



Downend School

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Newsletter 11

July 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

This is my last newsletter to you all. The last few weeks have been incredibly busy and like the last five years have passed really quickly. I have enjoyed the time I have spent here at Downend School. The support I have had from staff and yourselves has been immense. Everyday I have been privileged to spend time with 1500 wonderful young people and I will miss them more than anything.

After 33 years as a teacher I am now looking forward to moving on to the next phase of my life. I will become a Grandma for the first time in November so I expect that will keep me very busy!

It has been a joy to spend time over the last few weeks with Mr Roberts and I know he will bring something very special to the school.

I wish Mr Roberts, students, staff and yourselves the very best.

Mrs Savage

Governors news

On behalf of all governors I would like to take this opportunity of writing to you at the end of the school year, which is the end of a chapter in the life of Downend School. Mrs Savage has been Headteacher for the last 5 years and in that time has made changes and improvements for the benefit of our students.

The school will develop further with the new Headteacher Mr Roberts who will take over from 1 September, however I believe he is hoping to be in school for the GCSE results day for Year 11 students in August.

The governors are very much looking forward to working with Mr Roberts together with the rest of the school community in the coming years and to see the school reach its goal of becoming outstanding.

Sue Sheath
Chair of Governors

Privacy notice

Please see the updated version of our Privacy Statement under the policies section of the school website.

Reminder

The last day of term for students will be Thursday 21 July and they will finish at an earlier time of **12.25pm**

Year 6 Transition Day

This was rescheduled to 7 July and went really well. Students and parents had the chance to meet the new headteacher as well as members of staff so hopefully this will prepare them for September.

Downend's Got Talent Final

We had a really exciting final on the 5th July. Eight acts performed and the results were as follows:

1st place Charece Anderson - Yr 9
2nd place - Van Cox- Durrant- Yr 8
3rd place - Gabbie Ward -Jefferies & Charlie Lovell - Yr 8

The prize, kindly donated by Channel 4 was tickets for T4 on the beach in Weston Super Mare.

Uniform

No doubt many of you will be buying new uniform over the holidays ready for September. It is really important that students adhere to our dress code. Expectations are very clear and are published on the website and in the prospectus. We do not wish to send students home because they do not meet our standards at the start of term 1.

The vast majority of our students ensure that they are wearing the correct uniform but there have been issues with a small number of students and in particular I would like to highlight the following;

- Hoodies should not be worn- only the school polo shirt and sweatshirt
- Skirts should be tailored and reasonable length (just above the knee)
- Leggings, jeans and tracksuit bottoms should not be worn in place of black trousers
- Black shoes – no boots or trainers

Thank you for your cooperation.

Examination results

Students will be able to collect their exam results from the P16 centre on the following dates between 10.00am - 12.00noon

AS & A Level – Thursday 18 August

GCSE – Thursday 25 August

If students wish a representative to collect them on their behalf, the representative will need to bring in proof of identification and a form of authorisation from the student (this is available to download from the website under exams). Any results not collected will be posted home second class.

Arrangements for the start of the new term in September

Wednesday 31 August – Y12 interviews and registration

Thursday 1 September – Inset day for years 7-11 inclusive and Y13 registration

Friday 2 September – Inset day for all students

Monday 5 September – Start of term 1 for Years 7-11 and induction day for Post 16 students

Tuesday 6 September – All students in school. P16 lessons begin

Year 11 ROA day

This is one event in the calendar that I really look forward to.

Students arrived in style and dressed to impress on Friday 15 July. We began with a minute's clap for Conor Hall to celebrate that this special young man was part of the current Year 11 at Downend School. I enjoyed shaking the hand of every student and wishing them well in whatever path they choose next.

We were treated to a performance by Sam Grant and Dominic Hawkins and our resident staff band.

I now look forward to seeing them in August for their examination results.

Changes to our Attendance Policy

From September we will not be authorising any absences during term time other than exceptional circumstances. The full policy is now available on the website along with further guidance from the local authority.

Girls Tag Rugby Team

There was a Tag Rugby Tournament at Cleve Rugby Club Wednesday 6th July. Two teams were entered and the A team came second overall! They all received medals for taking part.

Cleve RFC has a girls rugby team that train every Wednesday from 6.30 at Cleve RFC. All Welcome!