



Downend School

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Newsletter 2

November 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 2. We have had a very positive start to the academic year and you will be able to read about some of the projects our students have been involved in and are currently being planned in this newsletter.

I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support with a number of new initiatives not least the Supervision System and consistency of expectations in regard to school uniform, both of which have had a big impact across the school.

Mr Roberts
Headteacher

Governors News

Governors would like to welcome Martin Dean as the newly appointed Parent Governor.

Martin works for BAE Systems at Filton and has a child in Year 8 and one in Year 13.

The governors have already been busy this year with attending a training session on Stronger Governance as well as committee meetings where we have been discussing school improvement plans.

Sue Sheath
Chair of Governors

PTA Craft Fair

Our next event is the craft fair on Saturday 19 November 11.00am – 3.00pm in the school hall/gym.

Please do come along and support us, there are over 40 stalls including home-made crafts/cards/ cakes/ sweets, pottery, paintings, photography, cosmetics, books, tombola and a raffle. A great opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping!! Refreshments will be available on the day.

Mrs Jen Clark, Chair of PTA

Year 11 Progress and Review Meetings

These will take place on Tuesday 22 and Tuesday 29 November.

Every Year 11 student and their parents will be invited into school in the coming weeks to discuss current predictions based on the first Interim Review completed by staff at the end of Term 1.

With only 22 weeks remaining before GCSE summer exams begin, we are making it a priority to ensure parents and students are as fully informed as possible about the ways they can improve and the support that is available.

Every year 11 student should have received an invitation letter via their tutor.

Walking / Cycling to school

Now the clocks have gone back and the mornings and afternoons are darker, students need to ensure they can be seen whilst walking and cycling to and from school.

We also strongly recommend that students who do cycle to school wear a cycle helmet.

Year 11 Careers Day Friday 9 December

This year the Year 11 Careers Convention takes place on Friday 9 December. It is a wonderful opportunity for Year 11 students to consider their future career and aspirations. Many local businesses and organisations will be attending the event and this gives the students the opportunity to explore possible career paths and the educational route necessary to achieve them.

The day is split into sections with some students undergoing mock interviews with industrialists, all attending a careers convention in the Main Hall, and all being able to attend a workshop relevant to their career path.

Students are allowed to wear smart dress as if they were attending for interview and before the event will be compiling an up-to-date curriculum vitae and letter of application for a potential job role. This will be completed in tutor time but you may wish to ask your son/daughter to show you this.

We do have a range of organisations assisting us with this event but if you feel you could donate time to help with a workshop or a mock interview, please contact Mrs Jarrett on 01454 862300 to discuss.

Year 12 BTEC Business students are also being given the opportunity to develop their customer service skills as they will be performing the role of ambassador, assisting industrialists and providing the hospitality. It is also hoped that some Post 16 students will assist with the delivery of workshops.

Aid Ukraine

Our students and staff have supported this charity for many years by donating Christmas gift boxes filled with toys, stationery, hats and gloves. We collected a record 186 shoeboxes this year which will be distributed to orphanages and the poor in Zohrane, North West Ukraine. They bring an immense amount of happiness and support to those who receive them.

Year 8 students collected 83 in total. Tutor Group 7H collected 23 with Emma Hart donating 13 shoe boxes.

Thank you to everyone who supported this charity.

Contact Details

We would like to improve the way we communicate with you in the future by contacting you by email. This will enable us to send you important information as quickly and efficiently as possible.

All students should have received a letter requesting the email address that you wish to be contacted on. Please complete this letter and return to the school.

Alternatively you can email the school at: admin@downend.com

Please ensure you list your children/s full names and their tutor group if possible. If you do not have an email address please do let the school know.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council Christmas Lights

Two of our Year 11 students will be switching on the Christmas lights in Downend on Friday 25 November. The fun starts at 4.30pm with a Santa's Grotto, mince pies and Christmas Carols sung by local Primary Schools. The Salvation Army Band will also be supporting the event. The Christmas tree lights will be switched on by our students at 6.30pm.

School Uniform

Thank you for your continued support ensuring all students come to school wearing full school uniform. As the winter months approach it is very sensible for students to wear coats to and from school, this should take the form of an outdoor style coat. Hoodies, cardigans are not acceptable as coats or as alternatives to the school sweatshirt.

Achievements

Martha Kirby, Year 11 last week appeared in the stage production of 'The King and I' at The Bristol Hippodrome.

Peter, Ben and Ewan Joyce spent most of half term preparing and competing in the British Junior Championships in Manchester. Peter came 4th with a very close and competitive match with the number one seed. Ben played his best match of the tournament beating the number three/four seed and Ewan also played extremely well in what was a very strong competition. Peter has also gained his Level 1 coaching qualification enabling him to coach both adults and juniors.

Maddy Escott, Year 9 has been very successful in girl's rugby and is now playing at County level.

Jasmine Burt, also Year 9 recently received a medal for figure skating.

Film Club – Downend School Film Club was chosen to judge the children's animation section of the Encounters Film Festival. It took place in the LRC before half term. This gave our students the opportunity to watch work by cutting edge animators from across the world.

Encounters Film Festival takes place in Bristol from 16th – 20th November at Arnolfini, Watershed and Cube.

Under 16s Girls Rugby

Our students played against Exmouth College last week in the National Cup and won 3-2 after extra time. They are now through to the last 16 teams.

Important diary dates

Monday 14 November – PTA meeting in the LRC 6.30pm

Saturday 19 November – Craft Fair in the school hall 11.00am – 3.00pm

Tuesday 22 & Tuesday 29 November – Year 11 progress and review meetings

Thursday 1 December – Year 8 Aachen Trip to the Christmas markets departs

Friday 9 December – Year 11 Careers day

Monday 12 December – PTA meeting in the LRC 6.30pm

Wednesday 14 December – Christmas Concert – 6.30pm

Thursday 15 December – Year 13 Parent consultation evening

Friday 16 December – End of Term 2

Tuesday 3 January – Term 3 begins