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# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

18 May 2018



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### Welcome from the Headmaster

This week has had an air of normality about it following the ISI Inspection of last week. As Heads, we receive the call 48 hours before the start of the Inspection itself, so it really does offer a realistic view of the school in its natural state. With Ashted and Leatherhead Pre-Preps both being inspected at the same time, it was all hands to the pump. Whilst I am not permitted to go into detail before the publication of the reports, which should be available to you just before the end of the academic year, the three Reporting Inspectors would all like to signal a big 'thumbs up' for the Downsend schools. I am extremely grateful to the 193 sets of parents who took the time to complete the surveys. I will share the key themes when the reports are published, but we were delighted to see our stated aims being so visibly recognised and appreciated. Thank you!

Having hardly had time to draw breath, we then embarked on our last Saturday Open Morning of the year. The school was full of happy, smiling (if slightly tired) faces, all of whom proved to be the perfect ambassadors. Our Guides were their normal, impeccable selves, although there were not enough to go

round, with record numbers of prospective parents in attendance. Up stepped the staff to support the children as additional guides and the overwhelming feedback was of a vibrant, happy and forward-thinking school. Thank goodness we had the chance to rest on Sunday!

On Wednesday evening, I hosted our second Parental Engagement Group, with parents from Main Site and our Pre-Preps in attendance. We discussed the latest architect's plans, as well as the curriculum and enrichment offerings proposed. As always, the parental feedback and insights were hugely valuable and there was a sense that pleasing progress is being made. Whilst all of this, the children were engaging in their usual wide range of activities both inside and outside the classroom. With Assessment Week for many next week, they should have plenty to shout about!

*Ian Thorpe*

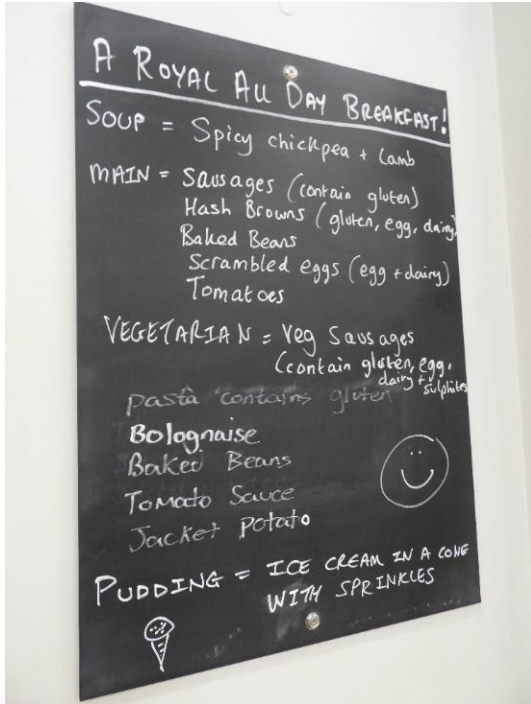
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## **Royal Wedding Breakfast!**

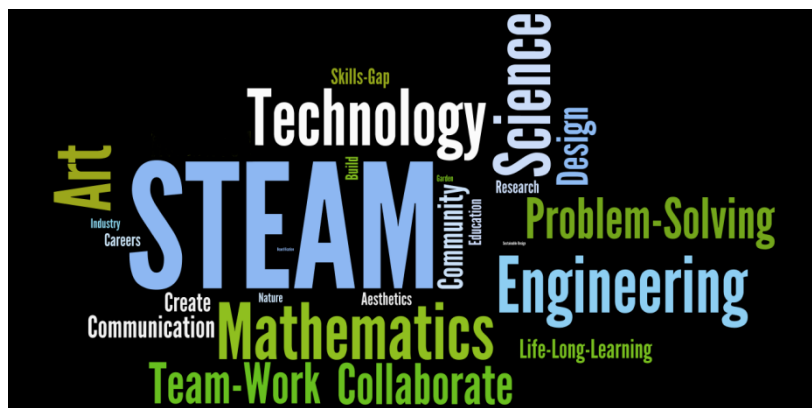
Carrying on with our celebrations of Prince Harry and Meghan's wedding tomorrow, the catering team put together the most amazing lunch. The children were so excited to sit down to a wedding breakfast topped off with an ice cream with sprinkles. Thank you so much to Doug and his team for creating this and especially to Vanessa who decorated this fantastic wedding cake.

*Helen Black*





## STEAM Day 2018



On Friday 25 May, we will be running our fourth STEAM curriculum collapse day. The Mathematics based day will involve both team work, agility and problem solving. Year 2 and 3's theme is Alice in Wonderland and we have designed Escape Rooms for Year 4-8.

The Maths theme will run through the day, and as such the children will be solving equations, codes and completing puzzles that are relevant to their Key Stage.

For Upper School there will be further opportunity to practise key physics concepts, algebraic equations and they will be able to use their knowledge in context.

The children should be dressed in their house polo shirt, black leggings or shorts and trainers (not skorts or very short cycling shorts). If it's cold they can wear their tracksuit bottoms.

Request: If you happen to have any of the following items in your house we would be keen to have them for STEAM day.

- Aeroplane eye masks
- Large cardboard or plastic tubes

Thank you for your continued support of the STEAM initiative.

*Tamsin Grocock, Head of Science*

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## **Online Game Play**

Whilst as a school we understand that the battle game 'Fortnite' is currently hugely popular, we would like to draw attention to the fact that this is a game rated as '12'. Many of our Lower School children are now choosing to play games on the playground replicating their online game play and using language and behaviour related to it. Should children be exposed to this or other similar games at home we would request that parents communicate with their children the consequences of that behaviour manifesting itself here at school.

*Clare Kirkham*

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## Inter School Maths Challenge

On Wednesday, Sophie M, Freyja B-W, Horatio M and Summer A from Year 3 competed at an Inter-School Maths Challenge at Halstead Prep School.

The competition consisted of three rounds, including a very complicated shopping problem involving weighing ingredients, calculating ratios and finding costs, followed by completing tangram puzzles and then finally bouncing on space hoppers in a mathematical relay!

All four of the children did incredibly well and they should be extremely proud of their efforts!

Four Year 4 children will be participating in a similar competition this afternoon. Good luck to Alexander B, Alex G, Alexander C and Caitlin B.

*Pete Mitchell and Amy Sutton*





## Music Update



### Year 3 Musical Instrument Scheme

All pupils need to bring their instruments in for both Music lessons until after the Summer Concert.

- 3PM Wednesdays
- 3MB Mondays and Wednesdays
- 3NL Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- 3EF Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Please remind your children that there will be awards at the end of the year for *Overall Progress* and *Effort During Lessons*.

### Downsend Rocks – Tuesday 12 June, 7.00 pm.

Pupils involved in any of our Rock Bands will be taking part at the Rock Band Evening. More details will follow shortly.

### Upcoming Events

- Friday 18 May - Informal Voice Concert (pupils of Hayley Griffiths) 5.30pm, Social Area
- Monday 21 May - Informal Piano Concert (pupils of Sarah Cobby) 5.45pm
- Monday 11 June - Informal Violin Concert (pupils of Mr Bayley) 5.00pm
- Monday 11 June - Informal Flute Concert (pupils of Mrs Hart) 6.15pm
- Tuesday 12 June - Downsend Rocks (Band Evening) 7.00pm
- Monday 25 June - Informal Piano and Guitar Concert (pupils of Miss Rob and Mr Keer) 5.30pm
- Wednesday 27 June - Informal Guitar Concert (Mr Smith) 5.30pm **\*Change of date please take note\***



**Well done** to Octavia who won the U10 Unaccompanied Solo, U11 Accompanied Solo and Open Concerto class in the recorder section at the Redhill and Reigate Music Festival.



### **Music Clubs and Ensembles**

For a full list of Music Ensembles please download [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.

We **currently have spaces** for anyone who would like to learn **recorder, clarinet or saxophone**. Please contact Mrs Allison if you would like to find out more.

*Nicole Allison*

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## News from the DPA

Downsend  
Parents'  
Association



Registered Charity No. 1116557

You are invited to the  
**DPA Summer Ball 2018**



Friday 15th June  
7.00pm – Midnight  
The Conservatory at Painshill  
Cobham

Fantastic Black Tie Event with a pre dinner drink  
Three Course Dinner with Wine  
Music, Auction and Silent Auction

Tickets £85.00 per person  
To book please email: [events@dpschool.org.uk](mailto:events@dpschool.org.uk)



## DPA SUMMER BALL 2018

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

**40 TICKETS STILL NEED TO BE SOLD**







We still need a lot more of you to apply for tickets to this year's Annual Parents Summer Ball, we have sold around 160 tickets which is great, but due to it being a much larger venue we have had to commit to 200 tickets, so need to sell the additional 40 tickets, if we do not we will make a large loss on the ticket sales.

You do not need to make up a table as I can allocate you onto a table with parents in the same year as yourself nearer the time, we have also opened up ticket sales to grandparents and your friends.

We would really love this to be an entire Downsend School event, but without your support it cannot be. We know that having the event on a Friday night is not the easiest with work finish times but, if any of you want to come along but cannot make the 7pm welcome drinks just join us for the dinner and dancing.

The Ball has always been a great sociable event and this year will be I guarantee will be one of the best.

Tickets are priced at £85pp and include: 2 glasses of fizzpp, welcome drink, three course meal with wine, disco with light up dance floor, live auction, silent auction and photographer all in the most beautiful walled garden setting at Painshill Park.

If you would like to come along a support this fundraising / great night out, Please complete the [booking form](#) and return it to us at [events@dpaschool.org.uk](mailto:events@dpaschool.org.uk) to confirm your place.

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

## **Auction Prizes – URGENTLY NEEDED**

We are still in need a couple more auction items for the live auction on the night. Do you own or work for a company that could offer a prize to be auctioned at the Ball?? We never make money on selling the ball tickets, this year we are selling at cost, so all of the fund raising on the night is from the auction. Without some really cracking auction items we simply will not make any money. Remember that every bit of profit we make on the night goes towards EXTRAS for your children. In the past we have paid for musical instruments, the playground fort, The Pavilion, extra sporting equipment and much more over the years.

If you can offer something such as sporting tickets, spa packages, experiences, hotel/holidays or anything you feel we could auction to parents on the night please email me at: [admin@dpaschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@dpaschool.org.uk).

Many Thanks,

*Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair*

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## Whole School House Assembly

This morning's Whole School House Assembly task was linked to the Royal Wedding tomorrow. Each house was split into two teams and each team had to create a wedding cake and a bouquet of flowers. They had just 15 minutes and boxes, paper, glue, sellotape and their pencil cases. What was then produced in that time was magnificent which made judging spectacularly hard. A massive thank you to all the house captains and the staff for their support, help and guidance!

Results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Wisley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Headley
- Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> – Norbury & Ranmore

*Helen Black*





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## Artist of The Week

Well done to this week's Artist of The Week Anita in 6DV.

In Upper School Art Club, pupils have been studying skulls and making drawings using a variety of media. This is Anita's excellent study in chalk and charcoal.

*Julia Aylen*



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## Trekathon Update



The South Downs Trekathon is fast approaching and Sally Temlett and I have been training hard, as you can see from the photograph below, which was taken at Newlands Corner during our 15 mile practise last weekend. This is a tough event over rolling downs and cliffs and at 26 miles and it forms an enormous challenge for us both!



Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us on our Just Giving pages; we have raised over £600 so far for the school charity.

The walk is on Saturday 26 May and the Just Giving pages below will be accepting donations until then.

*Helen Black and Sally Temlett*

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

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

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## **Lamda Update**

In March 59 Lamda students took exams in both acting duologues and solos, verse and prose and group devising. They were not only examined on the interpretation and technique of their performances but also tested on their knowledge of their characters and in some cases, the staging decisions of their pieces.

From initially picking their pieces during the Autumn term to their performances at the end of the Spring term, all of the children worked incredibly hard to hone their pieces and develop their characters showing that with creativity, dedication and practise, they could produce work of really high calibre.

I am pleased to say that all our candidates achieved at least a Pass this year, with the results including an amazing 36 Distinctions and 17 Merits!

A special mention to students receiving over 90% include Olivia H and Aimee J (Grade 1 Devised duologue), Amelia B and Ines M (Grade 2 Acting), Hannah G and Hannah M (Grade 3 Acting), Francesca T (Grade 4 Solo Acting), Theodore M (Verse and Prose Entry), Josh G (Verse and Prose Entry), Amy J (Introductory Stage 2), Katherine V (Grade 3 Acting Duologue) and Imogen G (Grade 2 Acting Solo).

Well done to everyone, I am very proud of all of my Lamda students!

*Lucy Biszczanik*

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## **Mega Final Chess 2018**

Well done to Khalil who took part in the Surrey East Mega Finals for Chess 2018 last weekend. Khalil was 3rd in the U11 Boys Group and will progress to the Southern Giga Finals in July. 20,000 children played around the country and only the top 1,000 progress to the Giga Finals.

This is the second year that Khalil has progressed to the next round. Thank you to Mrs Vannucci for her encouragement at Downsends Chess Club.



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## Ski Trip 2019

**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FAST APPROACHING!**



Places are filling up fast! Please send your completed slip from the reverse of the [ski newsletter](#) to me by **Friday 25 May** to secure your child's place on Downsend Ski 2019.

*Helen Black*

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 21 May	All Week	Yr 5 Assessment Week
	All Week	Yrs 6 & 7 Exam Week
	5.45pm	Informal Piano Concert, Dining Hall (Sarah Cobby's Pupils)
Tuesday 22 May	All Day	8S Trip to the Science Museum
	8-8.30am	Yr 5 PGL Liddington Information Drop-in meeting, 5HB
	9.30am	Yr 1 Assembly
Wednesday 23 May	3.45-4.15pm	Yr 5 PGL Liddington Information Drop-in meeting, 5JAY
	4.30pm	Yr 8 Mimizan French Trip Meeting, Social Area
	6.00pm	Learning Support Parents Evening, Dining Hall
Friday 25 May	Assembly	Mrs T Grocock, Head of Science
	All Day	STEAM Curriculum Collapse
	11.00am	Pre-Prep Ashted Sports Morning

# Downsend+

For all enquires please email [downsendplus@downsend.co.uk](mailto: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*

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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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