



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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

DOWNSEND TIMES

31 January 2020



A Message from the Headmaster



The 31 January will represent a landmark in British history as the UK prepares to leave the EU at 11pm tonight. Last night, in the Grand Place in Brussels, the city in which I was educated, the lights show was dedicated to the red, white and blue of the Union Jack. You will understand why, therefore, today is tinged with personal sadness; as the Head of a school with a global perspective, I want our pupils to grow up to be forward-thinking, collaborative members of this rapidly changing world. After, 3 years of uncertainty, we can all now move forwards, at least, and I am delighted to report that Downsends pupils continue to amaze us all with their ability to adapt and aim high. Yesterday, we were informed that our Year 8 team have been selected as one of six Grand Finalists at the Imperial College National Science Competition. Coming on the back of the Youth Debates success last week, you can see why we are so proud of the 'future skills' being developed in our pupils.

You too have recognised, in your droves, the importance of developing the skills that our children will require in the future. Over 70% of you have completed the annual Voice of the Parent survey, a wonderful display of engagement and appreciation, for which we are hugely grateful. With the survey closing this weekend, we will start to share the key findings with our staff from next week and will share summaries and action plans with you next term, along with information about the Arts Centre progress. Our overall NPS score is climbing by 10 points a year, and your feedback and positive energy continues to support the school's growth. Prospective parents often ask me what we are great at: could be debating or STEAM, sport or the Arts. Could be kindness, politeness and developing future skills. With your help and support, we are certainly great at getting better, as you will read in this, and our weekly, Downsends Times.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

Water, ecology, and pollution were the topics on everyone's minds this week as Monday's Lower School Assembly was taken by Lizzie Foster from the Surrey Wildlife Trust. Lizzie challenged the children to really think about water, how valuable it is and how it becomes polluted easily but impactfully by people without them really noticing. She talked about how we could save water, make it less polluted and create an impact on the wildlife around us by doing so. The questions that the children answered so ably, showed their understanding, interest, and awareness and made the teachers very proud of our children, who have the potential to change the world for the better. Well done especially to George D (4EF), Lily C (4EF), Jeremy D (5LC), Sienna A (5AG), Amy (2YdV) and Lucie (2CC) who all answered questions in a manner which showed real awareness. Thank you so Mrs Ludlam and her Eco Team who are already working on environmental issues in school and who spoke to Lizzie about how we could encourage wildlife in the new well-being garden at school.

On Monday I took the opportunity to see Maths in action in the Lower School and visited several classrooms to see some fantastic learning in progress. Well done to Mrs Carmody's Year 5 Maths group, to 2CW and to 3NL for such brilliant work. Particular praise to Aston S (5LC) and Flora H (3NL) who could articulate their

Mathematical learning in such a clear way. It was like meeting with two new teachers - well done!

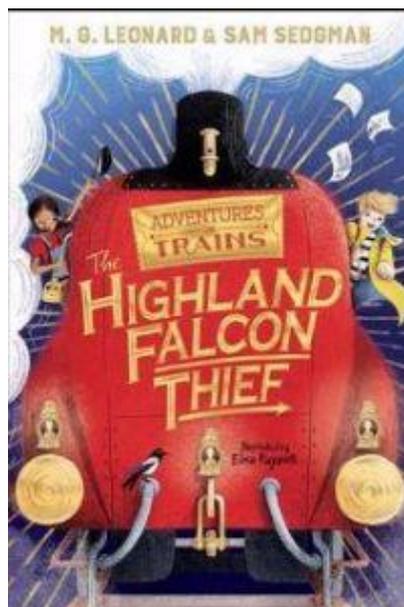
There has been a stream of outstanding work being brought to me this week too. Well done to Summer A (5CD) for her writing which showcased a brilliantly mature understanding and use of simile and metaphor. Well done to Francesca W (5PM), Lauren L (5LC), Aiden W (5AG), Natalia B (5AG) and Amelia B (5PM) for their wonderful work on rock types in Science. The way that they presented their learning made the processes so clear and appealing to read! Well done too to 2YdV whose visual story mapping was so fantastic – no wonder your writing goes from strength to strength!

Congratulations also go to Ameenah in 3ST who took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch this week. Having spotted ten different types of birds, Ameenah recorded the numbers of each type of bird on the chart and sent them back to the RSPB. National results will be available later in the year. Well done, Ameenah!



On Wednesday this week, Years 2 and 3 participated in the G Live Children's Concert and were superb! We were especially proud, however, of Francesca B (3ST) who was chosen from hundreds of children to design the programme cover for the whole event. A huge well done to you, Francesca, what a superb design!

Finally, if you would like to banish Brexit gloom with a visit to the bookshop, the Waterstone's 'Children's Book of the Month' is 'The Highland Falcon Thief' by M G Leonard. This is an exciting adventure full of deceptions and puzzles and set aboard a royal steam train. Described as 'Like Murder on the Orient Express but better' by Frank Cottrell Boyce, this will certainly be one that I'll be reading!



Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

Last week I updated you on how impressive the pupil profiles recorded on Class Charts were, and I am delighted that, as an outcome of their continued progress, the following pupils were awarded their next commendations in my Upper School assembly this week:- Charlie K, Alfie R-F, Jack M, Izzy W, Ava S, Jada J, Ralphie A, Charlie D, Jacob G, Lola P-B, James W and Olivia H. In addition, well done to the top achievers in the Upper School house competition; Ralphie A, Jada J, Jayden K and Darius G-P! I continue to be impressed with how much our staff and pupils are focusing on and developing their STEAM-based skills, which are underpinned by the 4'C's:- Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Critical thinking. On my learning walks this week I have seen an abundance of this. As an example, when the Year 7 pupils arrived for their History lessons this week they discovered that the History Room had become a crime scene at Canterbury Cathedral. They then spent the rest of the week using a combination of group work, research and analysis of a range of sources to prove who murdered Thomas Becket on 29 December 1170. This proved to be both great fun and hugely beneficial to the pupils who demonstrated collaboration and communication in equal measure, and well done to Miss Black on her own creativity (as always)!

Similarly in English, the Year 6 students have been working creatively, imaginatively and also independently as they have been writing their own special versions of the Ted Hughes poem, 'My Sister Jane'. This involved considering the shared attributes of a family member and a specific animal and then producing a metaphorical poem which uses comparative techniques to present the two entities; both human and animal. There have been some beautiful and sensitive poems created, so well done to all of you on some impressive literacy skills. In a fabulous technical cross-curricular link, Mr Silva is now working with the pupils to animate these poems and their characters in a coding project in Computing; amazing stuff!

As most of you will know, we are well on our way to transitioning to a Senior School, and as we continue to adapt our curriculum to best prepare our pupils for GCSE studies in the future, our Upper School pupils have all been learning how to describe a photo in French as this is a task that appears on both the speaking and writing papers at GCSE. They have been learning to use their PALMS to describe the people, actions, location, mood and seasons/weather that are visible in the photo below. The level of work and success of these challenges presented by Mr Skitt and his language team is an indication of the academic promise and achievements to come in the future and well done to all the Upper School pupils on their improving language skills in French, Spanish and German.



I must also congratulate Safa A and Joel W in Year 8, ably directed by our Head of Science Dr Kirby, who entered the Imperial College Schools Science Competition recently with a brilliant engineering-based proposal for the generation of renewably sourced clean drinking water across the globe. Based on the strength of their proposal, they have been shortlisted for the finals, to be held on 18th March in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building at the Imperial College South Kensington Campus. Many congratulations to both of you, and to Dr Kirby, and good luck in the final!

Following a successful trip to see Jane Eyre yesterday, the Year 8 pupils are looking forward to their Careers Fair this afternoon, where they will hear about a variety of career paths to consider from our guest speakers. Thanks to Mr Skitt in advance for all his organisation, along with all our guest presenters, and he will update you on the success of the event in next week's Downsend Times.

Finally, I spoke with Doug this week about the newly rolled out breakfast option from 8-8:30 am each day. He is delighted with how things are going and has even opened a 'live omelette station', with a brand new induction hob specifically for omelettes, as so many have been flying off the shelves since he launched! This morning was the busiest yet, with over 40 children enjoying waffles, fresh fruit and yoghurt, in addition to a special Friday treat of 'pain au chocolat', captured well by Miss Sievewright with the photo below.



Mrs Kirkham and I will review this new offer in the next two weeks, but if you feel this has been a success and would like it to continue after half term, please do email either of us with your thoughts.

I look forward to seeing our Year 7 parents next week for Parent-Teacher interviews, and in the meantime wish all our Upper School families a pleasant weekend!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

1st House Collection for the new term and Headley continue to dominate!



After the 3 weeks of term, all House points were collected in the slight hope that Wisley, Norbury or Ranmore had managed to close the gap on Headley, who won the Autumn Term competition and recent House treat. Although the Upper School Results were closer, Headley pupils in the Lower School continue to outshine the other Houses; well done Mrs Carmody and your team! The assembly today was on 'self-belief' and overcoming 'doubt'; something that the Headley pupils clearly have an abundance of, as they approach their academia and wider House enrichment opportunities with great gusto!

Lower School	Position	Top Achiever
Headley	1st	Grace A
Ranmore	2nd	Anna H
Wisley	3rd	Bella T
Norbury	4th	Myles H

Upper School	Position	Top Achiever
Headley	1 st	Darius G-P
Ranmore	2 nd	Ralphie A
Wisley	3rd	Jada J
Norbury	4th	Jayden K

Whole School	Position
Headley	1 st
Ranmore	2 nd
Wisley	3rd
Norbury	4th

Well done Headley and all the Top Achievers for a pleasing start to the term!

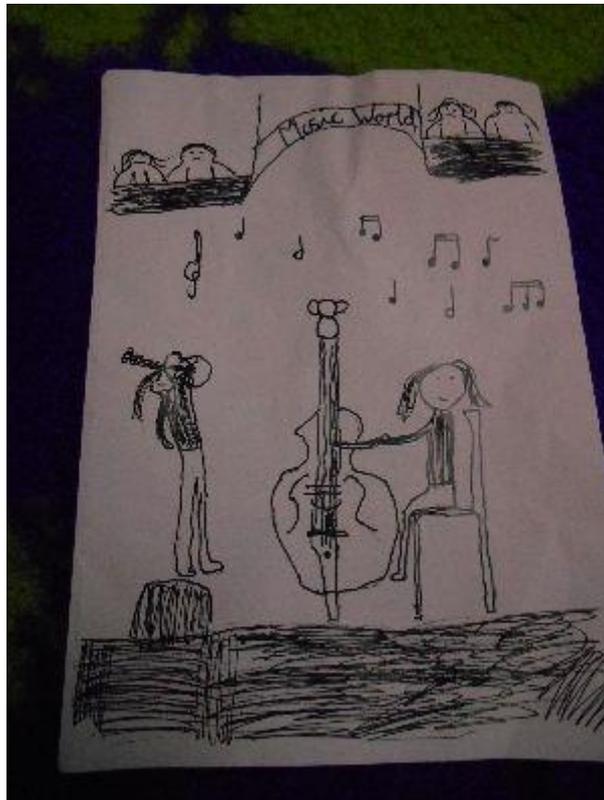
Mr Albert, Assistant Head

Miss Black, Deputy Head, Lower School

Year 2 and 3 Trip to G Live



Year 2 and 3 enjoyed a trip on Wednesday to hear an orchestra at the GLive Theatre in Guildford and were enthralled by the range of instruments.



We are very proud that the programme cover for the event (above) was designed by our own Francesca B (3ST)

Below are some descriptions of the trip by two Year 2 pupils.

G LIVE Scarlet in
One Wednesday, me and my
class went to G live.
First we got the coach, I
was so excited. After a
long 30 minute trip we
arrived. When we had our snack
in a lobby, I had a chocolate
brownie bar, & we all went to the
toilet, we found our seats. My
favourite was the trumpet. They
were played by Fraser Tarrack
and Martin R. T. Pall. Then we
listened 6 songs and we sang
the wigwam song. Finally we
headed back to school on the
coach.

On Wednesday we went to G live in
G Mildford. We got on the coach after
registration. When we arrived we had our snack
I had unicorn gems. We had it in the lobby.
After we had been to the toilet, we
found our seats. We listened to 6 pieces of music
and then we sang the wigwam played by the
orchestra. My favourite was the Violins, Flutes
and Horns. There were 41 people in the
orchestra. After the orchestra we went
back to coach and went back to school.
Lucie Clapham Year 2
ZCC

Children's Mental Health Week



Next week we will be raising awareness of mental health by observing 'Place2be' Children's Mental Health Week.

There will be Upper School and Lower School assemblies on the theme of 'Find Your Brave' and classes will be doing follow up activities in form time.

Mrs Sehgal

Science News

Creativity – Collaboration – Communication – Critical Thinking

UN's Global Goals:



Congratulations to Safa A and Joel W in Year 8 who have made it through to the finals for making a 5-minute video about tackling one of the UN's Global Goals (water sanitation for all). They will be presenting at **Imperial London University** on March 16th amongst 5 other schools. They now have access to a mentor from the university, and will be preparing a prototype of their idea for the presentation to a panel of very prestigious judges. If your son or daughter would like to be involved with a project like this, which builds on future skills and links with top-class universities, please keep a lookout for Dr. Kirby's clubs!

Future opportunities:



For our Year 9 cohort 2020, the programme for the Arkwright Scholarship will begin. The scholarship programme is aimed at students skilled in Art, Technology, Maths, and one of the Science strands (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics), ultimately leading onto areas of engineering. The entries for the scholarship, assessment, and interview take place through the first 2 terms of Year 11. This includes access to their own engineering mentor, and funding for resources for A Levels. Any students interested in finding out more, please see Dr. Kirby.

Dr. Davina Kirby, Head of Science

Year 8 Trip to Jane Eyre



Since November, our Year 8 pupils have been looking at scenes from Blackeyed Theatre Company's new production of "Jane Eyre" in their Drama lessons. This reached a climax this week as we took the whole year group to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford to watch the touring company perform the play.

The children were very engaged with the performance and have been studying many dramatic devices present in the production, such as doubling, stage design, and non-literal presentation.

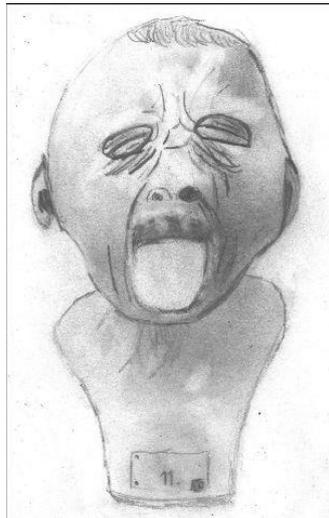
"I liked the way the play ended because it felt that all my questions had been answered." – Mia K

"The actor who played Jane did a very good job of portraying lots of different emotions in a very realistic way." – Josie D

Thank you to the staff who came along and helped make the trip such a success.

Chris Bryant, Head of Drama

Artist Of The Week



This week's Artist of the Week is Harrison in 7JA. Year 7 have been studying the work of Franz Xaver Messerschmidt whose 'Character Heads' exhibit a vast range of expressions. Using their understanding of tone, Year 7 have produced some incredibly detailed drawings, accurately capturing these expressions. Well done!

Julia Aylen

London Marathon Charity Appeal for The Children's Trust



Mr Popham will be running The London Marathon this year to raise money for 'The Children's Trust'. He is currently in week 6 of his training, which he tells us is 'pretty brutal, but extremely rewarding'. Mr Popham is trying to raise £2000 to help support this wonderful charity, so if anyone would like to donate please could they follow the link below.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=MarcPopham1&pageUrl=https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=MarcPopham1&pageUrl=1>

Many thanks in advance for your support.

A poster for a house dance competition. The background is a purple-tinted photograph of two dancers in a dynamic pose. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'HOUSE DANCE COMPETITION' in yellow, with 'GROUPS CAN BE MIXED FROM DIFFERENT HOUSES' in smaller white text below it. The main title 'DOWNSEND'S GREATEST DANCER!!' is written in large, white, slanted letters across the middle. Below that, it says 'Sign-up sheets for the auditions will be in the Tregenna and Peterborough Halls' in white. The section 'Auditions to be held:' is in large yellow letters. Underneath, it lists 'Lower School - Wednesday 12th & Friday 14th February in the Peterborough Hall - 12.40-1.20' and 'Upper School - Wednesday 12th & Friday 14th February in the Tregenna Hall - 1.40-2.20' in yellow. At the bottom, it says 'A second round of auditions will be held after half term with the final acts competing at whole school assembly on Friday 20th March!' in white.

HOUSE DANCE COMPETITION
GROUPS CAN BE MIXED FROM DIFFERENT HOUSES

**DOWNSEND'S
GREATEST DANCER!!**

Sign-up sheets for the auditions will be in the
Tregenna and Peterborough Halls

Auditions to be held:

Lower School - Wednesday 12th & Friday 14th February in the
Peterborough Hall - 12.40-1.20

Upper School - Wednesday 12th & Friday 14th February in the
Tregenna Hall - 1.40-2.20

A second round of auditions will be held after half term
with the final acts competing at whole school assembly on
Friday 20th March!

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

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 Plus Holiday Club Availability



The February, Easter & May Downsend Plus Booking Forms are now available on the website, at present we have spaces on all courses and all days. For more information contact Rebecca Peek on 01372 385403.

Upcoming roadworks on A24

See below advice from Surrey County Council regarding upcoming roadworks to address the drainage issues on the A24.

Bogus callers

We do not do private work. If anyone offers to do private work please contact Surrey Trading Standards on 0845 404 05 06 or visit www.surrey.gov.uk/stopcoldcallers

Who will carry out the works?

The council's contractor Kier will be carrying out these works on our behalf.

Contact us

 www.surreycc.gov.uk/highways

 0300 200 1003 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

 Contact Centre, County Hall, Penrhyn Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN

Customer feedback

Your feedback on how these works are carried out will help us to continue to improve. Please quote **WCT- A24drainage** on any feedback you give. You can do this by completing our online form at www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadworks.

Buses

We apologise if our works cause disruption to your bus service. Please check with the bus company for any alterations with the service during this time.

Has one of our signs been left behind?

www.RemoveThisSign.com

A graphic for a roadwork sign. It features a dark background with a blue curved top-left corner. In the top left, there is a small sign icon that says 'IMPROVING OUR ROADS' and 'A Surrey'. In the top right, the 'SURREY' logo is visible. The main text is in large, bold, yellow and white letters: 'IMPROVING SAFETY ON SURREY'S ROADS'. Below this, in white text, it says: 'Advance warning Safety improvement works: A24 Leatherhead Road, Leatherhead Monday 3 February 2020 For approx. 3 weeks Delays possible'. At the bottom, there are two horizontal yellow lines.

Start date:
Monday 3 February 2020

Duration:
For approx. 3 weeks
Working hours -
Mon to Fri - 7am to 7pm
Sat – 8am to 5pm
Sun – 9am to 1pm

Please look out for advance warning signs on site for any date changes or check www.roadworks.org and @MoleValleyLC on Twitter

Information for residents and businesses

The red circle on the map opposite shows the area we will be working in.

One side of the road will be worked on at a time. We will complete work on one side of the road and pavement before starting the other side.

We will need to close the pavement when carrying out these works, we will provide a temporary pavement where possible. This will ensure the existing crossing points can continue to be used.

Monday 3 February until Sunday 16 February – The work will be on the road, verge and pavements. The road width will be restricted, but traffic lights do not have to be used and traffic can flow as normal.

Monday 17 February (Half Term) for one week – The work will be completed under two-way traffic lights, these will be in place 24 hours a day. The lights will be manually controlled between 7am and 7pm weekdays.

We will make sure you can get to and from your house or business when it is safe to do so.

Please talk to a member of our staff on site about your access queries – talking to our staff can easily solve most issues.

Delays in work

Our work is sometimes delayed by bad weather. We will keep you updated on any changes via the advance warning signs.

Parking

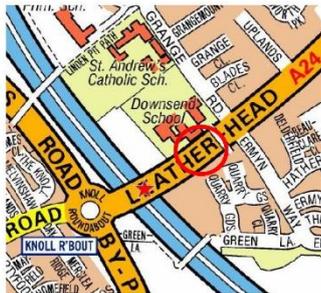
It is essential to keep the road free from parked vehicles. Please park somewhere else otherwise your vehicle may be towed away to a nearby road.

Noise

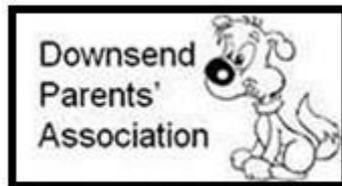
There will be some noise but we will try to keep it to a minimum

What we are doing.

We will be carrying out safety improvement works on the A24, Leatherhead road. This will involve drainage works to improve the flooding at this location.



Works area:



Forget BREXIT - Join the DPA Quiz night - Only 10 places left!



With BREXIT Day upon us, what better way to look to the future than to plan to join the DPA Quiz on Friday 28 Feb! This year we are seeking inspiration from the other side of the Atlantic and specifically Mexico!

The DPA team can't wait to bring you our first-ever Mexican themed event, you can count on us for some amazing food, a brilliant quiz, lots of laughs.... Oh, did someone say tequila?

So with only 10 places left, book now to avoid disappointment!

Check out Class List events to book your space now....

Any questions? Get in touch with the DPA Quiz team @ downsendPA@gmail.com

DPA Summer Ball, Saturday 20 June - Early Bird tickets go on sale Monday 02 March!



A reminder that the DPA Summer Ball will take place on Saturday 20 June at the wonderful Denbies Wine Estate (<https://www.denbies.co.uk>). Early bird tickets will be made available via Class List from Monday 02 March until the end of the day on Friday 27 March.

Following this date, tickets will still be available to purchase at full price.

More details to come, but for now please pop the date in your diary and keep your eyes on Class List for more information.

Celebrating Family @ the DPA Lower School Afternoon Tea Friday 20 March



Don't forget to save the date for the Lower School Afternoon Tea on Friday 20 March. It will be a special time for our Lower School children to celebrate family and treat one of their loved ones to a little TLC.

More info will follow soon but in the meantime please add the date to your diary.

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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