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DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



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

DOWNSEND TIMES

1 May 2020

A Message from the Headmaster

Week 2 of this most unique of Summer Terms has almost drawn to a close and I continue to be impressed by the manner in which our community is responding and adjusting to the new reality in which we find ourselves. Routines have been adapted, independent skills honed and creativity unleashed – we are indebted to our parents for the dozens of positive messages of encouragement. Having our staff projected into your own homes has clearly had an impact on you and your children and we are delighted to be able to continue to support you. For pupils in Years 4 and above, there will be an addition to the portfolio of work in the core subjects as Century Tech goes live at Downsend. We will continue to adapt and adjust our programme for the better as we await news of potential school openings next month, albeit on a reduced basis. Please be assured that we are already looking at a range of scenarios and planning for them.

We have continued to work behind the scenes to support our families and I am delighted that, this week, we were able to report full refunds for those who had been disappointed by the forced cancellation of the Barbados and Ski Trips. Today, you will receive an update on the announcement of fees for the next academic year. Freezing these for 2020/21 is absolutely the right thing to do in these circumstances and I hope that this news allows you to start to plan for the year ahead with increased reassurances. We continue to make a number of new staff appointments, all of which I will announce to you next month. The Downsend staff team possesses talent and endeavour in abundance and we are delighted to have appointed similar minded individuals to our team for next year. They can't wait to get started at Downsend!

This morning, I posted the Thought for the Week for Upper School pupils, linking Colonel Tom Moore with the Moon landing of 1969. Next week, I will do the same for the Lower School. One Small Step was the theme, as this is always the most important step on any important journey. We have taken our first steps into this adapted Summer Term, and I am pleased to report that we are in fine fettle. There are many more

steps ahead of us but, together, I have every faith that the journey ahead is an exciting and positive one.
Keep well!

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

This week, the joyful weather seemed to end – hopefully temporarily - and my concerns were that the excitement and engagement in the new learning style in the Lower School may too. How silly I was to worry! This week I have continued to be amazed at the quality of the work I have seen from Lower School children. Whilst our lives have been affected by the current crisis, our tenacity and desire to succeed have not. I have continued to visit 'classrooms' throughout the week as I normally do and have been staggered by how quickly everyone has adapted to the new style of teaching and learning. Whilst watching one young man engage in his Maths, sensibly asking clarification questions, I could see his mum behind him, on her call too. This snapshot probably does not reflect the majority of the working day – I know it wouldn't in my house – but it was an encouraging and uplifting scene. What has amazed me the most has been the maturity of our children in the way that they behave so well in the virtual and online world, just as they would in school. I was looking at 3ST's blog on Seesaw this week and even more joyful than the work, was the encouragement and positivity about it from other children. When Alex M in 3ST uploaded his fantastic diary entry from Ottoline and the Yellow Cat, Millie, Arabella and Ameenah were all generous in their praise of his work, just as they would be in school. I have seen this throughout Seesaw and heard from many teachers about how lovely this has been. Behaviour in classes has also been excellent, with appropriate use of chat and children coming into learning ready for their session. Well done to everyone, including our parent body, for a great week. Thank you also for the feedback that you have sent to me and my team containing praise and constructive feedback. It really is gratefully received.

In my assembly today, I talked about the idea of a 'looking forward jar' where you can write down and store ideas for things that you are looking forward to doing when the world returns to some semblance of normality. In my jar so far are getting a puppy, visiting Centre Parcs with Grandparents and celebrating a family birthday together. I would be really interested in the things your children are looking forward to. It is so important at the moment to keep in touch with how our children are feeling, what they are worried about missing out on and what they are mourning the loss of. Form tutors are keen to talk to children in Form Time and drop ins about these things and to continue to support the children's well-being, as they would in school.

I also mentioned some work in assembly today but would like to say an additional well done to Isabella, Elliot, Marcus and Jessica in Mrs Newberry's English group for doing some fantastic writing as Charlie Bucket, describing their thoughts and feelings as they found that last golden ticket, they really brought the character to life and thought carefully about the details in their writing – fantastic. Well done too to 5LC for

their fantastic RS work for Mrs Dinnage where they retold the story of the Good Samaritan. They could do this however they liked and chose to do it in Lego, through acting it out and by drawing it - brilliant!

A final well done must go to Skye and Matilda in 2CC and Billy and Lucy in 4MP. These children were all new to the Lower School this term and are already fitting in brilliantly showing their capability and 'can do' attitudes by already fully engaging in their online learning. Well done! I cannot wait to welcome you to the physical school as soon as we are allowed.

Have a super weekend

Clare Kirkham, Head of Lower School



"Good Samaritan" Artwork by Max S.

Upper School Update

In my 'Thought for the Week' message last week I focused on both a positive attitude and being brave at this challenging time for everyone. Therefore, I am delighted to report that following a great start to the new term the Upper School pupils have impressed me this week as they have absolutely maintained their momentum and focus in both their academic lessons, and in the wider curriculum.

Mr Duffield has been very pleased with the hard work and determination shown by Ralphie A, Luca C-S's, Matthew M and Alexander H in Year 7 English lessons, so well done boys! I also know that the Year 8 team have been hugely impressed with the approach of our oldest pupils to their online learning, and the quality of their work as well. Well done to them for being such great role models to the younger pupils, even from remote classrooms! I am therefore delighted, but not surprised, to announce that Bronze commendations are awarded to Toby G, Harry McG, Roma A, Honey C and Magnus F (meaning they have passed 300Hp's) and that Silver Commendations (600HP's) are awarded to Gracie N, Rhianna P, Jacob S, Arthur C, Jude G, Bijou C-S, Lizzie H, Alexa E-M, Daniel R, Aniyah G, Harry H, Natasha C, Amelie M, Joel W and Oliver F. Well done to all of you!

There has been some great work in History lessons over the last two weeks and Miss Black has been very impressed with the incredible start Jamie Z has made on the causes and consequences of the Gunpowder

Plot, as well as the extension work completed by Rhys H, Ryan H, Luca C-S, Jack B, Jacob G, Darius G-P, Jayden K and Olivia H in Year 7 where the children have been analysing a painting of the Peasant's Revolt on 1381. Great work in History everyone, keep it up! Staying with Year 7 for a moment, I know Mrs Mercer and the Year 7 tutor team have been very pleased with the attitude and humour that the Year 7 pupils have shown this week, and a particular well done must go to Jack B and Izzy W who have been awarded their Purple Headmaster's commendation and to Rhys H who, with over 900HP's, has been awarded his Pink Headmaster's commendation. In addition, Jack M has produced an excellent Maths learning resource on Special Numbers Sequences and successfully completed an investigation using the Fibonacci Sequence. Amazing work Jack, and congratulations to Year 7 on a great week overall!

This week I have attended a number of the Year 6 form periods, and wanted to say how nice its been to 'see' all the pupils, who have been telling us all about their 'Daily Doodle' tasks (Lilly P!) and exercise and running regimes (Andrew McT and Sienna R!) which has been brilliant to see! Mrs Hawes has been really impressed with the quality of work being submitted across the curriculum along with the thoughtful and considered approach she has seen in both guided and independent learning, which is brilliant and shows how well our pupils are adapting to online learning; well done Year 6! However, a special mention must go to Iona F, who Mrs Hawes has nominated as 'Superstar of the Week' for showing an amazing attitude, positive contributions to the 'Chat' function and great independence! Well done Iona!

Finally, following Mr Thorpe's announcement during the staff INSET at the start of term that he has resurrected his Spanish studies whilst we are all in lockdown, Mr Skitt and I have been discussing the opportunities for learning new languages that this period of school closure provides. Mr Skitt has now set the Year 8 Scholars, who completed their exams back in February, the challenge of spending at least 10 minutes every day learning a new language. They have looked at a variety of online tools and apps which support remote language learning and each member of the class has chosen a particular platform and language to work on. From Danish to Russian, from Italian to Norwegian, the range of languages should lead to very interesting discussions in the weeks ahead. We are also going to use this opportunity to conduct a comparison into the efficiency and potential pitfalls of each of the platforms, as well as investigating how different children around the world are responding to remote learning. Mr Skitt has included a list of some of the platforms below – so why not join 8S and the rest of the community in this endeavour and do let both him and your form tutors know how you are getting on!

Duolingo: www.duolingo.com

Babbel: uk.babbel.com – They are providing a month's free trial to school and college students.

Memrise: www.memrise.com

Lyrics Training: www.lyricstraining.com

BeeLinguApp: www.beelinguapp.com

Well done to the whole Upper School on another brilliant week of learning and engagement, and have a wonderful, happy and safe weekend!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Enrichment Update

This week as our routines starts to take shape, I do hope your child's enthusiasm remains positive. After a weekend

in the sunshine and being outdoors, albeit doing those endless garden chores, a gloomy start to Monday with children continuing to miss their friends was always going to make our second week a little more challenging. That said dropping in on DT, Art, Music, Drama and Sports lessons, I am again delighted to see so many happy faces and lovely interactions between the children and their teachers. Already it is clear that numerous improvements are being made with each lesson and we hope your children feel the same. Having been lucky enough to personally assist with some music lessons, I have witnessed some great live feedback and progress (below you will see some amazing results of the pupils 'Vivaldi on glasses' task). Spending time within these lessons and in a form period, I am aware the teachers are missing the social interaction a classroom usually creates, therefore to provide more normality, I am delighted this week sees the start of the Music Ensembles with Mrs Allison; where I had the pleasure of witnessing the Chamber Choir, who excitedly begin work on producing an online masterpiece!

I hope your child continues to enjoy all the morning and afternoon practical options; I certainly have enjoyed Mrs Hawes Yoga immensely! Please feel free to email me: jon.albert@downsend.co.uk if you have any feedback on how we can continue to improve our provision.

Cognita Competition - 'From my Window...'

Well done to all the children who have taken part in the 'From my window' competition so far. It has been great to see how we have embraced technology with pictures, photos, video clips and poems so far. Below are a couple of the entries, however, I look forward to more before the deadline next Wednesday 6 May. With the weather a little more inclement, we may well be gazing out of our windows rather than being outdoors, therefore for anyone wishing to enter, all details are located in the ['DSM – Whole School Pupils Team'](#) and entries should be uploaded to this channel when complete.





What's coming up?

VE Theme Day - Thursday 7 May

In recognition of the VE Day Celebrations on the bank holiday Friday 8 May, we will theme our lessons and assemblies to this very important date in history on Thursday 7 May. Running alongside this special occasion, our House Challenge for the week will also be linked, where children are being asked to design bunting to be used at Bletchley Park when normality resumes. A big thank you to Miss Black and Mrs Day for coordinating this; please see below for more details.

House Challenge 2 – VE Celebrations



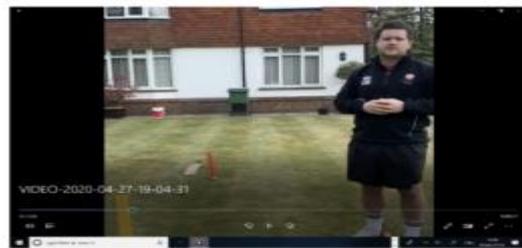
All information for this challenge can again be found within the DSM – Whole School Pupil's Team:



Downsend Online Cricket Challenge

Over the next 2 weeks the Sports department are offering a unique and amazingly creative experience for our US pupils. All boys and girls will be encouraged to take part in a cricket competition set up by Mr Moore for Surrey Schools. Downsend have invited a number of local schools to compete in the online skills challenge and so far interest has been expressed by Lanesborough, Danes Hill, CLFS, Rokeby and Cumnor House. A big thank you to the sports department for being so creative and continuing to lead the way on the circuit; to play a virtual tournament at these times is yet another exciting opportunity for our children. Having won the Surrey Cup last year, I look forward to seeing who the virtual winners will be this year!

Mr Albert, Assistant Head (Enrichment)



Next week marks the 75th anniversary of VE day and Friday 8th will be a bank holiday to commemorate this special event. It marks the day towards the end of the Second World War when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end, which is why VE stands for 'Victory in Europe Day.'

At Downsend we have been thinking about how can honour this day. All the lessons taught next Thursday 7th May will be themed around VE day and these lessons will not only allow the children to gain further knowledge about this significant day, but it will also allow them develop other key skills such as critical thinking and creativity. Running alongside this day, Mrs Day has created a brilliant House challenge for that week, which she will launch to the children soon.

You will have also noticed that the wonderful Mrs Dinnage has put a link on twitter from Dan Snow. He is launching a challenge and entries are due by 6th May, do click on the link here - <https://ve-day75.gov.uk/dan-snows-ve-day-challenge/>

We would love to hear from you on this day, so please share any work created or photos of the children.

Helen Black (Head of History) and Beth Day (Head of Technology)

Year 2 News

Our Year 2 children have risen to the challenge of our 'live online sessions' and adjusted brilliantly, thank you children for making good choices! This week we thought our focus would be on acts of kindness and thoughtfulness. Here are a few from the children.

Mrs Butcher, Miss Wilby, Miss Coulson and Mrs de Vries



Tate spent some time earlier this week sorting out his toys and books and making a box to give to the children at The Rainbow Trust at Tadworth. His Nanny went there when she was a little girl so it's a special place to Tate's family. Well done Tate, amazing news.



Year 3 News

Year 3 have had another fantastic week with so many examples of wonderful work from diary entries, to home-made fraction walls, to superb examples of Mathematical problem solving, to thoughtful and insightful PSHE work about friendship and the list goes on! One of our favourite activities, though, was researching what the Celts wore and then putting together our own Celt outfits from things we had around the house! The results were truly stunning and here are just a few of the wonderful outfits that Year 3 came up with!

Again, all the Year 3 team are incredibly impressed with all the hard work and effort that the children are continuing to put into all their work. Well done, Year 3!

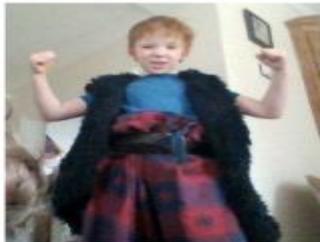
The Year 3 Team

I have used my
dads shirt and
my mums
cardigan(i really
love my
outfit.)On
purpos I didn't
use
bananas,mango
and tangerines
because they
wouldn't of had
these.



Flora and her sister

Jaspers Celt Clothes



Year 4 News

Kaila and Robert in 4JS did some particularly 'fantastique' French work about where they live - Madame Taylor was super impressed! Also Finley, French work in 4RD was " très bon". Well done everyone.

The Year 4 Team



Harrison in 4MP has produced fantastic History work by creating a Viking Longship (and Samuel Berryman for his wonderful English Grammar work).

Year 5 News

Character Profile Excellent, Harry!

Add facts about the character to each box.

She is brave because she battles the sea in something very very dangerous and almost impossible because the sea was "to her she was a secret of beauty a gift that she life to save another."	She is hopeful because she hopes that someday the war will end and being will be beautiful once more.
She is determined because she wants the medicinal for her Granny and she will not stop until she finds her Granny's medicine.	Name: Ayesha
She has two younger brothers one of which is a baby and the other being seven.	She is brave because she is going to cross no more land.
She has lost her Mother to the war and therefore lives with her Granny.	She is grateful for any food that could appear and will happily share it.

Harry H - Character profile based on our class reader book Oranges in No Man's Land.

This week, Year 5 have been studying the life cycle of butterflies and they have been creating diagrams to explain the different stages.

Here are few brilliant diagram examples we have received:



Design and Technology News

We have been delighted to see so much creativity and collaboration in the planning for both design projects and baking in Technology lessons. Last week we explored "breakfast in bread" - thank you Dylan W (Year 4) for sharing your breakfast success.

This week we learn how to make Pitta breads - well done to Lucas P's (Year 2) for such detailed pitta sandwich planning.

Sports News

Boys PE & Games

Another busy online week in the sports department! We've seen lots of pupils online and are very impressed with the quality of videos submitted for the challenges that we have created. This week we've focused on rugby for the boys and it's been very well received by all who have taken part. The skill and challenge set was a scrum half pass and a number of the boys have risen to the challenge and produced some excellent work! So far the following pupils have been awarded videos of the day; Robert B (year 4), Aiden H (year 5),

Tommy G (year 5), Maxwell G (year 5), Will S (year 6), Seb B (year 6), Louis K (year 7) and Luca C-S (year 8). A big well done to these boys and also to everyone who has submitted video evidence of your work, House Points have been awarded.

The morning sessions have continued to be very popular for both fitness and yoga. Mrs Hawes continues her 'Zen' approach to life with her dedicated followers each morning and Mr Lawrence is trying hard to work off the excellent Downsend lunches that he over indulges in on a daily basis. Well done to everyone who actively takes part in these important sessions each morning, keep attending and keep up the great work.

Stay safe everyone.

Mr Lawrence

Girls PE & Games

The staff have continued to be impressed by the efforts and enthusiasm the girls have displayed during their online lessons over the past two weeks. It has been fantastic to see their beaming faces smiling back at us as they appear on our screens.

Last week's hockey challenge along with this week's netball shooting challenge have proved to be popular with a great number of videos being submitted. The added online quiz for Years 5, 6, 7 & 8 demonstrated the girls competitive nature as they competed for the top podium places. The Year 6 girls quiz was certainly the most competitive of the week with our very own Mrs Cooper-James taking the top spot, well done to Lucy W for staying hot on her heels!

Whilst the rain poured down today the Year 5 girls took part in a 'live' ball handling challenge indoors, I hope nothing was broken!

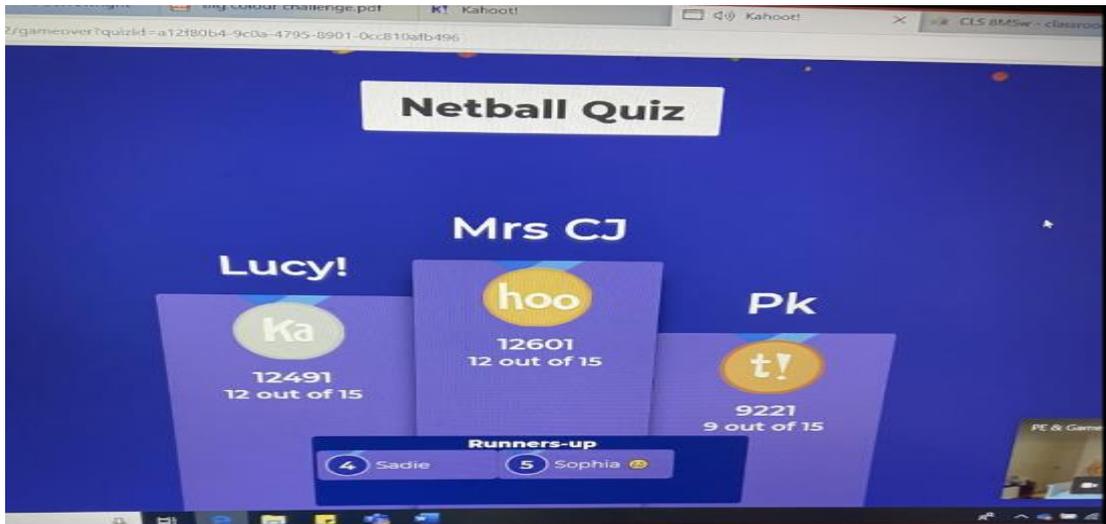
Do keep sending your video's in and why not have a go at Mrs Hawes' ladder challenge too.

Alongside this the Year 2 & 3 girls have enjoyed their fielding challenge from Mrs Fitch and we look forward to the bowling session this week.

Bonus house points have been awarded to the following pupils for their video's of the session - Polly-Rose A (Year 2), Artie B (Year 3), Niamh B (Year 4), Francesca W (Year 5), Iona F (Year 6) and Natasha C (Year 8).

Keep an eye out for future challenges.

Miss Seivewright



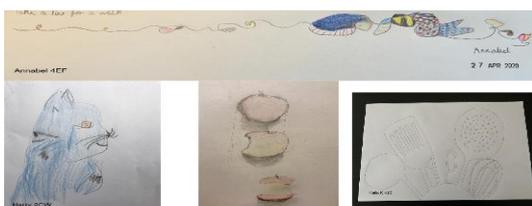
Artist of The Week

We've had another fantastic week of doodling! From taking a line for a walk, eating apples, to drawing cats, I've been so impressed by the results and by your perseverance when some of the doodles have been quite challenging!

As well as the doodle, we've also had some great art lessons. Year 2 and 3 have been inspired by Henri Matisse's 'Cut-Outs', Year 4 and 5 have used shadows to create some exciting pieces of art, Year 6 have been imagining weird and wonderful views out of their windows and Year 7 and 8 have started their 'Artist in a Box' project.

Keep sending your work in; it's wonderful to see all of your creative endeavours!

Julia Ayles



Learn a new language in lockdown

Following Mr Thorpe's announcement during the staff INSET at the start of term that he has resurrected his Spanish studies whilst we are all in lockdown, Mr Newland and I have set the Year 8 Scholars, who completed their exams back in February, the challenge of spending at least 10 minutes every day learning a new language. We have looked at a variety of online tools and apps which support remote language learning and each member of the class has chosen a particular platform and language to work on. From Danish to Russian, from Italian to Norwegian, the range of languages should lead to very interesting discussions in the weeks ahead. We are also going to use this opportunity to conduct a comparison into the efficiency and potential pitfalls of each of the platforms, as well as investigating how different children around the world are responding to remote learning. I have included a list of some of the platforms below – why not join us, and let us know how you are getting on!

Duolingo: www.duolingo.com

Babbel: uk.babbel.com – They are providing a month's free trial to school and college students.

Memrise: www.memrise.com

Lyrics Training: www.lyricstraining.com

BeeLinguApp: www.beelinguapp.com

Martin Skitt, Head of Languages

Music News

Here are some budding composers and performers – either performing part of *Spring* from Vivaldi's Four Seasons and or their own compositions. Well done everyone.



Face Shields

The laser cutter in the DT room at Downsend has been put to good use again this week cutting more head mounts to create the face shields that we have been donating to key workers in various hospitals, care homes and delivery operations across the county that require protection during this time. I visited Dr Mevan Perera, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Epsom and St Helier University Hospital NHS Trust on Tuesday evening to discuss the type of face shield his staff required and thanks to the design skills of Mr Winmill, we were able to produce and deliver 200 face shields to his teams at both hospitals last weekend. We continue to produce this vital PPE kit and would like to hear from anybody who knows of key worker staff who would like to receive our face shields. A fund raising website has been created if you would like to learn more about our project: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/keepthemsafesurrey>

Thank you to Downsend School and those who have supported our work so far.

Louise Hallam (and the face shield team!)



Message to Parents:

We would like to keep in touch with all of you, we will be active on all our social media channels and would love you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Here are the links:



Inspiring Young Minds

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