

20th October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope you are well and that this half term has been a successful one. We have been carrying out tours of the school for Year 6 students and parents/carers over the last few weeks. It has been an absolute pleasure to show everyone the school and its facilities and it has been wonderful to see how hard the students are working in class. It has also been great that we have been able to start up many of the clubs and activities that add so much to our curriculum offer.

The last of our building projects are drawing to a close after half term with the completion of the new toilets and science roof. Over half term, West Sussex are upgrading the heating in the gym and this will be just in time for the mock examinations.

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

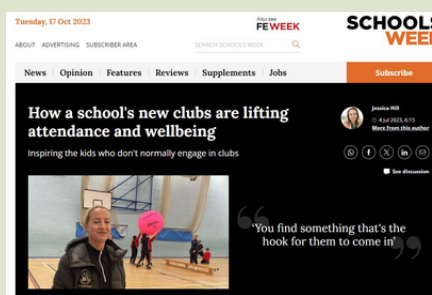
- Rescheduled Academic Awards Evening
- Forest School week
- Chessington Wolstonbury reward trip
- Battle of Hastings History Trip
- Year 11 Find Your Path evening

It was lovely to meet many of you at our Information Evenings for Years 7 to 10 and also at the Year 11 Find Your Path Evening. At the Information Evenings, I outlined the next exciting development in our ROCKS Character programme – the 'Character Passport'.

The ROCKS programme is embedded in the systems and structures of the school – achievement, rewards, behaviour, Teaching and Learning and curriculum. It is having a significant impact on the character traits that enable students to be successful both at school and in their next steps beyond Downlands.

The power of the ROCKS programme is that it links to improved attendance and achievement – please see this Schoolsweek article

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/how-a-schools-new-clubs-are-lifting-attendance-and-wellbeing/>



DOWNLANDS NEWS



The Character Passport has been designed to enable students to access a carefully selected range of opportunities that will give them the skills, experience and knowledge to become even more successful learners. Our ambition is that all students engage in every activity on the passport – we will measure our performance against the numbers of students who achieve it in its entirety.

The activities are as follows:

- Outdoor education residential camp
- Competitive sporting event
- Leadership roles in school
- Museum visit to London
- Learn a musical instrument
- University visit
- Theatre visit to London's West End
- Work experience
- Participate in a school production
- Charity events
- Volunteering
- Sustainability workshop – Wakehurst Place
- Day trip abroad
- Business Enterprise Day

An important aspect of the Character Passport is the development of cultural capital, a key element of social mobility. It is defined as the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that a student can draw upon, demonstrating their cultural awareness, knowledge, and competence.

It is one of the key ingredients a student will draw upon to be successful in society, their career and the world of work.

To realise our vision that all students will complete the passport we are funding 75% of the cost for disadvantaged students and will fund a greater proportion upon application. This funding comes from pupil premium funding and a donation from our wonderful PTA, the Downlands School Association.

We are also looking for sponsors, please contact me if you feel you can support this brilliant venture.

The full programme can be seen below – some letters have already gone out.

DOWNLANDS NEWS

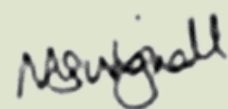
	January Character Day (Wednesday 24 th January)	June Character Day (Friday 17th May)	Other
Year 7	OPTIMISTIC: Theatre Day: - Students to attend matinee performance of Matilda, Wicked or Lion King	COMMUNITY Volunteering Day: - Brighton or Shoreham Beach Clean - South Downs National Park - Monday Group	RESILIENCE Year 7 Camp to Portsmouth SELF-AWARE: Learn to play Ukulele in music KIND: Charity Events
Year 8	SELF-AWARE Museum Visit: - Natural History Museum (Geography) - Science Museum (Science) - Tower of London (History)	KIND Sustainability Day: - Wakehurst Place for workshops on sustainability	RESILIENCE: Curriculum Enrichment Activities: - Watersports - Climbing - Airsoft - Escape Rooms - Multi- sports
Year 9	OPTIMISTIC: Careers Day: - In-school options day including business speed dating	KIND: International Day: - History trip to Ypres - Opal coast	RESILIENCE: Curriculum Enrichment Activities: - Watersports - Climbing - Airsoft - Escape Rooms - Multi- sports
Year 10	SELF AWARE Business Enterprise Day: - Dragons Den Activities in school	OPTIMISTIC University Day: - Visit to University of Sussex	COMMUNITY: Work Experience Leadership roles

The DSA will be holding their Quiz Night on 3rd November and their Annual Christmas Market on 25th November. I would encourage you to attend these events if you can, they raise a tremendous amount of money for the school.

We're all looking forward to seeing the students again after half term and hope they, and you, have a restful week.

Many thanks for your continued support

Best wishes,



Mark Wignall
Headteacher

CONTENTS

1	Words from Mr Wignall,
2	Character Passport
4	Contents
5	Useful Information
8	2023 GCSE Results
9	Year 7 History Trip
10	Forest School
11	News from the Library
13	News from Art
16	Art Competition
17	News from PE
21	Careers
22	Black History Month
23	Student Spotlight
24	Music Lessons
25	Downlands School Association
27	Fundraising
30	Community News
36	Vacancies

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 16th January 2024
- Wednesday 5th June 2024
- Thursday 13th June 2024
- Friday 12th July 2024- Sports Day, (Timings to be confirmed)

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.

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

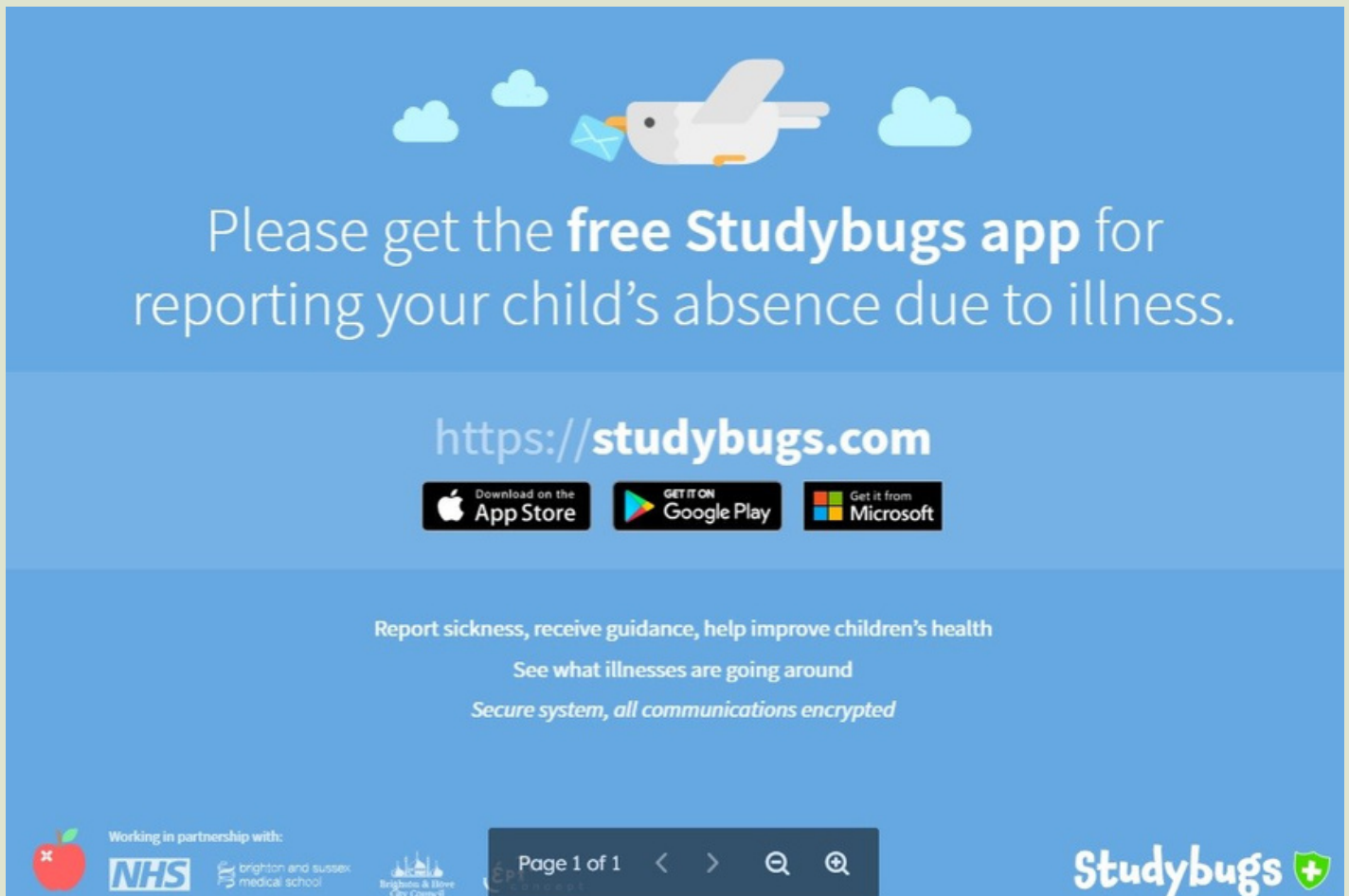
** Drop Everything And Read – all Key Stage 3 students are required to bring a reading book

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

Due to the volume of absences due to illness, could you please report your child's absence by using Studybugs, a more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness.



The banner features a blue background with a white bird icon holding a blue envelope, flanked by two light blue clouds. The text reads: 'Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.' Below this is the URL <https://studybugs.com>. Three app store logos are shown: 'Download on the App Store', 'GET IT ON Google Play', and 'Get it from Microsoft'. Further down, it says: 'Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health', 'See what illnesses are going around', and 'Secure system, all communications encrypted'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Working in partnership with: NHS', 'brighton and sussex medical school', and 'Brighton & Hove City Council'. A footer bar shows 'Page 1 of 1' with navigation icons and the 'Studybugs' logo with a green shield icon.

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>)

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.

USEFUL INFORMATION

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



★ 2023 GCSE RESULTS ★

A True Triumph!

We are delighted to report another successful year for our learners. We would like to thank our school community who have come together in supporting our young people to deliver outcomes that will secure their next steps into further education and apprenticeships.

Results day was awash with emotions and accomplishments. This year's cohort have exceeded national trends in attaining some of the highest grades, a third of students attained a grade 7 or higher. They have left a significant legacy of achievement. All groups of pupils have exceeded national levels of progress. We are thrilled that this holistic success has impacted positively on all of our learners. We wish all of our pupils every success as they continue their educational journeys and we hope the values that they have exhibited and the progress that they have made will guide them to future fulfilment.

Results 2023

GCSE	4+	5+	7+
English Language	88%	75%	30%
English Literature	90%	76%	28%
Mathematics	88%	67%	24%
Further Maths	100%	94%	50%
Combined Science	80%	59%	20%
Biology	98%	89%	62%
Chemistry	93%	91%	63%
Physics	96%	93%	67%
Classical Civilisations	65%	59%	35%
History	90%	79%	44%
Geography	90%	83%	53%
Religious studies	85%	79%	38%
Physical Education	96%	85%	50%
Art & Design	92%	79%	33%
Textiles	85%	69%	15%
Computer Science	69%	62%	29%
Dance	100%	90%	50%
Music	100%	89%	56%
Technology, Product design and resistant materials	87%	71%	40%
Drama	81%	69%	19%
Food preparation and nutrition	89%	74%	28%
French	94%	78%	47%
German	93%	69%	22%
Spanish	60%	40%	13%

Vocational/Technical Qualifications	D+	M+	P+
Child Development	46%	69%	69%
Health & Social Care	32%	72%	100%
Home cooking Skills	N/A	N/A	100%
Creative I media	25%	86%	94%
Sports studies	46%	88%	98%

YEAR 7 HISTORY TRIP



In an exciting and educational adventure, Year 7 students recently embarked on an expedition to witness the captivating re-enactment of the legendary Battle of Hastings in 1066. This event is a pivotal part of our Year 7 curriculum, and its significance in history will greatly benefit the students. History came to life as actors assumed the roles of Anglo-Saxons and Normans, allowing our young historians to immerse themselves in the pivotal events of this historic conflict.

The re-enactment took place in the actual field where the two sides fought in 1066, transporting our students back over a millennium to a time when England's destiny hung in the balance. They watched in awe as the clash of swords thundered, the sounds of arrows in flight pierced the air, and charging knights thunderously unfolded before their eyes. The vivid recreation depicted the fate of King Harold in his last stand and the triumphant victory of William the Conqueror.



However, the educational aspect of the trip didn't end with the battle itself. Students had the unique opportunity to explore the Anglo-Saxon and Norman camps, where they delved into the daily lives and customs of these two distinct cultures. In the camps, they could try on medieval armour and wield weapons. English Heritage also presented a brilliant show about medieval infantry and cavalry soldiers and the tactics they used on the battlefield.

Understanding the food and diet of the medieval era was also a highlight of the trip. Students sampled historical dishes and learned about the cultural habits of the time. They learned about the work that peasants and farmers had to complete to make ends meet and the important use of animals like falcons and hawks in hunting.

Furthermore, our students had the chance to witness what ordinary medieval people did for leisure and how they embraced their culture. From archery demonstrations to traditional music and dance performances, the camps were a treasure trove of medieval pastimes. This immersive learning experience was a poignant reminder of the rich tapestry of history, reminding us that our ancestors were not so different from us.



Overall, the trip to watch the Battle of Hastings re-enactment was a resounding success, providing our Year 7 students with a memorable understanding of the 1066 conflict. The re-enactment, the exploration of camps, and the insights into the daily lives of the time have hopefully ignited a passion for history among our young learners. We hope that this experience will continue to inspire their curiosity and deepen their appreciation of our past.

FOREST SCHOOL

The Year 7's spent a day in Forest School where they took part in various activities that involved problem-solving, teamwork, resilience, and creativity.



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

Stone Survey Ltd

Station Garage Hassocks

John Broomfield Removals

Hollingum 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.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Hello from the library...October 2023

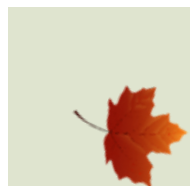
Welcome to all the new Year 7 students who started Downlands in September. It has been lovely to see so many readers!

We have had quite a busy start to the new academic year here in the library including open evening. The library looked wonderful with lots of new displays showing what resources are available to students, and there was no shortage of pupil librarians on hand to answer any questions from our visitors. Currently, the library is open to ALL years at break and lunch whilst the weather is still fine.

A reminder that the library is open every day & has 30 computers available to pupils for homework and private study. Please be aware that the printing of homework needs to be paid for, a price list can be found below along with our stationery shop prices. You may put money on your child's Scopay account under library to cover any printing, stationery purchases or fines they may need to make.

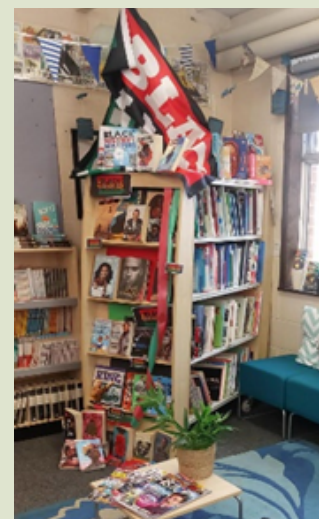


5p Black & white
10p half page Colour
25p full page Colour
(background colour or photographs)



It is also with a heavy heart that I have to say thank you and goodbye to all the pupils and staff at Downlands Community School. I have enjoyed working here immensely for the last ten years particularly the last five years in the role of librarian.

A special thank you must go to all the pupil librarians who have worked alongside me to create an amazing school library. They have volunteered their time to help run the library with efficiency and enthusiasm. An absolutely brilliant team, thank you!



DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	
LIBRARY	
Stationery Shop	
12 Felt Pens £1.50	Clear Pencil Case £1.00
12 Coloured Pencils £1.00	Berol Handwriting Pens £0.50
Glue Stick £0.50	30cm ruler £0.40
Black Biro Pen £0.30	15cm ruler £0.30
Protractor £0.30	HB Pencil £0.20
Revision cards (pack 10) £0.20	Erasers £0.20

Goodbye!
& THANK YOU

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Goodbye Mrs Bance

With great sadness, we said goodbye to Mrs Bance, who has worked at Downlands for ten years. She started working here as a Teaching Assistant and then took the position of Librarian. She transformed the Library and has profoundly impacted the culture of reading in school. We will miss you enormously. Good Luck!



NEWS FROM ART

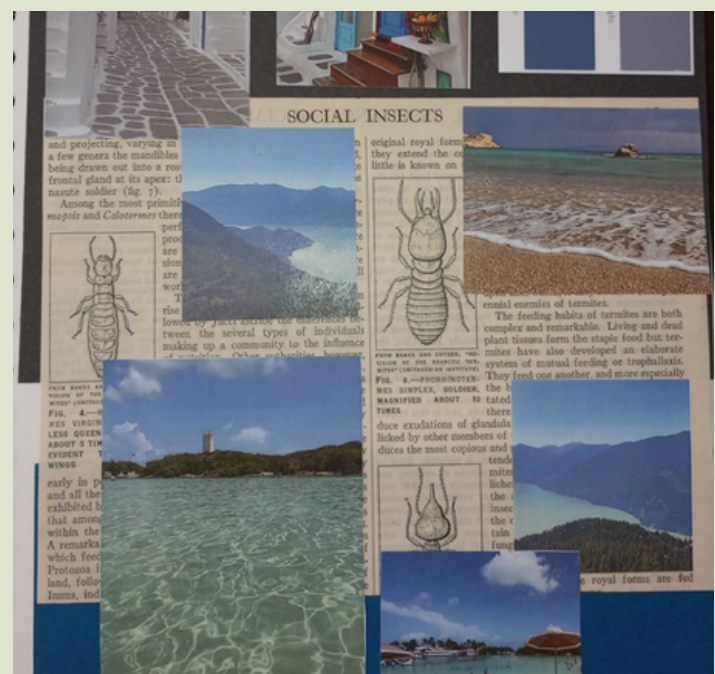


Year 7 and 8 have been creating clay pumpkins. These will soon be painted in time for Halloween!



Year 10 have begun the Art GCSE coursework.

They have been completing mood boards in response to the theme 'Natural Environment'.



NEWS FROM ART



Year 11 are nearing the end of their GCSE Art coursework. Pupils are completing Project 2 focusing on a theme of their choice.



NEWS FROM ART

**YEAR 10
PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP
TO BRIGHTON
YOU TOOK SOME
GREAT
PICTURES
IN SPITE OF THE WEATHER
WELL DONE!**

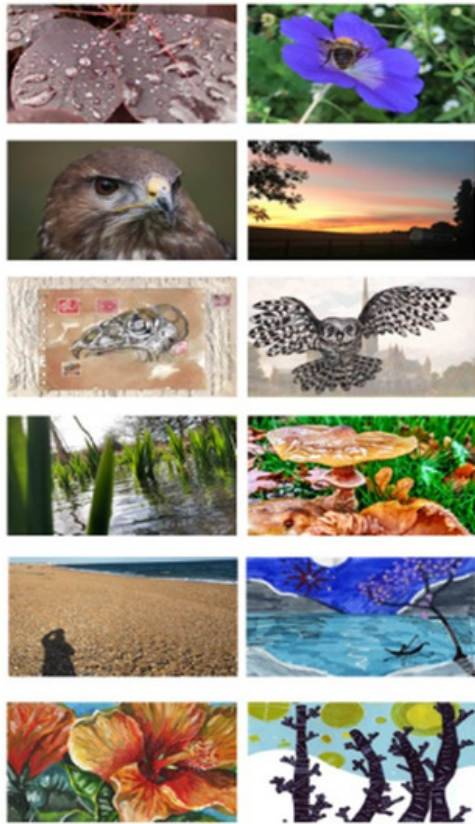


**PHOTO OF
THE MONTH**

Well done to Chloe, Year 10 winner of
Photo of the Month

ART COMPETITIONS

Calendar Competition



CALENDAR COMPETITION!

Years 7-10

Entries **must** be entirely your own work. Drawn, painted, stencilled, collaged, photographic or any medium of your choosing can be entered.

A maximum of **THREE** entries per student.

Email your entries to
chamblywalker@downlands.org
by **Wednesday 8th November**

Christmas Card Competition



Submit your entries for the
Downlands school Christmas card
to Ms Hambly-Walker by
8th November

NEWS FROM PE

YEAR 7 NETBALL

The Year 7's have made an incredible start to their time at downlands with over 50 at netball club each week.

The A and B team both won against strong Warden Park teams.

Looking forward to the tournament after half term.



NETBALL

Mid Sussex Versatilty Tournament



YEAR 8

Year 8 netball team were unbeaten in the Versatility Tournament, winning the tournament and only conceding 2 goals over their 8 matches.



YEAR 10

Year 10 netball

Mid Sussex Versatility Tournament winners

YEAR 11

Year 11 netball

Mid Sussex versatility tournament – 3rd place

U14 Netball Team

U14 Netball team entered the Sussex round of National Schools Tournament on Saturday 7th October.

They came an impressive 4th in their pool, beating Worth, Burgess Hill Girls and Eastbourne College.





YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

The Year 7 boys football team have had a fantastic start to the season, winning their 4 opening games. They have beaten TBHA, Sackville, St Pauls, and most recently Oathall. They have shown a great team spirit, and never give up attitude, as shown by some very dramatic late wins!

YEAR 11 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

The Year 11 boys have started their final season at Downlands with 2 impressive and hard fought wins, both in the ESFA National Cup. So far they have been a talented Blatchington Mill team, and an extremely hard working Durrington team, all without conceding a goal. The quest for silverware in their last season together is up and running!



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Year 7 girls football team have shown brilliant enthusiasm and effort since joining at Downlands, we've been lucky that over 20 girls in Year 7 alone have been coming to clubs and have shown an interest in playing for the school team.

In our first 2 fixtures (both cup competitions), we were beaten 8-2 by a very strong Blatchington Mill side, goals from Eve and Pippa.

In the second one, the Sussex County Cup, we ended up 5-3 victors over Angmering School. Goals from Pippa x 2, Eve, Leila and Isobel.

The quality on show has been amazing so far and I'm excited to see this team progress over this year as a group. Keep it up girls!

NEWS FROM PE

YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

The Year 7 boys football team have had a fantastic start to the season, winning their 4 opening games. They have shown a great team spirit, and never give up attitude, as shown by some very dramatic late wins! They have beaten TBHA, Sackville, St Pauls, and most recently Oathall. They have won every game in the district, securing their place in the semi-finals and managed to beat Thomas Beckett school in Crawley 4-2 to advance to the second round of the County Cup. Well done on an excellent start representing your school.



YEAR 9 BOYS FOOTBALL

The Year 9 boys football team have picked up their season after a tricky start against some very tough opposition. The team have made great progress across every game and are now sitting third in the Mid-Sussex league after some very impressive recent performances. The team are hoping to finish even higher in the league with their final league game coming up very soon. Keep up the great work boys!

SWIMMING

Downlands are in the Schools Super league and in a recent gala came 1st. We entered the Sussex Secondary schools team championships and our Intermediate boys came 4th out of 18 schools in both the freestyle and medley relays.



NEWS FROM PE

Downlands Equestrian Team



NSEA Show-Jumping 70cm Grass Roots GR and RPL @ Coombelands				
Horse	School	SJ	Total	Place
flyte	Downlands Community	0 in 34.78	0	1st Final
Reisin Star	Downlands Community	0 in 42.69	0	2nd Final
lexi	Downlands Community	0 in 34.15	0	3rd Final

**Downlands competed in their first NSEA event!
There were 30 competitors in the group.**

The riders from Downlands came:

1st - Lana on Flyte

2nd - Amelia on Reisin Star

3rd - Annabelle on Lexi

It was a clean sweep for Downlands!

This is an incredible start!

Well done !



**ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN EQUESTRIAN ?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMPETE
FOR THE SCHOOL ?**

**Are you interested in Equestrian, and
would you like to compete for the
school?**

Do you own a pony?

**If you are interested, please get in
touch with the team manager, Jennifer
Bernstein on 07878 860677**

NEWS FROM CAREERS

Year 11

We had a busy evening on Tuesday 26th September when we held our annual Year 11 Careers Fair. Students and their families were able to speak to representatives from all our local colleges and apprenticeship providers.

College open evenings for this term are in full swing, full details can be found on our Careers page on our website.

Careers Interviews are ongoing, and students are reminded that they can request an interview by emailing careers@downlands.org

Year 10

Year 10 is a busy year for careers, and students will soon be introduced to the timetable of events. We will kick off with virtual work experience, followed in January by the launch of our in-person work experience which will take place in July

Year 7

After half term our Year 7s will be creating their Unifrog accounts in their PDC lessons. For any parents who would like to see for themselves what Unifrog is, you can create your own dummy student account by going to

www.unifrog.org

and clicking sign in. Where it asks if you have been given a sign up code, click and when prompted, enter DWCSParents, and then complete the form.

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**

In the final school week in July – you would need to have Employers Liability insurance covering under 16 year olds.

*** Mock Interviews** – If you have experience of interviewing please do get in touch as we are hoping to run a morning of mock interviews for our Year 10s later on in the year.

*** Work Place Visits** – Are you interested in allowing groups of students to visit your workplace 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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As part of Black History Month we have been talking about inspirational Black women from past and present who have OR who are making significant contributions to society.



Dr Anne Marie Imafidon

Youngest person aged 11 to complete A level computing
She is a leading academic and has founded **Stemettes**, an organisation designed to inspire young women to take careers in **STEM**



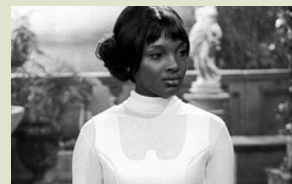
Dame Linda Dobb

First non-white High Court Judge



Claudia Jones

Originally a Civil Rights campaigner in America
Equality Campaigner in the UK and was one of the founders of the Notting Hill Carnival
The **Notting Hill Carnival** celebrates West Indian Culture and Heritage



Carmen Munroe OBE

Actor played an instrumental role in the development of black British theatre and representation on the small screen



Margaret Busby

Founded Britain's first Black publishing company



Chi Onwurah Member of Parliament

Campaigns for Diversity, Climate Change and Women in **STEM**



Shirley Chisholm

First african american woman to be voted on to the US Congress



Mary Seacole

Raised money to travel to Crimea to help treat wounded British soldiers
Played a key role in transforming nursing during the 19th century

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Two Downlands students, Lauren and Erin have represented Brighton at both the Wessex Regionals and Eastern Regionals over the summer.



They both did really well and at the Eastern Regionals, they won 3 gold, two silver and a bronze medal between them across both individual and team events

Life Saving is an exhilarating and challenging sport that tests the skills and physical fitness of athletes across various water and land-based competencies including swimming, board paddling, board and tube rescues, beach sprints and flags in both individual and team events.

Brighton SLSC train in the sea next to Sea Lanes every Saturday with additional pool-based training during the week.

If you'd like to find out more about joining Brighton Surf Life Saving Club or are interested in becoming one of our sponsors, email info@brightonslsc.org



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

MUSIC LESSONS

There has been a lot of interest from the students in the additional music lessons at Downlands and many have attended taster 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 and they are more than happy to answer your questions and add your child to their timetable.

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	Mr Kew	charlie.kew@westsussexmusic.co.uk
Violin, Viola	Miss Wardrobe	blwardrobe@hotmail.co.uk
Woodwind (Flute, 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.



DOWNLANDS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION - 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 – including the Christmas Market in November.

There are a number of school stands for the children to enjoy including tombolas and games. It is also packed full of out stall holders and performances from the school band and choir. Festive Food and drinks are served.

Our biggest event of the year is the Summer Fair – held in the school's beautiful pgrounds.

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/carers 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/carers 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, we would love any offers of help for this event.

[Downlands PTA](#)

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



DSA - UPCOMING EVENTS



The famous Downlands Quiz Night returns on Friday 3rd November.

Thank you to Mr Smith for agreeing to host this again. You can enter teams of up to six people, tickets cost £6 per person and include a cheeseboard for each team.

for tickets please visit:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/downlands-school-association/1016879>



Christmas Market Second Hand Uniform Stall

We will be running a second hand School Uniform Sale at the Christmas Market and would love any unwanted items. We have a collection point in reception for good condition second hand uniform which will be sold at the event. We are collecting logo school jumpers, uniform approved skirts and trousers, ties, PE jumpers, PE tops and logo polo shirts.

All donations gratefully received.



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a **BIG** difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely **FREE** and only takes a moment.

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



- 1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 Sign up and search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Shop with 7,500+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON



JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

ASOS



Uber Eats

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.

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](#)



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 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!



October 13th - 29th

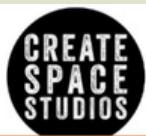
ICE SKATING AT THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY



**COME ICE SKATING ON REAL ICE AT
SHEFFIELD PARK STATION IN THE
UNIQUE AND AMAZING LOCATION
OF THE LOCOMOTIVE SHED**

www.bluebell-railway.com/ice-skating/

COMMUNITY NEWS



Weekly performing arts classes in Hurst & Hassocks

School Holiday Workshops in Mid Sussex

Taught by experienced teachers & professional artists

DAY	VENUE	TIME	WHO FOR
MONDAY	FREEDOM LEISURE STUDIO, HAS SOCKS DANCE	3:15-4:15	INTER'S Ages 11-14
		4:14-5:15	SENIORS Ages 11-16
		5:15-6:10	JUNIORS Ages 8-11
WEDNESDAY	ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL, HURSTPIERPOINT DANCE	3:15-3:50	Reception - Ages 4-5
		3:55-4:40	JUNIOR Year 1 – Ages 5-6
		4:45-5:45	JUNIOR Year 4 – Ages 8-9
WEDNESDAY	SCOUT HQ, HURSTPIERPOINT DANCE	3:25-4:15	JUNIOR Year 2 - Ages 6-7
		4:15-5:15	JUNIOR Year 3 - Ages 7-8
		5:20 - 6:20	JUNIOR Years 5&6 - Ages 9-11
THURSDAY	SCOUT HQ, HURST	10:45-11:30	Tinyboppers Pre school Ages 1-4
THURSDAY	FREEDOM LEISURE STUDIO, HAS SOCKS DANCE	4:15-5:15	INTER & SENIOR RAMBERT GRADES
		5:15-6:15	JUNIOR RAMBERT GRADES
SATURDAY	SCOUT HQ, HURST SATURDAY SESSIONS DRAMA, SINGING & DANCE Join 1, 2 or all 3 disciplines on Saturdays	9-10:30	MIDI's Ages 6-8
		9:30-10:30	MINI's Ages 4-6 Drama, Singing, Dance
		9:30-10:30	JUNIOR 1 DRAMA
		10:30-11:30	SENIOR DRAMA, JUNIOR SINGING
		11:30-12:30	SENIOR SINGING, JUNIOR 2 DRAMA
		12:45-1:45	JUNIOR & SENIOR DANCE & Choreography

Email: hello.createspace@gmail.com @createspacestudios 07950 646019 <https://create-space-studios.class4kids.co.uk/>



Sussex Language Tuition
LANGUAGES FOR LIFE

French and Spanish Tuition Hurstpierpoint



After-school or home-school group lessons for years 7 to 11 (max 6 students)



Fun, lively lessons with a focus on speaking to prepare for life, as well as exams



Beginner Spanish and Refresher French classes for adults in Hurstpierpoint village centre



One to one and closed group lessons also available for all ages and levels



Jenny Huggett BA Hons, PGCE, QTS
jenny@sussexlanguagetuition.co.uk
07981 232049



DRAWING WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Tuesday 24th October

10am to 12.00pm - 6 to 10 year olds, 1.00pm to 3.00pm - 11 to 16 year olds

Learn classic drawing and illustration techniques with the talented artist, Danny Kingston, entering the world of Japanese Manga and Anime.

No experience necessary, all materials provided. Head to his website for all the details and to book - www.dannykingtonart.com

BOTANICAL PAINTING with PENNY SANDERSON

Friday 3rd November from 10am to 12pm

Taster Class, whether as a one off class or as a taster before signing up for the classes which run on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm during term time, and Friday mornings from January.

Please get in touch with Penny on pennysanderson03@gmail.com for more info or to book.

Thursday 30th November from 7pm

An exhibition of works created at Penny's classes, past & present, plus late night shopping, browse our 'Local Artists' area with a selection of goods by Penny, Ruth Waters and Chris de la Nougerede.

CHRISTMAS LINO PRINTING

Saturday 4th November from 2pm to 4pm

Friday 10th November from 7pm to 9pm

For more info or to book, call in store at De La Casa

or online: <https://www.delavision.co.uk/book-online>

And get in touch if you would like to do this another time as a Christmas work's do or a fun festive evening with a group of friends

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Saturday 9th November

10am to 12pm or 2pm to 4pm

Using a wire frame and mossing technique, Ali will guide you through the tips and tricks needed to ensure you come away with a festive door wreath that you can be proud in saying 'I made it'.

Ali will provide all the materials needed, we just ask that you bring your own pair of secateurs.

To book, contact Ali on trowers.flowers@outlook.com

CHRISTMAS POTTERY WORKSHOP

Thursday 16th November from 11am to 1pm

Make 5 personalised decorations of your choice. Your work will then be glazed, fired and returned to De La Casa approximately 3 weeks later ready for you to collect.

Message on sarahspottteryclub@hotmail.co.uk for further details or head to [Hassocks De La Casa, Christmas pottery workshop. Thursday 16th November 11-1pm \(sumupstore.com\)](http://Hassocks De La Casa, Christmas pottery workshop. Thursday 16th November 11-1pm (sumupstore.com))

FESTIVE WOODBLOCK PRINTING

Saturday 25th November

Join Sarah of [@SaritaPrintsJoy](https://www.instagram.com/SaritaPrintsJoy) as she leads you through the printing and inking process, you'll design and print your own unique set of 10 Christmas cards plus 6 gift tags to take home.

£25 includes all materials and complementary refreshments.

Contact Sarah on saritaprintsjoy@gmail.com to book.

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVERY THURSDAY FROM 9TH TO 30TH NOVEMBER

With local artists and makers pop-up shops, contact Jo on delacasa.hassocks@gmail.com



Introducing TouchBase: A Therapy Practice Dedicated to Trauma Recovery

At TouchBase, our primary focus is on helping individuals recover from traumatic experiences. While our main clientele consists of children and young adults aged 5 to 25, we also offer therapy to adults seeking support.

Our team of skilled and experienced therapists is fully equipped to provide the help you need. We have recently increased our capacity so have space for new clients now, so don't hesitate to reach out to us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Please email
info@touchbase.org.uk
for more information**



VACANCIES

JOIN OUR TEAM



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

We are currently looking for:

Teacher of Mathematics

Personal Assistant to the Headteacher

Behavioural Support – Restorative Learning

Catering Assistant

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



Have a great half term break!