

[View this email in your browser](#)



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

12 October 2018



Twitter



Facebook



Website

**Download**

### A message from the Headmaster

Whilst it has been a busy and productive week in not-so-sunny Barcelona, I have maintained half an eye on events at Downsend. The focus of the Cognita Heads from around the world has been on well-being, mental health and resilience: of pupils, staff and parents. We have heard from a neurologist, futurist and a remarkable young lady who has battled back from anorexia. As a group of schools, we have developed some great ideas to support the key stakeholders in our school and I will be starting the work on creating a well-being schoolkit to help in this key area in the coming weeks.

At last week's jam-packed Open Morning, the issue of Downsend's approach to supporting character development was commented on by a number of visiting parents. As always, our own pupils and tour guides were the stars of the show and I am grateful to them for typifying all that is good in our school.

One of the key elements of building resilience is having time to recharge. With the half-term break looming, we can give next week our best shot before enjoying a well-earned rest.

*Ian Thorpe*

---

## Car Parking



Following a number of recent incidents within the car park I feel it necessary to remind all parents to park with due consideration for all users and certainly within the designated spaces. Whilst we fully understand how busy the car park can become, especially at pick up, parking on hatched lines, double yellow, the pavement, no parking areas and even the zebra crossing (all that have occurred recently) not only causes traffic to build up but more importantly puts children and parents at significant risk

Therefore, as a school would be grateful if you could adhere to the road markings within the car park moving forward to ensure the safety of all our pupils and parents.

Thank you in advance.

*Charles Densham, Facilities Manager*

---

## House News!

After a wonderful House Assembly led by Miss Black last week, the first House results were announced. Well done to all the children for a great start to the year, but especially to Wisley who have won the first collection!

Congratulations also go to the Top Achievers over the first month of the year, keep up the good work!

*Jon Albert*



#### Lower School

Ranmore  
Headley  
Wisley  
Norbury

#### Position

1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup>

#### Top Achiever

Freyja B-W Y4  
Millie H Y2  
Rebecca J Y4  
Mary W Y2

#### Upper School

Wisley  
Headley  
Norbury  
Ranmore

#### Position

1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup>

#### Top Achiever

Mia K Y7  
Thomas U Y7  
Jules T Y8  
Matthew Y Y8

#### Whole School

Wisley  
Headley  
Norbury  
Ranmore

#### Position

1<sup>st</sup>  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup>

## Red, White and Blue Day Poppies



An enormous thank you goes to these amazing Year 7 girls: Anita B, Safa A, Aniyah G and Jasmine C for helping to organise and run the origami workshops for our Red, White and Blue Day last week. They worked tirelessly all morning, teaching and supporting all pupils in Year 6, 7 and 8 when making their origami poppies, and then helped to make a display to show the beautiful results. Great leadership qualities were demonstrated by these four very mature young ladies which will be put towards their Downsends Diploma!

*Anna Mercer, Head of Year 7*



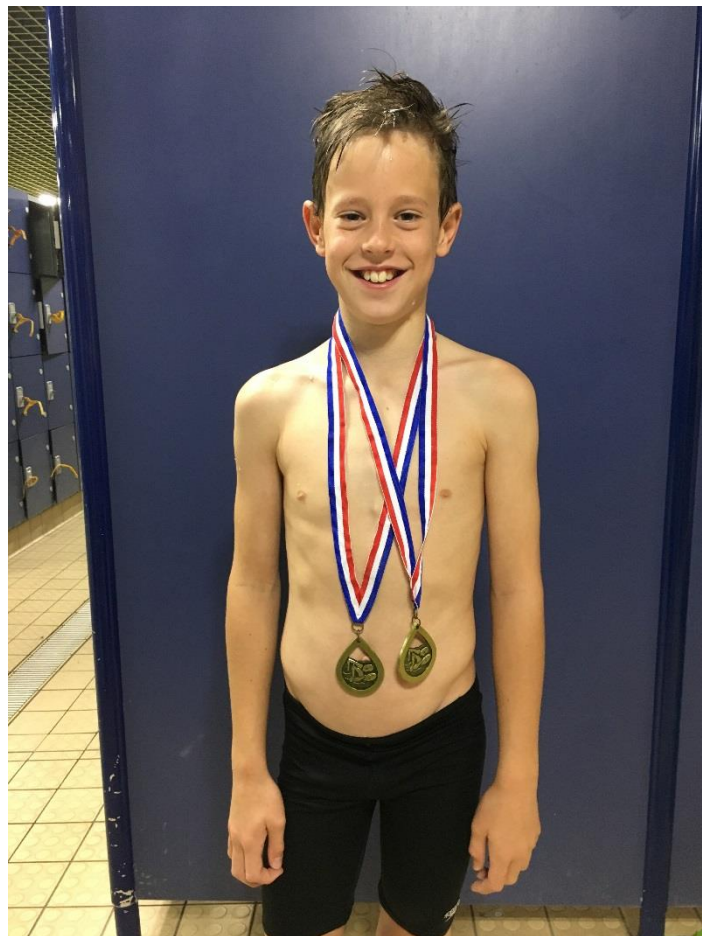


---

## Lower School Update

It has been a week of great success in the Lower School both in terms of academic and extra-curricular achievements. Great work has flooded into my office with particular congratulations to Sophie C, Olivia M and Aidan H for their Roman Villa descriptions and to Joseph B and Samuel Y for their descriptions of Kensuke. Well done too to Reuben B for his wonderful writing based on 'Friend or Foe' in Year 5 English; such mature language choices, Reuben.

Additional congratulations to all of the Lower School dancers this term so far, it has been a delight to hand out certificates in ballet, tap and modern. As they say in 'Strictly'; keep dancing! We also welcome our very own 'Iron Kid' to Downsends this week – well done to Oliver S for doing so brilliantly in this event in Barcelona last weekend! Also well done to George P who won two gold medals in swimming outside of school this week. One was for 200m with two lengths of breast stroke, two of butterfly, two of back crawl and two of front crawl and the other was for 200m of front crawl swimming against 10 and 11 year olds! What a wonderful week!



*Clare Kirkham*

---

## Buddies



Year 7 enjoyed meeting their Year 5 buddies yesterday – there was a 5-minute frenzy for the children to find their new buddies and learn some interesting facts about each other. Having discovered some funny facts, the children then had time to play together and enjoy some down time. The Year 7 and Year 5 tutors are looking forward to seeing the buddies get to know each other and watching the older children mentoring the younger ones. It was great to see them having fun in the sun together!

*Anna Mercer, Head of Year 7*







## PSHE Dates for your diary



Dr Aric Sigman will be giving a **talk** to both parents and staff on '**Preventing Mental Health issues in Children**' on **Tuesday 13th November at 4.30**. This will form part of our anti-bullying week here at Downsend. Dr Aric Sigman travels abroad frequently to study child wellbeing and development, and these observations, combined with his PSHE work, have provided some clear insights on this issue. He is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a 'Fit and Healthy Childhood' and a contributing author to the new Parliamentary Group Report on Mental Health in Childhood.

There is little attention on actually *preventing* mental health issues. While a child's life and family circumstances as well as genes are obvious factors influencing their mental health, there are additional lifestyle and family factors that we do have some control over and that can make an enormous difference to a child's wellbeing.

This talk will spell out practical and achievable, yet under-acknowledged, steps that parents, schools and pupils can take to strengthen children's mental health and reduce the risk of mental health problems developing.

**Sapphire** – Sapphire is an upcoming singer who will sing some of her latest compositions as well as delivering a clear message after safety online, cyberbullying and mental health issues. This is to take place on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November** during school- time. If you would like to take a look at her follow the [link](#).

*Dee Vanstone*

---

## Lower School Charity Christmas Card Project



Please don't forget that orders for Christmas cards need to be placed by Monday 15 October. If you would like to place an order, please complete the order form sent home with your child's artwork and return the artwork to your child's form tutor. Payment must also be included, preferably in the form of a cheque made payable to Downsend School. If this is not possible, cash will be accepted.

*Julia Aylen*

---

## Artist Of The Week

This week's AOTW is Louie P in 8AD. Year 8 have been working with wire this week and, despite it proving to be a fiddly and slightly frustrating activity, they all worked incredibly well to create a range of interesting looking portraits!





*Julia Aylen*

---



## 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).

Currently we have tutors for the following instruments:

Flute, Recorder, Oboe, Clarinet, Cello, 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.

*Nicole Allison*

---

## DPA News & Events



## **Second Hand Uniform – Intake:**



### **Wednesday 17 October 2018 – from 8am**

Our second-hand uniform team, led by the indefatigable Lynn Godwin, continues to provide a great service to the school community.

We have an intake session organized for this coming Wednesday 17 October – don't forget to bring in your items to sell and pass them to Lynn and the team from 8am at the Turret entrance.

Note that any items that are incorrectly labelled will be counted as a donation and you will not receive any remuneration for these items.

## **Phil The Bag:**

### **Wednesday 07 November 2018 – 8.15am-9.15am**

Our annual clothes recycling event takes place just after half term. A great chance to have a clear-out while helping to raise funds for your school. House points and donuts for the house that collects the most!

# **DPA CLOTHES RECYCLING DAY**

## **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**From 8.15am – 9.15am**

**At the Sports hall side entrance**

**DONATE YOUR OLD CLOTHES AND HELP FUNDRAISE FOR YOUR SCHOOL!**

**Have a good clear out over the October holidays and bring in your bags of unwanted clothing, handbags and shoes! Recycle your old clothes, care about the environment and raise funds for the school.**

### **FILL YOUR BAGS WITH**

**ALL KINDS OF ADULT AND CHILDRENS'  
CLOTHING, HATS, SHOES, BELTS,  
HANDBAGS**

**HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES INCLUDING  
SHEETS, PILLOW CASES, DUVET  
COVERS, CURTAINS AND TOWELS**

**The more we weigh, the more we  
FUND RAISE FOR THE SCHOOL**

**BLACK BAGS ARE BEST TO USE BUT  
YOU CAN USE AND FILL ANY PLASTIC  
BAG**



**Please do NOT include:** wet clothes, ripped clothes, duvets, pillows, sleeping bags, blankets, carpets, rugs, tents or canvas material, soft toys or Bric-a-Brac.

**Bring your bags to the SPORTS HALL  
SIDE ENTRANCE by the school lower car  
park Wednesday 7th November  
AT MORNING DROP OFF**

**DATE FOR THE DIARY:**

**Christmas Fair – Saturday 1st December 2018 - 11am-2pm**





Preparations are well under way for this year's Christmas Fair. Enjoy some festive games, delicious food and drink and a trip to see Father Christmas, while our stallholders tempt you with amazing seasonal shopping choices.

Stalls are booking up fast. If you own or know of a small business that would like to book, please email [admin@dpaschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@dpaschool.org.uk).

*Alex Dale, DPA Secretary*

---

## Downsend+

With only one week to go until Half Term, places are filling up fast! Details of our action packed October Half Term and Christmas 2018 **activity programmes** are available to download [here](#).

Download a booking form for **October Half Term** [here](#), and for **Christmas 2018** [here](#).



Downsend+ are pleased to announce that in addition to the existing October Half Term programme, they will now be running '**Josh Evans Football**' courses on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd November, 9am–1pm for Years 1–4 and 12noon–4pm for Years 5–8.

The Josh Evans sessions are for all abilities who want extra football from our specialised coaches. Tactical, technical and small sided games are taught throughout the day in a positive environment.

A [contact form](#) for each child booked will need to be completed for the new academic year.

Please contact [downsendplus@downsend.co.uk](mailto:downsendplus@downsend.co.uk) if you have any queries or call 07909 861280.

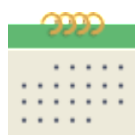
*Rebecca Peek*

---

# School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 16 October	2.30pm	Yr 6 Inter House Football
Thursday 18 October	am All day	Yr 6 Sports Tour to Jersey departs Yr 3 Forest School Visit @ Downsend
Friday 19 October	Assembly	Mr I Thorpe
Sunday 21 October	pm	Yr 6 Sports Tour to Jersey returns



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

# Inspiring young minds

---

## Download School Notices

*Copyright © Downsends School 2018, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Downsend School  
1 Leatherhead Road  
Leatherhead  
Surrey  
KT22 8TJ

**[www.downsend.co.uk](http://www.downsend.co.uk)**

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

---