

[View this email in your browser](#)



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

20 April 2018



Website



Twitter



Facebook



Menu



Email

[Download](#)

Welcome from the Headmaster

It has been a glorious start to the Summer Term. Our Ski Trip and Barbados Tour parties had some life affirming experiences over the Easter break and loved the sun so much that they brought it back with them, for which we are all very grateful! This has allowed for lots of outdoor learning for the Year 2 Forest School yesterday and the Year 4 Junk Percussion Workshops today. We have also enjoyed seeing boys and girls playing cricket together for the first time and are looking forward to the forthcoming fixtures next week. It promises to be an enjoyable and engaging Summer Term.

Staff started the week with their INSET Training Day on Monday, which included Concussion Training for all, as well as a number of workshops on the various issues surrounding mental health. This is becoming increasingly apparent in senior schooling and I was interested to read the article by one Prep School Head in Attain magazine this week. Entitled 'Taking the Pressure Off', it gives some helpful insights and can be found on Pages 8 and 9 of the [digital version](#).

Finally, we would like to congratulate the latest round of pupils awarded Scholarships by their Senior Schools – congratulations, all!

O. Gullick	Academic	St John's
O. Gullick	Drama	St John's
O. Gullick	Music	St John's
O. Gullick	Sport	St John's
F. Law	Academic Exhibition	Epsom College
F. Law	Sport Exhibition	Epsom College
A. Lowe	Academic Exhibition	Epsom College
H. Masood	Academic	CLFS
J. Philpott	Academic	St John's
L. Picken	Academic	Epsom College
K. Savan	Sport	St John's
B. Watkins	Drama	St John's
A. Wilmer	Drama	St John's

Ian Thorpe

News from the DPA

**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557



The DPA cordially invite you to this year's Summer Ball which is to be held at **The Conservatory at Painshill Park, Cobham** on Friday 15 June. We have changed venues this year as we have just got too big in numbers for previous locations.

The Ball has always been a great event and this year we hope you can join us. **Tickets are priced at £85pp** and include: welcome drink, three course meal with wine, music, live auction, silent auction and photographer, all in the most beautiful walled garden setting at Painshill Park.

Over the past 3 years tickets have sold out quickly and in the interest of fairness we will book places on a first come first served basis. Please complete the attached booking form and return it to us at events@dpschool.org.uk to confirm your place. ***You do not need to fill a table to book a place and we recommend that you do not hold back on sending your form whilst waiting for a group booking.*** (Note: Each round table is for maximum of 10 people.)

Please have a look at the wonderful venue we have managed to secure this year
Venue website: <http://painshillevents.co.uk>

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the night.

Kind regards,

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Hot Weather



As the summer is approaching we have a few rules to keep our children safe in the sun. They should all wear a hat when playing outside. They may bring in one of their own or you can purchase a Downsend cap from me. They should also keep a tube of sun cream, preferably SPF15 or above, in their PE bags.

The children have tap water to drink in their classrooms and will be learning in PSHE about the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout their day, especially in hot weather.

Helen Ferguson, School Nurse



Music Update



Music Exams

Huge congratulations to the following students who passed their recent music exams in the following instruments:

Piano: Rhianna (Grade 1), Octavia (Grade 2), Horatio, Chloe St (Grade 1), Joshua G (Grade 1), Amy (Grade 4) and Chloe Sm (Grade 3)

Drums: Matt (Grade 1), Teddy (Grade 1), Alex (Grade 1), Daisy (Grade 3) and James (Grade 3)

Clarinet: Alice (Grade 3) and Katherine (Grade 2)

Flute: Adam (Grade 3)

Guitar: Katherine (Grade 2), Zoe (Grade 2) and Michael B (Grade 1)

Electric Guitar: Alexander (Grade 2), Rylie (Grade 4), Edward (Grade 4) and Brandon (Grade 3)

Recorder: Octavia (Grade 5)

Alto Saxophone: Oliver (Grade 2), William (Grade 2) and Rylie (Grade 2)

Singing: Maya (Grade 1), Sophia (Grade 1), Freya (prep test) and Seren (Grade 2)

Violin: Andrew (Grade 1)

Particular mention goes to Alex, Daisy, James, Adam, Joshua and Chloe Sm for gaining a Distinction.



Music Clubs and Ensembles

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

Music Ensembles

April 2018



Monday	
<u>Year 4 & 5 Choir</u>	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison)
<u>Upper School Choir</u>	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)

Tuesday	
<u>Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 1)</u>	8.00 - 8.30 a.m. (Mrs Allison)
<u>Flute Ensemble</u>	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Hart)
<u>US Mixed Ensemble</u>	10.45-11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)
<u>Upper School Rock Band</u>	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mr Bradfield)
<u>Lower School Orchestra</u>	12.45 - 1.15 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Hart)
<u>Lower & Upper School Rock Band</u>	1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mr Bradfield)

Wednesday	
<u>Brass Ensemble</u>	8.00 - 8.30 a.m. (Mr Boote)
<u>Lower School Rock Band</u>	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mr Bradfield)
<u>Upper School Rock Band</u>	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mr Bradfield)
<u>Whole School Orchestra</u>	1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Hart)

Thursday	
<u>Lower School Percussion Club/ LS Mixed Ensemble</u>	10.15 - 10.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison)
<u>Upper School Mixed Ensemble</u>	10.45 - 11.15 a.m. (Mrs Allison)
<u>Chamber Choir (Rehearsal 2)</u>	1.15 - 1.45 p.m. (Mrs Allison and Mrs Bayley)

Friday	
<u>Whole School Orchestra</u>	8.00 - 8.45 a.m. (Mrs Allison)
<u>Year 2 & 3 Choir</u>	10.15 - 10.45 a.m.
<u>US Mixed Ensemble</u>	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.

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.


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 Shilladay 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




OPEN CASTING CALL!

Modest! Management, the team behind acts such as One Direction, Little Mix, JLS, and 5 Seconds of Summer are holding open auditions for singers OR songwriters to be part of an exciting new project launching in 2018. We are seeking males and females aged between 14-18.

WHAT TO DO NEXT:
Simply film a video of yourself* singing and upload it to YouTube.
Snap a selfie (headshot) and email it along with a link to your video to:
talent@modestmanagement.com
(Include your full name and D.O.B and contact info)
*If you are solely a songwriter, please feel free to send audio only.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES
BY 23rd April 2018.
GOOD LUCK!

Modest!
www.modestmanagement.com

Nicole Allison

Ranmore Spring Term Winners!!

Congratulations to Ranmore for winning the Spring Term House Competition, we hope the children enjoyed their treat. House points are eagerly collected by all the children throughout the term for either academic work or demonstrating excellent citizenship. These points are added to the variety of co-curricular events to decide the overall winning house at the end of each term. Interestingly in the final collection Ranmore were in 2nd place in the Upper School and 4th place in the Lower School, but adding these together placed them as whole school winners. Before adding the collections to the co-curricular events, Norbury were in the lead with 118 points and Headley were in 2nd place with 99 points. However, as Ranmore had won the first two collections of the term convincingly, adding the final collection to their score, they claimed a thoroughly deserved victory for the term. Every house point counts, so very well done to all pupils in Ranmore!

Top Achievers:

Congratulations also to the top achievers for this final collection, its lovely to see your hard work recognised.

Wisley	Geoffrey L	Matthew K
Norbury	Lauren L Q	Aryana M
Headley	Maya B	Eve J
Ranmore	Rayhan P	Roman H-T

Jon Albert



Year 5 Update

For the remainder of the academic year Helen Black will be taking on full responsibility as Head of Year 5. All enquiries relating to Year 5 pupils should now be directed to her.

Clare Kirkham

Downsend Sports League – Winter 2017-18

A huge thank you to Miss Sievewright for running the Downsend Sports League again this year. Reflecting on the results of the first two terms, of course it's great to see where our children have achieved success but also where they could improve in future. It also highlights that although it is good to see such encouraging win ratios at Downsend, our real success is in providing such amazing opportunities for all the children to represent their school and instill a belief and passion that makes them and in turn us proud. In any competitive environment, team selection is never easy, ensuring the correct movement of players both up or down is always thoroughly discussed and handled as sensitively as possible. The real beauty of this league, is that each team across the school can compete on a level playing field. A child in the U8D's can compete with a child representing the U13A's! Using a simple scoring mechanism, we can work out which team/s have been the most successful in the major winter sports this year. Huge congratulations to the children below, many of whom have achieved undefeated seasons:

Hockey

U8B

F. Van Der Hoeven
B. Thomas
S. Macfarlane
O. Mackie
N. Tilly
R. Jensen
N. Bullingham

U8D

S. Clapham
E. Cuddy
P. Jehaanandan
O. Joy
T. Krichauff
O. Marsh

Netball

U8B

S. Macfarlane
O. Mackie
N. Tilly
F. Van der Hoeven
S. Avellini
F. Borne-Waterhouse
C. Rusbridge
A. Bell

Rugby

U9A

T. Darbshire
T. Clark
Z. Spears
A. Geddes
L. Savage
B. Hollands
N. Staplehurst

Football

U9C

W. Read
F. Smith
T. Bendall
L. Doulas
N. Sladojevic
W. Milsted
A. Magregor-Todd
L. Tribe

U9D

T. Morrell-Johnson
Y. Edham
D. J. Ofo
G. Cobb
A. Nichols
A. Carmody

U7B

D. Baker
M. Ruigrok
E. Ventris
E. Last
G. Gale
R. Birley
L. Gray
F. Moore

U7D

T. Brown
A. Slater
B. Scudamore
A. Deshpande
A. Cole
O. West

Jon Albert





Ski Trip 2018



Well the term 'climate change' certainly had relevant meaning this year! What a difference a year makes! Where there was mud and grass last year in Prato Nevoso, it was firmly covered by a layer of at least two metres of snow this year. As we rounded the hairpin bends on our way to the village, excitement grew! There was a chance to have a quick view of rooms in Hotel Mondole before ski socks were grabbed and it was off to the ski hire shop for fitting of boots and skis. This was highly organised and a very painless experience as all skis and boots were colour-coded and numbered so it was idiot proof (or so we hoped!)

On our return to the hotel, it was a late dinner, unpacking and then exhausted bodies fell into bed excited for what lay ahead tomorrow! A look outside the window next morning was breath-taking! Untouched, freshly groomed pistes lay reflecting the beautiful morning sun. After a quick breakfast, we all headed into the village to meet with the ski instructors led very professionally by Francesco. After a brief look at abilities, they were sorted into groups and both the Intermediate and Advanced groups headed off on the chair lift up the mountain. Both beginner groups rode the magic carpet for the first time and started to learn the all-important snow-plough! Back to the hotel for a noisy lunch where many hilarious tales of the morning's shenanigans were told! This was followed by further skiing in the afternoon and a superb quiz written and hosted by our very own Mr Mitchell – and no, the staff didn't win – it was the Disney round that did us!

The remainder of the week saw the most incredible improvement on the slopes. The beginner groups started to ride the chair lifts in search of more difficult slopes and the intermediate and advanced groups had huge amounts of fun off-piste and finding lots of jumps both in and out of the snow park! There were meals to be had in mountain huts, a coach to the neighbouring Artesina saw many ride a button drag lift for the first time and a lovely lunch was had in Hotel Margueris before returning back to Prato. The jester's hat of last year was replaced by the Mohican hat this year for the numpty of the day! This was taken home by Bijou for her James Bond style 'ride' up the button lift face-first!

Due to the fabulous snow this year, evening activities were great fun. The snow-tubing where we were taken up a multi-coloured magic carpet to several slopes of varying difficulty – of course most of the children went for the almost vertical slope – was a favourite and was topped off by a delicious crepe. Karaoke night involved most of the children and fun was had by all, especially joining in with Jake and Warren and their Alpaca 'song'! A pizza evening in the famous Malanotte at the top of the mountain with the most incredible views also included an opportunity to hit the dance floor. Our dancing queen this year was most definitely Nastia. The highlight of the evening entertainment had to be the night skiing on the final night in resort. All groups had fun skiing, jumping and going through the woods under the floodlights. This was followed by a presentation by the ski school, in a mountain hut, to all the children who received not only medals this year, but also the ski school's 50th Anniversary buffs. Whether it was a snow plough turn that was mastered or a jump or some fun in the powder, all the children should feel very proud of the challenges they faced and overcame!

It was a pleasure to be trip leader on this trip and I was extremely proud of the children's achievements, perseverance, manners and team spirit! I wish next year's trip good luck and I hope that many of our skiers will return to the slopes for yet more fun!

Dee Vanstone



Ski Trip 2019



Following on from a very enjoyable and successful trip to Prato Nevoso in Italy this year, we have decided to change venues and head higher to Les Trois Vallees; basing ourselves in the popular village of Les Menuires in the French Alps. This a wonderful opportunity for the children to stay away from home with their friends for a week, enjoy a great sport and take part in a wide programme of suitable après-ski activities under careful staff supervision.

For the first time having combined with other Cognita Schools with children of the same age, we will have sole occupancy of the hotel, providing us with an incredibly safe and exciting experience. If you have any questions about our plans or about your child's suitability for this venture, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In order to secure our preferred accommodation on the piste, we need to book early. We hope to be able to take whoever wishes to come but places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please send your completed slip to me by **Friday 25 May** to secure your child's place on DownsendSki 2019.

Helen Black

South Downs Trekathon For Royal Marsden



On Saturday 26 May, Helen Black and Sally Temlett will be taking part in the South Downs Trekathon to raise money for the school charity, The Royal Marsden. This is a tough event over rolling downs and cliffs and at 26 miles, it forms an enormous challenge! Helen and Sally have set up a page on Just Giving for any donations, the links are below.

Many thanks,

Helen Black and Sally Temlett

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Black15>

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sally-temlett1>

Year 7 Ambassadors

Congratulations to our new Year 7 Ambassadors for the Summer term: Jake W, Amy N-J, Toby W, Ava U, Matthew Y and Sofia H. We look forward to seeing you enjoy your leadership roles and help out around the school.



Not only is Toby an Ambassador this term but he has also had success on the sporting field. Last Sunday, he played at Fly-half for the Dorking Rugby U12s, in the Final of the U12's Surrey & South London Cup (The Presidents Cup) against Richmond RFC. In a knock out competition, involving 50 clubs, Dorking U12's got through to the final and went on to win 3-2 in a fiercely competitive match. There were also some ex-Downsend pupils involved in the squad, Reiss C and Thomas J.

The team is going on tour to the Isle of Wight this weekend and we wish them a successful time.

Anna Mercer



Calum Foad

Wednesday this week saw Calum Foad visit Downsend. Calum is a young singer with a moderate amount of success in the I Tunes chart. Calum performed several songs, some covers and an original of his which is in the charts at the moment. He then spoke to the children about online safety and cyberbullying, giving his own anecdote about how he had been cyberbullied himself. He then gave strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety and how to keep positive mental health. The session concluded with a q and a session and some leaflets were handed out. Unfortunately, he had no merchandise for sale – a missed opportunity I felt!

Dee Vanstone



RAISE Writers Club



I am hugely proud of Alexander C in 4MP this week as we have heard that the story he submitted to Radio 2's 500 Words Competition has made it through to the next round. Alexander wrote the story as part of a challenge set by Miss Friend in our RAISE Writers club and I'm sure you'll agree that it is outstanding work.

Well done, Alexander! We wish you good luck for the next stage in the competition!

Clare Kirkham



Once in a Blue Moon by Alexander C

Finally, Alex thought, it was nearly the end of another, nothing-to-do, boring, rainy day...But soon, although he didn't know yet, things were about to change for this eleven year old boy.

The late evening sky has, now for days, been said it would be extraordinarily exciting. (Of course, only if it was going to be cloudless and clear!). The cover story, in every newspaper and on the news, has been about the appearance of the rare Super Blue Blood Moon. A moon, furiously red like molten lava, much bigger and brighter than usual and never before closer to Earth. 'Ahh...Rain, rain, rain... If only the heavy, storm-bringing clouds could blow away...'; sighed Alex, glancing at the pouring sky through his rain-splattered, bedroom window. His eyes settled on the turbulent sea in the distance. Was he going to see the birth of this amazing moon tonight or was he going to be heading to bed disappointed?

Suddenly, Alex was violently shaken by ear-deafening noises coming from outside. CRASH! Astonishingly, all at once, hundreds of forks of lightning, as bright as gold-neon, started ripping and tearing the dark sky. In a flash, they smashed into the choppy sea. The depths started glowing. Millions of sparks flickered here and there. The water seemed to be electrified and bubbled and fizzed! And after this, the sea became still and all was silent.

The rain stopped and the clouds swiftly vanished from the sky. In the darkness, from the horizon, a colossal red giant of a fire ball started climbing the starless sky. 'The Moon! ', Alex excitedly ran out of his bedroom. Soon he was outside heading for the beach. His bare feet stumbled in tangles of washed-up red seaweed and slipped on slimy purple-glowing jellyfish that were scattered everywhere. Alex was mesmerised by the massive, full Blood Moon with its clearly visible craters and canals. The Super Moon shone so brightly, nearly blinding Alex with the diamond-shine of the clean grains of sparkly sand. 'Wow!', he exclaimed. 'What a night to remember! But...Hang on a minute! What is that?'

There in the distance, under the low, humongous moon, something was moving and it was now approaching Alex with a phenomenal speed. 'What is it? Has it come from the sea... or from the Moon? How? And... why?' Alex was bursting to know the answers.

Lime-green, transparent and with crinkled skin, three tall and pencil-thin creatures were facing him. What were they going to do next? Alex wished he could scream but he somehow couldn't. An invisible force lifted them all off the ground. In no time, Alex was inside the Super Moon: he instantly knew this was a kind of a portal! Although they spoke no words, Alex clearly heard the aliens say: Don't be afraid. We are friends, not foes. Your time-space, intergalactic adventure starts now. Are you coming?' 'Why not?!' he replied. Instantly, time and space merged and he was zoomed through the cosmos. 'What adventure is awaiting me?', he wondered.

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 23 April	2.30pm	Yr 4 Inter House Girls Cricket
Tuesday 24 April	am	8S Visit to Pre-Prep Ashtead's French Morning
Wednesday 25 April	am	Yr 5 Trip to Sutton Life Centre
Thursday 26 April	All Day 8.30-9.30am	Yr 4 Trip to Marwell Zoo Yr 2 & 3 Expansion Project Coffee Morning, Pavillion
Friday 27 April	Assembly All Day	Mr C Jones, Head, Caterham School 8S Geography Fieldwork Trip to Juniper Hall

Downsend+

For all enquires please email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk or call 07909 861 280

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[May Half Term Description](#)

[May Half Term 2018](#)

[Summer 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

Copyright © Downsend School 2017, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Downsend School
1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8TJ

www.downsend.co.uk

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
