



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

14 June 2019

A message from the Headmaster

Despite the appalling weather's best efforts, Downsend pupils have dodged the showers and continued to brighten our days, no more so than at Downsend Rocks on Tuesday night. Our 4 Rock Bands, containing almost fifty 8-13 year olds, kept the packed audience enthralled with their confidence, talent and teamwork. We all recognised favourite songs from our own playlists and the only sadness was when the concert had to end. £300 was raised for the school charity, The Children's Trust, to end the evening on a high note.



With Year 3 having enjoyed their residential night under canvas at Downsend on Friday, and the Year 5s currently undertaking their PGL trip as I write, the school will feel somewhat more empty next week, with the Upper School attending their own residential trips. This has given us the opportunity to start work on the

Summer Refurbishments. A reminder that this is the conversion of the Library and IT Suites into a Learning Resource Centre, along with the creation of a new Food Technology Facility, STEAM Space and Learning Support/ELSA Room. Over the weekend, these spaces will be cordoned off to facilitate the work, whilst the parking spaces around the bend near the Cedar Block and Extended Day playground, will be coned off for use by the contractors.

Please refer to the message below, from the Business Manager, for more details. Thank you for your patience and understanding; I assure you it will be all worth it in September!

Ian Thorpe

Extended Day - Change of Venue

From Monday 17th June, Extended Day will move to a different venue until the end of the Summer term. This is because there will be refurbishment works going on around the current Extended Day area.

It will now be based just off the Peterborough Hall in 3VB (almost opposite Mrs Kirkham's office). The new location will be easy to access as it is closer to the Turret entrance. The Extended Day number will remain the same (01372 385410). This number is only in use during Extended Day operating times

Seb Watts

Summer Refurbishment Programme

Our exciting programme of refurbishments to both the Lower and Upper Schools will begin on Monday 17th June. In order to minimise disruption to both children and parents, we have been working closely with our contractors to ensure the works run as smoothly as possible. As of next week:

- The Ashley Group* will cone off all parking bays highlighted in yellow on the map. These will be used solely by the Ashley Group, so we will be asking staff to park elsewhere in order to leave the route clear for traffic flowing through the site.
- There will be no deliveries by the contractors during drop-off and pick-up times.
- New signage will be in place directing the route to the Sports Complex whilst the works take place.
- Large hoardings are currently in design and will signify the start of an exciting phase of development for Downsend.
- Downsend+ will be unaffected during this period and will continue to operate as normal.

With any project of this size, in a busy school environment, we can expect some minor disruptions. We do hope to minimise any disruption to you and to your children – and we can assure you it will all be worth it when you return in September.

We will continue to keep you up to date with the Summer Refurbishment Programme and the first stages of the Creative Arts Centre build through the Downsend Times and our social channels. If you have any queries or would like to discuss any element of the programme, please contact:

[Craig Simmons](#), Business Manager / [Kevin Brewer](#), Facilities Manager.

**The Ashley Group are a recognised contractor for the schools sector, and subsequently implement robust safety and safeguarding procedures. <http://www.ashleygroup.co.uk/>.*

Download a map of the areas affected by the works [here](#).

Craig Simmons, Business Manager

Lower School Update

Wet, wild and wonderful would be the most perfect way to describe the first ever Year 3 sleepover at Downsend. The children embraced all the activities, including fun swim, bouncy assault course and parachute games, and the children showed huge maturity and determination camping in what could be best described as a deluge of rain! I know that Mrs Bayley and her team thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were very proud of all the children who took part. Forest School was equally as rainy this week and I adored seeing the pupil lead clay figures made by Tileena and Robert in Year 3.

The Year 5 PGL adventurers were also out of school this week and I look forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return this afternoon.



Moving up days began this week and it has been a pleasure to see the children 'stepping up' into their next year group. Today we welcomed many new children from other schools to the Downsend family and I know that their buddies made them feel extremely welcome!

Congratulations to the Year 4 and 5 children for performing so wonderfully at 'Downsend Rocks' this week.

This was the first time I have been able to attend this event, which was so fantastic I found it hard to keep my seat and couldn't help but dance along with the rest of the audience. I'm sure that we will see several of our performers at the O2 in the future.

Just a reminder that Year 4 to 8 Prizegiving will be taking place on Wednesday 10th July and Year 2 and 3 Prizegiving will be on Tuesday 9th July. I am also looking forward to the upcoming Year 2 and 3 concerts which are commencing next week.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

Despite the wet weather, the Upper School pupils have been happy and smiling as they have gone about their studies and activities this week. Early morning breakfast clubs, tennis squad training and after school clubs have been full of cheerful and energetic children, determined to enjoy the summer term even if things have been a little damp at times!

The Year 8 pupils are, understandably, a little nervous as they look forwards to receiving their CE and Downsend Diploma academic results on Friday, but I am confident they will all have impressed their senior schools with the quality of their papers and they celebrated with a trip to the Covent Garden to see 'School of Rock' on Thursday, which was a fabulous event and enjoyed by everyone. (However, Mr Silva was a little upset as he and Year 8 missed out on 'Katsu chicken' this week, so watch this space as I may have to see what can be done before the pupils leave for the summer..!)

The year 6 & 7 pupils have all had their exam debriefs, highlighting both their successes as well as focus areas for the future. The Upper School athletes competed brilliantly at the Regional Athletics qualifiers held at the Thames Valley Stadium on Monday and congratulations to Emerson N and (hopefully) Matthew Y for qualifying for the National finals on 1st July in Birmingham.

Tuesday evening saw one of the best nights of the year as 'Downsend Rocked'! (quite literally in fact) in the Dining Hall and it was an absolute joy to see so many pupils from across the whole school perform a broad range of rock genre pieces so brilliantly! I particularly enjoyed the Queen hit 'We are the champions' and Zoe S & Amy NJ's duet! Amazing!

The Year 6 cricket side competed in the Tonbridge '6's' tournament on Wednesday and were unbeaten, having reached the semi-finals, when rain eventually stopped play. However, Alex D and Luca C-S's reliably tell me that they would have won the tournament had it not been affected by the weather! Well done boys! The Year 6 boys also won the quarter-final of the Verry Cup on Monday - so Good Luck in the final!

The Year 6 pupils have had a real focus on Drama this week, with both rehearsals and a drama workshop

with Jeremy James Taylor organised by Mr Bryant. We are all looking forwards to the big nights on 27th and 28th June, so parents please do note these dates for your diary and come along to enjoy the shows.

Years 7 and 8 also had the opportunity to enjoy a series of fantastic drama workshops with Jeremy James Taylor, and through a series of drama games and tableaux, the children learned the importance of teamwork, imagination, flexibility and thinking outside the box.



Finally, the Upper School pupils are all looking forwards to a well earned break from school on their trips next week, so I hope that you all travel safely and have a wonderful week with your friends and staff to celebrate a fantastic year in the Upper School! We will watch all the blogs develop over the week to monitor all the action whilst you are away, so have fun; hopefully in the sun!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Published Authors in Year 2



A group of enthusiastic Year 2 writers are now published authors. The children who gave up part of their lunch time breaks during Autumn Term to plan and write stories for a competition run by 'Young Writers' have had their work printed in a collection of short stories, called 'The Story Shop'. All stories in the anthology were written by five to seven year olds from around the South East of England. Well done to Jake, Francesca, Sienna, Oliver, Mary and Holly who impressed the judges with their tales of fairies, dragons, buried treasure and sea serpents. The children were applauded in today's Assembly and presented with copies of their books.

Lisa Burns

Downsend Rocks

Our young musicians did us proud on Tuesday evening as they performed in the 2019 'Downsend Rocks'

event. Downsend really did Rock! It was a fantastic evening. Each band played 2/3 songs, and the pupils performed brilliantly, also showing great support for each other.

Nicole Allison, Head of Music





Nower Wood Biology Fieldtrip

This week Year 6 braved the rain and conducted field studies at Nower Wood, Surrey Wildlife Trust. Despite the weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed perfecting their pond dipping skills, investigating and identifying living organisms found in the pond. Baby newts and even adult newts caused great excitement as well as dragonfly exoskeletons. The pupils then had the opportunity to see the organisms under a microscope to observe their features and classify them into their correct invertebrate groups.

In the woodlands, pupils learned about the Plant Kingdom and how to classify and identify trees and plants by their features such as leaves, flowers and vascular structure. A woodland trail kept the pupils engaged as did the collection of flora as examples to stick in our books back at school.

It was a successful visit, if not a little wet, and the children gained new knowledge whilst having lots of outdoor fun. Pond dipping, as always, won the best activity of the day, enjoyed as much by the staff as the pupils.

Thank you to the staff and parent helpers for accompanying us on our visit and to Mr Newland who made several trips in the school minibus to get there and back.

Michelle Sehgal





Year 7 Commendations



Congratulations to the following children who have worked hard to achieve their next Headmaster's Commendation badge: Roman, Teddy, Evie, Bijou, Geraldine, Alex, Toby, Cillian, Sam, Ollie P, Jack L, Jamie, Harry McD, Harry McG, Emerson, Lizzy, Thomas, Gracie, George, Anita, Joel and Ryan. (Not everyone was available for the photo).

Anna Mercer

Year 7 Normandy Trip

Don't forget to encourage your children to pack their own bags for our Normandy trip next week so they know what they have for the week! Please remember to meet us in the **UPPER CAR PARK** at 7.15am and ensure your children have a packed lunch and refillable water bottle for the week. We look forward to a great week together and the weather is looking good as well!

Anna Mercer

8S Film “Blanche Neige” 2019

It was a fabulous opportunity to speak a different language confidently and creatively. It was great to see the whole class taking part and learning to put together a play themselves, create costumes and props, direct it and film it. We may see them one day behind or in front of the camera on the big screen!

As part of their ASE programme over a month 8S directed and filmed the French play of “Blanche Neige”. The scholars had all dressed up as dwarfs and different characters from Snow White. The year 8 linguists have practised their perfect French and were confident enough on occasions to add some humour, sound effects and music!

Susie Taylor





ACE Programme - School of Rock

Year 8 began their ACE programme this Thursday with a trip to see “School of Rock” at the Gillian Lynne Theatre in London.

After spending an hour enjoying the shops of Covent Garden, they thoroughly enjoyed the talented young musicians and adult performers who belted out rock numbers in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical.

Thank you to the whole year group for behaving so well throughout our trip.

Chris Bryant, Head of Drama



House Results



Norbury finally regain the lead from Wisley

Congratulations to Norbury for winning both the Upper School and Overall collection this week. Wisley have remained in the lead for the last few collections and won both the Autumn and Spring Term competitions. As you see by the results below its was incredibly tight, with only a couple of points separating the top three

houses. Well done to all the children, but especially the Top Achievers for continuing to work hard as the term moves into its final stages.

Lower School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Wisley	241.25	1	Grace K Y3
Norbury	236.32	2	Ayaan M Y2
Ranmore	235.32	3	Jackson C Y3
Headley	226.06	4	Harrison J-H Y3

Upper School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Norbury	544.97	1	Lachie T Y8
Wisley	539.25	2	Eleanor K Y6
Ranmore	522.80	3	Luke C Y8
Headley	499.08	4	Sam B Y6

Whole School	Averaged Totals	Position
Norbury	781.29	1
Wisley	780.5	2
Ranmore	758.12	3
Headley	725.14	4



Jon Albert & Helen Black

Artist of the Week



This week's Artist of the Week is Leo L in 6CB for his clay watermelon pot. Year 6 have been using pinch and coil hand-building techniques to construct their pots, inspired by fruits and vegetables! Well done, Leo; this is an excellent example!

Julia Aylen

Music Update

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.



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.

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

DPA News & Events



downsendpa@gmail.com

Summer Ball

Saturday 15 June, at Epsom Downs Racecourse



We are bursting with excitement for tomorrow's ball! Huge thanks to everyone who has helped bring this event to fruition and to all those attending. We hope you all have a splendid time.

Uniform Sale



The next Second Hand Uniform sale will take place next week:

Date: Friday 21st June

Time: 3:45pm - 4:30pm

Venue: Social Area

If anyone has any questions or would like to volunteer, please send Lynn Godwin a message at

downsendPA@gmail.com

Sports Days

Y4/Y5 – Thursday 27th June

Y2/Y3 – Friday 28th June

Y6-Y8 – Wednesday 3rd July

The DPA will be providing refreshments in the pavilion. Pimms and soft drinks will be on sale, cash or card payments accepted.

We would be grateful for any volunteers to help serve refreshments and/or set up/clear up afterwards.

If you can spare any time between 1.30pm and 5pm, please email downsendpa@gmail.com.

The DPA Committee

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

[Contact Form 2018-2019](#)

[Summer 2019 Course Description](#)

[Summer 2019 Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

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.



ACTIVITIES



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



**20% OFF
FOR COGNITA PARENTS**



WWW.CAMPWILDERNESS.CO.UK
**5-DAY CAMPS ALSO AVAILABLE IN OXFORDSHIRE EVERY
WEEK OF THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

TRUSTED PARTNERS OF

COGNITA

An inspiring world of education

Leatherhead Pre-Prep Summer Fair

DOWNSEND PRE-PREP
SUMMER FAIR

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE
2PM TILL-4:30PM

BAR

RAFFLE PRIZES

BARBEQUE

Face Painting

BEAT THE GOALIE

THE Little Gym

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Monday 17 June	am am	Yr 6 Residential Trip Departs Yr 7 French Trip Departs
Wednesday 19 June	1.45pm 2.45pm	3MB and 3CC Summer Concert 3VB and 3NL Summer Concert
Thursday 20 June	am pm	Yr 4 'Meet Your Year 5 Teacher' event LS Charity Afternoon
Friday 21 June	Assembly am am pm pm pm	Yr 5 'Downsend's Got Talent' Yr 8 Trip to Mimizan returns Ashted Pre-Prep Sports Day @ Main Site Yr 6 Residential Trip Returns Yr 7 French Trip Returns Yr 1 'Meet Your Year 2 Teacher' event
Saturday 22 June	10.30am	Yr 1 Midsummer event

Inspiring young minds

[Download School Notices](#)

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