

Downs View Newsletter

Friday 4th April 2025

General Information Newsletter: No.8



Term Dates 2024/2025

Summer Term

22 April—22 July

Half Term

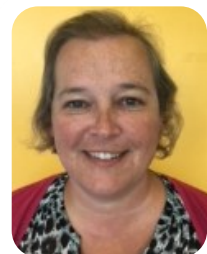
26—30 May

INSETS

Tuesday 6 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has at last started to get a bit better, just in time for our Spring Parade! Thank you to all the parents/carers who came along and joined in the festivities, it was a beautiful day and a lot of fun. I hope you enjoy the pictures in this newsletter.



The school is taking part in the TCS mini-London Marathon – if students would like to, they can take part in the 2-mile challenge from the 22nd April—2nd May. The 2 miles can be covered all at once or over lots of days and can be done walking, wheeling or running.

We will be raising money to upgrade the soft play area. Please share Gemma Sharp's [Just Giving](#) page with family and friends to celebrate the students' efforts and raise as much money as possible! Many thanks for your support.

We're delighted to have been awarded the Ernest Cook Trust's Outdoor Essentials grant of £500 to put towards outdoor wear so we can use our Forest School and lovely outdoor area all year round.

To all those that celebrated, we wish you a very happy Eid!

I hope you all have a restful easter, and that the Easter bunny visits...

Best wishes

Vanessa



This is a useful resource if you're looking for sensory and accessible spaces to take your child to this Easter:

[Sensory spaces across East Sussex - by East Sussex County Council](#)



Downs View School
Warren Road
Woodingdean
BN2 6BB

Tel: 01273 601680

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

Downs View School Primary + Secondary



Hello All,

This term the students continue to enjoy engaging with a range of activities focussed on our topic of Outdoor Explorers, with trips to Drusilla's and other local places of interest.

The children have been very sporty and enjoy the training sessions from local cricket club in table top cricket, tennis with our tennis coach Sam and we successfully took part in Brighton and Hove girls football tournament. Next term we will be attending the Discoverability Cricket day at Hove Cricket club which is always a big success.

Friday carousel is now embedded into the students week with a range of exciting activities and they can choose from gaming, music, junk modelling, ball skills, sing and sign, nail painting, jewellery making and foot spas! It is also a great opportunity for students to meet up with peers from other classes.

Some of our Key stage 4 students attended Your Future 25, a careers and transitions event in Burgess Hill. The students got to find out about a range of opportunities for when they finish school and college and also got some great freebies including pens, sensory toys and for the students most importantly snacks.

Thank you to all who attended our recent Parent/Carer engagement event and celebrated our Spring Parade, hopefully the paint has washed out of your clothes! Also a big thank you for students and staff from DVLSC who came along with their samba band. Our next whole school event will be on the 25th June which will be our annual Sports Day, so find your trainers and join in the parent/carers race.

When outdoors our students love using our bikes, which do need constant repair, if any parent/ carer could volunteer some time and can help keep our bikes in rideable condition please get in touch as would be greatly appreciated.

Take care all and enjoy the Easter holidays.

Jackie and Sarah

Deputy and Assistant Heads



Downs View School
Warren Road
Woodingdean
BN2 6BB

Tel: 01273 601680
Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Wildflower meadow for Warren Road?



The grassy area along the busy Warren Road is set to become a vibrant community wildflower meadow.

You can help make it happen!

The area is in front of (and separate from) the Lawn Memorial Cemetery and will include:

- A dedicated area for picnics and games
- Maintained pathways for easy and inclusive access
- Neat and defined edges for a managed look



What do you think?

We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas in a survey to help create a beautiful, welcoming space for everyone.

Survey open until Friday 2nd May.

How to access the survey:

- Scan the **QR code**
- Put this into your Web Browser:
bit.ly/meadowsurvey

- **Pick up a paper copy at:**

-Woodingdean Community Association Meeting, Wed 2nd April 7.15pm, Woodingdean Community Centre, BN2 6BA. (and ask questions too)

OR

-Councillor's Surgery, Sat April 12th 10.30-12 midday, Holy Cross Church, BN2 6BD.

Downs View Link College

Hi everyone,

We are at the end of our Spring Term and it has been a busy one at DVLC. The Student Council met this term and sustainability was on the agenda. Nick Sell, our sustainability lead, talked through what we have been focusing on at DVLC which is the Young Green Briton Award and the next stage of the Our City Our World Award.



There is also ongoing sustainability work in classes including recycling, minimising waste and enjoying the gardens and nature.

The students have been developing their skills on the 4 areas of the preparation for adulthood framework which are - Independence, Community Inclusion, Health and Work Experience. These areas will be included in the annual review paperwork so please do look out for them and ask questions if you need to.

Remember all parents are welcome to the Fab cafe on the last Tuesday of each half term.

I hope everyone enjoys the Spring sunshine and we look forward to seeing the students back after the holiday.

Best wishes,

Juliet



Downs Link College
Surrenden Road
Brighton
BN1 7FP

Tel: 01273 507719
Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Downs View Link College

Brighton Festival Film Unit

Brighton Festival will showcase a newly commissioned film featuring Create Music's Orchestra 360 (known as O360), an inclusive creative music group for children and young people with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities, on Monday 12 May. Link College's Mia has been part of the orchestra for a few years, and so have a huge number of Downs View children and young people. Join us at 6pm for a special screening of this film, with a panel discussion and joyful live music from the orchestra. [Book tickets here.](#)



STEM and Sustainability Day

This term some students were invited to a STEM and Sustainability day at Roedean School. They were treated to a talk from Dr Suzie Imber who is a renowned physicist and inspired by her adventures across the globe, as well as above it in astronaut training! After being treated to lunch with their student we were able to walk down to the newly formed Roedean Community Copse where we were all were able to plant a tree. It was a lovely day and we feel lucky to have been invited to help Roedean School forge ahead with this project and bump into old friends from Downsview.

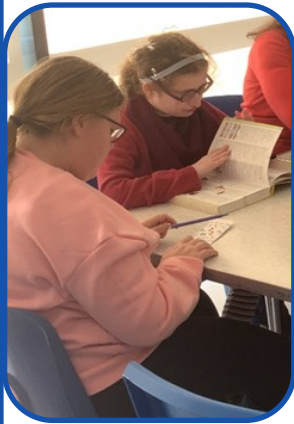


Downs Link College
Surrenden Road
Brighton
BN1 7FP

Tel: 01273 507719
Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Downs View Link College

Year 12



This term we celebrated World Book Day by all bringing in our favourite books to share and listening to a story read by Juliet, our Deputy Head.

Lots of us liked looking at non-fiction books and telling each other facts about our favourite topics, as well as being chased around college by Thing 1 and Thing 2!

Reading and collaboration is a focus for us, so Year 12 have been visiting the library regularly and choosing books that we would like to share with others.



Nature Art Session

Jo, from So Sussex, ran a nature art session for all the classes at Link College. The students were roller printing leaf patterns onto wood and fabric to make displays for the Elderflower Fields festival in May. All the students loved the art and the work produced was fantastic!!



Downs Link College
Surrenden Road
Brighton
BN1 7FP

Tel: 01273 507719
Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Downs View Life Skills College

Dear learners, parents and carers,

This term learners have engaged well with time and money skills. It is brilliant seeing how determined they are to get it right!

Our careers week was a great success! We had many guests and learners also visited a carers fair. They were very enthusiastic learning how to build a burger with Nandos; understanding the role by interacting with a doctor; enhancing their wellbeing skills with a yoga teacher and others.



We also celebrated World Book Day "Read your way" learning about books about Diversity and Respect. Learners enjoyed a range of storytelling and we had a writer, who told us the skills and joys of writing stories. Thank you to our Job coach for organising it!

The Life Skills Music Band joined for the second year the school Spring Parade. It was a fantastic event where learners enjoyed performing. Others are also taking part of dance leaders awards, we can't wait to see their skills and choreography!

We celebrated this term's achievements with our Spring Fair on Friday 28th March. Our special guest Amaze provided information about community activities and careers support. Thank you to everyone for all the effort and hard work that went into making, selling, setting out and clearing away, it was a lovely morning and our visitors had a great time. The scores are in and with IOU's we have raised a total of £175! Well done!

Our next Community Garden Event is today and everyone is excited to take part, continuing planting, wedding, discovering nature and working at the Life Skills community allotment.

Have a lovely holiday!

Kind regards,

Raul



2025

Alumni Reunion

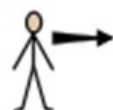
2025



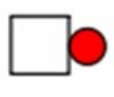
We



were



joined



by



past



learners



to celebrate



their



achievements



since



leaving

DVLS



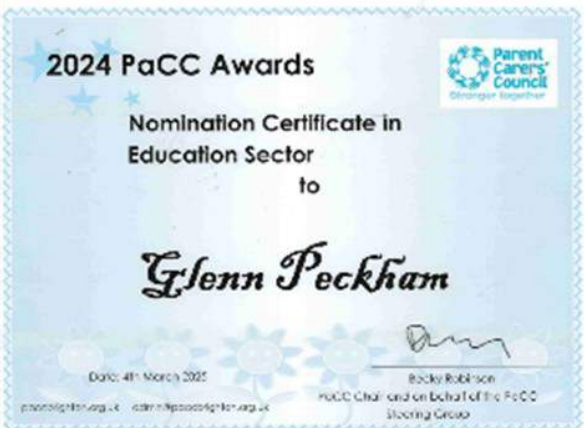
Very proud of our colleagues at DVLSC,
who received three nominations for PaCC
awards!



PaCC give a voice to families whose children have additional needs and /or disabilities.



“Raul and this team are dedicated, hardworking and supportive even though we have left now the reunion is wonderful and they battle on and innovate and encourage everyone.”



“Glenn is a marvellous supporter of unified rhythm as a volunteer. We met him at Downs View and he was unfailing in his kindness and care. Although my son has moved on, he see him at unified Rhythm and continues to be interested and devoted to supporting the young adults in care. We strongly feel he is an unsung hero!”

“Kim is the person you speak to when you call or the first person you see when you arrive at the college. She is always cheerful and friendly. She makes you feel so welcome and that she will do anything that she can you help you. She is very caring and sincere, and I'd like her to know that she's a star!
We all need a star in our lives to brighten our days.”



Downs View School Governors' Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this Spring Term, the Governors would like to take the opportunity to share a few updates with you and to wish you all the best for the upcoming Easter holidays.

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). The first FGB of 2025 took place on 24 February. The Deputy Head of the Link College gave a presentation on a recent training she had attended on Prevent for post 16 years. Prevent aims to support people susceptible to radicalisation and is embedded into safe-guarding practice. After the presentation governors were able to ask questions about how this affects our students.

We also discussed the draft school budget for next year (2025-2026) for which we are awaiting final figures from the Local Authority. This budget is due to be confirmed at our next FGB meeting on 12 May.

Changes to our Governing Body

We were pleased to welcome three new staff governors at the FGB.

- Arnie Strong is the Behaviour Lead at the school.
- Mike Waller works as a teacher at the Link College and
- Joe Parvin is a local doctor

Meet New Governor Joe Parvin

Joe is a local doctor in Brighton, with interests in community general practice, dermatology, mental health and emergency medicine. When he did his medical training, he designed a project and a website to teach Makaton to health professionals, so he has also felt strongly about educating and raising awareness of SEN in the wider community.

He used to work as a supply TA many years ago at Downs View school in Woodingdean and really enjoyed being part of the school community. He could see how much the staff invested in the wellbeing and futures of the learners and so, he is really happy to be back and part of the team once again in some way.

He has become a co-opted governor at Downs View because he feels passionate about extending his community role into education and special needs as he sees many young people and adults with SEN in his own day job. He has decided to become a governor so that he can understand more about how the school functions but also to have more awareness of how education supports our young people in Brighton communities.



Downs View School Governors' Update

Governor Visits

On 13 May Co-chairs Ro St John and Sue Dowling visited Link College for a curriculum visit focusing on the teaching, learning and assessment of English. They met with the Deputy Head Juliet Hudson and English Lead Claire Allen, as well as taking a learning walk during English groups in which all classes were accessing a reading lesson. All pupils were engaged with reading at a highly individual level adapted according to their needs. It was an interesting and productive morning where they noted how supportive staff were in engaging the students in a positive and proactive way using a broad range of strategies which were appropriate for all pupils.

Jacqui Shepherd carried out a safeguarding learning walk on the school site on 12 March with Deputy Head Jackie Hutchings. This involved observing the start to the school day and watching all the children come into class from the minibuses, as well as a brief tour of several classes to observe safeguarding practices. She also attended a meeting with the Deputy Safeguarding Leads for each site to discuss the annual safeguarding audit. This is the detailed document prepared by Jackie Hutchings as safeguarding lead and is constantly reviewed with DSLs with actions noted before final submission to the local authority before Easter. There was robust evidence against all the safeguarding criteria and the governors have great confidence in the school and college's safeguarding processes.



FRIENDS OF DOWNS VIEW SCHOOL & LINK COLLEGE

Friends of Downs View – A Big Thank You!

Our first playground play date of the year on Sunday 9th March was a great success! It was lovely to see so many families enjoying the playground and the weather was very kind to us. Your generous support of the cake sale raised £94! This amazing amount will go towards buying a new trike for the younger members of the school.

Many thanks to Vanessa Hickey and Jackie Hutchings for attending too.

Brighton 10k Run – Sunday 6th April

We have three participants this year and we wish them all the very best for Sunday. We know how hard they've been training and fundraising and we really appreciate their efforts. Thank you so much to all three of them.

Save the date!

When – **Saturday 28th June**

Time – **1-4pm**

Where – **Downs View School, Woodingdean**

Event – **Downs View Summer Fun Day**

Always a popular event, the Summer Fun Day will be held again this year out on the school field, bringing families together for a fun filled afternoon. There'll be a bouncy castle, cake stall, raffle, tombola, entertainment and more besides! Details to follow of how you can get involved and make the Summer Fun Day fantastic! So keep **Saturday 28th June** free!

Lisa Burgess, on behalf of Friends of Downs View



Downs View raised £398.17 through the Asda Cashpot for Schools.



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

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



£2,000 Target

£245 Raised so far by 8 donors



Mike Waller (Teacher of Year 12/13)

My Story

During lockdown I did a bit of running to help with my mental health and over the years have managed to find some consistency. I was working from a low (very unfit and overweight) base and had a long slow journey! Since that tough beginning, of not being able to run for 5mins without giving up to walk and, via a dalliance with some triathlon events and long bike rides, I managed to finish the Manchester marathon last year. I had an injury going into the event so it was a huge struggle to just finish and get across the line. Now I have signed up for the London marathon (April 27th) and want to give it another go, hopefully faring better this year!

Why Sense?

Towards the end of my time at university, I was fortunate enough to be invited along on a trip to Bulgaria. This trip was not a weekend away to discover the nightlife of Sofia(!), but rather a mission of outreach for some of the young people there. At the time of the trip there was a horrid culture in Bulgaria of some people discarding babies who were born with physical or mental disabilities. The charity, we worked with, collected these babies and raised them on the outskirts of Sofia. A significant portion of our trip was set aside to spend time at this orphanage with these disabled children and to deliver some donated clothes and necessities.

The impact of my time spent at the orphanage has stayed with me and I recently have found myself thinking and talking about it a great deal. When thinking about running another marathon and raising money for a charity - Sense was at the top of my list. They are lesser known but do amazing work for deaf and blind people, helping them to access some semblance of normality through various activities and events.

In 2025, lots of charities are doing amazing work for the less fortunate and lots of people are in turn doing some great things with the aim of raising money to support them. My ask is that you give what you can and support me and Sense in this endeavour. I am anxious to run 26.2 miles again as I can still remember the pain and have photos of the blisters! But I feel compelled to do it so that I can make a small difference to the life of a young person.

Thanks for reading and if you can give a few pounds then do use the QR code above or if easier pass cash directly to me at DVLC.

Mike