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## DOWNSEND SCHOOL

### DOWNSEND TIMES

18 January 2019



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### A message from the Headmaster

The Spring Term is now fully up and running and I hope that our new families, and teachers, feel fully part of the Downsend community. In spite of the cold weather, there has been plenty of energy and enthusiasm demonstrated in the many activities that our children undertake, and always with a smile on their faces! We are expecting some more cold weather next week, so now is a good time to remind parents that, as passionate advocates of the building of problem-solving and resilience, Downsend is a school that makes every effort to stay open in inclement weather, providing it is safe to do so. Should snow materialise, at any point in the next month or so, we will always alert you beforehand and post any guidance or updates on the school website. This morning, we welcomed 30+ Year 2 pupils for their Open Morning in readiness for their Assessment Morning tomorrow. The aim of today was to remove any anxiety from that process in the form of a Treasure Hunt around the school, supported by their Year 8 guides who were, as always, the most wonderful ambassadors for our school. Thank you, Year 8!

Having given you more information about our Parent Support Programme, I would like to thank those parents who have already responded requesting places at our forthcoming events. We maximise the chances of success when schools and parents work in close harmony, and these events have been designed to help support your children through these changing times in preparation for the exciting lives ahead of them. Places are being allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please do let us know if you would like to attend either, or both of the sessions. Finally, congratulations to the first scholars of 2019: Toby W and Harry G, both of whom have been awarded 13+ Sports Scholarships to Box Hill School. Much deserved, boys!

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Upper School Update



Well done to all of the Upper School pupils on an excellent start to the new term! The boys and girls have been smart, well organised and have been in great spirits at break time and around the school in general. The Year 6 pupils have been busy sitting pre-tests for senior schools, and I know they will have impressed the senior school staff during both their interviews and examinations. Inevitably in such a competitive field not all the news will be initially positive, but we are very proud of all our pupils and will work closely with any of our parents who want to discuss senior school placement following the pre-test period. Please do just contact Mrs Allen in the office to book in a meeting slot with me.

Finally, I wanted to say a big well done to all our Upper School guides who looked after our 7+ visitors today, you were all amazing, kind and knowledgeable and the parents who fed back to me were universally impressed with your confidence and pride in the school!

Well done again to all our Upper School pupils on a superb start to the term!

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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## Rotary Public Speaking Competition



The annual Rotary Public Speaking Competition is next Wednesday 23rd January at Downsend. It will start promptly at 6pm in the Dining Hall. Anybody wishing to support is welcome to attend.

*Dee Vanstone*

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## Artist Of The Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Jack B in 5PM. Over the past few weeks Year 5 have been looking at architecture and the shapes found in buildings. They cut up and arranged photographs of interesting buildings to compose an architectural collage before selecting an area of the collage and using it as a design for a polyblock print. This week, they created different backgrounds to print onto and the results are amazing! The attached image shows the steps Jack took to create one of his final prints.

*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, Cello 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 the following pupils who have achieved trumpet exam success:

Alex D, grade 3 trumpet  
Olivia H, grade 3 trumpet  
Harry L, grade 1 trumpet  
Horatio M, grade 2 trumpet  
Megan R grade 5 trumpet  
Polly G G, grade 4 trumpet

*Nicole Allison*

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## DPA News & Events



[downsendpa@gmail.com](mailto:downsendpa@gmail.com)

**Quiz and Curry Night - Friday 15 February 7.30pm – 11pm**



Tickets are selling fast for this fun and relaxed event. Feed your brains and bellies with all the general knowledge and onion bhajis you can handle!

The quiz works best if the number of players on each team is between 4 and 8. You can book by emailing [downsendpa@gmail.com](mailto:downsendpa@gmail.com).

Tickets cost £15. Please pay for your tickets by BACS at the time of booking. Please use the reference QUIZ along with your surname.

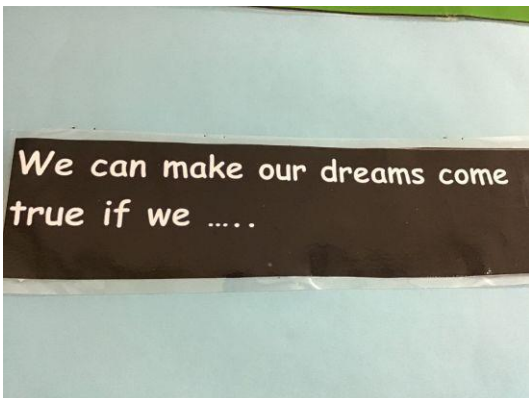
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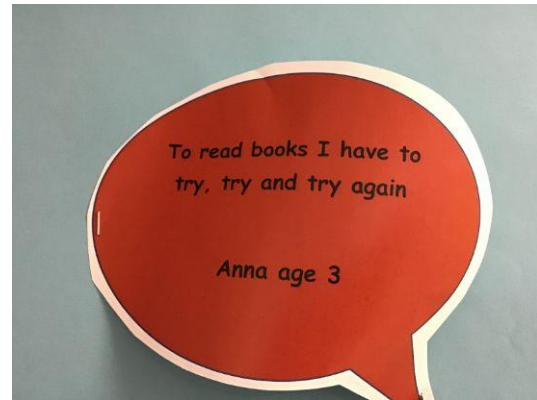
*The DPA Committee*

## News from our Pre-Preps



On Monday, Pre-Prep Epsom used 'Make your dreams come true day' to launch our half term whole school assembly theme on 'Going for Goals'. We talked to all of the children about their dreams for the future and what they thought they would need to do to make their dreams come true. We then had a Reception and Year 1 assembly on Monday afternoon talking about the meaning of, talking through lots of examples and reinforcing our whole school message of, 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again.'





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## Saturday Sports Fixtures and Winter Training



### Saturday Fixtures

This is a polite reminder for parents to check the School calendar and School Sports website

[www.downsendsport.co.uk](http://www.downsendsport.co.uk), for any upcoming fixtures for your son/daughter (especially Saturday's).

Below is the fixtures protocol and expectations:

- Team sheets will be published on School Sports 48 hours prior to the fixture date. The location, meet time, kick off and pick up arrangements can all be found here too.
- A School Comms will be sent to all parents of the children involved.
- If your son/daughter is unable to take part for any reason, please notify the member of staff responsible for the team at your earliest convenience. This can be found on School Sports - [contacts tab](#).
- We would also like to reiterate the importance of children committing to School teams. We understand that many children participate in clubs in the community and this is fully encouraged by the School. However, where there are clashes between School fixtures and club fixtures, the School fixture must be prioritised. In the case that your child cannot play for School due to, for example, a county representative match or trials, then this can be discussed and agreed with Mrs Oliver (Head of Sport).

## **Winter Training**

As we enter the colder months of the year, it is very important that your child dresses appropriately for PE and Games lessons. We expect ALL children during the winter season to wear black base layers and attend training with their Downsend tracksuit top and/or drill top. These are supplied by Stevenson's. Please note that the tracksuit top **MUST NOT** be worn for contact Rugby practise due to the zip, in this case, the drill top is more suitable.

The Sports Department will be providing large plastic boxes pitch side during the lessons. When children remove their jackets, they will be asked to place them in this box to keep them dry throughout the session.

*Jill Oliver, Head of Sport*

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Downsend+

Downsend+ has exiting programmes of activity planned for February Half term, Easter and May Half Term 2019. Please do remember bookings must be received 10 working days in advance to receive the pre-booked rate.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861 280 or email

[downsendplus@downsend.co.uk](mailto:downsendplus@downsend.co.uk)

**[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)**

**[February, Easter and May Course Description](#)**

**[February Booking Form](#)**

**[Easter Booking Form](#)**

*Rebecca Peek*

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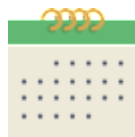


## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 21 January	All day All day 11.45-12.15pm	Yr 3 Greek Week begins Yr 3 Greek Day Upper School House Assembly
Tuesday 22 January	All day am 3.15-3.45pm	Yr 3 trip to Painshill Park Yr 1 Activity Morning @ Downsend Lower School House Assembly
Wednesday 23 January	All day 6.00pm	Yr 7 11+ Assessment Day Rotary Public Speaking Competition, Dining Hall
Friday 25 January	Assembly	Charity Assembly, The Children's Trust



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

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## Inspiring young minds

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