



**DOWNSEND**  
SCHOOL



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

# DOWNSEND TIMES

**10 January 2020**



## **A Message from the Headmaster**

I hope that you enjoyed a wonderful festive break with your families and that 2020 is a happy, healthy and successful year. We have every intention of ensuring that it is all three here at Downsend for your children. It will certainly be a landmark one for our school as, when Big Ben chimes on 31 December, our new Arts Centre will be just three weeks away from completion. There is a lot of work to be done to achieve that deadline and I am delighted to inform you that we have already started work on the Contractors site, to the road side of the Astroturf. Our aim is to disrupt normal proceedings as little as possible throughout the year and the position of the compound helps to achieve this. Next week, the grounds work will begin in earnest and, at this point, you will start to get a sense of what the scale of the project will entail. Our biggest challenge is one of noise and I am indebted to those staff, pupils and parents of certain classes in Years 3 and 5 for the adaptability as we re-site them to spaces where their learning will not be impacted. We are a school that promotes critical thinking, flexibility and problem-solving and that is evident in glorious technicolour with the start of this exciting project.

In 2020, you will also see a move towards a more paperless school, as we direct you more and more to information available on the VLE. We communicate a lot with you, and it is always well intended, but we recognise that we need to streamline this. We have already begun this process and I hope that you see evidence of this improvement in the weeks ahead. Over the past few weeks, it is evident that there are significant challenges in the world. The terrible bush fires in Australia and recent events in Iran remind us to consider others and appreciate those things that we sometimes take for granted. Whilst it promises to be an exciting year at Downsends, we will continue to support our charitable and community ambitions as we go.

*Ian Thorpe*

---

## Lower School Update

Welcome back to all of our Lower School families. I hope that you all had a wonderful festive season and enjoyed fun times with family and friends, as well as some much needed relaxation. Thank you again for all of the lovely, thoughtful Christmas gifts given to staff in the Lower School, they were hugely appreciated by us all.

The theme of my assembly this week was 'Small Change; Big Difference' and we discussed the idea that grand plans, such as going running every day, often fall by the wayside, whereas achievable goals, such as Charlie R's drawing for a few minutes every day, are likely to be more manageable and lead to greater success. It was lovely to see the children embrace this idea and also showing a real community awareness, such as the difference that can be made to the catering team's workload by clearing their own cup in the Dining Room or the impact on the environment if you switch off your engine in the school car park rather than leaving it to idle as you wait. I look forward to hearing about the small changes the children make over the coming weeks.

The academic term has also begun extremely well. Well done to Freyja (5LC), Annabel (4EF), Francesca (3CC), Millie (3VB), Charlie (3CC), George (4EF), Dianna (3VB), Zoe (3VB), Harry C (3VB) and Thomas A (2CC) all of whom have already shown me outstanding work from across the curriculum, despite having only been back for four days – what a terrific start to 2020.

*Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School*

---

## Upper School Update

It was an absolute pleasure to do turret duty this Tuesday and welcome back all our Upper School children this week; I loved hearing the stories of Christmas's spent in both snowy and warmer climes, as well as kicking leaves and wonderful festive fun here in the UK for lots of our families! I was also feeling incredibly proud as last weekend; as some of you may know, a Downsend alumnus, Dominic Sibley, batted his way to an unbeaten 133 not out in Capetown, in the second of a four test series against South Africa. All of us here at Downsend congratulate him on his achievement, and I was reminded of all the hard work and practise he put in when he was a schoolboy here 11 years ago. By way of a link to that to that fantastic achievement, it was great to see the early morning cricketers at school this week with the girls on Wednesday and the boys on Thursday. As I think back to the focus and application that he showed during his time here at Downsend, I hope that Dominic's achievements inspire you all to be as determined as possible to be the best that you can be this year, not just in sport but in every aspect of school life!

Given those early starts along with busy trips to school for our pupils I wanted to remind you all that starting from next week we are excited to be offering a Downsend Breakfast option, from 8-8:25am for all our pupils from Year 2-8 in the Dining Hall. Doug and his team will be serving options from the menu below and we hope this is a useful service to some of our busy families and pupils to ensure a healthy start to your day!

	
<b>DOWNSEND SCHOOL</b>	
<b>Breakfast Menu</b>	
Cereal Selection (low sugar)	60p
Potato Waffle with Baked Beans	60p
Toast (with Jam, Cheese or Marmite)	30p
Yoghurt with Granola	60p
Exotic Fruit Selection (5 pieces)	75p
Omelette (made to order):	
Plain	80p
Cheese	£1.00
Ham	£1.00
SERVED IN THE DINING HALL FROM 8:00 - 8:25AM	

Finally, a big well done to the pupils of 8Y and Mr Dunning for braving the weather yesterday on their Juniper Hall Geography field studies trip to the Tillingbourne river; I hope you collected some accurate data to populate your forthcoming projects and good luck to 8Z who are out today, and 8X for their trip next week.

*Karl Newland, Head of Upper School*

---

## Winning House for Autumn Term - HEADLEY

Lower School	Position	Top Achiever
Wisley	1 <sup>st</sup>	Francesca B – Y3
Norbury	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Harrison M – Y3
Headley	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Orla K – Y3
Ranmore	4 <sup>th</sup>	Fenton F – Y3

Upper School	Position	Top Achiever
Headley	1 <sup>st</sup>	Thomas U – Y8
Wisley	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Issy B – Y7
Norbury	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Damia S – Y8
Ranmore	4 <sup>th</sup>	Aniyah G – Y8

Whole School	Position
Headley	1 <sup>st</sup>
Wisley	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Norbury	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ranmore	4 <sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Headley for winning the first term's House competition. This competition is made up of all the pupils house points earned through good citizenship and academic achievements across the term, along with their success in the various events. As always, a House treat will follow at the beginning of this term; watch this space.

Good luck to all the Houses for the Spring competition.

*Helen Black & Jon Albert*

---

## Lower School French Update - La Galette Des Rois



The children in Lower School have returned this week to learn about an ages old French custom which celebrates Epiphany or 'La fête des rois'. The children in years 2 and 3 listened intently to the story of how families in France traditionally share a 'Galette des Rois' on 6<sup>th</sup> January to commemorate the visit of the Three Wise Men or 'les rois'. The person who is lucky enough to find a 'fève' or charm hidden inside their slice of galette is nominated 'roi' or 'reine' wears a 'couronne' and has the right to boss other family members around for the day!

The Galette des Rois is a delicious cake made of puff pastry and frangipane. Perhaps you might like to make one at home?

*Louise Hallam, Languages Department*

---

## Parking Issues - Please Read

At the end of the first week of the new Spring term we have received a number of complaints from parents regarding a practice that seems to be causing a great deal of annoyance and concern to other parents. It appears that a number of parents are abusing the drop off zone in the morning and afternoon by parking their vehicles for long periods of time which prevents other parents from using the spaces for the purpose in which they are intended. This results in a tailback of vehicles that then holds up the traffic on the main A24 outside the front of the school. These are busy times of the school day for parents particularly those who are trying to get to work in the morning so it would be very much appreciated if parents can show more consideration to others who need to use the spaces allocated in the drop off zone as clearly we wish to avoid any accidents or altercations arising. If parents do wish to remain in school longer having dropped off their child/ren in the morning, please use one of the many parking spaces provided round the school site. Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Simmons, Business Manager

---

## Ski Trip - Last Few Places Remaining

There are a very limited number of spaces that have opened up for the ski trip to Les Menuires in April. The dates are 11<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:peter.mitchell@downsend.co.uk)). With very limited space left, these spaces will be awarded on a first-come, first served basis.

---

## Music News

### 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*

---

## INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

---

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

**Our mailing address is:**

Downsend School  
1 Leatherhead Road  
Leatherhead  
Surrey  
KT22 8TJ

---