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**DOWNSEND  
SCHOOL**

## DOWNSEND TIMES

15 June 2018

### **Welcome from the Headmaster**

This day is always an eventful one for Year 8 pupils as they receive their CE results. Whilst these results are obviously the culmination of hard work for many years, the grades themselves only offer a snapshot of a child's progress and all-round contribution. With a record score of 88.7% A\*-B grades last year to match up to, the pressure was on, but the Class of 2018 have delivered some style. Having received the results of 333 separate papers sat, marked by a range of Senior Schools, imagine our surprise (and delight) when this talented cohort returned an A\*-B score of ..... 88.7%! There were smiles, shrieks and the odd tear when parents were informed of individual successes. Most importantly, the pupils responded with their customary maturity and humility about their success. We are very proud of them all!

Earlier this week, I was interviewed by one of our 8-year olds as part of her journalism competition entry. Her questions were thoughtful and challenging and, at one point, she asked me for 3 highlights relating to being the Headmaster at Downsend. I talked about being privileged to watch events like 'Downsend Rocks' or 'Downsend's Got Talent' and marvelling at the varied talents of our children. I elaborated on how well our children perform in CE and Scholarship exams. I explained how I enjoy seeing us perform so well at National Swimming Festivals or local cricket and rounders competitions. Finally, I explained that being around such energetic individuals keeps you young in readiness for events like the DPA Ball tonight, attended by almost 200 parents and pupils. The girl thought for a moment and asked if those were my highlights for the year and smiled when I replied that these were just my highlights for this week! If you read on, you'll understand why, as proud as we are of our CE results, we are even more proud of the wonderful all-round contribution made by so many Downsend pupils! I look forward to seeing many of you at Painshill Park tonight for the DPA Ball, where we can raise a glass to their remarkable successes!

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Downsend's Got Talent

We had a talent filled assembly this morning when 10 different acts took part in our annual Downsend's Got Talent Competition. With acts ranging from singers, pianists, flautists, rock bands, gymnasts, comedy and karate, we saw a real breadth of talent! The acts impressed the judging panel which consisted of last year's winner; Hailey C Yr 6, Yvette de Vries, James Thompson, Sarah Gregory and Ian Winmill and they had a very tough decision picking the winners.

The winning acts are:

Third place - Starz (Dance act by Jada J and Holly H)

Second place - The Shimmers (Flute, Trumpet and Gymnastics act by Lisa N-J, Megan R and Alice U)

First place - Funky Flautist (Flute by Adam V)

Congratulations to Adam and well done to all the acts who participated in this year's event.

*Seb Watts*





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## Year 5 Trip to PGL



### Day 1

Year 5 arrived early to PGL Liddington and began with a tour of the site and then we settled to a picnic lunch. With much anticipation, the children were then told their dormitory groups. Their idea of unpacking and Miss Black's obviously vastly differ. Then off to an afternoon of activities. They spent their time abseiling, firing arrows, fencing and being swung from great heights. So much fun was had! Then back for the room inspection. The day ended with a Sports Night, then early to bed ready for the next day.

## Day 2

An early start this morning; Year 5 were delighted to begin their day with a cooked breakfast. Mrs Kirkham joined us for the day and the children were so excited to see her and tell her about their personal highlights so far. It was rather an overcast morning and an afternoon of showers. However, this did not dampen the children's spirits as they completed vertical challenges, fencing courses and canoeing. The instructors were all impressed by Year 5's team work and manners. The day was rounded off with a camp fire, stories and songs!

## Day 3

We had a fantastic three days away. The Year 5's have been outstanding and the staff have been so impressed by them. Miss Black was particularly delighted with the packing this morning - not one piece of lost property!!

The staff have been brilliant and I wanted to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to Miss Ayles, Mr Albert, Miss Seivewright, Mrs Crow, Mrs Calendar, Miss Vanstone and Mr Harmsworth for all their amazing hard work.

*Helen Black*



## Buddy Event

The Year 5 and 7 Buddy Event was really fun because we got to work with our buddies in the first game. the baseball was really nice because we got to cheer on our buddies and they cheered us on. That was really nice because we never see Year 7 so we don't normally get everyone cheering us on. The burgers and chips were amazing and a really nice way to celebrate the occasion. the Year 5's and 7's then all played together and that was brilliant. This buddy event was very special.

*Aiden M, 5HB*

Quotes from Year 5:

*"It was great."*

*"It was exciting."*

*"It was amazing."*

*"It was cool."*

*"The Year 5 and 7 buddy lunch was very fun because we got to play games with our Yr 7 buddies and we got to show them how good we are at baseball, also the lunch was delicious and we got to chat with our buddies."*

*"It was really, really fantastic."*

*"It was brilliant."*



## Year 4 High Ashurst Trip

Last Friday, the long winding road leading to High Ashurst was buzzing with excited Year 4 children, loaded down with sleeping bags, pillows and teddies, ready for their overnight adventure to begin. The weather was kind and meant that Year 4 spent a sunny and fun-filled day building shelters, lighting fires to make popcorn, launching themselves at (very high!) trapeze bars and working brilliantly in their teams to solve a variety of problems along the challenge course.

Sweets and hot chocolate were the treats enjoyed around a roaring campfire on Friday evening and the whole year-group, led by Reuben and the Gang (and several brave members of staff) enjoyed several rousing renditions of traditional camp-fire songs.

Most of the teepee's inhabitants were asleep by midnight and all were awoken by beautiful birdsong around 5am! The morning allowed time for cricket and other games on the field, before heading down to a delicious Full English breakfast in the dining hall.

The children were fantastic representatives of Downsend and had a truly fantastic time, all being kind, supportive and encouraging to their friends in a whole variety of situations. All staff were very proud of the children and very much enjoyed taking them to High Ashurst. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the parent volunteers who came along to lend their support.

*Jodie Newberry*



## News from Epsom Pre-Prep



Pre-Prep Epsom are delighted to have been awarded Millie's Mark. The Millie's Mark endorsement provides reassurance that all school staff know what to do in a paediatric first aid situation. It acknowledges that children's safety is at the forefront of thought when caring for children.

The [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) guidelines, which Early Years settings in England are required to follow, currently state that just one person with a current paediatric first aid certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present or on outings. Millie's Mark is awarded as a special endorsement to Early Years settings that **go above and beyond these minimum requirements** by having 100% of staff trained (including the Headteacher and administrative staff) in paediatric first aid, and also ensuring that everything learned during the course is kept alive and in the forefront of practitioners' minds so that they are confident, ready and capable.

*Vanessa Conlan*

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## Year 4 Kindness Workshop

Whilst we already knew how incredibly kind the children in Year 4 are, they managed to outdo all of our expectations during our Kindness Workshop on Thursday with their considerate, thoughtful natures. The workshop was led by Greig from the charity 52 Lives. We discussed kindness, the positive impact that it has on all of us and how important it is to be kind to everyone that we meet. Greig then told us about a young boy called Rhys who is having a difficult time at the moment and asked Year 4 whether they wanted to help. His question was met with a resounding yes! The children worked together beautifully to make cards, gifts, stories, Top Trump cards, calendars and much more. We are all exceptionally proud of their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Remember: 'Kindness is the opportunity that we all have every day to change the world.'

*Amy Sutton*



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## Year 7 Careers Development Workshop

Year 7 pupils had a great day yesterday learning about potential future careers, discovering more about their own skills and how they might fit into a future career choice. They gave much thought into how and why people choose certain pathways and rose to the challenge of goal setting and advertising themselves to prospective employers. The seven different teams also completed various team-building challenges, with a certain element of competition to spice things up!

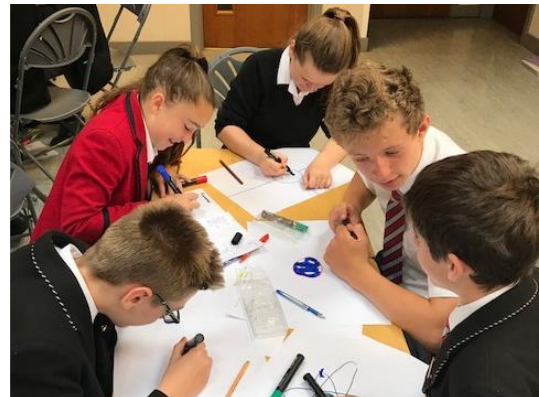
In the afternoon, they learnt about how to compose an effective CV and then presented their top tips to everyone. Finally, the children rose to the challenge of a mini Dragons Enterprise, creating various business ideas from an upmarket dog pampering centre, to hi-tech tools and sunglasses, to a fashion



label featuring unicorns! These ideas were fun, well-thought through and pitched impressively to their audience and a judge at the end of the day.

It was a great day and all the children participated enthusiastically, demonstrating excellent behaviour; they took on a great deal of advice which helped them to deliver impressive results. We have some exceptional talent in our midst!

*Anna Mercer*



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## Wonderful Windsor

Last week, Year 2 headed to Windsor to explore Britain's oldest inhabited castle. There they watched the impressive Changing of the Guard ceremony and visited St George's Chapel to see exactly where Prince Harry and Meghan Markle were married. Amazed by the thickness of the castle walls and the role of 'murder holes', they had the opportunity to imagine themselves firing canons from the battlements and shooting cross bows through the arrow slits. Inside the castle, they visited the famous St George's Hall, the Garter Throne Room and learnt about the origins of the Knights of the Garter. Although the Queen was not at home, the children enjoyed a memorable day discovering the castle's treasures and secrets.

*Year 2 team*



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## Music Update



### Downsend Rocks

Downsend certainly did rock this week! Well done to the 5 bands that took part on Tuesday evening. The brass was punchy, the drummers never missed a beat, the singers were magnificent and what fine guitarists and pianists we have, gluing it all together! The parents and staff alike were rocking and rolling! Huge thanks to Mr Bradfield for masterminding the evening.

### Exam Results

Well done to the following pupils who received excellent results in their recent music exams.

Josh B - Horn - Distinction  
Noah B-W - Horn - Merit  
Alexander C - Trumpet - Distinction  
Kian D - Trumpet - Merit  
Liam D - Trumpet - Merit  
Arya K - Trumpet - Merit  
Tobias T - Trumpet - Merit

### **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*.

### **Upcoming Events**

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\***



### **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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## **Artist Of The Week**

Well done to this week's Artist Of The Week, James M in 6ST.

Year 6 have been working with clay and have used coil and pinch methods of hand-building to create their expressive clay heads. Here is an excellent example by James.

*Julia Ayles*



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## News from the DPA



### **DPA SUMMER BALL 2018** ***Tonight's the Night!***



Well with all the preparation done, and just time to brush off our dancing shoes, we look forward to welcoming parents and Downsend staff to tonight's Summer Ball. There are now over 196 of you attending and its sure to be a great night with just a little bit of dancing and fizz thrown in, OK maybe a lot!!! Here's to a great night!

### **Sports Day refreshments** **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



Every year we set up a drinks station offering tea, coffee, water, juice and Pimm's for a donation at the Pavilion for all Downsend sports days. We need some volunteers to help our small committee to serve drinks.

Dates we need volunteers are:

- 27th June from 1.30pm - 5pm UPPER SCHOOL SPORTS DAY (4 Extra Helpers)
- 28th June from 1.30pm - 5pm Yrs 4 & 5 SCHOOL SPORTS DAY (4 Extra Helpers)
- 29th June from 1.30pm - 5pm Yrs 2 & 3 SCHOOL SPORTS DAY (4 Extra Helpers)

If you can help on any of these days just for a few hrs please email me at [admin@dpschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@dpschool.org.uk)

## We Urgently Need New Committee Members for Sept 2018 Onwards

We know we keep saying this same message, but we really do need some more parents to come forward and take over on the committee for next school year. Many of our current committee are leaving after serving their maximum 3yrs and a few are at the end of the Downsend journey with children moving onto their next schools. The committee is a really fun group of parents, who above all, want to do all they can for the children now and in the future at Downsend. We have actually made lifelong friends along the way and yes there's hard work but lots a fun too.

If you are interested please email us at [admin@dpschool.org.co.uk](mailto:admin@dpschool.org.co.uk)

Many thanks for reading.

*Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair*

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## Second Hand Uniform



We are in need of supplies of second hand uniform, particularly for Lower School, for our next uniform sale. Please can any second hand uniform be dropped off at reception.

Thank you.

*Lynne Godwin*

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 18 June	All Week am am	Yr 3 Art gallery Week Yr 6 residential trip to Wye valley departs Yr 7 French trip departs
Tuesday 19 June	pm	3MB and 3PM Summer Concert
Wednesday 20 June	pm	Lower School Charity Afternoon
Thursday 21 June	All Day pm pm	Yr 2 Forest School visit @ Downsend 3EF and 3NL Summer Concert Yr 4 to 5 'Moving Up Day'
Friday 22 June	Assembly am pm pm pm	Lower School Assembly Yr 8 residential trip returns Yr 6 residential trip returns Yr 7 French trip returns Yr 2 New Pupil's Event

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# Downsend+

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

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[Summer 2018 Description](#)

[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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