



27 March 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome to the March edition of our school newsletter. It has been another busy and rewarding half term as we approach the Easter break, with so much to celebrate across our school community.

This half term, our new Year 10 prefects officially assumed their roles. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of young people supporting school events and helping to maintain a safe, orderly environment. They have made a tremendous start, and we are proud of the maturity and commitment they have already shown.

Earlier this month, we marked World Book Day, which included the Read for Good sponsored readathon. Students in Years 7–10 took part by reading throughout Period 5, collectively raising over £300. Staff and students also embraced the joy of reading by dressing as their favourite literary characters. Prizes were awarded for the best group costume, and this year the honour went to our Learning Support and Resources teams for their wonderful portrayal of the Mr Men and Little Miss series.

It was a great privilege to attend our recent Spring Concert, a fantastic celebration of the creativity and talent within our school. The evening showcased an impressive range of performances from steel pans and brass band to the jazz band, orchestra and choir reflecting the breadth of musicality among our students. The concert concluded with a medley of well-known film soundtracks and a stunning finale featuring a large ensemble performing Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds. A heartfelt thank you to all staff and students involved, and to our ever-supportive PTA, who raised over £400 through their interval refreshments.

Kindness continues to be at the heart of our community. This term we supported Comic Relief through a series of cake sales, and once again collected Easter eggs for the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital an annual initiative inspired and organised by Mr Matthews. Our community generously donated over 620 Easter eggs this year. What an egg-cellent effort from everyone!

As we come to the end of term, we also celebrate students who have embodied our ROCKS values. Those who have accumulated significant ROCKS points through their character development are invited to our special award ceremonies. We are grateful to all our students who contribute so positively to school life, supporting one another and helping make Downlands a welcoming and supportive place for all.

Finally, we wish our Year 11 students every success as they continue preparing for the summer examination season beginning in May. We recognise their hard work and remain confident in their ability to perform at their best.

Wishing you all a restful and peaceful Easter break.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'M Ashdown'.

Matthew Ashdown
Headteacher

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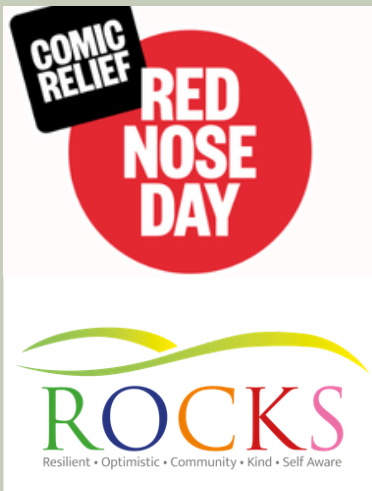
CHARITYEVENTS

RECORD AMOUNT OF EASTER EGGS DONATED FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Every year, Mr Matthews organises a charity appeal to collect Easter eggs for children at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton. This year, an incredible **620 Easter eggs were donated—a record-breaking total!**

A huge thank you to our Downlands community for your generosity, truly reflecting our values of kindness and community. We are also very grateful to the students, who helped count and sort the donations.

Mr Matthews delivered the eggs on Wednesday, and they will help make Easter a little brighter for the children at the hospital.



WEALD COMMUNITY CAKE SALE FOR COMIC RELIEF

Thank you to Mr Buckley and the WEALD community for organising, baking, and running such a fantastic cake sale. There were some amazing cakes, and the event was a great success, raising an impressive £376 for Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who supported the event, and thanks to Ewen for the great photos capturing the day.



PUBLIC SPEAKING

Saturday 28th March also sees our Public speaking team competing in the Rotary district finals. We wish you the very best of luck! This tournament marks a truly special moment, as it will be Frank's and Lila's final appearance. Both have been steadfast, dedicated members of our club—true stalwarts whose spirit, skill, and passion have inspired us all. Their commitment over the years has brought countless victories to Downlands and created memories we will always cherish.

Ms Kashmiri

Congratulations to our public speaking team for their impressive performance at the Oracy Federation event held at Imberhorne.

A special well-done to Lila Whitbourne, who was awarded runner-up. She impressed both the audience and the judges with her powerful speech on abortion rights, delivered confidently without notes.

Congratulations also go to Frank, Otto, Christopher, and Violet for representing our school so brilliantly. We are proud of you all!



READING BUDDIES

Since January, Year 10 pupils have been reading buddies to Year 7 students. Twice a week, Year 7 have the opportunity to practise their reading and develop a love of books with the support of their Year 10 mentors.

This term, they have been reading Skellig, a wonderful story about a young boy who discovers a mysterious creature in his garage.

Special thanks to our fantastic teaching assistance Ms Willans, Ms Hughes and Ms McGahn for making this possible.



LIBRARY

The spring term has been a big reading month at Downlands school, with the Library and English departments working together to host events that inspire a love of reading in our pupils!



At the end of February, some avid Year 9 readers took part in the Southern School Book Awards hosted by Hurstpierpoint College. Over the previous months, these students diligently read through a selection of books, voted on their favourites and had the opportunity to attend an awards night in which they could hear from and meet the authors! It was a fun and exciting evening for the schools taking part.

WORLD BOOK DAY

In March, staff and students dressed up in their best book character costumes for World Book Day! We had a fantastic time celebrating and were very impressed by everyone's creativity. Super effort to students who won prizes for their costumes! Donations for dressing up on World Book Day raised an amazing £223 for Book Aid International, a charity which donates books and money to help build libraries in developing countries! Students also raised money for Read for Good, a charity which provides books and storytellers for children in hospital, by engaging in an hour long sponsored read at school and asking family and friends to sponsor their reading outside of school. Downlands have already raised £253 for this amazing charity! A massive thank you to all students who participated.



WORLD BOOK DAY



WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD BOOK DAY

As part of World Book Day, students could also join competitions to design a captivating book cover which led to an amazing 155 submissions and take part in a creative writing competition. Congratulations to the winners for their imaginative designs and wonderful stories!



YEAR 10 - SUSTAINABLE AID

Year 10 Geography Students Show Community ROCKS Through Sustainable Aid

This term, our Year 10 Geography class has been exploring the topic of development aid in Lower Income Countries, learning how small actions can make a meaningful difference to communities around the world. Inspired by their lessons, the students decided to take on a practical project to support a farmer in Malawi.

Demonstrating wonderful kindness, each student contributed £1, and together they raised enough money to buy a goat through a sustainable livestock aid scheme. Goats play an important role in supporting long-term development—they provide milk, income, and opportunities for families to build resilience and independence.

After much discussion (and laughter!), the class proudly named their goat “Chip Zango.” This thoughtful initiative highlights how community is about the global as well as the local, and the importance of thinking beyond the classroom and take positive action in the wider world.

Mrs Corcoran

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY BOOSTER WEEKEND

Forty-seven enthusiastic Year 11 students dedicated an entire 24 hours to an intensive—and thoroughly enjoyable—Geography Booster Weekend designed to bring their GCSE learning to life. The aim was simple: revisit as much of the specification as possible in actual places where it can be seen.

Our first stop was Hove beach and lagoon, where students explored coastal processes and how geographical theory underpins the management of real coastlines. They also practised essential fieldwork skills required for paper 3.

The group then travelled to the River Adur. Standing beside a real river allowed students to link concepts such as meanders, floodplains, and erosion to the physical landscape in front of them and the multiple ways an orange can be used to measure the speed of water!

The weekend concluded in Brighton’s Central Business District, where students examined urban regeneration, changing patterns of retail, and the challenges of creating sustainable housing.

Students stayed at Truleigh Hill Youth Hostel and threw themselves fully into the revision games in the evening, which ranged from key term pie face to exam question ping pong.

Despite the busy schedule after a long week, students approached every task with impressive optimism (perhaps the potential to win Easter eggs along the way helped with this!) and were a delight to spend a weekend with.



DRAMA

Y11 GCSE TRIP TO LONDON

Y11 GCSE Drama students had their last theatre trip of the course to watch 'The Play That Goes Wrong' in London. A lovely meal out, followed by many laughs at the Theatre, and even the opportunity to meet one of the stars of the show after; Ronnie York, who was a previous GCSE student of Mrs Robertson...quite a few years ago! The students were so inspired to see where their Drama GCSE could take them.



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our Year 7 girls football team have had an outstanding season, they won every league game and finished an impressive second in the district 6-a-side tournament, losing narrowly in the final by one goal. Their dedication, teamwork and determination have been exceptional. With so much potential and a fantastic work ethic, the future looks incredibly bright—well done to all involved!



YEAR 8/9 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our Year 8/9 girls football team enjoyed a strong season, winning league matches against The Burgess Hill Academy and Warden Park. They impressed with a County Cup run, narrowly missing out in the quarter-final. The highlight was winning the Weald 6-a-side tournament, remaining unbeaten and playing excellent football throughout.



YEAR 10/11 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our Year 10/11 girls football team have enjoyed an exceptional season, winning every league game with outstanding dedication and skill. Their hard work has earned them a place in the County Shield quarter-final against Hazelwick after Easter. A fantastic achievement that reflects their commitment, teamwork and consistently high level of performance.



YEAR 7 GIRLS RUGBY

Our Year 7 girls rugby team should be proud of their progress this season. After losing to St Oscar Romero earlier in the year, they showed great improvement in the final. Narrowly trailing 5–4 at half time before finishing 9–6. Their determination and development highlight exciting potential for the future—well done to all players. They have finished the 2nd best team in Sussex.

YEAR 8/9 GIRLS RUGBY

Our Year 8/9 girls team enjoyed an excellent season, finishing second in Sussex at the County Cup Finals Day, beating Cardinal Newman before losing to St Oscar Romero. With many Year 8 players competing above their age group, their progress has been impressive. They also placed fourth out of fifteen schools at the Sussex 7s in Worthing, showcasing fantastic teamwork, resilience, and exciting potential for next year.



YEAR 10/11 GIRLS FUTSAL

Our Year 10/11 girls futsal team made a fantastic start, defeating Oathall 5–2 in their first game. Their brilliant skills, confidence and teamwork were on display throughout. A promising start to hopefully more futsal matches for this group.



YEAR 8/9 GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Year 8/9 girls basketball teams impressed at the tournament, with two squads performing brilliantly. The red team won the district event against Horsham schools. Well done to all players!



YEAR 10/11 GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Year 10/11 girls basketball teams enjoyed an outstanding tournament, entering two strong squads who progressed to an all-Downlands final. Both teams performed superbly throughout, remaining unbeaten against all North Sussex opposition. The blue team secured the district title in an exciting final, but every player showed excellent teamwork, determination and skill—well done to all involved!



U16 RUGBY

The U16 rugby team travelled to Cardinal Newman for the County Cup final this half term. With a diverse and talented squad, the team started strongly, taking a 10–0 lead within the first 10 minutes. Unfortunately, a series of injuries disrupted their momentum, and they were unable to maintain their early rhythm. Despite this, the team fought hard for the full 60 minutes, making strong defensive tackles and scoring some excellent tries. Cardinal Newman secured the win, but both teams demonstrated just how far girls' rugby has progressed in recent years.



YEAR 9 NETBALL

The Year 9 A team faced Brighton College in the semi-final of the County Cup this half term. They came up against a well-disciplined squad with clear depth, but this did not faze them. After finishing the first quarter five goals down, the team dug deep and levelled the scores going into the final quarter. Unfortunately, Brighton College found another gear, and it was not meant to be our day. This team has achieved some incredible things this season and should be extremely proud of their performances.

The Year 9 team took part in their end-of-season tournament this half term, enjoying the sunshine at The Burgess Hill Academy. They played five matches, competing for the chance to represent Mid Sussex in the next round. As always, the girls worked extremely well together, moving the ball smoothly up and down the court. They won all five of their games and will now progress to the next stage. This is a fantastic way to round off their season, reflecting the success they have achieved throughout the year.



YEAR 9 NETBALL

The Year 9 B team travelled to St Paul's to develop their skills and gain valuable court time ahead of their exciting tour to Sri Lanka during the May half term. The team experimented with different combinations and positions, working on building strong connections on court. Their progress over the 40-minute game was outstanding. We look forward to seeing their continued development ahead of what promises to be an incredible tour.



YEAR 10 NETBALL

The Year 10 netball team reached the County Cup final this year and travelled to Brighton College for the match. Following a devastating rugby injury the day before, the team had to adapt quickly, with players stepping into unfamiliar positions. Despite losing to a very strong Brighton College side, the team showed amazing resilience, determination, and a constant desire to score throughout the game.



T1 TOUCH RUGBY

A group of 12 budding rugby players competed in the T1 National Touch Rugby Competition this half term at Seaford Rugby Club. Playing in the Sussex round, the team performed exceptionally well for a newly formed squad, using each other's strengths to score tries and apply pressure on their opponents. They adapted quickly to the rules of T1 Touch, displaying impressive tactical awareness throughout the day. The team won all of their games and will now represent Sussex at the Regional Finals.



YEAR 7 BASKETBALL

The Year 7 Basketball team have continued to produce fantastic performances and remain unbeaten in the Junior NBA championships and the Mid-Sussex district competition. The team are champions of Mid-Sussex after winning the final against a strong St Paul's side. All 15 members of the squad were involved in the final and every member played a key part in securing the victory. The team have also had an impressive run in the Junior NBA championships with two recent wins against a very strong Bohunt Worthing side and Bohunt Liphook School. Due to these impressive victories, the team are going through to the play-offs as the number 1 seed.



YEAR 8 BOYS BASKETBALL

The Year 8 Basketball team continue their unbeaten run and are now through to the district final which will take place after the Easter holidays. In addition, the team have won all their Junior NBA games and are now going through to the play-offs as number 1 seed. The team are continuing to work extremely hard and performances are improving game by game. We are looking forward to seeing how far they can go! The team's most impressive performance was against Holy Trinity in the Junior NBA championships in which the game was end to end with both teams playing very impressive offence. Downlands were 1 point down with 6 seconds on the clock when the Downlands Point Guard drove to the basket to score a lay-up which resulted in the team winning the match in the final few seconds of the game. Keep up the good work team!



YEAR 7 RUGBY

The Year 7 Rugby team have had a busy term with lots of rugby fixtures and tournaments. The team played their first ever Rugby 7's tournament and played some excellent rugby which resulted in them finishing 8th out of 20 schools.

They had some impressive wins in the tournament including a narrow victory against Brighton College in the group stages. The team won the majority of their County Cup fixtures which meant that they made it through to the Sussex Finals Day at Brighton RFC.

The team played against a very strong Brighton College side and went on to lose 10-4, but the boys never gave up and continued to work hard throughout the game. The team have continued to improve and in a recent tournament at Christ's Hospital they won all of their fixtures and played some outstanding rugby to remain unbeaten all day. The team have also played several local district fixtures in which they have won 6 and lost 1.

We are already looking forward to seeing how much they will continue to progress next season. Well done boys!



YEAR 8 GIRLS HANDBALL

The Year 8 girls Handball team have made a fantastic start to their handballing journey at Downlands.

They played their first ever tournament together and won all of their games and were crowned champions of Sussex. They scored an impressive 14 goals and only conceded 1.

They will now go onto the regional finals in London after the Easter holidays. Keep up the great work girls!



YEAR 10 BASKETBALL

The Year 10 Basketball team have made a great start to their season by winning all of their fixtures. They have played some very impressive basketball and continue to work extremely well together as a team. The team are now through to the district final after the Easter holidays. Good luck boys!



U15 GIRLS HANDBALL

The U15 girls Handball team have displayed some extremely impressive performances and were recently crowned champions of Sussex for a second time in a row. Throughout the competition, the team scored 18 goals and did not concede a single goal. They are now through to the regional finals in London after the Easter holidays and we wish them the best of luck!



YEAR 7 NETBALL

Netball has continued to be really popular and fun this year, I have been so impressed with the amazing number of students who come out each week to practice whatever the weather (unless it rains)! Reaching the semi-final of the Sussex Cup was a huge achievement and unfortunately the team lost to Hurst College but put up a very brave fight all the way to the end.

Two Year 7 teams recently went to Christ's Hospital to play in the end of season tournament with one of the teams reaching the final and narrowly losing to Oathall. A great level of netball was played with Zara and Olive being recognised for being players of the tournament.



The Mid Sussex netball league is currently underway and the team have beaten Millais, Sackville and Weald so far; the finals are next week. We are hoping to seek our revenge against Oathall and win this time!

YEAR 8 NETBALL

Having beaten everyone in the Mid Sussex league so far, we were thrilled to reach the final against Oathall. It was a very tight game which resulted in a score of 22-22.

Congratulations to Year 8 for being the Mid Sussex joint netball league winners. The B team had a fantastic game and were victorious 11-3. Congratulations to the players of the matches: Ettie, Mylie, Sofia and Molly.



BADMINTON

Downlands recently hosted a tournament against Sackville School for boys and girls. Everyone had lots of games which resulted in our teams placing second and third overall. For some of our players, this was their first competitive badminton match which was a great experience for them all.

SWIMMING

Downlands have continued to compete in the Schools Swimming Super League which culminated in finals day at K2 recently. We were thrilled to come away with lots of medals for our Junior and Inter teams both boys and girls. Well done everybody!



YEAR 8 RUGBY

The Year 8 rugby team competed in the KUDU Cup at Brighton Rugby Club last Friday (20th) and delivered an outstanding performance, finishing as runners-up. Well done!



LEADERSHIP

Our students are excellent role models to each other but also our primary school students. Linked with Mid Sussex Active, Downlands organises and runs many competitions for our local primary school.

These events would not be able to take place without the excellent leadership of our students and sports leaders who are excellent role models. Recently we hosted a quicksticks hockey festival for students in Year 3 and 4; nearly 100 students attended and it was a day full of great hockey and sunshine.

24 netball teams came to Downlands recently to take part in two Year 5 and 6 netball tournaments. It was a busy and windy day but it was a great success due to the 30 Downlands students that were umpiring, scoring and assisting in any way that they could in order to make it a huge success. They gave freely of their time and were excellent ambassadors for our school and the sport of netball.



DOWNLANDS EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Our equestrian team made a fantastic start to the season with a 3rd in the 75cm and 4th in the 1.10. Elsie did an incredible job jumping such a huge course!!



DOWNLANDS EQUESTRIAN TEAM
 contact- Jennifer Bernstein
 Owner | The Black Horse, Findon
 01903 872301
theblackhorsefindon@outlook.com

DANCE

DOWNLANDS DANCE SHOW - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Dance Department are already preparing for the Annual Downlands Dance Show. The show will take place on 5th & 6th May, more details to follow.

It has been a busy time in dance! In February we took 20 Year 10 pupils to see a performance of MAM at the Brighton Dome. It was a unique and interesting performance that inspired students to find authentic and original movement language.



Year 9 Gifted and Talented students took part in a day's workshop with choreographer Amy Morvell, who created a piece named Drifting in Circled. Students learnt challenging movement material which they will perform in this year's dance show.

In March, Mrs Brewington put on her annual 'A Chance to Dance' primary dance show which was a great success! Our Gifted and Talented Year 9 students had worked with primary students to create pieces based on the theme of weather. Downlands students also performed and it was brilliant to see both primary and secondary students collaborate together.

Students from Year 7-10 performed in 'Let's Dance' at The Congress Theatre in Eastbourne. Miss Nee took a piece about the trials of witches in the 16th century, and Ms Cull took a piece about Pompeii. Students worked incredibly hard in rehearsals for the show and gave striking performance

Our Year 11 GCSE students performed in their final performance and choreography exams. They have been working hard since October, and we have been so impressed with their work ethic. We will be sad to see them go!

FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS DANCE SHOWCASE

We are thrilled to announce that Downlands Community School, Imberhorne School, Oathall School and Sackville School are coming together once again for our second Community Dance Performance Platform!

This dynamic showcase celebrates the incredible talent of young dancers from across all four schools, uniting on one stage to share their creativity, collaboration and passion for dance.

Get ready for an exciting and inspiring evening that truly highlights the power of dance to connect our schools, our students and our wider community.

We can't wait to see you there!

Mid Sussex Federation of schools proudly presents



The Mid Sussex Dance showcase

Chequer Mead Theatre, East Grinstead
1st June 2026 at 7pm

Scan the QR code for more information and tickets



CREATIVE ARTS

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

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



PHOTO OF THE MONTH
WINNER
ANNA 7MP

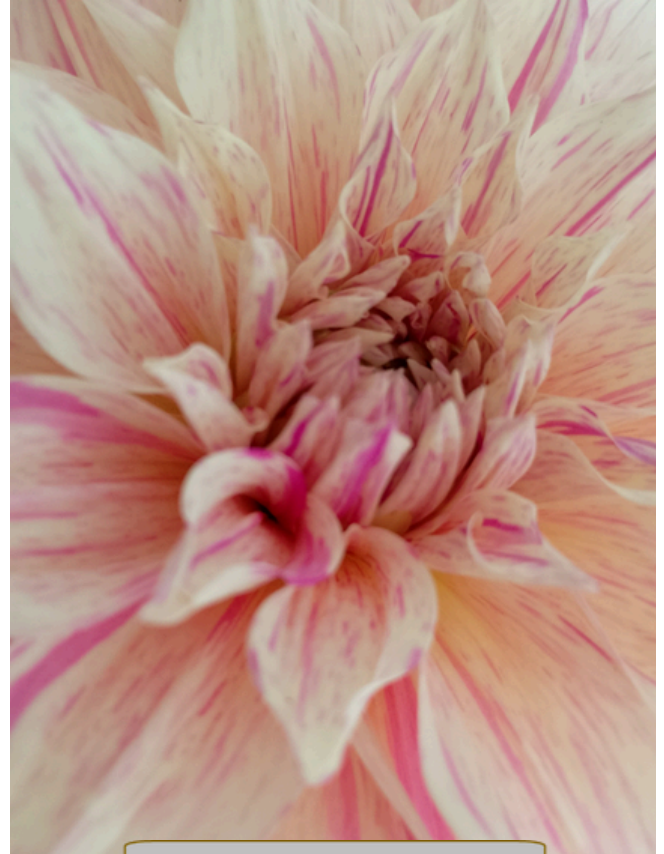
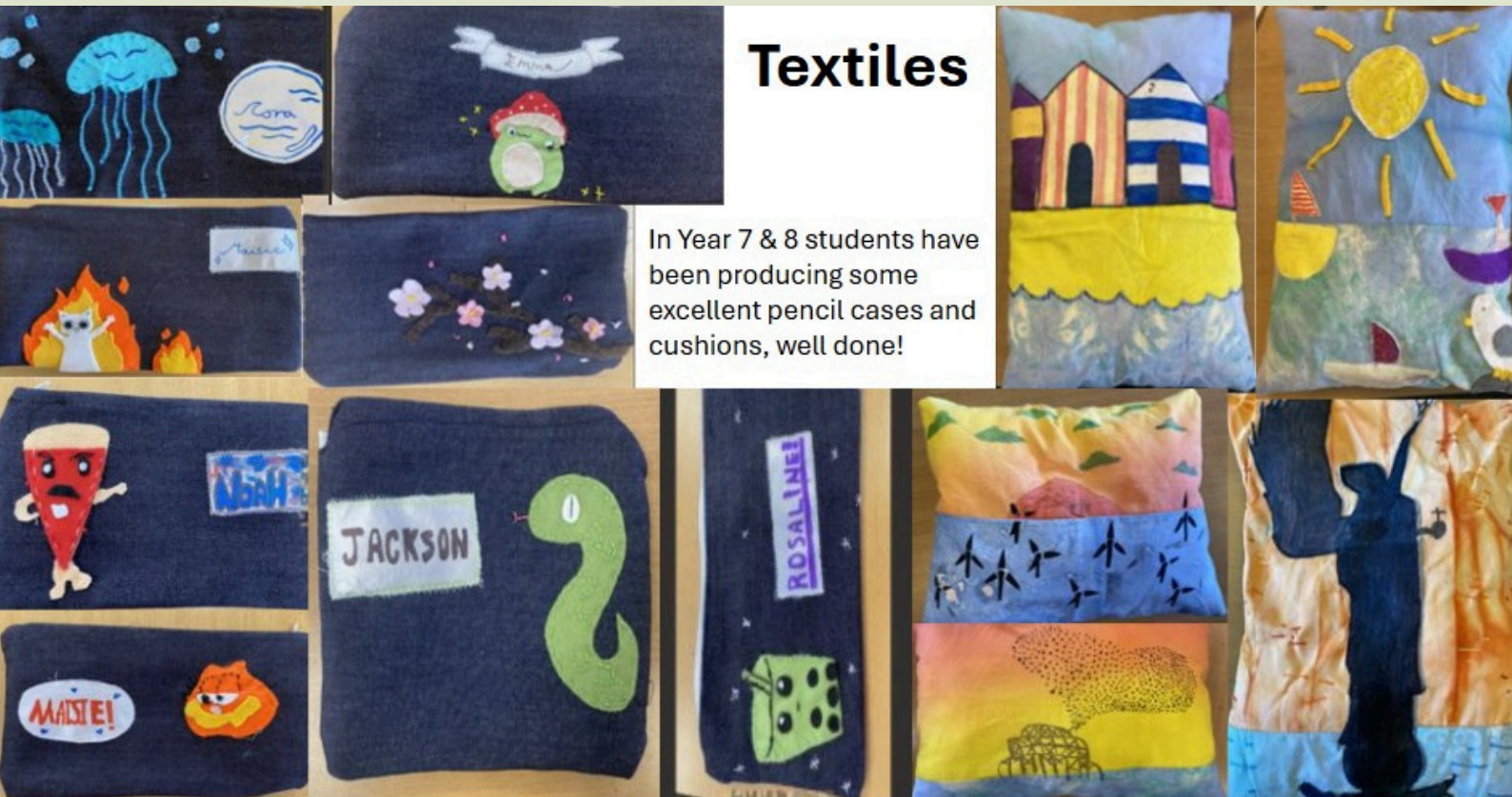


PHOTO OF THE MONTH
RUNNER UP
TILLY 7MP

Submit your entries by the 1st of each month to
chamblywalker@downlands.org
Max 2 entries per person per month

Textiles

In Year 7 & 8 students have been producing some excellent pencil cases and cushions, well done!

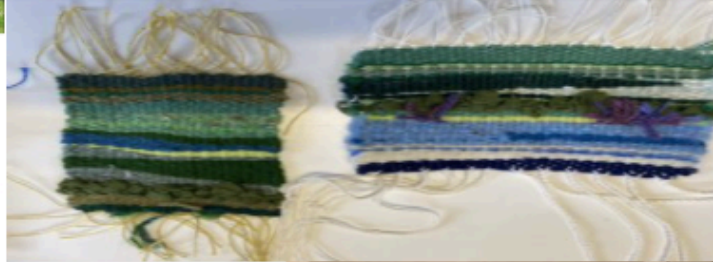


CREATIVE ARTS

YEAR 10 TEXTILES TRIP TO DITCHLING MUSEUM



This Year 10 textile students visited Ditchling museum for the afternoon. They looked around the museum which features weaving from artists/designers who used to live in Ditchling. The students also took part in a weaving workshop



Records of
natural dyes



Y10 GCSE

Y10 GCSE Art students recently participated in two after-school CLAY workshops led by Jo Clemens – ceramicist, artist, art therapist and educator. Working from their own drawings and photographs students designed and created a ceramic animal head of their choice using new and ambitious clay techniques. Below are some examples of the unfired work. Once fired, students will complete their work by decorating it with glazes and oxide.



Y11 GCSE

Year 11 GCSE Art students are now halfway through their preparation period for their externally set assignment. Students are exploring a wide range of themes, including Nature, Lost and Found, Isolation, Time, Magnificent, and Movement, developing thoughtful ideas and highly personal responses. Their progress so far has been impressive, with students demonstrating creativity and real commitment to their projects. We look forward to celebrating their completed work at the Year 11 Art Exhibition in June.

CREATIVE ARTS

ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER SHOW

Students in Years 7–10 have been invited to submit their artwork to the prestigious Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show, an exciting opportunity that recognises emerging creative talent from across the country. Our students have risen to the challenge with imagination and flair, producing original pieces in a wide range of media and themes. Should their work be selected, it will be proudly displayed in the Royal Academy galleries in July 2026.



Lulu Y8- Pencil drawing



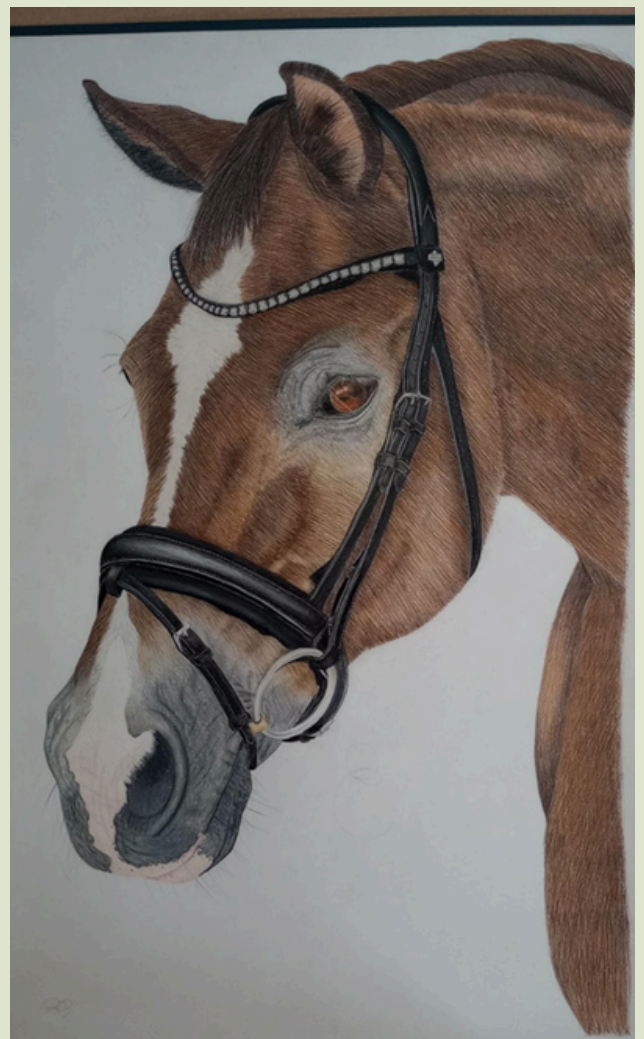
Benji Y7 - A4 watercolour



Olive Y7- A4 Oil pastel drawing



Elisia Y8 - Acrylic paint on canvas



Connie Y10 - A2 coloured pencil drawing

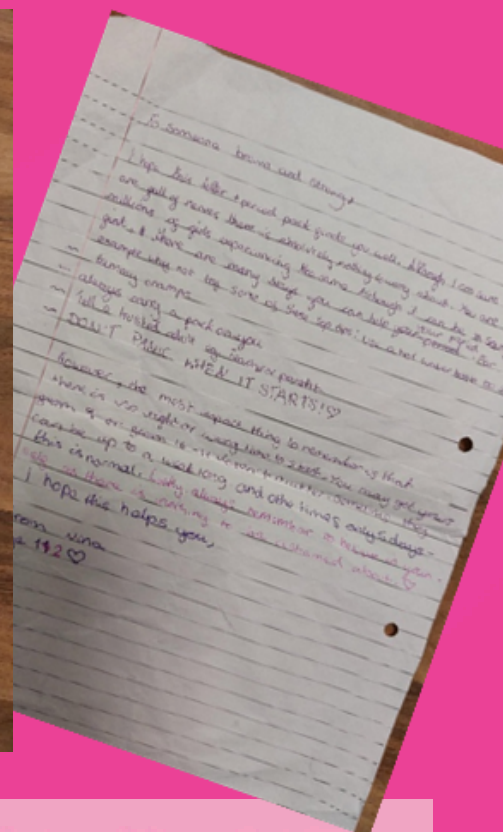
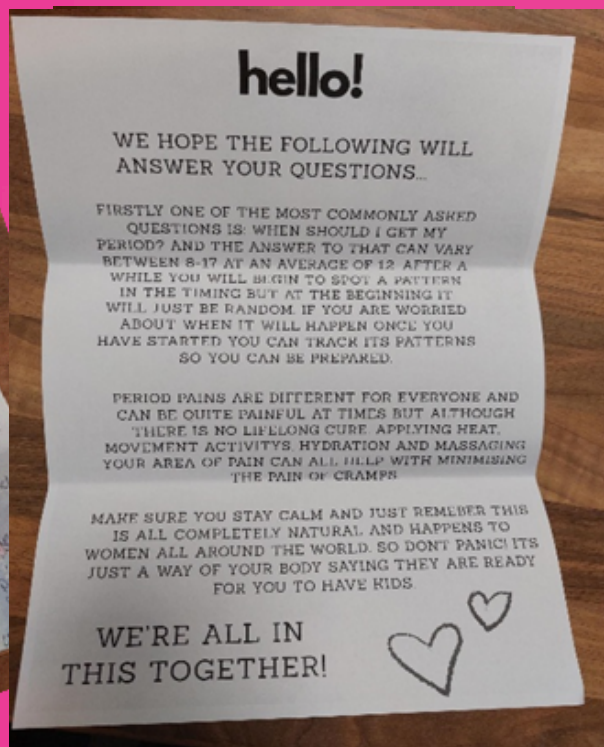
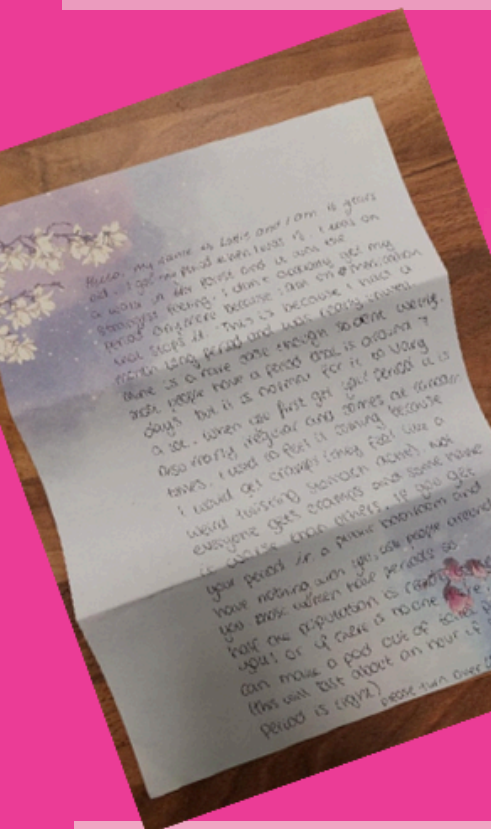
TENDAI INTERNATIONAL



<https://tendai-international.com/>

Some students recently took part on a voluntary basis writing letters to support young girls in Kurland, South Africa for Tendai International.

Tendai International are a wonderful charity who provide not only menstrual education to the girls in Kurland, but also 'period packs' which contain reusable pads, wash bags, information and cleaning products. We are very lucky to have period products to hand whenever needed at Downlands, for the girls in Kurland, it is a very different story. Most of them will use unhygienic rags and quite often miss school during their menstrual cycle due to lack of hygiene and lack of menstrual education. Here are a few of the letters which were sent over to South Africa this week:



A super big thank you to all those who took part, I am so proud that you felt comfortable enough to share your own experiences and your top tips for how to get through a period!!

Miss Carron 🍷

WORK EXPERIENCE

As we head towards the Easter Break about half of the Year 10s have managed to arrange confirmed placements for their work experience taking place from 15th to 21st July.

A separate email has gone home to all Year 10 parents and carers about work experience.

We are always in need of work experience placements, so if there is anyone out there who would like to find out more about what taking a student at their business might involve, please contact careers@downlands.org and I can go through the details and practicalities with you.

TASTER DAYS

The ever-popular taster days at both BHASVIC and Varndean are full for this summer, but all the other colleges are starting to open up applications for their taster days, so do keep an eye on the website for what is open for bookings. These taster days are a great way for students to get a taste for some of the dozens of new subjects they might want to study when they leave Downlands, as well as getting a feel for the individual colleges, all of which have a unique flavour to them.

As a reminder, ALL the providers will have open events in the autumn term for parents, carers and Year 11s to explore the college, and talk to the subject tutors.

YEAR 11 - DESTINATION DATA

We have asked all Year 11 students to complete their destinations box in their Unifrog account with the provider they believe they are most likely to attend after Downlands. If any students missed the opportunity to complete this 5-minute task during school time, please can they do so over the holiday. We are expected to record the planned destinations of our students for the government, so it is really important that this brief form is completed.

Please also ensure that your Year 11 child has added a personal email address to the settings of their Unifrog account. This will enable them to continue to access all the up-to-date information available on this careers platform for free, and not lose access to any of the work they have already started, such as CVs, personal statements and logging of skills and activities which are so useful for future applications and interviews.



ALL PARENTS

If you have not done so already, and would like to have access to your child or children's Unifrog account, please complete this form: Consent for my email to be attached to the Unifrog account(s) of my child/children – Fill out form I will advise you when you are able to log into their account.

Please visit the Careers section of the school website where you will find a wealth of information on career pathways and next steps:

[Downlands/curriculum/work-experience-careers](#)

- [General Careers Information](#)
- [Specific Career Fields](#)
- [Find Your Path](#)
- [College Open Events](#)
- [Work Experience](#)
- [Apprenticeships & T Levels](#)
- [Careers Education, Advice and Guidance](#)
- [Careers Speed Dating](#)
- [Job Vacancies & Competitions](#)

YEAR 11 INFORMATION

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

the date, time and location of your exams - you might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner

who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam

What you will need:

a clear pencil case

at least two black ink pens - blue pens are not acceptable

an approved calculator for relevant exams appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams

a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in-it must not have a label

Other important information:

Listen carefully to the invigilator's Instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator.

Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.

If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet too.

If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.

Make sure you stay silent - talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.



What you cannot take into exams:

any type of phone
revision notes

any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)

GCSE TIMETABLES

Please find below links to the exam timetables. Further details are also available on the Downlands website.

<https://www.downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk/news-events/gcse-info/>

SUMMER-26-OUTLINE-TIMETABLE

PROM - 26TH JUNE, PANGDEAN OLD BARN

Our Prom this year will take place on Friday 26th June, at Pangdean Old Barn. Tickets are available to purchase on Scopay.

The deadline for purchasing tickets is 15th May.

LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

The Year 11 Leavers' Assembly will take place on Friday, 22nd May.

- The Assembly will start at 11.20 am.
- Leavers' hoodies, yearbooks and prom tickets will be distributed afterwards.
- After the assembly, drinks and snacks are served in the canteen. Students can get their yearbooks signed.
- The event will finish around 12:45 pm, and students will be dismissed.



YOUNG CARERS

Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old, who look after a member of the family who is sick, disabled, has mental health problems or is misusing drugs or alcohol. At Downlands we recognise the impact of these caring responsibilities which may cause difficulties at home and school.

Our Young Carer SLT link is Kate Stodart- Assistant Headteacher Safeguarding and Wellbeing
Our Young Carer Champion is Joanna Cobb- Lead Pastoral Support Officer

At Downlands we recognise who our young carers are and offer support in school for those that require it. We have a pupil support group that students can access to meet fellow young carers and share their experiences. We also learn about the role of a Young Carer within our PDC curriculum. You can find further information on the dedicated page on our school website.

Please use the following link to access local support:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/young-carers/>

If your child is a young carer and you believe the school is not aware and you would like us to know, please do email jcobb@downlands.org so we can register them and support accordingly.

ONLINE SAFETY

AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- DEEPFAKE ABUSE CONTENT**
Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.
- EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION**
AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.
- BLURRED REALITY**
Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.
- DISINFORMATION**
AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.
- USED FOR BULLYING**
Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.
- IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS**
With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- TEACH HOW IT WORKS**
Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.
- TALK ABOUT TRUST**
Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS**
Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.
- STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS**
Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

Meet Our Expert
Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

SAVE OUR PTA WE NEED YOU!



For over 10 years, the Downlands School Association (DSA) has raised an incredible £200,000 to support your children's education.

- Last year alone:**
- * Christmas Market – £6,000
 - Summer Fair – £6,000
 - Quiz Night – £2,000
 - Comedy Night – £2,500
 - Other events – £4,000+

THESE FUNDS HAVE HELPED PROVIDE:



- Sound equipment for performances
- DT room refurbishment
- Outdoor amphitheatre
- Student enrichment programmes



BUT NOW – THE DSA IS AT RISK OF CLOSING

With current members stepping down, we urgently need volunteers to keep these opportunities alive.

Can you spare just a couple of hours a month?
That's all it takes to make a huge difference.

WE NEED:

- Treasurer
- Social Media Support
- Purchasing Coordinator
- General helpers for events

No volunteers = No events = No extra funding for your children
Step forward. Make a difference. Keep the DSA alive.



Email today: dsa@downlands.org



You are invited to a

MEET THE DSA (DOWNLANDS PTA) SOCIAL EVENT

THURSDAY

23RD APRIL

6.30PM - 8PM THE THATCH INN

JOIN US FOR DRINKS AND
NIBBLES, MEET THE TEAM
AND LEARN ABOUT
FUNDRAISING FOR OUR
SCHOOL



email: dsa@downlands.org



[downlands_school_association](https://www.instagram.com/downlands_school_association)

DSA - DOWNLANDS PTA

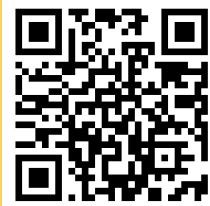


Did you know you can support our school effortlessly every time you shop online? With easyfundraising, every purchase you make from your favourite retailers—like Amazon, Argos, eBay, and M&S—**can generate a free donation for us, at no extra cost to you.**

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/>

A screenshot of the easyfundraising website header. It includes the logo, navigation links like "How it works", "Find a cause", "Register a cause", "Register a business", "Log in", and "Sign up". The main headline reads "You spend, brands donate." Below it, a sub-headline says "Sign up to easyfundraising and see your favourite brands donate to the cause you care about whenever you shop with them." A yellow button says "Sign up and get started". To the right, there are colorful icons representing various products: a potted plant, a soccer ball, a dog bone, a t-shirt, a shoe, a car, a milk carton, and a dress. A QR code is visible on the far right.



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

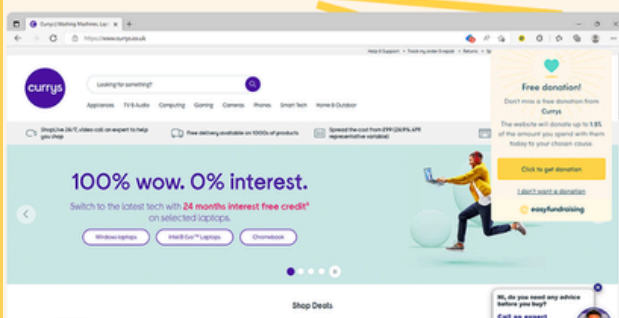
We'll guide you through the entire process, from the registration to getting your first donations.

⌚ 8 questions, takes around 4 minutes

What's your cause name?

Downlands Community School

Create my profile



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!

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

We have a selection of good-quality second-hand school uniform available for sale. This is a great, affordable option for families and supports our commitment to sustainability. If you are interested, please contact the school with details of your requirements, including the item needed, size, and colour, and we will be happy to help where possible.

UNIFORM PRICELIST

JUMPERS	£5
SKIRTS	£5
TROUSERS	£3.50
POLOS	£3
PE TOPS	£3
PE SWEATSHIRT/RUGBY SHIRT	£5

IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE SECOND HAND UNIFORM PLEASE CONTACT
US DURING TERM TIME VIA EMAIL:

uniform@downlands.org

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE -
SUMMER FAIR - SATURDAY, 27TH JUNE**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INSET DAYS

- **Monday, 13th April 2026**
- Monday, 29th June 2026

2026-2027

- Tuesday, 1st September INSET DAY
- Wednesday, 2nd September – School closed – staff training
- Thursday, 3rd September – School reopens to students

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

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.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM FINANCE AND TRIPS OFFICE

May we take this opportunity to remind you to top up your child's canteen account to ensure sufficient funds are available for them to purchase food, if they use the canteen. Students requesting debt from the Finance department should only be in extreme circumstances.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us to promote independence, organisation, and personal responsibility among our students.

Please note all communications for Trips and Finance are now being sent by SCOPAY, we have noted that some parents/carers may have unsubscribed from this in the past. This may mean you miss important communications such as;

Canteen notices such as Christmas lunch dates and payment details

Trip application letters

Reminders about upcoming trips and final details

Please click on the link below to resubscribe and add downlands@scopay.com to your safe email address list;

<https://www.scopay.com/resubscribe>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VISITOR PARKING

We kindly ask that parents and carers do not stop on the roundabout outside the school reception at any time. This is a functioning roundabout for moving traffic, and stopping there creates a safety risk for all road users.

ORDERING SCHOOL SUPPLIES VIA SCOPAY

Please be aware that after ordering supplies on SCOPAY from the Library, Maths or PE department, students 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.

REPORTING ABSENCE



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.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL ROOM

Please ensure that your emergency contact information is up to date. 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 to 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 antihistamines for the symptoms of hay fever. We ask that this be administered at home before the start of the day. Any medication 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.

USEFUL INFORMATION



Reaching Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person in West Sussex who has, or may have, special educational needs and disabilities?



Reaching Families is a parent-carer led charity which aims to empower parent-carers and families of children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex through the delivery of information, advice, training and peer support.

Making Sense of it All

In-depth parent-carer guide covering SEND issues from birth to adulthood

Umbrellas

Parent support groups based at locations across West Sussex and online, via Zoom

Training

Workshops and courses on a variety of issues delivered online, via Zoom

Face-2-Face

Peer based befriending for parents of children undergoing diagnosis

Animations

Short animated films on a variety of subjects

Fact sheets

Covering a range of SEND issues localised to the needs of West Sussex families

Benefits Advice Service

1-2-1 advice & claim checking support for families applying for DLA, PIP & Carers Allowance

NDP Navigation Service

Support service for parent-carers of children undergoing assessment on the West Sussex Neurodevelopmental Pathway (via referral from a professional)

Facebook Group

An online parent support group providing news, information and peer support

If you would like more information about how Reaching Families can help, please contact:

Email: admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk

Telephone: 01903 366 360

Reg Charity No 1150906

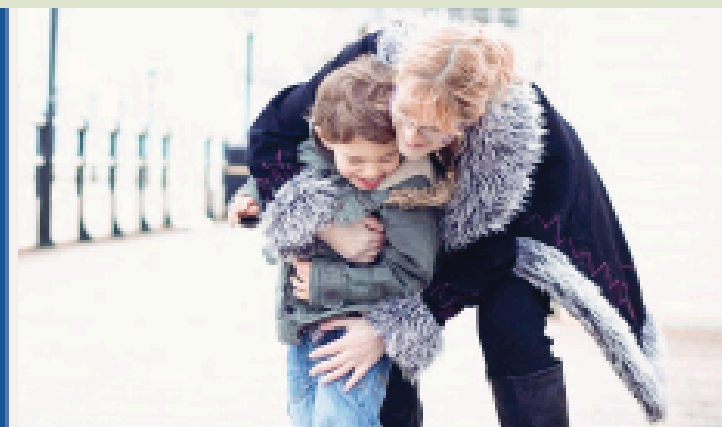
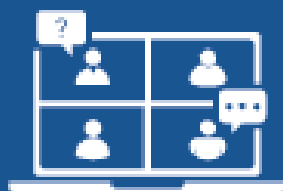


Reaching Families

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

USEFUL INFORMATION

TRAINING SUMMER TERM 2026



WORKSHOPS

Making Sense of Behaviours that Challenge in Adolescence

Tuesday 21st April

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Making Sense of Masking

Thursday 23rd April

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Monday 27th April

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Making Sense of Wellbeing: Communication skills for parents and carers

Tuesday 28th April

7.30 - 9 pm

Understanding Demand Avoidance

Wednesday 6th May

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Making Sense of Education Health & Care Needs Assessment and Plans (EHCPs)

Thursday 7th May

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Understanding Autism in Girls

Thursday 14th May

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Making Sense of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Tuesday 19th May

10.30am - 12.30 pm

Making Sense of SEN Support at School

Wednesday 20th May

7.30 - 9.30 pm

THE SEND FOUNDATION COURSE

An introduction to SEND and the key issues parent-carers will encounter as their children grow and develop.

Wednesday, 22nd & 29th April

10.00 am - 1.15 pm

All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge. For more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com



**Reaching
Families**

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 83-09-06
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 8381096

USEFUL INFORMATION

UMBRELLAS

Parent Support Groups

Summer Term 2026

Connecting parents and carers of children and young people in West Sussex with special educational needs and disabilities



Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

The Cherry Tree Centre

14th Apr / 5th May / 2nd Jun / 30th Jun

Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)

22nd Apr / 13th May / 3rd Jun / 1st Jul

Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Durrington Community Centre

21st Apr / 12th May / 16th Jun / 7th Jul

Umbrellas Online

Thursdays via Zoom

7.30 - 9pm

23rd Apr / 14th May / 11th Jun / 9th Jul

Horsham Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Horsham Family Hub

15th Apr / 20th May / 17th Jun / 15th Jul

Shoreham Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Adur East Family Hub

28th Apr / 19th May / 23rd Jun / 14th Jul

Bognor Regis Umbrellas

Thursdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Arun West Family Hub

30th Apr / 21st May / 25th Jun / 16th Jul

If you would like more information about Umbrellas or the link to join Umbrellas online, please contact our outreach team.

outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



**Reaching
Families**

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Dove Lodge, 49 Beach Road,
Littlehampton, BN17 5JG

Registered Charity No: 1150906

Company Limited by Guarantee No: 8261096



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](#)

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

LETTINGS AVAILABLE AT **DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Looking for the perfect venue for your next event, club, class or performance? We offer a wide range of high-quality facilities available for hire during evenings and weekends:



- Spacious **Main Hall** – ideal for large events and gatherings
- **STEM Suite** large room with tables and chairs and adjoining **kitchen area**
- **Canteen** space with access to the **school kitchen** (if required)
- Blacked out **Drama Studio**
- Purpose-built **Dance Studio**
- Modern **Classrooms**
- Outdoor **Amphitheatre** – perfect for performances or talks
- Full-size **Astroturf Pitch** – suitable for sports and training

Whether you're running a community group, hosting a workshop or event, or need space for rehearsals or sports, we offer flexible options at excellent rates.

ENQUIRE TODAY
sfairbank@downlands.org

HASSOCKS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



HASSOCKS TWINNING NEEDS LOCAL HOSTS!

22-25 MAY 2026

(LATE MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)

Let's warmly greet our friends from Wald-Michelbach
(Germany) and Montmirail (France) and
connect with new faces.

COULD YOU HOST FOR THE WEEKEND?



- Host from Friday evening to Monday morning
Singles, couples, or small families.
- No special requirements - just a warm welcome, a
smile and a willingness to meet new people!



JOIN THE WEEKEND EVENTS!

Hassocks Twinning is organising, and sponsoring, a
programme of social events and activities
throughout the weekend, and hosts are warmly
invited to join in as much as they wish.



Full event details coming soon.



GET INVOLVED!

If you're interested in hosting, or would like more information,
we'd love to hear from you!

Please get in touch at hassockstwinning92@gmail.com



**BE PART OF A WONDERFUL
HASSOCKS TRADITION IN 2026**



COMMUNITY BOARD

ROAD SAFETY PETITION



Sign the Petition

Demand for safety on Chalkers Lane

 Change.org / Mar 24

The Issue

Protect Families on Danworth and Chalkers Lane – We Need Improvements in Safety Now
Two children have already been hit by cars on Chalkers Lane – including a hit and run. This road is clearly not safe for pedestrians.

Every day, parents and children walk or cycle along Chalkers Lane to reach schools, nurseries, the GP, library and parks. But there is no footpath, forcing families into the road and putting lives at risk.

Dangerous incidents are common here.

Local families have spent years asking for safety improvements, including reduced speed and speed bumps and have repeatedly been turned down.
There is space along the grassy banks to install a space-efficient footpath along this short but hazardous stretch, connecting to existing routes into Hurstpierpoint.

Right now many families feel forced to drive short 2–5 minute trips rather than risk walking, adding to congestion and parking problems. A safe walking route would mean cleaner air, safer travel, and a stronger community.

Please don't wait for a tragedy. More young families are moving into the area every month, and at least eight families with multiple children rely on this road daily, not to mention those travelling to Hurst School.

We urgently ask the council to prioritise the design and installation of a footpath along Chalkers Lane, linking Danworth Lane with existing off-road routes into Hurstpierpoint, alongside additional safety measures.

Please sign and share!

[safety-on-chalkers-lane-to-hurstpierpoint-petition](#)

We need 3,000 signatures to enable this petition to be debated at a meeting of the full County Council!

Chatty Cafe



The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people of all ages to talk to others. During the day and time below, the table will be hosted by a friendly volunteer

Every Wednesday

12pm - 1.30pm

Hassocks Sports Centre

Dale Avenue

Hassocks BN6 8LP



Stay for five minutes or longer if you're enjoying chatting!

Having a chat can brighten someone's day

www.thechattycafescheme.com

Hassocks Sports Centre Open Day Sunday 22nd March 2026 10.30am - 2.00pm

⚡ Discover • Try • Join ⚡

We're inviting the local community to come together for a lively, welcoming **Open Day** on **Sunday 22nd March** — a chance for families to get active, try something new and discover what's available right here in Hassocks.



🧑‍🦽 **Try-it sessions, friendly challenges and community activities** throughout the day:

- 🏸 Badminton Games and Challenges including fun "Beat the Coach"
- 🤸 Trampolining sessions with Sussex Springers
- ⚽ Football Games and Challenges on the 3G pitch
- 🏋️ Gym Challenges - prize to be won!
- 🕒 30-minute taster fitness classes – only £1 per session - timetable will be available on our socials and around the centre, first come first served.



☕ **Community & Refreshments**

- Costa Coffee available all day - at special prices
- Meet local businesses; Pet Portraits by Kathy and local WI
- Enter our Raffle – Supporting St Peter & St James Hospice

🎁 **Open Day Offer**

No joining fee for anyone who signs up on the day, along with on the day group gym inductions

One free day pass for every adult attending the event.



📅 **Event Details**

Date: Sunday 22nd March 2026, 10.30am - 2.00pm

Location: Hassocks Sports Centre, Dale Avenue, BN6 8LP

📞 **Contact**

For further information please contact:
hassocksenquiries@freedom-leisure.co.uk
or see our socials



This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your children to try new sports, get active, and have a great day out!

Thank you for helping support a positive local community event — we hope to welcome many new faces! 🌟

COMMUNITY BOARD

CREATE SPACE STUDIOS

DANCE STUDIO, DOWNLANDS SCHOOL

MONDAY

INTERS DANCE 4.15PM – 5.15PM

SENIORS DANCE 5.15PM – 6.15PM

THURSDAY

DANCE TROUPE 4.30PM – 5.45PM

COMMERCIAL DANCE 5.45PM – 6.45PM

DRAMA ROOM, DOWNLANDS SCHOOL

TUESDAY

DRAMA SESSIONS 3.15PM– 4.15PM

JOIN US THIS SUMMER TERM TO BE PART OF A NEW
DRAMA PRODUCTION FOR YEARS 7–11

DISCOVER OUR CLASSES

TO BOOK A TRIAL VISIT

WWW.CREATESPACESTUDIOS.COM

  @CREATESPACESTUDIOS.COM



COMMUNITY BOARD



Hassocks Infant School

Job Vacancy

Learning Support Assistant 27.5 hours per week (Temporary)

Grade 3 (Point 3-4)

£12.85 £13.05 per hour

£15,523 - £15,766 per annum for 27.5 hours

Hassocks Infant School is seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to support a child on a 1:1 basis. The post will be fixed term, for 27.5 hours per week (12.00pm to 3.00pm Monday to Friday), starting ASAP until 22 July 2026, term time only, to include lunch duty (with a 30-minute lunch break). Our School day is 8.50am to 3.00pm - LSA's work from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

We are absolutely committed to providing the very best education for our children and we are seeking to appoint a strong candidate to the role who has the right skill set, values and attributes.

We would like to appoint somebody who will:
Support a child on a 1:1 basis

■ Offer support at lunchtimes

The successful candidate will be:

- committed to providing high levels of support to pupils on a 1:1 and small group basis
- enthusiastic, highly motivated and enjoy working with children
- forward thinking, creative and able to make learning fun
- able to work effectively with members of the school community, including parents

The full application details and form can be found here:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobs/school-jobs/>

Visits are strongly encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact the school office on 01273 842549 or office@hassocksis.com to arrange a visit.

The closing date is Monday 13th April 2026 at 3.00pm. Interviews will be held on Friday 17th April 2026.

Hassocks Infant School and West Sussex County Council are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service check along with other relevant employment checks, including satisfactory references.

ART CLASSES



A PLACE TO BELONG, GROW & CREATE

BOOK A
TRIAL NOW!

- + Art Classes for Children 6+
- + Teen Art Classes
- + GCSE & A-Level Support
- + Holiday Art Workshops
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COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING

| OFSTED REGISTERED

| CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



07746 252 054
burgesshill@art-k.co.uk
art-k.co.uk/class-burgess-hill
Unit 3, 66 Church Walk, RH15 9AS



POSTER COMPETITION

•Montmirail, France



Poster Competition

The Hassocks Twinning Association are hosting representatives from the three twinning towns this year and would like YOU to design a poster either

- a) Welcoming the representatives of the towns
- b) Educating people about the twinning.

Do some research then think about text/images/colours/ placements

Entries on A4 paper

Prizes for top designs

To Ms Martin DT6 or Mr Smith by Mon 27th APRIL

Wald-Michelbach, Germany



Hassocks, UK

THANK YOU

We're incredibly grateful that your likes, shares, and follows on Facebook and Instagram are helping our amazing community continue to grow!

HAVE A GREAT EASTER BREAK

