



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL

## DOWNSEND TIMES

28 June 2019



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## A message from the Headmaster

Our Assembly this morning reflected all that is great about Downsend and its pupils. Mrs Harris, from the Children's Trust, was delighted to be handed a cheque for almost £11K, a figure that will rise yet further before the end of term.



The kindness and thoughtfulness theme continued with the sportsmanship on show at yesterday's Year 4 and 5 Sports Day, slickly organised by the staff and brilliantly supported as always by our parents. Mr Noble handed out significant numbers of Maths Challenge certificates to pupils who have demonstrated problem-solving skills and determination in abundance.

Finally, there were sporting trophies and certificates galore to hand out. It was no surprise, therefore, to see this week that Downsend has been shortlisted for the Independent Schools of the Year 2019 in the category 'Independent School of the Year for Sporting Achievement'. We are honoured to have been recognised in this way, but I am particularly proud of the staff and pupils who so merit this recognition for all their hard work this year!

As a reward, all pupils and staff will next week be given a tour of the works being undertaken in the Upper School at present. Two weeks in, and much has changed already. We think that this should be part of the educational package, to see the improvements for themselves. Hard hats and high-vis jackets are being readied – please look out for pictures on Tuesday!

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Lower School Update

As the term gets nearer to its completion, you would think that the Lower School would be lessening its pace. How wrong you would be! This week has been one of celebration both in the performing arts and on the sports field as we enjoyed both the Year 2 concerts and Lower School Sports days. In their performances of their 'Animals Summer Concert', Year 2 sang, told jokes, read original poetry and danced to entertain their parents and extended family. Seeing the improvement in their diction, confidence and singing since their first performances at Christmas was a delight, and I left the hall in high spirits and with a sore face from smiling so much!



Our Sports Days were blessed with sunny weather and cheerful spirits and as the children ran, hurdled and high jumped on the sunny field with family members, staff and peers cheering them on, our 'Sport for All' message was clear to see. Well done to everyone who took part in these events – we are very proud of all of you.

Academic mentions this week go to Ethan M in 4MP for his wonderful observational artwork showing some gorgeous colour choices – your pictures of both Lord Voldemort and a bird were wonderful! Well done too to Kahlan in Year 3 for her fantastic PowerPoint on the genes project she ran as part of the RAISE programme. It was a fascinating project based on the amazing theory that more extroverted people produce less saliva than introverted people! Miss Birch said that Kahlan delivered her experiment beautifully, virtually running her own Science lesson. Well done, Kahlan!

Finally, a reminder that the weather is looking likely to continue to be very hot next week. Please could you make sure that your child has both a water bottle and Downsend cap in school to keep them sun safe during playtimes. Enjoy the rays this weekend!

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

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## Upper School Update

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Year 8 pupils on a fabulous set of Downsend Diploma and CE grades. The pupils have worked so hard and I was delighted that their preparation and commitment was rewarded with such outstanding results. Well done!

After a brilliant set of residential trips last week the Upper School have returned to a full programme of lessons, trips and activities, and the pupils have been well behaved, organised and positive as they have moved around a slightly recalibrated Upper School.

The Year 8 pupils had a great day on Tuesday, led by Mrs Mercer, and walked all the way back from Denbies in Dorking, via Boxhill and Headley having a jolly old time whilst doing it. There were certainly some tired feet back at school at the end of the day!



In addition, there have been some great on-site ACE sessions on Wellbeing and Mental Health, as well on the important historical topic of Auschwitz. The sessions have been led superbly by our staff and to all those who have worked hard to prepare the activities thank you so much! I will be taking the Year 8 pupils to the House of Commons on Monday during what is proving to be a highly topical period in our National Politics!

The Year 6 pupils have been working so hard on their Summer production of a Midsummer Night's Dream, and it was so good to finally see them get on stage and deliver a stunning performance on Thursday night!

You were absolutely brilliant, and looked as if you were having so much fun, so 'break a leg' for the final show on Friday night!

Finally, well done to those Year 7 pupils who helped out with the Lower School sports days this week. We often talk about how we promote leadership and citizenship in our pupils in the Upper School, and you were simply outstanding in the way you assisted staff, helped younger pupils who needed assistance and Mrs Fitch and Mrs Kirkham were both incredibly impressed with your maturity and independence!

Well done to all the Upper School on a busy but wonderful week and to all our families, enjoy a great weekend, its going to be a warm one !

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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## **Sporting Achievement Award Nomination**



I am delighted to inform you that Downsend has been shortlisted for 'Independent School of the Year for Sporting Achievement', at the Independent Schools of the Year 2019 Awards.

We are hugely honoured to be nominated for these prestigious awards, won last year by some of the finest schools in the country: Wellington College, Sedbergh, Canford and Fettes to name but a few. It is a testament to our continued ambition and success in the competitive sporting world of independent schools, that Downsend is being mentioned in the same breath!

The panel were impressed with the inclusivity of our sporting approach and provision. Our school provides opportunities for all to compete regularly, in over 1000 fixtures a year, whilst providing an elite pathway and

extensive support for community sport to flourish. I am very proud that this approach has been recognised.

Well done to all our dedicated Downsend pupils and coaches, who have contributed to earning us this recognition and I will have my fingers crossed for good news when the Awards are presented in October.

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Summer Safety Advice



As the good weather has arrived, we would like to remind you of our guidelines for keeping pupils safe in the sun while at school. Pupils should wear a hat when playing outside. They may bring in their own. Pupils should apply sun cream prior to coming to school and carry a small sun cream of SPF15 or above in their PE bags to use during the school day.

Pupils have tap water available to drink in their classrooms or water bottles brought in from home and will be learning through PSHE about the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, especially in hot weather.

*Helen Ferguson, School Nurse*

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## Clubs and Practises

A reminder that all clubs and practises end this week.

To ease congestion in the car park next week, the Lower School will have the following staggered collection times:

Year 2 & 3 at 3.45pm as usual; Year 4 & 5 at 4.00pm with collection from Prep Class.

Please leave promptly after collecting your child/children.

Extended Day will run as normal up to and including Tuesday 9 July.

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## Correction - Downsend's Got Talent

We would like to apologise for an error in the 'Downsend's Got Talent' article in last week's Downsend Times, where one of the winners names was published incorrectly.

Chloe S and Sadie T were the winners of this year's competition, with their mesmerising performance which showcased a wonderfully choreographed gymnastics and dance display alongside impressive singing and musical talent. Congratulations Chloe and Sadie!



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## Year 2 Summer Concerts

### Animal Magic





Facts and jokes and a few not so factual poems and tales about animals filled the Peterborough Hall with laughter and awe this week as each Year 2 class 'trode the boards' in their end of year Summer Concerts. The children not only wrote and performed their own nonsense poems, but also learnt a range of amusing jokes, a rap, songs and a short play from Aborigine culture about a greedy frog who drank up all the water from the land. Not only did the children perform with confidence and maturity, but they also impressed with their ability to learn so many words and complex staging. The Year 2 parents and teachers were full of admiration.

*Year 2 teachers*

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## Phrases Humaines (Human Sentences) in French lessons

As a way of reflecting on our end of year French exams, and to enable us to improve our writing in Year 6, we created Human Sentences (Phrases Humaines) competing against each other to complete the sentences first. This helped to reinforce and apply our learnings in sentence structure and the metalanguage of a sentence in a fun and practical way.





*Susie Taylor and Martin Skitt*

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## Year 6 Play - "A Midsummer Night's Dream"



This week saw the boys and girls of Year 6 perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which they have been rehearsing since the start of term. After weeks of exams, trips and exciting events, it's hugely impressive that they managed to put together such an entertaining show.

The backstage team were also entirely composed of children from Year 6 (with some Year 7 and 8 helping)

and many of them picked up their jobs after a very few hours' practice. Congratulations to all of them.

This is one of William Shakespeare's most well-known plays, but it was presented here in an adaptation written by the play's director, Mr Christopher Bryant. So the well-known characters such as Puck (Izzy B), Bottom (Arya K) and the four warring lovers (Sam B, Holly H, James W and Aimee J) were joined by new creations such as Geoffrey L as a memorable Frog and Olivia H as a jittery fox. Audiences enjoyed the bickering of the King and Queen of the Fairies (Shihong F and Louise M), the daft antics of the group of actors (led by Eleanor K) and the dances of the fairies (choreographed by Mrs Elisa Hamer).

Well done to all involved for producing such an amusing and energetic show.

*Chris Bryant*

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## Year 7 Trip to Normandy 2019



Year 7 spent a lovely week in the beautiful Chateau du Baffy in Normandy. Our first full day was an historic one; we enjoyed learning about the events of the D-Day landings in WW2 followed by a reflective visit to the Bayeux British War Cemetery. This was particularly poignant following the very recent 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings. At Arromanche-les-Bains we enjoyed ice creams and souvenir shopping as well as some down-time overlooking Gold Beach and the Mulberry harbour. The visit to the 360° cinema brought

the history to life with a film that the children will never forget. We ended the day with a rather competitive French quiz whilst a very impressive thunderstorm boomed throughout the evening and night! Day 2 was French history, culture and cuisine of the local town, Bayeux. The children enjoyed the Bayeux tapestry, and had the opportunity speak French when buying fresh produce for their lunch at the market; bandanas and sunglasses were also purchased by many! The afternoon was very wet which scuppered our mini-Olympics plan, but used the sports hall and played a highly competitive tournament of crab football – much hilarity from all involved, with Alice G taking the award for the most impressive goalie! Day 3 involved a visit to a caramel factory; the children learning and seeing first-hand how caramel is made, as well as having many tasters along the way. Much caramel was purchased in the shop - we hope you actually received your gifts! Then, sugar-filled, we travelled to Juno Beach and enjoyed a picnic followed by games on the sand and lots of wave jumping. The afternoon finished with a competitive bowling session, especially amongst the staff, and an ice cream. In the evening, the children were dressed to impress for their party and awards. We danced the night away to a great playlist until it was time for bed – an amazing day and a very late night!

It was a wonderful week where memories were made and so much fun was had. The children were superbly behaved, entertaining to be around and an absolute credit to the school. Well done Year 7 and thank you to the staff team who were tireless in their support of both me and the children!

*Anna Mercer and the Year 7 Team*

## Quotes from Year 7 pupils

“I really enjoyed the beach visit because we could relax and play games as a year group and I liked being on a D-Day beach and imagining what happened 75 years ago.” Harry H.

“My favourite moments of the trip were the amazing caramel factory – there was so much information to take in and I enjoyed every minute of being there. Also it was interesting to see how everything worked when making the delicious caramel. I also loved the beach and the market as at the market we got to be independent and buy our own food in French which was fun. The beach was great as everyone could relax and have fun!” Alex E-M.

“My favourite moments of our trip were the caramel factory and trying all the different flavours and playing cricket on the beach. All in all, the trip was AMAZING!!” Oliver F

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## Mind Matters



Our Year 8 pupils all participated in a well-being workshop on Thursday morning as part of their ACE programme.

'Mind Matters' gave the students the opportunity to join mind and body as one through a carousel of mindful and informative activities.

After an introduction on how the teenage brain works and why they behave and respond emotionally rather than rationally like adults, pupils engaged in three different well-being activities.

A yoga session with Mrs Sehgal enlightened students to the benefits, for both the mind and body, of this ancient practice. Although challenging, especially for the boys, everyone had a go and enjoyed trying to balance and use their inner strength to hold poses all whilst remembering to breathe. Despite numerous wobbles, they survived although I think there were possibly a few aches and pains the next day!

Mrs Vanstone ran a session on regulating and recognising a variety of emotions. Pupils joined in a demanding quiz on recognising emotions through facial expressions – the difference between emotions such as shame and embarrassment proving particularly challenging for all! This was followed by responding to a set of 'Emotion Cards' with questions such as 'How do you calm someone down?', 'Name 5 things that might induce fear' and linking colours to emotions. Finally, we had a brief look at some scenarios that may face pupils such as the emotions they may feel during a family separation or after a death of a family member or pet. Everyone joined in the session with enthusiasm and many valuable contributions were made. A beneficial session for all!

Mrs Hawes ran a useful session on breathing techniques allowing children to focus the mind on breathing

alone and clear their heads of 'mind chatter'. They made use of the Sacred Lawn and were fully relaxed, if not asleep, by the end.

After the carousel, the year group came together for the final activity of creating a memory stone. Pupils chose a positive word, phrase, symbol or image to depict themselves and painted it onto a stone. The designs were colourful and creative, and the children found it a very therapeutic exercise. Once varnished, the stones will be placed in our well-being garden as a long-lasting memory of their time at Downsend.

As always, the pupils surprised me with their ability to fully engage in new activities and skills, enjoying a mindful, calm and beneficial morning. We hope they take away the key message of the importance of looking after their own well-being and keeping a positive mindset as they continue their demanding journey through the adolescent years ahead.

Thank you to Mrs Hawes and Mrs Vanstone for running the Mind Matters workshop with me.

Well done Year 8!

*Michelle Sehgal*

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## Artists Of The Week



This week's Artists of the Week are Ethan in 4MP and Kian in 4EF. Inspired by the bird project we have been working on at school, they have been busy creating these wonderful pieces of work at home. Well done boys!

Julia Aylen

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# **Music Update**

On Wednesday evening we were treated to a lovely Informal Music Concert by the pupils of Mr Wharf and Mr Smith. We had pupils from Year 3 to 8, and music that spanned over three hundred years! Well done to all - it was a wonderful breath of fresh air on a very humid day.



## **Music Exam Success**

Congratulations to the following pupils who all achieved **DISTINCTION** in their recent London College of Music examinations:

**Harrison Jenson-Humphries Pre-Prep**

**Isabella Cross Pre-Prep**

**Jessica Ribet Step 1**

Jessica Jane Ling Step 2

Sophie Macfarlane Step 2

Oscar Ristic Pre-Prep

Fantastic results - You should all be very proud!

*Nicole Allison*

## **Instrumental Lessons at Downsend School**



**We Have Vacancies!!**

Would your child like to learn to play the flute or cello? Trial lessons are available, please contact [nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk](mailto:nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk)



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)

We also 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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## DPA News & Events

**Downsend  
Parents'  
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

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

## Save the date: Sunday 22 September - Downsend Family Festival



Roll up, roll up..... Don't miss out on the first ever **Downsend Family Festival** taking place on Sunday 22 September from 11am at Downsend main site.

The event is designed to bring together our community to welcome all pupils new and old to the 2019/2020 academic year, from both Upper and Lower schools.

So, what is the Downsend Family Festival? Well for the first time ever, the DPA are bringing the circus to town! Come and join in the fun with some Circus Skills training, enjoy one of Dougies Downsend Dawgs and catch up with your friends.

More details to follow, but for now all you have to do is pop the date in your diary and the DPA will work their magic over the Summer holidays!

## Uniform Sale



The DPA will be holding a uniform sale in AUGUST at Downsend main site for all those last-minute uniform needs.

We will confirm the date in next week's Downsend Times, and will send a reminder out on ClassList nearer the time, so look out for that.

## Colour Run



Our colourful fun on 19<sup>th</sup> May raised a mighty total of £1564.02 for **The Children's Trust**. People of Downsend: you rock!

*The DPA Committee*

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# Downsend+



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

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

**[Summer 2019 Course Description](#)**

**[Summer 2019 Booking Form](#)**

*Rebecca Peek*

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# Camp Wilderness

Did you know that Camp Wilderness is part of the Cognita family and that they run magical woodland-based summer camps for children aged 6 to 15?

Camp Wilderness operates to the same high standards of health and safety and safeguarding you receive from Downsend School and is a trusted partner.

Camp Wilderness runs immersive summer camp experiences throughout the school summer holidays. Each camp is residential and you can choose between 3-day and 5-day camps, at six beautiful locations across the UK.

This summer, activities include bushcraft, swimming in lakes, learning how to cook over campfires, archery and Animal Encounter sessions with their partner, Zoo Labs.

As a Cognita parent you are entitled to a **20% discount** on the prices below on any booking with Camp Wilderness, using code: **COGNITA19**

## Prices

3 Day Camp: £175 per child (£140 with Cognita discount)

5 Day Camp: £300 per child (£240 with Cognita discount)

For more information or to book online, visit [www.campwilderness.co.uk](http://www.campwilderness.co.uk).



## ACTIVITIES



Wilderness Cookery  
Fire-Lighting  
Shelter-Building  
Tribes' Got Talent  
Bushtucker BBQS  
Scenario SOS  
Archery  
Swimming in Lakes  
Camping



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5-DAY CAMPS ALSO AVAILABLE IN OXFORDSHIRE EVERY  
WEEK OF THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

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## The Week Ahead

**Monday, 1**  
All Day Year 8 ACE trip to Houses of Parliament  
National Athletics Finals (Birmingham)

**Tuesday, 2**  
All Day Year 8 ACE Dragons' Den Presentations  
am Year 4 Open Box Theatre visit - Vikings  
pm Year 2 Open Box Theatre visit - Castles  
2.30pm U11A & B Boys Cricket v Rokeby (A)  
2.30pm U11C & D Boys Cricket v Rokeby (H)

**Wednesday, 3**  
pm Upper School Sports Day

**Thursday, 4**  
All Day Year 3 Forest School visit @ Downsend  
All Day Year 8 ACE trip to West Wittering tbc  
5.00pm Year 4 & 5 performance of Pantastic!

**Friday, 5**  
Assembly Upper School Sports Awards Assembly  
pm Upper School Charity Day



Week  
at a  
Glance

## Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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