

DOWNLANDS NEWS



4th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you all for your support this half term, another very successful period for the school.

In May we hosted nine Indonesian students and teachers for a week. It was fantastic having them here, showing them school life at Downlands, whilst learning about Indonesian schools and culture. The visit culminated in a wonderful musical presentation of both cultures in the amphitheatre.

We hosted a memorable Comedy Night on 10th May attended by over 250 parents and staff. The evening was fronted by the amazing Stephen Grant and raised over £3,600 for the school.

We held our Leavers Assembly and 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's 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's at the Prom and Certificate Evening in November.

On Friday 17th May we held our second Character Passport Day. Year groups 7-10 were engaged in a range of activities:

Year 7 Volunteering – Brighton, Hove & Lancing Beach Clean

Year 8 Sustainability – Wakehurst & Arundel Wetland Centre

Year 9 – Cultural visit to France including markets, attractions, a chocolaterie and a snail farm

Year 10 – University of Sussex

The day went incredibly well, with all of the students completing successful trips – many students taking part in activities they have never experienced before in their lives. Please read further for more details and photographs of this brilliant day out. This is the strength of the Character Passport. Participating in activities is so important in developing cultural capital for young people, but it also enables them to become successful learners. These experiences are not only a vital part of their education but prepare them for life beyond Downlands.

As we enter the second half of the Summer term we have a number of exciting events to look forward to including the netball marathon, sports day and enrichment days at the end of term. Please join us for the Summer Fayre on Saturday 29th 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.

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

Mark Wignall
Headteacher

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CHARACTER DAY

7BC, 7CBa and 7CH took a trip to Brighton Beach to help clean up any litter left behind. It was a gorgeous sunny day. Everyone got stuck-in using the litter pickers to make a difference to the environment. We also had time to stop for a cheeky ice cream and lunch on the beach. Well done to everyone involved!



7NK, 7OC and 7MLo travelled by train to Lancing Beach for their beach clean. Both students and staff had a fulfilling and community-focused day competing to pick up the most litter. Almost as hotly contested was the 7NK competition for the best beach art inspired by Goldsworthy (via Mrs Colvert).



CHARACTER DAY

YEAR 8 TRIP TO WAKEHURST PLACE

Our Year 8 groups that attended Wakehurst Place had a brilliant time exploring the grounds in beautiful sunshine! Each group took part in a variety of activities, ranging from learning about trees and calculating their carbon storage to identifying food chains and using quadrats to identify species in a specific area of woodland.



There was also the chance for some groups to explore the seed bank which holds an impressive 2.4 billion seeds! We were told it is technically classed as the most biodiverse place on the planet! It was fantastic to learn more about our environment and how clever the plants and animals around us are from a team of really passionate and knowledgeable members of staff from Wakehurst Place.



CHARACTER DAY

YEAR 8 TRIP TO THE ARUNDEL WETLAND CENTRE



CHARACTER DAY - FRANCE

OPAL COAST

In the early hours on 17th May, 122 Year 9 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to the Opal Coast in France. Departing at 3:30 am, their adventure promised a day of cultural immersion, linguistic practice, and a taste of authentic French life.



Students visited a snail farm, where they were introduced to the fascinating world of escargots. Guided tours showed the life cycle and farming practices of these culinary delicacies. The highlight, undoubtedly, was the opportunity to taste the snails, an experience that many students found surprisingly delicious. The group also visited a renowned chocolate factory. They watched the intricate art of chocolate making, from bean to bar.



Another stop to Boulogne's old town. Students wandered the cobble streets, filled with medieval architecture. They had the chance to converse with locals, honing their French language skills.



After a cultural deep dive in Boulogne, the students relished some free time on the beach. The sun shone brightly, providing perfect weather for beach games and picnics.



CHARACTER DAY - FRANCE



On Day 2, students visited the Nausicaa Aquarium. Here, students encountered diverse marine life from all corners of the globe.



They also stopped at the bustling Le Touquet farmers market, full of vibrant colours and enticing aromas. Students practiced their French by haggling with vendors, sampling fresh produce and exploring the variety of local goods.



CHARACTER DAY - FRANCE



Year 9 Students Explore the WW1 Somme Battlefields

Year 9 students embarked on an exciting 2-day educational trip to the WW1 Somme battlefields in France. This immersive trip provided them with a unique opportunity to delve into the harrowing realities of war and pay homage to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives on the front lines.



The students began their journey by visiting the underground tunnels at Arras. Traditional 'Tommy' (British soldier) helmets were given out and students got to walk through the tunnels dug by New Zealand soldiers that stretched all the way under No Man's Land in 1917.



There was also an underground hospital at Arras and this provided an insight into the medical advancements made during WW1, including the introduction of gas masks, the Thomas splint, blood transfusions, and improvements in surgery techniques. The students gained an appreciation for the innovations that emerged from the crucible of war, saving countless lives on the battlefield.

Students were confronted with the stark reality of war as they witnessed the scale of the Lochnagar Mine Crater and compared the British cemetery at Pozieres with the German cemetery at Fricourt. These contrasting landscapes served as poignant reminders of the toll of war on both sides. The students learned about the personal stories of soldiers who fought in the Somme, including notable figures such as the Red Baron, Sergeant Claud Charles Castleton, and Private Tommy Ricketts. These stories brought to life the human side of the conflict, highlighting the courage and sacrifice of individual soldiers.

In the evening, we had an opportunity to chill out in the games room. Table tennis and table football were favourites. Football was popular outside until the ball got kicked over the wall! The accommodation was excellent and the host was very complementary of our students.



CHARACTER DAY - FRANCE

On Saturday, lunch included a delicious French baguette filled with cheese, ham and salad. It all felt very French! We had a short bit of rain on the Friday but many students shared how this helped to add to the experience in the trenches.



Our last stop was Vimy Ridge, where they witnessed first-hand the remnants of the trenches and tunnels that defined the landscape of the Western Front. This memorial was built to remember the Canadian and British Commonwealth soldiers.

Walking in the footsteps of soldiers, they gained a visceral understanding of the challenging conditions they endured during the war. Throughout the trip, the importance of remembering and paying respects to the soldiers who fought in the conflict was emphasized. The students participated in solemn ceremonies and reflections, honouring the sacrifices made by those who served their country.

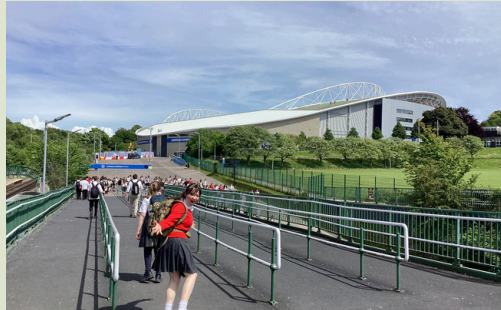


The journey through the WW1 Somme battlefields was a deeply moving and educational experience for Year 9 students. From exploring trenches to learning personal stories and witnessing medical advancements, they gained a profound understanding of the human cost of war. As they returned home, they carried with them a sense of duty to remember and honour the legacy of those who bravely fought on the front lines.

CHARACTER DAY



YEAR 10 TRIP TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX



On Character Day all of Year 10 visited the University of Sussex to get a flavour of life at a campus university. We heard from student ambassadors who described university life, and learned about some of the practical elements like financing and accommodation.

At lunchtime we had a chance to enjoy the various delicious street food on campus.



We finished the day with a walk around the campus itself, hearing from current students who were able to answer all the questions our Year 10's had thought of. It was great to see them so engaged and thinking about their futures, plus we had perfect weather to be out and about!



INDONESIAN SCHOOL VISIT



Downlands recently played host to seven bright and enthusiastic students from Indonesia. Their visit was nothing short of inspiring, leaving an incredible mark on our school community.

Throughout their stay, our Indonesian ambassadors were graciously welcomed into the homes of generous host families. This immersion into local life allowed them to experience first-hand the warmth and hospitality of our community.

Accompanied by their buddies from Downlands, our Indonesian guests seamlessly integrated into our school routine. They navigated the hallways with eager curiosity and took part in a range of lessons. Our students, ever the epitome of inclusivity, embraced their roles as guides, sharing laughs, stories, and invaluable insights into British school life. Beyond the classroom, the visitors embarked on an adventure across some of the south's most iconic destinations. From the bustling streets of London to the coastal charm of Portsmouth and the vibrant shores of Brighton.

But perhaps the true highlight of their visit was witnessing our students shine brightly as ambassadors of Downlands. Their exemplary behavior, unwavering kindness, and genuine interest in cultural exchange made us burst with pride. Whether engaging in lively discussions, participating in collaborative projects, or simply extending a friendly hand, our students exemplified the spirit of unity and friendship.



LANGUAGES

LANGUAGE LEADERS VISIT WINDMILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of March, our Year 9 Language Leaders visited Windmills Primary School to deliver Easter lessons in German, French and Spanish to three year 6 classes. The lessons included cultural information about how Easter is celebrated in German, French and Spanish speaking countries, and introduced key topic vocabulary with a range of fun activities and games. The year 6 teachers at Windmills were really impressed by the confidence, energy and expertise our Language Leaders displayed and invited us back immediately! It was fantastic to see their leadership and language skills at work and they really inspired the students at Windmills.



On Wednesday 8th May, 34 Year 9 German students visited the British Film Institute to explore German culture through the lens of identity and diversity. The focus of this study day was the use of prior knowledge of curriculum topics such as family, friendship, identity and diversity through watching key scenes in films such as *Almanya* (2011), *Lessons of a Dream* (2011) and *Head Full of Honey* (2014). Our students engaged in and contributed to discussions and analysis of these films and showed off their amazing German skills. The staff on the trip were really proud of how the Downlands students stood out among other schools, with high levels of engagement and excellent behaviour.

YEAR 9 VISIT TO THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP



This half term, our Year 10 Geography students embarked on a field trip to Seven Sisters Country Park. The trip, designed to provide practical experience for their GCSE Geography Paper 3, offered students a unique opportunity to collect vital data on flows and sustainability, bridging classroom theory with real-world application.

Located in the picturesque South Downs National Park, Seven Sisters boasts a series of stunning chalk cliffs and diverse landscapes. The park serves as an ideal location for studying physical geography and human-environment interactions. Our students, equipped with enthusiasm and curiosity, delved into various activities that are critical for their upcoming exams in Year 11.

The trip emphasised the theme of sustainability, a key component of the geography curriculum. Students examined the park's efforts in conservation and sustainable tourism. They conducted surveys and interviews to understand the balance between environmental preservation and human activity.

Fieldwork is now a core element of the Geography curriculum and by engaging directly with the environment, students could observe geographical processes and sustainability issues first hand. Many students expressed that the trip enhanced their understanding of geography and made them more confident in applying their knowledge to real-world situations.



ART

Here are some photos of Year 9 architectural ceramic facades.



We looked at Stephen Wiltshire and Friedensreich Hundertwasser for inspiration. They all did a brilliant job.

Artist and Educator Rob Le Grice

Artist and Educator Rob Le Grice is going to be running an art course for any current Y9 pupil taking GCSE art in early July, cost to be confirmed. Please see you art teacher if you are interested.

Big, Brave Drawing 4 'Welcome to the Jungle'



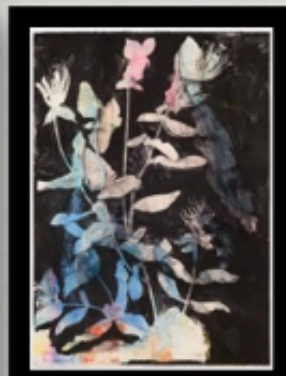
Rob Le Grice, 2023



Jim Dine.



Jim Dine, Göttingen No. 1, 2003.



Jim Dine, Wild Flowers in the Night, 2014.

Aims and Guidance

Introduction and Illustration
This session is influenced by **Jim Dine's** wonderful plant drawings (see left). I'll provide examples too.

A Question
Can I draw the life and growth of plant-life whilst being aware of its fragility and potential for decay/death?

Key Learning Points

- Experimenting with ink to create backgrounds.
- Composing a large drawing of multiple elements using scale, rule of thirds etc.
- Using charcoal to create , fluid, organic lines and tones.
- Application of ink, bleach and pastel – playing with positive and negative space.
- Using your arm/shoulder/wrist to draw forms and textures. (R)

(R) Revision of skill

Time

- Experiment on paper.
- 1 Drawing.
- Group reflection.



ART

Y10 Animal Heads with visiting Ceramist Jo Clemens

Y10 have completed a clay animal head. They have now been glazed and look fantastic!



Art & Textiles Exhibition 2024

Thursday 27th June, 6pm, Private View of the Y11 GCSE Art Exhibition (by invite only)
The exhibition will be open to the general public at the Summer Fayre on Saturday 29th June

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

COOK SCHOOL

On Friday 19th April some of our Year 10 food students were treated to an afternoon with Cook School. The company came in to teach our students how to cook homemade Mary McCartney's 'smoky veggie hot dogs'. The class were filmed for a promotional video that will be viewed by schools across the country, to show them how to make the sausages, ready for National vegetarian week in June. All students had a great time and learnt a lot; we definitely have some budding Jamie Olivers in the class!



UNDER 13'S GIRLS CRICKET

The U13 girls cricket team has had an incredible start to the cricket season. They have won both of their league games, showing some amazing teamwork, skill and communication.



YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 NETBALL TEAMS

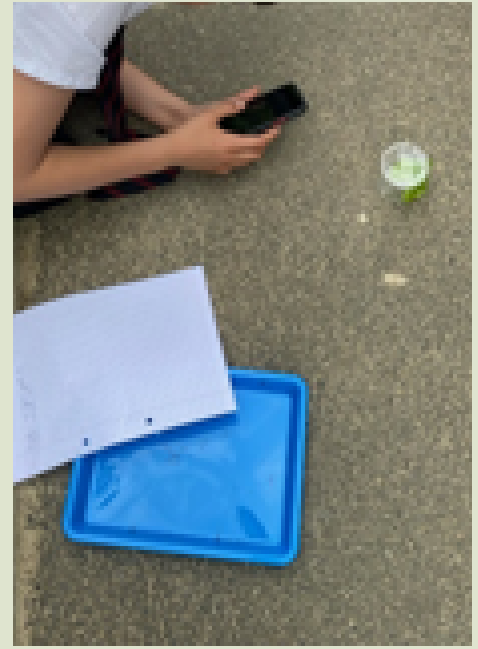


The year 7 and 8 netball teams won their local Mid-Sussex tournaments earlier on in the year, beating 8 schools to do so. Both teams then qualified to represent Mid-Sussex in the State School Cup. Both teams did amazingly well to win their group, progressing into the quarter final. Once again, both teams played with great skill to win this; meaning they had qualified for the final!

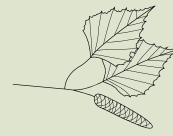
The Year 7 team sadly lost to a very strong Steyning team, and they finished 2nd in the county! The Year 8 team sadly lost to Cardinal Newman, who if given more time on the clock, looked like they were going to steal the win! They also finished 2nd in the county. This is an amazing achievement for both teams and all the players involved – Well DONE!



ECO CLUB



This term Eco Club took part in a bioblitz of the school grounds with a member of the participation team from Wakehurst Place. A bioblitz is when you identify the variety of biodiversity in a certain area for a certain period of time. We began in the hedgerows of the playground and then moved round to the field using identification cards and magnifying pots.



The field was much more biodiverse and we managed to identify lots of species of plants and insects ranging from woodlouse to dragonflies and ash to oak. We aim to continue to do a bioblitz each term to see how our wildlife changes throughout the seasons and to help us to think of ways that we can protect and encourage more biodiversity.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH



On the morning of 20th April, 80 Year 10 students arrived at a bitterly cold and very windy, Devil's Dyke, to take part in their DofE practice expedition. Once equipment had been checked and instructions given, they all set off in smaller groups to begin their day's hike.

The day went really well and all arrived safely at the campsite, bathed in warm sunshine and no wind! After striking tents, evening meals were cooked and eaten, football and British Bulldog were played in the field, followed by a huge campfire, courtesy of one of the instructors. Toasted marshmallows, singalongs and comedy sent everyone off to bed in good spirits.



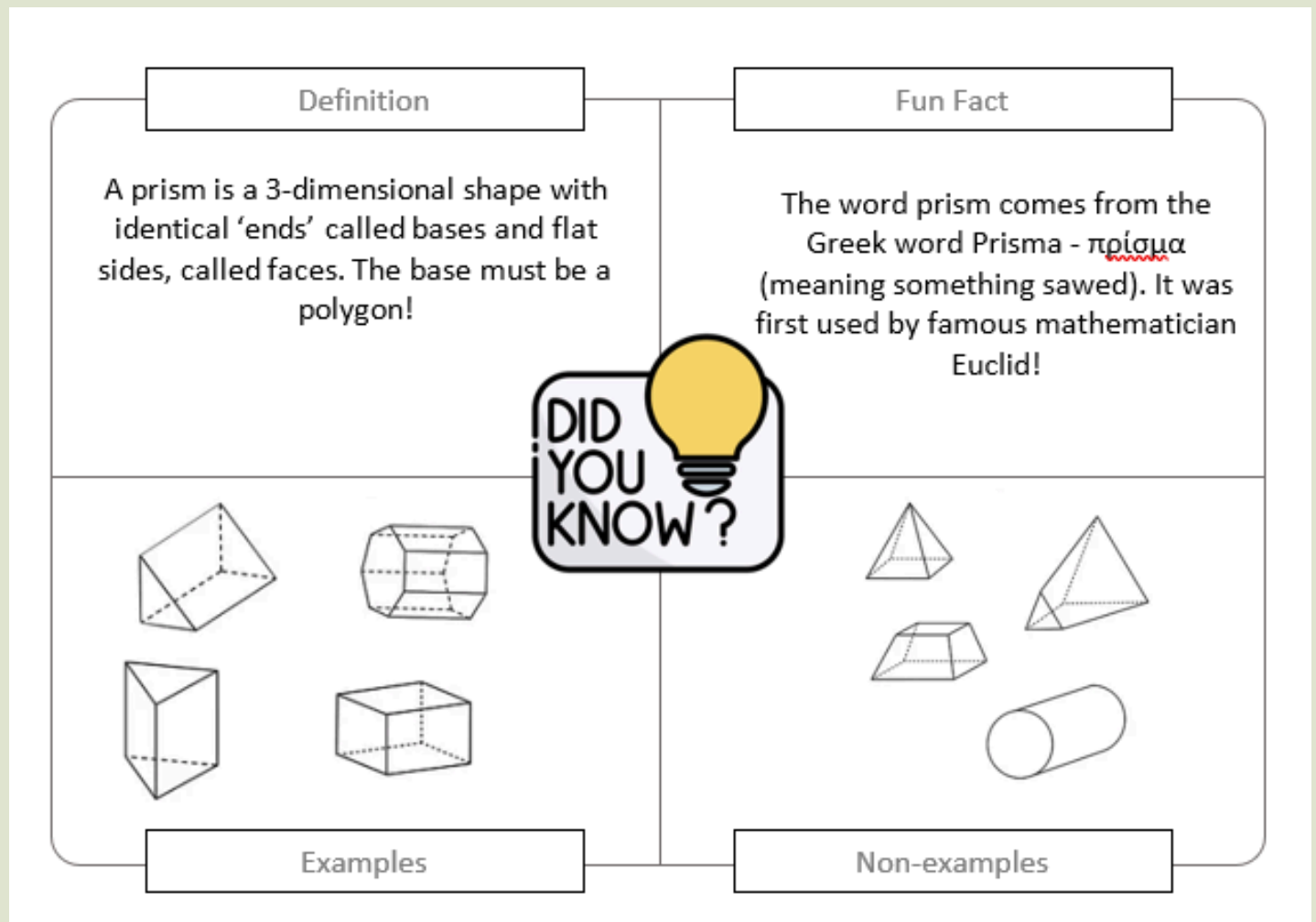
Waking to a cold morning at 6am, breakfast was enjoyed, tents were packed away and another day's hiking lay ahead. Navigation was obviously not an issue as all safely arrived back at Devil's Dyke by 2pm, looking forward to a warm bath and sleep! This group of young people were, without doubt, the best-behaved bunch of DofE'ers, in my 20+ years of running the scheme. A credit to the school, their parents and themselves. The best thing is, we get to do it all again in June!

Mr Tilly

MATHS NUMERACY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to this month's Downlands Numeracy newsletter on Prisms. Each month, we aim to support the learning of maths at home for our students. This month is dedicated to what Year 9 have just been learning!



VIDEO TUTORIAL

SCAN ME



Scan the QR code to watch a worked example video. Use the space in the following worked example to attempt the question contained within the video before then watching to see if you were right or wrong. Learn from any mistakes that were made and complete the remaining practice questions on page 2.

MATHS NUMERACY NEWSLETTER

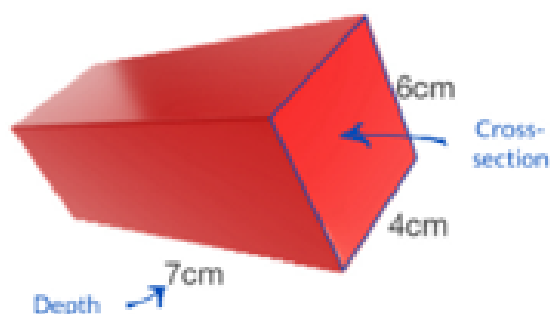


Worked example

I DO

I DO

Calculate the volume of the cuboid:



To calculate the volume of a prism or 3D shape where the cross-section is the same throughout, use:

Volume = Area of cross-section x Depth

$$\text{Volume} = (6 \times 4) \times 7 = 168\text{cm}^3$$

Note the units of volume

YOU DO

YOU DO

Calculate the volume to 1dp.



Scan for answers



Scan for video

Now practice the skill



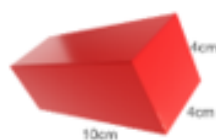
QU 1

Calculate the volume of the cuboid:



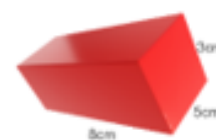
QU 2

Calculate the volume of the cuboid:



QU 3

Calculate the volume of the cuboid:



QU 1 Ans

Answer:
120cm³

QU 2 Ans

Answer:
160cm³

QU 3 Ans

Answer:
110cm³

You don't understand anything until you learn it more than one way.

Marvin Minsky

ICELAND TRIP



62 adventurous Year 10 students embarked on a thrilling expedition to the land of fire and ice – Iceland! From the moment they set foot on Icelandic soil, every moment was filled with wonder, excitement and discovery.

One of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to witness the power and beauty of Iceland's waterfalls. Gullfoss, Seljalandfoss, and Skogafoss cascaded in spectacular fashion. But the adventure didn't stop there. Our explorers also braved the warm waters of the Secret Lagoon, immersing themselves in the rejuvenating warmth of Iceland's geothermal springs.



For those with a taste for adventure, the highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the exhilarating climb up the Solheimajokul glacier. With crampons secured and ice axes in hand, our students embarked on a thrilling ascent, navigating the icy terrain with skill and determination. At the summit, they were rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.



And as if the wonders of Iceland weren't enough, our students were treated to a truly magical spectacle – the Northern Lights. On three unforgettable occasions, the night sky came alive with shimmering curtains of green and purple.

To our Year 10 students, we commend you for your spirit of curiosity, courage, and resilience. Your willingness to embrace new experiences and explore the unknown is a testament to your adventurous spirit and thirst for knowledge.

Mr Smith, Geography Teacher
Trips & Character Passport Coordinator



CAREERS



Another busy half term draws to a close, with lots of action in the careers department.

Year 7s have all now opened their Unifrog accounts, and had the opportunity to start exploring careers and subjects that might be of interest for their future pathway. Students are encouraged to access their Unifrog accounts at home and enjoy exploring the wealth of information available on the app.



Year 10s have been busy organising their work experience placements which will take place in the final week of the summer term. Most have now found a placement, but as a few are still hunting, if there is anyone out there who would be interested in hosting a student for 3 days, please do get in touch on careers@downlands.org for further information.

For Character Day all of Year 10 visited the University of Sussex to get a flavour of life at a campus university.



Year 11s have been accepting places for their next steps in their journey starting in September, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best of luck with their GCSEs and with their future pathways. Remember, if you add a personal email address to your Unifrog account you will be able to continue to access all the careers information and guidance on there after you leave Downlands. Do keep in touch, I love to hear how you are getting on!

Mrs Hollingdale

DOWNLANDS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**COMEDY
NIGHT**

**Thank you for your support, we
raised a whopping £3600!**

SAVE THE DATE

**The Downlands Summer Fair takes place on
Saturday 29th June**



SCHOOL FUNDRAISING



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 you.

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 you a moment.



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 raised will go 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/downlands-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 and makes a big difference to our school and students.

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with **easyfundraising**

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



easyfundraising

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:

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ebay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN LEWIS



Viking

ASOS

BT

Uber Eats

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bringing together some of the best local artists, the Hassocks Artist Open Houses returns for one weekend at the end of June. The trail includes artwork ranging from printmaking, photography, jewellery, paintings and homewares. Across the 10 houses, you will find a mix of well-established and new venues to visit featuring 24 exhibiting artists. Come and support your local creatives by viewing or purchasing some original artwork or follow the trail for an enjoyable stroll around the village.

Saturday 29 June and Sunday 30 June 11am–4pm
See the map for venue details.

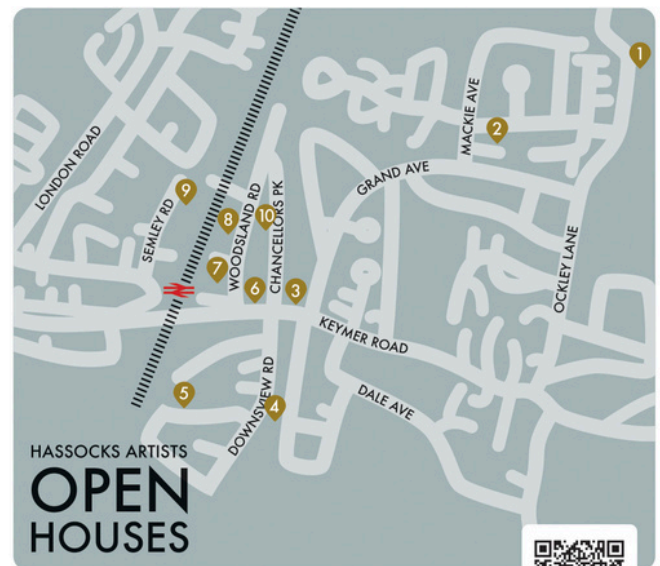


2024

HASSOCKS ARTISTS
**OPEN
HOUSES**
SATURDAY 29th JUNE
& SUNDAY 30th JUNE
11AM - 4PM



 facebook.com/Hassocks-Artists • Scan for more info



 facebook.com/Hassocks-Artists • Scan for more info



1	SUSIE GARNER JACKIE BASS MAUREEN HUGHES	Silversmith Mosaics Watercolours	Westholm Ockley Lane BN6 8NU
2	ASHLEY HUTCHINSON JONATHAN CROFT ANDREW CHAPMAN DAWN MEAD	Printmaker Mixed media Screen printer Photography	4 Bromley Close BN6 8DQ
3	DINAH BEATON STEVE AWCOCK	Photography Photography	27A Keymer Road, BN6 8AB
4	ANNA PIZZEY ALEX MONKHOUSE	Screen printing Acrylics	37 Downs View Road, BN6 8HJ
5	GINNY PICKLES	Prints	32 Ockenden Way, BN6 8HS
6	VERITY REBECCA JESSICA LLINARES DUNCAN ALLAN MEL YURT	Jewellery Jewellery & homeware Paintings & prints Textile art	De la Casa 9 Keymer Road BN6 8AD
7	CLARE BISHOP KARIN DONNEGER	Acrylic & mixed media Mixed media	7 Woodland Road, BN6 8HE
8	CAROLINE SAUNDERS PIPPA ALDRIDGE	Oil painting & textiles Watercolours	17 Woodland Road, BN6 8HG
9	RUTH WATERS PENNY SANDERSON	Collage Botanical artist	22 Semley Road BN6 8PE
10	NICOLA TWAITES SARAH SMITH	Paintings & products Handprinted homeware	43 Chancellors Park, BN6 8EY



Age Concern Hassocks



Age Concern Coffee Shop (open to everyone)



Age Concern Hassocks have noticed that quite a few parents browse their charity shop while they wait for children to finish school. They suggest that if parents came a few minutes earlier they would be welcome to use the coffee shop as well.

From Tuesdays to Fridays between 2pm and 3.15pm their Conservatory is available for visitors and their Mad Dog coffee and Hot Chocolate are the cheapest in the area.

<https://www.achassocks.co.uk/what-we-do/#coffee>

USEFUL INFORMATION

INSET DAYS

- Wednesday 26 June 2024
- Monday & Tuesday 22nd & 23rd July 2024
- Monday 2nd September 2024 Staff Transition day- school closed to pupils
- Friday 6th December 2024
- Tuesday 6th January 2025
- Wednesday 25th June 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025
- Tuesday 22nd July 2025

EARLY CLOSURES

- 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 are able to supervise students who can't leave early.

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

- 8.35am First (warning) bell
- 8.40am Registration
- 9.00am Lesson 1
- 10.00am Lesson 2
- 11.00am Break
- 11.20am Lesson 3
- 12.20pm Lesson 4
- 1.20pm Lunch
- 1.55pm End of lunch
- 1.55pm Lesson 5 (including 10 minutes DEAR Time ** for Key Stage 3)
- 3.05pm 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 8.35am (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.

MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

There is a daily expenditure limit of £6 in place for pupils. If you are happy for your child to exceed this limit to ensure they can buy snacks/food at morning break and lunchtime please email office@downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk for the attention of the finance office and we will make a note on your child's lunch account. This also applies if you would like a lower limit in place.

If you have funds on the General Prepayment account and would like to use those for a trip/resources or lunch account, please contact the finance office as only they can move the funds. You won't be able to do this yourself on the Scopay app/website.

LOCKERS

Lockers will be emptied at the end of Summer term, and anything left behind will be put in the bin by the locker company.

Locker bookings for the next academic year for existing pupils are available online at www.locker.rentals. Please ensure you only book in the area allocated for the year group your child will be going into in September. New Year 7 pupils can book their locker area from 1st July.

YEAR 11 GCSE EXAMS

Thank you to Year 11 for a great start to their GCSEs, attendance and behaviour have been impeccable.

Please remember that water bottles must be clear/plain/no writing or logos ideally containing only water in case of spillage.

Please remember to bring a calculator to your exams, and have 2 black pens, in case one runs out or breaks.

NUT FREE SCHOOL



We recently had a student become unwell, their nut allergy triggered by another student opening a bag of nuts near them.

Thanks to swift action by staff, the student was only mildly affected by this, but as you know reactions to this type of allergy can be very serious.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that students are not to bring bags of nuts, or food containing nuts, into school.

USEFUL INFORMATION

REPORTING ABSENCE - STUDYBUGS

If you haven't already, please download the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school. You can still call us to leave a message to report an absence, however Studybugs is our preference for absence reporting as it feeds directly in to our registers.

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

Studybugs is quick and easy to register and use, and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. Using the Studybugs app or website, you can report your child's absence due to illness any time from 6pm the day before.

You are required to report absence a day at a time – it's not possible to 'block book' absence. Studybugs automatically email parents a reminder at around 8am the next morning if it's a school day. As an extra safeguard, Studybugs is set to automatically send parents a confirmation email after they report absence via the Studybugs app or website

Please remember to leave a message for attendance (ext 228) before 8.30am to advise if your child will be late due to medical or illness. Likewise, a child will not be released from school without prior notice (before 8.30am) of an appointment.

MCAS - PARENTAL CONSENT



MyChildAtSchool
Bromcom Parent Portal

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.

Data Collection Form

Gender

Country Of Birth

Language

Religious Affiliation

Ethnicity

Nationality

Service Child

Other Details

Antihistamine Permission* 

EpiPen - uses 

Paracetamol Permission* 

Save

Parental Consent

Biometric Consent

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 in writing to the school Finance Office.

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 child's medical conditions. Your child'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 child 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



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

HEALTH FOR TEENS

GET HELP WITH ALL KINDS OF THINGS LIKE...

HEALTHY EATING RELATIONSHIPS SMOKING

EMOTIONAL HEALTH BULLYING SELF HARM

ALCOHOL & DRUGS ANXIETY SLEEP PUBERTY

VISIT:

WWW.HEALTHFORTEENS.CO.UK



SEE VIDEOS, FIND HEALTH INFORMATION, TAKE QUIZZES,
AND FIND OUT THE TRUTH BEHIND THE RUMOURS

TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE FOR

CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH ADVICE AND SUPPORT:

07480 635424



USEFUL INFORMATION



Are you entitled?

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 and 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>.

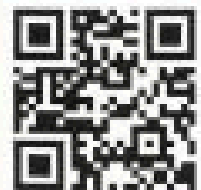
Those children and families that are not eligible for FSM will be able to access urgent support for food via the WSCC Community Hub. The Community Hub can be contacted on 0330 222 7980 and is open 9:00 – 17:00 seven days a week. Further information can be found via the [West Sussex County Council website](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) FOR CHILDREN

Children and young people aged 4 to 16 who are eligible* for benefits related free school meals can take part in free clubs during the Easter, Summer and Winter holidays. A free nutritious meal is provided as part of the scheme. Visit our website to find activities near you and book your place.

*Check eligibility on the webpage and find information about further support and activities available. Places are limited. Paid-for places may be available, contact individual clubs for availability.

SCAN ME



www.westsussex.gov.uk/HAF

USEFUL INFORMATION

TEENS DITCHLING



10.00 - 12.00
£25 PER PERSON

THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2024

A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SPACE TO CREATE

Age 12-16YRS

Location: DITCHLING CRICKET
CLUB, RECREATION GROUND,
DITCHLING, BN6 8TY



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:

**School Governor
Exam Invigilators**

**For details of current.vacancies please visit:
<https://www.downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk/join-us/vacancies>**

THANK YOU!

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



Thank you to our generous sponsors who have contributed to
our
new camera and filmmaking equipment

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