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# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

16 March 2018



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### Welcome from the Headmaster

This morning's assembly summed up the very best bits of our school and summarised the busy, but energetic nature of Downsend. The Head Boy and Head Girl introduced an item from one of our Rock Bands, full of vim and vigour, before leading the Prefect team in a thoughtful piece about the words that we use, and the impact that these can have on others. They finished this section with the following [clip](#), to highlight their message, and then introduced a second item from a second Rock Band, similarly well received by the audience.

I then had the more straightforward task of congratulating several groups of children on their achievements: the Year 2s (all dressed as Victorians today) on their stellar performance at the St Christopher's Music Festival yesterday; our brilliant Rock Bands; dozens of LAMDA performers for the fantastic concert yesterday; our Year 8 pupils on their outstanding performances in the Townsend-Warner History competition; the U7 Parkside Football Winners; U13 Hawthorns Versatility Netball Runners-Up; U13 7's Millfield Vase Champions; and the Boys' Swim Squad, on finishing the season unbeaten. It was an uplifting and inspiring end to another busy week!

Next week, the Year 6's take centre stage with their performance of Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night'. We've also got Drum & Guitar Concerts, House Swimming Galas and National Sevens Tournaments to look forward to. Whatever they undertake, we know that our pupils will give it their all with a smile on their faces. It's why we are so proud of them and their achievements.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Downsend Science Week 2018

**"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." Professor Stephen Hawking.**



In a week where we lost one of our Science heroes, it seems fitting to be celebrating everything about Science. This week was all about being curious, inspiring Downsend students to make sense of the world around them and about shining a light on Science.

Having finished last week with two assemblies themed on Science, I was excited to see my inbox filling up with Science videos. We had videos on topics such as short circuits, bouncing eggs, volcanoes, levitating match sticks, reflections, and friction, to name only a few. The clear explanations, obvious enjoyment and the hard work put into them was a pleasure to see. Over 40 of these amazing videos can be viewed on [Twitter](#) (@DownsendScience) or through the Science Week blog that will be posted on Firefly by the end of the weekend. I would like to say a huge **'thank you'** to all the children and parents who filmed, presented, and thought of the ideas.

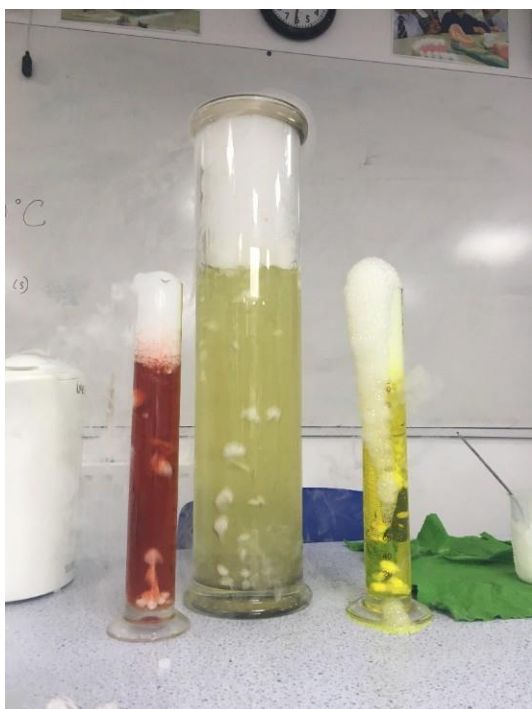
On top of this, I've been receiving posters relating to Exploration and there has been a wide range of themes and imaginative ideas. Mrs Mercer, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Sutton have offered to judge these at the beginning of next week.

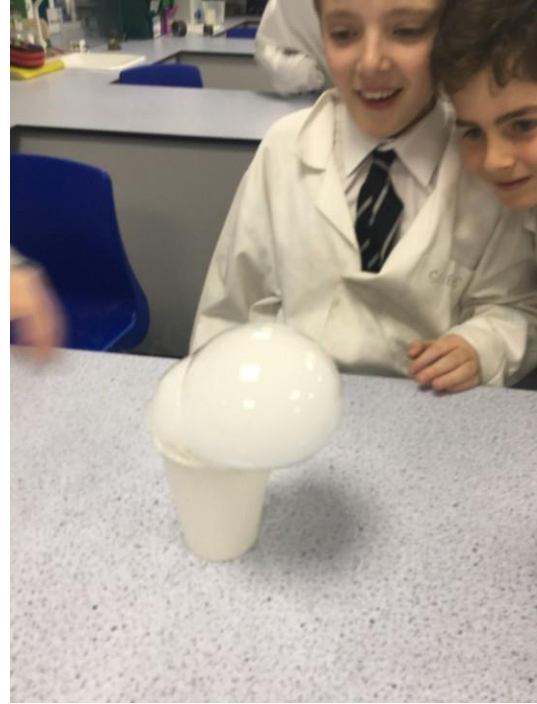
Within the department and around the school, we had more assemblies and interesting lessons. Thursday was 'Dry Ice Day' from Year 5 to Year 8 where we observed several exciting and inspiring investigations. Carbon Dioxide vortex rings, bubbles and acid rain shone through the day and we enjoyed being off curriculum and allowing the skills of observation and curiosity get the better of us. Year 4 were busy understanding the digestive process in lessons and requested a curriculum collapse session with the Van der Graaf generator to understand more about static electricity.

Finally, I received over 40 requests for postcards to be sent to 'Super Scientists' around the school and I hope these will arrive on doorsteps very soon. I am very proud of all the amazing work that has been going on in Science over the past year and would like to thank all my colleagues for supporting the department with the plethora of ideas and investigations every week, of every term. I would also like to thank the pupils for their continued enthusiasm for Science and hope they stay curious about the world around them.

Thank you to all those who contributed to Science Week 2018.

*Tamsin Grocock, Head of Science*





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## Year 6 Evacuee Morning

On Wednesday Year 6 had an Evacuee morning, which everyone really enjoyed. One of the most fun activities was a tasting session. This included trying Juice or Lemonade and a variety of biscuits and cakes made from real wartime recipes. These were baked by teachers and pupils and I have a couple of quotes on the feedback from pupils on the food, "the food was amazing" and "it was so tasty". We all really enjoyed stepping into the shoes of an evacuee. The variety of costumes were amazing. Some had tank tops (sleeveless jumpers) and some had long socks or shorts.

We also made gas masks, which was great fun. They were made using: a gas mask template; cellophane; tissue paper; string and a rectangular piece of cardboard. There were also lots more activities. We were given things such as World War Two quizzes; an evacuee diary; and lots of other fun things. Though my favourite thing of the day was looking at a World War Two cookbook, bought in by one of my friends. It was amazing, even though the recipes had been based on rations, so they didn't have many eggs or much milk in them, they honestly still sounded so scrummy and I'm sure that they would have tasted fantastic. We also got a few recipes that we can try at home, which I'm looking forward to trying.

So, on a whole we all really enjoyed getting dressed up, learning lots of new facts and tasting the wonderful food!

*By Oliver and Joshua B*



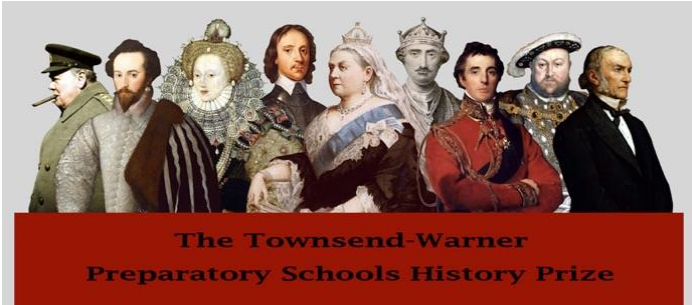
Wednesday was a fantastic morning. The children looked brilliant and I was so impressed with the way they approached all the activities.

I wanted to say a big thank you to Emily M, Bronwen R, Luke W, Ed G, Mrs Dinnage and Mr Temlett for providing such tasty wartime treats for the children to try. Thank you also to Ed G and Isaac N for bringing in an actual recipe and coupon books from their grandparents, to share with Year 6.

*Helen Black*



**Townsend Warner History Prize – The Results**



Last month James C, Lucy P and Sophia B made it through to the last round of the prestigious 'Townsend Warner History Prize'. Only 250 candidates from the initial 1000 made it through to this round. This final paper was a two hour exam where they had to answer questions based on a wide range of topics. The paper is designed to give pupils a chance to show off their knowledge of history as well as the opportunity to write with flair and imagination.

James C came 16th and was awarded a certificate and a voucher; whereas both Lucy P and Sophia B came a respectable 146<sup>th</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup>, both performing extremely well in the harder second round. I am incredibly proud of them all; their achievements are fantastic especially considering the tough competition they were against.

*Helen Black, Head of History*

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## **RAISE Banagrams Challenge**



As part of the RAISE programme, children have been honing their Banagrams skills and playing against each other in order to find our "Top Banana". The game stretches and challenges children, allowing them to use logic (and spelling skills!) to rearrange letter tiles to create a grid of connected words.

The tournament culminated in a nail-bitingly close final between Emma F (Year 5) and Khalil V (Year 6). Congratulations to Khalil, who will now go on to play other "Top Bananas" in an online game to find the UK finalists.

Huge thanks to Mrs Dinnage (US) and Mrs Ludlam (LS) for coaching the teams and always encouraging all of the Banagrams players to do their very best.

*Emily Friend*

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## House Public Speaking

This week saw the final of the inaugural House Public Speaking. There were several excellent entries from both Years 6 and 7 which several staff have enjoyed over the past fortnight. The pupils had to give a speech lasting no more than three minutes and we were very impressed with the standard generally. Special commendations went to Ben W (7BD) and Brandon G (6SG).

The four finalists then battled it out in Upper School assembly this week. For Ranmore – Ines M who spoke about Threats to Marine Life, Norbury – Alex W, The Fragility of Life, Headley – Ed G, Gender Stereotypes and finally Wisley – Leah F, The Meaning of Life! The standard was particularly impressive and gave the judges a difficult job!

The results:

1<sup>st</sup> Leah F (Wisley)

2<sup>nd</sup> Alex W (Norbury)

3<sup>rd</sup> Ed G (Headley)

4<sup>th</sup> Ines M (Ranmore)

Congratulations to all of the above. There will be prizes given by the end of term.

*Dee Vanstone and Chris Bryant*



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## Book Fair



Thank you so much for your involvement with the Book Fair that we held in our Library recently. Your purchases have meant that we have received 'rewards' that we will use to buy new books for our Library that will benefit pupils across the school.

I know that many of you received very long 'wish lists' from your children but it has been lovely to see the excitement on their faces when their books arrived and to see so many of them relaxing and reading their new books in the Library and around the school.

Thank you so much for your support, it is really appreciated.

Many thanks,

*Karen Cresswell, School Librarian*

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## Artist of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Natalia in 3EF.

Year 3 have been dreaming of summer in Art this week and used their understanding of tints and shades to paint delicious looking ice creams! Here is a fantastic example by Natalia.

*Julia Ayles*





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## News from the DPA



### How many of us on the DPA committee for Downsend School?

Well there are over 430 pupils at the main site so that's nearly 800 parents and there are only 5 committee members. If we do not start getting some more people volunteering for the committee, events such as the Christmas Fair or Summer Ball may not happen.

**I know that many of you want to help at the school, well WE NEED YOU!!**



In July three of us will be leaving Downsend, and we cannot run the school's PTA with 2 people! I joined Downsend in Year 3 and volunteered to help out at a number of events, later I became a friend of the DPA and got to know the parents on the committee. I then joined the committee and became the Secretary and then this year the Chair. It has really meant that as well as helping raise funds to buy lots of additional things for our children, I have along the way made some lifelong friends, drunk a lot of wine and laughed till my sides hurt!

If you at all interested in getting more evolved with the work of your DPA or want to know what roles we are looking to fill, some of which will be based at home only, then please email me at

[admin@dpschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@dpschool.org.uk)

Many thanks.

*Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair*



## Music Update



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



### **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.

### **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'.**



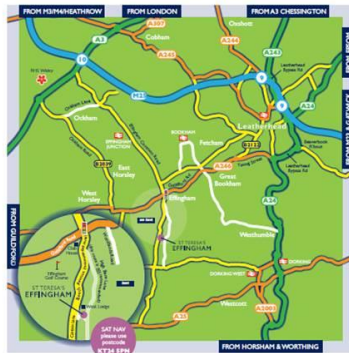
A digital download is emailed directly to parents and a Certificate will be given out in assembly at the end of each term. This course is administered directly by M:Tech and so to register your child's interest please sign up online at [www.mtechonline.co.uk](http://www.mtechonline.co.uk) or contact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

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 RH15 6ST  
Telephone 01372 453456 • c.yalden@st-teresas.com • www.st-teresas.com

### Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra

Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra are holding a free orchestra; workshop after Easter and their next auditions will be held on Sunday 29 April and Sundays 2 and 9 September at their rehearsal venue, St Paul's Community Centre, Inner Park Road, Wimbledon, SW19 6ED.

Details of all of their concerts along with further information about the orchestras are available on their website [www.stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk](http://www.stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk).

**STONELEIGH  
YOUTH  
ORCHESTRA**

FREE ORCHESTRAL WORKSHOP  
10AM - 4PM SUNDAY 22 APRIL  
FELTONFLEET SCHOOL  
COBHAM  
KT11 1DR

Join Stoneleigh Youth Training Orchestra and their conductor Dan Stilladay for an orchestral workshop on Saint-Saëns's *Danse Macabre* and Mancini's irresistible theme from *The Pink Panther*

Limited places available to non-members aged 8-13 of grade 4-6 standard

REGISTER AT [VICECHAIRMAN@STONELEIGHYOUTHORCHESTRA.ORG.UK](mailto:VICECHAIRMAN@STONELEIGHYOUTHORCHESTRA.ORG.UK)

Nicole Allison

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 19 March	pm 2.30pm	Technical Rehearsal for Yr 6 Play Yr 4 Inter House Swim Gala
Tuesday 20 March	pm	Dress Rehearsal for Yr 6 Play
Wednesday 21 March	pm 2.30pm 6.00pm	Performance of Yr 6 Play to Pupils Yrs 7 & 8 Inter House Rugby Informal Drum & Guitar Concert, Dining Hall
Thursday 22 March	pm 2.00pm 7.00pm	Performance of Yr 6 Play to Pupils Pre-Prep Sports Afternoon, Main Site Performance of Yr 6 Play to Parents
Friday 23 March	Assembly 2.30pm 7.00pm	Whole School House Assemblies Yr 2 Swimming Gala Performance of Yr 6 Play to Parents

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# Downsend+

The Easter holidays are now a couple of weeks away and bookings must be received 10 working days in advance to qualify for the pre booked rate. We have space available on all regular days but some courses now have limited availability so don't delay in getting your booking in. Please note that the reduced rate for our Summer Tennis and Cricket courses expires on Friday 6 April so don't delay in getting these courses booked in time.

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

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[Easter and May Half Term Description](#)

[Easter 2018](#)

[May Half Term 2018](#)

[Summer 2018 Tennis Cricket Booking Form](#)

*Rebecca Peek*

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## Notice to Leave Reminder

We would like to remind Parents that if you are leaving Downsend at the end of the Summer Term, notice must be given before the first day of next term, i.e no later than Tuesday 17 April 2018. Where Parents have not given a term's written notice, fees in lieu of notice will be applicable. To avoid missing this deadline, you may find it more convenient to give notice by Thursday 29th March 2018, the last day of the Spring Term. Notice should be in writing and addressed to and received by the Head personally or the Business Manager on the Head's behalf. It is expected that Parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw a pupil. Full terms & Conditions are available to view on the parent Portal section of the website.

*Carole Dickie, Business Manager*

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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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