



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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

DOWNSEND TIMES

13 March 2020

A Message from the Headmaster

It has been another unprecedented week, culminating in a call this morning with all UK and Europe Cognita Heads to agree some actions following the decision of HM Government yesterday to move from the Containment Phase to the Delay Phase. We will continue to adopt a calm, measured approach, based on our collective knowledge and the advice of health professionals. Your support for our approach has been unequivocal and we are extremely grateful for the approach you have adopted. I hope that my update letter will offer clarity and guidance as we enter the last fortnight of the Spring Term. Please be assured that there is a great deal of work going on behind the scenes to ensure our online platforms are well populated, so that we can adjust quickly and effectively should the situation change.

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 scenario, the school population has responded with typical assuredness and fortitude. There have been Musical Concerts and Swimming Galas, Debating Competitions and Sporting Fixtures as we have carried on as normally as possible. Clearly this is changing situation and we will continue to do so within the parameters of the very best advice available. Please remember that our best defence is a high level of personal hygiene, washing hands and using tissues when sneezing. As always, we will update you as and when the situation changes.

Ian Thorpe, Headmaster

Lower School Update

This week has been the proverbial whirlwind and has flown past in a flash and I'm happy to reports that despite the concerns around Clovid-19, the Lower School has been filled with joy, positivity, music and dancing!

Monday kicked off a brilliant week when Josh G (Year 6) presented his close up magic assembly to the children. He had the children in the palm of his hand with the feats of magic he was able to perform; from multiplying foam balls to mind reading, he was the epitome of a mature showman – eat your heart out Paul Daniels! Well done to Josh for having the confidence to perform in this way to over 270 children first thing on a Monday - a task that would have most adults quaking!

Wednesday's assembly was equally exciting as we had our first 'Greatest Dancer' semi-finals. Performers from Year 3 to Year 5 danced their own routines to the school, showing confidence and skill far beyond their years. Mrs Driscoll, Miss Friend, Mrs Temlett and I really felt the pressure in judging between the acts to decide who will make it through to the finals. Well done to all the children who have taken part in this fantastic competition throughout all the rounds. I am already looking forward to the next round of semi-finals on Wednesday next week.

I had the great pleasure this week of hearing some fantastic 1:1 reading from children in the Lower School. A particular well done to William L in 2CC for his wonderful progress in reading so far this year, I really enjoyed sharing your book with you, Will. Continuing on the subject of reading, well done to Grace K in 4MP for being the first to complete her Reading Passport. I know that Miss Coates and Mr Duffield will be delighted that you have taken on this challenge with such gusto. As teachers of English, we know that great reading leads to great writing and I also was impressed this week by the factual writing about Dr Barnardo that I saw in Year 2. Well done to Zaria and William (2CW) for their outstanding work.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the children in the Year 2 Choir who performed at the St. Christopher's Music Festival on Thursday. I almost burst with pride as they stood confidently in front of a full church and sang, in English and Zulu, with confidence and great enjoyment. What was also wonderful to see was how beautifully our children played socially together at St. Christopher's School after the event, showing their wonderful character and spirit. They were wonderful ambassadors for the school, very well done! Thank you too to all of the staff and parents who supported this lovely, inclusive event.

I wish you all a happy and healthy weekend. Updates regarding the school's response to Clovid-19 will continue to be released regularly by Mr Thorpe, however, should you have any concerns related to your own child please feel free to contact me on clare.kirkham@downsend.co.uk and I will do my best to offer any help or advice

Mrs.Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

This has been an unusual week for all of us, with the wider context of the Corona Virus outbreak across the globe framing all we have done and achieved at school over the last few days. However, I am delighted to report that the Upper School pupils have, as always, been determined to make the most of every day, and have both studied and enjoyed the enrichment opportunities with beaming faces at all times.

Miss Black's creative teaching approach means that she always wants pupils to fully immerse themselves in the culture, clothing and events of historical periods, and it was a joy to see so many evacuees wearing Gas Masks and carrying ration boxes on Evacuee morning on Wednesday. Well done again to all our parents for assisting with such fabulous, and in some cases original garments and memorabilia from the period. It really was a lovely morning, and was rounded off by a fabulous war time lunch prepared by Doug and his team. We had 'Carrot' rolls as the vegetarian option, as well as Mince Beef and Potatoes, Garden soup and Hedgerow Biscuits for pudding, delicious!

On a similar nutrition based topic, following the success of the introduction of a breakfast option and to celebrate a fabulous term of catering, Doug has kindly offered to invite parents to join their children for a full English Breakfast on the last day of term, with all proceeds going to our various School Charities. To assist in the catering team's planning, if you would like to come along that morning please email the admin team at AdministrationOfficeStaff@downsend.co.uk to let us know you will be there from 8-8:30am.

The Year 6 children also had an amazing Shakespeare based trip to the Globe on Thursday, organised by Mrs Vanstone and her team, and returned with swords and stories of battles of yore. Great stuff!



This week both Senior and Lower School staff have been preparing the VLE for any possible school closure, to ensure a positive and productive educational experience in such an event. As such, I have had the joy of covering/teaching Year 8 Technology lessons, where James S, Henry v H, Jacob S and Casper G were the winners of the rollercoaster marble challenge, showing great STEAM skills in designing a rollercoaster that had a start to finish marble transit time of over 15 secs, impressive stuff boys, well done! In addition, I enjoyed some Maths teaching for Mrs Stack, and was very impressed with the level of ability and application from both Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, including some seriously difficult slope-intercept form challenges for the Year 7 scholarship classes, as well as a delightful

Year 4 Art lesson focusing on the 'Landscape' work of David Hockney!; I was very impressed with the quality of Art produced by our Lower School pupils and well done to 4EF in particular! As I wrote last week book week went brilliantly, and I am delighted that Mrs Temlett has written a summary piece this week highlighting the brilliant focus on literacy across the school. The Science theme has permeated throughout the school this week, and the Labs have been full of exciting demonstrations and science lessons including both Lower School pupils and older pupils assisting the Science team in working their magic! Well done to Dr Kirby and Mrs Sehgal for all their hard work in making this such a brilliant and fun Science week for all our pupils!

Finally, it was an absolute pleasure to host our first ever GCSE Options evening on Thursday night, where our oldest pupils were guided through their optional choices of GCSE's, including Computer Studies, Drama, Music, Humanities, Fine Art, Technology and GCSE PE. When you add the choices available to the core subjects studied by all our pupils, this represents a fantastic academic offer, and I am confident that our first cohort of Year 9 pupils, starting in September, will trail blaze their way to fantastic result in the summer of 2023.

Looking forwards to next week, there will no doubt be further disruption to fixtures and trips etc, but we will ensure that you are updated at regular intervals, and for now look forwards to seeing the pupils here on Monday after, hopefully, a lovely weekend for you all!

Karl Newland



It has been a very busy week in the Science department with Science shows for reception all the way up to Year 4 led by Dr Kirby and the Year 8 Scholars. They saw some weird and wonderful experiments including elephant toothpaste, water turning into Ribena and back to water, new hairstyles for teachers on the Van der Graff generator, and mentos in Coke!

Year 5 focused on the British Science Week poster competition on Our Diverse Planet.

Year 6 had the theme of 'be a scientist' where they have had to get into character and present themselves as a famous scientist.

Year 7 had a scientific literacy theme writing short poems or stories with a science theme, and then presenting in front of their class.

Thank you again for everyone's participation in British Science Week this week!

Dr Kirby





International Pi Day 2020

We have been celebrating Pi Day through competitions and Maths activities this week. The Maths corridor has been a buzz of excitement as students have created short films about Pi.

Congratulations to Jake N who was able to recite Pi to an incredible amount of decimal places!!! And congratulations to Safa A, who after a very impressive performance won, the Runners up prize of Gift vouchers for Go Ape!

Congratulations to the winners of the Oreo Competiton. Joseph, James, Tendo and Alex.

Mrs. L Stack, Head of Mathematics





The House Photography Competition

The numerous entries to the House Photography Competition were varied, imaginative and creative. There was also a fair amount of technical ability and understanding on display. This made it hard to choose a winner in both the Upper and Lower School categories.

The joint winners of the Lower School Competition were Benji S and Henry H. Benji chose a bold black and white composition in the 'Outdoors' category and Henry a well thought out and captivating portrait. Second place went to Aidan H who captured a mountain range in some ski goggles and third to Jessica-Jane L who combined the intense stare of her cat with a rainbow laser effect.

The Upper School Competition also saw a joint winner, though on this occasion the entry was collaborative; a portrait of both the photographers, Honey C and Damla S set in abstract surroundings. Second place was taken by James W's black and white Italian city scape and third was shared between Kian D's camper van composition and Jasmine C's portrait of her dog.

All the entries were delightful and made judging the competition enjoyable and challenging. Well done to every entrant who all receive 5 house points.

Results: Upper School- 1st Honey C and Damla S, 2nd James W and 3rd= Kian D and Jasmine C.

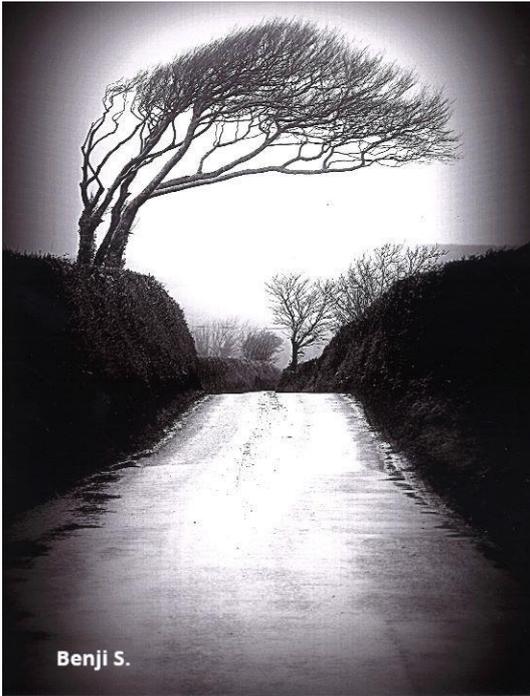
Lower School- 1st Henry H and Benji S, 2nd Aidan H and 3rd Jessica-Jane L

Lower School - **Wisley** 1st, **Headley** 2nd, **Norbury** 3rd, **Ranmore** 4th

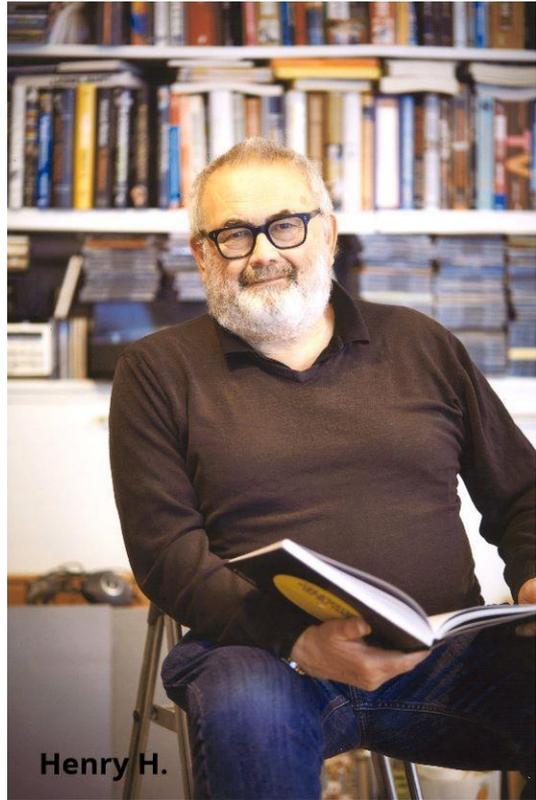
Upper School - **Norbury** 1st, **Headley** and **Ranmore** 2nd, **Wisley** 4th

Overall - **Norbury** 1st, **Headley** 2nd, **Wisley** 3rd, **Ranmore** 4th

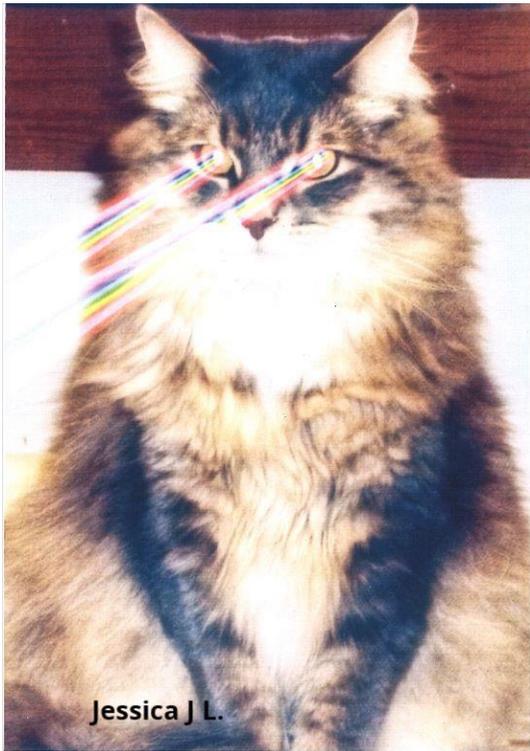
Mr. Howe and Mrs. Aylen



Benji S.



Henry H.

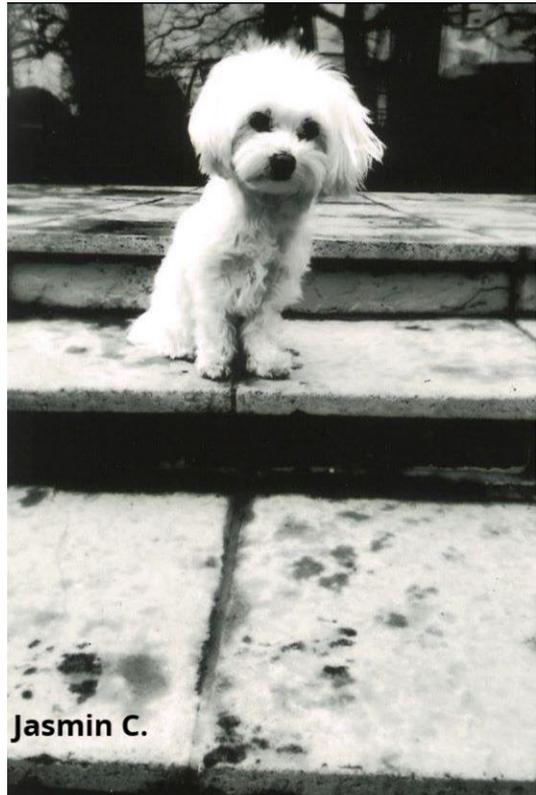
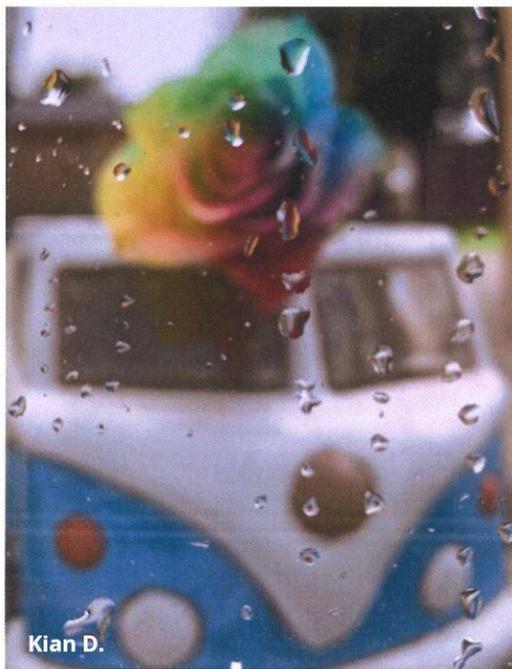


Jessica J L.



James W.





The Globe Theatre Trip - Y6s

Yesterday the sun shone (mainly) as the Year 6s ventured up to London for their trip to see Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Having being briefed about using hand sanitizer which most of them had and not touching hand rails etc we set off and had an excellent journey up.

First on the agenda was watching and learning about sword fighting in Shakespeare's time from the Ferrari of the swords the rapier to the common dagger. We watched several very realistic fights and then moved onto the Southbank where several lovely sketches, either of the theatre or the London skyline on the opposite bank were completed.

As a short hail storm came we moved in for lunch and then onto professional drama studios for a drama session with an actor focused on the Scottish play. We were lucky enough to have seen actors rehearsing this on the stage as we sat in the gallery and talked about the theatre. I was very impressed with the children's knowledge so early in this project.

Having played various games focusing on both character and language the children seem to now know the Scottish play that much better. Always preferable to do rather than read!!

A great day and I was very proud of year 6 who were great ambassadors for Downsend!

Dee Vanstone



Artist of The Week

This week's Artists of the Week are a few of our Year 7s, who have demonstrated amazing sculpting skills while creating these expressive clay heads. Well done to Jacob G, Ralphie A, Henry S and Izzy B!



Music News

Congratulations to our students who recently passed their music exams

Alex Y, who achieved a distinction in his Grade 3 drum kit exam.

Millie L, who passed her Piano Prep test and received an excellent feedback.

Alex M, who achieved a Distinction for his Grade 1 guitar exam.

Well done!

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.

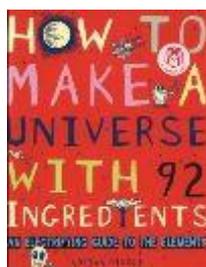
If your child would like to play an instrument that is not listed above, please let me know and I will try to source a tutor for you.

Mrs. Nicole Allison

Library News

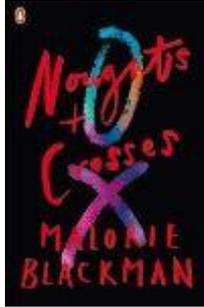
Dear Parents,

The book fair has been a huge success. We have raised over a thousand pounds for both the Lower School Library and the LRC to spend on books from Scholastic. I would like to thank you for your amazing support and generosity. It was really lovely to see the children talking about books, looking at books and helping each other to make choose books. I was also impressed by the determination shown by some of them to get their money's worth! I will bring books that were ordered to the children's classrooms over the next week. Please let me know if your child's order is not received by the end of next week. Also there appear to be about 8 unspent Scholastic vouchers so could I ask you to check your child's school bag as they cannot be spent online, I would need to ring Scholastic on your behalf.



Bok of the week in the Lower School Library:

Continue Science week at home with this fantastic guide to the elements. A unique and imaginative take on chemistry for children, with experiments that show how all things are made from just 92 chemical elements - from trees to mobile phones, to humans.



Book of the week in the LRC:

Recently adapted for the BBC, this book really makes you stop and think. Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Our visiting author Mark Drewery named Malorie Blackman as one of the authors who inspired him to start writing at the age of 11.

DPA News



Middle Aged Boozers claim the Sombrero at the DPA Quiz!



The DPA would like to thank all parents and staff who supported the annual DPA Quiz night.

With around 110 attendees, this was our biggest quiz event ever and saw a whole host of regulars and newcomers enjoying Doug's amazing Mexican fare, and flexing their mental muscles in the many hilarious quiz rounds!

Congratulations to the Middle Aged Boozers who smashed the competition to win, and better luck next time to all of those who participated.

As we look ahead to next years' event, we would love to receive feedback from attendees on how to continually improve this popular event. Please get in touch with the DPA at downsendPA@gmail.com.

DPA Summer Ball - tickets selling like hot cakes!



Don't delay, buy early bird tickets today!

The Summer Ball tickets are selling very quickly as people enjoy the significant value of the early bird savings. We would all parents to sign up for early bird tickets asap before the deadline closes on Friday 27 March at 7pm.

In case you would like to come as a couple of friends or a small group, the DPA would be delighted to accommodate you and will coordinate pulling together some like-minded people to create a whole table.

So, what are you waiting for..... visit [Class List > events](#) and fill in your details!

We are really looking forward to seeing you there.

Date for the Diary: Uniform Sale - Tuesday 28 April - 3.45pm-4.30pm

Lynn and her amazing angels are looking forward to bringing you another preloved Uniform Sale at Main Site on Tuesday 28 April from 3.45pm-4.30pm.

If you are available to volunteer for this sale we would be grateful, please let Lynn Godwin know - downsendPA@gmail.com.

More information to come but please add the date in your diary and keep your eye on [Class List](#) for reminders.

Please note that we are not taking in any uniform at the moment due to space restrictions, therefore please **do not** bring in any uniform items for sale, or leave them at Admin, otherwise we will return them to you.

POSTPONED: Celebrate Our Family - Lower School Afternoon Tea



A reminder that the Celebrate Our Family Afternoon Tea for Lower School was unfortunately postponed due to unforeseen logistical challenges.

Whilst this is disappointing for us all, the team are working to find an alternative date later in the term.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Don't forget to check Class List for DPA updates



Thanks to a lot of hard work by Charlotte Staplehurst (Evie and Ned's mum), we have been able to enjoy the many benefits of Class List, whether we are sending updates to our community, booking events or fundraising for example.

Don't forget to check Class List regularly for updates from your Class Reps, parent community and the DPA. Its a great resource!

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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