

Downs View Newsletter

Friday 17th May 2024

General Information Newsletter: No.4



Term Dates 2023/2024

Summer Term

15th April-19th July

Half Term

27th May-31st May

INSETS

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term

4th Sept-20th Dec

Spring Term

6th Jan-4th April

Summer Term

22nd April-22nd July

Events

DVLC RSE Coffee Morning
Tuesday 21st May @ 09.30

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and have enjoyed the recent sunshine. As the weather is warming up, please can we remind you to please send in a water bottle with your child and also to ensure that sun cream is applied before your child comes into school in the morning, or that you send some sun cream into school that can be applied during the day.

Next term we will be trailing the After School Club for pupils in Year 3 and above based on the school site. Those eligible have already been sent a letter about this. Laura Strong will be the Play Leader for the club and a number of other Downs View Staff will be joining her as Play Workers. I will keep you updated on the progress of the club following the trial period. The new classroom have really progressed over this term and is well on track for completion at the end of the summer term.

We recently held interviews for the Apprentice Teacher programme and are pleased to announce that Lisa Pignatti from DVLS and Faye Hudspith from DVS were successful. They will be starting their new roles after half term. Congratulations to both of them.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the half term break.

Best wishes

Vanessa



Absence From School/College

If your child is going to be absent from school/college please call on the numbers below and leave a voicemail before 8am. It is important that you do this so that we can arrange safe staffing levels for every class.

School—01273 601680

Link College—01273 507719

Life Skills - 01273 551028

The Friends of Downs View update is at the end of this newsletter

Downs View School
Warren Road
Woodingdean
BN2 6BB

Tel: 01273 601680

Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Downs View School

Hello everyone,

What a colourful end we had to the second half of the Spring Term, with the Spring Celebrations in classes and on the school site. All the children had an egg-cellent time and the Holi Colour run was also very popular.

We hope you enjoyed celebrating Spring over the Easter break! Eid Mubarak to all of our Muslim families. It would be lovely if you are able to send a favourite photo from your family celebrations to share in school. Please direct to NicolaLauterbach@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

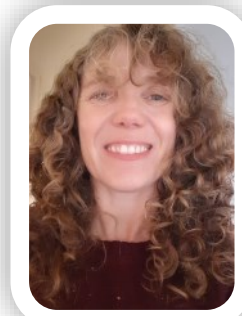
On return to school five sets of parents completed a five week Emotion Coaching course with a BHISS Educational Psychologist. I've had very good feedback, not only about the course content, but also about the connections they have made as parents. If you would like to have access to the Emotion Coaching videos please visit this website.

<https://www.emotioncoachinguk.com/resources-for-professionals-parents-carers>

The Foundation Primary classes of Badgers, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Otters, Foxes and Cubs have started their topic of The Seaside whilst KS2 Primary classes of Hedgehogs, Owls, Rabbits, Robins, Squirrels, and Bears have a Magic topic. I've already seen lots of children engaged in fantastic activities across Primary.

Best wishes

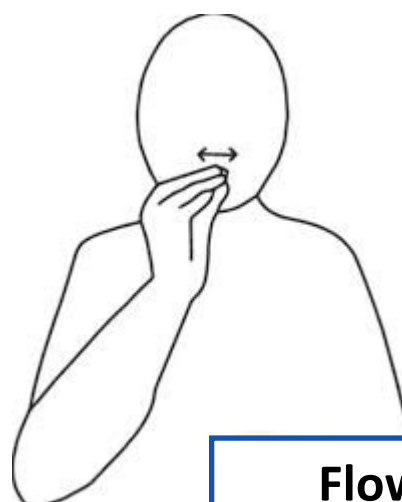
Sarah



Makaton Signs

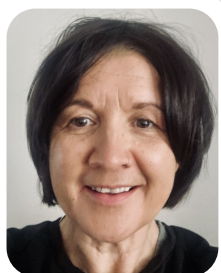


Spring



Flower

Downs View School



Hello all

Welcome to the summer term, and hopefully the weather will feel more like summer soon.

This term for secondary our topic is 'Awe and Wonder' with the students learning all about our amazing planet and all who live there.

We continue to have a focus on dental care and are supporting a project led by The Special Care Dental Service is to run 2 parent oral health training sessions on the 7th and 21st June, for more information see the flyer sent out on Ping.

It was great to see so many of you at our Spring parade with all enjoying the samba band , games and having fun with the Holi paint! This term the children will have many sporting activities with some classes swimming at St Lukes, joining in a tennis program, attending Discoverability cricket day, hiking on the Downs, taking part in Sports Leaders with our students from the Link College and culminating in our parent/carer event which this term is our annual Sports Day , 29th June , more information to follow but there will be a parent/carer and sibling race so get your trainers ready!

Those whose children are supported by Seaside View can also take advantage of a range of online workshops, including,

- Supporting children with demand avoidance
- Supporting children with anxiety
- Supporting children with repetitive, rigid and restrictive behaviours
- Building positive bonds and boundaries
- Understanding selective eating and managing mealtimes

The link has been sent out on Ping.

At the end of the term some of our Y10 students will be moving on to DVLC and our Y11 students are moving on to other colleges, including GBMeT and Brinsbury. To celebrate their achievements we will be holding Celebration assemblies on the morning of 10th July, followed by end of term discos!

It was nice to see some of you at the recent parent/carer meeting.

Take Care, Jackie



Colour Run and World Book Day



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Downs View School



Tree Planting

The children enjoyed working with Brighton Permaculture to plant our Orchard.



Downs View Link College

Hi all,

Welcome to the Summer Term. Everyone at DVLC really enjoyed the recent art day. The theme was leaves and the students were able to participate by choosing the shape and colour of their leaf and then create their print.

The Fab Cafe has been busy with visitors over the last few weeks. We have welcomed pupils from Downs View School and Hill Park School as well as the classes from around college. Well done to the students doing their work experience in the cafe. I wanted to talk about our weekly assemblies too, as we all really enjoy coming together on a Friday afternoon to celebrate another week of college. The students like to find out about what has been happening in the different classes around college. We heard about how Y11 had been to Pizza Express and how the students in Room 8 were enjoying the new swing in the garden.

We are all looking forward to a busy term and hopefully plenty of sunshine.

Best wishes

Juliet



Art day photos



Downs View Link College

News from Link College



Year 14 Car Washing: As part of Year 14s work experience opportunities; the students run a car washing social enterprise. They wash staff cars and the money raised goes towards their Prom in July.



Year 14 sports leaders: After several months of training and practising; Year 14 students are running weekly PE lessons for Rabbits Class. For the Year 14 students it really boosts their confidence, self esteem and leadership skills and children at the school love all the activities and fun games.



Sports morning for Link College students run by Varndean College students: Varndean College also run a sports leaders programme. On the 1st May 8 students delivered a morning of sport activities for the students at Link College at Varndean College. It was a fun and rewarding experience for both the Varndean and Link College students.

Downs View Life Skills College

Dear learners, parents and carers,

The summer term has arrived and we have started to deliver art workshops by external artists. Learners are taking part in a multitude of activities this month to develop their life skills such as collaboration, choice-making, self-regulation and problem solving through art. They have already participated in a Brazilian music band and a dance workshop lead by an adult with learning disabilities. Learners are preparing their final art pieces and will be presenting them in the Open House as part of Brighton Fridge festival to which you are all invited on 22nd and 23rd of May between 13:30 and 15:00. Their Art Awards portfolios are looking fantastic!



We have continued our partnership with Scope. Learners have produced different pieces of art that are part of a bigger mural at the new Scope shop on London Road. We participated in the big opening and Scope was so impressed that they donated some funds for our community garden project. Other events included the alumni reunion and the Spring Fair, both with a very high turn out! We have also been very excited to welcome the Link College pupils to events, these pupils will join the Life Skills College in September. These visits play a major role as part of their transition program.

Learners have also been working on their final portfolio projects as part of their NOCN qualifications. For example, reflecting on their work experiences, making meaningful choices within their routines and being part of community and college events by developing their understanding and undertaking household tasks. This includes making a simple meal. I am very impressed with their progress, well done everyone! Our leavers have started their own transitions to their various future placements, these include Ambito, Grace Eyre and Team Domenica. They are also looking forward to working closely with the supported employment team.

One of our learners has been using their specialist-walker to walk 1 km over the term to raise funds for the college. I am very grateful for all the kind donations and I am so proud of him, he has raised over £1200!

To sum up, I would like to thank all staff for their enthusiasm consistently observed in teaching and learning, but also in their involvement and support within the wide range of events learners participate in.
warm regards, Raul

Downs View Life Skills College

Evan Brown (Room 6 DVLSC) has walked 1 km in his walker to raise funds for the Life Skills College. Over the month of April, he has walked laps in his walker each morning totalling 1 km, with support from all his friends and staff at college. He has raised a total of £1235.00 via a Just Giving Page which his mum Tammy set up. The money will go towards building an inclusive pathway through the community garden which will be built over the coming months.

You can also sponsor Evan. Please find the details at the end of the newsletter. It has also been sent out via Ping.



Downs View Life Skills College
7 Old London Road
Patcham
BN1 8XR

Tel: 01273 551028
Email: DVLSC-ADMIN@dvpsc.schmail.uk

Downs View School Governors' Update

Governor News

As well as our regular Governors' meetings, and our presence at school events and visits, around five times a year we have a Full Governing Board (FGB). This is where major school plans and decisions are discussed and ratified. The first FGB of the year took place on 26th February. After a 'Preparation for Adulthood' presentation, which was also given to staff at the February inset day, the governors discussed student independence, and the importance of engaging families and the local community to help our students gain this outside of school. We know that this is a topic that weighs heavily on the minds of parents of our older students in particular, and we want to assure you that this is always a focus for staff and governors alike.

We also discussed the draft school budget for next year (2024-2025) and this budget will be confirmed at our next FGB meeting on 13th May.

Changes to our Governing Body

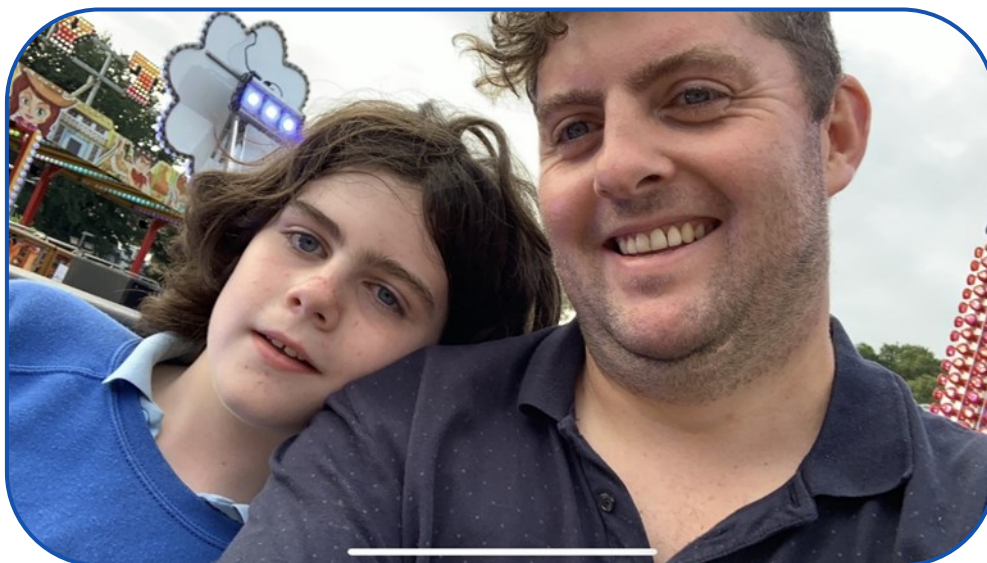
As with any Governing Board, there are regular changes in order to ensure that the school's governors can bring fresh ideas and carry the necessary expertise to support the school. We have recently welcomed a new staff governor, Chris Fisher, who works as a teacher at Downs View School.

One of our co-opted Governors, Virginia Monteoliva, recently stepped down after four years as a Governor. A paediatrician by trade, Virginia's skills and experience were invaluable, and we thank her for her contribution to the Board and to Downs View, and wish her well for the future.

We currently have two vacancies for co-opted governors at our school. Co-opted governors are often community-based governors - these could include local professionals, parents or grandparents or other family members who have an interest in the local community and the school. Could this be you? If you would like to be a governor, there are no specific qualifications or requirements for the role, you just need to be over 18, enthusiastic, and interested in the success of Downs View School. Every governing board needs a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience. If you feel you have something to give to the Downs View community and are interested in learning more, please contact our Clerk to the Governing Board, Michelle McCann (michellemccann@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk).

Downs View School Governors' Update

Meet parent governor Sean Davies



This month we'd like to introduce you to one of our parent governors, Sean Davies. Sean has been a Parent Governor since the start of the school year. He grew up on a council estate in Woodingdean, attended the adjacent Woodingdean Primary School, and is really happy to add to our diverse group of governors. His son Freddie has attended Downs View since 2018. Freddie was in a dark place for a long time in his early childhood, suffering badly in mainstream schooling. However, since his ASC diagnosis and his enrolment at Downs View he has gone from strength to strength. Sean thinks that it is brilliant to be able to give back to the school that has done so much for his beautiful boy and support the staff that have made that possible. He added that it's great to be involved with the hard work that happens behind the scenes to make our school run so effectively.

We welcome Sean to the Downs View community.

Friends of Downs View - Events Update

10K Run

Huge congratulations and heartfelt thanks to our runners who did us and themselves proud on 7th April. So far, over £2000 has been raised from their fantastic efforts and more may come in yet. What an achievement! Thank you so much.

Summer Fun Day - Saturday 29th June, 1-4pm, Woodingdean site.

Keep the date free for our fantastic family event to round off the school year! All DV families from across the sites are welcome. There will be music, a raffle, cake stall and other attractions too, plus food and refreshments. More details to follow and how you can help make the day amazing!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Your support really does make a difference and allows us to keep providing fantastic equipment and resources. Thank you.

Lisa Burgess, Friends of Downs View



Scan me!



I'm Evan, I attend a special needs college for young people aged 19-25 years. Over the next two months I am going to walk 1km to raise money for my college. I will walk this using my walker each morning around the playground over the months of April and May.

Any donation would be greatly appreciated :)

Thank you, Evan x

