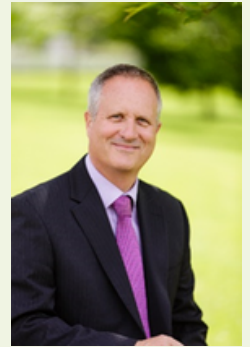


DOWNLANDS NEWS



31st March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students

Thank you once again for your support this term. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with your wonderful children.

Firstly, a huge well done to our year 11's who successfully completed their mock examinations in February and March. All of the invigilators were full of praise for the conduct, resilience, and commitment of the students. Thank you also to everybody involved in organising the examinations in a professional manner. We wish our year 11's the very best for their upcoming GCSE exams – the first one is on May 15th.

Well done also to all of our new prefects, senior prefect team, and Head Prefects. They are doing a brilliant job in helping us to manage the school and have made an excellent start. Thank you very much to the outgoing prefect team who have served us brilliantly.

It has been lovely to attend a number of whole school events recently – thank you to all of the parents/carers who attended. The dance show and spring concert showcased our students at their very best. Well done to them, to the staff involved in producing such excellence, and to all other staff involved in the many extra-curricular activities we offer. Our ROCKS programme is dedicated to creating further enrichment opportunities and our aim is that every student is involved in one of these activities at the very least.

Thank you to all who were involved in our School Council Meetings. All of the tutor group representatives discussed matters raised which then fed into a Year Group Council meeting. Once this had been completed a whole School Council was held, students brought up several points and the minutes have been distributed to tutors to feed back.

The students leave for Iceland today and we are looking forward to more wonderful extra-curricular events next term.

Thank you to our incredible community at Downlands who have donated Easter Eggs for children at the Alexandra Children's Hospital, as well as to fantastic causes such as Comic Relief and the Fairtrade Foundation. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

DOWNLANDS NEWS

Thank you for your understanding during the period of industrial action recently. I am definitely not proposing to discuss the rights and wrongs of each side's stance, however I feel that I must draw your attention to the huge issue of teacher retention and recruitment at the moment.

According to NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) teacher vacancies posted by schools were 93% higher in the academic year up to February 2023 than at the same point in the year before the start of the pandemic. Findings indicate that staff turnover continue to rise with vacancies in England up 37% compared with the previous year.

Some subject areas for secondary are nowhere near their recruitment targets for trainee teachers for 2024 and this is a worsening trend. For example, last year only 14% of the target for recruiting physics trainees was met, with similarly worrying, data reported for design technology, business, computing, other sciences, and a number of other curriculum areas.

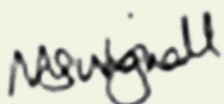
This is a situation that must concern us all as it is vital that we can recruit enough quality teaching staff but also that our young people are taught by specialist teachers. I hope that steps can be taken to encourage more teachers into our profession and to retain those already in it – there is a worrying trend of teachers leaving the profession and this needs to be addressed too.

At the time of writing, we do not know if any further industrial action is planned. I will endeavour to communicate any decisions to parents in good time to help with planning in case of disruption. If there is industrial action, year 11 examinations and preparation will be protected.

Following the government directive that all schools should be offering a 32.5 hour week, from September the first bell will sound at 8.35am, and school will start at 8.40 am, followed by tutor time. Lessons will start at 9 am and finish at 3.05 pm with lunch at 1.20 pm. The buses will arrive at 8.20 am.

We're all looking forward to the summer term and hopefully some better weather. A reminder that we move to our summer uniform from the start of term – further details can be found on the next page.

I hope you have a lovely Easter and see you all after the holidays.



Mark Wignall
Headteacher

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM MR ODLIN

PERMISSION TO LEAVE CLASSROOMS

After Easter we want to make it more straightforward for teachers to provide students with permission to leave the classroom, and for students to be able to go to places like the toilet or medical room if necessary, without being questioned why they are out of class.

Teachers will have orange lanyards to hand to those students who they have given permission to leave the classroom. This will save teachers having to write out permission notes, and make it instantly noticeable to staff in corridors that a student has permission to be out of a lesson.

We will also be making the Year 8 & 9 toilets the designated toilet area for students to use during lesson time. This will enable us to monitor those toilets and support good behaviour within them. Other toilets will be out of bounds during lesson times, with the exception of students in PE, who will use PE toilets.

We will be outlining these plans to students when they return after Easter.

Thank you for your support.

Graham Odlin
Assistant Headteacher

USEFUL INFORMATION

INSET DAYS

- Monday 17th April 2023
- Wednesday 21st June 2023
- Friday 1st Sep 2023 **transition day**
- Friday 1st December 2023
- Tuesday 2nd January 2024
- Wednesday 26 June 2024
- Monday & Tuesday 22nd & 23rd July 2024

BANK HOLIDAYS

- Friday 7th April
- Monday 10th April
- Monday 1st May
- Monday 8th May
- Monday 29th May

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

- 08.45 First (warning) bell
- 08.50 Registration
- 09.50 Lesson 1
- 10.05 Lesson 2
- 11.05 Break
- 11.25 Lesson 3
- 12.20 Lesson 4
- 1.15 Lunch
- 1.50 End of lunch
- 1.55 Lesson 5 (including 10 minutes DEAR Time ** for Key Stage 3)
- 3.00 End of school day

** Drop Everything And Read – all Key Stage 3 students are required to bring a reading book

Students will not be able to enter the school before 8.45 am (unless the weather is inclement).

Years 8 to 11 will assemble on the playground, Year 7 at the amphitheatre. The gates will be locked at 8.49am and the students will be marked 'late' after this.

USEFUL INFORMATION

REPORTING ABSENCE

Please report absence by using Studybugs (our preferred method) or contacting attendance@downlands.org or contact 01273 845892 and select the student absence option when reporting an absence.



If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

SUMMER UNIFORM REMINDER

Summer school uniform (the Downlands polo shirt) can be worn, but you can still wear shirt/tie/blouse/ jumper if you wish. We do expect correct uniform, so please remember to bring a note from home and see your PSO if you have a uniform difficulty.

You may wear white or black socks, however, if you choose to wear socks with tights, they must be black.

For safety, jewellery should be kept to a minimum, no more than two small studs or small sleepers per ear, only one plain unobtrusive ring and one plain unobtrusive chain are permitted. No false lashes, artificial nails or facial piercings are allowed in school.

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NEWS FROM MATHS

MATHS FEAST

On Monday 13th March, 8 Y10 Students took part in the 'Maths Feast' Competition at Imberhorne School. Competing against 7 other schools, the students completed 4 rounds of some seriously tricky questions!



Each school provided 2 teams of 4 students and worked to complete four twenty-minute rounds.

Teamwork was the order of the day and although our teams did not win overall, the team of: Amitai, Will, Maciej and Kai came out on top of all teams in round 4 – the Relay Race!

*Well done to all students who took part,
you were a credit to the school:*

Amitai, Will, Maciej, Kai, Isla, Alice, Arthur and Maisy

NEWS FROM ENGLISH

A group of students have raised an incredible £810.00 for the 'Read for Good' charity

Read for Good Readathon



The charity provides a regular supply of beautiful, brand-new books and visits from professional storytellers to children in hospitals.

Downlands students were encouraged and motivated to read, they could choose comics to classics, and audio books to blogs – all whilst raising money to get books to very poorly children in hospital.



*Thank you very much to all students who took part
Ferne, Tallulah, Eve, Leo, Mae, Frank, Lottie, Eliza, Florence, Lily, Maria*

NEWS FROM GEOGRAPHY

Year 11s Geography Revision Weekend

62 Year 11s embarked on our 2023 Geography Revision Weekend. We stayed at the YHA up Truleigh Hill and mostly stayed dry through what was predicted to be a very precipitous weekend!



We revisited lots of our physical geography topics including coastal processes at Hove Lagoon and flood management along the River Adur. There was also a chance to explore the differing retail experiences along London Road and the Open Market, to see how independent retailers and chain stores impact high streets in different ways.

Our evening was spent playing revision games, which entailed geographically altered versions of family favourites such as Pie Face & Speak Out. The students were exceptional and showed brilliant determination to keep going after a busy term



NEWS FROM HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



HOSPITALITY CAREERS DAY Grand Hotel, Brighton



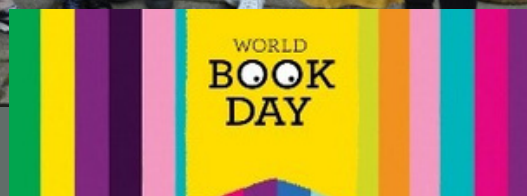
It was an excellent day the students went as a group to 6 different workshops (housekeeping, kitchen activity, events activity, a hotel tour, a marketing activity and a mocktail masterclass!) and had lunch provided by The Grand.

There was a competitive element to all of the activities and 3 of our students won overall prizes on the day beating 5 other schools! Ruby for housekeeping, Tilda for the mocktail masterclass and Ameila for events, well done girls! Our thanks must go to the Grand Hotel for hosting such an informative and enjoyable day.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

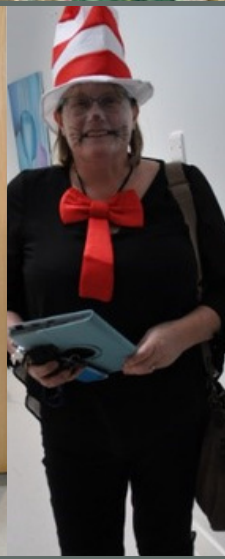
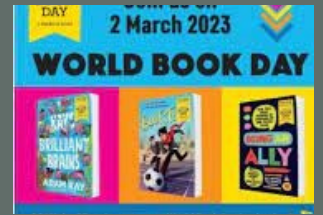
Well done to all the students who participated in World Book Day. Congratulations to our winning student, Arthur in 10JM, dressed as Sherlock Holmes and our staff winner, Mr Matthews as Iron Man.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



What a fantastic day we had celebrating World Book Day. Thank you to everyone who dressed up as their favourite book character, especially Downlands Staff !

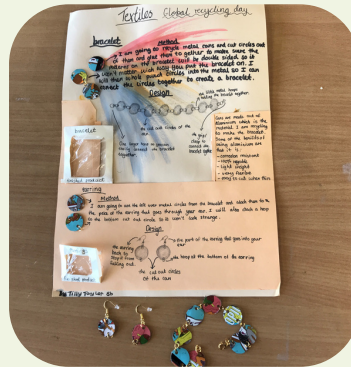


NEWS FROM TECH

Recycling Projects



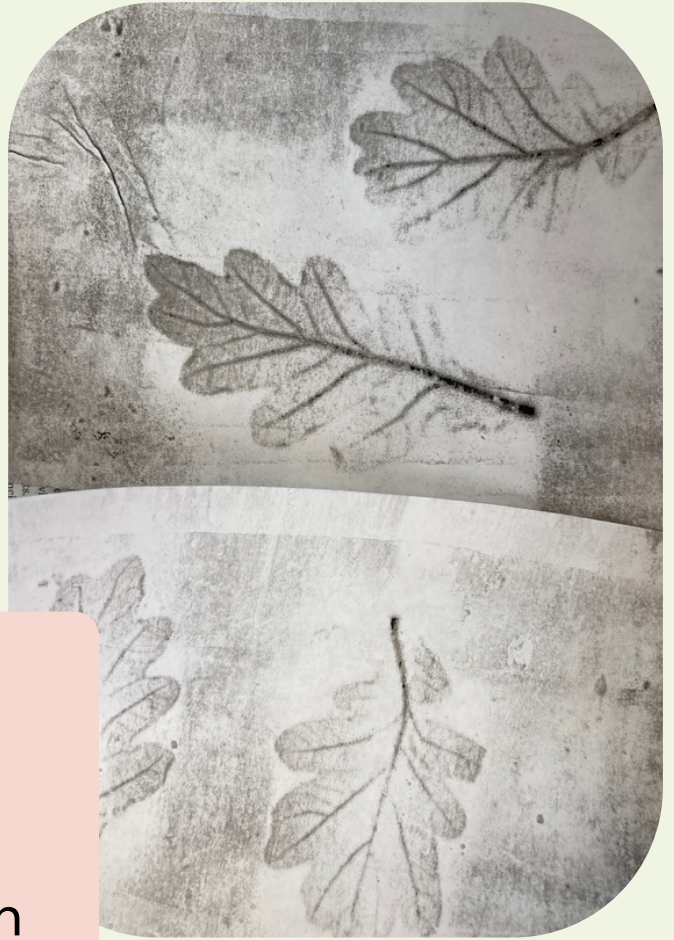
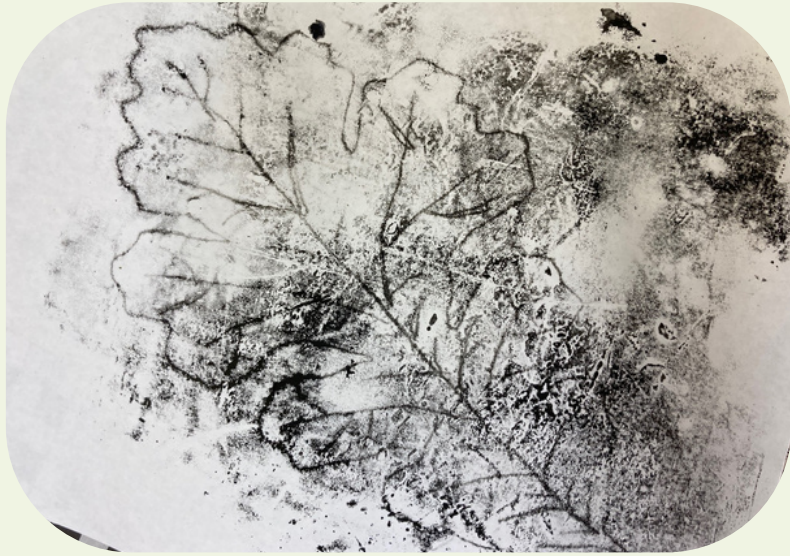
One of our big focuses in Technology this year is to make students more aware of environmental and social issues. To support this all of the year 7, 8 and 9 students were set a homework about recycling. They were asked to carryout research or create a mood board and then design or make a product that linked to recycling. We had some amazing responses and such creative ideas as you can see in the photos. We awarded a first and second prize to the best ideas/products made in each year which was a difficult job with such creative students. Here are our winners:



We awarded a first and second prize to the best ideas/ products made in each year which was a difficult job with such creative students. Here are our winners:



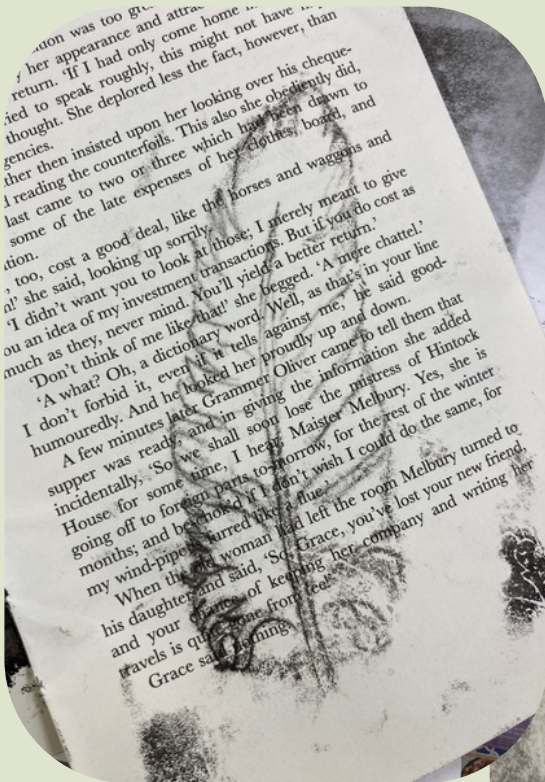
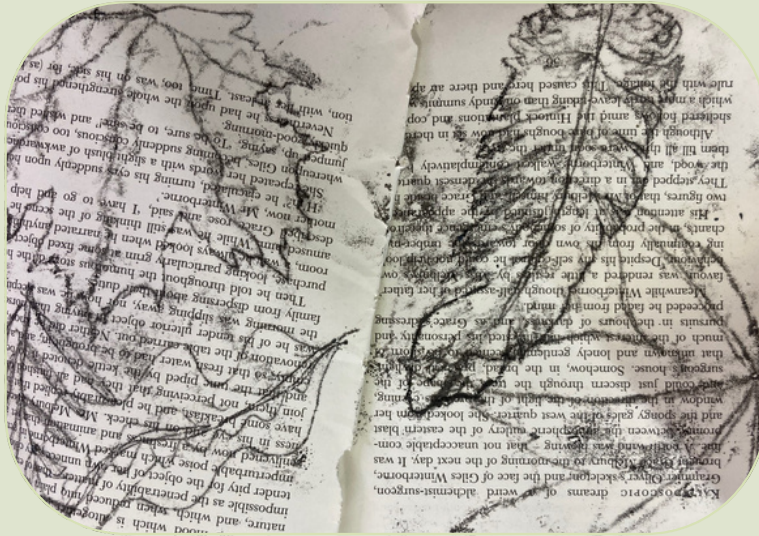
NEWS FROM ART



We had brilliant outcomes from both the monoprinting and heat transfer printing. We hope the pupils are now in a position to confidently make their options decisions.



NEWS FROM ART



Year 9 GCSE taster session was held to give pupils an insight of what to expect when studying the two-year Fine Art curriculum.



Good luck to the students who have submitted entries to the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show

< ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

RA

Young Artists' Summer Show

NEWS FROM STEAM

Two engineers from Edward's Vacuum came to school



They asked us many questions and explained their roles and how to be engineers.

They demonstrated what happens to balloons and marshmallows in a vacuum.

We have investigated sound and light using the Bumble Beep and the RGB Bug

We made some strange noises with these.



We have also been on a moss safari

We were looking for microscopic creatures.



Mid Sussex Monster Truck STEM Project 2023



We are designing and building a car that can complete an obstacle course with agility, speed, power, and accuracy



NEWS FROM PE

Year 7 Rugby Team

The year 7 rugby team have continued where they left off from last term. They have been an awesome group of students to work with who listen and take on information well. They have demonstrated their ability to work well as a team and have started to demonstrate effective passing and support play as opposed to trying to run solo with the ball.



They have won all of their League games this season, winning their half of the league. They must now play the winner of the other league to become overall league winners.

They were also involved with Finals Day of the County Cup where they played a strong Cardinal Newman school drawing 10-10. This meant they shared the cup, a fair result from the game.



A huge well done to Tommy, Wilson, Fin, Josh, Fin, Angus, Elwood, Oliver, Archie, William, Blake, Harry, Daniel, Alex, Leo, Zach, Thompson, Dylan, Zach, Dylan, Freddie and Jamie.

The season is nearly over, and it is important that your attitudes remain good for the last few games of this year.

NEWS FROM PE



Year 10 Girls Rugby Team



The year 10/11 girl's rugby team have had a great season, attending a Rugby festival in Reigate demonstrating fantastic skills and teamwork to score many tries and win games. Following on from this they played against The Weald school in a friendly match. The game was end to end with our players winning the game in the last seconds... scoring a try and the conversion. The match finished 31-27. Well done girls, keep up the great work!

U13 mixed hockey



Downlands had a very successful U13 mixed hockey tournament recently at Blatchington Mill and played exceptionally well. It was lovely to see our students playing so well, drawing 3 games and losing 2. Players of the tournament were Tom and Lily.



Year 7 Football

The year 7 football team are through to the County Shield quarter finals as they beat BACA on penalties after the game ended 4-4 at full time. Very exciting to watch and we look forward to the next round, well done!

Badminton

We attended a Badminton competition at St Pauls with our year 7 and 8s. All students played very well with Leon and Luca overall winners! Great effort.

NEWS FROM PE



Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 netball team have had a very successful season which ended with a brilliant tournament recently. They were undefeated, beating Warden Park, Imberhorne, Sackville and TBHA and drawing with Oathall. This resulted in us being joint winners and runners up on goal difference.

Year 8 Netball

The year 8 netball team were unbeaten in the netball league winning all their games. However, unfortunately due to the weather this month the finals have not yet been completed. Excellent effort and netball on display – well done!

Year 10 Netball

Well done to the Year 10 netball team, runners up in the Mid Sussex tournament
Emma, Frankie, Maggie May, Amy, Abi, Maisy, Katie, Gaby



Year 7 Netball

The year 7 netball team have started their netball league against a range of schools in Mid Sussex. The girls are currently unbeaten winning 3 games so far. They won 20-0 vs St Pauls, 22-0 vs Sackville and 17-3 vs Millais. Keep up the great work girls! They also won the Mid Sussex netball tournament. They are through to the Sussex Final after Easter.





Year 9 Boys Basketball

The year 9 Boys Basketball team have had a fantastic season and have finished second in the Mid Sussex league just behind a very strong Forest School side. We now go onto play Forest in the Mid Sussex Basketball final after the Easter holidays. We look forward to working hard with the team to come up with tactics and strategies to win the final and be crowned champions.

Keep up the great work boys!

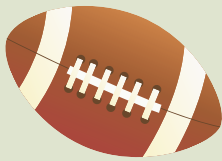
Year 10 Basketball

The year 10 Boys Basketball team have also secured a place in the Mid Sussex Basketball final. They will be playing St Pauls in the final, a team which we narrowly lost to in overtime last time. We are looking forward to turning that around this time and hopefully securing the win.

Keep training hard boys!

Year 11 Basketball

The year 11 Basketball team have continued their impressive win percentage in their time at Downlands and have again only lost one league match all season. The team now progress onto the final against St Pauls after the Easter holidays. This will be the team's last game at Downlands and we are so proud of the all the hard work, determination and grit that the boys show in every game. We look forward to the final and they will hopefully their time at Downlands as Mid-Sussex champions.



Year 8 Rugby Team

The year 8 boys rugby team have had a great season and finished third in the Mid-Sussex Rugby league. They have gone from strength to strength and have continued to work hard and improve in every game. The team qualified for the Sussex Cup Rugby finals day at Brighton

Rugby Club and won the U13 Sussex Vase which is a great achievement. We are already looking forward to next season to see this team develop and improve even further. Well done boys!

Year 10 Handball

This year we entered the year 10 Handball team into a regional qualifier tournament. The team worked very hard in training and finished second in the Sussex tournament behind a very strong Tanbridge House team. We are looking forward to organising more Handball fixtures as we believe there is a real potential in this team.

Well done and keep up the good work boys!

Netball Tournaments



Downlands hosted two primary netball tournaments recently and this was an opportunity for our excellent Year 9,10 and 11 netball umpires to demonstrate their skills.

It was fantastic for all 22 of our leaders to help run this tournament as without them this wouldn't have been able to take place.

A Chance to Dance

We hosted a fantastic dance show on Wednesday 22nd March which was attended by Downlands students and the following primary schools: Windmills, St Marks, Balcombe and The Gattons Infants. It was lovely for our Year 9 Gifted and Talented dancers to visit our primary schools and deliver workshops and teach them dances that they performed in the dance show. This was such a lovely community event and one which we love hosting annually thanks to involvement from Mid Sussex Active



Well done to the students who represented Mid Sussex and were part of the top 8 schools in Sussex who made it to the finals. We finished 6th overall for both boys and girls, so have done superbly well to compete and be amazing throughout.



U13 Girl's indoor Cricket

The U13 Girl's indoor Cricket team have been successful this term. They were the winners in their area tournament held at Ifield Community College and qualified for the Sussex County final. Held at BACA, they beat Blatchington Mill and Great Ballard and were runners up to Mayfield School. The summer term tournaments will be exciting for Downlands team.



NEWS FROM DANCE

It has been a very busy month for Dance, with Let's Dance, Downlands Dance Show and GCSE practical exams!

LET'S DANCE

30 students from Downlands Dance Company performed in Let's Dance Eastbourne at the beginning of March. The show was a collection of pieces from over 30 schools from West Sussex. Our pupils performed a piece about The Suffragette movement which was fitting given that it was recently International Women's Day. Well done DDC!

DOWNLANDS DANCE SHOW



On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st March 120 students were involved in Downlands Dance Show. There were 23 pieces in the show that varied from contemporary, to musical theatre, to lyrical and street dance. Pupils worked incredibly hard in preparation for the show and choreographed their own pieces.

Our boys dance company, Vault, also performed in the show. It was a joy to watch all of our pupils perform and the standard just keeps getting higher. Well done to everyone involved!

Ms Cull and Miss Nee

NEWS FROM MUSIC

Thank you to all involved in the Spring Concert, It was fantastic evening and wonderful to see such a great collection of musical talent.

If your child would like additional music lessons with one of our Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) their contact details, along with the discipline they teach, are listed here:

Brass Instrument (Trumpet, Trombone, Horn)	Mr Roff	Nroffbrass@gmail.com
Cello, Double Bass	Mr Merrick	ethanmerrick @msn.com
Guitar, Bass Guitar	Mr Paton	Ferguspatonguitarschool@gmail.com
Keyboard	Mr Bedford	Hu.bedford@gmail.com
Piano	Ms Nagendra	charlie.kew@westsussexmusic.co.uk
Singing	Mrs Schlenter	schlenterjessica@gmail.com
Woodwind (Flute, Recorder, Clarinet, Saxophone)	Ms Lavelle	Lavellewoodwind@gmail.com
Steel Pan	Mr Nelson	Lee@sussexsteel.com

If your child is interested in studying an instrument that is not listed don't hesitate to contact me at school via email awardrobe@downlands.org and I will try my best to find a tutor.

Instruments to Loan

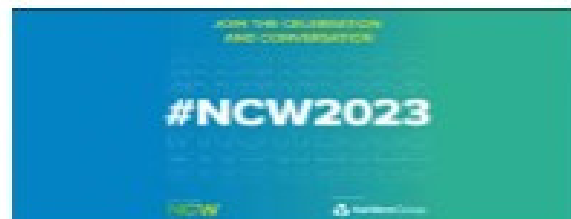
If the purchase of an instrument is preventing your child from starting instrumental lessons you may be interested to hear we have some Trumpets, Violins and Clarinets available to borrow from the department.

Please get in contact if this is something you would be interested in.

NEWS FROM CAREERS

Whole School

Monday 6th to Friday 10th March National Careers Week



The whole school took part in various assemblies and tutor time activities looking at some of the largest employers in our local area, and finding out about LMI (Labour Market Information) amongst other things.

Year 11

Year 11 have now logged into their Unifrog accounts, and the good news is that they can continue to access this amazing resource for free even after they leave Downlands if they wish to.

A reminder to students to turn down any offers for September if they are sure that they no longer wish to have that place.

Year 10

Work Experience placements are starting to be processed on the Unifrog placement tool. Thank you to all parents that have found their child a placement already. A new list of available placements will be released shortly.

Year 9

Year 9 options have now been made, and I hope that the information on Options evening and available via Unifrog has helped in making those decisions!

Years 7 & 8

Year 7s should now be logged into their Unifrog accounts. If any student missed their PDC lesson they can simply go to their welcome email from Unifrog on their school email account and follow the instructions there to set their account up. Year 8s will get their log ins shortly after we return from the Easter break.

Can you help?

As always, if you are interested in supporting our Careers programme here at Downlands in any of the following ways, please do get in touch with me, Ms Hollingdale, at

careers@downlands.org

***Work Experience Placements** for year 10 students

18th19th & 20th July – you would need to have Employers Liability insurance covering under 16 year olds.

*** Mock Interviews** – If you have experience of interviewing we would love for you to help us run a Mock interview morning on Monday 17th July for our Year 10s

*** Work Place Visits** – Are you interested in allowing groups of students to visit your work place for a tour of the environment and a Q &A opportunity about the field you work in

***Talks** – Given either in-person or prerecorded to a whole year group or much smaller groups.

All of these opportunities are invaluable in helping our students to connect with the world of work and be equipped to face their futures.

FIND YOUR PATH

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT



**Fairtrade
Fortnight**

FAIRTRADE **27 Feb – 12 Mar**

*All students at Downlands have
been learning about Fairtrade*

Fair trade Fortnight is a nationwide event which takes place every year, with a different focus.

This year, the focus was looking at how the climate emergency is affecting farmers in low income countries. Tutors groups have been watching videos to explore this and having meaningful conversations.

Our Global Ambassadors have also been working tirelessly to raise some money for the Fairtrade Foundation.

Staff kindly donated Fairtrade goodies for a hamper, which was raffled off to students.



**Congratulations to
Tilly, 10HM
The winner
of the hamper**



We also led two bake sales, selling delicious goods which included Fairtrade ingredients including sugar, chocolate and bananas.

Overall, we have raised £168.12 for the Fairtrade Foundation, which is our highest total to date!

NEWS FROM THE CANTEEN

Pancake Day

The students enjoyed a wonderful selection of homemade sweet and savoury pancakes to celebrate ShroveTuesday.

Delicious pasta, lasagna, pizza, breads and even Italian cakes were available during the Italian themed days

Italian Day



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



Thank you

Thank you to our incredible community at Downlands who have donated an amazing 275 Easter Eggs for children at the Alexandra Children's Hospital,

GREAT BIG SCHOOL CLEAN



'Some of Downlands eco club enjoying a talk by Mid Sussex district council during 'The Great Big School clean' campaign, learning about where our rubbish goes and how it is sorted, very interesting and lots learnt!'

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL ROOM

- Please make sure that you are aware of the current Covid guidance, which can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#children-and-young-people-aged-18-years-and-under-who-have-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19>
- Please remember to keep the medical room updated of any changes in your children's medical conditions. Your children's welfare whilst in school depends on this information being up-to-date.
- Please ensure that your emergency contact details are current. If you move home, get a new mobile number or your work number changes please remember to let us know; we need to be able to contact you in an emergency or if your child is unwell.
- Please do not send your children into school if they have sickness or diarrhoea. You should keep your child at home for 48 hours after their last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.
- Hay fever – the school does not administer antihistamine for the symptoms of hay fever. We ask that this be administered at home before the start of the school day.
- Finally, please be aware that any prescribed medicines to be administered during the school day must be provided to us in the original pharmacist's container. We would ask that where possible you ask your GP to administer a three-dose medication to avoid the impact on the school day. A 'Request for School to Administer Medicine' form must accompany it. Under exceptional circumstances, where it is deemed that their administration is required to allow the student to remain in school, the school will administer non-prescription medication for a maximum period of 48 hours. Any non-prescription medication administered in school must have been administered in the past without adverse effect. Again, a 'Request for School to Administer Medicine' form must accompany it. **Students must not carry their medication in school, apart from asthma inhalers and Anaphylaxis Auto Injectors, all other medication must be stored securely in the medical room.**

Ms Stubbs
Medical Officer



NEWS FROM THE PTA

The Downlands School Association (DSA) have organised a Quiz Night to take place on Friday 12th May

This is a popular event, so please do get your tickets early.

They are available here:

<https://buytickets.at/downlandsschoolassociation>

The ticket includes a cheese board and there will be a bar to purchase drinks.

We hope to see you there.



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



Thank you to all our family and friends that are supporting our School Lottery. We are delighted with the support it has received and the money that it raises will be going towards more facilities for the students.

The lottery draw takes place every Saturday evening. Tickets can be purchased by clicking the link below:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/dowlands-community-school>

Tickets are £1 and can be purchased individually or you can set up a standing order for weekly tickets.. There are weekly prizes and national prizes to be won. It's easy to take part but makes the biggest difference to our school and students.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



MySchoolFund

We have recently signed up to My School Fund. This innovative scheme allows us to be able to boost our school's budget with your help. Anyone over 18 can sign up for FREE by registering a debit or credit card to the scheme. You start earning cashback on the things you buy in

participating retail stores (online & in store), currently Sainsbury's and Argos, with other stores signing up all the time. As you spend you'll receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers (Sainsbury's or Argos) that can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to Downlands School on the My School Fund website we'll also earn 1% cashback on your spend.

Visit myschoolfund.org to register for free and link to 'Downlands Community School'.



USEFUL INFORMATION

LOST PROPERTY

At the end of each half term and term we clear lost property and donate items to the local charity shops. Please ensure you label every item that your child brings to school. If a student loses an item, please ask them to go to Pupil Attendance/Services (near the Year 11 cloakroom area) at break and lunchtime

Have your circumstances changed?

You may be entitled to
free school meals

email in confidence: FSME@downlands.org

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

Those children and families that are not eligible for FSM will be able to access urgent support for food via the WSCC Community Hub. The Community Hub can be contacted on 0330 222 7980 and is open 9:00 – 17:00 seven days a week. Further information can be found via the West Sussex County Council website.



Burgess Hill Pantry was set up as part of the Town Council's 'No Cupboard Empty' project, to help residents struggling on low incomes stretch their household budgets a little further.

The pantry is a community group, run by volunteers to help people living in Mid Sussex.

For a weekly membership of £4, residents can choose a selection of food to the value of up to £20, helping budgets stretch further. There's a variety of food available including fresh fruit and veg, store cupboard favourites, bread and dairy products.

**You can find more details and sign up on the
Burgess Hill Pantry webpage**

<https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/pantry-listings/burgess-hill-pantry/>



**Come & find out what happens when Dorothy returns to the magical Oz only to find it's not as she left it...
Lots of toe tapping funky songs, great dances, a bit of betrayal, girl power & new adventures in
Over The Rainbow
Saturday 1st at 6pm Sunday 2nd at 3pm**

Taking in new Senior students for summer term, get in touch if you want to find out more about Create Space Studios, with classes in Hurst & Hassocks.



Badminton Sessions Hassocks Sports Centre

We are excited to be starting a new drop in badminton session after Easter, Friday evenings 6–7pm at Hassocks sports centre for 12–16 year olds.

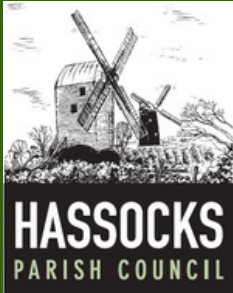
The programme was designed by Badminton England who have sent us lots of games and goodies to make these sessions a success.

'SmashUp! is a youth participation initiative offering innovative badminton games to music for young people in schools and leisure facilities.

SmashUp! brings big hitting badminton challenges to young people and their mates enabling them to play the way they want to play! No coaches, no rules, and no PE kit. Turn up, tune in, hit it hard – with the court as a social hub.'

Millie and Paige who used to be Downlands pupils and successfully run our No strings badminton sessions here will be running the sessions. They are County badminton players who are super passionate and I know will make these sessions fun and engaging.

The first session will be Friday 21st April and will be a free taster. Following that week the sessions will be £6.00 per week and on a drop in basis.



Elections - May 4th Have You Thought About Becoming A Parish Councillor?

What do councillors do?

They represent people in the local community and are in a position to make a difference to the quality of other people's daily lives. To be an effective councillor requires commitment.

What does it involve? As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood. Local councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and county councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

Will I be able to make decisions? Yes, all councillors are involved in making decisions about how the Council is run and how it should spend its money.

But I'm not political? Hassocks Parish Council is a non-political body; our councillors are not affiliated to any political party.

What skills do I need to be a councillor? The council needs a wide range of skills and experience so you don't need any special or formal qualifications to be a councillor. It will help to have good communication skills; problem solving skills; team working experience; organisational skills; the ability to engage with the local community, and basic technological skills for emails.

How much time does it involve? The Council is made up of 15 Councillors and Council meets monthly at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Parish Centre. In addition Planning Committee meet every 3 weeks and other committees such as Grounds & Environment, Policy Resources & Communication and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meet every 6 weeks if required.

Do councillors get paid? No, this is a voluntary role which most people find extremely rewarding.

What training will I be offered? All new councillors are provided with the opportunity to attend an introductory training course which is supplemented with an induction pack to help with the basics. Assistance and support are always on hand from other councillors and the Clerk.

I'm interested in being elected in May 2023 what do I need to do?

MSDC will be publishing the Notices of Election on Monday 20th March 2023. Nominations open on Tuesday 21st March and close at 4pm on Tuesday 4th April 2023, which gives 11 working days for you to submit your nomination papers.

Further information is available on the MSDC website at: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/>.

If you require any further information about becoming a councillor please contact our Parish Clerk, Ian Cumberworth. Tel: 01273 842714; Email: clerk@hassocks-pc.gov.uk or visit: Visit the National Association of Local Councils 'Make a Change' webpage www.nalc.gov.uk/elections

SOCIAL MEDIA

Thank you to everyone is liking, sharing & following our social media pages. We are delighted to say that our audiences just keep on growing



We are inviting everyone to like our LINKED IN page, but would particularly like to connect with past Downlands Students

