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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

03 May 2019



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A message from the Headmaster

Innovation and forward-thinking has been at the forefront of life at Main Site this week. Last weekend, 35 new 75 inch HD screens and interactive whiteboards were installed in all of the teaching spaces and have been put to great effect in a wide array of curriculum areas. To see so many aspects of learning brought to life in this way reinforces our ‘Inspiring Young Minds’ model. We have also put the finishing touches to our plans to create a Junior Library, STEAM spaces, new Food Tech Room and Learning Resource Centre. We shared this information at a Senior School exhibition in Wandsworth last night and were inundated by parents who had heard good news about the all-round excellence at Downsend, which was very humbling to hear. We were also able to discuss our approach to character development; with Year 2 having enjoyed their Forest School activities yesterday, and Year 4 returning from their High Ashurst trip this afternoon, there have been plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning this week.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend!

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update



It has been a week of adventure in the Lower School with outdoor learning taking place in almost every year group. Year 3 had a wonderful day at Butser Ancient Farm investigating Celtic round houses and learning about the Iron Age way of life. Year 2 had Forest School exploring the woodland area looking for mini beasts. They also had the opportunity to use the fire striker to make sparks and get messy making 'potions'. Meanwhile, Year 4 camped over night at High Ashurst after swinging on high ropes, exploring underground cellars and singing around the campfire. There were some very tired faces at breakfast this morning but all of the children have had a wonderful time. Whilst all of these activities are plenty of fun, they are also testament to the fact that learning does not just happen in the classroom, a wonderful thing to be able to say in this internet age!

In other news this week, Year 4 parents enjoyed a talk by Mr Newland about their children's journey to Senior Schools in the area. Feedback from our Year 4 parents was that this was a hugely informative afternoon. I really am grateful to those parents who attended and please do not hesitate to contact either me or Mr Newland if you would like any further information.

Academic congratulations this week go to Grace A and George M in 2CW. Miss Wilby asked me to come and see their writing and I was delighted by the way that they had structured their sentences, used a wide range of language and included correctly punctuated dialogue. Very well done to you both.

I hope that all the Lower School families have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend and I look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday for another week of 'Inspiring Young Minds'.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update



I would like to say how lovely it was to meet so many Year 4 parents on Tuesday at the 'Your route to Senior Schools' event in Tregenna Hall. It was great to discuss your aspirations for the future, and how we will prepare your children for the many great options you will have. I am also hugely grateful to the Year 7 Ambassador Team who guided so many of you around the Upper School; you did a brilliant job and after the summer works will have an even more impressive school to tour around!

On my 'Learning Walks' around the Upper School this week I have witnessed some wonderful lessons, often with teachers using their new wireless HP devices and interactive whiteboards, and I was particularly impressed with Joanna H's presentation on Dame Cicely Saunders, who was an inspirational leader in the hospice movement in the 1940's. Well done Joanna and to Jack D for his presentation last week. There has also been a Junior Maths challenge run by Mr Noble as well as Scholarship exams and interviews to Kings College School, Wimbledon; good luck to Matt Y and Mihir R with your results!

Yesterday I was fortunate enough to spend the morning on the Astro-turf watching the early morning tennis training led by Mr Weal, our Davis Cup tennis coach, leading to a strong performance against Cumnor House after school. I followed that with a quick visit to the girls' breakfast club run by Mrs Mercer and Mrs Hawes in the pavilion; what a joyful start to the day!

Finally, a huge well done to Mrs Alison, Mr Skitt and all the boys and girls across the school for a highly enjoyable hymn practice this morning. With songs old and new booming around the Sports Hall the singing improved enormously during the session, so well to one and all! I certainly had 'joy in my heart' after the practice!

Have a good bank holiday weekend and see you all on Tuesday next week!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Summer Term Ambassadors



Congratulations to our new Ambassadors who are excited about their leadership roles; they have already stepped up and been tour guides this week for our 'Route to Senior Schools' information event. The children did an excellent job showing Year 4 parents around the Upper School and answering questions about life in Year 6, 7 and 8.

Well done to Honey, Bijou, Lizzy, Amelie, Harry H, Harry M, Roman and Noah.

Anna Mercer

Downsend Ski Trip Memories – 2019 Les Menuires



Day 1

We arrived safe and sound in resort late in the afternoon arriving in Lyon, the whole ski trip party were raring to board the coach up to the resort and see the snowy conditions awaiting us. The drive up to resort was filled with anticipation and some sleepy children. As the road became steeper, we were able to take in the stunning vistas of the mountains. Driving into Les Menuires we were delighted to see much snow on the surrounding slopes and the children were excited to check out the hotel. After getting the keys to rooms and a substantial dinner, we had our boots and skis fitted and were ready for our first skiing lesson in the morning.

Day 2

We woke up to snow...and more snow on day 2 - skiers were raring to go after a few nudges to get out of bed! After a good breakfast, we all got on the slopes and enjoyed some great skiing, with all groups making great progress. In the afternoon, we investigated the area and particularly the shops. Then an early night and lots of shattered children (and staff)!

Day 3

Day 3 brought beautiful corduroy slopes after a night of heavy snow. Conditions were sublime and the children were full of it, as they glided through the powder, both on and off piste. On return to the hotel, the children then decided to spend their pocket money from the Bank of Silva on fruit and vegetables (aka sweets, fizzy drinks, chocolate and crisps - all confectionery items now appear sold out in the local supermarket). It was movie night; pillows at the ready and children snuggled under blankets, as they enjoyed their evening's entertainment.

Day 4

It took a little longer to get the children up on Day 4, but as usual they were all ready for their lessons at 9am and raring to go. Slopes were a little icy, however, they all managed very well to adjust their technique to cope with the conditions. The evening activity was a quiz which the children really enjoyed. Some of them were eagerly awaiting the Spurs v Man City Champions League match (they had their fingers crossed that the wi-fi would hold out). In the meantime, 'Human Cluedo' had been set up by Mr Mitchell and this caused much amusement over the next few days.

Day 5

Another morning of weary skiers, but once fuelled up with French pastries and back on the sunny slopes the excitement levels started soaring again. Mr Albert was very disappointed to be the first death of 'Human Cluedo'; Miss Black was just too sneaky! The snow conditions were so good and it was lovely to see all the pupils feeling more and more confident with each session. The evening's activity was a trip back to the slopes for an hour of bum-boarding (mixed with several snowball fights). It's safe to say that all the children had a brilliant time racing each other down the slope and having fun in the snow.

Day 6

We opened our eyes on the penultimate day of skiing to what can only be described as a complete whiteout. Visibility was incredibly limited, but in true Dowsnd spirit, we continued with skiing lessons as normal. With the trickier skiing conditions in place, the instructors decided on the best routes to take. Higher up was better where even though visibility was still poor, the slopes were more ski-able. All groups managed to spend the day enjoying their skiing even with the more difficult conditions which says much about their resilience. There were some weary legs by the end of the day! The day was topped off by an evening of crêpe-making back in the hotel which followed a superb dinner. The final day brought the last bit of skiing for us and the final opportunity to enjoy this fabulous resort.

Day 7

So, we made it to the last day on the slopes! I think it's fair to say that this had been an amazing week of fun, laughter and special memories. We opened our curtains again to a white haze outside, but this didn't deter us in our attempts to enjoy our last day of skiing. Excitement had been building towards the afternoon session where pupils were taken up the mountain to be presented with their ESF medals by their instructors and given one final opportunity to enjoy the pristine slopes high up the mountain. That evening saw the preparations for our journey back.

This was a wonderful week and the children were superb. They were great company, made excellent progress with their skiing and they thoroughly enjoyed their week. We would like to say a special thank you to Lee Silva, Anna Mercer, Marc Popham and Pete Mitchell, for their tireless enthusiasm, energy and hard work which all helped to make this such a successful Ski Trip.

Helen Black and Jon Albert



Year 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm



On Wednesday, the children were transported back to Celtic times when they went on a school trip to Butser Ancient Farm. They enjoyed a wide range of practical activities such as chalk carving, becoming archaeologists and digging in the soil for artefacts, and making Celtic jewellery. We enjoyed visiting a replica of a Celtic roundhouse, and even had the chance to make daub to construct our own wall! We were incredibly lucky with the weather and even got to enjoy eating our lunch outside. We can't wait for our next trip to Wakehurst Place in a few short weeks!

Marian Bayley



Music Update

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.

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 recently achieved music exam success:

Annabel E Grade 2 Piano
Katherine V Grade 3 Guitar
Adam V Grade 4 Flute
Adam V Grade 3 Piano
Damla S Grade 1 Drum Kit
Jake N Grade 1 Drum Kit Distinction
Alex H Grade 2 Percussion Distinction
Alex G Grade 2 Percussion
Monty H Grade 2 Percussion Distinction.
Alex Harding Grade 2 Percussion Distinction

Nicole Allison

Artist of The Week

This week's AoTW is Niji in 5LC. This half term, Year 5 have been learning how to screen print. After coming up with a design, they got to grips with the craft knives and carefully cut their stencils. This week, they started printing and had lots of fun using the squeegee! Niji worked brilliantly to create this bold print. Well done!

Julia Aylen



DPA News & Events



downsendpa@gmail.com

DPA Colour Run/Walk – Sunday 19th May 10.30am

Step (or Run) into Summer.... Register for the First Ever DPA Colour Run NOW!



Q: What do the following things have in common.....

- Number of wigs owned by Queen Elizabeth I
- The average gestation period of a goat
- Number of places in the UK called Newton and...
- The ideal number of participants in the **first ever DPA Colour Run/Walk** on Sunday 19 May.....

A: They all share the magic number.... 150!

Yes, for the inaugural DPA Colour Run/Walk we are aiming to get 150 parents, children, family members and friends to participate in our Downsend first in aid of The Children's Trust.

We would like to encourage you all to support this first-time event, so that we the DPA can continue to successfully bring new events and activities to our community and further enrich our childrens' experience at Downsend.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 13 May!!** Don't delay, register yourselves today!

All participants will receive a t-shirt, wristband and medal on the day for your efforts.

The DPA refreshments stall will serve hot and cold drinks, and we will have a Sausage Sizzle stall on the go to help you refuel after all that hard work!

Supporters are welcome to come and enjoy a hot or cold drink and a snack whilst they cheer you on!

To register, please download the form [here](#) or pick one up in the Turret, complete it and return along with the entrance fee to Reception before **Monday 13th May**.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the DPA Colour Run team @ downsendPA@gmail.com

Summer Ball - Saturday 15th June 2019 - Epsom Racecourse



Come on Cinders, put down that broom! You SHALL go to the ball!

Tickets are on sale now at £65 per person. 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.

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

Valentine's Mufti Success



Our wonderful Downsend community dug deep and really showed the love at our Valentine's Mufti day to raise an amazing £782.60 for the British Heart Foundation. Thank you so much for your generosity and well done to all!

The DPA Committee

STEAM Day - Friday 24 May



STEAM Day is fast approaching and for one of the activities we are in need of tall Pringles tubes. If anyone has any empty tubes, please save them and bring them to Miss Aylen in the Art Room. Thank you in advance!

Julia Aylen

Downsend+



With only **3** weeks to go until May Half Term, Downsend+ has an exciting programme of activities planned. Details are available on our [website](#) or can be downloaded below.

We have an action packed programme of activities for the Summer Holidays at Downsend + and will be open from Friday 12 July to Wednesday 28 August 2019 (Closed Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 2019). Download a course description [here](#) and a Summer 2019 booking form [here](#).

If your child is a budding Andy Murray, details of our **summer tennis camps** can be downloaded [here](#) and we are offering early booking discounts.

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861 280 or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk

[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)

[May Half Term Course Description](#)

[May Half Term Booking Form](#)

[Summer 2019 Course Description](#)

[Summer 2019 Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 07 May	1.00-7.00pm	LS Chamber Choir Choral Day @ Charterhouse School
Wednesday 08 May	All day All day	2LB & 2CW Trip to Bay Pond Yrs 3-8 School Aquathon @ St Teresa's
Thursday 09 May	All day All day 2.30pm 4.30pm	2YdV & 2ST Trip to Bay Pond Yr 7 Trip to Tower of London Yr 5 Girls Inter-House Cricket Yr 6 Residential Trip Information Meeting, Tregenna Hall
Friday 10 May	Assembly	LS & US House Spelling Bee (C Bryant)
Saturday 11 May	9.15am-12 noon	Open Morning





Before Easter Lamda students took exams in acting, verse and prose and devised drama. I am thrilled to say that all 40 candidates passed with 28 distinctions and 12 merits! A special mention goes to Isabella C, Alexa E-M, Francesca W, Finley M, Felix G and Baylen B who scored 90 and over. Well done everybody - a great set of results!

Lucy Biszczanik

Raising Resilient Children Workshop

Following on from the successful talk to parents in February, we have arranged for Julia Philpott to run a 'Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children' workshop for Downsend parents on Wednesday 22nd May. Book you place at the workshop [here](#).

A Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children



A four-hour workshop for parents, hosted by Downsend, introducing simple and practical tools to increase children's confidence and problem-solving skills.



The workshop provides tips on:

- How to encourage your children to come up with their own solutions to problems
- How to give children the chance to 'take it from the top' if things don't quite go right
- How to have some fun with your children to make them feel strong and have great self-belief



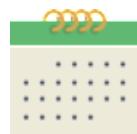
Facilitator: Julia Philpott

The workshop is run by Julia Philpott, a parent of two herself and qualified in both psychology and executive coaching. Julia combines her personal experiences as a mum with her more formal qualifications, to run a lively and interesting session, giving parents practical tips to take back into everyday family life.

Details: Wednesday 22nd May, 9am – 1pm, Downsend School

Price: £60 per person

To find out more and to book please visit www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk
or contact Julia Philpott on:
julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk or 07967 497779



Calendar



DPA



Healthy School



Letters & Forms



Uniform



Term Dates



Firefly



SchoolsSports

Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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