



Downend School

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## Newsletter 6

February 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

We are just coming to the end of Term 3 and I thought I would update you on news from Downend School.

As you know I will be leaving at the end of August and I wanted to thank you for the kind words and good wishes that I have already received. For the past five years I have had the pleasure of being amongst wonderful students and committed and dedicated staff. I know the Governors have the interest of the whole school community as a priority throughout the process of recruiting a new Headteacher.

Mrs Savage

### **Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening**

This will be on Thursday 3 March 3.30pm – 6.00pm. It is extremely important for Parents/ Carers to attend. Please ensure students book appointments with their subject teachers/ tutors.

### **Post 16 Trip - Washington and New York**

Miss Morgan and Mr Fowle will be taking a group of Post 16 students to the USA on an educational visit departing on Thursday 17 February. They will visit The White House Visitor Centre, Franklin D Roosevelt Memorial, Rockefeller Centre, Times Square, Central Park Zoo, Ground Zero Museum Workshop and taking the Staten Island Ferry to The Statue of Liberty.

### **Concorde Book Award Ceremony**

We are very excited to announce that the Concorde Book Award Ceremony is to be held at Downend School on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March between 4.00 pm and 5.30 pm. The winner of the Concorde Book Award will be announced in front of distinguished guests and students representing schools from South Gloucestershire. The Guest of Honour will be the celebrated children's author Chris Higgins.

### **Stages Dance Club**

A group of Year 11 dance students have been selected to represent Downend School in the Stages Dance Festival 2011 in Bristol. Our students have choreographed the dance and have designed their Army themed costumes to correspond with their snappy, edgy collaboration of urban street dance.

Tickets are available directly from the Colston Hall Box Office. The students are performing on Friday 4th March at 7:00pm.

### **Visit to Bath University Sports Village**

This week the following Key Stage 3 students have the opportunity to visit the elite sports facilities at Bath University along with students from other local Secondary schools - Molly Winstone, Joe Hillard, Jaid Wiltshire, Amelia Smith, Ellie Winfield and Ben Joyce.

This will offer them an insight into the life of a professional athlete, as well as giving information on training and the opportunity to experience new sports. The day will include an introduction to Team Bath, tour of the facilities, meeting sporting champions and taking part in Polo Vault, Judo, Rock-it Ball and a strength and conditioning workshop.

## Governor's News

The governors would like to welcome two new members to our Governing Body. They are Chris Millett and Steven Jefferies who have both filled Local Authority vacancies and between them bring experience in education and of previously being on a Governing Body.

Following the resignation of Mrs Savage the governors have been putting in place procedures to appoint a new Headteacher for September and an advert will be placed in the Times Education Supplement after half term. As soon as an appointment is made the governors will inform staff, parents, carers and students.

## Creative & Media Diploma

Five of our Creative and Media diploma students along with students from Mangotsfield and Kingsfield Schools went to London to watch a production of Warhorse. They also visited Covent Garden and will be using some of their experiences for their next project.

## PTA – Forthcoming Events

PLANT SALE - Saturday 14 May 10.00-12.00 to be held at Downend School. Refreshments will be available throughout the morning. We would welcome donations of plants, flowers, seedlings from Thursday 12 May. Please bring into main reception. Thank you.

MANGOTSFIELD FESTIVAL - Saturday 11 June. The PTA has the fantastic opportunity to run the festival café at this event. We would welcome extra volunteers for this event on the day before and on the day, even if you can only spare an hour it will be appreciated. A sub committee has been set up for this event. Further details will follow but if you can help please contact Jen Clark [jenclark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenclark@hotmail.co.uk)

PAGE PARK – Saturday 25 June. We will be running a stall and further details will follow.

BRISTOL10K run – Sunday 14 May. The PTA has contributed to the entrance fee for GCSE Sports students to enable them to take part at this event.

**Next PTA meeting is Monday 14 March 6.30pm in the LRC. Everyone is welcome.**

## Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January

During the lunch break on 27 January students had the opportunity to remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust by watching a short film for young people and some poetry readings.

The after school **Film Club** showed *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*. There was also a showing of the film *Innocent Voices* at the Film Club on Monday 24 January

## Primary School Links

We have a number of links with our local primary schools and the PE department has recently been actively involved.

Year 10 girls have been teaching the pupils at Stanbridge Primary School how to play netball.

Year 10 BTEC Sports students helped to organise and lead a New Age Curling and Boccia Festival at Blackhorse Primary School on 3 February.

Year 11 BTEC students have been coaching Tag Rugby to Year 2 pupils from Bromley Heath Infants, St Augustine's Catholic Primary School and Christchurch Infants School.

**Year 9 Options** - Students will have the opportunity to discuss their choices with their tutors during tutor time. The deadline for choices to be made is **Tuesday 1 March**.

## Active Kids Vouchers

Once again we are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. Please post your vouchers in the box at main reception. Thank you

# Achievements/Events

**Post 16 Football.** Our Under 18 boys' football team reached the last 16 of the ESFA National Trophy. The boys played Millfield School but unfortunately were beaten. Congratulations to them for getting so far in the competition.

The team also played St Brendan's Sixth Form College and won 2-1

**Molly Winstone, Year 9** has become the British Novice Champion in Wrestling 2011. On Sunday 23 January Molly was entered into the British Novice championships in Manchester where she won a gold medal. She has also been selected to train in London with the English development coach Anatolii Kharytoniuk who is a former world champion and would like to go on to compete in the Olympics. See the website for the press release and BBC Points West report.

**Ellie Winfield, Year 9** represented Avon Schools in the South West Athletics Finals in Torbay on 6 February. Ellie won a gold medal in the U15 girls relay and the Avon Team as a whole won the competition and will compete in the national finals in Birmingham on 3 April.

**Thomas Pooler, Year 7** has qualified to take part in the Gloucester County Swimming Championships (Gloucester Blocks) during February. Thomas qualified with a time of 36.49sec for the 50m freestyle.

## **Year 10 Boys, South Gloucestershire Basketball Tournament**

Well done to the boys who finished runners up in this tournament, they were only two points away from the winners. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition.

## **Avon Schools Cross Country Championships**

Ewan Joyce, Adam Brooks, Georgia Taylor, Chris White, Dan Parker and Tyrone James all took part in the above event in January competing against other South Gloucestershire Schools.

## **The South Gloucestershire and Bristol Football season has started, results as follows:**

### **Downend v Abbeywood**

Year 7 won 14-0

Year 8 drew 3-3

Year 9 Game to Abbeywood

Year 10 drew 0-0

Year 11 lost 1-0

### **Downend v Bristol Metropolitan**

Year 7 won 11-1

Year 8 drew 1-1

Year 9 won 8-3

Year 10 won 4-3

Year 11 Game to Downend

## **Gifted & Talented visit to Cambridge University**

Ten of our Year 10 students had an insight into University life at Cambridge. Lucy Kenyon, Elliott Hastings, Alex Wright, Danielle Morse, Peter Berndes, Angharad Thomas, Sam Bracey, Jack Hibbs, Poppy Sheppard and Nicole Mildon also attended 2 lectures about linguistics and the fuzzy universe (quantum physics). The students were a real credit to our school and enjoyed the whole experience.

## **Business Challenge Day at University of West of England**

On 8 February a group of Business students (mainly Year 12) took part in a business challenge day at UWE organised by ICAEW (accountants). Over 200 students from other schools attended. They had to prepare a review of a fictitious company and give a presentation to the audience and the judging panel of local business people and chartered accountants. Although our students didn't win they produced professional and well written presentations and enjoyed the experience.

**Please continue to let us know of students' achievements outside school.**

# Important Diary Dates

Thursday 17 February – Post 16 trip to Washington DC and New York departs

Friday 18 February – End of Term 3

Monday 28 February – INSET day

**Tuesday 1 March – Term 4 begins for students**

Tuesday 1 March – Deadline for Year 9 options choices

Thursday 3 March – Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening

Tuesday 8 March – Revision support evening for Year 10&11 students

Monday 14 March – PTA meeting in the LRC 6.30pm

Wednesday 16 March – Concorde Book Awards

Thursday 24 March – Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening

Tuesday 5 April – Downend's Got Talent Semi Final

Wednesday 6 April – Spring Concert

Thursday 7 April – End of Term 4 for Students

**Friday 8 April - INSET day**

**Exams for some students will take place Tuesday 1 March – Friday 11 March. All students due to sit exams have been issued with their timetables. Please ensure students arrive fully equipped and prepared for exams.**