



Downend Headlines

Friday 10th February 2017

Issue 10

Dear Parents

Once again it has been a very busy time at school – on Wednesday I attended the first production put on by the Downend Theatre Company. The show consisted of a number of short pieces over the course of the evening and gave those students who have been attending the chance to perform and put themselves in the spotlight for a key role in the end of year production which will take place on 5th, 6th and 7th of July. I also met with a group of students to congratulate them on their efforts to improve their literacy and I was particularly impressed with the three students who between them had read over 4,000,000 words since September!

The end of the week was spent meeting students who had achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award; it was inspiring to hear about the different volunteering opportunities they had pursued and the challenges they had faced (not least on the expedition phase).

Over the half term we have a number of Year 11 students attending exam booster workshops at school and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the students and staff for giving up some of their holiday to make this possible.

I hope you and your family have a restful half term.

Mark Fuller (Headteacher)

Cashless Catering...

We are pleased to inform you that ParentPay is now live and available for parents to use; all previous payments have been updated.

Please note that if a child is 'topping up' on the reval machine it does NOT accept 5p coins.

Student Ill Health...

Reminder – If your child is unwell and not attending school, please remember to telephone the absence line on 01454 862395 no later than 08:40 each morning they are absent. If you are aware that they are going to be absent from school for a period of time, please make this very clear when telephoning.

Thank you.

Music Department - date for the diary...

Weds 5 April Singers concert 6:30pm St Augustine's Church, Downend.

All parents are welcome to come and hear the wonderful singers of Downend School. The concert will feature several choirs, soloists, vocal duets etc. Parents are welcome to join us even if their child is not taking part. Admission is free, retiring collection at the end.

This concert is being recorded professionally as the first part of our Downend School CD recording.

More details from Mrs Elderton, Head of Music eld@downend.com

Downend Theatre Company...

Downend School has recently started a Theatre Group after school. This includes both aspects of drama; the technical side (sound, lighting, props) and the acting side. We have been working on separate performances, organised completely by students which was performed on the 8th of February 3.30-6pm.

The club invites all ages of children to join in and help with this amazing group. Even if you're the shy one, you can still take part because there's a backstage crew. The actors can help out the backstage by giving their ideas to them and they can produce them into what the actors had imagined. The backstage can always bring their ideas into the script as well.

By Amy Moore and Daisy Gibbons Year 8

World Book Day (2017 Theme Sci Fi) March 2nd...

Please find below a short overview...

- **£1 Non School uniform** - Donations will be collected during tutor time on the day
- **Science Fiction Theme** - with encouraged Sci Fi themed dress code - optional fun!
- **Book Swamp** - all week in the innovations centre
- **Cake sale** - on WBD in the innovations Centre
- **Disco Sci Fi** - on WBD in the innovations Centre
- **Ks3 Activities** - Tutor Time discussions...
- **Puzzles, games & quizzes** - on WBD in the Library/ Reading Room

Donation from the non uniform day will be going to support our chosen World Book Day Charity...

Afrikaya owns a plot of land in New Yundum, The Gambia and is raising money to continue building and furnishing a nursery school to provide education for children age 3 - 7 who would otherwise struggle to receive education.

A bore hole, with solar powered pumping mechanism has been installed giving the school access to clean water. The toilet block and 3 classrooms are complete and furnished. Solar power has been installed to provide electricity for 2 of the rooms.

The school opened its doors on 5 January 2015. The school garden will provide food for the children.

Still to do: complete 1 more classroom; complete the build of the medical centre, admin block and kitchen area; provide solar power for the whole school.

Engine Shed Event...

Year 9 Downend students working with our Premium Partners took part in a fantastic event at The Engine Shed. Housed in Brunel's original station, (dating back to 1841, the earliest station in the World) the Engine Shed houses a number of 'Components' that together make an exciting hub for activity where entrepreneurs, business leaders, academics, students and corporates can collaborate, inspire and be inspired, enable and be enabled.

The students took part in a number of sessions designed to broaden their horizon's and show them the many possibilities that are available in The South West.

This included software and programming, digital and creative industries and a talk from a local entrepreneur.

www.engine-shed.co.uk



War hammer prepare for battle...

Warhammer and model making club has been learning the intricate rules of battle craft and working in teams to develop strategies.

We have building up our models and creating teams to compete in the coming league.



Holocaust Memorial Day...

On the 27th of February there was short memorial at lunchtime in The Innovation Centre to remember the millions that have been killed through the ages.

Mr Smith followed this up with a series of assemblies' developed specifically to look at where 'hatred' and 'fear' of others comes from and each house watched this year's short film made by The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust that focussed in on our responsibilities as citizens to each other.

On the 17th March we will be welcoming Joanna Millan and hearing her testimony as a survivor of The Holocaust.

Chess Club...

Looking for new recruits! new to the game?, wanting to learn? we want you to get involved. Either have a chat to Mr smith (Nick) in The Innovation Centre or come along after school on a Monday.

Next term we be starting our new season of chess tournaments, look out for the posters.

Debate club...

Learning from the professional's, we have already met a local politician and will soon be meeting a trade union official and Judge. The students in the club have had the opportunity to ask questions, debate and find out about the skills needed in each role that include many of the same skills that make one a good debater. This includes confidence, good communication skills and critical thinking.

Films at Film Club...

The next season includes:

Captain Fantastic
When Marnie was there
Long Way North

Garden and Yurt build...

We are continuing with our Innovation Centre garden following on from our RHS project and are on the lookout for material's and help.

As part of the garden we are intending on building a yurt shelter that will be constructed over the Activity Days (YURTOPIA).

Sporting Success...

Please find attached the photograph of Emily Tipping 9C1, she has taken part in the Schools Regional championship for Judo and she fought really well and achieved a silver medal.



Sainsburys Active Kids...

Downend School are now collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. All vouchers collected are used to purchase equipment and essential supplies to support your sons and daughters in Food Technology. They can be handed to tutors, a DT member of staff or simply handed into student reception. Your support is very much appreciated.



DofE Bronze Key dates...

- DofE sessions every Thursday in iRooms
- Expedition fee to be paid by Friday 24th February
- Training day on Saturday 18th March 9.30am to 5pm
- Practice expedition on Saturday 29th to Sunday 30th April (The Cotswolds)
- Assessed expedition on Thursday 25th to Friday 26th May (Cheddar Gorge)
- Awards ceremony tbc - mid-July

If you cannot make the above dates please see me ASAP to discuss your options.

Downend School Concert Band Cheltenham...

We are very excited once again that Downend School Concert Band will be taking part in Music for Youth at Cheltenham Town Hall. This is happening on Saturday 4 March and all performers will, by now, have received letters detailing arrangements.

Some parents have already been in touch regarding this event. I've outlined some FAQ's below which will hopefully will answer queries you may have:

- Students who are taking part do not have to pay the £5 admission fee (payable on the door). This is just audience members.
- Students who are taking part in the event already through the South Glos music hub should make all their payments through the hub. They will be receiving details of this very soon via the music hub. Forms can be given to Mrs Elderton or to the hub staff.
- Students who are taking part just through Downend School should make payments as per the letter ie forms and cheques to be given to Mrs Elderton. Cheques payable to "Downend School".
- Parents who are wishing to travel by bus need to pay £5 per seat. If they are parents of hub participants, please pay the hub. If they are parents of non-hub participants, then payment needs to be made to Downend School.
- If your child is being taken up to Cheltenham by parents and parents don't intend to stay at the event, please let Mrs Elderton know via e-mail or in writing, so she can check with hub staff regarding supervision.
- Mrs Elderton is happy to answer any questions eld@downend.com

Mr Minkov's multifarious maths moment

(Submit your answers in person for solution satisfaction)

$$\square - \square = 10$$

How many ways can you
complete this puzzle?

What do you notice about
your answers?

Ways a Parent Can Help with **MATH**

1

Look for shapes and patterns in real life

2

Have your child measure ingredients for a recipe you are making

3

Ask your child to explain the math skills he or she is working on in school

4

When helping your child with homework or school assignments, ask him or her to explain how he or she got an answer

5

Help your child find some appropriate number and problem-solving games to play online

6

Play card or board games that involve counting or patterns

7

Ask your child to count change at the grocery store, or to estimate the total cost while you are shopping

8

Compare:

Which is the tallest?
...the heaviest?
...the longest?
...the smallest?
...the fastest?
...the hottest?
...the most expensive?

9

Have tools such as a ruler, a scale, a calculator, and a measuring tape available to use in your house

10

Encourage your child to track or graph scores or stats for a favorite sports team

11

Use dice or playing cards to make a game out of practicing math facts



Point out ways math is part of “real” life: money, computers, music, art, construction, cooking...

All around us, every day.