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DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

05 July 2019

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A message from the Headmaster





Although we are approaching the final few days of the academic year, there are no tangible signs that the reserves of energy are running out. The last week has seen a remarkable performance of 'Pantastic', the Year 4 and 5 production brilliantly directed by Miss Friend and so expertly performed by a cast of around 140 talented 9 and 10 year olds. On Tuesday evening, I was privileged to watch the U11 cricketers win the Surrey Cup with a comprehensive victory over KCS, Wimbledon. The Year 8s have visited the Houses of Parliament, and convinced some very supportive parents in the Dragon's Den to support their initiatives. The Upper School enjoyed a wonderful Sports Day in the sunshine on Wednesday, as well as a supportive Charity Afternoon today.

For many, the highlight was putting on a high vis jacket and explore the building works in Tregenna, something that all pupils and staff enjoyed on Tuesday. With three days to go, we look forward to the final festivities next week, and then completing the next exciting phase of our Expansion Project, in readiness for your return in September.



Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update



This week in the Lower School has been absolutely 'Pantastic!' Year 4 & 5 were simply outstanding in their performances of this musical adaptation of Peter Pan yesterday evening. The magic was tangible and the enjoyment and energy that the children showed was unfaltering. Every child knew every word, every move and every gesture and they shone together as a team. Particular congratulations to Louis S, Alexander C, Lucy W, Ella P-K, Lily B, and Joshua G who took the main roles, wonderfully supported by Niji S, Thomas D, Keira F, Andrew M-T, George W, Toby T, Charlie T and a wonderful ensemble cast. Huge thanks to the Year 4 and 5 teaching team and a particular congratulations and thanks to Miss Friend and Mrs Allison for directing this stunning performance. I'm sure that Year 4, who made up the chorus this year, are already looking forward to their time in the leading roles next year.

This week, we welcomed back Downsends favourites, Kenn and Iain from The Openbox Theatre Company. Year 2 and Year 4 enjoyed their workshops enormously, with Year 2 learning about life in a castle and Year 4 learning about the Vikings. Visits like this are a wonderful way of bringing the curriculum to life and I know that the children will remember this experience for a long time to come.



Academic congratulations this week go to Sawyer K and James W in Year 4 for their impressive work on a piece of factual writing about a sport of their own creation. I'm not convinced that skateboard hockey and trampoline ball are going to catch on any time soon, but the structure and style of your writing was genre specific and fantastically competed. Well done too to Louis N in 4MP who was awarded his Primary Grade Modern Jazz with Merit this week – super dancing, Louis.

With prizegiving on the horizon for next week, please do note the expectations of pupil appearance in this newsletter. Prizegiving is a wonderful, formal event where we hope children will feel proud to be part of the Downsend community. It would be wonderful if they could all look as smart as possible. If you have any issues with uniform, please do mention these to your child's form tutor in advance of the day and we will do our best to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Lower School children for their wonderful commitment to their learning, both academic and social, this year. You have amazed us with your hard work, tenacity and sparkle and made every day a joy. Thank you too to those Downsend parents who have been so supportive of the children and staff this year. The collaboration between school and home is vital for a successful and happy education and we are always so grateful for your positivity and support. And last but by no means least, I would like to thank my amazing team of Lower School teachers, teaching assistants and Mrs Albert for a truly wonderful year. The opportunities that you have given the children have been innovative, engaging and varied and to do so much whilst maintaining good humour and a wonderful team spirit really is special.

I would like to wish all of our Lower School families a wonderfully happy summer and look forward to hearing about some of the amazing places you've visited, and the adventures you've been on when you return safely to us in September.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

As I write my last Downsends Times Upper School update, I am delighted to report successes in every aspect of school life.

The Year 6 drama production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last week was a triumph of acting, music, stage craft and technical production and I must congratulate Mr Bryant, Miss Newhall and all the pupils on a fabulous set of performances. The Public speaking teams were outstanding last Tuesday in their 'Celebration of Public Speaking' and well done to Mrs Vanstone and Mrs Dinnage on all their hard work in this area; some of our pupils could show the politicians in Westminster a thing or two about communication and change management!

On a linked theme, I had the pleasure of taking the Year 8 pupils to the Houses of Parliament on Monday, where we visited both the House of Lords (who were debating the future of seaside towns and how to calculate inflation rates!) and the House of Commons, where the pupils showed great respect and empathy as I showed them the plaque behind Jo Cox's seat, in memory of an MP who believed we had 'more in common' than that which divides us.

The ACE (after common entrance) programme has been a huge success this year and the pupils have been simply charming to spend time with. That was further evidenced with one of the best ever Dragon's Den workshops on Tuesday, and our thanks go to Mr Folland, Mrs Raincock, Mr Tenant, Mrs Harding, Mrs Denyer and Mrs Young who gave up their time so generously to lead Marketing, Sales, Finance and Managing Director masterclasses for our pupils (who also looked fabulous in their business attire; a sure sign of things to come!).

Mr Silva has run the programme brilliantly this year and I'm pleased that the weather shone on him and the children when we spent the day at West Wittering yesterday in glorious sunshine. Following their Lifeguard talk the pupils had a great day playing beach cricket, frisbee and swimming in lovely warm water, all followed by ice creams and lollies of course!

On the sporting front congratulations go to Emerson N and Matthew Y who were placed 7th and 10th respectively in the National Athletic Finals in Birmingham.

In addition, a real highlight of the year took place on Tuesday when the U11A Boys' cricket team defeated Rokeby in the Surrey Cup semi-finals and then went on to beat KCS Wimbledon in the final to become the Surrey Champions. Both performances were incredibly impressive and showed how, with great collaboration and teamwork both individual and team based skills can come together to create great success! Congratulations to the team and to Mr Albert on an outstanding achievement.



So, you can see why I am so proud of all the pupils and staff in the Upper School; this has been a stellar year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful summer holiday!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

End of Term

Tuesday 9 July is the last day for Extended Day next week. On Wednesday 10 July, collection for Years 2 & 3 is at 12 noon.

Seb Watts

Prizegiving Appearance



As you are aware Prize Givings are approaching fast. You will receive more logistical information about the events next week, however, can you please assist us in ensuring your child is looking as smart as possible for these important occasions.

Lower School

Boys: Short haircut, clean shirt and tie, school shorts & socks, polished shoes.

Girls: Hair tidy/tied back, summer dress, white ankle socks, polished shoes.

Please note: Blazers must be in school, but the decision as to whether they will be worn will be made on the day, depending on the weather.

Jumpers and cardigans will NOT be needed.

Helen Black

Upper School

Boys: Short haircut, smart blazer, clean shirt/trousers/tie, school socks, polished school shoes (NO TRAINERS).

Girls: hair tidy/tied back, smart blazer, clean kilt, white shirt, white ankle socks (NO TRAINER SOCKS), polished school shoes (NO TRAINERS), no jewellery other than permitted earrings.

Please note: Jumpers will NOT be needed

Jon Albert

House Results - A Close Fight to the Finish



As we added up the final scores of the term for the various Sports Days, House Point collections and Inter House Sports, the points between first and second place couldn't be tighter with only a single point separating first and second place. Wisley has dominated this academic year, but Norbury worked extremely hard this term to become the overall winners of the Summer Term. They will be enjoying a well-deserved and delicious winning house lunch on Monday.

As this academic year comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all of the teachers who have lead a house this year: Sally Temlett, Michelle Sehgal, Marc Popham, Fiona Fitch, Pete Mitchell, Jo Hawes, Ljubica Carmody and Julia Aylen.

Without these teachers and their passion for their Houses, the friendly competitiveness and house spirit would not be as tangible and special as it is.

Lower School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Norbury	250.3	1 st	Sienna Vandrau – Y4
Wisley	250.2	2 nd	Freya Van der Hoeven – Y4
Ranmore	240.7	3 rd	Harry Hardwick – Y4
Headley	237.2	4 th	Isabella Dhawan – Y5

Upper School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Norbury	574.8	1 st	Amy Nelson-Jones – Y8
Wisley	572.6	2 nd	Jamie Zachariah – Y7
Ranmore	551.5	3 rd	Arthur Cope – Y7
Headley	530.9	4 th	Geoffrey Lau – Y6

Whole School	Averaged Totals	Position
Norbury	825.1	1 st
Wisley	822.8	2 nd
Ranmore	792.2	3 rd
Headley	768.1	4 th

Helen Black & Jon Albert

Transport

The new bus routes have just been announced for September running through to July 2020. For the next academic year we are planning to manage the Home to School transport mainly by using the school's own vehicles which will be driven by our own staff.

We anticipate a huge demand for the service and seats on the buses will be limited. Applications from parents for school transport will be accepted on a first come first served basis. If you are interested please contact Wendy Bruce as soon as possible on transport@downsend.co.uk . To avoid disappointment I would encourage you to action without delay. Applications will close after Tuesday 9th July 2019.

Craig Simmons, Business Manager

Castle Capers

Earlier this week, Year 2 returned to the Middle Ages to explore life in a castle with visiting Drama group, OpenBox. From finetuning their archery skills to lending a hand with the servants' chores, the children were able to put this term's Castles topic into context while having great fun. They impressed with their knowledge and good listening skills.



Year 2 teachers

Year 6 - First Aid



As part of the Year 6 PSHE programme First Aid is the module covered in the Summer Term. The pupils look at emergency situations they might come across both in and out of the school environment, such as an asthma attack or choking as well as learning how to make a 999 call. In addition, the course ends with a practical session led by our nurse Helen Ferguson where the children have to show their proficiency at placing a casualty in the recovery position and vital CPR. Yesterday, due to the lovely weather this session took place on the sacred lawn and the pupils were put to the test on these vital and potentially life-saving skills.

Dee Vanstone

Year 6 Balloon Debate

Since half term, Year 6 have been preparing speeches to prevent themselves from being thrown out of a hot air balloon!

Each member of the year was asked to adopt a character from fiction, history or current affairs. They chose an eclectic mix of personalities from Marie Curie and Muhammad Ali to Amelia Earhart and even Santa made an appearance.

Many of the speeches were very impressive. The finalists were Alex A, Emma F, Charlie B, Arya K, Joseph C, Holly H, Olivia B and Harrison G-S. The 2 overall winners were Joseph C and Arya K who chose to represent Sir Winston Churchill and Tim Berners-Lee respectively



Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Chris Bryant

Board Games in Year 7



Year 7 have spent the last couple of weeks in English creating board games based on books they have read. They worked in pairs and had to produce an attractive box and board, counters, cards, a sheet of rules - everything except the dice!

The games were completed last week after a few last-minute touches and then given to others in Year 7 to play. This was followed by scrutiny and feedback from the Year 6s, a critical bunch and the finalists were selected.

There were some interesting ideas although the feedback included a lack of clarity with rules, things missing from the game or an inappropriately designed box.

Congratulations go to the top three games selected:

3rd: Mia Krause and Alexa with their 'Pig Escape',

2nd: Aniyah and Anita with their 'Escape (Boy in the Striped Pyjamas edition) and huge congratulations to the eventual winners –

Joel and Jamie who learnt that good teamwork can reap rewards! Their game – 'Harry Potter in Money Madness' which was contained in a wonderfully original triangular box was enjoyed by all who played it and one Year 6 even said they would buy it if it made it into the shops!

Well done to all Year 7s for their work and inventive ideas.

Dee Vanstone

Y8 ACE Update



ACE is a programme of activities and enrichment at the end of the Summer term for Year 8 pupils and is a reward for their hard work over the course of Year 8.

This week has been action-packed, starting off with a trip to the Houses of Parliament and Covent Garden on Monday. Pupils were able to get a sense of the history of how Parliament works before spending some time shopping round the various stalls and shops in Covent Garden.

This was followed up on Tuesday with pupils donning their business attire as they set out to finalise their sales pitches and presentations in order to impress in the Dragons' Den. Three awards were then given out for the Best Idea, Best Presentation and Best Teamwork. Well done to all, you were very impressive.

Wednesday pupils were set a Languages and Tourism task where they had to research a foreign language and create a tourist guide and phrasebook for someone new to the language. It was great to see such variety in the languages chosen and lovely to see the end products being of such high quality.

Thursday was a tough day - pupils were treated to a day at West Wittering beach. It's a hard life sometimes, but today it certainly wasn't. After a brief safety talk by one of the lifeguards, pupils were able to paddle in the water to cool off, whilst playing a mixture of cricket, rounders and other beach games. All in all a brilliant day and well worth the journey down.

Friday is a little bit quieter with the Sports Awards assembly this morning, with several cups being given out to some of our best sporting superstars. This will be followed by some Bollywood dancing and then fun in the sun with the Charity Afternoon.

It's safe to say that this has been a truly fantastic week for all Year 8 pupils – if only all weeks were like this! Everyone in the year has been brilliant company in their last full week at Downsend. My thanks to all the staff who have led or run activities over the course of the ACE programme as without their time, these events do not happen.

Mr Silva, Deputy Head of Upper School

Year 8 - Dragon's Den



Following a successful planning morning on Friday the Year 8s arrived looking very much ready for business on Dragons' Den day. Their brief was to design a product to sell to 'The Entertainer' which encouraged interactive play for a specific age group. They had a theoretical £200,000 to spend! Having completed their market research with the Lower School children on Friday, they got straight to work on their designs. First stop was a Master Class with one of the Dragons – either Advertising and Marketing, MD, Operations, Sales

or Finance. Once the MDs of each group had helped to organise their teams, it was down to business. Whether that meant visiting and getting advice from the Finance Dragon about how to complete a P&L spreadsheet, filming an advert for TV or the internet or creating a visual of the product, all were busy and very quickly learnt the importance of deadlines!

It was now time to pitch their product to the Dragons. Each team was given 5 minutes to pitch and then they had to answer a number of gruelling questions from the dragons. The products designed were most impressive and I am certain that the winning product would have a shout on the Junior Dragons' Den!

Congratulations to all the Year 8s but specifically to the winning teams:

Winning Team: 'Shift It' with their 'Krazy Kat's Kradle'. (Sonny, Jake, Joanna, Katherine, Rhinanna and Zoe.)

Best Presentation: Felix Toys with their 'Vortex SL 300' (Ben M, Warren, Toby, Harry Mc, Ava and Harry G).

Best Idea: Teck Time with their 'Tag It' (Leah, Matthew, Tilly, Ben W, Sofia H and Jules)

A huge thank you to the dragons, Mr Tennant, Mrs Harding, Mrs Raincock, Mrs Denyer, Mrs Young and Mr Folland, for giving up their valuable time to assist with what is such a worthwhile and educational experience for the Year 8s as part of their ACE.

Please keep an eye out for these future entrepreneurs.

Lee Silva and Dee Vanstone

Year 8 - ACE Languages Morning mercredi, 3 juillet 2019

As part of their ACE programme Year 8 participated in a Languages morning. The pupils selected 15 different languages including Somalian, Swahili, Italian, Korean, Arabic, Russian, Polish, Afrikaans, Croatian, Irish, Filipino, Hawaiian and Mandarin amongst others to create a phrase book for their chosen language. They then had to use their research on their chosen language, to teach a ten-minute lesson to the rest of the Year group, incorporating cultural customs and useful Top 10 phrases. I think we have some "budding" teachers in the making with excellent language knowledge, accents and a definite desire to "dish out debits" and experience the joys of classroom management!

It was a fabulous opportunity to learn about a different language confidently and creatively. It was great to see the whole Year Group taking part and learning to plan a lesson collaboratively. Please come back and teach GCSE at Downsends in years to come. We wish all our Year 8 Linguists continued success and passion for their chosen languages!



Martin Skitt and Susie Taylor

Artists Of The Week 2018-2019

There has been so much fantastic art work created throughout the year. We've enjoyed seeing you create refined and detailed drawings, develop your painting techniques, experiment with printmaking and get messy with modroc and clay! Well done to everyone for getting involved and being wonderfully creative! Here are our Artists of the Week 2018-19...



Julia Aylen



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.

DPA News & Events

**Downsend
Parents'
Association**



Registered Charity No. 1116557

downsendpa@gmail.com

Feel the Downsend Family Festival vibe – Sunday 22 September



Glastonbury is so last year darling... This year we have the first ever Downsend Family Festival happening on Sunday 22 September from 11am onwards.

New for the 2019/20 academic year, the DPA are pulling out all the stops to help you keep the summer vibe alive, and bringing a little festi-fun to Downsend main site! We invite all Lower & Upper school parents, children, staff, friends and family to don their festi-chic and come along to this brilliant, Downsend first.

Amongst other amazing activities, you will be able to enjoy a visit to the Big Top to take part in a Circus Skills workshop with Circus Sensible (www.circussensible.co.uk), take part in or enjoy watching the Downsend Dog Show, enjoy some awesome live music and get your festi-glitter fix with our wonderful face painting team (all bio glitter of course!). You will also be able to enjoy one of Dougies famous Downsend Dawgs, fill up on sweet treats and chill out whilst listening to some awesome tunes with a drink from our refreshments stand.

Oh, and don't worry if it rains, you won't need to bring your wellies, we have a contingency plan.....

What else could we do to make this Festival even more appealing? Oh, how about we make the event FREE to get in? We know..... we can't believe it either!

All you have to do now is put this in your diary and then wait for the registration link to come out via Class List. Sorry, we know it's a pain having to register, but it helps the DPA keep a track on numbers....

We can't wait to see you all there! If you have any questions, get in touch with the team at downsendPA@gmail.com

Downsend Parents' Association - Annual General Meeting

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Wednesday 25th September 2019



All parents are warmly invited to the DPA AGM on Wednesday 25th September in the pavilion from **7.30pm**. The agenda includes a financial review of the previous year, discusses the successes and learning points for the events held this year, considers funding requests and plans for the forthcoming year. We'd especially love to see anyone who's interested in working more closely with the DPA or joining our committee in the future. We'll provide the refreshments; you provide the enthusiasm!

Uniform Sale



NEXT UNIFORM SALE

Friday 16th August 2019

From: 10am - 12pm

Where: Drama Room

UNIFORM INTAKE

Parents wishing to sell or donate uniform can leave any items at the Admin office from 15th July - 18th July 2019

between 9am and 12pm

Please note the following:-

The shop sells only **current** Downsend Logo uniform and sports kit. Please be aware that we do not accept white shirts or blouses or grey shorts or trousers, shoes, trainers or boots. Any items you would like to sell, please make sure they are cleaned and a completed label attached with a safety pin, labels can be found on the Downsend website or on the wall in the Turret Entrance. Should you wish to donate the full proceeds, please stipulate "DPA donation" on the label. The shop reserves the right to dispose of uniform which is unfit for sale, or which remains unsold after 18 months.

Any questions please email Lynn at downsendpa@gmail.com

The DPA Committee

Ashtead Pre-Prep - Super Sports Day



The sun shone down on Wednesday morning and First Steps were ready for action. The 'All around the World' theme of their Sports Morning went down a treat as the children raced from Mexico to Australia and then on to Italy! Both the parents and the Headteacher were amazed at how well the children kept within their running lanes and knew exactly what to do for each race. I was not sure who had the biggest smiles, the Mums, Dads and Grandparents or the children themselves. It was a wonderfully memorable event brilliantly organised by Mrs James and her team. Thank you!

Downsend+



Our action packed programme of activities for the Summer Holidays at Downsend + kicks off next Friday 12 July and runs until Wednesday 28 August 2019 (Closed Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 2019).

We still have places available on the following courses:

Tennis - 5 mornings, week commencing 15th July

Hockey - 5 afternoons, week commencing 15th July

Booking forms are available on our website or via the links below.

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

Inspiring young minds

Download School Notices

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