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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

30 November 2018

A message from the Headmaster

As we conclude the month of November, all of us can be forgiven for beginning to get into the festive spirit. Indeed, it is hard to think about anything else given the number of Christmas jumpers and accessories being worn as part Christmas mufti today. The day started with a Christmas cracker of a House Singing Competition and it was wonderful to see pupils (and teachers) young and old performing together with such gusto! Then again, we shouldn't be surprised at this approach, as we see it so much on a daily basis. Following last week's brilliant performances of the Year 8 play, 'The Addams Family', I have enjoyed seeing our younger pupils practising for their concerts and nativities, watched a hearty Brass Concert, attended a number of Parents' Evenings and handed out awards to National Biathlons and IAPS Hockey bronze medallists. Like you, we are incredibly proud of the diverse talents of your children!

We also enjoy working with the DPA, who do such sterling work for the school. The Committee and helpers are currently decorating trees, creating grottos and generally creating the physical embodiment of the Christmas spirit. The DPA Fair will be a brilliant occasion, as a result, and we look forward to welcoming you to our school tomorrow as we move into December and closer to Christmas itself.

With this period being a time for consideration and kindness, we hope that it will extend to the car park. Please be considerate and patient, in the interest and safety of the pupils and other pedestrians. We do not have individual parking spaces for all parents, therefore need to use the spaces and drop-off zones sensibly in order to allow safe flow. I have heard shocking accounts of parents parking across pedestrian crossings and blocking routes. Please help us to keep our school as safe as possible for all concerned.

Ian Thorpe

DPA News & Events



Count Down to the DPA Christmas Fair
Saturday 1st December
11am - 2pm



Hold onto your (Santa) hats...The Downsend Christmas Fair is Tomorrow!!!

We're delighted to welcome the Mayors of both Epsom and Mole Valley to officially declare our fair open and have a look around at all the delights we have on offer.

If you've forgotten to bring in any Jolly bags, Raffle Tickets or Tombola contributions then we're happy to accept them on the day. Just look out for the DPA elves who will be wearing sparkly headgear (though we may give the stripy red and green leggings a miss...)

A reminder to please bring cash on the day, as most of the DPA stalls and activities will not be able to accept card payments. However, some of our commercial stallholders will have this facility. I can sense my children eyeing up my purse already!

We've got a photographer on site this year, with festive props, to take relaxed pictures available for immediate purchase. These would make great gifts for those doting relatives so don your Christmas jumper and grin!

Don't forget you can buy your freshly-cut luxury Christmas tree at the Fair this year, to take home on the day or arrange a delivery for a fee.

It is the season of giving and we know you are a generous lot, so this year we have waived the entry fee and instead will ask for donations to the Children's Trust. Collection boxes will be made available across the event for any contributions you would like to make.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Season Greetings,
The DPA Christmas Elves

Lower School Update



As we build towards Christmas in the Lower School, it is hard not to feel the festive good cheer as smiling faces abound and cheerful music fills the building as all year groups prepare for their Christmas performances. It has been wonderful this week to see the determination, confidence and commitment, not to mention the dramatic and musical gifts, of all of our children. The Christmas concerts, nativity performances and Carol Service all promise to be fabulous events which will get us all feeling the festive spirit, much as the wonderful house singing competition did this morning! I look forward to seeing many of you at these special performances over the next two weeks.

The season of Christmas events officially starts tomorrow though with the DPA Christmas Fair, which promises to be hugely enjoyable. Please do come and support the DPA, who have been working hard this week preparing to wow us all and put us in the Christmas mood.

This week the children also seem to have been inspired by the imminent arrival of the technological writing platform 'Pobble' and wonderful examples of writing have been sent to my office every day. Well done to

Olivia D in 2CW, Howard F in 5LC, Kian D in 5LC and Ella PK in 5GH for their writing, which all demonstrated skill, progress and imagination.

Last but not least, I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating Mrs Newberry and her husband who are expecting their first baby in April. As 4JN parents know already, we have begun recruiting for a suitably brilliant teacher to work in Year 4 until her return.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the commencement of the festivities.

Clare Kirkham

Upper School Update



Following my recent message regarding winter clothes, well done to our Upper School boys and girls for looking so smart this week; you have all been dressed in school colours, yet wrapped up nice and warm.

The Upper School Pupil Council are meeting next week to discuss a range of issues; school grounds, pavilion, food at lunchtimes, so do have some positive and productive conversations with your form Pupil Council representative between now and then, so they can bring your suggestions to me next week.

A special mention must go to the Year 7 & 8 guides who toured parents at our recent Open Morning. You were all amazing and the parents who fed back to me all said how impressed they were with their guides, and how proud of the school you were, as well as being helpful and well informed! Well done!

The Year 8 pupils performed brilliantly in The Addams Family musical last week, and the whole cast should be delighted with fabulous performances to the Lower School on Wednesday and Thursday, and to parents on Thursday and Friday night. Well done to Mr Bryant, the cast and the technical crew and musicians for an amazing week of high quality drama and music!

Finally, just a reminder we are looking to seeing as many of you as possible this Saturday 1st December for the DPA fair, and on the 13th December for our Upper School Carol Concert.

Have a great weekend!

Karl Newland

Christmas Post Boxes



A reminder that the Christmas Post Boxes for the Lower School will be put out on Monday. They are located in the Turret and each year group has their own box.

Please make sure that all the envelopes are labelled clearly with first names, surnames and classes. The boxes will be emptied daily.

Helen Black

Year 8 Play - The Addams Family



They're creepy and they're kooky...mysterious and spooky...they're the children from Year 8 who entertained us all last week with their production of "The Addams Family – The Musical".

This Broadway and West End show was adapted for schools and so crammed an awful lot of plot and no fewer than fourteen songs into an hour and ten minutes. The young actors worked hard to make sense of all this and the final performances were memorable and hugely entertaining.

At the centre of the play were the main cast, led by Warren H as Gomez Addams and Leah F as his wife Morticia. These two produced a depiction of a marriage that may have been uncomfortably familiar to many in the audience! Their love of squalor and penchant for death are shared by the other members of their crazy family, such as Katherine V as the bizarre Grandma and Jack D as the stoic, barely living butler Lurch.

The musical director, Mrs Allison, worked wonders with a cast who had varying levels of experience with singing in public. Some of the more memorable numbers included "Pulled", where Zoë S as Wednesday gave a professional performance in a beautiful love song involving bird slaughter and sibling torture, as well as "What If?" where Thomas M as Pugsley blew everyone away with his desire to be maimed.

Mrs Hamer acted as choreographer and her mark could be seen on numbers such as the opening "When

You're An Addams" and the beautiful-yet-bonkers "The Moon and Me" in which the memorably eccentric Ben W as Fester expressed his love for the Moon.

The plot entails Wednesday falling in love with a supposedly normal young man from a supposedly normal family. Matt Y, Jake W and Sofia H played the Beineke family and carried many of the moments of drama as well as fish-out-of-water comedy.

The whole of Year 8 was involved in the production. Those not mentioned above either worked backstage or appeared onstage as Ancestors (the chorus of the musical). These zombie-like characters had a lot to do during the show and helped to make it all look appropriately weird. Meanwhile, the lighting, sound and backstage tasks were all run by the children (with help from adults such as Mr Bradfield) and they did these jobs extremely well. Five members of Year 7 also volunteered to join in and their contributions were much appreciated.

There were two significant innovations this year. One was the extensive use of make-up, supervised by Miss Meg Crow but applied by Miss Helen Newhall and four members of the Year 8 backstage team. The children were transformed! The other was the use of a live band, in which adult professionals sat side-by-side with talented members of Year 6.

As director, I feel that this was perhaps our most accomplished production since I joined the school two years ago. This is my third play with this year group and it has been a pleasure to see them grow and mature as talents. We will miss them next year.

Chris Bryant







Christmas House Singing Competition 2018



Move over 'X Factor' because this morning's Christmas House Singing Competition 2018 was outstanding. Each House performed their own versions of well-known Christmas Carols or Pop songs in front of a panel of judges and the rest of the school. We even had our own Dermot O'Leary in the guise of Mr Thorpe. Lyrics had been re-written, choreography rehearsed and vast amounts of tambourines & maracas plus colour coordinated outfits adorned the children and some staff. Miss Seivwright dressed herself as Mary this year (last year was a Christmas Tree!) and amazing participation from the staff!

The excitement in the Sports Hall was tangible and the pressure on the judges was immense. The quality of each House's performance was phenomenal and a massive thank you to the staff and children alike for the huge efforts they put into this. This year's winners were Norbury with their own Christmas medley, but it was very close! Well done to you all, a wonderful way to end the week, particularly seeing how the children from the Lower School and the Upper School worked together – what a highlight!

Jon Albert and Helen Black





Year 7 ESB



The whole of Year 7 this week took their English Speaking Exams which they have been preparing for during the term. The object of this exam is to help prepare children to speak in public and, indeed speaking in front of their peers who are their greatest critics, is often a scary experience for many. The children had prepared a 4 minute talk on something of interest such as a hobby, a holiday or a sport. This talk was delivered from cue cards in the main although some had actually learnt their talk and needed no cue cards at all which was highly impressive! In most cases the talk was supported by a PowerPoint. Part of the presentation was to learn and recite a poem and we had everything from 'Hot Food' by Michael Rosen to 'If' by Rudyard Kipling. The children learnt how to vary tone of voice as well as pitch and volume to enhance their delivery. The final section of the exam was to read an extract from a favourite book with expression and enthusiasm!

As we await the results which should be in by the end of term, I would like to say how proud the English department was of the work that each and every pupil put into their performance.

Dee Vanstone

Year 7 First Headmaster's Commendations of the Year



Huge congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded their first Year 7 Headmaster's Commendation; a great term's work. There are many more pupils on the cusp of being awarded theirs too so watch this space!

Well done to Safa A, Arthur C, Jasmine C, Marcus H, Chloe M, Michelle M, Mia K, Thomas U, Luke W, Anita B, Noah B-W, Aniyah G, Jasper G, Jude G, Tigi H-J, Jack L, Jack M, Damla S, Ryan T, Natasha C, Alexa E-M, Oliver F, Gracie N, Rhianna P, Jacob S, Joel W, (not everyone was available for the photo).

Anna Mercer

Artist Of The Week

Our Artist of the Week is Jacob in 6MSk.

Year 6 have taken a brief break from printmaking to focus on their drawing skills. They worked really hard to observe what was in front of them and created some incredible drawings! Here is a particularly successful study by Jacob in 6MSk. Well done!



Julia Aylen

House Points

Second House Collection of the year sees Wisley extend their lead!

Wisley remain out in front as they secure their second House collection of the year. Having already won the first collection, the children of Wisley continue to work incredibly hard, leading both the Lower School and Upper School collections this time. With numerous House events already undertaken this term, the other Houses do have a chance to catch up, however they need to act fast! Winning the House Singing Competition this Friday will help, good luck to all!

Well done as always to our Top Achievers for this collection – come on the girls!

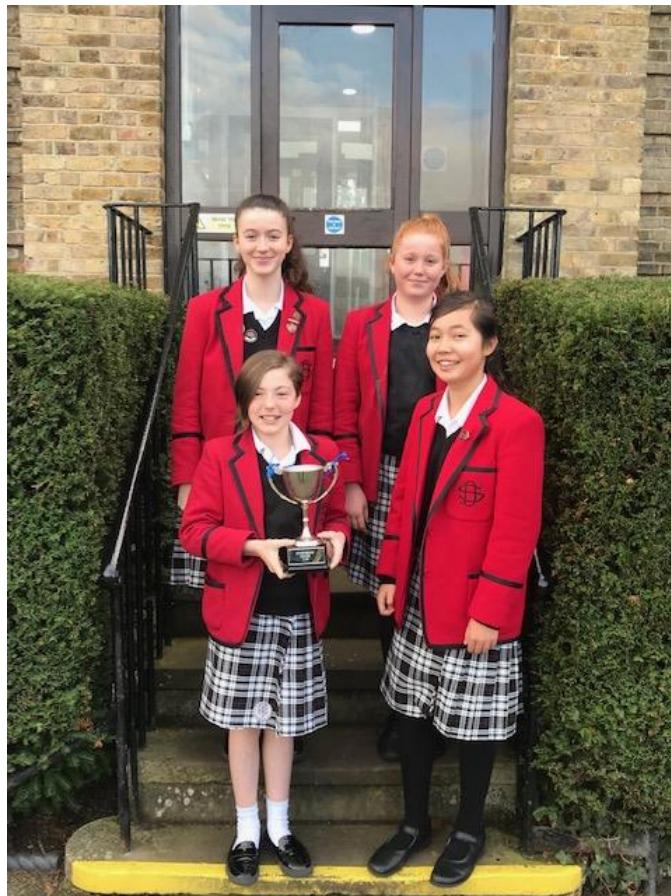
Lower School	Position	Top Achiever
Wisley	1 st	Amber W (Y3)
Norbury	2 nd	Annabel E (Y3)
Ranmore	3 rd	Esme R-F (Y3)
Headley	4 th	Sophia M-B (Y3)



Upper School
Wisley
Norbury
Ranmore
Headley

Position
1st
2nd
3rd
4th

Top Achiever
Joanna H (Y8)
Rhianna D (Y8)
Jasmine C (Y7)
Lexi M (Y8)



Whole School	Averaged Totals	Position
Wisley	137.82	1 st
Norbury	135.6	2 nd
Ranmore	134.5	3 rd
Headley	124.52	4 th

Jon Albert



DPA Christmas Fair - Carol Sing-a-long



Come along one and all for a spot of Communal Caroling!

Carol Sing-a-long, DPA Christmas Fair, 1 December 2018

12 noon in the Dining Room (after the Mayoral visit)

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



The Chamber Choir, Upper School Choir and Whole School Orchestra perform at the Upper School Carol Concert. (**Please note** some of the members of the Chamber Choir are in Years 4 and 5 – they will be singing at this event)

- The Carol Concert starts at 5pm.
- The children are required to wear full winter uniform i.e. jumpers, blazers, tights for girls and long trousers for boys.
- At the end of the school day on Thursday, all Upper School children who are involved in music ensembles are expected to go straight to the Social Area where refreshments will be provided.
- Lower School pupils who are in music ensembles and who finish at 3.45pm must go to the Music Room where they will be supervised by a member of staff.
- Children can be collected from the Sports Hall at the end of the Carol Concert at approximately 6.00pm.
- All parents of participating children are welcome to attend.
- This is a ticketless event.

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.

Congratulations to a very talented musical family who competed in the Sutton Musical Festival recently:

In the Wind and Brass section Horatio M (4MP) won the Beginners Woodwind and Brass class with a Distinction and also won the Grade 1 to 3 Brass.



Hector M (6SN) won the U16 Jazz and Grade 5/6 Woodwind classes, both with Distinction, and was second in the U12 Woodwind.



Octavia M (4JN) won the U10 Recorder with a Distinction, she also won the Grade 3/4 Woodwind on her clarinet and came second on clarinet in the Beginners Woodwind, U10 Woodwind and Jazz categories.



Well done all!

Nicole Allison

Downsend Upper School Santa Dash

You are invited to join in the Festive Friday Fun Run in support of our school charity, The Children's Trust.

Dress up in Festive Fun Outfits to dash around the Astro - how many laps can you do in 25 minutes?

There is a minimum donation of £3.00 but you are welcome to donate more if you wish or even organise your own sponsorship.

Donations will be collected by your Form Tutor.



It would be fantastic to see you run in House colours - **Norbury as Santas**, **Headley as Christmas Trees**, **Ranmore as Stars** and **Wisley as Christmas Puddings** but a festive jumper or fancy dress would be just as fun!

Earn House points for entry, having fun, and the number of laps you complete in 25 minutes.

Change into your outfits at break
Wear trainers or astro boots
Tuesday 7th December - Period 9
Any queries, see Mrs Day
Join in and have festive fun!



Beth Day

News from our Pre-Preps



Pre-Prep Epsom had their first whole school Health and Well-being story time yesterday as part of our Personal, Social, Emotional and Health Development curriculum organised by Ms Clayton, our pastoral leader.

The aim of this part of our curriculum is to equip children with the knowledge and skills they will need to lead healthy lives, to have an understanding of how to safeguard themselves, be kind, to feel part of a wider community and to understand that they can make a positive contribution as well as supporting them to develop as tolerant and resilient individuals. All of these skills in turn help with emotional health and wellbeing.

Through the story telling session our children demonstrated some of these skills: kindness (listening to and helping each other), resilience (by coping really well with a complete change in routine) as well as feeling part of a wider community (mixing all ages so everyone got a feel of being part of the whole school and not just their own year group). For the Year 1 children, we hope they felt that they had made a positive contribution to all the children in the school by leading the story telling session. They really did a fantastic job reading the story and then leading the questions and discussion following the story; wonderful role models and an inspiration to the younger children in the school.

Vanessa Conlan



Head Lice

We have been notified of a case of head lice. Please can we ask all parents to be vigilant and regularly check their children for head lice and treat them if necessary.

School Nurse

Email Hacking

We have been informed that there has been an increase in independent schools email accounts being hacked. We wanted to write to you to help you to be alert to receiving fraudulent email communications. Hackers are sending emails to parents which appear to have originated from their child's school. These emails include payment instructions for school fees and often offer discounts for prompt payment. The beneficiary bank accounts quoted in the emails direct the funds to accounts under the hacker's control. Our IT services department monitors the security of our emails carefully, however, there are many ways that hackers are able to create fraudulent emails which look official, with this in mind, we recommend that you:

- be alert to unexpected and early fee requests;
- look out for e-mails which have inconsistencies and grammatical errors;
- do not rely on the fact that the school email address appears to be correct; and
- be particularly vigilant when you are being asked to send payments to new or different bank accounts than those normally used by us.

We are not in the process of changing banks or opening new accounts. If you receive an email asking for payment, please do not attempt to verify the instruction by replying to the email or by making contact with a phone number included in the email. Instead, please notify us by calling the phone number on our website, so that we can work to verify that we sent the email, or to resolve the issue and ensure that you do not make payment to the incorrect account.

Carole Dickie, Business Manager

Downsend+



With only two weeks to go before the Christmas Holidays Downsend+ has space available on all courses and all days, but please do remember bookings must be received 10 working days in advance to receive the pre-booked rate. Our Christmas Special day is Wednesday 19th December and Downsend+ is also open on 2nd,3rd & 4th January 2019.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on [07909 861 280](tel:07909861280) or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk

[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)

[Christmas Course Description](#)

[Christmas 2018 Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

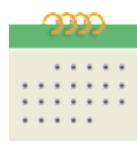
Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 03 December	2.00pm	3MB and 3CC Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall
Tuesday 04 December	1.45pm 2.45pm 7.00pm	2CW Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall 2YdV Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall Rainbow Trust Charity Concert
Wednesday 05 December	2.00pm 2.30pm	3NL and 3VB Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall Yrs 7 & 8 Inter House Swimming Gala
Thursday 06 December	1.45pm 2.45pm	2STe Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall 2LBu Christmas Concert, Peterborough Hall
Friday 07 December	Assembly pm 2.30pm	Lower School Assembly GHS Splash and Dash U8-U11 Yr 2 Sports Afternoon with Reigate St Mary's





Calendar



Healthy School



Uniform



Firefly



DPA



Letters & Forms



Term Dates



Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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