



Downend School

# Downend School Newsletter 10

June/July 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware the whole school community was extremely saddened by the death of one of our Year 11 students. Conor was a lovely young man and will be greatly missed by his family, friends and staff and students at Downend School.

Mrs Savage

## PTA news

The Downend School PTA hosted the Festival Cafe at the June 2011 Mangotsfield Festival where they sold cakes, baguettes, teas, coffees and strawberries & cream. They received numerous positive comments about the café, and the event was a huge success which resulted in them raising approximately £1,000 profit which will buy equipment for the school. The PTA would like to thank the following companies who kindly made donations and supported the event:

Sweet Art Cakes  
Kier Group  
Don Hayes Butchers - Staple Hill  
Greggs - Fishponds  
Tesco – Staplehill  
Co-op

Please see the gallery on the school website to view the photographs.

### Page Park – Armed Forces Day

Over £150 was raised at this event. The PTA sold cold drinks and sweets – unfortunately the weather was not on their side this year!

### Christmas Craft Fair

In the past this has been a very successful event and the PTA hope to continue this in 2011. The date for this year's fair is Saturday 19 November 11.00am – 3.00pm. If you would like to book a table at this event again please visit the PTA section of the school website to download a booking form. Tables cost £15.00 or £25.00 for two tables or contact Louise Williams on 01454 862393

[l.williams@downend.com](mailto:l.williams@downend.com)

## Industrial action 30 June 2011

The school will be closed to Years 7 and 10 inclusive and will be open to Year 12 students.

The music trip will take place as planned on Thursday 30 June.

**Please see the website for more details.**

## Year 6 Transition Day – Thursday 7 July

As you are aware this is the revised date for the new intake of students starting in September to spend a day at Downend School. There will be a meeting for parents at 6pm. Refreshments will be available on the evening.

Mr Roberts the new Headteacher will be meeting the students during the day and parents in the evening.

## **Pearson Teaching Awards 2011**

The Teaching Awards is an annual event where members of staff are nominated across the country to receive a 'thank you' by students, parents and carers or the wider community. Miss K Soper, Mr E Turner, Mr G Williams, Mr W Pearce and Mr I Campbell all received a nomination and a certificate.

## **News from the music department**

On Monday 20 June members of the Samba Band and Year 10 GCSE Music students had the opportunity to take part in a workshop with three Brazilian musicians, JP Courtney, Fabio Allman and Pepe Barcellos. JP is a well know performer and director of Brazilian music in the UK and is involved with projects all over the country as well as in Rio. He has performed for a number of years with Monobloco, one of the biggest acts in Brazil. Fabio Allman is one of the lead vocalists of Monobloco. Pepe Barcellos is a guitarist and singer.

Singers concert is on Wednesday 29 June 6.00pm

Gifted and Talented musicians will be visiting London on 30 June to watch 'Stomp' a multi-award winning show which has a universal language of rhythm, theatre, comedy and dance.

'Musicians in the Making' is a concert for beginners and will be on Wednesday 6 July at 6.00pm.

Parents/ carers can contact Mrs Elderton for more information.

## **Downend's Got Talent Final**

This has been rescheduled for Tuesday 5 July 6 – 8pm. There are eight brilliant acts all competing to win this years trophy. Tickets are now on sale from the finance office priced at £1.00each.

## **Bikeability Training**

Downend School will be hosting cycle training courses during the first week of the summer holidays.

Please see the website for further information on timings and booking a place.

# Achievements

**Ella Pratten, Year 9**, has successfully won the National Dance Category for Irish dancing at an all England regional dance finals in Paignton. Ella has also secured a place to go on and dance in London at the national finals to be held in August.

**Martha Kirby, Year 9**, is performing in a production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream coat at the Theatre Royal in Bath during June.

**Jessica Werrett, Year 8**, has recently been selected to play in an Under 15 girls county cricket fixture.

**Natasha Burden, Year 8**, took part in an Open Skating competition in Basingstoke by performing a routine to the Harry Potter theme tune.

**Nick Fairburn, Year 8**, came 5<sup>th</sup> in the National Judo Championships in his weight category in May.

**Elinor Winfield and Sophie Wells** have been selected to compete at this year's English Schools AA Track and Field Championships to be held in Gateshead in July. From a squad of 100 athletes they have made it through to be part of a team of 35 who will travel to Gateshead.

**Mollie Firth, Year 8**, made a fantastic cake version of The Matthew Boat for her history homework.

**French Exchange** – the recent French exchange has received much interest and Downend School now has a link with a French newspaper. We will keep you posted on further news and developments.

**Engineering students** will be taking part in the Kingswood Partnership Engineering Challenge at the end of June where they will be competing against other local Secondary Schools. They will design, build and race gas powered dragsters. We are looking to retain the title and will keep you posted!!

**Downend Engineering Department** also has the privilege of being chosen as a pilot scheme alongside the MOD where graduate apprentices will come into school to take part in activities with our students to widen their knowledge base.

**Year 10**, Work Experience week takes place for on 11 July. Placements include Aardman Animations, Films at 39, Bristol Evening Post, Bristol Crown Court, BMW to name a few.

**Modern Foreign Language Department** collected an award on the 24 May at The Guildhall in Bath for winning first prize in a national competition for innovative teaching. This is a result of the work the department have developed on story making. A submission has now been made for the Mary Glasgow Award.

**Undercover Rock in Bristol** – A number of Year 10 students have undertaken a Level 2 climbing award at St Werburgh's Climbing Centre in Bristol.

# Important Diary Dates

Tuesday 5 July – Downend’s Got Talent Final 6 – 8pm

Wednesday 6 July – ‘Musicians in the making’ 6.00pm

Thursday 7 July – Year 6 transition day

Monday 11 July – PTA meeting 6.30pm LRC

**Thursday 21 July – this is the last day for students and they will finish at 12.25**

Friday 22 July – INSET Day

## **Examination results**

Thursday 18 August - AS and A Level

Thursday 25 August - GCSE

Thursday 1 September – INSET day for **Years 7-11**

Friday 2 September – INSET day for **Years 7-11**

Thursday 1 September – Post 16 registration and induction

Friday 2 September – Post 16 registration and induction

Monday 5 September – Start of Term 1 for Years 7-11