



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL



Proud to be nominated in the  
**Independent Schools of  
the Year 2019 Awards**

# DOWNSEND TIMES

**20 September 2019**



## **A message from the Headmaster**

This week, our Heads of Pre-Prep and myself attended the 2-day Cognita School Improvement Network in County Hall, next to the London Eye. It was ironic that the event focused so heavily on collaboration, achievement and being future-focused given the stalemate that currently typifies the neighbouring Houses of Parliament! It was reassuring to share the very best practice from around the UK, aimed at promoting the ideals of a Cognita education: Academic Excellence, Character Development and Global Citizenship. I was greeted by this same sense of optimism when I returned to Downsend for the Upper School 'Meet the Tutors' Evening on Tuesday. Each Year group occupied elements of the new facilities off the Tregenna Hall to hear about the detail of the year ahead, led by the relevant Head of Year. Following this, there was a session GCSE details and boards for Year 8 parents, as they will be finalising their child's options next term. Parents commented on how detailed the preparations have been and enjoyed

meeting our Heads of English, Maths, MFL and Science, all of whom presented on the evening. Much like the building work, we are leaving no stone unturned!

At the various Curriculum Evenings, and on the sides of the sports pitches, I have been struck by the air of optimism and positivity around the school. Visitors comment on how everyone always appears to be smiling at Downsend, which is lovely to hear. I do hope that the DPA Circus Skills Fun Day on Sunday will offer up more opportunities for fun and happiness and look forward to seeing you here for the first DPA event of the academic year. Our parents are our biggest advocates and support school projects in so many positive ways, so do come along – who knows what you will learn to juggle on the day?

*Ian Thorpe*

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## Lower School Update



This term has seen the introduction of a new 'Rewards and Sanctions' system in the Lower School and your children may have been telling you all about it already. This new system is called TrackIt Lights and it is a wonderful way to track the children's behaviour, but what is particularly great about it, is that it has created more of an opportunity to reward your children and spotting them being good and trying their best.

We have seen such a fantastic response in each class because it is visual and immediate, as the children get to see that they are earning pluses for many things such as, being on task or working hard. They enjoy seeing their plus totals increase and the fact that each time they earn a plus it makes a little sound. This also spurs on the other members of the class, as they are also keen to earn their pluses too.

The Lower School tutors too, are really enjoying this new system and the positive effect it is having on the children in their classes. I am so delighted to hear from the children how much they are enjoying it. 3CC really enjoyed earning their pluses yesterday afternoon in RS and were so eager to see the system on the board so that they could see their totals.

If you have any questions about the Lower School Rewards and Sanctions, I would be delighted to discuss this further with you.

*Helen Black, Deputy Head Lower School*

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## Upper School Update

Pupils across the Upper School have now settled into their academic routines and, as they are getting used to a new academic structure, greater expectations and a sense of freedom, I wanted to say well done to the Year 6 pupils in particular for getting themselves so well organised in form times. Its been great to meet so many parents this week who are commenting on how happy and excited children are to come to school, and in my lesson observations this week I can see how proactive and engaged the pupils are across the curriculum. Our HMWK timetable is well underway now, so please do encourage your children to take both ownership and pride in their work. On that note, well done to Mr Silva on launching Class Charts in the Upper School. Your children may have mentioned that their efforts in class are now being instantly recorded via this new and fabulous behaviour management system, which all Upper School teachers are now using. This means that effort, progress and, where necessary, challenges to behaviour are being closely monitored and recorded, prompting great conversations between teachers and tutors to support and reward your children.

On Tuesday evening it was an absolute pleasure to see so many parents at our 'Meet the Tutors' evening in the new Tregenna Hall facilities, so thank you for taking the time to join us. Successful education is about a triangular partnership between staff, pupils and parents, and your clear engagement and support for the pupils was abundant on the night. In addition, we spoke to those parents of Year 8 children staying on for GCSE studies with us, and outlined the Downsend GCSE offer covering the core compulsory subjects as well as options including Further Maths, Art & Design, Computer Studies, Drama, PE and Music. This is an exciting time for the Upper/Senior school and I am grateful to those staff who spoke on the evening and for the great Q&A session that followed with our parents. You are key stakeholders in the future of the school and your input and feedback is really useful for us as we finalise the planning for the next three year programme through to our first GCSE results in the summer of 2023!

In terms of sporting achievements this week congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI who had a thrilling 5-3 Surrey Prep Schools cup win over Aldro in extra time. On Wednesday there were victories for the senior boys in the 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> teams against both Cumnor House and Feltonfleet, whilst the girl's had a brilliant Inter House Hockey competition won by Norbury! The Year 6 girls had great fixtures against Danes Hill on Tuesday, with a win, a loss and a draw, and the Year 6 boys faced Rokeby on the same afternoon with some great results from the A's through to the E teams. I am particularly pleased with how well behaved and courteous our children have been at tea after the matches. Well done!

As we look forwards to next week can I remind you all about Individual and Form photographs on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September; so please do ensure your children have smart uniforms and hair cuts as usual for that day.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you for all the hard work and planning Mrs Sehgal and the 'Well Being' team have put into our 'Global Be Well Day' on the same day; it promises to be a fantastic event which will highlight the importance of balance and well-being in all our lives.

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

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## School Photographs



Individual photographs of all pupils will be taken on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. There will not be the opportunity for sibling photographs.

Children should wear the following uniform:

Lower School (Years 2, 3, 4, 5)

Girls: summer dresses, red cardigans, white ankle socks and hair bands appropriate to school uniform

Reminder: jewellery, other than watches, is not permitted in the Lower School

Boys: short trousers, school socks (or short grey socks), white shirts, ties, grey jumpers

Upper School (Years 6, 7, 8)

Girls: winter kilts, white blouse, white ankle socks, black jumpers and hair bands appropriate to school uniform

Boys: long trousers, white shirts, ties, grey jumpers

*Seb Watts*

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# School Charity

MUFTI - 4 October - wear something **GREEN**



This year we are supporting **Love Me, Love My Mind**, kick starting our fundraising with a mufti day on *Friday 4 October*, when a representative from the charity will be talking to the children in our whole school assembly.

Please make a diary note to wear something **green** eg socks, T-shirt, hair band in acknowledgement of the charity.

Class and form teachers will collect £2 from each pupil during registration on Friday 4 October.

This year our food based events will support a local food bank / homeless charity whilst our musical and performance events will continue to support the Children's Trust Musical Box Appeal.

Thank you for your support in raising such incredible amounts for the school charity - we were delighted to be able to hand over £14,000 to the Children's Trust this summer.

*Beth Day - Charity Co-ordinator*

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## Collection from Clubs, Matches and Practices

Just a reminder for parents about the collection of pupils at the end of clubs, sports matches and practices.

Please remember to collect at the agreed time and place and not ask the children to meet you at a different

venue such as the turret. This is primarily to ensure the safety of the children as we are unable to monitor their safe collection, if you encourage them to meet you somewhere else.

Please be punctual. If you are late for any reason, the person taking the club, practice or match will take the pupil to Extended Day if the agreed meeting time is **before** 5 30pm.

If it is after that time, the member of staff taking the club, match or practice, will stay with the child until you arrive. They may well telephone to find out when you are likely to arrive.

*Seb Watts*

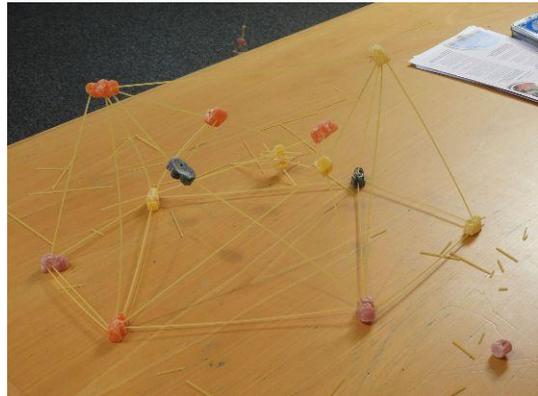
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## Downsend 'Stretch' Programme

As I'm sure you will be aware, last Friday was the first session of our new Stretch Programme. Having selected their choices after a 'Stretch Fair' at the end of the previous week, pupils engaged with their first options of the year. As we witness daily, what makes a child confident, happy and successful cannot always be taught via sedentary studies in a classroom; engaging children to take ownership for themselves is the key to unlocking hidden potential. By providing choice to our pupils, we hope we can ignite their curious minds, enabling them to make decisions for themselves which in turn enhances their abilities to problem solve. By providing them with choices to make we hope they become open to new experiences, learning new skills and different ways of thinking. With options being populated across the Upper School years of 6 – 8, we hope they become more confident in themselves, prepared to explore their passions, whilst at the same time develop the important social skills required in later life.

It was lovely to witness the enthusiasm for a variety of new activities, while at the same time, overcome fresh challenges. I am delighted that all children were able to take part in an activity that they had chosen to engage with and witness the buzz at the end of day. Each term a new challenge and opportunity will be presented to stretch their experiences further.





The options for this term have been: *Virtual Reality; Master Song Writers; Downsend Master Chef; Young Engineers; Dissection & Microscopy; Sports Fitness & Nutrition; Engineering & Design; Learning Languages for fun; Global Cultures; Reasoning; Fashion Design; The Greatest Shows; Orienteering; History of Art; Philosophy 4 Children; French Film Club; Game of Life.*

Mr Albert

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## Year 2 Fun in the Sun - Teddy Bear's Picnic





An excited buzz filled Downsend yesterday as Year 2 headed off into the woods for an afternoon of games and fun with their teddy bears. The glorious sunshine added to the excitement of parachute fun, bear (as opposed to beetle) drive, team games and a time to relax and read a story to their teddies, followed by a delicious picnic. Back inside the children enjoyed a cinema session to watch the film 'The Teddy Bears Picnic'. Tired but very happy little bears and owners made their way home!

*The Year 2 Team*

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## Y5 Trip to Hampton Court





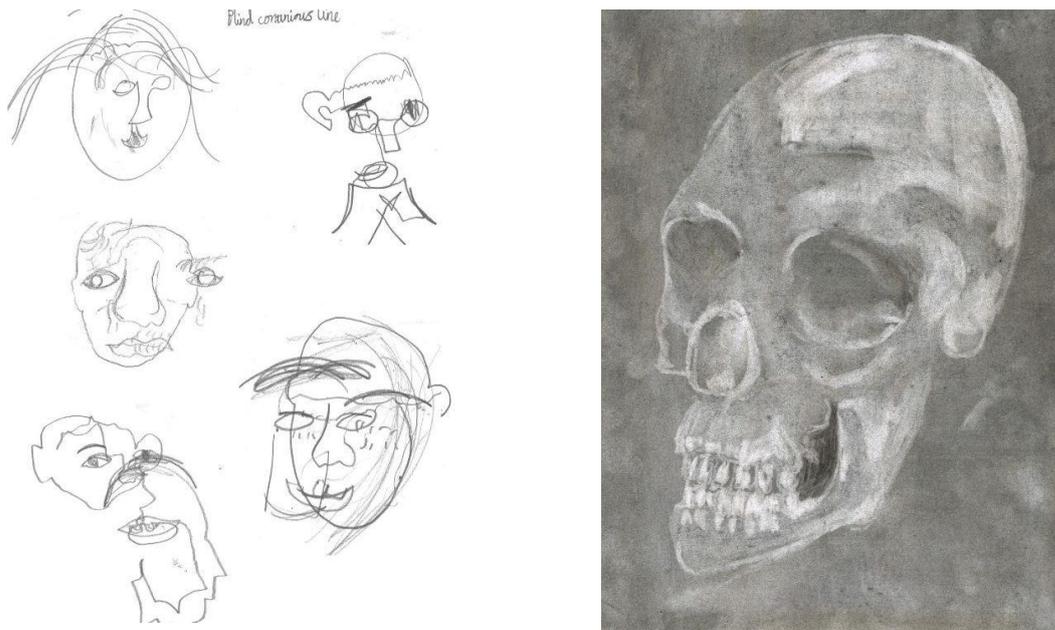
On Tuesday, Year 5 spent an amazing day at Hampton Court Palace. The day was beautiful sunshine, as they spent their time exploring Henry VIII's apartments, his kitchens, the tennis courts and the formal gardens. The children enjoyed getting lost in the maze, and I was particularly impressed by Aiden H who managed to find the exit in less than a minute. We had a lovely picnic lunch in the Tiltyard; thankfully there is no longer any jousting there. Finally, all of Year 5 spent a fantastic time learning about Tudor fun and games in a workshop. A wonderful day was had by all and great thanks to the Year 5 tutors and the parent helpers who all helped to make the day so enjoyable.

*Helen Black, Head of History*

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## Artist of the Week

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their Portrait project. After some amusing abstract continuous line drawings, their focus has turned to shape and proportion. This 'in progress' charcoal study of a skull by Jacob in 7BD is fantastic. We can't wait to see the finished piece!



*Julia Aylen*

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## Music Update



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## Music Ensembles

Please take note of timings for music ensembles. Pupils should see Mrs Allison if they have any questions.

**AUTUMN TERM 2019**

**YEAR 2&3 CHOIR**  
FRIDAY MORNING BREAK, 10.00 A.M.

**YEAR 4&5 CHOIR**  
MONDAY MORNING BREAK, 10.00 A.M.

**US CHOIR**  
MONDAY MORNING BREAK, 10.40 A.M.



**DOWNSEND MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**WHOLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**

Monday 12.45 p.m. Lower School  
Thursday 1.45 p.m. Upper School  
Friday 8.00 a.m. ALL



**DOWNSEND MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**LOWER SCHOOL ORCHESTRA**

TUESDAYS 12.45 P.M.



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

**LOWER SCHOOL GUITAR CLUB**



Thursdays  
12.20 p.m. in the  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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## Instrumental Lessons at Downsend

### We Have Vacancies!!

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 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, Piano and Voice.

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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## Downsend + Holiday Club



We are now taking bookings for October Half Term and Christmas holidays 2019. Course information and booking forms are available to download from our website. If you would like any further information on our holiday club at Downsend, please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861280.

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## Downsend Parents Association



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### First Ever Downsend Festival – Sunday 11am-3pm



What an AMAZING response we have had to the first-ever DPA Downsend Festival with over 370 parents, children and staff registered to attend!

Are you intrigued as to what we are going to use the Hay Bales for? Don't miss out, come and join the fun! Entry to the event is free, there is a small fee for entry to the Dog Show and don't forget to bring your pennies as there are some items to purchase. Fancy yourself as a bit of a Greatest Showman or a Bear Grylls wannabe? Come and visit us to learn some new skills with Circus Sensible or Jay Bristow from Woodland Forest School.

The Festival opens at 11am, with the big Circus Show kicking off at 12 noon and the Dog Show at 1.45pm.

Treat yourself to one of Dougie's Downsend Dawgs, or the absolutely stunning Nia Cummings Gingerbread men, whilst your children enjoy all the fun of the festival!

If you have a pampered pooch, why not enter them into the Downsend Dog Show – more details of how to enter can be found on Class List.

Keep your eyes on Class List over the weekend for any 'wet weather' change of plans..... and if you have any questions, let us know [@DownsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:@DownsendPA@gmail.com).

## 2019/2020 Class Reps announced



We are proud to announce the army of awesome Class Reps for this year who have kindly offered to support us all with timely school related information and the opportunity to continue to build our strong links to each other (see chart below).

Thank you to all those inspirational volunteers, we really appreciate everything you do and the DPA look forward to working with you closely this year.

You may note that there are a few vacancies across Y2, Y7 and Y8 and we would strongly encourage parents to consider standing as Class Rep this year. If you are considering volunteering but don't know what being a Class Rep involves, please get in touch with Charlotte in the DPA ([downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com)) and she will gladly talk you through it. It isn't too demanding on your time, we promise.

Class Reps are a critical conduit between School, the DPA and parents, without them we risk being out of touch, so be brave and volunteer if you can!

YEAR GROUP						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>2YDV</b> Abbie Scudamore & Alex Jenson- Humphreys	<b>3NL</b> Melanie Dhawan	<b>4EF</b> Alex Dale*	<b>5LC</b> Katie Seymour & Melissa Pigott	<b>6CB</b> Carole Ann Geddes & Vivian Cavicchioli	<b>7JA</b> Alex Thompson	<b>8AD</b>
<b>2CW</b>	<b>3CC</b> Alex Thompson	<b>4JS</b> Ruth Birley	<b>5PM</b> Mark Burgess & Lynda Mackie	<b>6MD</b> Jennie Kirkland & Kay Ofo	<b>7BD</b>	<b>8DK</b>
<b>2CC</b>	<b>3ST</b> Mark Burgess & Kimberley Williams	<b>4MP</b> Emma Kavanagh* & Gail Wotherspoon- Hughes*	<b>5CD</b> Chantal Hannah* & Anna Hopson	<b>6MS</b> Nikki Kemp	<b>7FF</b>	<b>8MSg</b>
<b>2SB</b>	<b>3VB</b> Cindy Ling & Victoria Driscoll	<b>4RS</b> Nia Cummings*	<b>5AG</b> Sally Gilbert* & Kate Walker	<b>6ST</b> Lynsey Read	<b>7CM</b>	<b>8MSw</b>
* Denotes DPA Committee member						

**Join us for the DPA AGM – Wednesday 25 September @ 7.30pm**



An important date in the DPA calendar is our Annual General Meeting! Join us for a drink and some nibbles as we walk you through what we achieved in the last year, and our ambitious plans for the coming year.

All parents or guardians are encouraged to join Leanne, Lou and the DPA team on Wednesday 25 September in the Pavilion from 7.30pm to learn more about our work, and if you are interested in volunteering, this would be a great chance to find out how you can help.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

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**MacMillan Coffee Morning – Friday 27 September @ 08.30am in the Pavilion**



What better way to start your Friday than with some delicious cake, a hot drink and some wonderful company. Please join Charlotte and the DPA team at the Pavilion on Friday 27 September at 08.30am to raise money for the brilliant work that MacMillan do, and maybe meet some new friends.

If you love to bake and would like to donate something for the Coffee Morning, we would very much welcome that. Drop Charlotte a line and she will let you know how you can help [@DownsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:@DownsendPA@gmail.com).

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## INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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