

DOWNSEND TIMES

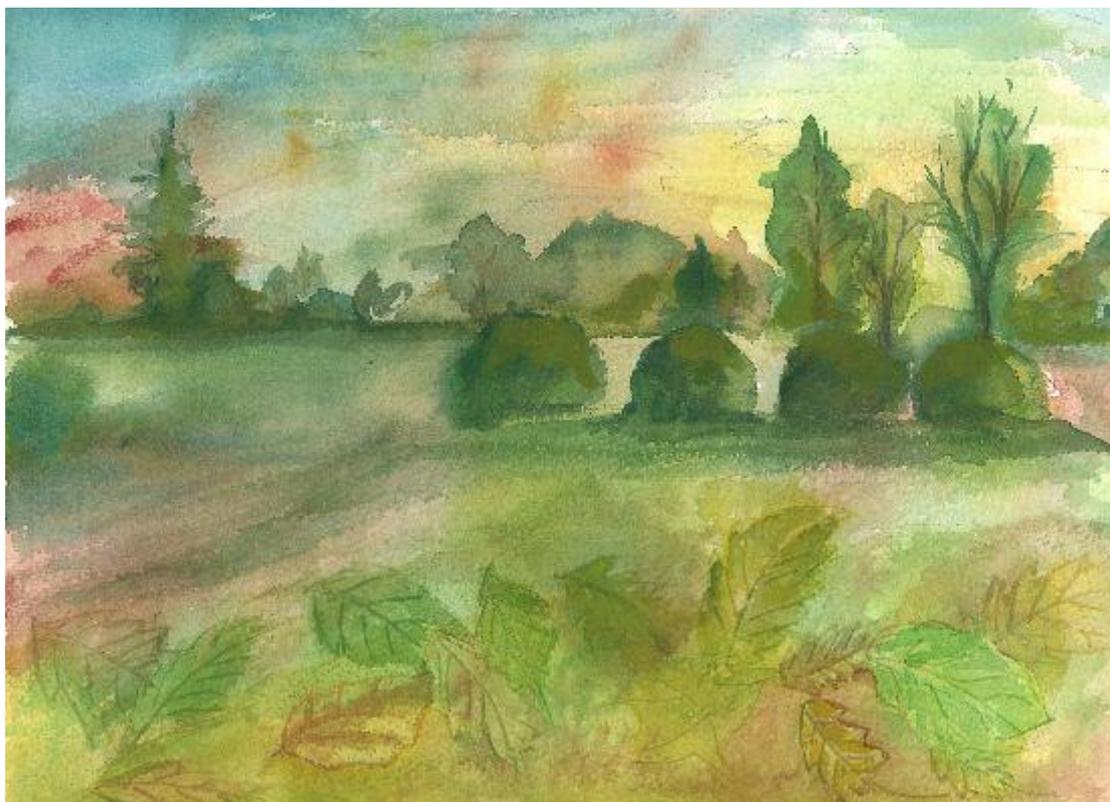
06 December 2019



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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



A Message from the Headmaster

Downsend was full of the Christmas spirit on Sunday, with the advent of the DPA Fair. Hundreds of Pre-Prep and Main Site families enjoyed a host of stalls and activities and there really was something for everyone: from raffle prizes to a snowglobe, Christmas stalls to Doug's Christmas sandwiches. With the

Pre-Prep and Lower School activities now taking centre stage, the Christmas preparations truly are in full swing!

I am delighted to inform you that 2020 will not only herald the start of a new decade, but also the start of the Arts Centre project. We will commence works on 13 Jan and should complete in 52 weeks, at the beginning of 2021. You will see the theatre, recording studio and music classrooms grow over the coming months as we deliver our commitment to strengthening the Creative Arts at Downsend. Let's hope that our politicians also deliver on their promises at next week's General Election!

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

Camels, kings, angels and tired, heavily pregnant ladies have graced the stage of the Lower School all week, with performances of the Christmas story every afternoon and including every child in Year 2, 3 and 4. The children have delighted us all with their wonderful acting, singing and verve and I doubt that even Ebenezer Scrooge could have stopped himself from smiling at the joy of it all. Whilst these performances are lovely because of the Christmas mood they evoke and the happiness they bring – not to mention the promise of one of Doug's mince pies – they also add much to the children's learning experience in school. They collaborate, communicate and use their creative skills in abundance. In short, whilst they entertain family and friends, they learn too! These nativities have been a Christmas gift for us all. Well done to all of the children who have taken part and best of luck to Year 5 who have their service next week.

Well done to Max B in 5PM who took part in the Dandelion Theatre School's performance of the 'Ho, Ho, Ho, Show' in Leatherhead last week. Max joined in brilliantly and showcased his dance skills in the show based on Happy Feet. I know that he has worked really hard and shown real commitment to his performance - even changing birthday plans to attend the dress rehearsal! Well done, Max, I have no doubt that your performance was wonderful.



Despite it being the penultimate week of term, I have continued to see wonderful work in the Lower School. Well done to Alex F in 3ST who showed me his writing which was beautifully sequenced and contained

wonderful language choices. Well done too to Mary in 3ST who constructed her writing with a superb build up that made me want to read on. Congratulations too this week to Robert B in 4JN who showed me his reading and the progress he has made – fantastic! I would also like to commend Aston S and Harry H in 5LC and Maxwell G and Robin C in 5PM for their wonderful manners and behaviour around the school over the past weeks. I have noticed these boys on several occasions being polite, kind to others and considerate of younger children and adults. Very well done indeed.

Thank you this week too to the children who have told me that they are enjoying one of the Christmas books I recommended two weeks ago – I am thrilled to hear that you are enjoying them so much and that they are adding to the Christmas feel in your homes.

Finally, congratulations to all of the performers, pupils and staff, who brought the joy of musicals to the Sport's Hall this morning in the inter-house singing competition. From zombies to mini-Shreks all of the children performed to a wonderful standard and started the day with a bang! A particular congratulations to the winning house, Wisley, who performed their acapella song from 'The Sound of Music' in true style!

I look forward to a wonderful final week of term next week. Have a lovely weekend.

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

I write this week's Downsend Times with a huge smile on my face! The day started with our traditional House Carol Singing Competition, and I know Mrs Kirkham will also comment in her Lower School round-up on how brilliant all the Houses were, but I wanted to feed back how lovely it was to see pupils and staff wholeheartedly throwing themselves into their performances, and frankly just having great fun! Congratulations to Wisley for their winning 'carol', 'Do Re Me' from the Sound of Music, and in particular to Finlay G who kicked off their song with a wonderful 'a capella' solo! On a similar musical theme, well done to Mrs Allison and the Chamber Choir for their beautiful singing at The Rainbow Trust Carol Concert at St Nicholas Church, Bookham on Tuesday evening.

This week has flown past and, whilst the preparations for the last week before Christmas are in full flow, the pupils have worked hard in class so well done to all our Upper School pupils on their academic progress this term. The two week half-term really does mean that both children and parents had a chance to recharge your batteries (and enjoy some Autumn sunshine in warmer climes for some) and then finish the term strongly.

The logistics for the last week are always complex, so in assembly on Monday I talked through the key

things for the Upper School Pupils to remember, but I thought it would be wise to outline them again here to assist with your planning and diaries for next week.

On Tuesday and Wednesday mornings those pupils either performing or reading in the Upper School Carol Concert will be rehearsing between 8:45-10:45am. The Carol Concert itself is after school on Thursday 12th December and, as I mentioned in my Downsend Times article a few weeks ago, attendance is expected from all Upper School pupils. The children will be given refreshments after school at 4:30pm, and then will be escorted by their tutors to the Sports Hall ready for the 5pm start. Mrs Hawes, who is coordinating the event, has informed me that the concert will be finished at 6pm, so please pick up from either the Sports Hall or turret then. If for some reason your child cannot attend, please do email their form tutor in advance, so we can adjust our registers accordingly. I know all the children are very much looking forwards to performing for you, so I hope to see you there.

Prior to that on Thursday we have our festive Christmas lunch. This is always a grand affair, and for that event the pupils are allowed (and in fact encouraged) to bring in a festive hat to wear whilst they enjoy a delicious traditional Christmas meal prepared by Doug and his team. Please don't worry everyone, I know that clashes with Katsu Chicken day, but Doug and I have agreed a change to the rota so the pupils get to enjoy both those lovely meals next week!

On the last day of term, Friday 13th, we will start our day by delivering our 'Secret Santa' presents. The form tutors have been through the protocols for this with their tutees but, in essence, our message to the children has been to deliver a gift that they might like to receive themselves! Following that, we have our final Upper School assembly, and then the Santa Dash up until break time! For the Santa Dash the children should wear their favourite Christmas Jumpers, and should ensure they have trainers with them, as well as a £3:00 donation to the school's charity. Following their exertions the DPA are kindly serving hot chocolates and biscuits to the Upper School pupils in the pavilion. Yummy! We then have some lovely Christmas activities till lunchtime, which will be at 12:30pm, before our final assembly with Mr Thorpe and dismissal for the Christmas Holidays! Upper School pupils with Lower School siblings should be collected from the Peterborough Hall at 2:15pm, and the rest of the Upper School pupils will be dismissed to the turret as normal at 2:45pm.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Carol Concert next Thursday and, in the meantime, have a fabulous weekend!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Reminder: All Clubs and Practices finish next week

Also, a reminder that Lower School Embroidery club Monday 3.40pm-4.20pm had its last week this week, Monday 2nd December.

Year 2 Christmas Nativity





Christmas is a magical time to celebrate together. With a full line up of traditional nativity characters and an excitable three humped camel, Year 2 commenced the festivities on Wednesday morning with the first performance of 'Hooray in a Manger' to Year 1 children from the Epsom Pre-Prep. This was followed by performances to the parents by 2YDV and 2CC in the afternoon and 2CW and 2SB performances on Thursday afternoon. Every child was brilliant, superbly portraying their character throughout the show, with unforgettable tunes and plenty of humour.

The Year 2 Team

Lower School RAISE Writers Festive Acrostic Poems

Jesus was born in a stable
Excited people surrounded him
Sheep and shepherds admired the baby
Under the beautiful North Star
Special Baby! Come and look at him.
Francesca and Flora, Year 3



Trees are cool
Really festive
Elegant and impressive
Everyone say, "Yay for the Christmas tree!"
Ella, Year 3

Forgotten
Falling snow all around,
Out of the window, the boy looks for Santa,
Reindeer too,
Going chimney to chimney.
Oh dear! He forgot a house.
To the North Pole, here we go,
Time to say goodbye tonight.
Evening is going, morning is coming..
Next time, Santa will remember.
Isabella and Raffaella, Year 4



Family is important at Christmas time.
A merry time to spend together.
Most of the family give.
It is fine to bring more relatives over for lunch.
Lunch is a time of family memories.
Year after year, you get more family memories at Christmas time.
Tommy, Year 5

Lower School Santa Dash
Monday 9th December



Monday 9th December

Years 2-5: Please bring a £3 donation in aid of our school charity and wear your Christmas jumpers, Santa hats or reindeer antlers! Bring a spare pair of trainers.

Enjoy a festive run on the Astro, delicious hot chocolate, a Christmas sing-along and decoration making!



Downsend School Lunchtime Chess Club

The winner of the trophy for 1st place was Archie D. After an exciting play-off to decide 2nd place, the result was Harrison J-H taking the gold medal for 2nd place and Octavia M taking silver for 3rd. Stefan J was hot on their heels in 4th place and winning the bronze medal. Well done everyone!

Next Term Chess Club will take part in the UK Chess Challenge where players all win a badge and lots of other prizes throughout the term. Last year over 40,000 children from schools and clubs in the UK took part.

Kathy Vanucci, Chess Club

House 'Musical' Competition 2019





This year heralded a change for the House Singing Competition; for the past few years the theme has been Winter or Christmas, but this year we introduced the theme of musicals. The Heads of Houses were excited by this theme because the 'productions' that were performed this morning were stunning! At the start we were greeted by the zombies of Norbury, as the walking dead came into the music of Thriller. The choreography was amazing, and this was a particularly strong start from the reigning champions; a special mention must go to Mr Popham and Mrs Fitch for their outstanding dancing. The bar had been set high from just one performance. Next up was Headley. We do not know who enjoyed this more, the staff or the children, but the enthusiasm was infectious, and everyone was dancing and singing along to Mamma Mia. Third was Wisley and they were very brave with their acapella choice of 'Doe a Deer' from the Sound of Music. A beautiful start from Finley G and some great group arrangements especially from the

staff. Finally, Ranmore finished in great style with 'I'm a Believer' from Shrek the Musical. Amazing singing, wonderful Shrek and Fiona masks and brilliantly led choreography from Mrs Temlett and Mrs Sehgal. The judges then had the extraordinary hard task of judging and even though there were disagreements, Wisley won! The results were incredibly close as you will see below:

- 1st – Wisley – 39 points
- 2nd – Headley – 38 points
- 3rd – Norbury – 37 points
- 3rd – Ranmore – 37 points

Our thanks to the Heads of Houses and House staff for all their phenomenal hard work and efforts in creating these fantastic performances this morning. We are already looking forward to next year!

Helen Black and Jon Albert

Artists Of The Week



This week's Artists of the Week are our winners of the House Art Competition. We had an amazing number of entries and it was a very tough job judging all the wonderful creations. Our winners, who were announced in this morning's assembly and received an 'Art Oscar', are as follows:

Lower School winner: Octavia M in 5AG

Lower School runners up: Scarlett S in 2CC and Robert B in 4JS

Special mention to Kaila and Conor in Year 4 and Pravini, Aston and Maria in Year 5

Upper School winner: Joel W in 8MSw

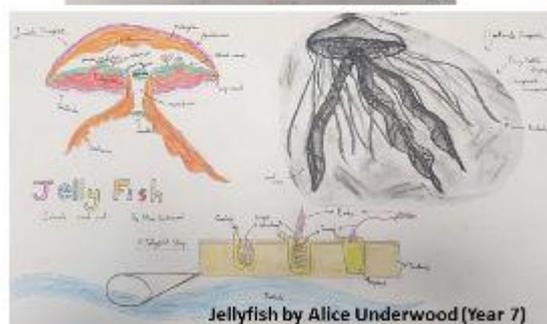
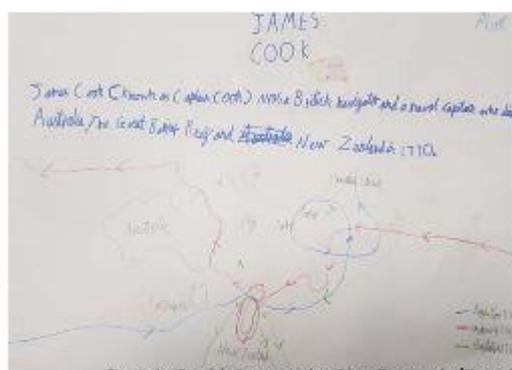
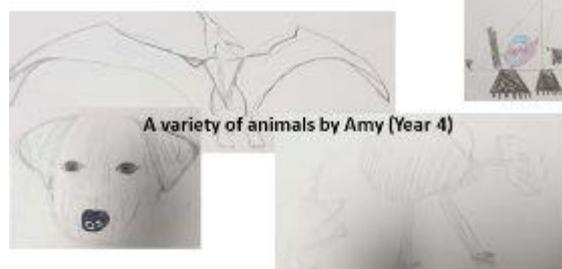
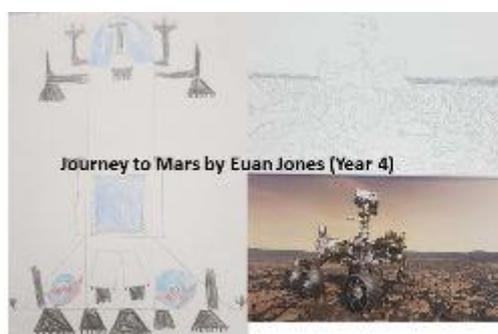
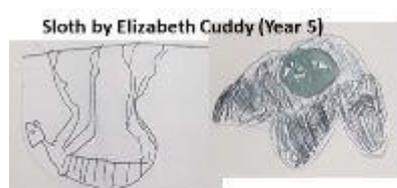
Upper School runners up: Oscar R in 6MSk, Hasaan A in 7JA, Natasha C in 8MSw

Special mention to Yusef in Year 6 and Leo in Year 7.

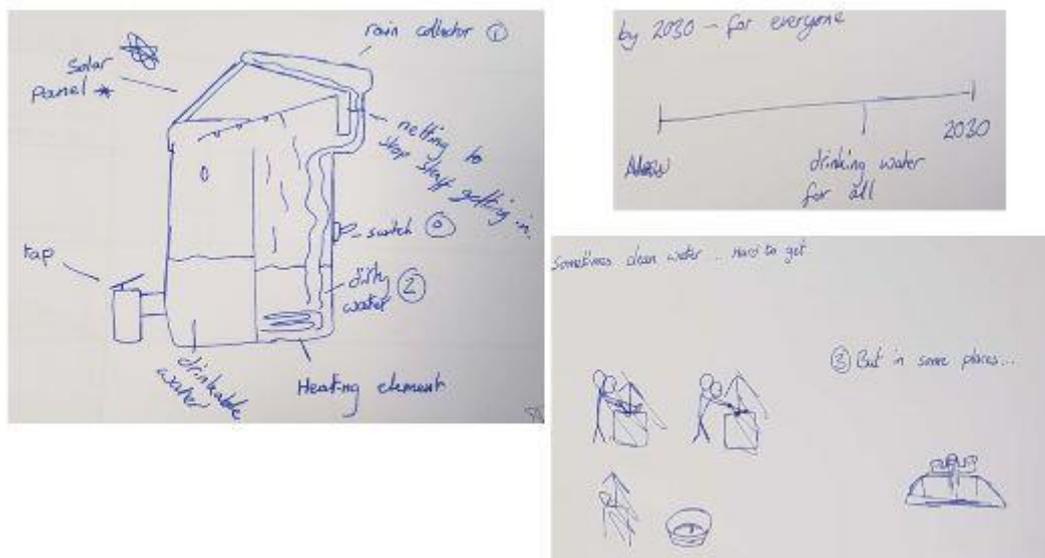
Julia Ayles

Science News

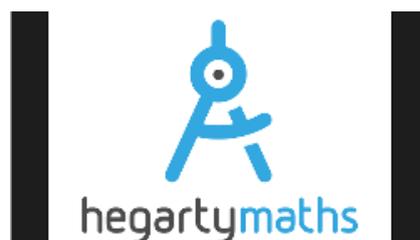
We have had some great progress with the **Art in Science Club** for both Lower School and Upper School. Here are a sample of students' work:



The **Science in Media Club** has been progressing well with amazing ideas to solve the global issue of clean water for all. Here is one group's design ideas so far:



Maths Christmas Challenge



Students have been asked to complete all three Mem-Ri tasks on Hegarty Maths this week, in addition to their regular homework. This is to encourage students to revise their Mathematics regularly. Revisiting previous topics in Mathematics on a regular basis has been proven to help students retain their understanding of concepts and the skills developed.

The three students in Upper School who have spent the most time working on Hegarty Maths this week will be awarded a prize.

Laura Stack, Head of Mathematics

Year 8 Headmaster's Commendations – Bronze Award



It has been a busy few weeks with lots of pupils collecting housepoints and credits. As a result, I'm delighted that Mia K, Thomas U and Anita B were the first pupils to be awarded the Bronze Headmaster's Commendation for collecting over 300 points already (Anita was not present for the photograph unfortunately). A huge well done to them and I look forward to awarding the next batch of commendations to those pupils who are hot on their heels.

Lee Silva, Deputy Head of Upper School

#Cognita Codes

The whole school have been engaged with coding activities in their Computing lessons this week in order to celebrate coding and Computer Science. Pupils have been busy collaborating, testing, coding and debugging their way through lots of different activities at all sorts of levels. Below are a selection of photographs – with one in particular sporting a fantastic set of headphones. My thanks to all Computing teachers for their enthusiasm, energy and inspiration for planning and delivering these lessons.





Lee Silva, Computing Lead

Advent Calendar On Firefly



To get us all into the festive spirit, why not check out the fun and interactive advent calendar on Firefly using this link <https://downsend.fireflycloud.net/computing/programming/advent-calendar/advent-calendar> when you will find activities, jokes, songs, experiments and lots more to keep adults and children entertained throughout December.

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

fireflysupport@downsend.co.uk

Lee Silva, Deputy Head of Upper School

Music News

Congratulations to Jessica Jane L, who achieved a distinction in her Grade 1 piano exam a few weeks ago. She got full marks for her aural and 30/30 for one of her pieces!

Excellent Jessica, Well Done!

Rainbow Trust Carol Concert

The Chamber Choir and instrumentalists performed beautifully at the Rainbow Trust Carol Concert at St Nicolas Church on Tuesday evening. Well done to all!



Upcoming Christmas Performance Dates



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.
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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

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 a week to go before the Christmas Holidays, Downsend+ has space available. 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 mail downsendplus@downsend.co.uk

Rebecca Peek

Downsend
Parents'
Association



Thank you for making the DPA Christmas Fair spectacular, as hundreds flocked to main site to enjoy some festive fun!



We kicked off Christmas in true Downsend style this year, as Sunday saw hundreds of people flock to main site for the DPA Christmas Fair. The DPA were absolutely delighted to see so many parents, children and staff turn up in their hundreds to enjoy all the fun of the Fair at this special time of year – thank you so much for all your support!

The objective of the Fair this year was not to raise tons of cash, but instead we wanted to focus on continuing to draw together our whole school community, strengthening our links to each other and have a lot of fun whilst doing it. We invested in a series of activities and events that appealed to a range of interests and age groups, tried new things and learned a lot. We believe we had over 700 people attend the Fair which is astronomical, and exceeds previous years – so in terms of metrics for success, Downsend smashed it!

Whether you shopped 'til you dropped, enjoyed one of Dougie's turkey baps, played in the snow globe or tried your luck with the Human Fruit Machine, there was something for everyone this year. One of the personal highlights for the DPA was the astounding representation from our full community across Pre Preps, Lower School, Upper School, Alumni and even new and prospective parents enjoyed a true Christmas spectacular. It was truly wonderful to see so many smiling faces and such open mindedness as we took the opportunity to try out some new things, alongside bringing you some of our firm favourites. As with every year, the DPA continue to learn what works, and what does not and will be sitting down in the New Year to share feedback and thoughts for the 2020 Fair planning – if you would like to provide any feedback, we would welcome hearing from you! Drop Lou & Jo an email at downsendPA@gmail.com.

Of course the DPA would not be able to bring you any of these festive frolics without the absolutely amazing army of volunteers – you can't imagine how many generous parents, staff and children gave up their time to help us pull this Fair into shape.

Whether you were helping us set up, donated items for tombolas, volunteered on a stall or helped us clear up afterwards, and everything else in between, the DPA would like to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to you all! Everything you did made our ability to deliver an engaging, thoughtful and complex event so much easier to achieve. You are all awesome!

So as the DPA now focus on volunteering for the Lower School & Upper School Santa Dash events next week, we do so with full hearts and renewed energy! Thank you all for continuing to support and appreciate the work of your DPA Committee.

Uniform Intake Day – Thursday 12 December @ 8am



The DPA were able to squeeze in a pre-loved Uniform Intake day before we break up for the holidays. Please bring your labelled, logo'd, pre loved uniform to the Turret on Thursday 12 December at 08am-8.30am.

Some helpful guidance to help you plan can be found below:

Do:

- Dig out your **clean, logo'd** uniform that you would like to sell
- Print a label off the Downsend website or pick one up in the Turret from Monday
- Attach a completed label to the uniform item using a **safety pin**
- Pop your items in a bag and hand over to the DPA on **Thursday morning between 08am-8.30am**
- Remember there is a **Uniform Sale on Tuesday 21 January** at main site
- Get in touch with Lynn if you have any questions: downsendPA@gmail.com

Don't:

- Hand in any soiled or non-logo items – they will be returned to you or discarded
- Bring in any items to the Turret or Admin outside of the allocated time, we will return them to you
- Forget to complete your label with your name and contact details – otherwise we wont be able to pay you if your item sells
- Attach items with normal pins – **safety pins only** to ensure safety of our volunteers
- Miss out on the next Uniform Sale on **Tuesday 21 January at main site** – more info to follow

Also, whilst we are on the subject of Uniform Sales, the DPA wanted to let you know that cheques for last year's sold items are being prepared and despatched currently. Any payments for items sold in the last academic year should be winging their way to lucky sellers shortly.

Thank you for continuing to support the DPA Uniform Sale, we appreciate your donations and appropriately labelled, clean, logo'd items to sell!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please get in touch with Lynn at downsendPA@gmail.com

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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