

Prospectus

Welcome to the inspiring world of Downsend.

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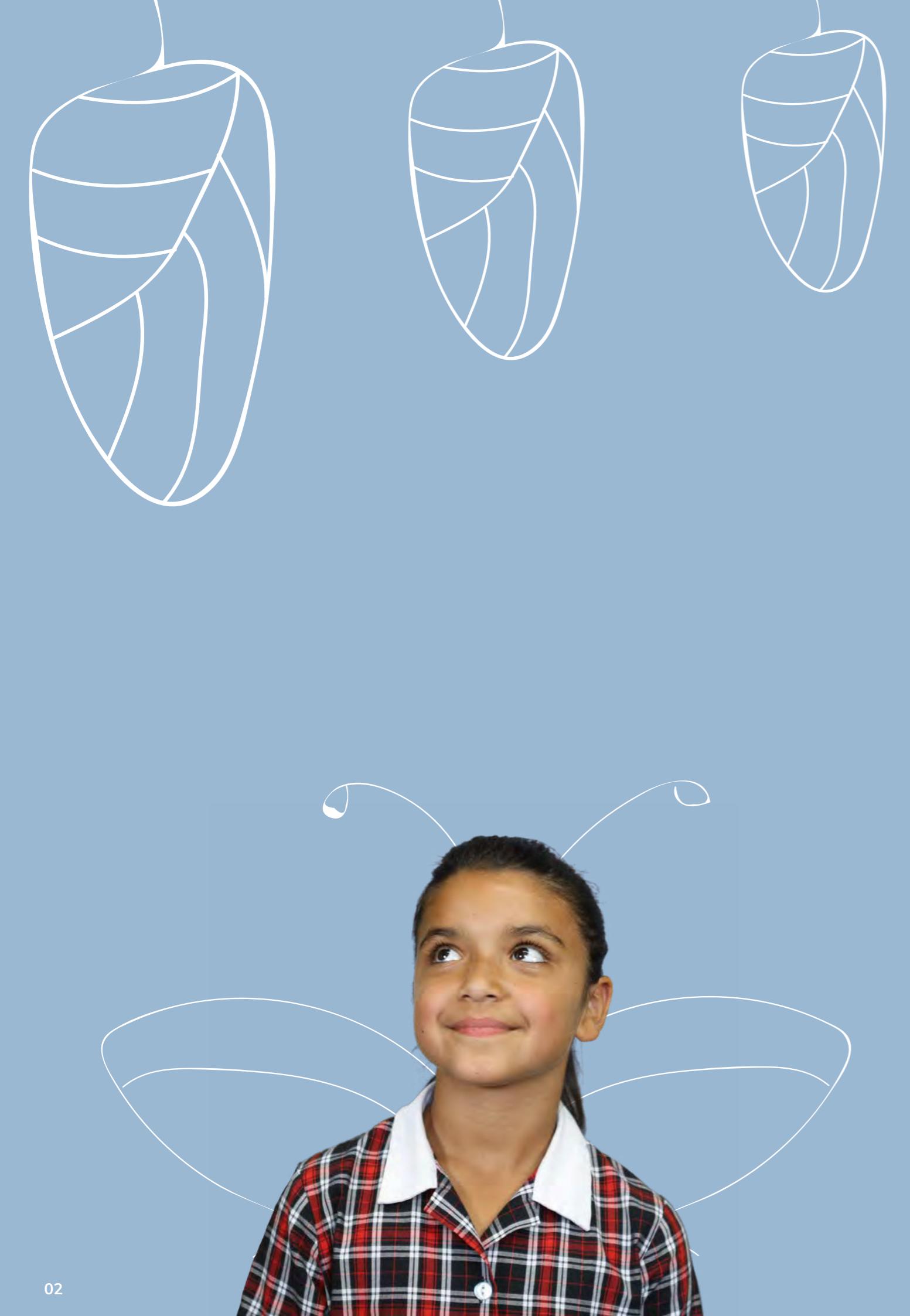
Downsend is an innovative independent school teaching the problem-solvers of the future from age 2 to 16.

Our approach is stretch without stress, helping your child achieve their very best.



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL
Inspiring Young Minds

Part of the Cognita Schools Group



Welcome to the inspiring world of Downsend.



Our motto translates to ‘nothing is denied to valour’ and this is a legacy we thrive upon at Downsend. Never has that been more true than now, as we edge towards 2020, when Downsend embraces everything the future has to offer by preparing our young people to be global citizens, by encouraging bravery, celebrating innovation and creating opportunity every day.

We aim to inspire young minds to engage in the world around them and think for themselves. Our pupils work hard and learn by getting actively involved in everything they do. It’s not unusual to see hair-raising experiments or underwater worlds during an ordinary day at Downsend.

Experiences that inspire young minds develop pupils who are happy, and when they are happy we know they learn, grow in confidence and become ambitious to excel. ‘Inspiring Young Minds’ is at the heart and soul of our school.

It guides our highly skilled teachers, encourages our pupils to be the best they can be, shapes our creative and challenging curriculum, informs our diverse range of extra-curricular activities, and permeates our vibrant school life – both in and outside the classroom. Our children are encouraged time and time again, to do the things they think they cannot do – we support them to push themselves further than they ever thought possible – academically, in the arts and on the pitch.

There is something intangible about Downsend that can’t be described, so we’d be delighted if you would come to visit us to experience it for yourself. Observe the creative way we approach teaching, the excited voices in our new STEAM spaces, the cheers on the rugby pitches, the instruments playing in the music pods, the lively debates in lessons....you are very welcome to join the inspiring world of Downsend.

The Downsend family of schools

Downsend proudly educates children from the ages of 2 to 16 in Leatherhead, Ashtead and Epsom.

Little Downsend – Leatherhead | Ashtead | Epsom

We have three schools (traditionally named Pre-Preps) located in Leatherhead, Ashtead and Epsom, each delivering the same outstanding and engaging curriculum to children from the age of 2 (First Steps) to age 6 (Year 1). Children then progress to the Junior School at 1 Leatherhead Road.

Downsend School

Downsend School (Junior and Senior) is located in Leatherhead at the 1 Leatherhead Road site and teaches children from the age of 6 (Year 2) to 16 (Year 11).

Working hand in hand, we deliver the same outstanding and innovative teaching at every school in the Downsend family. We focus on the 'whole child', emphasising achievement, innovation and creativity but rooting that in a supportive and nurturing environment.

What makes a Downsendian? Of course, brilliant basics in numeracy and literacy, academic focus and determination, but also great leadership and kindness, strength and skill and a passion for the Creative Arts and Technology.

Ultimately, education is about developing people. We nurture our children to take responsibility for their own learning, to have belief in their individual ability and to have a positive outlook on life. They attain high standards due to the demands of a dynamic curriculum; they celebrate the victories on the sports field and grow stronger from the defeats.

By the time they leave us, they will have developed into confident, polite young people prepared academically and socially for the next step, ready to take full advantage of the opportunities that await them.



The through school curriculum and STEAM ideology

An integrated, consistent curriculum.

Our aim at Downsend School is to deliver a truly integrated experience from the moment children join us at age 2, all the way through to their GCSEs. We do this by working together as a team at every stage to ensure consistency in the delivery of core subjects and how we talk about 'learning language' with each other, with the children and with you as Parents.

Embracing the STEAM ideology across everything we do.

We are fully embracing the 'STEAM ideology' using the principles to underpin the curriculum, but more importantly to focus on the kinds of skills so demanded by employers of the future. Teaching educational theory through endless regurgitation has had its day, and so we look to the future to teach resilience, adaptability, collaboration, creativity and how to fail and get back up again – as the very cornerstones of academic excellence.

We do this through the creation of a STEAM TEAM, made up of leading educationalists and partners from industry to ensure we're tapping in to the ever-changing future landscape to ensure our children enter the next step of their journey with their eyes wide open and able to respond to the challenges of a big data world and the very real possibility of working alongside robots.



Little Downsend – Leatherhead | Ashtead | Epsom

Children join us at Little Downsend in First Steps, aged 2 and continue through to Year 1.

**"Excellent setting and facilities, great teaching staff who are committed to providing the best learning experience for even very young children.
My daughter loves it."**



The learning starts straight away both indoors and outdoors. Within a nurturing environment, at their own pace, children are encouraged to explore and be curious, independently solving the challenges of an enriched curriculum.

Each Little Downsend follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework in First Steps, Rising Reception and Reception. We provide imaginative ways of acquiring numeracy and literacy skills; we grow turnips, hatch chickens, create slippery slopes...stimulating curiosity and imagination. During these precious formative years, we embed the foundations for learning; young brains grow at a phenomenal rate – everything we do, from French to fast feet, from

bubbling cauldrons to yoghurt, they soak up like a sponge.

Children in Year One follow Key Stage 1 of the National Curriculum. As confidence grows their eagerness for learning is satisfied by an exciting and varied curriculum and a more structured approach. They become readers, writers, thinkers and innovators; it inspires us to see them well prepared for the next stage of their educational journey at Downsend.

There is a feeling of being part of a family at each school; class sizes are kept small which means we are able to offer a personalised learning programme for each child.

The Junior School (ages 6 – 11)

Children join us from Little Downsend in Year 2 and progress through the Junior School to Year 6.

“Downsend is an encouraging and enthusiastic school. It feels like a dynamic place that is always looking for ways to improve.”



At Downsend, we believe that lessons should be fun and creative so that your child is excited to learn. History does not come alive for children from the pages of a dusty book, comprehension of fractions does not last past break if the experience is not memorable. Our learning is immersive; it's hands-on, positive and enriching. It is not uncommon to see children in the Junior School learning about fractions by breaking chocolate into chunks, re-enacting the most challenging political rebellions using fruit or walking around dressed as Egyptians. We find that active learning engages the children's imagination, enriches the curriculum and makes learning fun.

Our classes are small enabling our dedicated teachers to nurture and stretch every child and to help them to achieve their full academic potential.

We encourage the children to participate in workshops, concerts, performances and sports events, all designed to support and supplement the school curriculum. There is a full programme of after-school clubs offering sporting, musical,

creative and mind-stretching activities, with enthusiasm and a desire to join in being the only criteria for selection.

Children will have an opportunity to participate in a residential trip camping locally, and later in Year 5, the children go away to an adventure centre to celebrate all they have achieved at the Junior School.

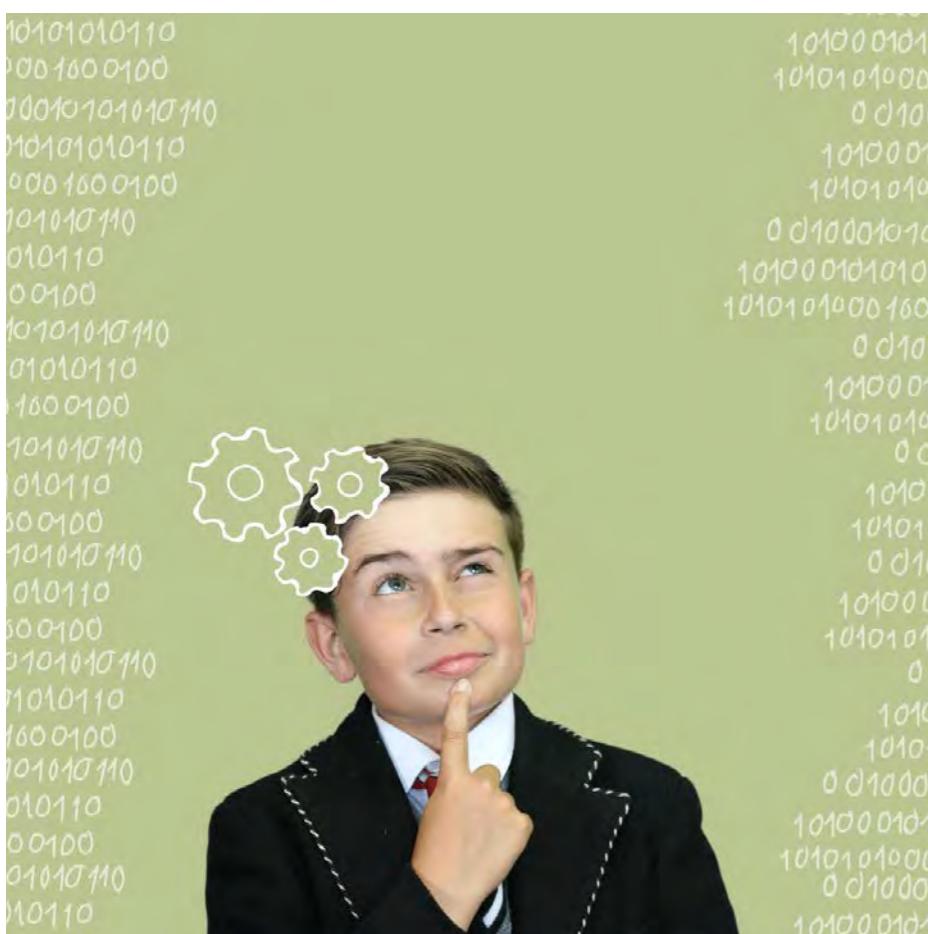
As a Junior School parent, we want to work with you to ensure your child is as happy and successful as possible. We want all Downsend children to thrive academically, socially and emotionally and we work hand-in-hand with parents to provide the best environment for this to happen.

The Junior School will bring your child exciting new opportunities and challenges in both work and play. With an enquiring mind and a little determination, plenty of participation and a ready smile we're confident your child will flourish and have an enjoyable and successful time with us.

The Lower Senior School

At the age of 11, your child will progress to the Senior School. Years 7 and 8 are Lower Senior and Years 9-11 are Upper Senior.

“Our daughter has discovered a genuine passion for maths, she has joined the orchestra and the choir, she has played in concerts, she has represented the school in hockey, athletics, netball and swimming, she has achieved some super results and made some really lovely friends. She is happy and confident and ready to face the challenges of the future.”



During their time in the Lower Senior School, pupils will truly become independent learners. They will experience expert teaching from subject specialists, in our brand new facilities – giving children the best opportunity to gain further knowledge in all subjects.

Based on our extensive knowledge of how to get the best from young people in Years 7 and 8 we deliver a balanced, broad and vibrant curriculum that is based on the very best principles of the ISEB (Independent Schools Examinations Board) and supported by our Downsend Diploma.

The Downsend Diploma is designed by the School and in conjunction with a variety of local Senior Schools, as an exciting and innovative award. It comprises a rigorous academic core

– combining the best of the ISEB syllabus with the Middle Years International Baccalaureate (IB) and development programmes including the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

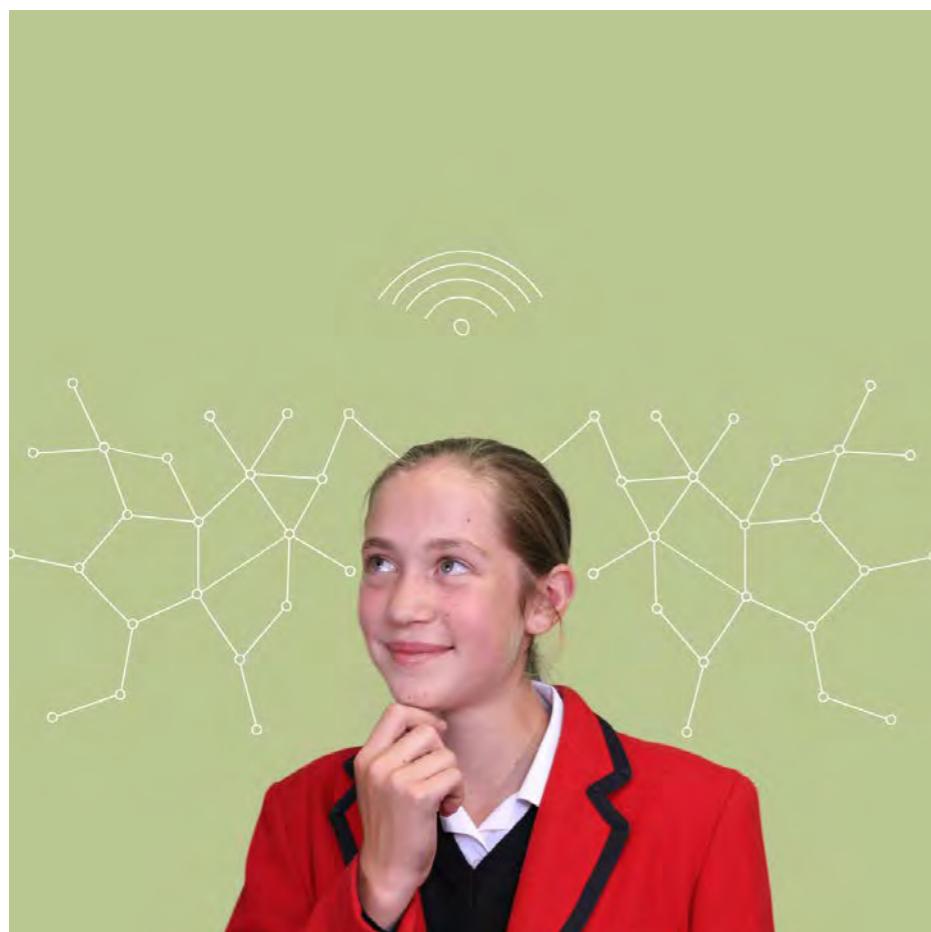
The award recognises and rewards a broad range of areas: academic; citizenship; creativity; leadership and physical and enables children to develop a fully rounded self-awareness before progressing on to the further rigours of their GCSE programme.

At Downsend our aim is simple; to develop curiosity, knowledge and understanding in a creative and interactive way which helps to foster a love of learning.

The Upper Senior School

In Year 9, Downsend pupils embark upon their three year GCSE journey, taking them from age 14 to age 16.

"The children are engaged and the teachers are extremely attentive, the learning is approached with real thought. It's clear Edward has developed in many different areas but most importantly into a confident, happy boy."



By delivering a 3 year GCSE programme, we enable students to fully engage with the subject area at greater depth and to gain a broad understanding of the syllabus without rushing their learning.

We will work hand in hand with pupils and parents to help choose GCSE options that are right for them and will enable them to thrive. We do this through Careers Fairs, Parent/Teacher meetings and by spending time discussing possible options in great detail.

Our GCSE offer will comprise of 6 core subjects: Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature and English Language. Which are then complemented by options in: Further Maths, Computing, Art and Design, Languages, Humanities, Drama, Music and PE.

In line with our 'stretch without stress' approach, we also consider it important that pupils have the time to undertake enrichment or extra-curricular activities that enable that learning to come to life, and we believe this leads to stronger educational outcomes.

Our Stretch programme for Years 6 + is the very embodiment of this approach. Much of what makes children happy, confident and successful cannot be taught, so this programme is specifically designed to stretch and challenge all pupils in areas beyond the curriculum. It aims to:

- Foster curiosity, giving time and space for imaginations to have free reign;
- Encourage children to take on new experiences with enthusiasm;
- Develop essential skills for life – self confidence, leadership and resilience;
- Be fun! All Stretch activities are engaging and memorable, to stimulate the love of learning in every pupil.

Stretch options are wide ranging and varied - from Virtual Reality, to Downsend Masterchef; from French Film Club to Young Engineers (Robotics, Lego and Engineering); from Microscopy to Master Song Writers, from TED Talks to Orienteering – Fridays afternoons at Downsend are never dull, never one size fits all – and almost always inspiring!

Investing in Creativity



The Creative Arts are a fundamental part of what Downsend has to offer, as we firmly believe that integrating the arts into traditional academia brings significant benefits to a child's cognitive growth, to their enjoyment of learning and ultimately to their educational outcomes.

This is why a significant investment of £5m has been agreed to provide a multi-purpose performance auditorium with tiered seating for 200, black box drama studio, multi-purpose teaching space equipped with the latest technology and a recording studio.

Although drama, music, art and design are the timetabled subject areas, each encourages the vital life skills of creativity, imagination, expression of feelings and ideas, the ability to work in a team and to communicate. Their impact on your child's wider learning is influenced by the way we teach these subjects so holistically – as part of our STEAM ideology.

Drama is taught through direct subject teaching, but is often integrated within a topic or another curriculum subject, especially English. Our aim is to develop imaginative and creative processes by involving pupils in a range of drama activities. We encourage children to express their ideas and feelings, to share ideas and to work constructively as part of a team.

Music too, is seen as an integral part of life at

Downsend. Learning to play and appreciate music encourages teamwork, a sense of group identity and the ability to be creative. Music helps to develop self-confidence and social skills, as well as supporting learning in other subject areas. As part of the curriculum, all children will be introduced to percussion and singing, recorder and basic notation. This then progresses to the flute, trumpet, clarinet and violin. In Year 4, we introduce the joy of the ukulele, and in Year 5, the opportunity to take part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. But music is not simply part of the curriculum, it is at the heart of Downsend's ethos – with the highlight of our year being Downsend Rocks, featuring our entirely student-led Rock Bands. It's a no-holds barred musical extravaganza of rock – and a whole heap of fun for pupils, parents and staff too.

Art, Design and Technology is the final component of our balanced and well rounded approach at Downsend. We aim to challenge pupils to be imaginative, to express themselves but also to hone their problem-solving skills. We do this through a rich and varied programme of timetabled and enrichment opportunities, exploring themes and ideas, materials and processes – encouraging both high standards and enjoyment in tandem.

Our approach to creativity is what makes Downsend so inspiring.

Downsend has a growth mindset



Sport at Downsend



Sport plays an important part in the daily lives of pupils, as we believe in providing a broad programme from an early age. We endeavour to offer as many sports as possible, both within the curriculum time and through our extensive extra-curricular programme. Sport is immensely popular at Downsend, with many opportunities for children of all abilities to take part in competitive sport, representing the school or their house. We encourage all pupils to take part and find as many opportunities as possible for them to 'have a go'.

We have an excellent reputation for sport both in terms of the success of our sports teams and also the breadth of opportunity available. Whether in a team or individual environment, our pupils have the support to achieve success in their chosen pursuits, both in and out of school.

We are fortunate to have excellent facilities: the external playing fields extend to 13 acres and include two cricket pitches, three rugby pitches, four football pitches, four rounders pitches, six tennis courts and a floodlit all-weather hockey pitch. Besides our sports hall, which is generously equipped for all indoor activities including four cricket nets, we have an athletics track and a 25-metre swimming pool.

From Year 2 all pupils take part in sport, with two sessions per week, and fixtures for the major sports each term.

We are very proud of the sporting success that our pupils have achieved in both individual and team events, girls and boys. Across all year groups in local and regional tournaments and competitions, in football, rugby, cricket, hockey, netball, rounders, swimming and athletics – and it is no wonder then that we find ourselves shortlisted for Independent School of the Year for Sporting Achievement in recognition of our 'Sport for all' ideology.

Enrichment



There are many ways in which we could refer to Downsend's programme of extra-curricular activities and clubs – but we find that 'Enrichment' is the best way of describing what we do.

Our Enrichment programme seeks to inspire pupils, to encourage them to pursue and develop individual interests, to build on the academic curriculum, but also to give them an outlet from their studies.

By offering a wide variety of opportunities both in and outside the curriculum we aim to promote independence and interpersonal skills, whilst providing a broad range of experiences for pupils to find a new skill or passion.

Extra-curricular clubs are planned meticulously into the timetable to take part at lunchtimes or after school and range from ball skills and cooking at Little Downsend, to Architecture, Chess, Military History, Electronics, Python Coding and Pottery alongside Sports, Performing Arts and Music practices at the Junior and Senior School.

Our approach to Enrichment is at the heart of what we do – focusing on the 'whole child' – and so we have developed the Stretch Programme for Years 6+. On Friday afternoons Downsend's young people, are inspired to innovate, to try new things and to expand their horizons with a variety of activities from Virtual Reality, to Downsend Masterchef; from French Film Club to Young Engineers (Robotics, Lego and Engineering); from Microscopy to Master Song Writers, from TED Talks to Orienteering. There is no Friday afternoon slump at Downsend!

Downsend + - Extended Day, Transport and Holiday Club

Life at Downsend does not stop at the end of the day, or even at the end of term. Our range of Extended Day and Holiday Club options have been designed to meet the needs of our working parents.

Extended Day

Little Downsend and Downsend School all offer Early Bird clubs and Extended Day, with options with or without tea.

For details of our school day, the times and costs for our Extended Day, please visit the website downsend.co.uk/school-life/extended-day for full details.

Transport

We also run a minibus service to many parts of Surrey. Our routes are planned by determining demand from current and new parents, so we do encourage prospective parents to discuss transport with us so we can look at possible options.

For details of our current routes, times and costs, please visit the website downsend.co.uk/admissions/transport

Downsend + and Downsend Early Years + Holiday Club

Holiday Club at Downsend School is an exceptional way for children to stay engaged and enjoy themselves throughout the half terms and holidays. Children in First Steps and Rising Reception come to our Downsend Early Years+ at Little Downsend Leatherhead.

Children aged from Reception upwards can join our infamous Downsend+ holiday club at the 1 Leatherhead Road site. Children are entertained all day, every day with an endless array of activities that will tire even the most energetic of children. There's something for everyone from arts and crafts, to cookery, to swimming, to football, to go-karts – and for the even more adventurous, scuba diving, waterskiing, golf and mountain biking.



Our Facilities



Little Downsend - Outstanding indoor and outdoor environments

Whether you're at Little Downsend in Leatherhead, Ashtead or Epsom, each have truly outstanding facilities. Although they each possess their own special character, our focus on ensuring that Downsend children have well-equipped, light, airy classrooms, brimming with interactive activities, all designed for child-centred learning does not waver from one to the next.

Our outdoor spaces are where we surpass ourselves, designed specifically for the needs of children aged 2 to 6, offering soft surfaced areas, zoned play, undercover seating for those inevitable rain showers, quiet spots for relaxing, and a garden for growing our own fruits and vegetables.

Downsend School

Ambitious redevelopment

The summer of 2019 saw the first phase of Downsend's ambitious refurbishment and redevelopment plan take place. In total £8m will be spent on the project to ensure that pupils have access to state of the art STEAM spaces including: Science Laboratories , Technology spaces, Art studios, flexible learning spaces , Food Technology areas, Libraries and new ICT facilities.

Facilities to inspire sporting excellence

- 25m heated indoor swimming pool
- 3 full sized football/rugby pitches
- 6 floodlit netball courts
- 100m floodlit Astro-turf pitch
- 50m indoor sports hall
- Sports Pavilion

To view 360 degree imagery of our remarkable spaces, take a look at our website: downsend.co.uk/school-life/facilities

Investment in the Creative Arts

In the Autumn of 2019, the first bricks will be laid for our new Creative Arts Centre. The Linford Theatre (named after the School's founders) will provide a multi-purpose performance auditorium, new teaching rooms and specialist facilities for Drama and Music. It has been designed to maximise the potential of the site and provide new connections between the Sports Hall and the Turret buildings.

All four schools in the Downsend family will benefit from its use and our pupils will have the wonderful experience of staging productions in a tailor-made setting.

Our Global Family

COGNITA

What kind of education genuinely prepares young people for the future? How can schools ensure their pupils are well-equipped to navigate the unknown paths ahead?

Downsend School is part of Cognita, an extraordinary network of diverse yet connected schools, spanning eight countries. We share one common purpose: to create an inspiring world of education that builds self-belief and empowers individuals to succeed.

Together, we provide a uniquely global education that goes beyond grades to develop the skills young people need in order to embrace opportunities – and challenges they will face beyond school. Qualities like resilience and a global mindset, cultural awareness and collaboration – these, alongside strong academic achievement are at the heart of a Cognita education.

As a global family, we connect with each other to share expertise, insights and best practice across the world to help us develop rich learning environments in every school.

When your classroom is the world, thinking big comes naturally. Our 70+ schools in Europe, Latin America and Asia equip young people with the confidence and resourcefulness that prepares them to grow, thrive and find their success in a fast-changing world.

“A uniquely global education that goes beyond grades to develop all-round academic excellence.”





DOWNSEND SCHOOL

Inspiring Young Minds

Little Downsend

Little Downsend Ashtead

22 Oakfield Rd
Ashtead, Surrey
KT21 2RE

Little Downsend Epsom

6 Norman Avenue,
Epsom, Surrey
KT17 3AB

Little Downsend Leatherhead

13 Epsom Road,
Leatherhead, Surrey
KT22 8ST

Downsend School

1 Leatherhead Road
Leatherhead, Surrey
KT22 8TJ

Admissions Enquiries

T: 01372 372 311
E: admissions@downsend.co.uk
W: www.downsend.co.uk

COGNITA

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