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**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

15 March 2019



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### A message from the Headmaster

Using the wonders of modern technology, and the hardware that has formed part of the recent IT rollout that will see 33 new large screen whiteboards installed across Main Site over the Easter break, I am writing this update from Akeley Wood, one of our Cognita schools, in Buckingham. I am a little like a child in a sweet shop, discussing best practice for Year 9-11 reporting and well-being hubs – essentially how we get children to achieve the very best flight-path routes possible for our pupils. My colleague and host keeps shaking his head at the incredible targets being set for Downsend pupils based on the baseline data and agrees that we should be aiming high – we most certainly are! He appreciates fully why an increasing number of visitors to Downsend are describing it as a school with ‘stretch without stress’.

This week, my wife and I celebrated the 30th anniversary of our first date at university. Unbeknown to me, the 12 March 1989 coincided with the creation of the World Wide Web; I’ll leave you to decide which event was the most impactful! Worryingly, its inventor, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, issued three warnings this week as he reflected that it has spiralled out of control. The second of these was that it is now “too easy for misinformation to spread on the web”. Noting that “most people find news and information on the web through just a handful of social media sites and search engines”, he described how websites spreading

hoaxes, and false stories can do so relatively easily. Sadly, I recognise Sir Tim's concerns, in that too many of the conversations I have start with the preface, "we have heard from the carpark, or on Whatsapp". As always, we urge any parent with queries to talk to the people who can give them a transparent and honest answer; please be assured that our door is always open to you to do so.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Lower School Update



The Lower School children have been particularly industrious this week and enjoyed participating in a huge range of curriculum-based activities. Pi Day was a particular hit with pie for lunch, pie for pudding and Pi very much on the agenda school wide! Congratulations to those children who participated in the Pi Recital with some Lower School children showing that they were able to recite Pi to over 40 decimal places! With Maths Dingbats in the classrooms and Year 2 measuring the circumference of a circle using practical apparatus, there was a huge amount of Maths learning and fun to be seen.

The Year 2 Choir also made me hugely proud this Thursday with their wonderful performance as part of the St Christopher's School Music Festival at St Martin's Church. They sang beautifully and represented their school with pride and passion in their renditions of 'Izika Zumba' and 'It's an Ark'. I'm certain that I was not the only member of the audience reaching for their hanky during the performances of 'A Million Dreams'

and 'Can You Hear Me?' which were performed by an amalgamation of all nine choirs participating. Well done, Year 2. What an amazing experience at such a young age.

There are a couple of noteworthy pieces of housekeeping to mention this week and I do so in the spirit of keeping the Lower School a harmonious and happy place. Firstly, may I please remind all parents that if collection arrangements change from what the class teacher would normally expect, please do let the teacher know by contacting Mrs Albert in the Lower School Admin office. This will enable us to ensure your children's safety. Please do not be offended if we challenge other people collecting your child if we have not been informed of a change. We do so just to make sure that the correct children are with the correct adult at all times.

Secondly, please be aware that the jigsaw of classlist development will begin in earnest very soon. Please do let class teachers know of any issues or requests as soon as possible so that we can collate this information. We may not be able to action everything, but it is useful to have all the relevant information. Classlists will be final once released to parents.

Congratulations for amazing work this week go to Charlie R, Dianna R and Noah C for their incredible non-fiction writing on Dr Bernado; I learnt so much about this wonderful man from your mature and considered work. Well done too to Annabel E for giving me a presentation on how to use an atlas and to Max R for showing me his huge progress in handwriting. Fantastic!

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

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## Upper School Update



It has been another busy week in the Upper School this week. With Science Week in full swing, a particular well done goes to 8TS who held brilliant Science Masterclasses across the Lower School.

It was wonderful to see the breadth of Upper School talent on display at the LAMDA presentation on Wednesday evening.

Year 6 had a fantastic time and learnt a lot on their Junior Citizen Event at Epsom Racecourse this week. Similarly, Year 7 attended workshops learning about the impact of plastics on seas, rivers and oceans on their trip to London Zoo today.

Finally, the Year 7's and 8's have worked hard to complete their mid-year assessments and now have targets for the end of the year. Good luck with the progress on those.

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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## Downsend Science Week 2019



*'To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.'* Albert Einstein

Although some may regard Science as a logical, knowledge-based subject, at Downsend we always embrace opportunities to enjoy the creativity that Science allows, bringing the subject to life.

As part of National Science Week, pupils in both the Lower School and Upper School have enjoyed exciting practical sessions in their Science lessons this week to engage their never-ending curiosity and interest.

The Lower School children have taken part in Science workshops run by our amazing Year 8 pupils where demonstrations captured their interest. Class teachers also got involved, carrying out a series of experiments to encourage 'Science Talk' amongst pupils. This provided a platform for stimulating and varied discussion on the topics of Robotics, Flight and Chemical Reactions.

Year 5 to Year 8 pupils all experienced a special 'Fire and Flames' lesson where pupils couldn't help *ohing and aahing* over the dramatic demonstrations as sparks flew, flames roared and fires were extinguished, thankfully! Pupils learned how fireworks get their colours from the different metal ions and how burning fuels, such as sugar creates heat and light energy. Teachers set the lab, and even themselves on fire, all in the name of Science!

In addition to all the fun in class, Upper School pupils have been set the challenge of designing a poster on the theme of 'Scientific Journeys'. I look forward to seeing imaginative responses to this competition. All entries will receive 5HPs and outstanding, sciencetastic posters will be awarded a commendation. It's not too late to enter, details on the door of every science lab.

#### **Pupil Quotes:**

*'I am going to try this at home with all my felt tip colours.'* Sophie Yr 4.

*'I liked the way the Yr8s showed us how to make art with the skittles and water.'* Niamh, Yr 3.

*'It was really creepy the way the hand got bigger and bigger when the vinegar was mixed with the bicarb of soda.'* Harrison, Yr 3.

*'The metal flame tests were awesome.'* Alexa, Yr 7.

*'I now know how fireworks get their colours.'* Damla Yr 7.

*'I liked being the teacher as I got to inspire the younger pupils.'* Edward, Yr 8.

*'It was a rewarding experience delivering the workshop and seeing the children enjoy the science experiments.'* Jake Yr 8.

Science Week 2019 has been so much fun and we are finishing on a high with a trip to London Zoo for Year 7 today. Thank you to all the teachers who helped make it a successful and enjoyable week.

*Michelle Sehgal*



## Rotary Public Speaking Competition

### Downsend debaters book date at district finals

HAVING qualified in second place in the first round of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition at Dorking in January, **Downsend School**, Leatherhead, upped its game for the second round, held at Oxted on February 16, and came through as worthy winners.

The Downsend team argued strongly that "YouTube is an essential to modern education".

Speaker Leah Fitzpatrick started by telling us how her father had saved time and money by mending a leak from the kitchen tap, being talked through the whole procedure by a film on YouTube.

"If YouTube can turn my dad into a plumber, think what it can teach the rest of us," she told the audience. Youngsters these days spend so much of their time looking at screens, it comes as second nature to learn this way too. Leah emphasised that on-screen teaching does not replace the classroom – as yet. But the visual act of



The winning Downsend team with their trophy: Zoe Spanswick, Leah Fitzpatrick and Imogen Gullick  
JOHN THOM

demonstrating how something is done adds so much more to the learning process and can certainly be a highly effective way of getting the message across.

"Mobile learning" is also a thing for the future – the ability to "be taught" not just in a classroom but

anywhere, and again YouTube has huge benefits.

"So please, mums and dads, embrace YouTube not just for fun and entertainment, but think of it also as an educational tool for the 21st century," she said.

At this stage of the competition,

awards are given not just for the best team but also for the best individual performances.

Teams of three compete. A chairman introducing the team and their chosen topic; then the speaker with six minutes to put their case; followed by a vote of thanks to round things off. Leah won the best speaker award, while her colleague Zoe Spanswick was voted "best chair". Third team member Imogen Gullick gave a strong vote of thanks, but was pipped for that prize by a student from Sutton Grammar.

Downsend now goes on to the district final, bringing together winning teams from all round Sussex, Surrey and southern Greater London. This was to be staged by the Rotary Club of Dorking at St Teresa's School, on Saturday, March 2.

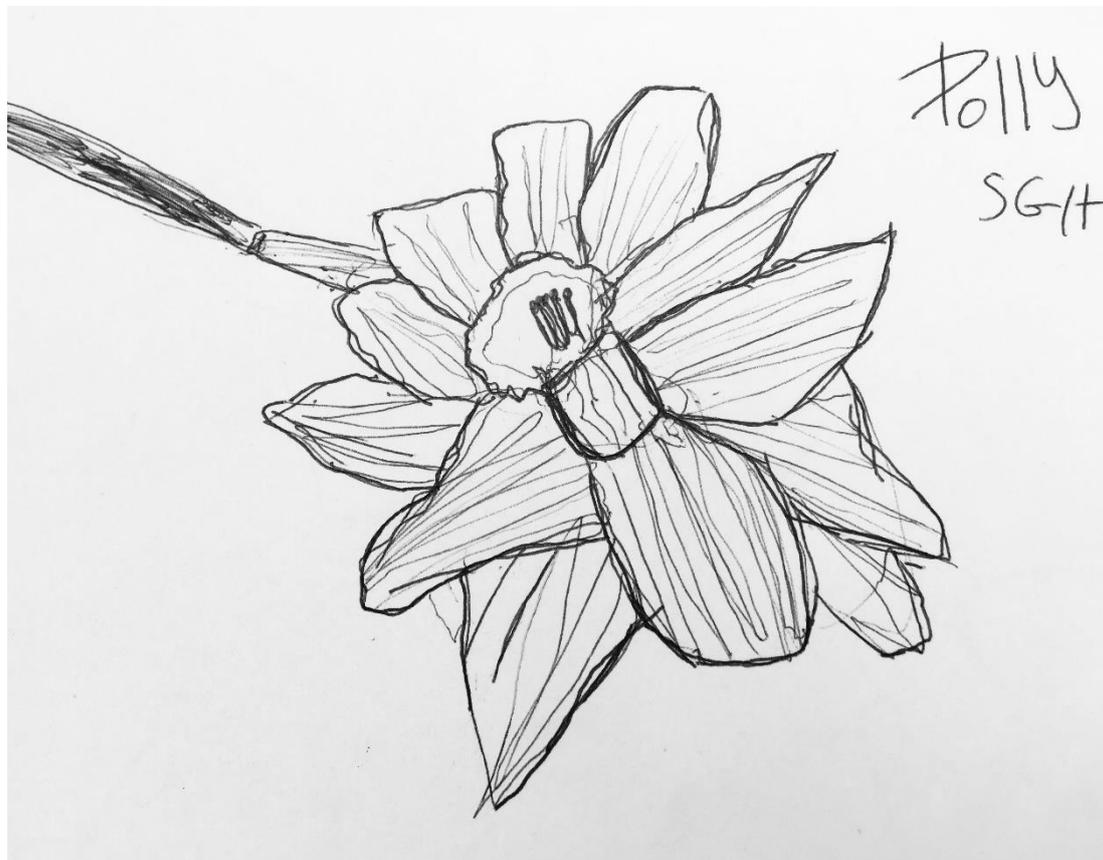
To enquire about the Rotary Club, contact John Thom, Rotary Club of Dorking at [john@jandcthom.co.uk](mailto:john@jandcthom.co.uk)

Well done to the Downsend winners of the second round of the Rotary Public Speaking Competition who achieved press coverage in the Dorking Advertiser this week.

Dee Vanstone

## Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Polly in 5GH. Despite the cold, blustery weather outside, Year 5 have been looking forward to some Spring sunshine and have created stunning pen drawings of daffodils. Well done!



*Julia Ayles*



## **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).

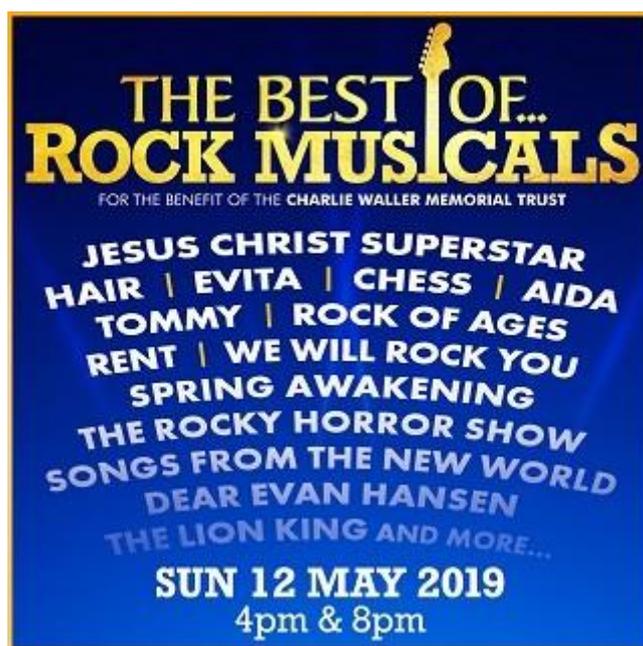
Currently we have tutors for the following instruments:

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.

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The Best of Rock Musicals is at the Hammersmith Apollo on Sunday 12th May 2019 at 4pm and 8pm and is going to be an amazing family event showcasing the most popular hits from much loved musicals.



The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust was set up by his family in 1997 in memory of Charlie who took his life whilst suffering from depression. The trust's vision is of a world where people understand and talk openly about depression where young people are educated on the importance of staying mentally well and where treatment is available to everyone who needs it. For more information on the forthcoming event please click on the link [www.thebestofmusicals.com](http://www.thebestofmusicals.com)

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Well done to Jasper G in 7FF who passed his Grade 2 Rock & Pop Guitar this week with a Merit.

*Nicole Allison*

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## 2019 Ski Trip to Les Menuires



As we get closer to the ski trip, please can you ensure you have provided the following:

- Passports and EHIC cards to Jon Albert by **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**
- 50 Euros to Lee Silva by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**
- Medication, clearly labelled to Marc Popham or Pete Mitchell

Should you have any queries, please contact us.

*Helen Black and Jon Albert*

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## 2020 Ski Trip



There are limited spaces available on the Ski Trip for 2020 to Les Menuires. If you would like to go on the trip, please get your forms to Mr Mitchell as soon as possible. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

*Pete Mitchell*

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## DPA News & Events

**Downsend  
Parents'  
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

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

## Classlist



If you've not yet signed up to [Classlist](https://www.classlist.com), please consider doing so. It's the biggest school parent-to parent communications network in the UK and it is fully compliant with (GDPR) General Data Protection Regulations. We are planning to make the most of this secure and reliable platform by using it to sell tickets to future DPA events. <https://www.classlist.com>

**Colour Run!**

**Sunday 19th May 2019 10am - 12pm**



Plans are afoot for the inaugural Downsend **Colour Run!**, planned for the morning of Sunday 19 May, where we are inviting children from Reception through to Upper School, their family and friends, to join us in running around the sports field to raise money for The Children's Trust. More details to follow, but we would like you to add this date to your diary for some **colour**-tastic fun.

*The DPA Committee*

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## LAMDA News



Over the past two terms, pupils from both the Lower and Upper School have been working hard towards their Lamda verse and prose and acting exams. Our yearly Lamda evening took place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

March in the Dining Hall, showcasing the wealth of talent from Downsend school. It was a great way of preparing the children for their Lamda exams which take place next week on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

*Lucy Biszczanik*

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# Downsend+

Downsend+ has exciting programmes of activity planned for **Easter** and **May Half Term** 2019. Details are available on our [website](#) or can be downloaded below.

We also have details below of our **Summer Tennis Camps** and are offering early booking discounts. We are also working on finalising details of our summer programme which we hope to publish shortly so watch this space! The summer dates that Downsend+ will be open are Friday 12 July to Wednesday 28 August 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](#)**  
**[Easter Booking Form](#)**  
**[Summer Tennis Booking Form](#)**

*Rebecca Peek*

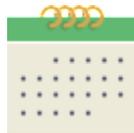
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## Next Week @ Downsend

# School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 18 March	11.45am-12.15pm	Upper School House Assembly
Tuesday 19 March	All Day 10.45am pm 3.15-3.45pm 5.00pm	Yrs 4 & 5 Drama Workshops Yr 8 trip to Europa Centre, Essex (French) Yr 6 Inter-House Netball Lower School House Assembly Yr 5 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Wednesday 20 March	am pm	Yr 6 Evacuee Morning Yrs 7 & 8 Inter-House Netball
Thursday 21 March	All day All day pm	LAMDA examinations U11 IAPS Netball Finals Yr 5 Inter-House Netball
Friday 22 March	Assembly All day	Prefect Assembly Yr 2 Victorian Day
Saturday 23 March	11.00am-2.00pm	Yr 7 Play Rehearsal, Dining Hall



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

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## Inspiring young minds

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### [Download School Notices](#)

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