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**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

16 November 2018



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### A message from the Headmaster

Our school was very much on show today with another record number of visitors joining us for our latest Open Morning. As always, our pupils proved to be the perfect hosts, with our guides demonstrating their enthusiasm for all areas of school life. During my talk, I was able to explain our approach towards encouraging a responsible approach to wellbeing. An example of this was this week's session on Screen Dependency, run by Dr Arek Sigman. Tregenna Hall was full to hear the common sense approach to supporting our pupils in this area. Please look out for more parent support sessions along these lines next term.

In terms of providing opportunities go help develop self-esteem, this week has had everything: Art trips, Bake Offs, Roman battles on the Sacred Lawn to name but a few! Tomorrow I will be at Danes Hill for the Surrey Cup Final as the 1st XI looks to secure its third title in 5 years against Harrodian. Do come along and support the boys - we are all behind you!

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Lower School Update



Thank you to all of the Lower School parents who attended Dr Aric Sigman's talk this week on 'Preventing Mental Health problems in Children'. As both an educator and mother I found this hugely interesting, enlightening and empowering and it certainly gave me food for thought professionally and personally – I hope that you also felt that it was a positive and beneficial session and I would love to hear any feedback that you'd like to share with me.

With the focus on mental health never having been as prominent as it is now, I set a challenge to my team at the start of this half term; to share a little more about themselves as human beings with our parent and pupil body. The teachers in the Lower School have a huge and diverse wealth of experiences, interests and skills that add richness to our school community and so I asked them each to produce an overview of themselves to share with parents and children in school. You will gradually start to see these put up on classroom doors so do take a moment to read them and to learn a little more about the people who work with your children each day.

Well done this week to all the children who have visited my office to show me examples of their outstanding work. I was stunned by the quality of creative writing Maria B in 4JN brought to show me, using Kensuke's Kingdom as a starting point, and Theo S and Emily E in 2LB were excited to share their wonderful collaborative poetry. Well done also to Lana B in 5LC who brought in a 3D mixed media volcano which she had made with her brother, Seb from 5AG. It was fantastic! Keep it up, Lower School!

*Clare Kirkham*

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## Upper School Update



The Upper School have enjoyed a busy and productive period since half-term, and I wanted to say how well the Year 6 pupils have done during their mock exams, and in the practice interviews with Senior Staff. The children have been smart, responsive and generally interviewed very well. Thank you to all the staff who have taken the time to interview the pupils and provide feedback on areas for improvement. The Year 6 teaching team look forward to seeing you at parent's evening next Tuesday 20 November if they didn't see you this week.

Meanwhile, the Year 7 & 8 pupils have all been undertaking assessments and mock papers, and will be receiving feedback from the staff on how they have done. However, overall we are pleased with the results and it would appear that half-term provided both an opportunity for some R&R as well as some good revision for some; well done!

Outside the classroom the football season has been highly successful, and having beaten Cranleigh Prep School in the semi-final, the first XI now play in the final of the Surrey Prep Schools Cup on Saturday 17 November. Good luck in the final boys!

The entire Year 8 cohort have been working hard with My Bryant on their forthcoming performance of 'The Adams Family' and look forward to performing to the Lower School and parents next week. If you haven't booked your tickets yet please contact the school office asap to avoid disappointment; its promises to be a fabulous show!

On the 13 December, we have our Upper School Carol concert, to be held in the Sports Hall. This is always a lovely evening, sets the scene for the festive period, and will give the Choir and Orchestra the opportunity to perform to the school and parents. The expectation is that all Upper School pupils will attend, and the event starts at 5pm and will be completed by 6pm. Please do add the date to your diary and we look forward to seeing as many parents there as possible.

Whilst on break duty this week I noticed an alarming number of packets of crisps and bars of chocolates etc at morning break. We pride ourselves on being a healthy school, so could I encourage parents to ensure their pupils have filling, but healthy snacks, to boost their energy levels during the day.

Finally, whilst the weather is still exceptionally mild, as we enter the Winter period the temperatures will inevitably drop, so may I remind parents and pupils to wrap up warmly for school with hats, gloves and scarves etc but to ensure that these are in the Downsend school colours of red, grey and black

I look forwards to seeing all of our parents in the various events at school as we build up to Christmas over the coming weeks!

*Karl Newland*

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## Preventing Mental Health Problems in Children

Tuesday this week saw a very popular talk given by Dr Aric Sigman on the subject of mental health. It was a very interesting, enlightening and, humorous talk at times, but a very clear message was highlighted regarding our children's mental health. Aric gave many tips on how doing some simple things at home can help to alleviate the causes of mental health problems in children later on. If we can try to tackle this problem earlier, we will have fewer children displaying mental health needs later on. As a father of three teenagers himself, he presented a no-nonsense common sense approach to a return to some of the basic family values. Sitting round a dinner table a few times a week - something that seems to have been lost as both parents and children alike now lead such busy lives.

Aric has spent much time researching the topic of mental health and is working with the government at present to develop a new paper on 'Preventing mental health in children.'

In the coming weeks, I will be able to send out recommendations that Aric is working on. In the meantime, please read this article on '[The Downsides of being Digitally Negative](#)' that he has written.

*Dee Vanstone*

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## PSHE Dates for your diary



**Wednesday 21st November 6pm:** Public Speaking Competition for Years 5 and 6 in the Dining Hall.

**Tuesday/Wednesday 27th/28th November:** Year 7 ESB Presentations.

## Year 7 Art Trip



On Thursday 15 November, Year 7 visited Watts Gallery to look at some paintings and sculptures, make some art and find out about George and Mary Watts. We had a wonderful day at the gallery!

My group began their day in the sculpture gallery and saw work by George Watts. These were inspiration for what was to come. We made our way to the learning centre and made a sculpture of a horse, using tin foil for the armature before applying modroc. I think we would all agree that we had lots of fun, as it was a messy job!

Afterwards, we saw Mary's studio and learnt about what she did before spending some time in George's studio. He had an amazing pulley contraption in his studio allowing him to paint massive pieces of art. It was astonishing!

Then we had our long awaited lunch, which gave us new energy for our final session: sketching some of George's sculptures and paintings in the main gallery. And then, just like that, we were off. Going back to Downsland School.

*Luke W, 7RH*



## Lower School House Bake Off

On Thursday the Year 2's and 3's brought in the most fantastic range of Christmas and Winter themed cakes to sell and to raise money for our school charity the 'Children's Trust'. Mrs Kirkham had an extraordinarily hard job in trying to judge the winners for each house, as there were so many amazing cakes. Thank you to all of you for your brilliant efforts, we managed to raise £267.36.

Winners for Year 2 and 3 are:

**Wisley: Oliver S 2CW (Gingerbread men)**

**Ranmore: Oscar W 3VB (Gingerbread House)**

**Headley: Millie H 2LB (Cakepops)**

**Norbury: Tayla S 3CC (Christmas Tree Cupcakes)**

*Helen Black*



## Artist Of The Week

Our Artists of the Week this week are our Year 7 pupils, who yesterday took part in a sculpture workshop at Watts Gallery. They used tin foil to construct an armature before applying layers of modroc to create some fantastic sculptures. Here are just a few examples...

*Julia Aylen*



# DPA News & Events



## DPA Christmas Fair

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 11am - 2pm



**Feeling Festive?** In just over 2 weeks, we'll be jingling all the way to the Downsend Christmas Fair!

Expect scrumptious food, serious shopping, fun and games, tombolas and treats galore, and the excitement of that trip to Santa's Grotto – **PLEASE NOTE due to an unforeseen technical glitch (maybe the Grinch?!), the previous link to book the Santa's Grotto was incorrect. Please ignore any previous links you have been sent and use the following link to book. [BOOK HERE](#). We would also ask that any parents who had booked a slot prior to today, could check their booking is correct on the new link. Thank you and we apologise for any inconvenience caused!**

Huge thanks to all those parents and staff who have already volunteered their time to help make this event so special. We are still filling rota spaces for the day of the fair or for helpers to set up on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Please reply to your class reps with your availability if you've not yet done so, or you can email [downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com).

Here's a reminder of that all-important pre-fair checklist:

## Christmas Fair Checklist For Parents

When / Where	What	Who
<b>W/C 12 November</b> Bookings close - 12 noon on 29 November! Online: <a href="#">BOOK HERE</a>	Book your visit to Santa	Parents of all the good girls and boys
<b>Friday 16 November</b> Your child's bag	Raffle tickets and jolly bags will be sent home with children	All children
<b>Thursday 22 &amp; Friday 23 November</b> Turret	Luxury Bottle tombola donations	Upper School parents
	Chocolate tombola donations	Lower School parents
	Children's books & DVD donations	All parents
<b>Monday 26 November</b> Turret	Bring in filled & sealed jolly bags	All parents
<b>Saturday 01 December</b> Downsend School	Christmas Fair kicks off at 11am – 2pm	Everybody welcome!

Alex Dale, DPA Secretary

## Lower School House Bake Off

Download an entry form [here](#).





## Christmas Performance Dates



### Year 2

2CW and 2YdV, Tuesday 4 December, 2CW at 1.45pm and 2YdV at 2.45pm, Peterborough Hall  
2STe and 2LBu, Thursday 6 December, 2STe at 1.45pm and 2LBu at 2.45pm, Peterborough Hall

### Year 3

3MB and 3CC, Monday 3 December, 2pm, Peterborough Hall  
3NL and 3VB, Wednesday 5 December, 2pm, Peterborough Hall

### Year 4

Monday 10 December, 2.30pm, Dining Hall

### Year 5

Carols by Candlelight, Wednesday 12 December, 5pm, St George's Church

### Years 6-8

Upper School Carol Concert, Thursday 13 December, 5pm, Sports Hall

### Rainbow Trust Charity Concert

Tuesday 4 December, 7pm, St Nicholas Church Bookham

## 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*

## School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 19 November	pm 2.00pm	Technical Research for Yr 8 production Quiz Club Science Competition @Surbiton High Boys' Prep, Team from Yrs 5 & 6
Tuesday 20 November	All day pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	Yr 2 Great Fire of London Workshop Dress Rehearsal for Yr 8 Production Yr 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall Yr 6 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Wednesday 21 November	am pm pm 6.00pm	7+ Assessment Morning Performance of Yr 8 production to Lower School 7+ Activity Afternoon Prep & Local Schools Public Speaking Competition
Thursday 22 November	All day All day pm 7.00pm	Yrs 4 & 5 Charity House Bake Off Yr 3 Forest School Visit @ Downsend Performance of Yr 8 production to Upper School Performance of Yr 8 production to parents
Friday 23 November	Assembly 7.00pm	Whole School House Assemblies Performance of Yr 8 production to Parents



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

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## Inspiring young minds

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