

[View this email in your browser](#)



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

29 June 2018



Website



Twitter



Facebook



Menu



Email

[Download](#)

Welcome from the Headmaster

Our Upper School pupils returned from their residential trips last week tired but full of tales of their weeks in France and the Wye Valley. They certainly brought the weather back with them for an action packed week back at school. This week we have seen a host of musical concerts and workshops, ACE trips to the Houses Parliament and a Dragon's Den activity today and some wonderful Sports Days, in which a huge amount of determination and camaraderie was on display. It is rare to have to change timings in order to cater for too much sunshine, but we are very glad that we did so, in the interests of the pupils. The mercury has been tipped at more than 30 degrees already this morning, so we are pleased to have made the change. However, we recognise that this may have caused some problems with people not being able to attend, for which we apologise. The DPA have kept everyone refreshed and hydrated, whilst the children have enjoyed the chance of some shade. I hope that you enjoyed the events, and watching your children give their all.

We talk a lot about being brave at Downsend and I saw that in abundance at the Celebration of Public Speaking last night. A staff team was joined by a dozen teams from the Lower and Upper Schools and the standard achieved by the pupils was staggering. They were confident, articulate and brave in equal measure and I am reassured that, as Headmaster, there are dozens of 9-13 year olds in my school who are more adept at public speaking than I am! Well done all, and to Mrs Vanstone and Mrs Dinnage for all the hard work throughout the year in preparing these business leaders of the future.

Ian Thorpe

Voice of The Parent

Please can we ask all parents who haven't yet completed the Voice of The Parent survey to please do so by 10th July.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are keen to hear from all of our parents/guardians, as to how you have found Downsend School over the last 12 months. This annual survey is your opportunity to provide the school with comprehensive feedback as to how well we are meeting your expectations, what is working and any areas that we need to improve. We are also keen to hear your thoughts as to how the School should develop over the next 12 months and beyond.

The survey itself will take up to 15 minutes to complete.

Ian Thorpe

Clubs

Please note there are no clubs or sports practices taking place next week.

End of Term

Thursday 5 July is the last day for Extended Day next week. On Friday 6 July, collection for Years 2 & 3 is at 12 noon, with the exception of those with older siblings who are attending the Years 4-8 Prize Giving.

Seb Watts

Prizegiving Appearance



As you are aware Prize Givings are approaching fast. You will received more logistical information about the events next week, however, can you please assist us in ensuring your child is looking as smart as possible for these important occasions.

Lower School

Boys: Short haircut, clean shirt and tie, school shorts & socks, polished shoes.

Girls: Hair tidy/tied back, summer dress, white ankle socks, polished shoes.

Please note: Blazers must be in school, but the decision as to whether they will be worn will be made on the day, depending on the weather.

Jumpers and cardigans will NOT be needed.

Helen Black

Upper School

Boys: Short haircut, smart blazer, clean shirt/trousers/tie, school socks, polished school shoes (NO TRAINERS).

Girls: hair tidy/tied back, smart blazer, clean kilt, white shirt, white ankle socks (NO TRAINER SOCKS), polished school shoes (NO TRAINERS), no jewellery other than permitted earrings.

Please note: Jumpers will NOT be needed

Jon Albert

Lower School Update

It has been a real pleasure over the last two weeks to see such a variety of events running in the Lower School. In Music and Drama we have celebrated Year 2 and 3 concerts, the informal instrumental concerts and the public speaking event and in all of these our children performed with confidence, finesse and real flair. In Sport we have had both of our Sports Days where focus, resilience and teamwork were seen in abundance.

The feel of the school at this time is somewhat emotional as teachers say goodbye to children with whom they have thoroughly enjoyed their year. Children, too, seem to 'wobble' as they say goodbye to one year and think ahead to the next. In this time of celebrating a year of wonderful achievements in academia, sport and friendship one thing is certainly clear – the Lower School children are a thoroughly talented group!

Clare Kirkham

A Celebration of Public Speaking

Last night we were treated to a Public Speaking extravaganza which saw teams from Years 5 – 8 and even featured a staff team of Mrs Sutton, Mr Thorpe and Miss Friend. It was lovely to be able to showcase what we have been up to in the club and it was great to be able to share this with a sizeable audience. Topics varied from 'The Media' to 'Poverty' to 'Nuralink' to 'Education Opens Doors'. It was a brilliant evening and we were very proud of the children who spoke confidently, eloquently and with passion.

Various individuals were mentioned – In the Year 5/6 category, the winning Chairperson was Shihong F, the winning speaker, Imogen G and the vote of thanks Sarassa M. In the Year 7/8 category, the winning Chairperson was Meharpal G, winning speaker, Alice L and the winning vote of thanks went to Matthew Y.

There were three prizes for successful teams:

1st : Ollie G and Meharpal G

2nd: Francesca T, Alice L and Hannah G

3rd: Geoffrey L, Adam V and Shihong F

Congratulations to all who took part – it was a most enjoyable evening!

Dee Vanstone



Year 7 Trip to Normandy

Year 7 spent a sunny week in the beautiful Chateau du Baffy in Normandy. Our first full day was an historic one; we enjoyed learning about the events of the D-Day landings in WW2 at the Bayeux Memorial Museum followed by a reflective visit to the Bayeux British War Cemetery. The children spent time looking through the record books of fallen soldiers and wandered round the graves looking for family names. At Arromanche-les-Bains we enjoyed ice creams and a picnic lunch on Gold Beach as well as a quick paddle in the sea. The visit to the 360 cinema brought the history to life with vivid images and film that the children will never forget. We ended the day with a rather competitive French quiz.

Day 2 was French history, culture and cuisine of the local town, Bayeux. Not only did the children enjoy seeing the Bayeux tapestry, depicting the Battle of Hastings in 1066, they also had the opportunity to use their French when buying fresh produce at the market, in readiness to prepare their own feast back at the chateau. This proved to be a highlight of the trip for some students. In the heat of the day we cooled down with an inter class mini-olympics which involved a great deal of water! 7RH were triumphant and Mrs Mercer congratulated them with a major soaking from the water hose. Somehow... we all ended up rather wet after a mass water fight! The day was topped off with a campfire and hot chocolate singing various songs, even one in French!

Day 3 saw a popular visit to the Petit Chef Academy where we made and shaped our own baguettes attempted to make our own crepes. They were devoured quickly before our visit to Juno Beach. We enjoyed a beach picnic followed by beach games and more wave jumping. The afternoon finished with a competitive bowling session, especially amongst the staff, and an ice cream. After spending at least an hour getting ready for our Celebration evening the children were dressed to impress (and a little bit of make-up) for dinner. Once prizes were awarded it was time for dancing. We danced the night away to various requests including some old favourites that got everyone up, until it was time for bed.

It was a wonderful week where memories were made and so much fun was had. The children were superbly behaved, entertaining to be around and an absolute credit to the school. Well done Year 7!

Year 7 Team



Quotes from Year 7 pupils

'The Mini-Olympics was the best downtime activity as it was really competitive and I loved it when we all got very wet.' Harry G

'My favourite educational activity was the British Cemetery because as soon as we entered, the tone of Year 7 suddenly turned calm and reflective. I also liked trying to find your family name on a grave.' Zoe S

'I loved the baking; it was so fun to make and shape the bread. I also learned how to flip a crepe without breaking it. It was the best residential ever!' Katherine V

'My favourite activity was the British Cemetery because I enjoyed looking for relatives who have died fighting in the war for our country. It felt very heart-warming to know that everyday day each grave is taken care of by a team.' Kristy M



Lundi

Je me suis levé tôt. Nous sommes partis de Downsend à six heures et nous sommes arrivés au château en France à seize heures. J'ai partagé la chambre avec mes amis. J'étais très fatigué!

Mardi

Nous sommes allés au musée de guerre et nous avons visité la cimetièrre. Nous avons mangé le déjeuner sur la plage.

Mercredi

Nous sommes allé(e)s au marché à Bayeux où nous avons acheté le déjeuner. J'ai acheté (du pain, du fromage, du jambon, du salami). C'était très bon. Après nous avons visité la Tapisserie de Bayeux. C'était magnifique! Le soir nous avons joué aux jeux olympiques au château.

Jeudi

Nous avons visité une boulangerie et nous avons fait du pain. C'était délicieux! Après, nous avons joué sur la plage encore une fois. Le soir nous avons joué au bowling.

Vendredi

Après le petit déjeuner, nous sommes partis pour rentrer en car en Angleterre. J'ai passé une semaine avec mes amis et mes profs en Normandie. C'était super!

Écrit par: Sofia, Joanna, Ava, Ben, Sonny, Warren, Lachie, Jack, Ed, Thomas

Charity Assembly



In assembly today Jenny Graham, one of Downsend's Charity Representatives, presented Liz Mullins from The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity a cheque for £17,459.00. The school's pupils, staff and parents raised this money at a number of fundraising events throughout the school year ranging from cake sales to quiz nights and collections at the end of school concerts and plays. We will raise further funds on Monday during the Upper School Charity Day.

One of the new events the children took part in was the Marsden March. The Lower School raised over £800.00 doing this and we hope the Upper School will match this again on Monday.

Miss Black, Head of History, and Mrs Temlett, Year 2 Form Teacher, raised over £1,100.00 when they completed the South Downs Trekathon earlier in the year. Other sporting events have raised £500.00.

Our thanks goes to all the pupils, staff and parents for their support and to Mrs Ludlam and Mrs Graham who have done such a wonderful job as our Charity Representatives this year.

Well done everyone!





RAISE Update

This term, the RAISE Maths Detectives have had fun sharpening their thinking, arithmetic and calculation skills by playing a competitive-style game called Maths 24.

After selecting a card containing four random single-digits, the Maths Detectives had to work quickly on making an answer equal to 24. They had to use all of the four numbers on the card, use each digit once only and make the calculations with any of the four Maths operations.

Well done to all pupils attending this Club and congratulations to Horatio M (Yr 3), Alexander C and Alexander B (joint winners for Yr 4) and Shihong F (Yr 5) for becoming their Year's Maths 24 Masters.

Ljubica Carmody and Emily Friend



Well done to Rebecca J in 3MB who wrote the following article about why she loves Downsend as part of her entry for a competition she is entering to be a journalist and get published in First News.

Natasha Ludlam

School is Cool

I love my school, but not everyone loves their school. So I decided to find out what makes my school special.

After interviewing my Headmaster and parents, I learnt that there are many different and important things that make up a school. Facilities, teachers and their relationship with their children, opportunities to try different things and children's attitude to school.

We are lucky to have good facilities like sports fields, but if the children and teachers don't enjoy going to school, it is not a good school. So this is probably not the most important thing.

My school is big compared to some and small compared to others. My Headmaster says our school is "Big enough to help you, but small enough to know you". I think this is right, our school is big enough to give us lots of opportunities and small enough to be friendly and for me to know everyone and not get lost. The teachers know everything about each child they teach and we know them really well too. The way we do work is always interesting and sometimes exciting, but we are always encouraged to do our best. I think we work well together as a team. My Headmaster and teachers always say "Teamwork, makes the dream work".

My conclusion is that a special school needs to be the right size and needs lots of opportunities to try things. Children must feel brave enough to try all different opportunities, not give up or be afraid to fail. There needs to be lots of teamwork. Teachers and children need to work hard for each other, doing interesting work in lessons. The Parents and children need to work together to get the most out of the opportunities. Teachers and parents need to work together for the children.

By Rebecca J

Downsend School, class 3MB

(300 Words)

Year 7 Board Games



The members of Year 7 spent a couple of weeks in June creating board games based on books they had read. They worked in pairs and had to produce an attractive box and board, counters, cards, a sheet of rules - everything except the dice!

Before going off on their residential trip, Year 7 played each other's games and gave feedback. From this, we selected the finalists, which were subsequently played by a group of Year 5 pupils - their feedback decided on the ultimate winners.

The top 5 games were created by Lexi M and Zoe S (based on "Peter Pan"), Katherine V and Hannah K (based on "Harry Potter"), Sofia H and Joanna H (based on "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") and Amy N and Brooke T (based on "Wonder"). The overall winner was a game also based on "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Olivia B and Leah F. Year 5 enjoyed this game so much they wanted to buy it!

Congratulations also to Kristy M and Chloe B, who received an honourable mention certificate for outstanding design and originality for their game based on "The Wizard of Oz".

Well done to everyone in Year 7 for all their hard work.

Chris Bryant



Music Update



Well done to Natalia T and Maria B who have just had lovely Prep Test piano reports.

Please note all pupils in the Whole School Orchestra must have their instruments in school every day next week for Prize Giving rehearsals.

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. 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

Artist Of The Week

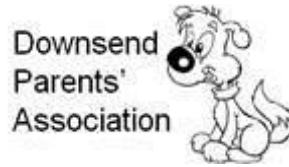
Well done to this week's Artists Of The Week, Sam in 6JT and Gracie in 6CB.

The Year 6 clay heads have now been fired in the kiln and some have been given a coat of paint. Here are two great examples by Sam and Gracie.

Julia Ayles



News from the DPA



We Urgently Need New Committee Members for Sept 2018 Onwards

A few of you have kindly come forward and I will be replying to you in the next few weeks, but we really do need more of you to put your hands up to joining the committee of the DPA.

There are currently 6 of us on the committee which really is just too small, 3 of us are leaving the school so we need:

ROLES WE NEED TO FILL:

- **(1) CHAIRPERSON**
- **(1) CHRISTMAS FAIR ADVERTISING / STALL COORDINATOR** (This is mainly an at home role)
- **(4- 6) COMMITTEE MEMBERS** - To help at events throughout the year and to support the rest of the team and attend a DPA meet once every 2 months or so.

If you are interested please email us at admin@dpschool.org.co.uk also if you have a certain skill we'd love to hear from you.

Many thanks for reading.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Second Hand Uniform Shop



The next **UNIFORM INTAKE** is **THURSDAY 5 JULY**.

We will be at the Turret entrance from 8.00am. Please ensure all items are: cleaned, labelled and in a bag.

If you have not given in a SAE before, please can you make sure this is also in the bag so we know where to send the cheque.

Senior School ties will be available to purchase at the Yr 4 & 5 Sports Day next week and from the Uniform Shop. They are also available from the School Office and cost £4.00. Please note - they are not available from Stevensons.

Thank you.

Lynne Godwin

Lost Property

We have a new lost property box located through the turret doors and down the stairs to the left. Everything found around school except snack boxes will be placed into this new trunk. Any named items will be distributed within a few days of being found but please have a look in this trunk if your child has lost something in the first instance.

Clare Kirkham

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 2 July	All Day All Day	Yr 2 Castles Day Upper School Charity Day
Tuesday 3 July	All Day am	National Athletics Finals, Birmingham Upper School Awards Assembly
Wednesday 4 July	9.00-11.00am 5.00pm	Prizegiving Rehearsal Yrs 4 & 5 Concert, Sports Hall
Thursday 5 July	All Day All Day 1.45pm	Yr 6 Outing to Chessington Yrs 7 & 8 outing to Thorpe Park Yrs 2 & 3 Prizegiving
Friday 6 July	9.00-11.00am 12 noon 2.30pm	Prizegiving Rehearsal Yrs 2 & 3 leave Yrs 4 - 8 Prizegiving End of Term

Downsend+

With just a week to go to the summer holidays, don't delay in getting your booking forms in. We kick off the holidays with trips to Legoland, Harry Potter Studio Tours, Tennis, Cricket and Hockey Camps, Golf, Swimming and much much more! Please remember booking forms must be received at least 10 working days in advance to receive our pre booked rate.

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

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[Summer 2018 Description](#)

[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](#)
