



Downs Matters

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNS SCHOOL

AUTUMN TERM 2010



The Downs - Home and Away

It has been a busy first half of term at The Downs. As well as the usual helter skelter of lessons, matches, rehearsals and the like, many of the pupils have been on trips out of school to extend their learning. We have also been pleased to welcome some guests to the school to share our wonderful woodlands as well as a former pupil to be "Headmaster for the Day". Inside is just a taste of the sport, the music and all the other wealth of activity which makes up The Downs School.



The Normandy Beaches



A party of thirty children enjoyed a very interesting four days exploring the Normandy Beaches early in October. The fantastic weather made it difficult to imagine the horror of the Allied invasion of June 5th 1944. Nevertheless much was gained by meeting Madame Goudote, a survivor of the French Resistance, and seeing at first hand many remnants of the battle. Pegasus Bridge, the Longues Battery, and the 360 Cinema at Arromanches proved hugely popular amongst the group. The excellent Bayeux Tapestry provoked much curiosity and it was interesting to compare it to the wonderful embroidery of Operation Overlord in the Portsmouth Museum.

A very enjoyable and interesting trip was concluded with a competitive game of ten pin bowls in Caen!



Year 4 trip to Torquay

After a 2 hour mini bus journey we finally arrived at the centre, all really excited and looking forward to sharing rooms with our friends! For our activities, such as Aeroball, we were in 3 groups. Aeroball is like basketball and trampolining mixed together – it's brilliant!

In another activity we had to design a container to stop a water bomb from bursting when we dropped it from the balcony. None of us managed it!

Day Two dawned and after a cooked breakfast we went to our activities. The Zip wire was really exciting and we went really quickly. Some of us went backwards and some even got thrown out of the window by the instructor! It was brilliant!

Crate challenge was a really fun activity. You had to climb up a tower of crates which your friends were building. When the tower was 12 crates high it was kicked from underneath you and you hung in the air! We even got to belay for our friends! Abseiling was fun, although leaning out from the top of the tower was a bit scary. It rained really heavily during this activity so we were soaked!

It was a fantastic holiday and we all have some great memories. We would like to thank Mrs Payne, Mr Russell, Josh and Nettie for taking us.



Sacre Bleu! C'est le frère de Sheila, n'est ce pas?

During our European Day of Languages, the Dining Hall became a centre of international haute cuisine at lunch time. Some staff really went to town (or should that be a la ville?) on their outfits, while rumour has it that some pupils were even heard to ask for their tagliatelli in Italian!



Headmaster for the Day

In what has become an annual event, the DSA auctioned the right to be Headmaster for the Day again this past summer. Normally the honour falls to a current pupil but, just for a change, this term The Downs was pleased to welcome back former pupil and current parent Mr Paul Marchionne as our short term Headmaster.

Mr Marchionne spent the day reminiscing with, amongst others, Oliver Ryder the current captain of the 1st XV, regaling him no doubt with stories of past glories in two successive unbeaten seasons!

Paul had lunch with the current Heads of School, met our newest teacher and took Assembly where he made himself very popular with all and sundry by announcing an extended playtime at lunch break!



Year 7 Induction Camp



Every year, Year 7 pupils go away together during the early part of the year on a “bonding” exercise. This year we had two nights in the Mendips. Highlights of the first afternoon were Rosie’s birthday (she had brought a chocolate cake for us to share!) and our walk to Charter House (Alfie and Beckett got stuck in a bog!!) Day two involved caving. We all had to face up to our fears and

walk through some very dark places; but we made it alive!! Other activities included a game where we had to pull a cube apart and reassemble it and making an egg catapult.

A big thank you goes to Mr Mann, Mr Torbett and Vicky for giving us a great time.



Miss Mac

An interview by Headmaster for the Day, Mr Paul Marchionne.

Miss Mac’s real name is Miss Tracey McAlinden. She comes to The Downs in a much travelled way! After Queen’s University, Belfast, Miss Mac went to Australia, initially for a gap year. Such however was the attraction of the sun, the sea and the opportunities to sail yachts and catamarans (not to mention the red wine!) that an MEd at Sydney and a post at a school near Bondai Beach followed.

Returning to the UK, Miss Mac was able to fit in some Alpine skiing and some Croatian sailing as well as a teaching post in London for four years!

Since coming to Bristol this year to join the staff at The Downs, Miss Mac says that she has not missed The Tube one single bit but is enjoying all that Somerset has to offer!

Year 8 Geography Field Trip

As part of their work for Common Entrance and Scholarship examinations, Year 8 pupils carry out Geography coursework. This coursework involves investigating a geographical topic. This year, Year 8 carried out a river study on the River Tawe in the Brecon Beacons, in Wales. The aim of the project was to investigate the changes that occur along a river from its starting point (source) to

the end of its journey where it meets the sea (*mouth*). The River Tawe in the Brecon Beacons is ideal because it is very short and contains excellent features throughout. Having collected the data, Year 8 will be subsequently writing up their projects for submission to their chosen Senior Schools.





Music Exams

Congratulations to the following pupils who were successful in their Music Examinations.

Rosie Sewell	Grade 2	Treble Recorder	Distinction
Charlie Argent	Grade 4	Alto Saxophone	Pass
Caitling Wring	Grade 2	Piano	Merit
Nicole Marks	Grade 3	Piano	Pass
Jack Collard	Grade 1	Piano	Merit
Florence Wring	Grade 1	Piano	Pass
Tiana Fletcher	Grade 2	Piano	Pass
Beckett Charlton	Grade 3	Piano	Pass
Oscar Barnes	Grade 3	Piano	Pass
Tiana Fletcher	Grade 3	Singing	Merit
Charlie Argent	Grade 4	Piano	Merit
Rosie Sewell	Grade 3	Piano	Merit
Clarissa Turner	Grade 2	Flute	Merit
Max Levy	Grade 4	Clarinet	Pass
Harry Lock	Grade 5	Piano	Pass
Callum Farnden	Grade 1	Alto Saxophone	Distinction
Abigail Miller	Grade 3	Singing	Distinction
Mathilda Stowey	Grade 3	Singing	Merit
Ellen Cooke	Grade 2	Singing	Merit
Matthew Rees	Grade 1	Trumpet	Pass
Yannick Underwood	Grade 3	Piano	Pass
James Wood-Vine	Grade 1	Piano	Pass

The following were successful in their Music Theory Examinations.

Megan Bailey	Grade 1	Pass
Thomas Cain	Grade 1	Distinction
Matthew Cherry	Grade 1	Merit
Jack Collard	Grade 1	Distinction
Robert Farquhar	Grade 1	Distinction
Harry Holder	Grade 1	Pass
Harry Isaacs	Grade 1	Merit
James Dickerson	Grade 1	Merit
Tomas Levy	Grade 1	Distinction
James Marks	Grade 1	Distinction
Jack Mead	Grade 1	Pass
James Nightingale	Grade 1	Distinction
Daniel Pitt	Grade 1	Distinction
Declan Moran	Grade 1	Merit
Euan Livingstone	Grade 1	Merit
Jack Richardson	Grade 1	Merit
Benjamin Cantle	Grade 2	Merit
Beckett Charlton	Grade 2	Merit
Ellen Cooke	Grade 2	Merit
Freddie Mellor	Grade 2	Pass
Sacha Perera	Grade 2	Pass
Molly Spink	Grade 2	Merit
Vincent Baker	Grade 2	Pass
Charlie Chadwick	Grade 2	Pass
Fergus Cole	Grade 2	Pass
Alfie Light	Grade 2	Pass
Flynn Oliphant	Grade 2	Merit
Melissa Rowlands	Grade 2	Merit
Phoebe Sheppard	Grade 2	Merit
Katie Swan	Grade 3	Pass
Clarissa Turner	Grade 3	Pass
Maximilian Levy	Grade 3	Pass
Freddie Lock	Grade 3	Pass
Yannick Underwood	Grade 3	Pass
Charlie Argent	Grade 3	Merit
Rosie Sewell	Grade 3	Distinction
Callum Farnden	Grade 3	Merit
Scott Higgs	Grade 3	Merit
Chloe Wedlake	Grade 5	Merit

The following were successful in their Prep Tests

Robbie Rayfield – Piano
Katie Meredith – Clarinet

