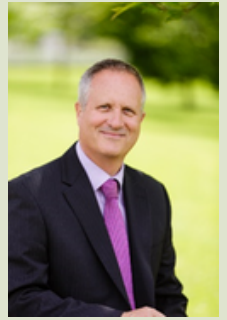


DOWNLANDS NEWS



26th May 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

At the end of this half term we said goodbye to Year 11, although students continue with GCSE's into the middle of June. The Leavers Assembly was a heart-warming celebration of the contributions our Year 11 have made to the school community over the last five years. We wish them well over the forthcoming exam season and in starting their post 16 courses. Thank you to every member of our staff who has been there for them over the years and particularly in recent times; pastoral staff, exam staff, teaching staff, the site team, support staff and canteen staff. We look forward to catching up with our Year 11 at the Prom and Certificate Evening in the near future.

This term has again seen some memorable events including:

- Netball Marathon for Breast Cancer Awareness Week
- Iceland Trip
- GCSE Info evening
- Year 10 Trip to Sussex Uni
- Geography field trip – This month our Geography Department has been out conducting fieldwork, leading expeditions to the Seven Sisters Country Park. Lots of amazing trips, clubs, fixtures and activities.

Thank you to our PTA for organising a memorable quiz night, and to Mr Smith for once again delivering a fantastic quiz, raising over £1600 for the school.

As we enter the second half of the summer term we have a number of exciting events to look forward to including sports day and enrichment days at the end of term.

Please join us for the Summer Fayre on Saturday 24th June which is an amazing community event for all the family. Our PTA has been working hard to make this year's event as successful as ever, with a dog show, fun sports activities, stalls, music, dance and plenty of refreshments. The GCSE Art and Textiles exhibition will be on during the Fayre, showcasing the creative talents of our pupils, please do join us in celebrating and recognising the achievements of our creative art pupils.

Thank you for your continued support. It is your contributions that make our school a place where pupils thrive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Wignall'.

Mark Wignall
Headteacher

USEFUL INFORMATION

INSET DAYS

- 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

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.

CONTENTS

1	Words from Mr Wignall
2	Useful Information
4	Contents
5	News from Character
6	News from STEM
7	News from Geography
8	News from Forest School
10	News from Art
11	News from Textiles Club
12	News from Food Tech
13	News from the Library
15	Netball Marathon
17	News from PE
18	Downlands Trips
21	Music
22	Useful Info
23	News from the medical room
24	Downlands School Association
26	Fundraising Opportunities
28	Community News
31	Social Media

CHARACTER



Congratulations to all pupils mentioned below who received the most amount of ROCKS points in Yr7,8,9 and 10 in the spring term.

They had a celebration assembly with Pizza and have a Character pass for this term to jump the queue for the canteen and ATP.

Well done to all those pupils on their fabulous efforts.

Albie 7ANE
Amelie 7MCU
Bebe 7TBL
Chloe 7GCH
Connie 7DS
Elizabeth 7KRO
Emilia 7KRO
Emilie 7DS
Eva 7PK
Harry 7DS
Idun 7CBL
Iris 7MD
Isabelle 7MCU
James 7MD
John 7KRO
Leah 7ANE
Lily 7PK
Mae 7CBL
Matthew 7MD
Summer 7GCH
Viggo 7MD
Will 7GCH
Wilson 7KRO
Zoe 7DS

Ivy 8MR
James 8MR
Jessica 8SGR
Leo 8KBI
Lila 8AW
Lois 8THU
Mia 8AW
Oswald 8EG
Patrick 8EG
Phoebe 8KBI
Rose 8SGR
Sam 8EA
Tallulah 8KBI
Wilfred 8SGR
Zoe 8KBI

Aimee 9DWO
Amelie 9CHW
Anastasia 9E
Charity 9DWO
Daisy 9DWO
Elodie 9DWO
Enrico 9CMO
Erin 9CHW
Ernest 9AE
Ethan 9GMC
Isabel 9CMO
Isabelle 9GMC
Isabelle 9NHO
Jack 9NHO
Joshua 9NHO
Katie 9GMC
Keryn 9CHW
Melike 9GMC
Nick 9AE
Olive 9NHO
Olivia 9GML
Orlaith 9CMO
Poppy 9NHO
Samuel 9MBA
Zeph 9HNO

Ava 10MX
A.B 10JM
Cassidy 10DW
Corbin 10MV
Esther 10ML
Freya 10ML
Isabella 10DW
Izabella 10KLA
Jousha 10JM
Lilli-Mai 10MX
Lloyd 10HM
Maggie 10JM
Matilda 10MV
Milly 10MV
Niamh 10MV
Oliver 10MX
Oliver 10HM
Peter 10KLA
Sophie 10LKA
Tanika 10JM

MID SUSSEX STEM CHALLENGE



On Friday 19th May
seven students
from Downlands
represented us
in the
Mid Sussex STEM
Challenge.

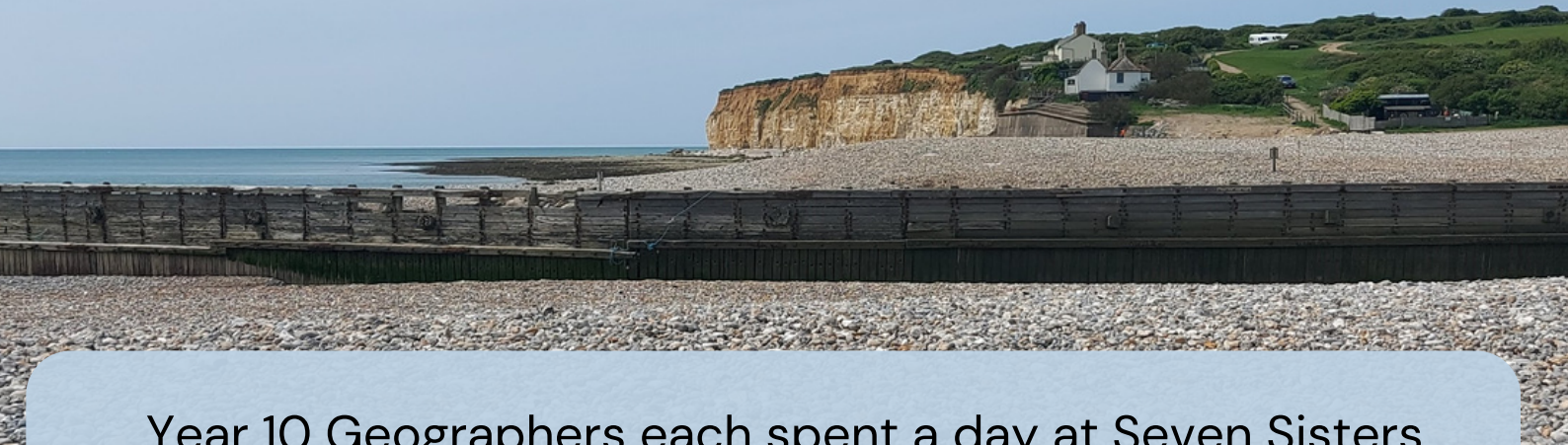
On Friday the 19th May, seven students from Downlands represented us in the mid Sussex Stem Challenge. We are up against six other schools from the Mid-Sussex area. All of whom had built and adapted a 6 x 6 remote control car ahead of a race.

Downlands students excelled in the race, the presentation, and their stand in presenting their ideas with clarity. The judges were blown away by their professionalism, their teamwork, and enthusiasm. We went away as overall winners. Congratulations to all students involved you made the school very proud.



GEOGRAPHY

Year 10 Geography Field Trip



Year 10 Geographers each spent a day at Seven Sisters Country Park investigating the impacts of tourism and how the area has changed over time. They practised a range of sampling techniques and data collection methods that they will have to evaluate in their exam.



Most pupils got to spend a glorious sunny day out in the field (we won't mention the Friday group who experienced first-hand true fieldwork weather...). All pupils worked diligently and were a credit to the school.

FOREST SCHOOL



video link

<https://youtu.be/6y-DR1lsUqk>



FOREST SCHOOL



We have also planted two Horse Chestnut trees on the path to our woods. Two mature Horse Chestnut trees had to make way for the sports hall changing rooms, but Mrs Hunt our Chair of Governors collected conkers from the mature trees before they came down.

She managed to get two to germinate and we planted the saplings thanks to her thoughtful work.

Mr Stokes



LINO PRINTING



Examples of Year 10 lino printing including chine colle and reduction techniques inspired by local artist Helen Brown. They've all worked incredibly hard on recreating their local landscapes through this discipline with success.



WE WILL HAVE SOME LINO PRINTS PRODUCED BY PREVIOUS PUPILS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE DURING THE EXHIBITION AND SUMMER FAYRE.

TEXTILES CLUB



BUCKET HATS

These are double sided –
and a more difficult make,
including top stitching and
accurate pattern cutting.

Well done to all



FOOD TECH

The Year 10's took part in the Tunnocks Tea Cake challenge, to take a simple Tunnocks Teacake and turn it into a restaurant standard dessert.



It was run as a competition with a first and second place awarded to each class. the standard was very high so judging was difficult.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



LIBRARY NEWS...May 2023



The bunting and flags were out in force in the library this month to celebrate the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III. Thank you to all my librarians for helping me make the displays look very regal!



It seems hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another term, and we are finalising the spring newsletter. The weeks pass so quickly and I'm sure the students about to sit their GCSE's and then leaving Downlands will be reflecting on their school journey and their achievements as well as their future dreams. Exam season is always a stressful time, but the library remains a haven of calm, so an ideal place to study and revise.

Good Luck!



As exam season begins and the nerves start to take hold, always remember:
You've got this! You are enough. Have faith in yourself. We believe in you.

Don't panic. There is more in your head than you realise.

The library is your place of sanctuary and calm which will help to ease any nerves.

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE TO PUPILS WHO ARE REVISING IN THE LIBRARY BY WORKING IN SILENCE.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The library is open from 08:30 until 16:00 each day for private study

Library Opening Times

Monday	Break Lunch	Open to All
Tuesday	Break Lunch	Open to All
Wednesday	Break Lunch	Open to All
Thursday	Break Lunch	Open to All
Friday	Break Lunch	Open to All

Open every morning from 08:30 for homework, reading & Printing.
Monday to Friday open after school until 16:00 for Independent study.

Stationery Shop:
Available in Library
08:00-16:00
Break, Lunch & after School.

Price List

12 Felt Tip Pens	£1.50
12 Coloured Pencils	£1.00
Clear Pencil Cases	£1.00
Glue Stick	50p
Berol Handwriting Pen	50p
Biro pen	30p
30cm Ruler	40p
15cm Ruler	30p
HB Pencil	20p
Eraser	20p
Protractor	30p
Revision Cards (pack 10)	20p

www.westsussex.gov.uk /WestSussexLibraries @WSCCLibraries



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers age 14+ to help us run the **Summer Reading Challenge** in libraries

We need volunteers who can:

- Help families register to take part
- Listen to children talk about books they have read
- Hand out rewards and encourage children to keep reading

Whether you have a little or a lot of time to spare, if you're interested in helping families enjoy reading we want to hear from you!

Find out more and apply online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/src.



Photo © David Warren 2019 for The Reading Agency with thanks to Parnock Square Library WSCCLIB01-04-2019

Over £800 raised for Read for Good



Pupils were invited to read from comics to classics, and audio books to blogs, whilst being sponsored – all money raised provided new books to children in hospital across the country. Downland's students raised an incredible amount of £810.99. Congratulations to Ferne, Tallulah, Eve, Leo, Mae, Frank, Lottie, Eliza, Florence, Lily, Maria
Thank you to everyone who took part.

Wishing you all a lovely half term.

Mrs Bance

NETBALL MARATHON

On Friday 5th May, we held our second netball marathon to raise money for Breast Cancer Now- a charity close to the Downlands Community. The event involved a lovely team of year 10 and 11 girls who gave up their time in the build-up and on the day to support in many ways. We ran an Easter egg tombola, a cake sale, a bake-off, mini netball competitions, and a netball marathon from 8am till 4pm.



A huge congratulations to Amber and Grace who were the runners up for the bake sale, and to Chloe for winning the bake off with her amazing breast cancer Ribbon cake. Freya won the mini competition scoring 11 goals in a minute.

This fun-filled event showed Resilience, Optimism, Community, Kindness and Self-awareness for everyone involved. Go Team Downlands!





NETBALL MARATHON

There were over 250 pupils who took part in the game, with many other pupils buying cakes and also having a go at winning chocolates or sweets. The atmosphere on the playground was buzzing with excitement and it was amazing to see happy faces whilst raising money for an amazing cause. We were also very lucky to have had an oncology nurse who was available for students to speak to during the day. This was useful for many of our students.



The pupils were highly entertained as they watched lots of staff at the beginning and the end of the day play netball, for some it was the first time! I'd like to pass on a special thanks to the people from our Hassocks community from Hassocks social netball club who gave up their time to also be part of this day.

We are currently at £3736 on our JustGiving page, and donations are still coming in. If you would like to donate to help us reach our target of £5000, please do so using the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/downlands-community-school-1678453213288>





Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 Netball team qualified for the State Schools Sussex Cup Finals 2023 today. They won all three games in their pool (12-0, 13-0, 10-1).

Won their semi final 14-3 and lost in the final 6-5. This is a huge achievement and a very talented group of netballers. Well done!

Year 7 Basketball

The year 7 basketball team have done fantastically well, coming second in the league.

They only lost one game all season in the final vs St Paul's. Well Done to all involved !



Rowing - New British Record

Dewi (7KRO) who attends an out of school rowing club set a new British record on April 11th, 2023 for men 12 and under for the furthest row in 1 minute.

He set the record with a row of 273 meters. What a fantastic achievement, Well Done!

We are always very interested to hear about our students' achievements outside of school. If you would like to submit an item for the newsletter please email: jmiles@downlands.org

YEAR 10 TRIP TO UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX



On Friday 19th May, all of Year 10 visited the University of Sussex for a university taster day. The goal of the day was for students to experience higher education and to hopefully set their aspirations for the future!

The day began with a talk on university life including the types of course available, how to apply, student accommodation, societies and freshers events! Downlands students were then taken on a tour of the campus with Uni of Sussex ambassadors who answered all their questions about what to expect at university.

Our students were amazed by the quality of the facilities and size of the lecture theatres! A quick lunch in the canteen and students ended the day with a lecture from Professor Hazel Cox, a biology lecturer who explored the different career paths available in the sciences



YEAR 10 TRIP TO ICELAND



On 31st March, 62 of our Year 10 Geographers departed on our annual Iceland trip. Throughout the trip, students were exposed to a vast range of landscapes which are unique only to Iceland. We explored the geothermal area of the Reykjanes peninsular, travelled the Golden Triangle of Pingvellir National Park, Geysir and Gullfoss and donned crampons to climb the Solheimajokull glacier.



TRIPS



YEAR 10 TRIP TO ICELAND



On our second day, we had arguably our most successful whale watching mission to date. For the first two hours, we saw nothing, and we were all feel despondent, then suddenly two humpback whales appeared just 15 meters from the boat and cruised along with us for 20 minutes. After they finally dived, we were then followed back into Reykjavik Bay by a pod of harbour dolphins. This remains a highlight for many of the students.



Over the five days we indulged in lots of ice cream, swam in multiple geothermally heated pools and saw real life lava at the Lava Show.

The students were a credit to Downlands as always and their enthusiasm and conduct is the reason we keep running this trip!

MUSIC

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 Schlenthner	schlenthnerjessica@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.

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.

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 DSA



Thank you to all who came to the Downlands quiz night and a huge thank you to our fantastic quiz master Mr Smith.

Congratulations to the winning team Flash Gordons
Over £1,600 was raised for the school. Your support is greatly appreciated.

GOODBYE

As we say goodbye to our year 11's we also bid farewell to a few of our lovely PTA members:

Kelly, Carol, Nina and Michelle

Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work as members of the PTA. Your contributions have made a real difference in the lives of our students, and we are grateful for your support. We wish you all the best .

DOWNLANDS FUNDRAISING



**SUMMER
FAYRE**
SATURDAY 24TH JUNE
12 - 4PM

BBQ CRAFT ALES TEA & CAKES
DOG SHOW INFLATABLES
MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL
PLANT SALE YR 11 ART EXHIBITION
STUDENT STALLS G&T ICE CREAM
DOWNLANDS DASH FUN RUN

A colorful illustration of a summer fayre scene. In the foreground, there are several red and white striped tents and stalls. People are silhouetted walking around. In the background, there are green hills, a white windmill, and more colorful bunting flags strung across the scene. The sky is a solid blue color.

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'.





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/>



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING DAY

June 24, 2023 | 9.30 am – 12.00 pm

**Adastra Hall, Hassocks, West
Sussex, BN6 8BT**

Free open house event hosted by the
NHS Community Team for Burgess Hill and
Villages in partnership with local charities
and service providers.

Advice | Support | Health Checks |
Free Refreshments | Kids Activities
Everyone welcome



**BURGESS HILL
& VILLAGES PCN**

West Sussex Health Care
NHS Foundation
The Moorfield Centre
The Moorfield Centre





ANDREW CHAPMAN
ASHLEY HUTCHINSON
CAROLINE SAUNDERS
CLARE BISPHOP
DAWN MEAD
DINAH BEATON
JO MILES
JO MYLES
JONATHAN CROFT
KARIN DONNEGER
LIZZIE LAYFIELD
MICHAELA MURPHY
NICOLA TWAITES
RUTH MULLAN
SARAH SMITH
SUE COLLINS
SUSIE GARNER
VERITY REBECCA

HASSOCKS ARTISTS

OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY 1st JULY &
SUNDAY 2nd JULY

11AM - 4PM



facebook.com/Hassocks-Artists • Find maps in local shops or scan to get more information



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

have a lovely
half term
holiday