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# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

29 March 2019



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## A message from the Headmaster

Summer feels like it is definitely just around the corner. Perhaps the visit of our Chilean colleagues yesterday means that they left the South American sun and positive energy behind here for us to benefit from. They were certainly blown away from the atmosphere at our school and the amazing attitude of our pupils and staff. Year 7 will need all of that energy in the final week of the Spring Term as they prepare for their production of the 'The Odyssey', which will be performed tonight and tomorrow. The dress rehearsals went well, as did the Guitar and Drum concert on Wednesday afternoon, all of which showcases the incredible talent on show here.



It has been nice to speak to so many of you on the Turret door over the past couple of days and to hear how many of your children have blossomed over recent weeks. Our pupil tracking programme reflects this and the planning that we are undertaking is allowing us the chance to extend this work. Conversations have extended to whether we will continue to ban mobile phones during the school day. This [recent article](#) supports our view that they can be a distraction from the learning process but that, equally importantly, they lead to a breakdown in crucial social learning. Many of the senior schools I have spoken to wish that they could enforce this same rule but feel that they cannot put the genie back into the bottle. This is one of the benefits of building something without preconceptions, and is something we are definitely taking advantage of. Perhaps, it's why enquiries for places have already exceeded those from the whole of the last academic year? Finally, thank you to those parents who have filled in our 3 minute transport survey. Your insights will help us to help you, so please take a moment to let us know your thoughts, whilst still enjoying the weekend sunshine, of course!

*Ian Thorpe*

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## End of Term

During the last week of term Prep Class and Extended Day provision will be on as usual Monday 1, Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 April. Term finishes on Thursday 4 April at 2.15pm for Lower School pupils (and siblings) and 2.45pm for Upper School pupils.

*Seb Watts, Deputy Head*

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## Transport Survey



We are currently planning an extension to our transport provision as we seek to manage traffic into, and around, our site effectively. This involves a broadening of our bus and train station shuttle services. In order to help us to best serve your requirements, we have designed a short survey, which will take no more than 3 minutes to complete. It is available via this [link](#).

Thank you for taking the time to assist us with our planning.

*Craig Simmons, Business Manager*

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## Notice to Leave Reminder

We would like to remind Parents that if you are leaving Downsend at the end of the Summer Term, notice must be given before the first day of next term, i.e no later than Tuesday 23 April 2019. Where Parents have not given a term's written notice, fees in lieu of notice will be applicable. Notice should be in writing and addressed to and received by the Headmaster personally or the Business Manager on the Head's behalf. It is expected that Parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw a pupil. Full terms & Conditions are available to view on the parent Portal section of the

website.

*Craig Simmons, Business Manager*

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## Lower School Update



It's been another exciting week in the Lower School and the highlights have included the Year 5 trip to the Sutton Life Centre, the Lower School preview of the wonderful Year 7 play; The Odyssey, and the Year 4 and 5 Swimming galas to name but a few – the children really have had a fabulous week.

As Summer A, 4JN, reports:

*On Monday Year 4 had our swimming gala. We first got into the pool to do a warm up, there also was a list of the races and the children had to go when they were called and to do different strokes. There were front crawl, back stroke and breast stroke races and then the teachers caught up on the scores. Finally, we did a front crawl relay and another relay which was five different strokes. The crowd was going wild and the results were in...first place to Headley. Unlucky Ranmore until Sports Day!*

4JN were also excited to be spending time with their new teacher for the Summer Term, Mr Skate.

We are sure that the children will enjoy being taught by him and know that he is excited about becoming the newest member of the Downsend Team.

A reminder to parents as we enter the more summery weather that summer uniform should be worn from the start of next term. A reminder of uniform guidelines can be found on the school [website](#).

Finally, I would like to wish all the mothers amongst us a very enjoyable Mother's Day this Sunday despite the change in the hour!

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

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## Upper School Update



As the weather has improved this week the early morning tennis trials have been incredibly well supported and the standard of play in Years 6, 7 & 8 has been very impressive. I can't wait to see the pupils playing their tennis and cricket matches next term.

On Wednesday evening Mrs Allison, Mr Bradfield and Mr Precious hosted a wonderful musical event in the Dining Hall, full of amazing Guitar and Drum performances, with a fantastic finale when Mr Bradfield performed the Greatest Show, getting everyone up on their feet to join in!

The Upper School pupils have been smart and well organised this week, so well done to them and to parents for ensuring they all have their planners and target cards with them. Please do check their planners on a regular basis and ensure you are happy with how the pupils are recording their homework and diaries in general, and let the form tutors know if they need any support at all.

As we look forwards to the Easter break, just a reminder that we have the Spring Concert next week, which promises to be another amazing musical event, so we look forwards to seeing as many of you then. Finally, pick up time on Thursday next week is 2:15pm for Upper School pupils with Lower School siblings, and 2:45pm for everyone else.

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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## Year 5 Sutton Life Centre Trip

Year 5 had a wonderful trip to the Sutton Life Centre where they enjoyed a Life Skills Tour which enhanced their PSHE lessons.

The children learnt more about citizenship and how to stay safe. Hands-on experiences brought it all to life and everyone had the opportunity to engage in scenarios based in the home, on public transport and the on-line community. They had lots of fun and came away with a range of new strategies and ideas.

*'I enjoyed the trip and it helped us to know how to live safer, healthier and greener'* Teddy S

*Gayle Hughes*



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## House Orienteering

Norbury and Headley Houses took part in a Team House Orienteering course this morning around the school grounds. Year 7's were leading the teams that included pupils from Year 2 upwards. Year 8 pupils were out on the course assisting and guiding.

Well done to everyone involved.

*Fiona Fitch*



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## Artist of the Week

This week's Artist of the Week is Louie L in 6MSk. Year 6 have continued to enjoy their project exploring food and have created some amazing supersized snacks! Louie has worked really hard on developing his painting skills. Well done!





*Julia Aylen*

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## **SPRING CONCERT**



All pupils in the following groups will be performing in the Spring Concert, Wednesday 03 April 2019:

**ALL PUPILS SHOULD KNOW IF THEY ARE IN THESE GROUPS**

**Year 2 and 3 Choir**

**Year 4 and 5 Choir**

**Upper School Choir**

**Chamber Choir**

**Lower School Orchestra**

**Whole School Orchestra**

**Mrs Harts' Flute Trio**

**Mr Bayley's String Group**

**Mr Boote's Brass Group**

**Mr Bradfield's Rock Bands**

**Year 4 ukulele pupils who have been invited to play in the Lower School Rock Band with Mr Bradfield**

Parents will have sent replies for those who will be staying through from the end of the school day until 6.30pm. If not please contact [Nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk](mailto:Nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk) as soon as possible.

At 6.30pm all performers must come to the Social Area looking neat and tidy.

Year 2 and 3 pupils may leave at interval if they would like to do so – they must find Mrs Allison please and sign out.

We hope to see you there – it is going to be a wonderful celebration of Spring and happy music-making!

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## **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.

*Nicole Allison*

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## Final Reminders for Ski Trip 2019 – Les Menuires



Not long now until we fly to France for our 2019 Ski Trip and we know that we have a lot of excited children. The forecast for next week is snow which is perfect timing.

Below please find a few reminders:

- 3.30am meet in Downsend car park on Saturday 6th April
- Please bring any medication in named bags with clear instructions for Marc Popham and Pete Mitchell
- Do ensure that travel sickness tablets are given before meeting and that some are packed for the return journey
- Ensure luggage is no more than 20kg
- Packed breakfast and lunch needed (NO DRINKS!)
- £10 spending money for the airport
- No mobile phones
- Please ensure that your child has both suncream and lip balm

Any queries please don't hesitate to contact us. See you bright and very early on Saturday!

*Helen Black and Jon Albert*

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## DPA News & Events

**Downsend  
Parents'  
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

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

## **DPA Funding Update: Outdoor Classroom**

As you may be aware, the DPA works with the Senior Leadership Team at Downsend to evaluate and agree funding requests submitted to us by members of the teaching staff for equipment, activities or experiences that further enrich school life for our children.

In 2017, the DPA provided funding of around £7,000 to build an Outdoor Classroom onsite to support the Outdoor Learning provision at Downsend. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of all involved, we were defeated by some challenges relating to the build site which led both the school and DPA team to halt the project.

However, we are delighted to share that the DPA have agreed to a request from the Senior Leadership Team to reallocate this funding to the Well-being Garden project which is an excellent initiative to redevelop the Science Garden into an Outdoor Learning and Character Development space to be enjoyed by pupils, parents and staff.

Once complete, we hope you will all take the opportunity to enjoy the Well-being Garden and should you have any questions, or like to better understand the plans, please get in touch with Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School who leads the project ([clare.kirkham@downsend.co.uk](mailto:clare.kirkham@downsend.co.uk)).

### **The Early Bird Catches.....**

**A ticket to the DPA Summer Ball at only £55 per person!**



There has been a stellar response to our special Early Bird discount for DPA Summer Time Ball tickets, with over a hundred tickets already sold in the first week alone! Congratulations to our Lower School parents who are leading the charge on ticket purchases.... an outstanding effort.

A reminder to all parents who are thinking about attending, don't miss out on our special **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**, which enables you to purchase tickets at £55 per person **UNTIL 4th APRIL**. Don't worry if you are part of a smaller party and don't have a tables-worth of people attending. The DPA will work hard to match you with other smaller parties to ensure you can still enjoy our warm DPA hospitality. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the ball, please get in touch with the DPA team [DownsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:DownsendPA@gmail.com)

To book your tickets, head to **CLASSLIST** – look for the notice from Charlotte Staplehurst on CLASS LIST on Monday, open the message and click on the Menu tab, bottom right corner, select 'Events' and you will see the Summer Time Ball.

We, at the DPA, feel that it is important to support different charities, including smaller charities and those fighting for less well-known causes and this year, the DPA Summer Time Ball will be supporting the local charity Action for A-T (Ataxia-Telangiectasia), who will be running one of our auctions.

A-T is a rare genetic disease of childhood, which causes damage to the nervous system and immune systems in particular. Action for A-T fund vital research into looking for a cure for this disabling and life-shortening condition.

For more information – please click [here](#) to see the important work of Action for A-T

*The DPA Committee*

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Downsend+

The Easter holidays start next week and Downsend+ has an exciting programme of activities planned. Is your child a budding Andy Murray? If so, we have spaces on our Tennis Course running across five mornings from 8-12th April. Details are available on our [website](#) or can be downloaded below.



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](#)

[Easter Course Description](#)

[Easter Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

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## Next Week @ Downsend

### School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 02 April	8.45-10.45am	Spring Concert Rehearsal, Sports Hall
Wednesday 03 April	8.45-10.45am 7.00pm	Spring Concert Rehearsal, Sports Hall Spring Concert, Sports Hall
Thursday 04 April	pm 2.15pm 2.45pm	Final Assembly Term finishes for LS pupils Term finishes for US pupils
Friday 05 April – Thursday 18 April	All day	Downsend+

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Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

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**Inspiring young minds**

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