



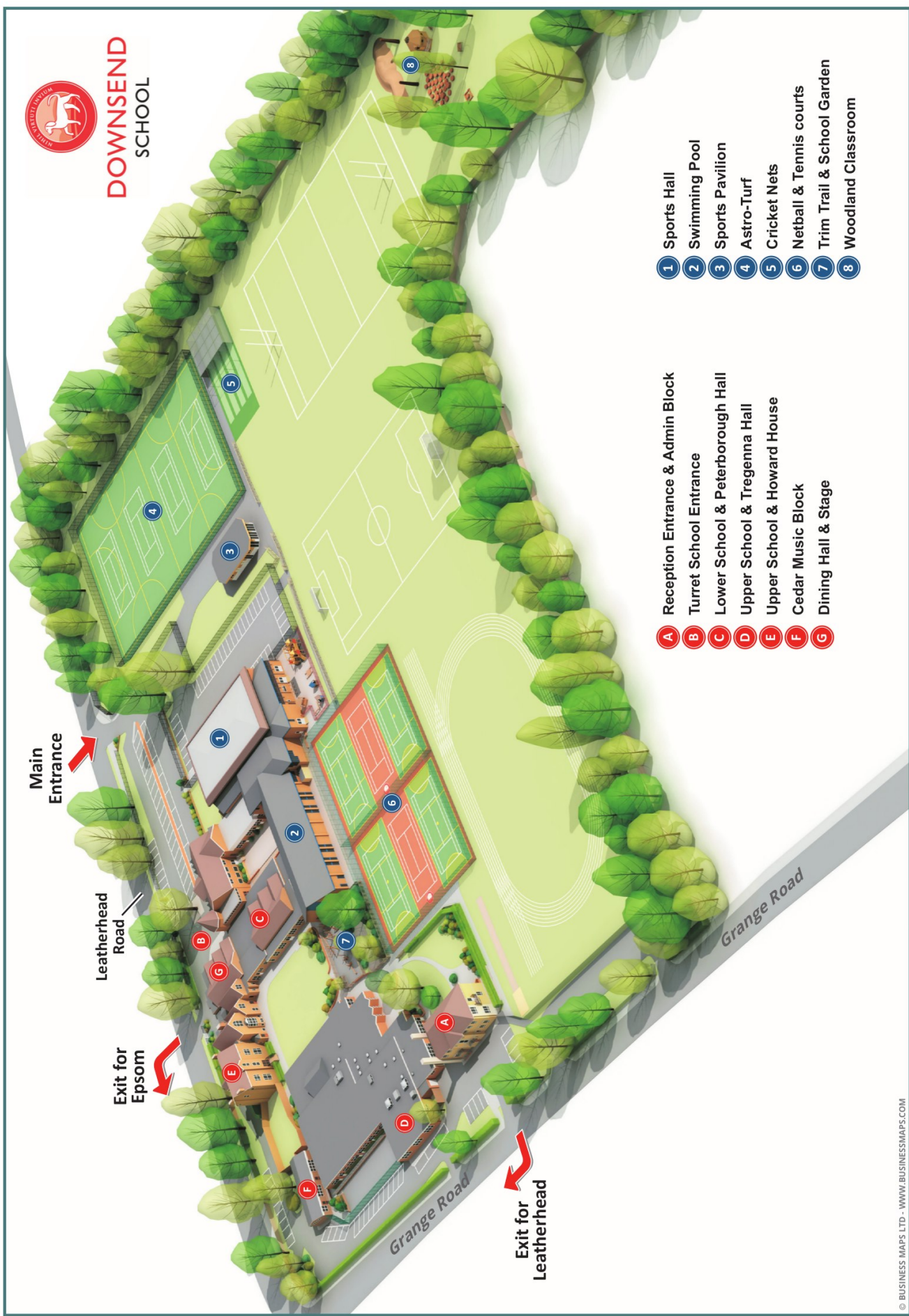
DOWNSEND SCHOOL



Information Pack



DOWNSEND SCHOOL



- A** Reception Entrance & Admin Block
- B** Turret School Entrance
- C** Lower School & Peterborough Hall
- D** Upper School & Tregenna Hall
- E** Upper School & Howard House
- F** Cedar Music Block
- G** Dining Hall & Stage

- 1** Sports Hall
- 2** Swimming Pool
- 3** Sports Pavilion
- 4** Astro-Turf
- 5** Cricket Nets
- 6** Netball & Tennis courts
- 7** Trim Trail & School Garden
- 8** Woodland Classroom



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to visit us today. Downsend is an established, independent preparatory school educating girls and boys from age 2 to 13 at its four sites in Leatherhead, Ashted and Epsom.

Our 'Inspiring Young Minds' ethos drives what is a unique educational experience. We believe that happy children in a welcoming and stimulating environment, work hard and achieve excellent results. We focus on delivering continuity in our education throughout each part of the school, ensuring outstanding academic progression and development in each child.

Our traditional academic programme is liberally mixed with a wide range of practical, participatory activities. Music, Art and Drama are supplemented with Textiles, Food Technology, Computing, Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) and Design Technology. Add swimming, team games and a broad programme in the sports hall and each child enjoys an engaging, well-balanced daily routine.

Your children may take their first steps in education with us and, by the time they leave, will have developed into confident teenagers. The needs of your children are likely to change as they move through the school and we understand the requirements of every pupil at each stage of their education, ensuring they are constantly progressing, improving and developing.

We recently announced that we will be expanding Downsend's curriculum and facilities, building on our strong Prep School foundations to provide an inspiring educational experience for students right through their GCSEs. Our new Senior School and multi million pound investment in a Creative Arts Centre will be completed by 2020.

Personal Tours

We recognise that choosing a school is an incredibly important decision to get right. So please ask your guide as many questions you need to; you are welcome to return for a personal tour at any time. Our Admissions Registrar, Sarah Concanon, will be happy to arrange an appointment for you. Please call 01372 372311 or email her at admissions@downsend.co.uk.

Best wishes,

Ian Thorpe
Headmaster

Academic Life & Looking to the future

The diversity and excellence of our results is most impressive. We are immensely proud of our pupils and their successes in a wide range of examinations.

Over 200 Senior School scholarships have been awarded over the past 5 years to schools in the area, with over 40% being academic awards.

In addition to our 2017 and 2018 100% success rate at Common Entrance, this year 89% of the grades awarded were A* - B providing further testimony of the outstanding achievements of our pupils.

Senior Schools

Downsend is experienced in working with our senior school partners to ensure that the children are fully prepared for their senior school life.

We actively support them as they prepare to take their Common Entrance exams for a range of 13+ schools including City of London Freeman's School, Epsom College, Reed's, Box Hill, Reigate Grammar School, St John's, Guildford High, Tormead and St Teresa's as well as sending pupils further afield to schools such as Eton, Wellington and Westminster.

With effect from September 2020 our new Senior School will mean Downsend Pupils can continue their education with us right through to their GCSEs in Year 11. Our three-year GCSE Programme in Years 9-11 allows ample time to broaden pupils' appreciation of the core subjects (English Language & Literature, Maths and Triple Science) along with a wide range of choice for their four subject options. In addition, all Year 9 pupils will complete the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, with Year 10 pupils having the option to complete their Silver Award.

Working with Parents

We place great importance on working with parents to guide you in your choice of school, so that your child moves on to their GCSE learning environment that best suits them. As we keep abreast of the changing trends in the senior school transfer marketplace and the greater focus on preparing for pre-tests in Year 6, we continue to prepare the children to sit a range of entrance and pre-tests to their chosen senior school.

Scholarships 2018

A total of 29 awards have been achieved this year.

Box Hill	4
City of London Freeman's	1
Dunottar	2
Epsom College	7
Manor House	1
Reigate Grammar	5
St John's	8
St Teresa's	1

Numbers include those excused Common Entrance on the basis of their scholarship exams & those with more than one award.

100% Success at Common Entrance in 2018

We achieved outstanding results at 13+ Common Entrance with 89% of grades awarded at A* - B.

Box Hill	4
CLFS	4
Dunottar	4
Epsom College	10
KCS	1
Reeds	2
Reigate Grammar	4
St John's	14

Numbers include those with non-academic awards also shown above.

Lower School - Years 2 to 5



“We are a busy and purposeful Lower School where children thrive academically and grow in confidence and independence”

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Downsend Lower School offers:

- A bright and lively curriculum ensures each day offers fresh challenges and innovative ways for the children to learn new skills.
- Form based teaching with specialist subject teachers in specially equipped classrooms as the children progress through the Lower School.
- A dynamic extra-curricular programme of events includes a huge range of clubs in sport, music and drama amongst others.
- From Year 4, the children are set based for core academic subjects readying them for Upper School subject specialist teaching.
- Residential and day trips to support and enhance the curriculum.
- Excellent pastoral care providing a nurturing and supportive environment.
- Social and academic development to ease the transition to the next stage of education.
- A relaxed, but respectful relationship between the staff and pupils.

Lower School Life



Upper School - Years 6 to 8

Downsend is fully committed to 13+ education. Our Upper School pupils thrive and feel a sense of achievement and privilege in reaching the top of the school.



Downsend Upper School offers:

- A diverse, challenging and entertaining curriculum taught by subject specialists and in specially equipped classrooms.
- Newly refurbished teaching rooms, Study Centre & Common Room in the Year 8 building, Howard House.
- Outstanding preparation for 13+ examinations in a caring, nurturing, supportive and familiar environment.
- Clear advice and personal guidance on the appropriate choice of senior school.
- Social and academic development to ease the transition to the next stage of education.
- A wide range of opportunities for Sport, Art, Music, Drama & Technology.
- Extra-curricular activities including trips, clubs, international tours & ACE (After Common Entrance activities).
- A favourable fee structure compared to other senior schools.
- A relaxed, but respectful relationship between the staff and pupils.

Upper School - Facts & Figures



'We are very proud of the atmosphere and ethos that has been created within our Upper School. The combination of enthusiastic children and committed and professional staff has brought us much to be proud of in recent years.'

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

A few of our successes

- Over 200 Academic, Sport, Music, Drama and Art scholarships were awarded by senior schools to our pupils in the past five years.
- A 100% pass rate at Common Entrance is consistently achieved.
- 89% of grades awarded across the range of subjects at Common Entrance were A*'s, A's or B's in 2017.
- Nearly 25% of Year 7 & 8 are currently in the Scholarship Group.
- 13+ Scholarships and Common Entrance places are regularly awarded for Box Hill, City of London Freeman's, Cranleigh, Dunottar, Eton, Epsom College, Reigate Grammar, Reeds, RGS Guildford, Winchester, St John's & St Teresa's.
- Over the last two years, the majority of Common Entrance places awarded have been to our most local schools - City of London Freeman's, Epsom College, St John's & Reigate Grammar.

Downsend Expansion Plans



From September 2020 Downsend will expand to include a new Senior School that will educate girls and boys up to Year 11, seeing them through the completion of a new 3 year GCSE Programme. This development builds on Downsend's track record as an established preparatory school with strong academics alongside character development and wellbeing, particularly in the areas of sport and the performing arts.

"Together with Cognita, we have undertaken a large research project and consulted with our parent body, culminating in the decision to expand in size and open a Senior School for Years 9 to 11," says Ian Thorpe, Headmaster. "Over recent years, so many of our parents have expressed genuine sadness that their children could not continue at Downsend beyond Year 8. We are delighted to remedy this and immensely proud to be bringing about this next phase of Downsend School's history."

The initial £3million capital investment will be used to develop and enhance Downsend's site and curriculum over the next three years. At the heart of this will be a new Creative Arts Centre as well as numerous improvements and additions across the school in readiness to welcome Year 9 pupils from September 2020.

A current Downsend parent commented "We are really happy about the expansion to GCSE. Downsend is a marvellous school and our daughter is really flourishing here and to continue her schooling to age 16 with the same Downsend 'pressure free' approach will most definitely suit her".



What the Inspectors say about Downsend

The following summarises the main findings of the Independent Schools Inspectorate following a four day visit by a team of six of their inspectors.

“Downsend successfully meets its aim of providing pupils a welcoming and stimulating environment and finding areas where each child can succeed and gain confidence. Pupils show good achievement, making good progress and attaining high standards, with many achieving scholarships at prestigious local schools when they leave.” ISI 2014

What the School Does Particularly Well

The school has many strengths, amongst which the following are the most significant:

- Teaching is good overall, with particular strengths in the quality of the relationships, the subject knowledge of staff and classroom surroundings which support learning well.
- The curriculum is good and the range of extra-curricular activities is excellent so that every child has the chance to find new interests and develop their talents.
- The pupils’ personal development is excellent. They are all very proud of their school and feel part of its community. Their personal development is promoted by the excellent pastoral care provided by the school.
- Systems for pastoral care are very well structured and organised so that all pupils are well known to staff despite the size of the school.
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent.
- Links with parents are very strong. The school makes particularly effective use of modern technology to communicate with them and involve them in their children’s learning.
- Leadership and management of the school at all levels is good. The new Senior Leadership Team gives the school clear direction, energy and impetus to move forward and has introduced good new systems for improvement.
- The school’s proprietors govern it well. They have the experience and expertise to provide the school with well-informed support and challenge.

Admissions Procedure

Thank you for visiting us today. If you are interested in taking your enquiry further, we have outlined below the key steps in our admissions process. If you are looking for a Year 3 (7+) or a Year 7 (11+) place for September 2019, please see the next pages for the Assessment Day information.

- Book a personal tour with the Head to see the school in more detail. If you are applying for one of our Pre-Prep Schools, we recommend visiting both sites.
- Register online and pay the registration fee to our Admissions Registrar, Sarah Concanon.
- For the Prep School only, our Admissions Registrar will confirm exact details of the assessment procedure* with you once you have registered and invite your child to visit the school. (* Please see over the page for details.)
- Following the assessment we will make an offer of a place. Entry for external applicants is subject to availability and the admission requirements of the School.
- To secure your child's offered place, simply complete and return the Acceptance of Place form, together with the requested deposit within 14 days of receipt.
- Please note that if you do not return the Acceptance Form within 14 days of receipt we shall assume that you no longer require a place and we will make the place available to other registered applicants on our waiting list.
- Once you have confirmed your acceptance of the place and returned the requested deposit, we shall provide an Essential Information Pack in plenty of time for your child to start school.
- As part of our induction process, we shall invite your child to spend some time with their new class and teacher prior to joining the school.

Our Admissions Registrar, Sarah Concanon, is always available to answer any questions, arrange a Personal Tour and to help guide you through the process. You can contact her on 01372 372311 or email admissions@downsend.co.uk

September 2019 Entry & Assessment

7+ Entry

A large number of children who join our Lower School from other schools do so at the start of Year 3. For this reason we hold two specific 7+ Assessment days where the children come in to spend some time with us in school and to sit three tests; one each in Reading, Writing & Mathematics. The tests are very child friendly and administered in an informal and age appropriate manner. They are designed purely to assess the educational standard of Year 2 children from both private and state educated backgrounds.

We also include some fun based activities for the children, either before or after the Assessment, which always prove popular.

Key Dates:

The 7+ entrance tests for 2019 will take place:

- **21 November - 2018 Assessment:**

- **Closing date for registrations: Friday 9 November 2018**

- Assessment Morning: Wednesday 21 November 2018
- Fun Activity Afternoon: Wednesday 21 November 2018

- **19 January - 2019 Assessment:**

- **Closing date for registrations: Friday 8 December 2018**

- Introductory Fun Morning: Friday 18 January 2019
- Assessment Morning: Saturday 19 January 2019

- **Offers of places** We aim to send these out within two weeks of the Assessment. We are a selective school and therefore places are allocated based on performance across the range of assessment activities. Places are subject to availability and our current Admissions criteria (see Admissions Policy on website). Once all the available places have been allocated, a waiting list will be set up.
- **Acceptance of Place:** If you receive an offer from Downsend, simply complete and return the Acceptance of Place form, together with the requested deposit within 14 days to secure your child's place. If we do not hear from you within 14 days we shall assume that you are no longer interested in the place and it will be offered to the next registered applicant on our waiting list.
- **Induction:** As part of our settling in induction process we will invite your child in to school to spend some time with us prior to joining.
- **Help and Guidance:** Our experienced Admissions Registrar, Sarah Concanon, is here to answer any questions and to help guide you through the process. She can be contacted on 01372 372311 or by email at admissions@downsend.co.uk

September 2019/20 Entry & Assessment

11+ & 13+ Entry

For 11+ pupils wishing to join our Upper School in September 2019 and 13+ pupils wishing to join our Senior School in September 2020, we will hold an Assessment Day where pupils are assessed in an informal and age appropriate manner. They are designed purely to assess the educational standard of the children from both private and state educated backgrounds.

Key Dates:

The 11+ and 13+ Assessments Day for 2019/20 Year of Entry will take place on

Wednesday 23 January - 2019/20 Year of Entry

Candidates will be invited to spend a day with us whilst completing various assessment tasks and problem solving activities.

Closing date for registrations: Friday 8 December 2018

- **Offers of places** We aim to send these out within two weeks of the Assessment. We are a selective school and therefore places are allocated based on performance across the range of assessment activities. Places are subject to availability and our current Admissions criteria (see Admissions Policy on website). Once all the available places have been allocated, a waiting list will be set up.
- **Acceptance of Place:** If you receive an offer from Downsend, simply complete and return the Acceptance of Place form, together with the requested deposit within 14 days to secure your child's place. If we do not hear from you within 14 days we shall assume that you are no longer interested in the place and it will be offered to the next registered applicant on our waiting list.
- **Induction:** As part of our settling in induction process we will invite your child in to school to spend some time with us prior to joining.
- **Help and Guidance:** Our experienced Admissions Registrar, Sarah Concanon, is here to answer any questions and to help guide you through the process. She can be contacted on 01372 372311 or by email at admissions@downsend.co.uk

September 2019 Entry & Assessment

11+ Entry

For children joining our Upper School in September 2019, we will hold a series of assessments throughout January and February 2019. Candidates will be invited to spend a day with us whilst completing various assessments and problems solving activities.

- **Offers of places** We aim to send these out within two weeks of the Assessment. We are a selective school and therefore places are allocated based on performance across the range of assessment activities. Places are subject to availability and our current Admissions criteria (see Admissions Policy on website). Once all the available places have been allocated, a waiting list will be set up.
- **Acceptance of Place:** If you receive an offer from Downsend, simply complete and return the Acceptance of Place form, together with the requested deposit within 14 days to secure your child's place. If we do not hear from you within 14 days we shall assume that you are no longer interested in the place and it will be offered to the next registered applicant on our waiting list.
- **Induction:** As part of our settling in induction process we will invite your child in to school to spend some time with us prior to joining.
- **Help and Guidance:** Our experienced Admissions Registrar, Sarah Concanon, is here to answer any questions and to help guide you through the process. She can be contacted on 01372 372311 or by email at admissions@downsend.co.uk

13+ Entry

For children joining our Upper School in September 2019, we will hold a series of assessments throughout January and February 2019. Candidates will be invited to spend a day with us whilst completing various assessments and problems solving activities.

- **Offers of places** We aim to send these out within two weeks of the Assessment. We are a selective school and therefore places are allocated based on performance across the range of assessment activities. Places are subject to availability and our current Admissions criteria (see Admissions Policy on website). Once all the available places have been allocated, a waiting list will be set up.
- **Acceptance of Place:** If you receive an offer from Downsend, simply complete and return the Acceptance of Place form, together with the requested deposit within 14 days to secure your child's place. If we do not hear from you within 14 days we shall assume that you are no longer interested in the place and it will be offered to the next registered applicant on our waiting list.
- **Induction:** As part of our settling in induction process we will invite your child in to school to spend some time with us prior to joining.
- **Help and Guidance:** Our experienced Admissions Registrar, Sarah Concanon, is here to answer any questions and to help guide you through the process. She can be contacted on 01372 372311 or by email at admissions@downsend.co.uk

Extra-Curricular Programme

Clubs

- Downsend offered over 70 after school clubs last year
- Clubs are open to everyone from Year 2 to 8
- Clubs include: Architecture, Badminton, Ballet, Cricket, 'Blue Jelly Bean' Code Club, Computer & Programming, Drama, Drawing, Electronics, Forest School, Genie Science, Golf, Gymnastics, Hamma Bead, Hockey, Italian, Lego, Magic, Musical Theatre, Netball, Photography, Pottery, Quiz, Table Tennis, Theatre Dance, Type It and Public Speaking.
- Saturday Sports Club for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 takes place every weekend during term-time

Residential Trips

Downsend has an extensive extra-curricular residential trip programme including:

- Overnight camping trip for Year 4
- 3 day residential trip for Year 5
- 5 day outward bound/team building trip for Year 6
- 5 day trip to Normandy in France to develop French speaking skills and for historical research for Year 7
- 5 day canoeing descent of the Ardèche Gorge in France for Year 8
- Annual skiing trip for Year 5 and above
- Biannual cricket, netball and hockey tours to Barbados & other overseas destinations (Dubai, Spain & Gibraltar, Cyprus)
- Extensive range of 1 day, subject - related, educational visits

Downsend +

Downsend offers an extended childcare package during the school holidays - Downsend+. Run by our own qualified staff, it provides the children with an opportunity to take part in a large selection of courses, workshops, offsite trips and activities such as:

- Skiing, PADI scuba diving & water skiing
- Horse riding, stable management & Gymkhana Day
- Martial arts & judo
- Rock climbing, potholing, abseiling & paintballing
- Overnight camping & barbecues
- Outdoor & adventure activities such as archery, ropes & challenge courses
- Drama workshops, cooking, sewing & glass painting
- LTA tennis, cricket and golf courses
- Cycling courses for all ages and abilities
- Themed days each week - Water Wipe-Out, Heroes & Villains and many more!

The extra-curricular programme supports the ethos of the school by enabling the children to have fun, enjoy school life and learn at the same time.

Transport 2018-19

Our coach & minibus services bring pupils into school every day. All of them are fitted with safety belts, and are scheduled to arrive by 8.20am.

1 Kingswood & Epsom Route <i>Hardings</i>		2 Bookham, Stoke D'Abernon & L'head Station Route <i>Downsend Bus</i>	
7.10am	Kingswood Station	7.21am	Oxshott Medical Centre car park
7.20am	Shawley Way, Epsom KT18 5PD	7.28am	Stoke D'Abernon, 60m before Blundell Lane junction with Stoke Road
7.25am	Epsom Downs Tattenham Corner tea kiosk car park	7.37am	Great Bookham, Lower Road layby near roundabout Bell Lane & The Ridgeway
7.28am	Roses Bushes top bus stop	7.46am	Leatherhead train station
7.33am	Epsom College 'Longdown Lane' bus stop on Alexandra Road		
7.35am	Epsom, Bridge Road bus stop on Alexandra Road		
7.40am	Worple Road, junction with Downside		
7.45am	Epsom Hospital, White Horse pub stop		
7.47am	Epsom layby opposite Castle Road		
7.55am	Ashtead pond bus stop		
3 Hinchley Wood & West Horsley Route <i>Haines</i>		4 After School Epsom & Ashtead Route <i>Hardings</i>	
7.10am	Hinchley Wood, A309 Shell Garage before Manor Road South traffic lights	5.40pm	Depart from Downsend School, Extended Day
7.45am	West Horsley bus stop in The Street opposite Ricksons Lane		Epsom junction of Downs Road & Downside
			Epsom, Bridge Road bus stop in Alexandra Road
5 After School Oxshott & Cobham Route <i>Downsend Bus</i>		Times and routes may be subject to change depending on requirements.	
5.40pm	Depart from Downsend School, Extended Day		For further information or to request a booking form, please contact Mrs Wendy Bruce via email: transport@downsend.co.uk
	Oxshott junction Holtwood Road and Steels Lane		
	Fetcham, Kennel Close stop		



Termly Fees from September 2018

PREPARATORY SCHOOL			
Year 2		£4,250	
Years 3 to 8		£5,145	
PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOLS			
Full time (Nursery, Reception & Year 1)		£3,845	
First Steps and Rising Reception		See costs below:	
2 Sessions	£1,030	6 Sessions	£2,395
3 Sessions	£1,545	7 Sessions	£2,715
4 Sessions	£1,720	8 Sessions	£3,105
5 Sessions	£2,035	9 Sessions	£3,495

The Pre-Preparatory Schools require your child to attend a **minimum** number of sessions per week as detailed in the table below. From Reception age, children must attend five full days per

Year Group	Age	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
First Steps	2	2 mornings	3 sessions	3 sessions
First Steps	3	4 sessions	4 sessions	5 sessions
Rising Reception	3-4	6 sessions (must include 5 mornings)	7 sessions (must include 5 mornings)	8 sessions (must include 5 mornings)
Sessions:	Morning 8.30am – 12pm		Afternoon 12.00pm – 3.30pm	

Please note that any additional sessions can be added as mornings or afternoons subject to availability. While we will endeavour to meet your preferences, we reserve the right to vary the sessions requested.

On registering your child a registration fee of £100 is requested and an Acceptance deposit of £750 is required the term before entry.

Fee Discounts

Parents with more than one child in Reception or above, across the Downsends School sites will qualify for the following discounts off standard fees:

- **1st child – Standard fees apply**
- **2nd child – 5% discount**
- **3rd child – 10% discount**
- **4th child – 15% discount**

Notes

1. Lunch is compulsory and is included in the fee (except for those pupils who attend for mornings only, where lunch is not an option).
2. Fees are payable on or before the first day of term, if not by direct debit. The surcharge for late payment of fees will be £15 per week, or part of a week, chargeable from the second day of term.
3. Personal accident and dental cover is compulsory for all pupils in the school and will be charged on your first invoice of the academic year, we're still awaiting confirmation from Marsh our scheme providers what the annual charge will be for 18/19 but the current cost per academic year is £11.07. We'll notify you of the cost of the 18/19 premium in due course.
4. Optional charges: AXA PPP Healthcare - £82.00 per term and School Fees Remission Scheme rates listed below.

Nursery through to Y1 = £52.00 per term

Year 2 = £56.50 per term

Year 3 to Year 8 = £68.00 per term.

Ski Trip



Barbados Netball Tour



Barbados Cricket Tour



Year 6 Jersey Tour





T: 01372 372311 E: admissions@downsend.co.uk
www.downsend.co.uk