



23 May 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Hope you are all well and have been enjoying the start of summer.

Firstly, a clarification about the new PE kit for Year 7 in September. All Year 7 students will be required to wear the new PE kit which is a cost reduction on the existing kit. However, we are phasing the new PE kit in over five years so students in Years 8 to 11 will be able to continue to wear the current PE kit which means that this can be 'handed down' or purchased from our second hand sales. It will also be acceptable for students in Years 8 to 11 to purchase the new PE kit.

We held our Leavers' Assembly today to say a fond farewell to our Year 11 students, although their GCSE examinations will continue until mid-June. The assembly was a truly heart-warming celebration, recognising the many contributions this year group has made to our school community over the past five years. We wish them the very best for the exam season ahead and every success as they move on to their post-16 courses.

A heartfelt thank you goes to every member of staff who has supported our Year 11 students throughout their time at Downlands—especially in recent months. From pastoral and teaching staff to the exams team, site staff, support teams, and the canteen—your dedication and care have made a lasting impact. We look forward to reuniting with our Year 11s at both the Prom and our Certificate Evening in November.

On Friday 16th May, we hosted our second Character Passport Day, with Years 7–10 taking part in enriching activities designed to build character, broaden horizons, and create lasting memories:

- Year 7 took part in a volunteering beach clean across Brighton, Hove, and Lancing.
- Year 8 focused on sustainability with visits to Wakehurst and Knepp Estate
- Year 9 Wellbeing in school (and trip to Opal Coast and the Somme to come in June)
- Year 10 experienced a taste of university life at the University of Sussex.

The day was a huge success, with students embracing new experiences and stepping outside their comfort zones. This is the essence of our Character Passport programme—developing cultural capital and helping our young people grow into confident, well-rounded learners prepared for life beyond Downlands.

Looking ahead to the second half of the summer term, we have an exciting calendar of events to look forward to, including our Netball Marathon, Sports Day, and Enrichment Days. We hope to see many of you at our Summer Fair on Saturday 21st June—a fantastic family-friendly event. Our dedicated PTA have been working hard to make this year's Fair as vibrant and successful as ever, with highlights including:

- Downlands' Got Talent final
- A dog show
- Fun sports activities
- Stalls, music, and dance performances

During the fair, we will also be showcasing our pupils' creativity at the GCSE Art and Textiles Exhibition. Please do join us in celebrating the talent and achievements of our incredible students.

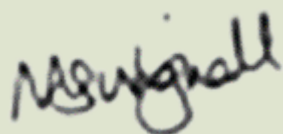
Thank you to everyone who participated in the parents/carers Ofsted survey – the results can be found [HERE](#).

Over 200 parents/carers responded and the overall picture was more positive when compared to the same questions last year – the actual change in satisfaction from last year is detailed on each slide.

The main issues continue to be:

1. *The school makes me aware of what my child will learn each year* (47% disagree/strongly disagree – 2% improvement on last year). Each department and faculty has their Key Stage 3 learning journey on their curriculum page on the website, along with information about the associated GCSE(s) where appropriate. In the future we aim to upload Programmes of Study to the website but at the moment this is a medium term project on our School Development Plan.
2. *When I have raised concerns with the school they have dealt with them properly* (28% disagree/strongly disagree – 10% improvement on last year). We always aim to resolve issues as soon as possible and to the best of our ability. Sadly it is not always possible to resolve issues to everyone's satisfaction although the 10% improvement is encouraging.
3. *My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed* (28% disagree/strongly disagree a 24% improvement from last year, 'don't know's' up from 15% to 45%). Our partnership with the SPaC SEND parent/carers committee has strengthened communication in this area, we are not complacent and are committed to continue to work with parents/carers to improve support for SEND students.
4. *The school lets me know how my child is doing* (34% disagree/strongly disagree but an improvement of 9% on last year). We are constrained by teachers contracts and workload regulation in terms of feedback we can provide – a more detailed explanation can be found [HERE](#)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Mark Wignall
Headteacher

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INSET DAYS

- Wednesday, 25th June 2025
- Monday, 21st July 2025
- Tuesday, 22nd July 2025
- Wednesday, 3rd September 2025
- Thursday, 4th September 2025 Staff Training Day.
- Friday, 5th December 2025
- Monday, 5th January 2026
- Monday, 13th April 2026
- Monday, 29th June 2026

EARLY CLOSURES

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.

- Thursday, 5th June 2025
- Wednesday, 11th June 2025

TRANSITION DAY

- Wednesday, 2nd July – Year 7's are not in school
- Years 8, 9 and 10 are expected in school as normal.

AUTUMN TERM 2025

- Friday, 5th September 2025 students return to school
2025–2026 term times can be found on the website calendar

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SCOPAY - CAFETERIA ACCOUNT

We kindly ask all parents and carers to please check their child's lunch account regularly and ensure there are sufficient funds available.

We've noticed an increasing number of students unable to purchase food at break times due to low or empty accounts. Your support in keeping these accounts topped up is greatly appreciated and helps us ensure all students can access food throughout the day.

PARKING IN DALE AVENUE

Polite reminder to all parents/carers:

Please avoid parking across residents' driveways when dropping off or collecting your child. Please be mindful of our neighbours. Thank you for your cooperation.

ORDERING SCHOOL SUPPLIES VIA SCOPAY

Please be aware that after ordering supplies on SCOPAY from the Library, Maths or PE department, pupils will need to go to the respective department offices and collect their items. Each department will have a list of students who purchased items.

UPDATING CONTACT DETAILS - MCAS

Please ensure that any updates to your contact information are made through the MCAS app rather than via email. This helps us keep records accurate and up to date efficiently. Thank you for your support!

MCAS - PHOTO PERMISSIONS

We enjoy sharing photos of the students participating on trips, sports and clubs, on our newsletter and on social media.

If you are happy for your child to be included in these photos please ensure that you have given consent by ticking the following on MCAS - Photo Online/Photo and name in Press/Photo Print use externally.

MCAS - PARENTAL CONSENT

The screenshot displays the 'MyChildAtSchool Bromcom Parent Portal' interface. At the top, there is a red icon of a person and the text 'MyChildAtSchool Bromcom Parent Portal'. Below this, a bold instruction reads: 'Please take a few minutes to ensure that all parental consents are up to date'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains text instructions: '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.', and 'Please also look the Parental Consents Page to update your information and remember to press save.' Below this text is a green 'Save' button. The right column shows a 'Data Collection Form' with fields for Gender, Country Of Birth, Language, Religious Affiliation, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Service Child. Below these fields is a blue 'Other Details' button. At the bottom of the form, there are three checkboxes: 'Antihistamine Permission*' (checked), 'EpiPen - uses' (unchecked), and 'Paracetamol Permission*' (checked). Below the form is a blue 'Parental Consent' button. At the very bottom, there is a small 'Bromcom Consent' section with a disclaimer: 'I consent to fingerprint 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.'

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



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 call us to leave a message to report an absence, however Studybugs is our preference for absence reporting as it feeds directly in 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

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

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.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

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

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure you name all items belonging to your child. All items found around the school are handed in to lost property. Children can look for items at break and lunch time from the Attendance Officer. During the term we give named items to your child's tutor or PSO to return to them, if your child hasn't claimed them. Due to the amount of unclaimed unnamed items, we donate these items to charity at the end of every term. We cannot be responsible for lost items not handed in to lost property.

GEOGRAPHY

GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP AT SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK



As part of their GCSE Geography studies, our Year 10 students recently embarked on a fieldwork trip to the stunning Seven Sisters Country Park. This hands-on experience is a vital component of the GCSE course, allowing students to apply classroom knowledge to real-world environments and develop important data collection and analytical skills.



During the day, students investigated various human geographical flows, (pedestrian and traffic movement, whereby the highlight was guessing people's ages!) and physical river flows using oranges and stop watches. Working in small groups, they collected data through systematic counts and measurements, while also conducting a range of qualitative surveys such as environmental quality assessments and public perception Likert's.

Their fieldwork findings will now be brought back into the classroom, where students will analyse their data and draw conclusions as part of their exam preparation.

We're proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the pupils were throughout the day, and we look forward to trip 2 to Lewes in the Autumn.



YEAR 7 & 8 GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 and 8 will also be conducting fieldwork this half term during lesson time around the school site, so please make sure they always apply sun screen and take any hay fever medication at home before school each day, as a lot of their geography work will be moving outdoors.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

This term, the Public Speaking team took part in an oracy event hosted at a local school, where we competed against other schools in West Sussex. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their skills, choosing engaging and thought-provoking topics — from the perils of social media to the complexities of friendship. Once again, Downlands students excelled. Frank was awarded Best KS4 Speaker, while Violet received the title of Best KS3 Speaker.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH



On Saturday 3rd May, 103 Year 10 students set off from school on their DofE practice expedition, all looking forward to the two days ahead.

What was already a longish hike, fully laden with rucksacks, turned into the longest single day's walk I can remember in 25 years as a DofE leader! About half way to the campsite, a barn/field fire on our pre-planned route made it inaccessible and the pupils had to embark on a detour that added about two hours to their walk, roughly 8km! Like the fantastic year group they are, they just carried on.

By about 7pm, everyone had made it to the campsite having completed a walk of around 22km! Tents, were struck, food was cooked and eaten, and by 10.30 pm, the campsite was silent.

Sunday was a different day. Some couldn't carry on, some did, some did without rucksacks, and some were picked up along the way, but by then, they were all winners, having completed 90% of the two days walk in one day! The assessed DofE in June will be 'a walk in the park' in comparison. Well done guys, the team work and determination on Day 1 was amazing.

Mr Tilly



CHARACTER DAY

REWILDING WONDERS YEAR 8 VISIT KNEPP ESTATE

DOWNLANDS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CHARACTER
DAY

ROCKS
Resilient • Optimistic • Community • Kind • Self Aware

Half of our Year 8 cohort spent the day immersed in the wild beauty of Knepp Estate, one of the UK's leading rewilding projects. This unique visit offered students an opportunity to witness how ecosystems recover when nature is allowed to take the lead.

Students toured the estate with expert guides, learning about native species like longhorn cattle, wild ponies and free-roaming deer. The visit was an eye-opening look at how biodiversity flourishes in untamed landscapes—and how rewilding plays a key role in climate resilience and ecological health.

In small groups, students discussed themes such as habitat restoration, land use, and the balance between farming and conservation. Many were fascinated by the sight of rare birds and insects, and appreciated the chance to be outdoors in such a unique environment.

The Knepp trip gave students time and space to reflect on sustainability, community responsibility, and their personal connection to the environment. It was a perfect fit for the Character Passport's goal of nurturing thoughtful, informed young people.



We are incredibly proud of how engaged and respectful our students were throughout the day. Their insightful questions and enthusiasm showed just how powerful real-world learning can be.

CHARACTER DAY

DOWNLANDS
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

CHARACTER
DAY
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Resilient • Optimistic • Community • Kind • Self Aware

YEAR 7 TAKE ACTION ON THE COAST WITH BEACH CLEANS

On Friday 16th May, our Year 7 students made a powerful impact on the local environment by taking part in beach clean-ups across Brighton, Hove, and Lancing. Armed with gloves, litter-pickers, and a real sense of purpose, students collected plastic waste, fishing gear, and other debris from our local shorelines.



The day was part of our Character Passport initiative, encouraging students to build self-awareness, kindness and their community focus. For many, it was a chance to learn firsthand about the effects of pollution on marine life and the importance of caring for shared spaces.

Students worked in groups and were supported by staff and local volunteers, who shared valuable insights into conservation efforts.

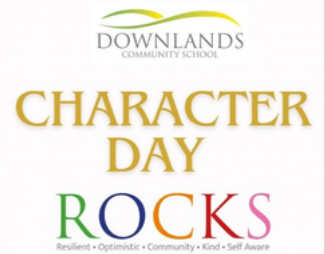


Along the way, students also learned about local wildlife, tides, and how climate change is affecting coastal regions.



CHARACTER DAY

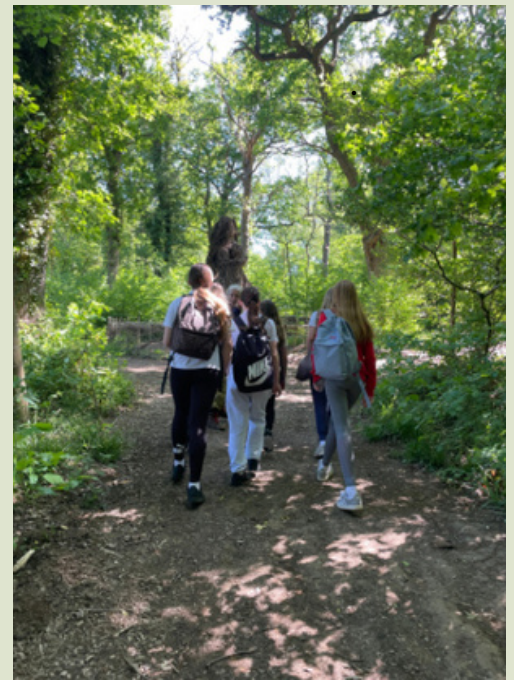
YEAR 8 EXPLORE SUSTAINABILITY AT WAKEHURST



Half of our Year 8 students spent their Character Passport day at the beautiful Wakehurst Place, deepening their understanding of sustainability and biodiversity. The day focused on environmental stewardship and how we can all contribute to a greener future.

Students took part in a range of hands-on workshops and guided tours, including exploring the Millennium Seed Bank, one of the world's largest repositories of plant seeds. They learned about the importance of seed conservation and how Wakehurst supports global efforts to protect endangered species and habitats.

A highlight for many was learning how plants adapt to different environments, and the role scientists play in preserving plant life for future generations. The natural surroundings also provided a calming space for students to reflect on their role in protecting the planet.



The experience tied in closely with science and geography curricula while also encouraging character development through curiosity, reflection and respect for the natural world. Our students returned to school with fresh perspectives on environmental responsibility and a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of life.

Thank you to the Wakehurst staff for their expert guidance—and to our students for their thoughtful questions and excellent behaviour throughout the day

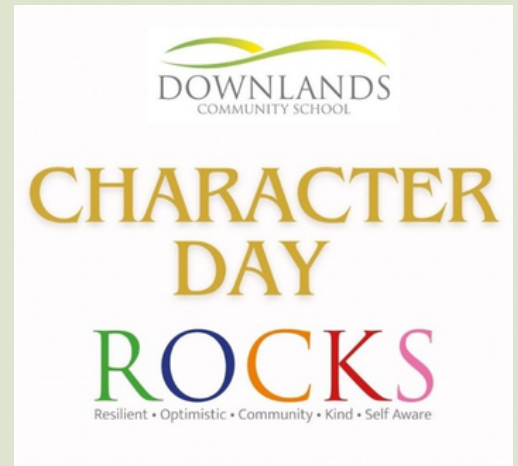
CHARACTER DAY

YEAR 9 FOCUS ON HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND FIRST AID

While other year groups were out and about, our Year 9 students spent the day in school, taking part in a specially designed programme focused on health, well-being, and self-care. The day was packed with engaging sessions that promoted both physical and mental wellness—key elements of the Character Passport.

The aim of the day was to promote resilience, self-awareness and positive habits. Students were encouraged to take ownership of their well-being and to develop strategies they can carry with them into GCSE preparation and beyond.

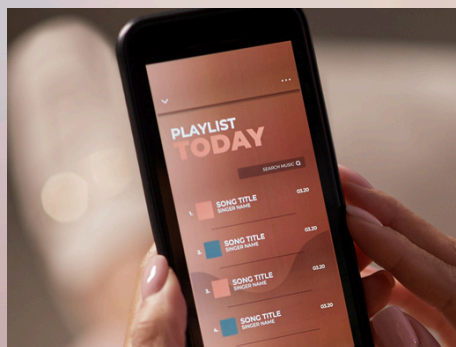
Every student took part in a certified first aid course, equipping them with essential life-saving skills and the confidence to help others in emergencies. This was followed by a session on managing stress, offering practical tools for navigating the challenges of teenage life.



Throughout the day, students rotated through well-being activities that supported calm, creativity, and self-expression. Options included a nature walk around the school grounds, mindful colouring, origami and even curating a personalised playlist of songs that boost mood and focus.

The aim of the day was to promote resilience, self-awareness and positive habits. Students were encouraged to take ownership of their well-being and to develop strategies they can carry with them into GCSE preparation and beyond.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many students commenting on how much they valued the chance to slow down, reflect and learn practical skills for life.



CAREERS

YEAR 10 TRIP TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

A shorter, but no less hectic half term culminated in taking the whole of Year 10 to the University of Sussex for the day on Friday 16th May. Students got to tour the campus with student ambassadors from the university, sample the delights of the various food outlets on campus and sit in a lecture hall to hear about what university life is really like and have their questions answered. We also considered what working at a university might be like and the range of job roles available. We were really lucky once again with the weather, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the Year 10s for their exemplary behaviour not only on campus but also on the train journeys back and forth.

behaviour not only on campus but also on the train journeys back and forth. We have had an email from a member of the public who was on the train with you, praising our behaviour!

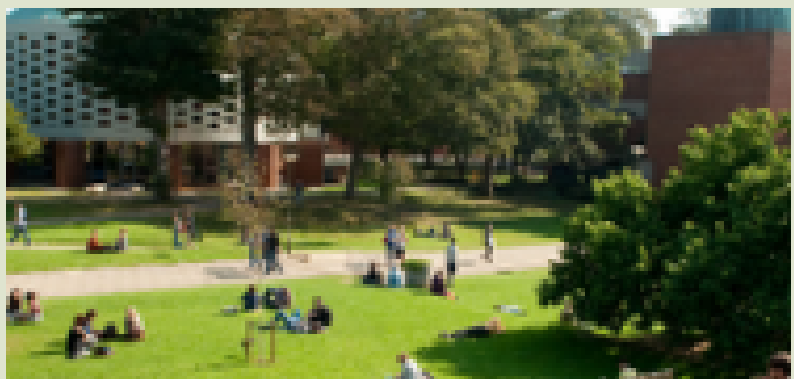


WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience is getting ever closer. Thank you to all the students and parents/carers who have been beavering away finding placements; your help is absolutely invaluable to us. We do still have many students without a confirmed placement, so if you are able to offer anything at your own place of work, please do get in contact with me on careers@downlands.org.

If you are able to offer anything at your own place of work, even if your child is not in year 10, please do get in contact with me on careers@downlands.org.

MS HOLLINGDALE



GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

As we say good bye to our current Year 11s attending full time, I want to wish them all luck with their final GCSEs after the half term break, and with their future paths, wherever they may lead. Please do make sure you have added a personal email address to your Unifrog accounts so that you will be able to keep accessing this incredible resource after your Downlands email is switched off following results day. I hope that you will keep in touch as I love to hear what you are doing and how you are getting on.

INDONESIAN GUESTS

Downlands School had the privilege of hosting 19 students from Jakarta, Indonesia for a memorable five-day cultural exchange.



Throughout the week, our Indonesian guests were fully immersed in school life. They attended a variety of lessons alongside our students, participating in subjects ranging from mathematics and science to the arts and humanities. This hands-on experience allowed them to gain firsthand insight into our curriculum and teaching methods.

Beyond the classroom, the students had the opportunity to explore some of the UK's most iconic landmarks. A trip to London allowed them to visit historical sites such as the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace. In Brighton, they admired the Royal Pavilion's stunning architecture and enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere of the beach. A visit to Oxford provided a glimpse into the world-renowned academic heritage of one of the oldest universities in the world.

The week culminated in a vibrant celebration at our school amphitheatre, attended by parents, carers and students. The event featured a ceremony where certificates were presented to our guests in recognition of their participation. Adding to the festive atmosphere, our Indonesian visitors showcased their rich cultural heritage through a performance that included traditional songs, dances, and a martial arts display.

Many thanks to the families who hosted our guests, the staff who facilitated the exchange and the students who embraced this opportunity.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Art & Textiles Exhibition 2025

You are warmly invited to our GCSE Art Exhibition, which will be on display during the Summer Fair on Saturday, 21st June. Come and explore the incredible talent of our GCSE Art students, as we showcase their inspiring exam work.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the students who won Photo of the Month—well done on capturing some great shots!



HOLLY, YEAR 8



ROBYN, YEAR 7



FINN, YEAR 7



BLAKE, YEAR 7

ICELAND

At the beginning of the Easter holidays, 62 enthusiastic Year 10 students set off on a five-day Geography trip to Iceland. This incredible experience allowed students to witness first-hand some of the world's most dramatic and unique natural landscapes.

The group enjoyed a wide range of activities and excursions. At FlyOver Iceland, students experienced a simulation flight across Iceland's stunning landscapes, giving a bird's-eye view of the country's glaciers, volcanoes and coastlines. Another immersive highlight was the Icelandic Lava Show, where real molten lava flowed just metres away, providing a thrilling demonstration of volcanic activity and the geological forces that shape Iceland.



Students also took part in a glacier hike on Solheimajökull, where, fitted with crampons and guided by experts, they explored the icy terrain and learned about glacial formation, movement and the effects of climate change. This hands-on experience brought to life many key geographical processes studied in lessons.



The trip also included visits to some of Iceland's most iconic natural wonders. They visited the Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls, explored the striking black sand beach of Reynisfjara, and stood among the dramatic basalt columns and crashing Atlantic waves.

At Þingvellir National Park, students walked through the rift valley where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet — a stunning visual example of plate tectonics. They also witnessed the explosive activity of Geysir and the power of Gullfoss, one of Iceland's most famous waterfalls.



A particularly magical moment came during a whale watching trip, where the group spotted a humpback whale and a super pod of dolphins.

Thank you to the dedicated staff who organised and supported the trip, and to the students, whose enthusiasm and excellent behaviour made the journey so memorable.

ENGLISH - WAR POETRY

CONFLICT

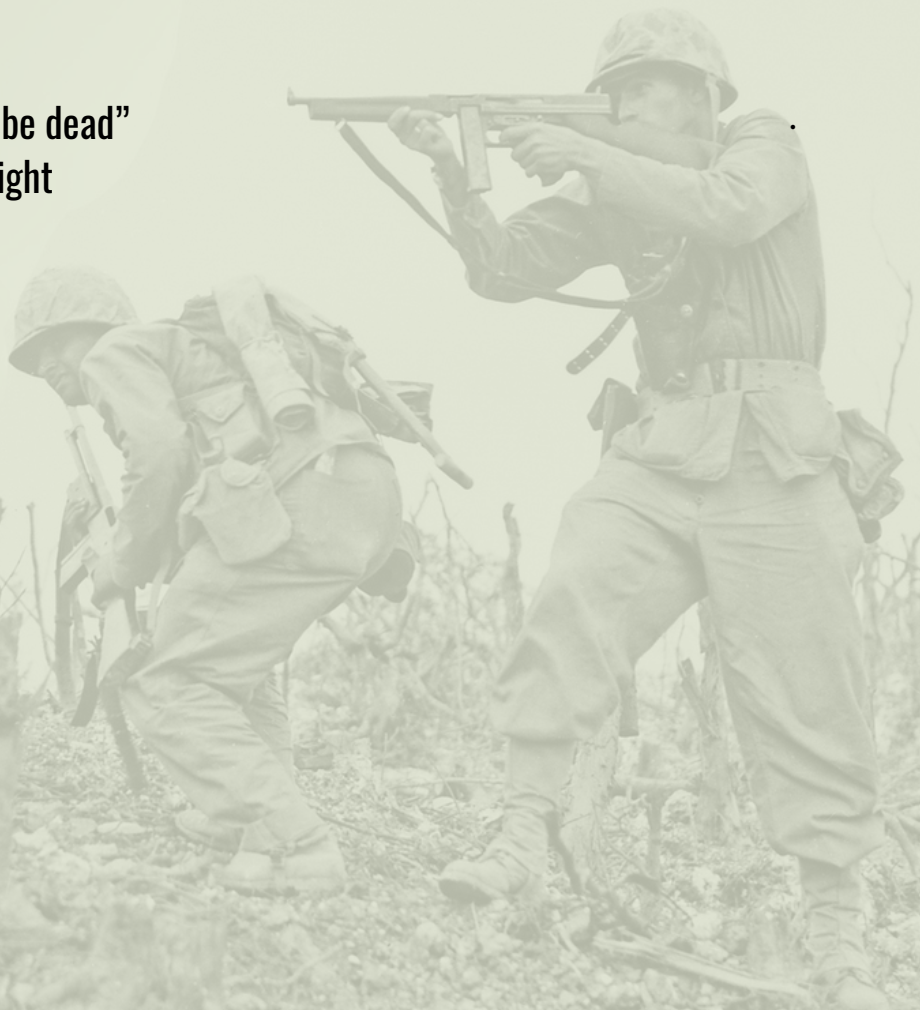
How did I know I wouldn't die ?
I cannot die
I knew death couldn't reach me ?
Death cannot reach me

The others lied, I lied
It was freezing there
There were no signs
I couldn't fight the cold
I couldn't stay alive

Bullets ring their chilling cries
Rampaging in my ears
Mother always said,
"Living's hard my dear, it's easier to be dead"
I remember her words through the night
Trying to dispel my fear
And then the Germans shot us dead
Now it's quiet here

Ducking crazily
Running wild
This is the life I lead
My mother said
"Don't go child"
But I must fight, it's my duty
People underestimate
The mental effects
Of facing your own mortality

Sophie, Year 8



Year 8 Netball Team

The Year 8 netball team represented Mid-Sussex at Worthing College at the start of the half term in the County Finals. The team performed incredibly well throughout the whole morning, demonstrating an outstanding skill level. They comfortably won 6 out of there 7 games, however narrowly lost to County Cup Winners Steyning Grammar School. It was a game that could have gone either way, displaying an amazing level of competition, played in great spirit. The girls finished 2nd in the tournament due to their incredible 6 wins – a wonderful achievement for an incredible team. This team have had a tremendous season and we are so excited to see what they have to offer in Year 9.



Year 9 Netball Team

The Year 9 netball team represented Mid-Sussex at Worthing College at the beginning of half term in the County Finals. This is by far the best we have ever seen this team performing, showing incredible team work, moving the ball with fluidity up the court. They worked so hard in every area of the court, demonstrating some incredible shooting and defending. The team won 6 out of their 7 games; losing to St. Oscar Romero by just 1 goal! The game was going from end to end the entire game, with the team performing at an incredibly high level. The team finished 2nd in the tournament and should feel incredibly proud of their performance.



Year 9 Athletics

The Year 9 athletics team once again performed superbly at their Super 6 event. They showed incredible levels of skill and talent, both on the track and field, coming away from the event with various PB's. The team were outstanding in both relays, winning both comfortably. As a result of this, they won the meet, for the 3rd consecutive year in a row, demonstrating the level of talent within the athletes in this team. A huge well done everybody.



Year 8 Girls & Boys Handball

The girls regional handball competition was at the semi-final stage at Leyton. We had both a boys and girls u13 team who made it to this point; up against 7 other schools we needed to finish in the top 2 on the day to qualify for the National Handball Final in Nottingham in June.

Throughout the day it was fiercely contested, with games very close and down to the last moments. The boys completed their group top of the table, and grabbed an all important win in the semi-final to make it into the top two. In the final they lost 10-6 but at one stage were down by 9 points, so this comeback will give the team plenty of belief going forward that they can beat them next time.

The girls, came into the tournament with a relaxed but competitive attitude and took each game in their stride, showing superb patience in attack and brave defensive play. They won all their group games and again won their all important semi-final convincingly. The final was a close 2-1 loss to Putney (who are reigning National Champions for this age) so an extremely credible loss where they could have won in different circumstances.

Both teams now travel to Nottingham – already being in the top 10 schools in the country for handball and this will be an incredible experience and exposure of an elite level final with plenty more skills to develop for all involved. We are so proud of all the students who have brought the team to this point.



Mid Sussex Athletics Trials

We attended the Mid Sussex athletics trials where we were up against 12 other schools in varying track and field events, with each 1st place participant winning a spot on the Mid Sussex Athletics team for the regional qualifiers to be held in June. We have always been relatively successful over the years and have 1 or maybe 2 athletes winning their event, this year we improved superbly. We have 5 students winning events and 3 runners up, so a potential of 8 students representing in the next round.

Evie S – Won the Inter Girls 100m (12:80s) and 200m (27:13s)

Lily S – Won the Junior Girls 100m (12:93s)

Ferdie N – Won the Inter Boys Javelin (34.85m)

Arabella G – Won the Junior Girls Shotput (8.49m)

Ruby A – Won the Junior Girls 1500m (4:59:25s)

A commendation to Izzy PJ, who came 2nd in the 800m; Wilbur G and Beatrice HS who came 2nd in their Triple Jump event and await an answer as to whether they will be called up.

A final mention to the junior girls 4x100m relay team who narrowly came 2nd by 0.18 seconds in their race – Lily S, Pippa W, Maisie C and Emilia B.

U16 Girls Football

The U16 girls football team consisting of our very talented Year 10 and 11 students reached the county cup final.



This was played at the Sussex FA ground and was a brilliant spectacle for girls football. The girls represented the school with outstanding hard work and resilience throughout the game. After chances for both sides, neither team could find the back of the net. After full time the game ended 0-0. Dreaded penalties awaited. Unfortunately, the penalty shootout was lost 7-6. However, we are SO proud of this team and wish our Year 11s all the best as they leave Downlands. Player of the match was Year 11 student – Elena who was calm, composed and a rock in defence!

U13 Boys Handball

The under 13 Boy's Handball team played in the South East England Handball competition at Leyton Score Centre on Monday 19th May. They played fantastically well from the outset and managed to win all of their group games convincingly. They then progressed to the semi-final and won this game 7-3. Unfortunately, the team didn't manage to win the final and were beaten by a very good team from Dover. However, as the team made the final, they gained an automatic place to represent the South East in the National finals in Nottingham. A huge well done to the team and good luck for the Nationals!



Year 7 Boys Basketball

Well done to the year 7 boys basketball team who have now won 18 games in a row and remain unbeaten since they started at Downlands. The team recently played in the Junior NBA Conference semi-final in which they won 45-5. They will now progress to the South East England finals in the hope that they can be crowned the best team in the South East of England. We wish them the best of luck and hope that they can continue this very impressive run. Keep up the good work team!



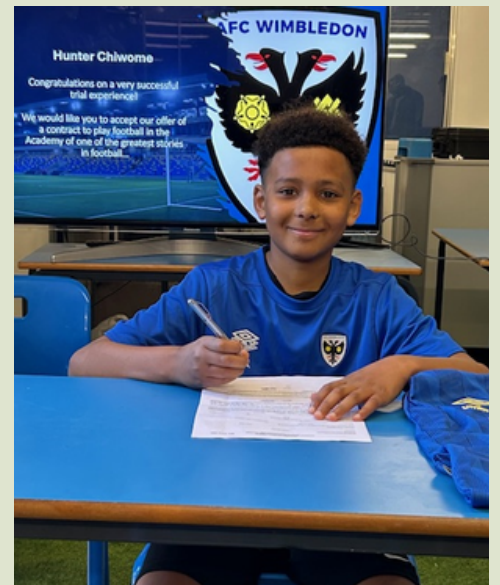
Year 7 Football

The Year 7 boys football season progresses into its final stages. Following a season which has seen the boys play some brilliant football, they have an opportunity to push for some well deserved silverware. After wins against Ark Alexander Academy and Angmering the boys now have a semi final game against Regis School where they will be looking to win and secure their place in the Sussex Shield final. Good luck boys!



Year 7 - Hunter Secures Academy Spot and Premier League Cup Win

Massive congratulations to Hunter from Year 7 who has had a brilliant few months on the football pitch. Following a successful trial period with AFC Wimbledon he was offered a contract with their academy. A great achievement in itself! However things have just got better. Subsequently he has just been part of an AFC Wimbledon Under-12s side who have just secured a simply stunning success by beating teams from higher ranked academies to win the Premier League National Cup. What an achievement. Well done Hunter!



Premier League
**U12 National Cup
Winners**



DANCE

AMY MORVEL INTESIVE WORKSHOP

This half term, Year 9 Gifted and Talented Dancers came in on a Saturday to take part in a full day intensive workshop with performer and choreographer Amy Morvell. The workshop allowed the students to develop their technique and learn an entire piece ready for the Dance Show in June. The students worked incredibly hard throughout the seven-hour workshop and demonstrated high levels of professionalism and positivity. Well done G.T.D.P!



DOWNLANDS DANCE SHOW 2025

Monday 23rd June 7pm

Tuesday 24th June 4pm

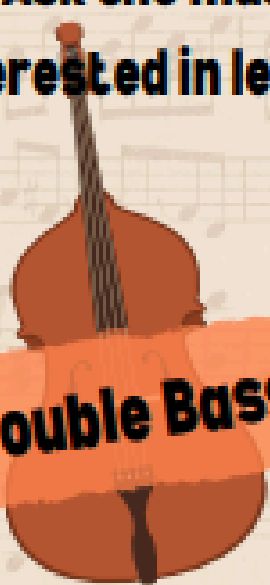
Tuesday 24th June 7pm

Tickets £6 - available on Scopay

The PTA will be selling Refreshments

Endangered Instruments Bursary!

**Ask the music department if you are
interested in learning one of these FOR FREE!**



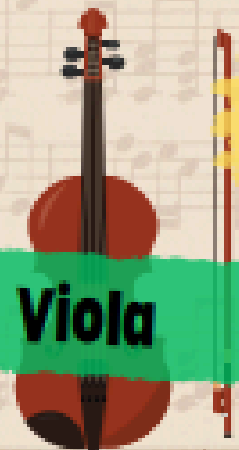
Double Bass



Oboe



French Horn

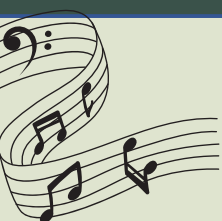


Viola



Bassoon

MUSIC TUITION



ADDITIONAL MUSIC LESSONS AT DOWNLANDS



Downlands has a strong tradition of music making and this is in part due to the music tuition provided by our team of visiting music teachers. Organising lessons for your young person is straight forward and done directly with the teacher.

If you would like to enquire about 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	Mr Kew	charlie.kew@westsussexmusic.co.uk
Singing	Ms Hawes	info@lovemusicschool.co.uk
Violin, Viola	Miss Wardrobe	blwardrobe@hotmail.co.uk
Clarinet	Ms Dudding	Annduddingmusic@gmail.com
Flute	Ms Van der Klugt	Vanderklugte@gmail.com
Saxophone	Ms Van den Ouweland	www.westsussexmusic.co.uk
Steel Pan	Mr Nelson	bangadrum.nelson@gmail.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.

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 something you would be interested in.

Kind regards

Mr A Wardrobe

Head of Music





DOWNLANDS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

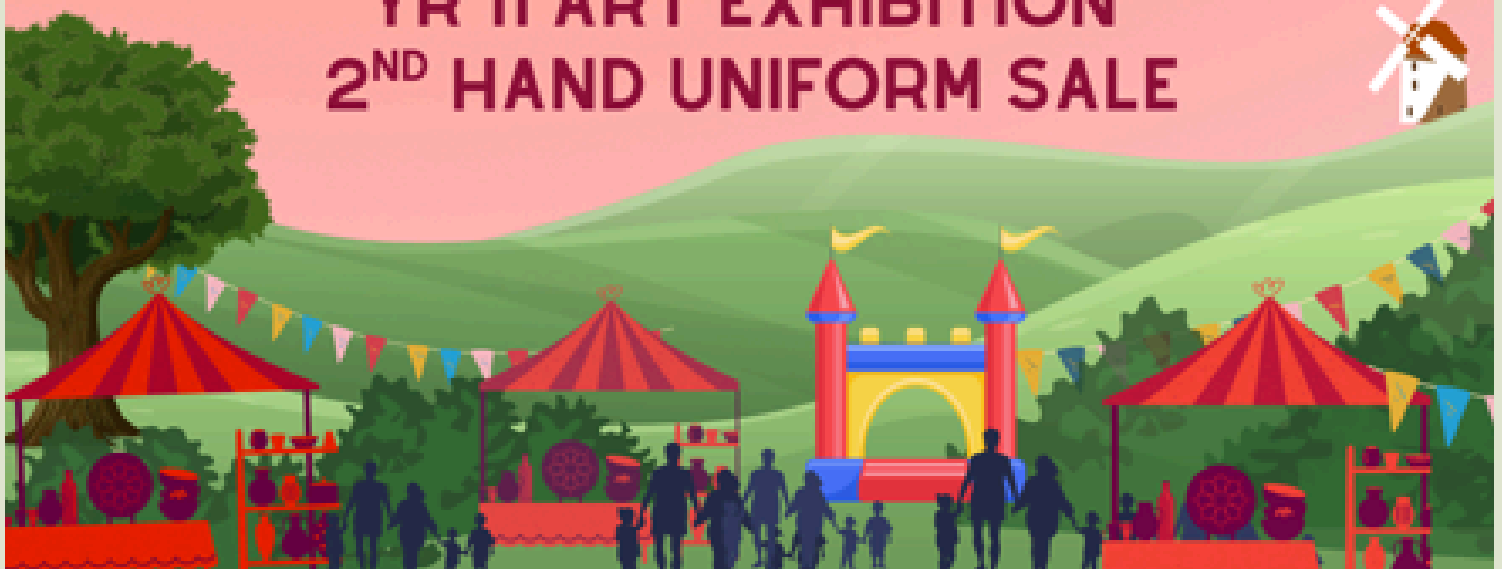
SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
12 - 3PM

BBQ TEA & CAKES
ICECREAM BAR

INFLATABLES STUDENTSTALLS
PLANT SALE CRAFT STALLS
DOG SHOW

DOWNLANDS' GOT TALENT
MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL
YR 11 ART EXHIBITION
2ND HAND UNIFORM SALE



SUMMER FAIR

**SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
12 - 3PM**

CAN YOU HELP?

**CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO ON SATURDAY 21ST JUNE TO HELP
OUT AT OUR SUMMER FAIR? WE'RE LOOKING FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS
TO MAKE THE DAY A FUN AND SUCCESSFUL EVENT FOR EVERYONE!**

If you can help, please sign up:

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on SignUp:
<https://signup.com/go/PPjuNkb>
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact the dsa (dsa@downlands.org) and we can sign you up manually.

Thank you from the DSA



DSA – DOWNLANDS PTA



SUMMER'S ON ITS WAY AND THAT MEANS IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR OUR FABULOUS DSA SUMMER PRIZE DRAW!

WE NEED YOU to help us to make it another sizzling success! Can you or your business or workplace donate a prize? Perhaps vouchers for a gift, meal or experience, or a bottle of wine, or some tasty treats or artisan delights? We're grateful for all donations, large or small.

We're always overwhelmed by your generosity; over the years, together we have raised thousands for the school that has benefitted all children.

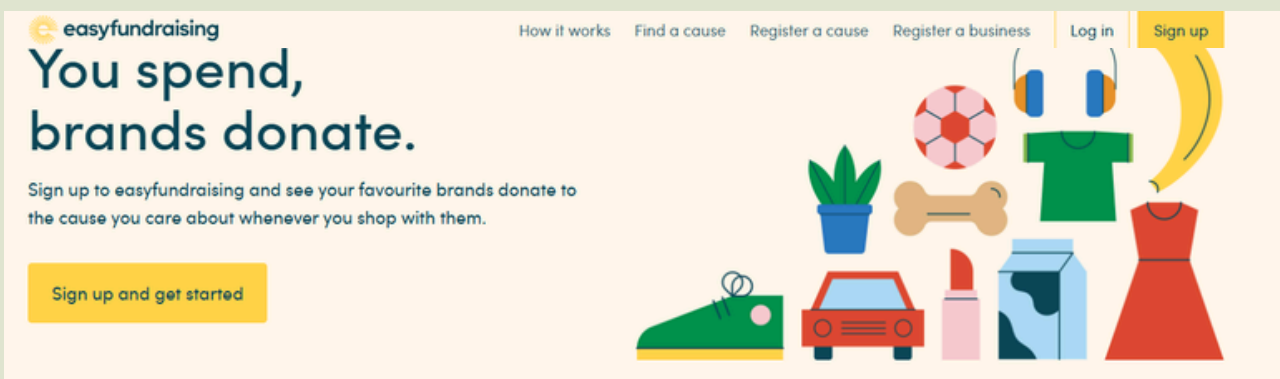
If you can help, please email kate_hobson@yahoo.co.uk with details of what you'd like to donate and we'll arrange to receive/collect your prize. If your donation is from a business, please include a link to your website and social media pages so we can thank you and help promote your work.

Tickets will go on sale soon after half term, so watch this space for details of this year's brilliant prizes!

Did you know you can support our school effortlessly every time you shop online? With easyfundraising, every purchase you make from your favourite retailers—like Amazon, Argos, eBay, and M&S—**can generate a free donation for us, at no extra cost to you.**

It's completely free, quick to set up, and makes a real difference. Whether you're booking a holiday, doing your weekly grocery shop, or treating yourself to something special, you'll be helping raise vital funds simply by shopping as you normally would. Sign up today and turn your everyday shopping into everyday giving!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

easyfundraising

How it works Find a cause Register a cause Register a business Log in Sign up

You spend, brands donate.

Sign up to easyfundraising and see your favourite brands donate to the cause you care about whenever you shop with them.

[Sign up and get started](#)

Illustrations of various items: a potted plant, a soccer ball, a bone, a green t-shirt, a red dress, a green sneaker, a red car, a pink bottle, a blue milk carton, and a red dress.

Your fundraising journey starts today

Support a cause

You can pick within a selection of brands national and local causes.

4 questions, takes around 2 minutes

Register your own cause

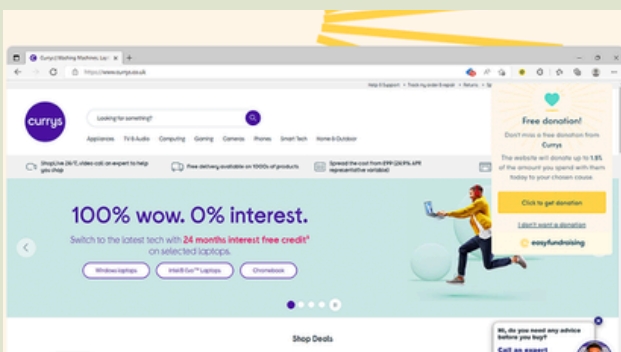
We'll guide you through the entire process, from the registration to getting your first donations.

8 questions, takes around 4 minutes

What's your cause name?

[Create my profile](#)





100% wow. 0% interest.

Switch to the latest tech with **24 months interest free credit*** on selected laptops.

Windows laptops Intel i5 laptops Chromebooks

Shop Deals

Get donations in one click!

The Donation Reminder is our browser extension that pops up when a brand will donate as you shop. You can then get your donation in one click.

The Donation Reminder is also available on [your mobile and tablet](#).

[Add extension](#)

Trusted by over 420,000 users

And available on

EVERY CLICK COUNTS—JOIN EASYFUNDRAISING TODAY AND HELP MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!

VACANCIES



Do you want to join a friendly,
enthusiastic and committed team in a
local comprehensive school?

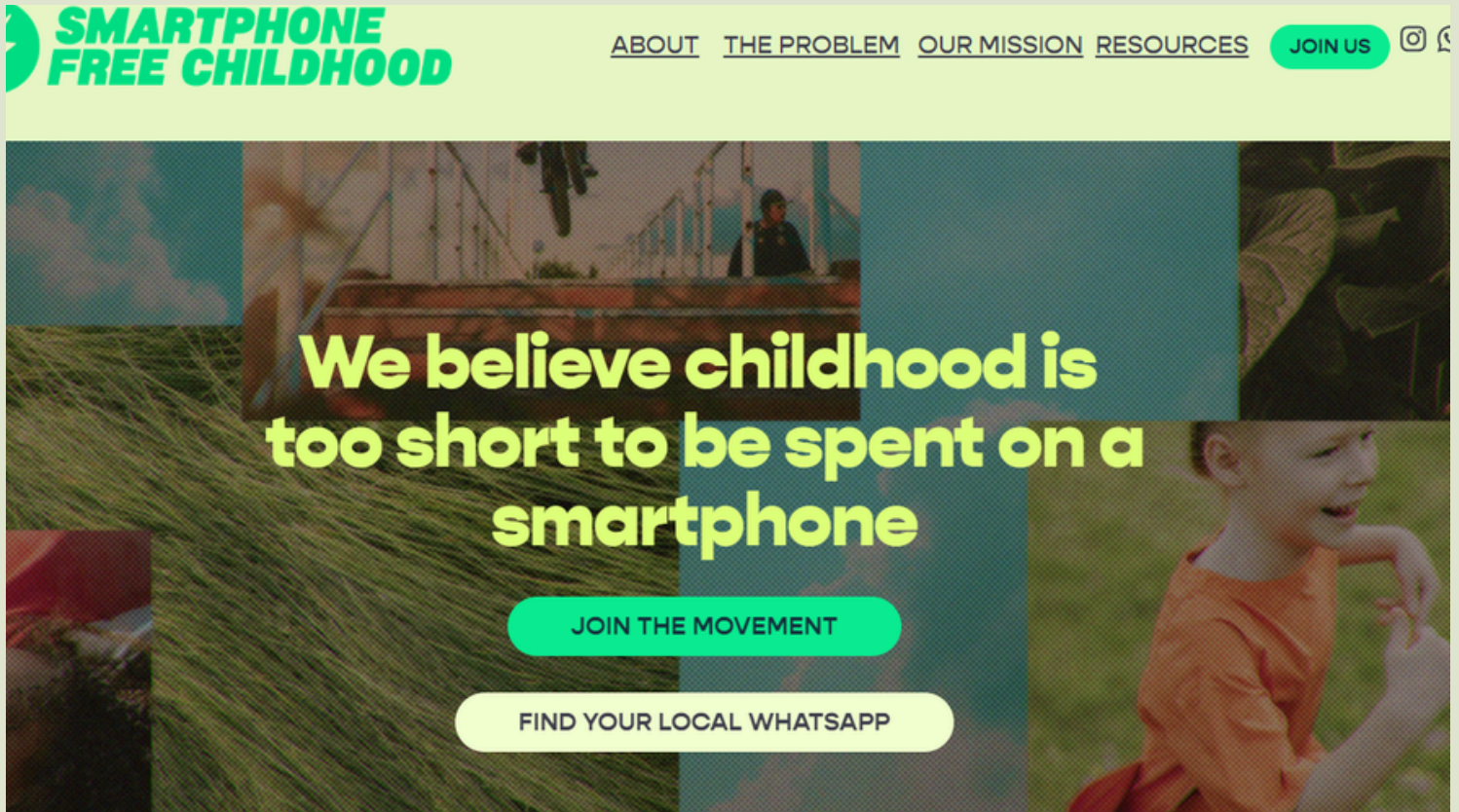
WE ARE HIRING

**We are currently recruiting for a
CLERK TO THE GOVERNING BOARD**

- Clerk required immediately
- The Clerk supports the Chair of Governors, Committee Chairs, and Headteacher to ensure the Governing Board runs smoothly.
- No experience needed, but strong IT and organisational skills are essential.

Visit our vacancies page on
www.downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk
for further details and to download an application form

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD



Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC)

Did you know? The average British 12-year-old now spends 29 hours a week – equivalent to a part-time job – on devices, leaving little time for real-world activities and connections. Time spent on a device is time not spent with others: playing, exploring, interacting and developing vital life skills. A national movement, led by parents aims to challenge the new 'norm' of children owning and using smartphones. There are 35 parent groups in WestSussex alone. A group of 60 Downlands parents have come together as a community and engaged with the school, to discuss the issues, experiences, and practical solutions in a non judgemental way, to limit the harmful effects of smartphones on our children.

Below is a link to the SFC Downlands What's App group should you be interested in joining:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DzofBQzR5pf72j5rVrwHBj>

Thriving in education

Your child's mental health and wellbeing: WhatsApp guide

WhatsApp age restriction is 13+

WhatsApp is a convenient and easy way to keep in touch with others. We know that connection to others is really important in terms of our wellbeing, however we need to be aware that there are also some risks to WhatsApp use, particularly for children and young people.

WhatsApp and emotional wellbeing

To start a chat on WhatsApp, all anyone needs is a person's phone number. If a child has given their number to someone else who then adds them to a group chat, everyone in this group chat will now have access to their number. This means that complete strangers can contact them.

Does your child know what to do if they get a message from someone they don't know?

Who is contacting me?

Be aware of chat lock. Chat lock is a feature which allows WhatsApp users to keep their chats in a separate locked folder, with its own secret code. This allows users to hide conversations, even if someone checks their phone and messages. This could include messages about harmful behaviours such as self-harm and inappropriate sexual content.

Secrecy and chat lock

WhatsApp has a feature which allows messages to be sent and only be viewed once. Unfortunately, this allows users to send inappropriate and abusive content which cannot be re-opened once seen. This means there is no evidence of what has been sent. It also means that if you check your child's phone you won't see a complete picture of what they have viewed.

You can never really know what has been sent or received by your child's account.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Disappearing content

Information sharing on WhatsApp can reach a lot of people, very quickly. This means that false information can rapidly gather momentum resulting in sharing of fake news. Children and young people may not have the critical thinking needed to understand what is real and what isn't. This also means that they may be vulnerable to scams. Internet Matters have produced a [toolkit](#) for parents and carers.

Scams and fakes

Teach them to be cautious

Guide them to ask themselves how likely a message from an unknown number is really from someone they know.

Adjust the settings

You can specify who can and cannot add them to group chats. You can do this in the 'Settings' menu under the 'Groups' tab.

Talk to them openly

Without judgment about what they are sharing and how they contribute. Consider with them how they can use group chats safely and that is okay to exit group chats if they feel uncomfortable.

What can we do?

Internet Matters: What is WhatsApp – A Guide for Parents

[Internet Matters](#) is a fantastic website with a huge amount of information about internet safety. There are numerous guides for parent and carers, including WhatsApp.

Social Media Survival Guide

A recommended book for children and young people aged 10+ to empower them to stay safe online when using social media.



Thriving in education

For more support and advice, please visit our Thriving in Education [website](#) or scan the QR code.



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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



At West Sussex County Council, we are committed to promoting road safety and keeping our communities safe. One way we do this is through our West Sussex Road Safety Facebook page, which has been running for approximately three years.

This page provides valuable updates, advice, and resources to help parents, children, and all road users stay informed about key safety initiatives and best practices.

To support this effort and help keep children and families in your community safe, we would greatly appreciate it if you could share the following link with parents:

[!\[\]\(339a16584d5da0f0a3ca4e9ec17bf6a1_img.jpg\) West Sussex Road Safety Facebook Page](#)

Together, we can make our roads safer for everyone.

Thank you for your support!

USEFUL INFORMATION

aspens.org.uk
charity no: 1171446



Empowering people on the autism spectrum and with learning disabilities.

Girls Group Mid Sussex

St Andrews Hall, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG

Mondays fortnightly (term-time only)

5pm-7pm

Group B will be young people age 12-14. Group A will be young people age 14-18. These groups will alternate on Monday evenings term-time only. The group ages may alter slightly. Please note we are not currently advertising for Group A!

The cost is £6 per session for each young person.



These sessions are for girls who are awaiting an assessment or on the neurodevelopmental pathway (including but not exclusive to SEMH, ASC, ADHD). They must be aged 12-14 years old (Group B).

These are a wonderful opportunity for girls to meet others who may have similar experiences and carry out fun and enjoyable activities. These environments are relaxed and engaging. Places will be on a first-come first-served basis.

Please email childrenreferrals@aspens.org.uk to book

Junior Cricket Camps

7-12 years of age - Boys and Girls

£125 for 3 days or £50 per day

CAMP 1

April 14th + 15th + 16th

CAMP 2

May 26th + 27th + 28th

CAMP 3

August 4th + 5th + 6th

CAMP 4

August 18th + 19th + 20th

ALL - 9am - 2.45pm

Kit provided!
All coaches
DBS checked

Open to non
Nomads
players!

Location:

Preston Nomads Cricket Club

NHS

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

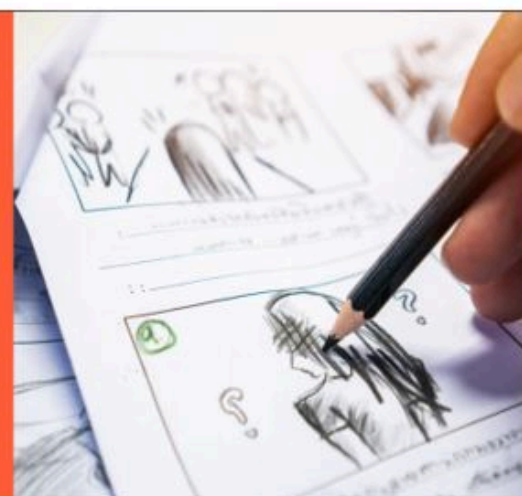
TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE FOR

CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH ADVICE AND SUPPORT:

07480 635424



Storyboard Competition for 13-19 year olds



ENTER NOW

Go to www.intofilm.org
to find out all the info and
enter the competition!

COMMUNITY BOARD

CREATE
SPACE
STUDIOS

PRESENTS



JUST DANCE!

28.05.2025

**LEARN NEW STYLES, IMPROVE TECHNIQUE
& ENJOY A DAY FILLED WITH JUST DANCE!**

MORNING SESSION | 9.30AM - 12.00PM | MUSICAL THEATRE & COMMERCIAL

AFTERNOON SESSION | 12.30PM - 3.00PM | JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY

ONE SESSION ONLY £20 WHOLE DAY £35

**ALL LEVELS WELCOME FROM BEGINNERS TO EXPERIENCED
FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-8 & 9-13**

HURSTPIERPOINT

WWW.CREATESPACESTUDIOS.COM



@CREATESPACESTUDIOS

COMMUNITY BOARD



Celebrating

15 YEARS OF

CREATE
SPACE
STUDIOS

Students past & present
join the party!

Sunday 1st June

Scout Hut, Hurstpierpoint

2:00pm - 6:00pm

Please RSVP & pre-order BBQ
hello.createspace@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BOARD



AGES 11 TO 15

DRAMA CLASSES IN *Hurstpierpoint*

SCOUT HUT, BROWN TWINS ROAD,
HURSTPIERPOINT, HASSOCKS, UK

SENIORS (AGES 11 - 15) - FRIDAYS 16.30 - 18.30

BOOK A NO OBLIGATION TASTER SESSION NOW

info@theyoungactorsgroup.com



SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Brighton and Hove | info@theyoungactorsgroup.com

Make A Movie In Week

29th July - 2nd August | 09:30 - 16:00

Ages 11 - 19 | £170.00



Shakespeare Week

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING"

11th - 17th August | 09:30 - 16:00

Ages 11 - 19 | £195.00

Musical Theatre Week

"Through The Ages"

18th - 22nd August | 09.30 - 16.00

Ages 6 - 16 | £150.00



COMMUNITY BOARD



Ballet - Pointe - Jazz - Tap - Modern Theatre - Acro - PBT
Under 5's Dance Classes
Recreational, Grades and Vocational Training 4-18 Years

vbdance.com/taster



BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

COMPETITION! WIN A FREE WEEK AT CAMP!

**PLUS £250 DONATION FOR YOUR
SCHOOL AND A MINI BILLY TOY!**

KIDS COMPETITION

Task: Design a new activity for summer 2025! ☆

ACTIVITY COULD BE:

- ⊙ Based on existing activity with a twist
- ⊙ Repurposing equipment to play in another way
- ⊙ Add your theme to an activity
- ⊙ An activity you love already which you'd like to see at camp

WE WILL REPLICATE YOUR ACTIVITY IDEA AT CAMP!

The UK's favourite
school holiday
activity camp!!!

WIN A
MINI
BILLY!

SCAN ME!



**YOUR CHANCE
TO WIN!**

ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO
FUN@BARRACUDAS.CO.UK
BY 16TH JUNE

INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE
& NAME & LOCATION OF
SCHOOL WITH YOUR
ENTRY!

Let's go



OFSTED REGISTERED



barracudas.co.uk

01480 467 567



Have any odd jobs that need doing?

Good
rates

**Reliable Local
Handyman**

No job
too small

Available for *all* kinds of household and
garden maintenance and repairs:

- Tiling & Flooring
- Skip runs
- Flat pack furniture
- Picture and shelf hanging
- Painting, decorating & paper hanging
- Fence repairs and gardening
- Shelving
- And much more (just ask)

Contact for a free quote:

07460714224