

# DOWNSEND TIMES

04 October 2019



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL



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



This week's Artist of the Week is Darcey in 4EF. Year 4 have been developing their painting techniques and have captured the last moments of summer in these beautiful pieces of work.

*Julia Ayles*

## A Message from the Headmaster



This time last week, Downsend was awash with pyjama parties, mind yoga, chocolate meditation and all things wellbeing. Children were encouraged to think about the key factors of sleep, social media and healthy eating, amongst other key variables and we were thrilled to have such a focus on these key factors. Downsend is a school that tries to keep everything in balance: exam success, sporting prowess, creativity and problem-solving, politeness and consideration for others. We are continuing this theme with our Charity Mufti today and will continue to promote breadth and social awareness in all that we undertake.

Our sporting prowess is well-known and, on Monday evening, we will discover whether we have been crowned Independent School of the Year for Sporting Achievement. The original shortlist has been whittled down further to a group of finalists, which can be found [here](#). We are already honoured to have been recognised in this way and have fingers crossed that we might repeat the heroics of Dina Asher-Smith and Kat Johnson-Thompson in claiming the top spot on the rostrum. We will keep you posted!



This sense of pride will continue at tomorrow's Open Morning. We have over 200 visitors registered to join us, all of whom will be welcomed by our brilliant Year 7 and 8 guides. They will see the new facilities for themselves but, most importantly, will get to meet the true stars of the show: our pupils. Thank you for your support and I do hope that those pupils that attend enjoy the various inspiring sessions planned for them. It promises to be a great morning!

*Ian Thorpe*

---

## Lower School Update

It has been another busy week in the Lower School with trips to Fishbourne Roman Palace, Inter-House Football and our charity multi-day for 'Love Me Love My Mind', but for me the stand out of the last seven days has been joining in with Cognita's Global Be Well Day' last Friday. I had the pleasure of being in 2YdV for most of the day and we made smoothies, did yoga and discussed the importance of a calm and timely bedtime – in pyjamas, of course! The children really took on board the learning of the day and I was even reminded by Flora H in Year 3 whilst getting my lunch in the Dining Room, that I had forgotten to include carbohydrates and so my plate was not balanced. It really was a wonderful day, designed to challenge the children to think about their well-being in a positive and healthy way. Thank you to Mrs Sehgal, Mrs Ludlam, Miss Black and Mr Popham for organising such a wonderful day for the Lower School children.

I have also been delighted by the wonderful attitude, manners and conduct shown by the Lower School children this week. This is always remarked upon by visitors but is embedded in our children's behaviour and is always a joy to see. Particular congratulations to Fenton F, Louis N, Millie H, Torin C and Ayaan M for their great manners, cheerful greetings and smart appearance. Academic congratulations this week to William N-B who brought fantastic work to my office this week; to see the level of problem solving and practical application of mathematical skills shown in our youngest learners is a real pleasure.

We have a lot of wonderful things to show our Open Morning visitors this Saturday and a school to be very proud of. Many thanks to all the Lower School children who are attending tomorrow. A reminder that children should be dropped off to the Peterborough Hall between 9.20-9.40am and collected from the year group room at 11.45am.

Have a super weekend.

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

---

## Upper School Update

This week saw our first round up of House points totals, reflecting the hard work and effort that pupils have made in every aspect of school life. While the totals were close, congratulations to Headley who won both the Lower and Upper School sections to win the first cycle of the House Cup competition.

This hard work and engagement was reflected in the lesson observations and book scrutinies that we undertook this week with our Director of Education; Mr James Carroll. He was very impressed with the level of questioning and classroom feedback he observed across the Upper School. A particular well done must go to Issy W and Alex H for their brilliant analysis of the respective strengths and weaknesses of the armies at the Battle of Hastings, and to all of 7S for such an impressive maths lesson with Mrs Stack!

It was also a joy to watch Sadie T spread 'germs' (through the medium of fine dust and ultraviolet' light in a lovely lesson on microbes with Mrs Sehgal! Well done to all the boys and girls for a very productive week of learning in the Upper School.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind pupils to ensure their locker area is neat and tidy; there has been a significant improvement this week in general tidiness, but we are still seeing too much lost property building up, which is keeping both Mr Ward and Mrs Berger rather too busy! A huge public thanks to both of them for all their hard work in this area.

Finally, can I say a huge thank in advance to all our Upper School pupils for their help with Open Morning on Saturday. We have over 70 sets of parents attending, and I know the guides in Year 7 & 8 as well as pupils attending our activities are looking forwards to being ambassadors for our school. We are so proud of you, and I know you will do a fabulous job!

Have a lovely weekend and see you all next week!

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

---

## Global Be Well Day - 27th September



Friday of last week saw a curriculum collapse day as the whole school celebrated Cognita's inaugural 'Global Be Well Day'. The day started with 'Be Active' sessions outdoors where students across the school took part in mindfulness walking followed by active stretching. Role play from the staff during assembly covered the day's four themes: 'Sleep', 'Healthy Eating', 'Sleep' and 'Social Media and Screen-time'.

From here every year group was involved in a variety of activities that highlighted each of these themes. From the Year 2's pyjama story time, to Year 3's Fruit Faces, Year 4's Footprints in paint on which to place their well-being wishes at the end of the day and Year 5's wonderful 'mood boards'. The Upper School activities ranged from Year 6's discussion on sleep,

Year 7 and 8's workshop with visiting Samaritans, Year 7 role play on screen-time and the whole Upper School attending a wonderfully talented young singer named Georgie Kay who not only delivered some great covers as well as her own new music but also spoke about the issues she has had with anxiety. There were many pupils wanting not only her autograph but to speak to her too. The day was rounded off with every year group focusing on their well-being wishes or steps for change.



It was a great day where everyone had the opportunity to focus on their well-being but it is important to remember that this day was just a celebration of this focus at Downsend, and that pupils should be encouraged and supported in looking after their physical and mental well-being every day.

Global be well day was a day packed with fun and with lots of different activities to help us improve our health and fitness. Topics such as "chocolate" meditation, how to eat a balanced diet, regular exercise and sleep hygiene were amongst the many that were discussed.

My favourite activity by far was CHOCOLATE meditation as it sounded intriguing and tasty. We were all given a piece of chocolate and were encourage to savour it bit by bit. We had to enjoy the sensation of the tiny piece of chocolate melting slowly on our warm tongue, while resisting the urge

to chew it. I had three tries before I managed to savour the experience of the melting chocolate.

This meditation activity calmed me down as I was just focusing on a pure piece of chocolate melting slowly in my mouth. After this session I felt at peace and had a fantastic taste lingering on my tongue.

I really enjoyed this activity and the entire global be well day. It definitely made me relax and it de-stressed me. Overall, a great curriculum collapse day!

By Sophia Visram (6CB)

## Learning about 'Bones' in Year 3



Year 3 were incredibly lucky this week as they had a wonderful visit from Dr Williams who talked to the children about 'Bones'. She did not come alone, however, and brought her friend 'George' to help her!



During our Science lessons over the next few weeks, we will be learning even more about how our bones and muscles work together to help us to move. The children are now truly inspired to continue their learning in class and would like to thank Dr Williams and George for their fascinating visit!

*The Year 3 Team*

## Headley steal a march on the House front

It has been a busy start to the year and all the children have been finding their feet and settling back well into school life. We are always impressed with our children's enthusiasm and energy for school, and with a Global Be Well day, Magic Week and a Mufti Day all under their belt within just the first month of the Autumn term, it is clear to see why they enjoy school so much. The breadth and quality of enrichment here is clear to see, with a healthy balance of activities which inspire motivation and a lively sense of competition among pupils. Our four Houses are a central part of school life here at Downsend, and the announcement of the first house point collection this morning was met with great excitement. House points are awarded for excellent work within the classroom, on homework, and, just as importantly for outstanding examples of citizenship around school.

Well done to all the children for their hard work this term so far, and particularly to the Top Achievers below.

Lower School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Headley	41.3	1 <sup>st</sup>	Torin C – Y3
Norbury	41.2	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Myles H – Y3
Wisley	38.9	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Francesca D – Y3
Ranmore	36.9	4 <sup>th</sup>	Taylor S – Y3

Upper School	Averaged Totals	Position	Top Achiever
Headley	63	1 <sup>st</sup>	Alexa E-M – Y8
Norbury	58.6	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oliver F – Y8
Ranmore	57.5	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alexander T – Y7
Wisley	56.5	4 <sup>th</sup>	Harry H – Y8

Whole School	Averaged Totals	Position
Headley	104.3	1 <sup>st</sup>
Norbury	99.8	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Wisley	95.4	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ranmore	94.4	4 <sup>th</sup>



*Mr Albert (Assistant Head)*

*Miss Black (Deputy Head of the Lower School)*

---

## Vehicles exiting the School Site onto A24

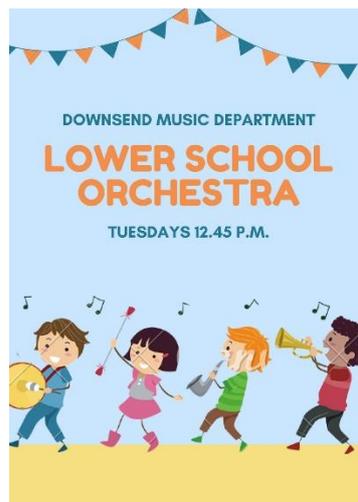
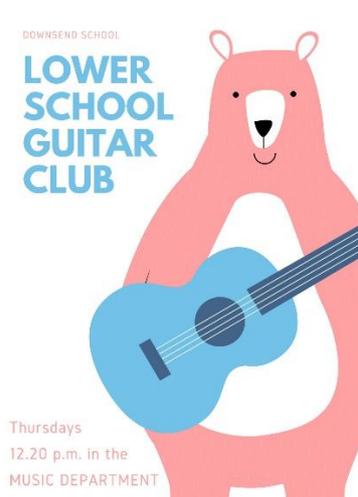
There have been one or two vehicles this week exiting the site from the front of the school and turning right out onto the A24 heading back towards the roundabout in the direction of the M25. With the A24 usually being very busy in the morning and similarly in the afternoon when pupils are being collected I would take this opportunity to remind all parents that there is no right turn onto the A24. Exiting at this point is a left turn only heading towards Epsom. We wish to avoid any accidents occurring so your co-operation and understanding will be appreciated.

*Craig Simmons, Business Manager*

---

## Music Ensembles

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



---

## 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.

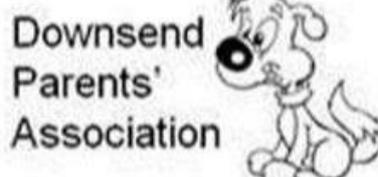
*Nicole Allison*

---

## 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.



---

**Class Reps Still Needed....**



Class reps are an amazing team of volunteers who help ensure we are all up to speed on school activity and connect us all as a broader Downsend community. We still have a number of classes without a Class Rep across the school (in particular in Y2 and Y8), and would like to encourage parents to consider volunteering.

If you are interested but don't know what being a Class Rep entails, or how much time it would take, get in touch with the DPA ([downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com)) and we can talk you through it. We would also be delighted to introduce you to some of our existing Class Reps for an honest conversation of what the role entails...

---

### **DPA AGM – 2 Brilliant New Members Join the Committee**

Thanks to all those who attended the DPA AGM on Wednesday 25 September to better understand our focus, plans for 2019/20 and our achievements for the last academic year. We are delighted to announce the Committee constituents were ratified (see full list below) and we have welcomed two brilliant new members, Lorraine Moynihan (Y8) and Vivian Cavicchioli (Y2 and Y6). We also announced that our wonderful Treasurer, Laura Spanswick will be stepping down and we now have a vacancy for Treasurer for anyone who is interested.

Also thank you to those who wrote to offer support for activities in the coming weeks, we have taken note of your names and will be in touch very soon. We are very grateful to you all for volunteering your time, and for anyone else who would like to get involved, please drop us a line at [downsendPA@gmail.com](mailto:downsendPA@gmail.com).

<b>DPA Committee</b>
Vivian Cavicchioli
Louise Clark (Co-Chair)
Nia Cummings
Alex Dale
Sally Gilbert
Lynn Godwin (Uniform Sale)
Chantal Hannah
Isabella Harding
Emma Kavanagh
Jo Lloyd-Aziz (Secretary)
Lorraine Moynihan
Kirsty Park
Laura Spanswick (outgoing Treasurer)
Charlotte Staplehurst (Class List)
Leanne Van Der Hoeven (Co-Chair)
Gail Wotherspoon- Hughes

---

### **MacMillan Big Coffee Morning – Parents Raise a Whopping £305!**



Over 60 parents and staff joined the DPA to take part in The MacMillan Big Coffee Morning on Friday 27 September, raising a whopping £305 for an amazing charity. Thank you to all those who baked, attended and donated, making this our most successful MacMillan fundraiser to date.

Special thanks also go to DPA Committee member Charlotte Staplehurst for organising such a fantastic event and making us all feel so welcome.

---

### **DPA Sponsored Coffee Mornings – Don't Miss Out!!**



A reminder that, given the success of our community initiative last year, DPA Sponsored Coffee Mornings in the Pavilion will continue again this year. Congratulations to class reps Cindy Ling & Victoria Driscoll from 3VB who were first past the post this year and held their lovely class coffee morning on Wednesday, with a special guest appearance from Mr Thorpe.

Your Class Rep can book one coffee morning per term at the Pavilion and the DPA will pick up the tab for tea's, coffees and sweet treats!

If you would like to take advantage, please contact our friends at school Colette Allen ([Colette.allen@downsend.co.uk](mailto:Colette.allen@downsend.co.uk)) and Doug Turpie ([doug.turpie@downsend.co.uk](mailto:doug.turpie@downsend.co.uk)) who will confirm availability and work with you to book catering etc.

---

## INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

---

*Copyright © Downsend School 2015, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Downsend School  
1 Leatherhead Road  
Leatherhead  
Surrey  
KT22 8TJ

---