congratulations to the following pupils who took music practical exams last term.

Thomas M Grade 2 (Violin) Merit  
Jonny P Grade 5 (Violin) Merit  
Jonny P Grade 3 (Piano) Merit  
Caitlin B Grade 1 (Piano) High Pass  
Ines M Grade 1 (Piano) Merit  
Brandon G Grade 3 (Piano) Distinction  
William K Grade 1 (Drum Kit) Merit  
Theo B Grade 1 (Percussion) Distinction  
Charlie K Grade 1 (Percussion) High Pass  
Warren H Grade 2 (Drum Kit) Merit  
Jack P Grade 2 (Drum Kit) Merit  
George P Grade 2 (Trumpet) Merit  
Megan R Grade 4 (Trumpet) Distinction  
Olivia H Grade 2 (Trumpet) Merit  
Alex D Grade 2 (Trumpet) Merit  
Luke W Grade 2 (Trumpet) High Pass  
Polly G-G Grade 3 (Trumpet) High Pass  
Sam W Grade 4 (Clarinet) Merit  
Bronwen R Grade 5 (Piano) Merit  
Megan R Grade 2 (Piano) Merit  
Megan R Grade 4 (Trumpet) Distinction

### 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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## **Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition**

Downsend are delighted to host this exciting competition for young public speakers. Each year the standard has become higher and higher and I would like to invite anyone who may be interested in attending.

The competition will be held on Wednesday 24th January in the Dining Hall. It will start promptly at 6.00pm.

*Dee Vanstone*

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## **Year 6 PSHE**

This is to remind Year 6 parents that we are holding a meeting on Wednesday 10th January in E1 at 4.30pm. At this meeting we will cover the module 'Physical and Emotional Development' which pupils will be studying shortly, as part of their PSHE curriculum.

*Dee Vanstone*

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## **Saturday Sports Club**

Happy New year to you all! I hope you and your family have enjoyed the festive period and your little ones are excited to be back at school. Just a reminder that the Saturday Sports Club recommences this Saturday 6th January 2018. We look forward to seeing you then.

*Mr Albert & Mrs Hawes*

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## Next Week @ Downsend

# School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 8 January	All Day 2.30pm 2.30pm	8Z Geography Field Trip to Juniper Hall Yr 4 Inter House Rugby Yr 4 Inter House Netball
Tuesday 9 January	All Day	8Y Geography Field Trip to Juniper Hall
Thursday 11 January	All Day am 6.30pm	Yr 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Yrs 5 & 7 French Fashion Show 8CE Parent-Teacher Interviews
Friday 12 January	Assembly 2.30pm	Mr J Albert 8X Geography Field Trip to Juniper Hall Townsend-Warner History prize – Paper 1

Downsend+

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*

## 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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