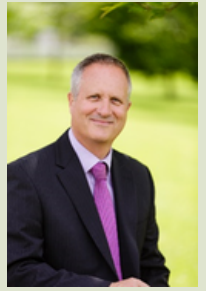


DOWNLANDS NEWS



Dear Parent/Carer,

21st July 2023

Thank you for your support over another roller coaster of an academic year; it has again been a privilege to work with your young people.

We have had a busy summer term with many events taking place. Thank you for supporting the DSA summer fayre; it was a fantastic afternoon and raised over £6,000 for the school. Some of this money will go towards our new Character Passport initiative and a new long jump pit and run-up.

We also enjoyed the following wonderful events (thank you to everyone involved in organising them):

- Art exhibition
- PE awards evening
- Various trips plus enrichment days
- Work experience for year 10
- Year 11 Leavers Prom at Plumpton
- Sports Day

The Academic Awards evening will now be taking place on 19th September.

Our students are participating in various enrichment activities this week, and the year 10s have been on work experience. We also have some students on a geography trip to India, and others are on an art trip to Paris. It was an absolute pleasure for me to go on the PGL trip with our amazing year 7s.

Next year we look forward to improving our extra-curricular offer and increasing the number of opportunities for our students. This is in line with our Character Development programme, and we will communicate with parents/carers further about this in the new term.

Yesterday we sent a letter outlining uniform requirements and explaining the importance of wearing uniform to policy.

<https://www.downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Uniform-Policy-Letter.pdf>

The second-hand uniform sale this week was very popular; we will have another uniform sale next term.

Once again, thank you for all your support this year, and I wish you a very happy summer holidays.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wignall'.

Mark Wignall
Headteacher

USEFUL INFORMATION

INSET DAYS

- Friday 1st December 2023
- Tuesday 2nd January 2024
- Wednesday 26 June 2024
- Monday & Tuesday 22nd & 23rd July 2024

EARLY CLOSURES

- Tuesday 12th September 2023
- Thursday 28th September 2023
- Wednesday 11th October 2023
- Tuesday 16th January 2024
- Wednesday 5th June 2024
- Thursday 13th June 2024

On these days, school will close at 2pm for staff training. Transport will be arranged and we will be able to supervise students who can't leave early.

There will also be a late start on Friday October 6th after our open evening.

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

- 08.35 First (warning) bell
- 08.40 Registration
- 09.00 Lesson 1
- 10.00 Lesson 2
- 11.00 Break
- 11.20 Lesson 3
- 12.20 Lesson 4
- 1.20 Lunch
- 1.55 End of lunch
- 1.55 Lesson 5 (including 10 minutes DEAR Time ** for Key Stage 3)
- 3.05 End of school day

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

The School site is open to students from 8.20am, students will not be able to enter the school building until 8.35 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 8.39am and the students will be marked 'late' after this.

USEFUL INFORMATION

REPORTING ABSENCE

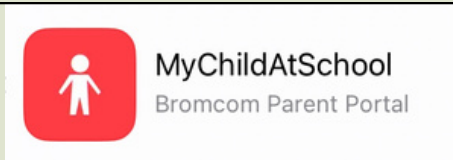
Please report absence by using Studybugs (our preferred method) or contacting attendance@downlands.org or contact 01273 845892 and select the student absence option when reporting an absence.



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>)

MCAS - PARENTAL CONSENT



Please take a few minutes to ensure that all parental consents are up to date

Click on Data Collection Form to give consent for antihistamine or paracetamol to be given as needed at school.

Please tick EpiPen if your child uses an EpiPen.

Please look at the whole page and complete as needed. Remember to press Submit changes and Save.

Please also look the Parental Consents Page to update your information and remember to press save.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Data Collection Form". It contains several fields with labels: Gender, Country Of Birth, Language, Religious Affiliation, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Service Child. Below these is a blue header for "Other Details" which includes "Antihistamine Permission*", "EpiPen - uses", and "Paracetamol Permission*".A snippet of a form titled "Parental Consent". It includes a green "Save" button and a section for "Biometric Consent" with a paragraph of text: "I consent to fingertip biometric scan for the purpose of making payment for canteen food only. Our canteen operates a cashless system. This scan is held until the student leaves or ceases to use the system. If you wish to withdraw your consent, this must be done so in writing to the school Finance Office."

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ROCKS CHARACTER



We are pleased to announce the winning community who have generated the most ROCKS points.

The winning community has triumphed as the embodiment of ROCKS behaviour and were outstanding during this year's school sports day. Their commitment to **Resilience**, **Optimism**, **Community**, **Kindness**, and **Self Awareness** has made a positive impact on the entire school community. Additionally, their collective efforts earned them the highest number of points across various sports disciplines.

The results are:

DOWNLANDS' COMMUNITY WINNERS 2023

1. **WOLSTONBURY COMMUNITY 3333**
2. **SOUTH DOWN COMMUNITY 3215**
3. **BEACON COMMUNITY 3164**
4. **WEALD COMMUNITY 3118**

Well done to the winning community,

WOLSTONBURY

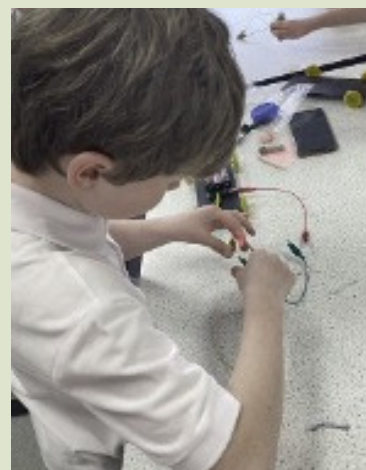
You have all won a trip to



STEAM AT DOWNLANDS



The students have been busy having fun. They have been designing and building cars using both electrical circuits and good old fashioned wind power. They have also made catapults from limited resources and had great fun testing them...



The students took part in the **Thales Mars Balloon Competition.**

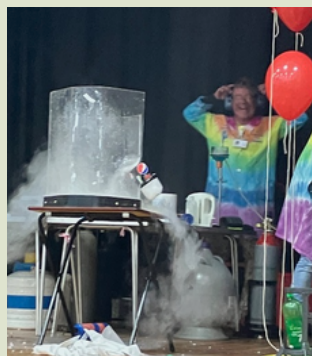
They designed an experiment to take up to space. This launched on 27th June. They are now waiting for the experiment to be returned to see what actually happened and the actual video footage of the journey too. They have tried to work out which capsule is theirs from the photo!



The students also had the opportunity to work with others from local schools, when the **Royal Academy of Engineering** came along for the day. They built robots, programmed them and had battles with their robots. They also learnt about hydrogen being used for a fuel. At the end of the day, they were able to ask questions from a panel of engineers and scientists. Some of our year 9 students helped with the organisation and were brilliant at supporting and guiding the groups throughout the day.

In June Downlands hosted **The Bigger Bang! Show, with Professor Hal.**

It showed the very best in exhibition chemistry and featured liquid nitrogen, liquid oxygen, solid CO₂, chemiluminescence and a lot more besides. Every spectacle came with a learning outcome.



GEOGRAPHY



We took 30 of our Year 8 Geographers to the BBC Earth Experience in Earls Court as a ROCKS reward trip. Students travelled through the seven continents in an immersive experience, brilliantly narrated by the wonderful David Attenborough

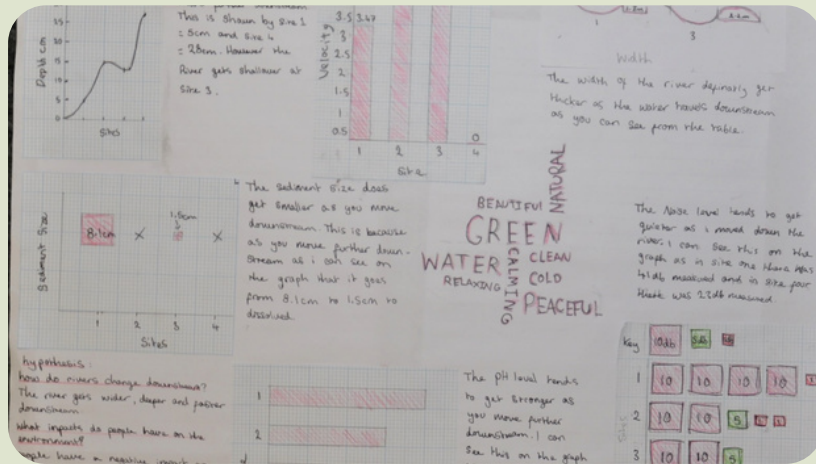


GEOGRAPHY

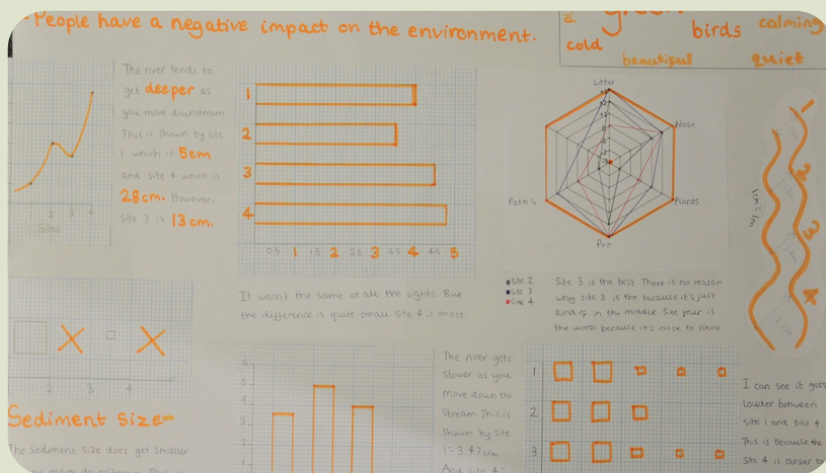
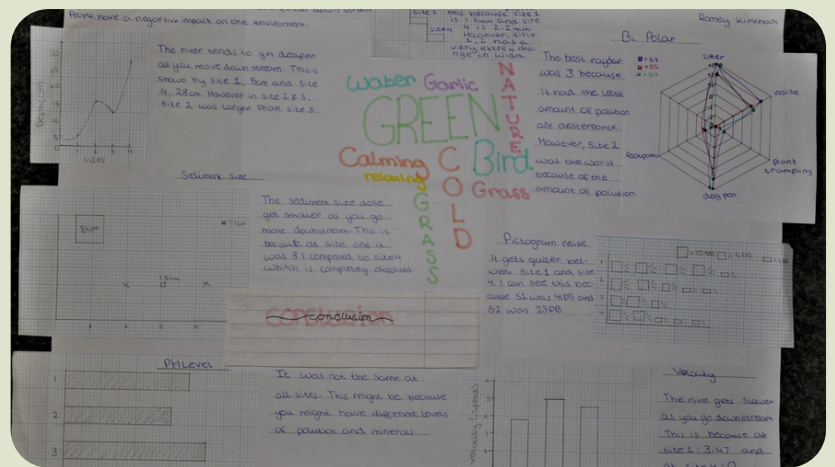
Year 8

Geography Fieldwork

Year 8 have had a busy (and hands on) half term conducting fieldwork.

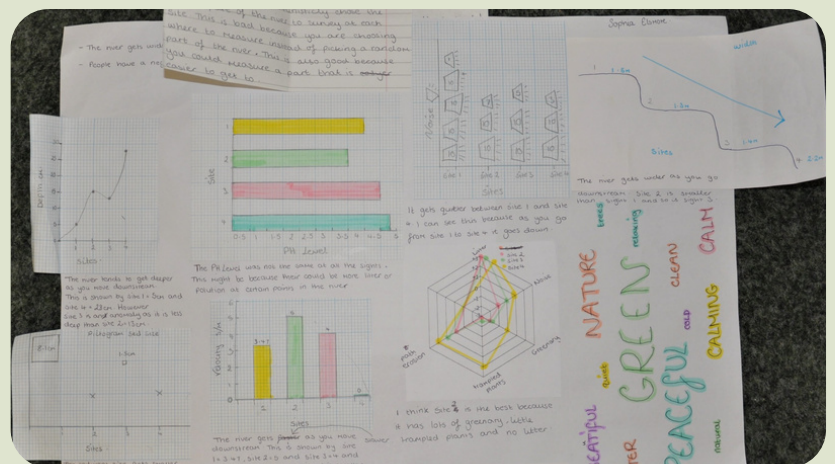


We visited the chalk stream in our woods at the back of the field and investigated how rivers change from upstream to downstream and the impacts people have on them.



We used a range of GCSE methods to collate the data: bi-polar surveys, measuring flow rates with strawberries, PH levels and depth and sediment size.

Students have then been writing up their findings and here are some outstanding examples.



GCSE ART EXHIBITION



The GCSE private view evening was a wonderful event where students, parents, and special guests celebrated young artists' creative achievements. Renowned artist Philip Dunn was the guest speaker, inspiring the attendees with his personal journey and encouraging them to fearlessly pursue their passion for art.



The Art GCSE pupils have worked tirelessly throughout the year to produce an impressive body of work. Pupils have committed to the programme of study and have seen huge progress. Successes have come in many guises through observational drawings, modelling ceramics, photographic skills, printing processes and many more. Pupils should be very proud of what they have achieved.



ART

Year 9 Art Trip



The Year 9's went on an art trip to Ditchling Museum, where they took part in a Printmaking Workshop. They learnt about typefaces, fonts, typography, branding, and letterpress before students being taken on a bespoke tour of the print gallery in the museum.



They tried three different forms of printing and had great success. It was a great experience for all.

Year 7 – Ceramics

Year 7 have been developing their skills modelling clay, ceramics. The project was based 'Monsters' and formed from creating a pinch pot design.



All pupils were successful in their creative responses and their technical development. Well done!

LANGUAGES

Hassocks Twinning Association Celebrating 30 years

**Hassocks Twinning Association with France (Montmirail)
& Germany (Wald-Michelbach). 18th - 21st May 2023**

Thank you to Emily (Year 9) and Honey (Year 10) who represented Downlands and greeted 52 French & German visitors on arrival to Hassocks on Thursday 18th May after school! The families were visiting for the Hassocks Twinning Association 30 year anniversary with its twinned towns in France and Germany. The Association was very grateful and impressed with how polite, friendly and kind our students are!

Hassocks has been twinned with Montmirail in France and Wald-Michelbach in Germany for 30 years!



We celebrated this very special 30 year twinning relationship in AdastraHall on Saturday 20th May with lots of entertainment, photos, cakes and music!



LANGUAGES

Hassocks Twinning Association Celebrating 30 years

The Downlands Brass Band entertained all the German and French families along with their host families during the event



From left:
Mr Wardrobe
(Head of Music),
Wilf, George, Tilly &
Hazel all in Year 8
along with Cassidy in
Year 10

Three public speakers from Downlands recited poetry
at the event on Saturday 20th May



Lila, Ayla and Maria reciting poetry:
Richard II” by William Shakespeare
“The Run Of The Downs” by Rudyard Kipling
“If” by Ruyard Kipling
“Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll

FOOD TECH

Here are a few examples of the Year 10 Mock Food Tech GCSE



The students had to make 3 dishes and accompaniments in 3 hours. They did a fantastic job with great reviews from the staff who tasted them



Year 7 Biscuit Challenge

Year 7 have had fun in the last week on a decorated biscuit challenge here are some of the results.

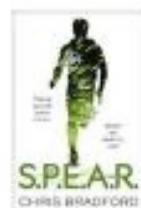


NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



LIBRARY NEWS July 2023...

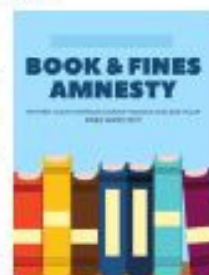
Another academic year comes to an end! We said goodbye to our Year 11s, some of whom were pupil librarians. Thank you for all your help and support during your five years at Downlands!



We were so lucky to have Chris Bradford, bestselling and multi-award-winning children's author visit Downlands to perform his amazing Bodyguard show to our Year 7 students. Chris is professionally trained in a variety of martial arts, including samurai swordsmanship, and has earned his black belt in Kyo Shin Tai-jutsu. Chris's books, including the bestselling *Young Samurai* and *Bodyguard* series, were on sale during his visit. We all had an amazing morning watching and learning how a real-life bodyguard works! Thank you again.



There are still a large number of books missing from the library. This greatly impacts other students who would like to read them and costs the library an incredible amount of money to replace them. Please have a good look at home and return any books when you come back to school in September.



The library reading competition has launched once again this summer. It is open for all year groups, so dust off those summer reads and capture the moment!

Email your entries to jbance@downlands.org for a chance to win one of three prizes.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer, see you in September.



Mrs Bance.



Downlands Library 2023 READING COMPETITION



Open to all
Staff & Pupils

Read a book this Summer in
a weird or wonderful place
and take a photo of your
view!



Send your exciting photos to
jbance@downlands.org
for your chance to be one of



UNDER 13 GIRLS CRICKET

Having won all 6 of our league games v BACA, St Pauls and Uckfield we qualified for the semi final v Blatchington Mill last week which we WON! With time running out this academic year and the other semi final having not yet been played, we will play our County final in September.

A great achievement, well done girls

Having won the recent Chance to Compete U13 Cricket tournament in Burgess Hill last month, we qualified for County finals at the Sussex academy ground at Blackstone. An enjoyable day was had in very mixed weather conditions, narrowly missing out on the semi finals by 2 runs. A huge congratulations to this successful team for demonstrating some great cricket throughout this season.

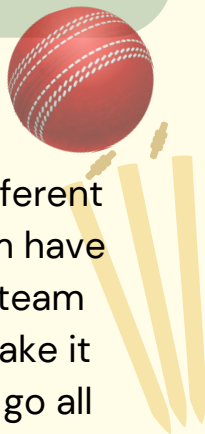


UNDER 15 GIRLS CRICKET

Having won all 4 of our league games v Gildredge House, Uckfield, Heathfield and BACA, we qualified for the semi final v Blatchington Mill which we won with 6 overs to spare. Finals day will be in September, congratulations ladies.

YEAR 8 BOYS CRICKET TEAM

The year 8 boys cricket team have had a fantastic season, with over 25 different students playing in the team and representing the school. The cricket team have won 5 games and narrowly lost 1 game to a very talented BACA side. The team played in the Mid Sussex semi-final this week and beat Warden Park to make it into the final which is being played next week. The students are hoping to go all the way and lift the trophy next week – good luck to all those involved!



SPORTS LEADERS

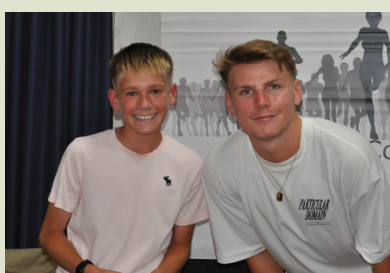
We have had excellent support from our sports leaders recently. Year 9 leaders have helped out at our local schools Windmills, St Lawrence and Albourne with their sports day and have been invaluable to the staff. Many events like District sports would not have been able to take place without the support of the Year 9 students. Downland's leaders also helped run primary Quad kids Athletics event as well as a Year 4 and 5 stoolball festival.

PE & DANCE AWARDS

This is a very special evening for the PE and Dance Faculty, one which we thoroughly enjoy as it celebrates the successes of our students and teams who are involved in our extra curricular activities. We pride ourselves on a very extensive extra curricular programme and it was wonderful to celebrate with this spectacular evening.



We were fortunate to have ex Downlands student Ed Turns with us on the evening to talk to the students about his journey and present all of the medals and trophies. Ed is a professional footballer who plays for Brighton and Hove Albion and is captain of the Wales U21 National team. This year, Ed has had the opportunity to be on loan for Leyton Orient and helped them to promotion to League One.



Just under 300 students attended the 2 course sit down meal and then many students were on the receiving end of the hundreds of medals and numerous trophies that were given. It was very special to have so many parents and carers present to watch the students receive their awards.

DANCE

Joss Arnott Dance Workshops

On Monday 3rd July, a dancer from Joss Arnott Dance Company came into the school to teach two workshops. The first workshop was for our Gifted and Talented Year 9 pupils, where they were challenged physically through learning abstract movement. The second workshop was for Year 7 and 8 pupils. The dancer taught repertoire from the company's new piece 'The Tin Man', which many of our pupils were seeing as part of a school dance trip the following day.

The Tin Man trip

On Tuesday 4th July, the dance department took 39 pupils to see a performance of 'The Tin Man' by Joss Arnott Dance Company. The piece was a retelling of the story of the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz. It was brilliant to see repertoire that pupils had learnt the previous day and they enjoyed the theatrical nature of the movement.



Ceyda Tanc Dance Workshop

At the end of term, our Year 10 GCSE Dance pupils and gifted and talented Year 9 pupils took part in a workshop with Ceyda Tanc Dance Company. Downlands has previously worked with the company on many occasions, with the company even recreating a professional work on our Downlands Dance Company for our annual show. On this occasion, pupils learnt repertoire from the company's new work 'Kizlar', which premiered at The Theatre Royal in May as part of the Brighton Festival.



New York Fundraising Showcase

On Monday 19th June, over 40 students across Year 8 and 9 were involved in a performance in the amphitheater to raise money for the upcoming dance trip to New York in October 2024. The students worked incredibly hard to choreograph the pieces, organize costumes, sell the tickets and run a successful cake and drink sale. The students were able to raise over £1,000 and look forward to taking part in the event next year.

Summer Fayre Performance

On Saturday 24th June, over 40 students across Year 7, 8 and 9 performed at the Summer Fayre. The students performed 3 times across the day with each performance as professional as the last sharing the students passion for dance and for performing.



FOREST SCHOOL

In Forest School students explore the natural world, fostering curiosity and an appreciation for the environment.



It gives the students the opportunity to develop crucial life skills, including problem-solving, teamwork, resilience, and creativity.

They are encouraged to explore and learn at their own pace, promoting a sense of independence and self-confidence.



These photos were taken with our new camera which we were able to buy with the help of our generous sponsors.

Thank you to our sponsors:
Stone Survey Ltd
Station Garage Hassocks
John Broomfield Removals
Hollington Electrical Ltd

Please contact Matthew Stokes mstokes@downlands.org if you are a business that would like to advertise here and help us raise money for Camera and film making equipment.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

D of E Assessed Expedition 10/11 June 2023



On what was a blisteringly hot weekend, 85 Y10 students embarked on their DofE expedition. By 11 am on the Saturday, the mercury was nudging 34°! Starting at Devils Dyke, they all set off in their groups and walked miles to the campsite at Small Dole. Tents were put up followed by some amazing creativity with the evening meal, none more so than Louis, who cooked a proper stir-fry for his team! Football and frisbee were then enjoyed until lights out. After the monsoons of the practice, a peaceful night's sleep was had by all.

With more hot weather forecast, an early start was made on Sunday, rise and shine at 5.30. Following breakfast, tents were packed away and the walkers set off once more. A slightly earlier finish than anticipated was welcomed by all, as were the ice creams back at Devil's Dyke.

As they were soaking their aching bodies in the bath on Sunday evening, I'm sure some of them were thinking 'I never want to see a tent again'! In truth, they all enjoyed the experience, learned something about themselves and were a credit to the school.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



LONDON CHILDREN'S BALLET

Marcus in year 7 was able to participate in the London Children's Ballet Touring Company production of Anne of Green Gables. Marcus worked extremely hard both during rehearsals and on the performance days and the tour was a very positive experience for him.



Marcus interacted particularly well with the pupils at the special needs schools we visited where pupils often had multiple and profound learning difficulties. He also interacted well with the elderly residents at the care homes he visited, showing maturity and compassion. Many residents suffer from Alzheimer's and dementia or have very little regular interaction with friends and family. These different experiences hopefully have helped Marcus develop in ways other than just dance technique, he learnt to appreciate others who he may not normally meet.



Over the course of the five days of the tour he visited ten venues, including care homes, sheltered accommodation and special schools. This enabled over 300 people to enjoy our performances and meet our young dancers. Our performances at these venues are greatly appreciated, as many of the residents and pupils are unable to venture out to the theatre.

ECO CLUB

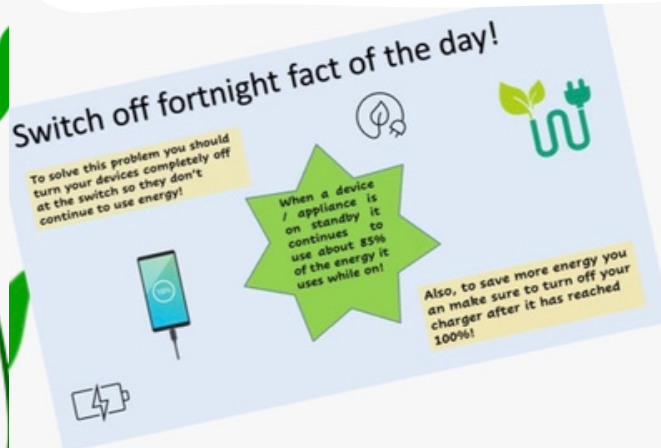
So far as part of our stationery recycle scheme we had sent off 3 x boxes of broken/used stationery to be recycled into playground equipment. This is part of the BIC Terracycle scheme. Each classroom has a tub which is emptied every few weeks.



As part of an environmental agency pilot project, we collected water samples from the river on the school grounds to send off e-DNA samples. We are excited to see the results!

Eco Club

In eco club this year we have been busy raising awareness of campaigns such as Switch off Fortnight and The Great Big School Clean. This has involved tutor time activities, school audits, and assemblies. We have also continued to roll out our stationery recycling scheme, taking part in an environmental agency pilot project around vertebrae in rivers, and ran an 'eco week' where each day had a different focus.



For Switch off fortnight, we raised awareness of the importance of conserving energy and audited the school to see which departments were the best at turning off their lights/appliances! Well done History for winning!

During the Great Big School Clean, we had a talk from West Sussex recycling centre about what it happening to reduce waste in our local area. We also did a litter pick around school and ran a competition.



TRIPS

INDIA



THE INDIA TRIP HAS SAFELY ARRIVED IN CHENNAI. WE WILL SPEND THE REST OF THIS WEEK IN WORKSHOPS WITH OUR PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL, ELLEN SHARMA HIGH SCHOOL, INCLUDING KARATE, JEWELLERY MAKING, HENNA, COOKERY, DANCE AND MUCH MORE. FIND MORE UPDATES ON @DOWNLANDS_GEOG"



MUSIC LESSONS

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
Drum kit	Mr Hodgson	tom@studiomuso.co.uk
Guitar, Bass Guitar	Mr Paton	Ferguspatonguitarschool@gmail.com
Keyboard	Mr Bedford	Hu.bedford@gmail.com
Piano	Ms Nagendra	charlie.kew@westsussexmusic.co.uk
Singing	Ms Schlenther	schlentherjessica@gmail.com
Violin, Viola	Miss Wardrobe	blwardrobe@hotmail.co.uk
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 THE DSA

THE DOWNLANDS PTA (CALLED THE DSA) IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC BUNCH OF PARENTS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISING MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL FOR MANY YEARS.

We run a number a of events – a Christmas Market – held in November in the school, there are a number of school stands for the children to enjoy including tombolas and games – year 7 students run games with chances to win prizes as part of the Downlands ROCKS program. It is also packed full of out stall holders and performances from the school band and choir. Food and drinks are served. Our biggest event of the year is the Summer Fair – held in the school's beautiful playground. We also run a quiz night and serve drinks at school events.

In recent years we have been able to fund a number of projects that benefit all the students at Downlands, these have included shelter areas for breaks, seating, the popular pods for lunch and break times, renovations of the courtyards and other school facilities. We aim to raise £30,000 a year.

We are always looking for parents to join in – that could be an hour on a stall at one of the events or as a member of the committee to help organise the events. We are also looking for any parents who work for companies that offer match funding – this is where a company matches our fundraising amounts – if you work for a company who might be able to offer this please let our Chair know by emailing Alan Harman on: Harmanrc@aol.com

Our next big event is the Christmas Fair – why not pop along to our AGM on September 20th September for a glass or wine and meet the PTA team. Apart from raising funds for the school it is a great way to help your children get the most from their school and build friendships and community spirit.

[Downlands PTA](#)

**Snapshot from our Summer Fair in June 2023
which raised over £6,000 for the school**



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



USEFUL INFORMATION



Downlands receives extra funding for all students eligible for free school meals, called the Pupil Premium. This funding is extremely valuable to us as it enables us to support our students to be happy, confident learners & make the best possible progress.

For more information please visit :

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

or email in confidence: vthompson@downlands.org

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](#)

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'.



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



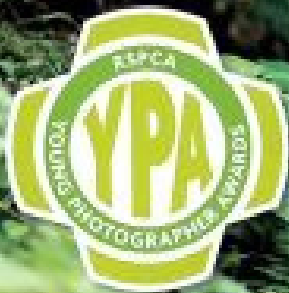
Thank you to all our family and friends that are supporting our School Lottery. We are delighted with the support it has received and the money that it raises will be going towards more facilities for the students.

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

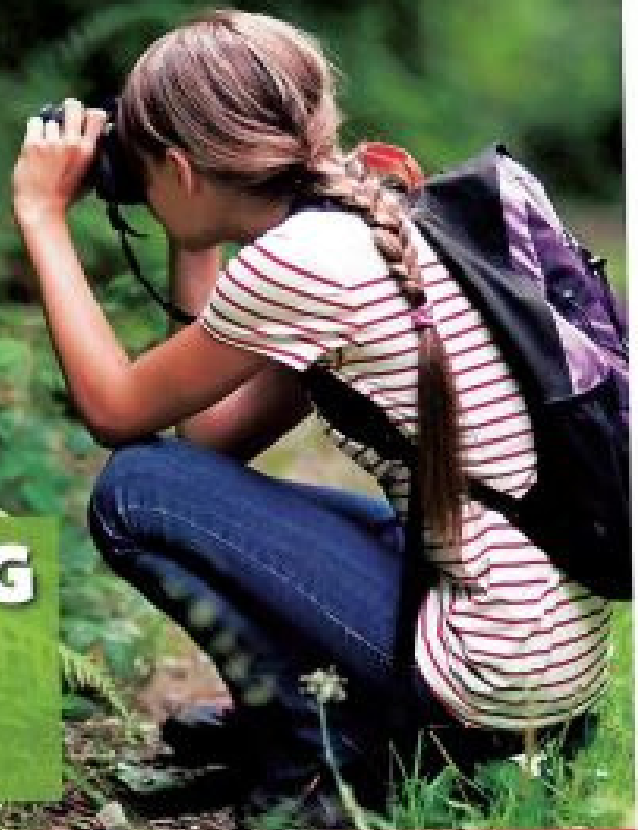
<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/dowlands-community-school>

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.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



THE RSPCA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARDS 2023



WIN

- ▶ TROPHIES
- ▶ AMAZON VOUCHERS
- ▶ AN EPIC TRIP!

If you're 18 or under, an animal lover, and you can take great photos, this is the competition for you! Send us your animal images by **15 August 2023**.

Finalists are invited to our Tower of London awards ceremony with TV's Chris Packham.



ENTER NOW!



FOR MORE INFO:
rspca.org.uk/ypa



Hope Skidmore - winner of 13-15 Mobile Phone and Devices category.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



Do your pupils love animals? Our RSPCA Young Photographer Awards provides the perfect opportunity to learn more about them, while developing their creative skills.

Here at the RSPCA, we want to inspire young people to connect with animals. Experiencing the natural world through photography is a great way to build this connection. So I'm writing to ask for your help in encouraging the children and young people at your school or college to give our competition a go!

The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is a high-profile competition that's been running since 1990. It attracts thousands of entries each year and is endorsed by conservationists and professional photographers alike – including TV's Chris Packham, who sits on our judging panel.

Winning images often make the national press and many of our past finalists have gone on to careers in photography, animal welfare or conservation. This competition is a must for creative, ambitious young people who care about the natural world – and want to do something to help protect it.

Entrants don't need lots of photography experience or fancy equipment – just a camera or smartphone, a love of animals and an eye for a fantastic shot.

There are 10 listed categories young people can choose from:

- Age (under 12 years, 12–15 years, 16–18 years)
- Mobile phone and devices (under 12s, 12–15 Years and 16–18 Years)
- Pet personalities
- Pet portraits
- Small world
- Portfolio

This competition is **free to enter** and offers some amazing prizes, including a photography trip led by industry experts Natures Images, winners' trophies and certificates, and a share of £3,200 in Amazon vouchers.

Please display the enclosed poster on your noticeboards, add it to your newsletters and encourage your classes to give animal photography a go. As an extra incentive, the finalists are also invited to our prestigious Tower of London awards ceremony and exhibition, hosted by Chris Packham.

Pupils can visit: rspca.org.uk/ypa where they can read more about each category, find photography tips from past winners and pro photographers, and upload their entries.

Entries close on 15 August 2023.

Thank you for your support – we look forward to seeing their entries!

Best wishes

Christine Lunn

RSPCA Young Photographer Awards Organiser

P.S. To get this poster as a digital image please email me at: ypa@rspca.org.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

DON'T WAIT, THIS IS THE TIME TO GIVE!

FIGHT THE FREEZE

**HI, I'M FRANK WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL.
WINTER CAN BE COLD AND UNFRIENDLY, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE!**

WHY ARE WE FIGHTING THE FREEZE?

- LIVING COSTS ARE RISING, SO LESS PEOPLE CAN HEAT THEIR HOMES
- MORE PEOPLE ARE UNCOMFORTABLY OR EVEN UNHEALTHILY COLD

..So we are creating a warm bank at Downlands Community School..

- **This will distribute warm clothes and blankets, funded by your generous donations, to FIGHT THE FREEZE!**
- **Anybody who wants to can collect these from the school!**
- **Any money left over will be given to the Downlands School Association. Even your children will benefit from this project!**
- **So do your community a favour and scan the QR code to donate!**



[HTTPS://WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/F/HELP-FRANK-FIGHT-THE-FREEZE](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-frank-fight-the-freeze)

**FIGHT
the
FREEZE**



**SCAN TO
DONATE**

- Will winter be cold for you? Will you help us keep people warm? Making a difference is easy and it starts with YOU!
- I'm Frank and I'm committed to keeping the local community warm. As energy prices rise, so must our kindness and willingness to give.
- That's why we've partnered with Downlands Community School to buy warm clothes with your generous donations and distribute them to anybody who needs them!
- Any leftover money will be donated to charity. Scan the QR code or search "Help Frank Fight the Freeze" on GoFundMe to donate.

Don't delay, keep somebody warm today!

SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 2nd September
10am to 2pm

AT AGE CONCERN HAS SOCKS

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- bottle tombola •
- raffle •
- cake stall •
- tea & coffee •
- games •
- entertainment •
- plant stall •
- yummy food •
- and much more!

All welcome - bring your family and friends

COMMUNITY NEWS



GIRLS RUGBY

Year 10 or 11 next year?

Horshams Under 16 Girls Rugby Team Need You!!!

Whether you are new to the sport or have played before, come along and give it a try

It's fun, sociable and great for fitness and a brilliant way to make new friends

Training every
Tuesday 6pm - 7:15pm

Matches/Training Sundays

For more details contact

u16girls.manager@horshamrufc.com





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/>

VACANCIES

JOIN OUR TEAM



**Do you want to join a friendly,
enthusiastic, and committed team
in a successful community school ?**

For details of current.vacancies please visit:

<https://www.downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk/join-us/vacancies/>

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



See you in September !