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**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

04 April 2019



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### A message from the Headmaster

We have come to the end of another busy but rewarding term and I am sure that everybody is looking forward to recharging the batteries over the Easter break, although many of our older pupils will spend some of this on the inaugural Cognita Ski Trip. There have been so many highlights over the past 3 months and it is clear that the all-round excellence of our school is illuminated in all that we do, none so brightly as the excellent Spring Concert last night. The Sports Hall was full of energy and enthusiasm, and no little talent, exuding from our amazing musicians. It is all too easy to forget that the performers were as young as 7 years old due to the confidence of their performances. I know how much the teachers and parents enjoyed the concert, and how appreciative we all are of the leadership provided by Mrs Allison and her team of instrumental teachers in preparing for the event. Just a matter of days ago, we were also applauding the Year 7 pupils after their performance of 'The Odyssey', much enjoyed by those present. Well done, all!

Easter is a time to consider fresh starts, and we will need to do likewise as we plan for the future. There will be cricket, tennis and athletics fixtures, lots more musical events and residential trips to look forward to, along with all the daily challenges of the lessons that our pupils undertake. Our new whiteboard screens will be installed over the next month, thus improving the impact of technology on learning yet further. We will also finalise the specifications for the new areas in the Lower and Upper Schools, to include the Junior Library, Learning Resource Centre and STEAM Spaces. We are very excited about the difference that these spaces will make to your children, all of which should be completed by September. Have a wonderful Easter break; I look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 24 April.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Lower School Update



It has been a wonderful term in the Lower School and the children have shone on all fronts; from high academic achievement to sporting, artistic and musical success. The work that I have seen via Pobble, through observing lessons and from proud visitors to my office has been exceptional and the children have shown engagement and joy in their learning, both in the classroom and through trips, workshops and challenges. They have been courteous and kind to one another and to staff and I continue to be extremely proud of them all.

A particular mention this week must go to our chess players as many of the Lower School children participated in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge with several going through to the chess Megafinal of this competition, the largest chess competition in the world! A particular congratulations to Davide P in Year 5 who won all of his matches, making him the 'Top Player' for this term and the winner of a spectacular trophy. Well done Davide! Congratulations too to all of the wonderful performers in last night's Spring Concert – it truly was a spectacular event and you all performed beautifully. What a lovely way to round off the term!



I would also like to wish Mrs Newberry the very best of luck as she goes on Maternity Leave today – we can't wait to hear her wonderful news and will be sure to share it with you when Baby Newberry arrives. I would also like to wish all of our Lower School families a very happy Easter and a restful and holiday.

I look forward to seeing you all, in summer uniform, when we return later this month.

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

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## Upper School Update



As I reflect on the Spring Term, I am filled with pride and joy at the Upper School pupil's achievements. We have seen superb academic progress in all areas with success in securing a wide range of Senior School offers at an incredibly competitive time. Scholarships have been offered at 11 and 13+ in Academia, Sport, Art, Music, Technology and Engineering and in the All-rounder categories. At school we have had curriculum collapse days, World Book Week and Pi day, when the pupils across the school amazed us with their ability to recite Pi to as many as 70 digits. The Public Speaking team were so impressive they battled through to the third round of the National Rotary Competition, LAMDA presentations took place in both the Upper and Lower Schools and we hosted our annual House Bake-off days where the culinary skills of our pupils were so brilliantly showcased. We have had tremendous musical performances in drums and guitar evenings, and of course the Spring Concert which was amazing! In addition there have been off-site trips to London Zoo, the Europa Language Centre in Essex and the Sutton Life Centre.

On the drama front Miss Friend directed a wonderful version of the classic 'Odyssey' stories, involving the entire Year 7 year group, who worked together as actors, lighting and sound engineers and stage crew to present a wonderful production.

Of course this term has also seen an unbelievable amount of sports fixtures and competitions, with huge success in netball, ESSA swimming galas, biathlon and rugby, including a winning group performance at the National 'Sevens' Competition at Rosslyn park by our U13 boys.

Those pupils heading off to the Alps with Miss Black and her team are in for a real treat. The weather looks set to be fantastic for Spring skiing; so travel safely, have fun and don't cross those tips!

May I also take this opportunity to say a warm goodbye to both Isaac N and Luke W who are leaving us this term for a new school and a new life in the USA respectively.

Finally, wherever you are spending your holiday enjoy the time with your families and friends and I do hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and we will see you in just over two weeks for what promises to be another amazing and, hopefully, sunny Summer term!

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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## **House Results**

### **Wisley continue to lead the House competition this year!**

It has once again been a very busy term regarding all the House events and competitions. Pupils have demonstrated great commitment and enthusiasm to their Houses, whether it be through entries to Bake Offs, Quizzes, standing in front of the peers during Public Speaking or showing enormous resilience and determination in the swimming pool. All these additional competitions run along side our reward system for citizenship and general responsibility of pupils applying themselves to their academia. Very well done to the pupils below who have won the Top Achiever badge for this last collection and to all pupils in Wisely House for winning the Spring Term competition! We would like to thank all the pupils and staff for their efforts this term and wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

## House Results

3<sup>rd</sup> Collection - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

Lower School	Position	Top Achiever
Wisley	1 <sup>st</sup>	Matys R Y3
Ranmore	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amy J Y3
Headley	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holly S Y2
Norbury	4 <sup>th</sup>	Maria B Y4

Upper School	Position	Top Achiever
Norbury	1 <sup>st</sup>	Warren H Y8
Wisley	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ava U Y8
Ranmore	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alexander T Y6
Headley	4 <sup>th</sup>	Chloe B Y8

Whole School	Position
Wisley	1 <sup>st</sup>
Norbury	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Ranmore	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Headley	4 <sup>th</sup>

Adding all the Sports Competitions, Bake Offs, Public Speaking, House Quiz etc the results are as follows:

<b>Total Score</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>109</b>
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*Mr Albert and Miss Black*

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## Year 7 Easter Round Up!

Congratulations to the following children for achieving their next Headmaster's Commendation: Safa, Arthur, Marcus, Chloe, Jasper, Jude, Amelie, Jamie, Alexa, Alice, Josie, Michelle, Honey, Daniel, Harry H, Kelly, Rhianna, Noah, Aniyah, Tigi, Jack M and Charlie. As you can see, there were many badges to give out this week reflecting the great work the children have put in this half term.



A special mention to our Top Achievers this term: 7BD: Jasmine, 7JA: Joel, 7RH: Luke, 7FF: Ryan. Very well done for collecting the most house points through working hard and contributing to the life of the school – impressive totals!



A big thank you to our Spring Term Ambassadors: Alexa, Arthur, Aniyah, Ollie F, Ryan, Geraldine and Alex

who have worked hard this term supporting the Year 7 team, running the library and helping regularly in the Lower School before 8.30am where they have enjoyed hearing readers and playing with the younger children. The Lower School staff have also appreciated the amount of time some of the Ambassadors have given when supporting their booster classes. Very well done for showing great commitment!



Goodbyes: We are saying farewell to Isaac and Luke – the staff wish you both much success in the future and hope you enjoy your new schools. Luke, we wish you safe travels back to America!



Impressive Dance Routine: Some Year 7 girls enjoyed performing their Hip Hop dance routine in our

assembly, great choreography and dedication to their club – very well done to Chloe, Alice, Bijou, Kelly, Honey, Rhianna and Damla.



The Year 7 tutor team would like to wish you all a Happy Easter and hope you enjoy your break wherever you are – and eat lots of chocolate eggs of course!

*Anna Mercer, Julia Aylen, Beth Day, Rupert Howe and Fee Fitch*

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## Linguists of the Term Awards



It's been another busy term in the Languages department, with lots of really good language learning taking place. We've had visits to the Europa Centre for Year 5 as well as for Year 8, who are now preparing for

their Common Entrance speaking exams shortly after Easter. Year 5 have also been able to choose the second language that they are going to start learning from Year 6, as German will be joining French and Spanish on the curriculum at Downsend from September.

To celebrate the fantastic work that the children have done this term, the Languages Department have nominated two pupils in each class to be the Linguists of the Term. These awards are given either on account of the child's academic success in Languages or for the progress and effort they have shown over this term. They have been awarded with a certificate presented by Mr Thorpe in the end of term assembly.

<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
Ameenah A Noah K Millie L Daniella M George M Holly S Oliver S Taylor S	Baylen B Emma C Thomas C Annabel E Euan J Eleanor M Finley M Amber W	Amelia B Maria B Maya B Natalia B Archie D Anna Maria H Jessica L Lauren L Bella T	Alexander B Sebastian B Joshua G Rhyen P Noah T Chloe S Finlay S Lucy W
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	
Olivia B Sam B Joseph C Shihong F Alexander H Aimee J Jada J Eleanor K Geoffrey L Aiden M Hector M Henry S Alexander T Alice U Angus W James W	Noah B Natasha C Alexa E Teddy G Harry H Marcus H Mia K Chloe M Gracie N Kelly N Daniel R Jacob S Evie S Ryan T Thomas U Luke W Charlie W	Olivia B Sofia H Tilly H Warren H Mihir R Zoe S Ava U Katherine V Ben W Matthew Y	

*Martin Skitt, Head of Languages*

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## The Odyssey

Last week, Year 7 performed The Odyssey (by Homer, adapted by Meghan Gates) to delighted audiences

of Downsend parents and pupils. Following the Greek hero Odysseus on his journey back to his family after the fall of Troy, this ensemble production gave Year 7 the chance to shine as they portrayed gods, goddesses, soldiers, suitors, magical creatures and more.

Year 7 did the school proud. Each and every member of the cast learnt their lines diligently, which made the rehearsal process a pleasure as we were able to experiment with different staging easily rather than focusing on prompting. They also took on board comments from the directing team with confidence, allowing us to make changes and improvements even during the final run through. I was impressed with their professionalism throughout, from our first read through to the final performance. I particularly enjoyed having a reliable technical and backstage team made up of Downsend pupils from Years 7 and 8, many of whom worked as maturely as if this was their full time job.

Of course, this didn't happen on its own Thank you to the Year 7 parents for their support throughout the rehearsal and performance process. It would not have been possible without the patience and expertise of Miss Newhall, Mr Paul and Mrs Temlett. I cannot thank them enough. I must also give a huge thanks to Mr Bryant, as well as the maintenance, admin and catering teams, who were all vital in the smooth running of the production.

Roll on the Year 4 and 5 production next term...!

*Miss Friend, Drama Dept*





## SPRING CONCERT



Well done to everyone involved in the Spring Concert yesterday, you all sounded amazing!

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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.

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Congratulations to Jerome H (4AS) who achieved a Distinction in his Grade 3 Violin and to Jessica Jane L (4EF) who achieved a Distinction in her Grade 1 Cello exam.

*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.

Please note the time change for this Saturday morning!

Below please find a few reminders:

- **4.30am 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



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

## DPA Sponsored Coffee Mornings are going great guns!



We were delighted to host the Y5 Coffee Morning last week which was very well attended, it was great to see (and hear) everyone relaxing, catching up and enjoying themselves. Thanks again to Doug Turpie and his team for organising the yummy refreshments.

As we shortly enter a new term, it's time to get your Coffee Morning dates in the diary – to do that, please contact Doug ([doug.turpie@downsend.co.uk](mailto:doug.turpie@downsend.co.uk)) and Colette ([Colette.Allen@downsend.co.uk](mailto:Colette.Allen@downsend.co.uk)) who will support you with your booking logistics and the DPA will pick up the cost of any food and beverages.

Please don't forget to share photos of your Coffee Morning, so we can include them in our communications and encourage other classes and year groups to participate.

Thanks to all the Class Reps who are continuing their excellent work to bring our community even closer together – they are a brilliant team!

## DPA Summer Time Ball

**Book before 7pm on Thursday 04 April before the Early Bird departs**



Want to come to the DPA Summer Time Ball but haven't bought a ticket yet? Well now is the time to get yourself organised – the deadline for the Early Bird tickets @ £55 per head ends at 7pm tonight – Thursday 04 April! We really want you to enjoy the benefits of this discount, so don't delay, book today!

The response from parents and teachers across all 4 school sites has been incredible and after only 2 weeks, we have already sold over 150 tickets and we are still going strong! As always there is an upper limit on available tickets and we are well on our way to being sold out, so please book your tickets ASAP.

As a reminder, tickets can be booked by heading to CLASSLIST – look for the notice from Charlotte Staplehurst, open the message and click on the Menu tab, bottom right corner, select 'Events' and you will see the Summer Time Ball.

If you have any difficulty get in touch with the planning team - [downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com)

## **Make life more colourful this spring....**

### **Join the DPA Colour Run/Walk – Sunday 19th May**



Further to our recent schoolcomms, the DPA are really excited to bring you the inaugural DPA Colour Run/Walk in aid of the great work of The Children's Trust.

This event, held at main site on the morning of Sunday 19th May, is open to all children, their friends and families from Reception through to Upper School and involves walking or running around the 1km course (up to a maximum of 5 times) and getting a colourful surprise each time you pass through the 1km marker.

To enter, please complete the registration form (attached to the recent schoolcomms email – or found in the Turret) and return it along with your entrance fee to Reception. All entrants will receive a white t-shirt, wristband and a medal for participating on the day as well as feeling amazing about doing something fun and energetic for a great cause!

We will release more info when we get back from the Easter holidays, but for now all we ask is that you print out and complete registration forms ready to hand them in when we get back from our Easter Break

Let us know if you have any questions – [downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com)

*The DPA Committee*

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# Downsend+

The Easter holidays start tomorrow 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 Term @ Downsend

# School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 23 April	All day	Staff INSET
Wednesday 24 April	8.30am	Term Starts
Friday 26 April	Assembly	Mr I Thorpe

**SAVE THE DATE!**

We are having a Paella and Sangria party to celebrate Mrs Brooks' time at Leatherhead Pre-Prep.

Date - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
Time - 3pm – 5pm  
Place – Leatherhead Pre-Prep

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## Dragons Den Update



Thank you for all your responses to date. I now have a team of Dragons but I am missing a 'Dragon' for the Manufacture/production role. If you are able to help to fill this position then please do get in touch [dee.vanstone@downsend.co.uk](mailto:dee.vanstone@downsend.co.uk).

*Dee Vanstone*

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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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## LAMDA



If you are interested in your child joining LAMDA either next term or in the Autumn, or would like more information, please get in touch with Lucy Biszczyk at [lucylu900@hotmail.com](mailto:lucylu900@hotmail.com) or tel: 07816 524066.

Lamda lessons are available to children from Year 2 up to Year 8. They are held in school break times and lunch hours and focus on poetry, prose and drama.

Children will explore key areas such as improvisation and story-telling, characterisation, mime and physical theatre, as well as voice work and devising. Through these disciplines, they will cultivate important skills such as imagination, confidence, coordination and teamwork and develop an appreciation and understanding of the spoken word and love of literature.

*Lucy Biszczanik*

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**Calendar**



**DPA**



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**Letters & Forms**



**Uniform**



**Term Dates**



**Firefly**



**SchoolsSports**

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**Inspiring young minds**

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