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DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

09 March 2018



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Welcome from the Headmaster

The snow of last week now appears to be a distant memory, allowing us all to focus on the business in hand this week. Mrs Grocock's fantastic assembly on Science this morning encouraged us to think about all of the key elements of a great modern education: problem-solving skills, communication and teamwork being just three such tenets. Thankfully, there has been evidence of all three in abundance this week; Class Assemblies in Year 4, various Hockey, Netball and Rugby Festivals, a Swimming Gala. Ski Trip Meeting and French Speaking Competition. It's no wonder that the children, when asked for a word to describe Downsend in today's Assembly, gave examples such as creative, inspiring, fun and community. Who am I to disagree?



Yesterday, we sent our monthly update on developments as part of the Expansion Project and, later today, you will receive a letter outlining the key staffing changes thus far. We are delighted to have attracted such outstanding new talent to our school as we manage the change towards GCSE's. All of our incoming staff commented on that same degree of creativity and inspiration, both of which will continue to form the hallmarks of our education in the years to come. Next week looks equally exciting, so enjoy the weekend ready to return refreshed for the events to come as we near the end of the Spring Term.

Ian Thorpe

Lancing Poetry Competition 2018

Once again the sun shone on us as we ventured over to Lancing college to take part in their poetry competition. The students prepared one of the four Common Entrance speaking topics and chose one poem from a selection to recite from memory in front of their peers and another school. Louis Hammond, a bilingual student, was asked to perform his poem again to the assembled company, due to his lovely accent. We had a delicious lunch in the dining hall, used for the filming of a Harry Potter film, and we had a tour of the Chapel, Old Library and farm.

The participants were:

- Lauren D
- Joe R
- Emma B
- Lukas E
- Oliver G
- Hannah M
- Louis H
- Sophia B



Public Speaking Rotary Second Round

On Saturday 24 February, our Year 8 team of Public Speakers travelled to Oxted School for the second round of the Rotary Club's competition. There were six teams and only one would go through to the next round. The standard was very high and some interesting topics were delivered. The Downsend boys spoke eloquently, confidently and gave a highly polished presentation. There was a long, nervous wait for the results. Unfortunately, in spite of a great presentation the trophy for best team was awarded to the Warwick School in Redhill. However, 'Best Chairperson' award was given to Meharpal G, an achievement I have no doubt that he is very proud of. Meharpal's long service to public speaking at Downsend has culminated in a well-deserved win. Congratulations!

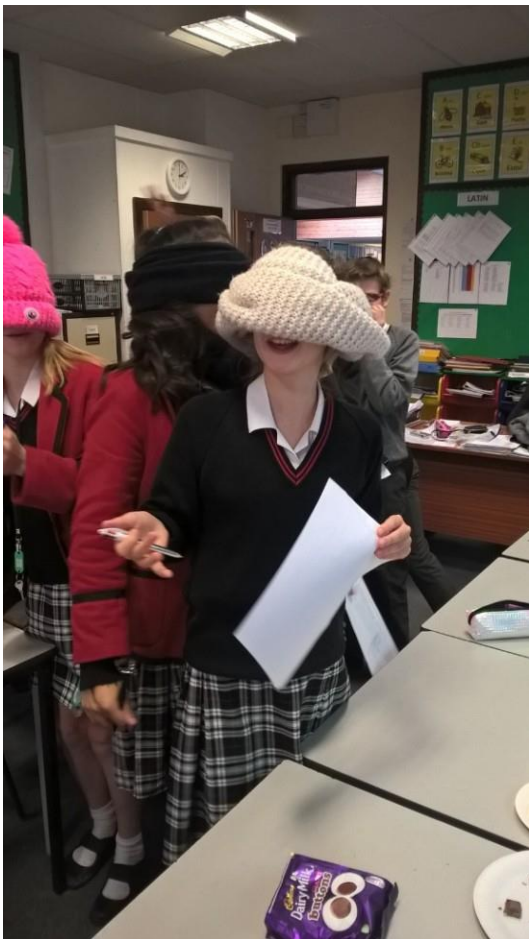
Dee Vanstone

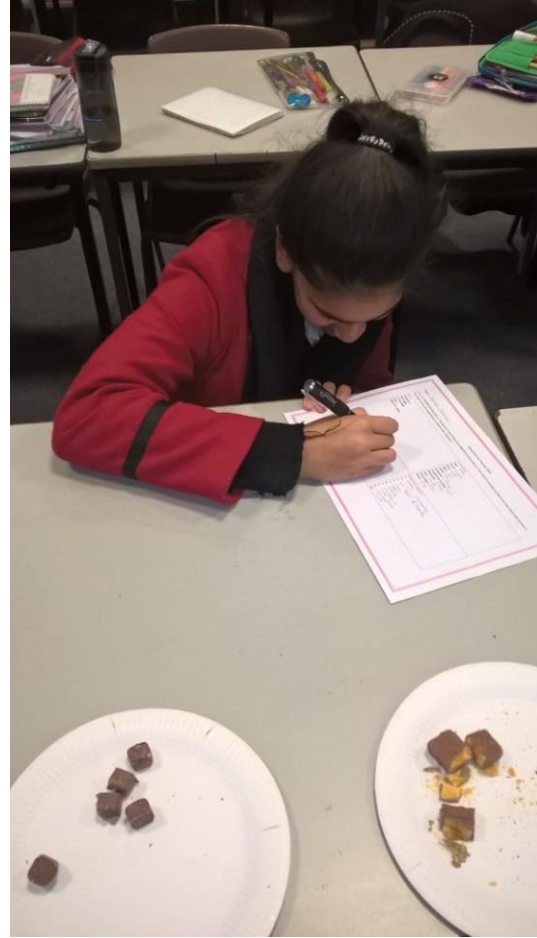


Dégustation de Chocolat

Having completed their scholarship exams, 8S had been promised a treat and so, armed with various types of chocolate, we embarked on a blindfold chocolate tasting! Although Meharpal still has his exams to come, he manfully took part, narrowly avoiding swallowing the foil wrapper on a mini cream egg! The students had to not only identify the chocolate with a french adjective, but then had to compare two chocolates in french and finally decide which was 'the best' chocolate – thus creating an albeit somewhat tenuous link to the practice of comparative and superlative adjectives! All this had to be completed on their sheet before a chocolate fest took place.

Sarah Gregory





House News

Congratulations once again to Ranmore House for winning the second collection of the term and proving that teamwork amongst the Upper and Lower school is crucial. Very well done to all the children who contribute so well in the various areas of school life, but especially to the following for winning the Top Achievers Award for this collection:

Top Achiever
Jessica Jane L
Summer A
Charlie B
Anoushka S

Position
st1
nd2
rd3
th4

Lower School
Wisley
Ranmore
Norbury
Headley

Top Achiever
Chloe S
Mia H
Amelia T
Joanna H

Position
st1
nd2
rd3
th4

Upper School
Headley
Ranmore
Norbury
Wisley

**Overall Whole School
Winners**
Ranmore
Headley
Wisley
Norbury

Position
1st
2nd
3rd
4th

Oscar A & Katie M :House Captains

Jon Albert



Magnetic Balls

Please can we ask parents to ensure that their children leave any magnetic ball toys at home if they have them.

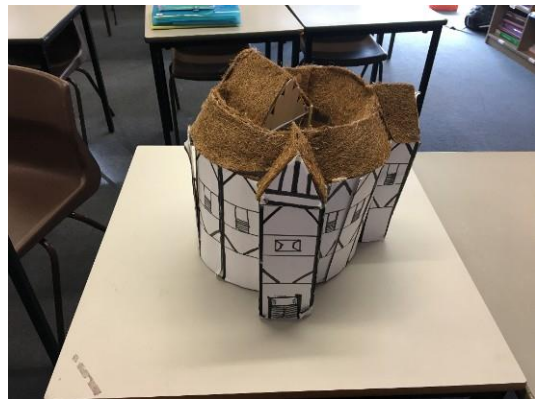
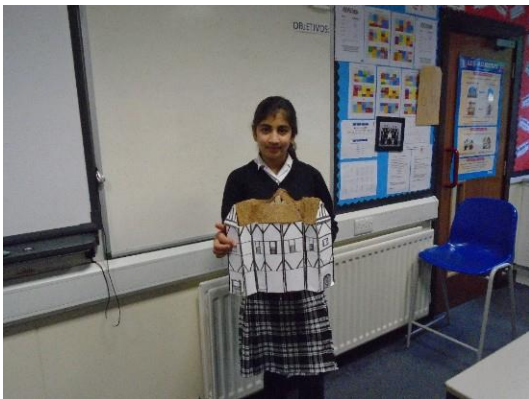
Clare Kirkham and Karl Newland

Year 6 Shakespeare Project

This has been a most successful project and the children have enjoyed learning about the bard, his plays and his theatre. Those children who went above and beyond received a Gold Certificate. Two children went way above and beyond though!

Well done to Ovee D in 6SG who painstakingly made this wonderful model of the Globe below. Well done also to Aniyah G in 6DV who clearly spent hours on her project which was informative and highly creative.

Dee Vanstone



Artist of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Henry in 5HB. Year 5 have been learning about the printmaking process of collagraphy. They made collages of buildings, applied ink to them and ran them through the printing press. Here is an excellent example by Henry.

Julia Ayles



News from the DPA



DPA SUMMER BALL

This year's event is booked for **Friday 15th June 2018** at The Conservatory at Painshill Park in Cobham. Tickets are **£85.00pp** and will **go on sale after Easter**. The venue has a much larger capacity than previous venues that we were bursting out of due to our size, so everyone is welcome including grandparents and friends.

The Cost will include : Drinks reception, 3 course dinner with wine, a disco, exclusive use of the venue to Downsend only, a Live Auction, a Silent Auction and a Photographer. All in the most beautiful walled garden setting. <http://painshillevents.co.uk/>

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Uniform Shop



NEXT UNIFORM SALE

Friday 16th March – Social Area

3.45pm – 5pm

(Access via the turret)

Any queries re the uniform please email admin@dpschool.org.uk. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the uniform shop then we always need help so please let us know via the same email address.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

2018 Ski Trip to Prato Nevoso

As we get closer to the ski trip can you please ensure that passports are handed to Dee Vanstone by Friday 16th March and money to Jon Albert by Wednesday 21st March.

Everyone should have the information booklet now. Thank you to those who attended the presentation on Wednesday. If you were unable to attend or gave any queries about the trip, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Dee Vanstone



 **Music Update** 

Well done to Octavia M who had a great night at Godalming Music Festival winning the Beginners Woodwind (clarinet), Yr4 and Under Recorder (recorder) and Yr6 and Under woodwind (recorder) classes. As a result she was also awarded the U11 Recorder Cup and U12 Woodwind cups.



Not to be outdone by his sister, Hector M won the Jazz U16 category in Godalming earlier this week. Well done Hector.



Congratulations also go to Hector who this week has been offered a place in the Young NSSO. Well done!

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 15 March 9.15 am - Year 2 Choir perform as part of St Christopher’s Music Festival.

Wednesday 21 March 6.00-7.00pm - Informal Drums and Guitar Concert (Pupils of Mr Precious and Mr Bradfield)

Wednesday 28 March 7.00-9.00pm - Spring Concert 7pm (Sports Hall)



****All music ensembles will be performing in the Spring Concert****

Music Clubs and Ensembles



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

Music Ensembles

March 2018

<u>Monday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>
Year 4 & 5 Choir 10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison) Upper School Choir 10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison) Year 2 St Christopher's Choir 1.15 - 1.45 p.m.		Brass Ensemble 8.00 - 8.30 a.m. (Mr Boote) Lower School Rock Band 10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mr Bradfield) Upper School Rock Band 10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mr Bradfield) Whole School Orchestra 1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Hart)
<u>Tuesday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>
Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 1) 8.00 - 8.30 a.m. (Mrs Allison) Flute Ensemble / LS Mixed Ensemble (Mrs Hart and Mrs Allison) 10.15 - 10.45 a.m. US Mixed Ensemble 10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison) Upper School Rock Band 10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mr Bradfield) Lower School Orchestra 12.45 - 1.15 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Hart) Lower & Upper School Rock Band (Mr Bradfield) 1.15 - 1.45 p.m.		Lower School Percussion Club/ LS Mixed Ensemble 10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison) Upper School Mixed Ensemble 10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison) Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 2) 1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Bayley)
		<u>Friday</u>
		Whole School Orchestra 8.00 - 8.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison) Year 2 & 3 Choir 10.15 - 10.45 a.m. US Mixed Ensemble 10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)

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.

M:Tech music technology – Summer 18 term

M:Tech is a creative composition course in which children create exciting music using the latest music technologies. The course is available to children age 7 - 13 and is suitable for all levels of musical ability.

In the Summer 18 term the children will be working on **Project 'Cartoons'**

**'Compose your own jingle, background music and sound effect
to the likes of Tom & Jerry, Scooby Doo, Bugs Bunny and Pokemon'.**

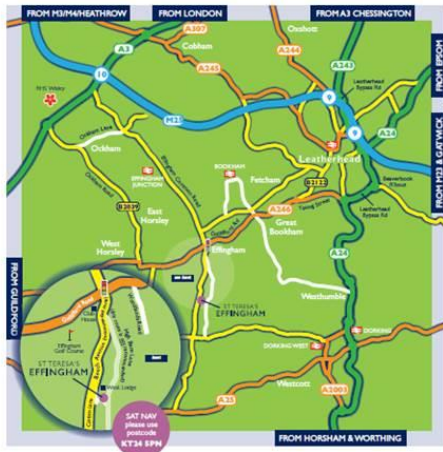


A digital download is emailed directly to parents and a Certificate will be given out in assembly at the end of each term. This course is administered directly by M:Tech and so to register your child's interest please sign up online at www.mtechonline.co.uk or contact Pia, Rebecca or Ann on [01483 578114](tel:01483578114).

M:Tech costs £165 per term with weekly sessions of 30 minutes. Please note: It is important to understand M:Tech is not a club or an activity. It is a group instrumental lesson teaching creative composition with a clear graded learning curve, therefore we apply the same terms and conditions as for instrumental lessons notice is required by half term in order to stop at the end of term.

Easter Music Course at St Teresa's

Please have a look at the information about this course. It would be wonderful if some of our instrumentalists could participate. As we all know – there is nothing more fun than playing your flute / clarinet / saxophone / trumpet / trombone / violin / cello / french horn with others in a group! This is a well-run course and the day is divided into sectional rehearsals as well as some time to take a break before the big orchestral session. You can download an application for [here](#).



ST TERESA'S EFFINGHAM

www.st-teresas.com

ST TERESA'S
EFFINGHAM

Easter 2018 MUSIC COURSE

for boys and girls in Years 4 to 8

A non-residential instrumental music course
to be held in the beautiful surroundings of
St Teresa's School in the Surrey Hills

Tues 3rd – Fri 6th April 2018
10.00am – 4.00pm



St Teresa's, Effingham, Surrey RH4 6ST
Telephone 01372 453456 • c.yalden@st-teresas.com • www.st-teresas.com

Nicole Allison

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 12 March	pm 12.15pm	GHS Junior Swim Gala Yr 7 & 8 Team Photos
Tuesday 13 March	6.30pm	Yr 5 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Wednesday 14 March	am	Yr 6 Evacuee Morning
Thursday 15 March	All Day 9.15am 12.15pm 4-6pm	Yr 1 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Choir @ St Christopher's Music Festival Yr 6 Team Photos Lower & Upper School LAMDA Evening, Social Area
Friday 16 March	Assembly All Day 2.30pm	Prefect Assembly Yr 2 Victorian Day Yr 3 Inter House Swimming Gala
Saturday 17 March	All day am pm	British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships @ Crystal Palace Rehearsal for Yr 6 Play ESSAPrimary Relays, Guildford Spectrum
Sunday 18 March	All Day	British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships @ Crystal Palace

Downsend+

Please find below details of the Easter and May Downsend+ programmes which we are now taking bookings for.

Also below are details of this summer's Tennis and Cricket courses, please note the early booking discount available on all bookings received and paid for in full by Friday 6 April.

For all enquires please email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk or call [07909 861 280](tel:07909861280)

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[Easter and May Half Term Description](#)

[Easter 2018](#)

[May Half Term 2018](#)

[Summer 2018 Tennis Cricket 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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