

Downs View Newsletter

Friday 20th October 2023

General Information Newsletter: No.1



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



First day of Term
Monday 30th October

Term Dates

Autumn Term

6th Sept-15th Dec

Spring Term 2024

2nd Jan-28th March

Summer Term 2024

15th April-19th July

INSETS

Friday 23rd Feb 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and welcome to all our new families and young people—this half term seems to have flown by!

All the children and young people seem to be settling well in their classes after the summer and it has been lovely seeing all the things that all the sites have been doing over the term.

I am writing this after our Macmillan cake sale and playground opening which was a huge success. I am so pleased that so many of you were able to make it! I can't wait to find out how much money we have raised. I would also like to say thank you to the Friends for their donation towards the new playground—the pupils love it.

Also this term Donna Muzzall celebrated 50 years at Downs View. Donna joined us as a pupil 50 years ago and since leaving has volunteered and now works for us. The whole school got involved in the celebrations with a disco in the hall in the afternoon. Congratulations Donna.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 30th October.

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

Woodingdean food hub

One of our brilliant teaching assistants, Abi, has put us onto this community resource.

<https://www.woodingdeancommunitycentre.org/woodingdean-groups/woodingdean-food-hub/>

Currently it opens on Friday mornings 10-12 and is running from the youth centre on our door step.

Open to residents of Woodingdean, you pay £3.50 by card or cash to take away thirteen items, which would cost a lot more to buy in the shops.

Downs View School



Having just finished my first half term as Assistant Headteacher at Downs View, I'd just like to say how happy I am to be part of this wonderful community.

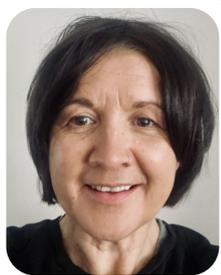
Firstly, it is lovely to reconnect with so many children and families that I have worked with in my previous role. Witnessing the progress the children have made is testament to the amazing support our skilled staff have delivered.

I have had the privilege to meet and get to know your fantastic children all around the school. Each day they make me smile! My main focus will be to work with the Primary classes and families, but I am also lucky to get to spend some time with our older pupils also.

The staff team here are super skilled, hardworking and put your children first. They have been very welcoming and supportive to me.

It has also been a pleasure to meet, talk to or support yourselves, in your very important role as parents and carers. I'll continue to work closely with the class teachers in offering support/advice/ referrals that will help you in supporting your families outside of the classroom. Please do not hesitate to contact me alongside the class teams if you do need further support.

Best wishes, Sarah



Hello all

What a busy term that was!

It has been lovely to welcome new staff and students and see all settle into life at Downs View. The children are all loving playing in the up-graded playground. Many of you were able to make the MacMillan cake sale on Friday 20th October—It was lovely to see you all. We also look forward to seeing you onsite next term for some festive celebrations.

Enjoy the half term holidays

Take Care

Jackie

Downs View Link College

Hi everyone,

We have had a busy start to the new academic year and everyone has settled well. All of the students have been focussing on their termly areas of learning targets. I have seen some great engagement and learning when I have visited classes over this half term so well done to all.

Autumn is here and some classes have been inspired in Art lessons by the Autumn colours and the change of season. Our Macmillan coffee morning took place on Friday 20th October- hopefully we have raised lots of money, we certainly enjoyed eating lots of delicious cakes.

Have a good half term holiday.

Best wishes, Juliet



Year 11 have settled into the Link College, like they have always been here. They have been making foods from around the world in life skills and used Italy as inspiration for making pizza that they enjoyed eating. They learnt about Picasso and used his style of art to draw a picture of themselves. We have been combining colours and numbers together in maths and using this to count to 100 and also using this to learn our timetables. Overall, a really positive start to the school year . Well done year 11!



Downs Link College
Surrenden Road
Brighton
BN1 7FP

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

Downs View Life Skills College

Dear learners, families and carers,

We have been delighted to see how new learners started college and settled within the college life. Social clubs during lunch time remain an essential part of the college life where learners keep improving their social skills while accessing an area of their interest in a relaxed environment. Learners can access different clubs such as Music, Arts, Film club, Games and Pool Club while interacting with their peers and others from different groups.



We had the first Speak Out sessions where learners from year 15 discussed the meaning of independence, their interests and choices. Year 17 learnt about choices after college and different jobs.

Some other highlights of the term has been celebrating black history month and learning of black british celebrities and writing poems as part of the Poetry day. Learners wrote versus and short poems about "being a prime minister for a day" and "the sea". We are fortunate to have a Radio podcast workshop in November where learners will be recording their creations. Learners also enjoyed accessing a paddle boarding session in Hove lagoon funded by the Marine Conservation Society and doing a taster session at Pizza Express as chefs for a day.

We are looking forward to hosting other external workshops after half term. This includes oral hygiene sessions, a bike hub workshop and a visit from the volunteering centre where learners will enhance their understanding of being a volunteer.

Parent/carer coffee mornings have started and it was nice to get to know the new parents, and discuss options after college with others. Our third session about pathways after DVLSC will be online via TEAMS on the 2nd of November at 12:00.

Have a nice half term, Raul



Room 6 from the Life Skills College went on a trip to Dobbies Garden centre to buy some items for gardening enrichment, which they enjoy taking part in each week. They had lots of fun looking, feeling, touching and smelling some wonderful sensory plants. They then headed to the cafe for a well earned snack and break. Finally, they were excited to have their photos taken in the Autumn Arch before heading back to college. At the end of the day in our 'What did you do at College today' session they shared their photos and experiences with their friends.

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Downs View School Governors' Update

The Governing Body of Downs View School comprises 14 parents, school staff, elected members from the local authority and the local community as well as the Executive Headteacher.

Our role (as set out by the Department for Education) is to support the school to provide the best possible education for the pupils and the three core functions are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its Money is well spent

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new co-chairs (since September) Ro St John and Jacqui Shepherd. Ro and Jacqui are very keen to work with Vanessa, her team and with parents, carers and families to ensure we can effectively support the continued excellent provision for our children and young people. You can find more information about the governors on the Downs View website and copies of minutes can be requested from the Clerk to the Governors. Contact details are below:

Clerk to Governors:

Michelle McCann : michellemccann@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Chairs:

Jacqui Shepherd : JaquiShepherd@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Ro St-John : RoStJohn@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk



FRIENDS OF **DOWNSVIEW SCHOOL & LINK COLLEGE**

Friends of Downs View

Welcome back everyone from the Friends of Downs View and an especially warm welcome to our new parent/carers and young people.

We are thrilled that the school playground complete with new equipment and an added wheelchair swing was ready for the start of term. As the charity that raises funds for the school and college, we were delighted to be able to give a large sum of money for this project, thanks to the generosity of DV families through past fundraising events.

There will be a Friends of Downs View meeting taking place on Wednesday 1st November at 8.00pm. This will take place via Zoom and the details will be sent out via Ping.

All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to know more about Friends of Downs View, please email :

info@friendsofdownsview.org.uk

Lisa Burgess, Chair of Friends of Downs View

EMAIL: friends@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk • www.friendsofdownsview.org.uk



Charity no: 1013621 • www.justgiving.com/FriendsofDownsViewSchool • www.facebook.com •

