

DOWNSEND TIMES

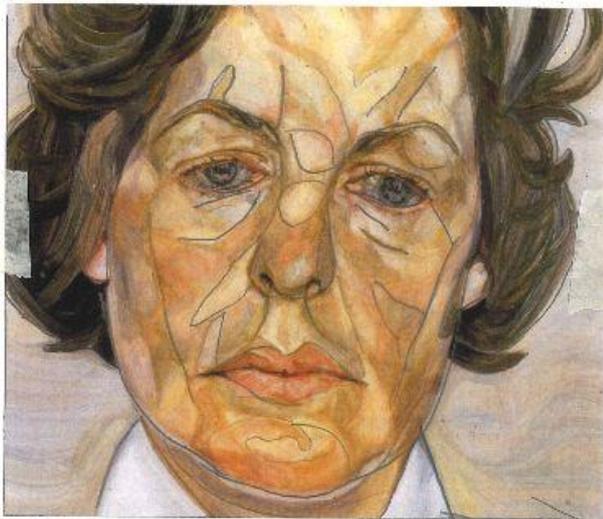
29 November 2019



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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



This week's Artist of the Week is Sebastian in 7JA. Year 7 have been looking at portraits by Lucien Freud and, after mixing a range of skin tones, they demonstrated some fantastic painting skills. Well done!

Julia Aylen

A Message from the Headmaster

Christmas is not too far around the corner and December is being heralded with Sunday's Christmas Fair. The DPA have worked incredibly hard in preparation for what will be a wonderful festive event. The Lower School is beginning to resemble Santa's grotto as preparations for the forthcoming Nativities gather pace. I am sure that they will be as enjoyable as the Year 8 production of Elf: The Musical was last week!

Last week, we enjoyed regional and national success on the sporting front. Our national biathlon qualifiers performed admirably in securing gold and silver medals, while our U11 footballers won the Surrey Cup, Downsends fourth in six years, beating national champions Royal Russell in a thrilling final, recovering from 3-0 down to win 4-3. Both of these demonstrate the importance of character development and resilience, something that Downsend pupils demonstrate in abundance.





I am delighted to inform you that we have now appointed the contractors for the Arts Centre, and that I am meeting with them on Monday to start to plan the works, which will commence in the New Year. 2020 will be exciting!

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

Christmas has rung out already across the Lower School this week as all year groups rehearse in earnest to entertain and delight their family and friends at their Christmas performances over the coming two weeks. I have tried to avoid hearing too much as, like you, I enjoy seeing the children's pride and excitement at their achievement of putting on their finished show. I am certain that we are in for real treats across the Lower School age range – I can't wait, and look forward to welcoming many of you to these wonderful events.

Despite there only being two weeks of term left, academic work and achievement is still our focus in the Lower School and I have seen some excellent work this week. Well done to Beste D and Flora H in 3NL for their gorgeous storyboards of 'The Egyptian Cinderella' – your expanded noun phrases and sentence starters really were excellent. Well done too to Sam R in 4MP for his wonderful work on India. It is great to see the learning that comes out of our experiential days such as India Day, which Year 4 enjoyed on Wednesday this week.

Congratulations to Harriet H, Grace K, Izzy E Harriet Hughes, Grace Kavanagh, Izzy Eaton and Emma C of Year 4 and of 1st Oxshott Brownies who had a wonderful weekend at London's Science Museum. They were hugely fortunate to be able to take part in an Astronaut sleepover with hundreds of other Brownies and Guides from across the country. They slept in the Atmosphere gallery amongst the exhibits and had

fantastic fun including making and launching rockets and learning about the Hubble Space Telescope. Well done, Girls. What a wonderful adventure!

It was lovely to welcome both Mrs Newberry and Mrs Sutton back to Downsend this week, even just for a fleeting visit. Mrs Newberry and Mrs Sutton are both returning to the school to teach 4JN in the new year and have already enjoyed getting to know their class. I am pleased to say that Mr Skates has been appointed to Moon Hall School and wish him happiness and success in his new position.

With Christmas really getting started on Sunday with the DPA Christmas Fair, I will be hunting out my Christmas jumpers and look forward to seeing lots of our Lower School families there.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

It's that time of year everyone!

As I write this week's Downsend Times I can hear a variety of fabulous, but somewhat disharmonic, sets of rehearsals as the various Houses practise for the annual House Carol singing competition, to be held next week in whole school assembly. This is always a wonderful (and very competitive) event, and really sets the seasonal tone as we approach that special time of year! By then I'm sure the performances will be both tuneful and entertaining in equal measure, so good luck to all the Houses in their musical efforts! Our Xmas trees are due to arrive next week, and the Upper School pupils are preparing their Christmas cards, decorations and 'secret Santa' presents as normal, and we are all looking forwards to the DPA Christmas Fair this Sunday.

The Year 8 cast and crew finished off last week in style with another fantastic performance of Elf, so once again a huge well done to Mr Bryant, his team and all the pupils on a brilliant set of performances! You have been working on this production since last year and you should all be very proud of the standard of acting and vocals on display!

Although this has been a long term the Upper School pupils are finishing it strongly and lessons this week have been both lively and productive; I have seen some brilliant Year 6 maths lessons on fractions this week, as well as some fantastic vegan cooking in Food Tech; well done to Mrs Day and the Year 6 children for such complex and healthy recipes!

Following the recent assessments, in my discussions with pupils this week, I have been focusing on feedback, and how children are internalising their 'next steps' targets to improve, and have been pleased that our Upper School pupils seem aware of both their strengths, but also how to address and improve their

target areas and our Year 7 and 8 parents will be receiving a full school report before the end of term.

In our weekly staff INSET this week, Miss Ayles and Mrs Roberts focused on our STEAM delivery (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) and how that paradigm can be embedded across the curriculum to encourage the skills that we know are so important for all our young people in the future. I'm delighted to say that I have seen the 4 C's that underpin this synthesis of skills (Collaboration, Critical thinking, Communication and Creativity) in abundance across the Upper School this week; some of our Year 7 pupils even carried out a school audit on anti-discriminatory measures to ensure equal access and opportunity for all across our school site, and made some brilliant suggestions for improvement. Impressive stuff!

Thank you to all our parents for ensuring their children are both warm but dressed in Downsland colours as they come to school! The children have looked both smart and cosy in their warm coats, gloves and hats, and are well prepared for the cold snap that is due to arrive over the next few days. Finally, one final reminder that we are very much looking forwards to seeing as many of you as possible at our Upper School Carol Concert on Thursday 12th December at 5:00pm in the sports hall.

Have a wonderful weekend and I hope to see you at the DPA Christmas Fair this Sunday.

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Year 5 Bake Off



Year 5 rounded off our festive Bake Offs, with an amazing effort on Tuesday, raising £240 for the Merstham Mix Cafe. The standard was very high, with creative entries and lots of delicious cakes and biscuits. The overall house winner was Wisley and individual winners were:

Norbury - Maria B
Headley - Freya P
Wisley - Aiden H
Ranmore - Alex M

Thank you for all your support for these events - the total raised has been an amazing £880.
Watch out for news of our healthy eating tuck shop event in the New Year..

Mrs Ludlam

Reminder: All Clubs and Practices finish next week



Downsend's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is an online set of resources and information centre which students and parents can access using this link: <https://downsend.fireflycloud.net> with student and parent apps available to download from either the Google Play store or the Apple App store. Please can I encourage all parents to ensure they can access their Firefly accounts via the Parent Portal and download the app in order to simplify the completion of consent forms, viewing tasks set for your children as well as accessing reports and other useful information. Instructions for accessing your accounts are attached on [this link](#).

If you have any firefly-related questions or need further support, please send an email to the address below and we will get back to you promptly.

Lee Silva, Deputy Head of Upper School

Year 7 First Headmaster's Commendations of the Year



Well done to Alex T and Joseph C who are the first Year 7s to be awarded the Headmaster's Commendation.

Very impressed to see that they have reached the first milestone of 300 housepoints!

Ski Trip - Limited Spaces Available

There are a very limited number of spaces that have opened up for the ski trip to Les Menuires in April. The dates are 11th -18th April 2020. If you are interested in your child going and they are currently in years 5-8, please E-mail Mr Mitchell (peter.mitchell@downsend.co.uk). With very limited space left, these spaces will be awarded on a first-come, first served basis.

Christmas Post Boxes



On Monday 2nd December the Christmas Post Boxes for the Lower School will go out. They will be located in the Turret and each year group has their own box.

Please make sure that all the envelopes are labelled clearly with first names, surnames and classes. The boxes will be emptied daily.

Helen Black, Deputy Head of Lower School

Year 8 Careers Fair Friday 31st January 2.20-4.20pm

As part of our Careers education and to support our children in thinking about life beyond school, we are planning a Careers Fair for Year 8 to take place on the afternoon of Friday 31st January. This will be an opportunity for the children to hear from adults from a wide variety of industries and workplaces and to hear both about their jobs, but also the journey that they have taken to reach their current positions. We are therefore looking for volunteers from amongst the parent body and friends of the school from all working backgrounds who would be willing to take part and are available on this date to help. If you are able to help please could you contact Mr Skitt (martin.skitt@downsend.co.uk) by Monday 2nd December.

Music News

Well done to Mary W in 3ST, who had a fantastic weekend from the point of view of music. She took her prep test singing on Friday and did very well passing it. She performed in the Kingston Festival of performing arts on Saturday.

She sang "sing a rainbow" as a set piece in the eight and under group and won it, getting a gold medal with distinction. She then did a wonderful performance of "the hippopotamus song" for the 10 and under light entertainment group. Also gaining first place and gold medal and distinction. Congratulations Mary!



Christmas Performance Dates



Year 2

2YDV and 2CC, Wednesday 4 December, 2YDV at 1.45pm and 2CC at 2.45pm, Peterborough Hall

2CW and 2SB, Thursday 5 December, 2CW at 1.45pm and 2SB at 2.45pm, Peterborough Hall

Year 3

3ST and 3NL, Monday 2 December, 2pm, Peterborough Hall

3CC and 3VB, Tuesday 3 December, 2pm, Peterborough Hall

Year 4

Friday 6 December, 2.30pm, Sports Hall

Year 5

Carols by Candlelight, Wednesday 11 December, 5pm, St George's Church

Years 6-8

Upper School Carol Concert, Thursday 12 December, 5pm, Sports Hall



The Chamber Choir, and Whole School Orchestra perform at the Upper School Carol Concert. **(Please note** some of the members of the Chamber Choir are in Years 4 and 5 – they will be singing at this event)

- The Carol Concert starts at 5pm.
- The children are required to wear full winter uniform i.e. jumpers, blazers, tights for girls and long trousers for boys.
- At the end of the school day on Thursday, all Upper School children who are involved in music ensembles are expected to go straight to the Peterborough Hall where refreshments will be provided.

- Lower School pupils who are in music ensembles and who finish at 3.40pm must go to Prep and then will be supervised and given refreshments in the Peterborough Hall.
- Children can be collected from the Sports Hall at the end of the Carol Concert at approximately 6.00pm.
- All parents of participating children are welcome to attend.
- This is a ticketless event.

Rainbow Trust Carol Concert - Tickets Available



The **Chamber Choir** will be performing at a Carol Concert in aid of the Rainbow Trust on 3 December at St Nicolas Church, Bookham at 7 p.m.

Tickets are £7 each and children under 5 go free.

You can book tickets using this link:

<https://rainbowtrust.org.uk/events/bookham-carol-concert>

Please Note: All participating pupils must meet Mrs Allison no later than 6pm at the Church.

Nicole Allison, Head of Music

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

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+



With only two weeks to go before the Christmas Holidays, Downsend+ has space available, but please do remember bookings must be received 10 working days in advance to receive our Pre-Booked Rates. Downsend Plus has plenty on offer for all - Horse Riding, Skiing, Ballet, Lego Challenge, Mini Crickets plus lots of Christmas Cooking and Craft options. Our booking form and course descriptions can be found [here](#)

For full details and bookings please contact Rebecca Peek on 07909 861280 or email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk

Rebecca Peek

Downsend
Parents'
Association



DON'T MISS - The Christmas Fair – Sunday at 11am, main site!



In the run up to Christmas, the DPA gave to me...

12 amazing kids stalls,

11 pupils helping,

10 Snow Cube wins,

9 Krispy Kremes,

8 Crafty gifts,

7 Snow Globe pics,

6 Christmas trees,

5 Silent Pool drinks!

4 Santa visits,

3 raffle prizes,

2 first aiders...

.... and a jolly bag in your child's hand....



We are ready... ARE YOU?

Come and join the DPA Elves at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 01 December from 11am-2.30pm and get your Christmas spark ignited!

The DPA and their army of friends have worked so hard to make this year truly unique, and we can't wait for you to experience it!

Entry is free, and we have plenty of parking... and best of all... its all inside, so no need for wellies...

HOORAY 😊

More info on Class List, or if you have questions, drop us a line @ downsendPA@gmail.com.

Be there or be... well.... The Grinch!

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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