

Downs View Newsletter

Tuesday 22 July 2025

General Information Newsletter: No.10



Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term

8 September—19 December

Half Term

27—31 October

Spring Term

5 Jan—27 March

Summer Term

13 April—22 July

Inset Days

3,4,5 September

23 February

5 May

Dear parents and carers,

What a fantastic year we've had! It is lovely at this point in the year to see how all of our young people have developed and are ready for their next stage. I am very lucky to attend all of the graduations on every site so I get to see how the impact of all the staff over the years comes together to prepare students for these key transitions. This was also recognised in our Ofsted inspection and we are very proud to have maintained our Outstanding judgement at the school and Link College.

This outcome reflects the passion, hard work and teamwork that go into making our school the safe, inspiring and nurturing place it is today. I am sure you will join me in thanking all of our staff. I hope they all have a very well-deserved, restful and hopefully sunny break. We have a number of staff leaving to go onto further training or other roles. I wish them well for the future and would like to thank them for their commitment to Downs View.

A big thank you to all parents/carers for your support and importantly to our brilliant students who inspire us every day. Good luck to the students that are leaving us at the end of term.

Thank you to the Friends of Downs View for all you have done this year and for the fantastic fun day that was held recently. Thank you also to the parent/carer volunteers who helped make the day such a success.

Thank you to our Governors for all your support this year. We will be recruiting for a new parent governor in September, so if you think you might be interested then watch this space.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break, and we look forward to seeing our students back on **Monday 8th September**. We look forward to welcoming new starters!

We will continue striving to provide the best possible education and opportunities for all our children and young people, thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,
Vanessa



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

Downs View School
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Downs View School

Primary + Secondary



Hello,

I hope you have been enjoying the sunshine. It has been lovely to see the children having fun and learning in and out of the classrooms. We were so proud to show OFSTED at our recent inspection why our school is an amazing learning environment and how the children make progress across all areas.

This term students continue to enjoy engaging with a range of fun learning opportunities focussed on the topic of *Changing Climates* for our secondary students and *Dinosaurs* for our primary cohort.

Sporting activities continue with ongoing tennis, football tournaments, swimming (now the pool is back in action), some secondary classes attended the parallel youth games and this week some of our younger students are learning to ride balance bikes. The children's physical skills were showcased in our summer event Sports Day, there was an amazing turnout of friends and families. It has been great to see such a range of class engagement events that you have been invited to, from class celebration parties, planting, picnics, making bird feeders, drama games and class assemblies.

Thank you to the Friends of Downs View who organised the recent summer party, the tombola, raffle and bouncy castle were all big hits!

For those of you who have children that in the future may consider employment, please check out the presentation from our recent 'Life beyond school' assembly that is now on our website, under recent letters/newsletters. At the assembly we had a range of speakers including representatives from Brighton Met, Northbrook College, Plumpton, Sutton and District College.

This week it is time to say farewell to some of our older students who are leaving Downs View School. Our Year 10s as they move onto Downs View Link College, and our Year 11s who move on to other local colleges, we wish them all the best in the next stage of their education and preparation for adulthood. The leavers assembly will be on the 16th July at 10am for parents, carers and friends of our leavers.

Downs View School

We are also saying goodbye to the following staff - teachers Antigone, Rachel, who starts her maternity leave, and Chloe, who will be with us for a few weeks next term but then also starts maternity leave, we wish them and their families all the best for the future. We also say goodbye and thank you to the following Tas; Rosalie, Courtney, Amy, Maddy, Diane, Ella and Ian, and to our 3 psychology students Frankie, Kirsty and Rosie who have been on placement with us this year - all the best for your future careers. Finally, we want to congratulate our 2 teacher apprentices Lisa who in September will be the new teacher in Squirrels and Faye will be leaving Downs View for her new school.

As well as saying goodbye to students it is also the time that we welcome our new cohort. It was great to meet some of new younger students who recently came in for a stay and play and really enjoyed playing in Foxes and Cubs classroom and meeting their new teachers.

So enjoy the last few days of school and have a happy and safe summer holiday.

See you all in September,

Jackie and Sarah

A huge thank you to [Produlic](#) for donating a trike for Otter's class—it is very well loved and used by most of the children everyday!



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Downs View School



Bikeability—some of our students enjoyed taking part in Bikeability sessions this term: they learnt how to use a bike safely with a helmet and how to use the brake. A huge thank you to Terry at Bikeability, who enjoyed working with our young people and team so much that he donated 3 balance bikes to the school!



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Downs View School



3JE playing football at the Albion in the Community football event this term wearing the new school football kit.



Also a big thank you to our tennis coach Sam who has really enjoyed working here and has found charity funding to continue coaching our students next year.

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Downs View Link College

Hi everyone,

We have had a fantastic summer term at DVLC and are now looking forward to the summer holiday. There have been lots of fun activities happening over the last few weeks which everyone has enjoyed. It was the last Fab Cafe of the college year on Tuesday 15th July, thanks to all who contribute to the cafe and to parents and carers who come to support.



Last week, we had a sports afternoon on the field in the sunshine. Students from both DVLC and DVLSC joined in and the activities were run by our Y 14 Sports Leaders. The parachute and penalty shoot-out were particularly popular.

In assembly last week, we said a big well done and thank you to the DVLC Student Council who have done a great job representing their classes and the college at our meetings throughout the year.

We really enjoyed our Leavers Assembly and Prom on Friday 18th July.

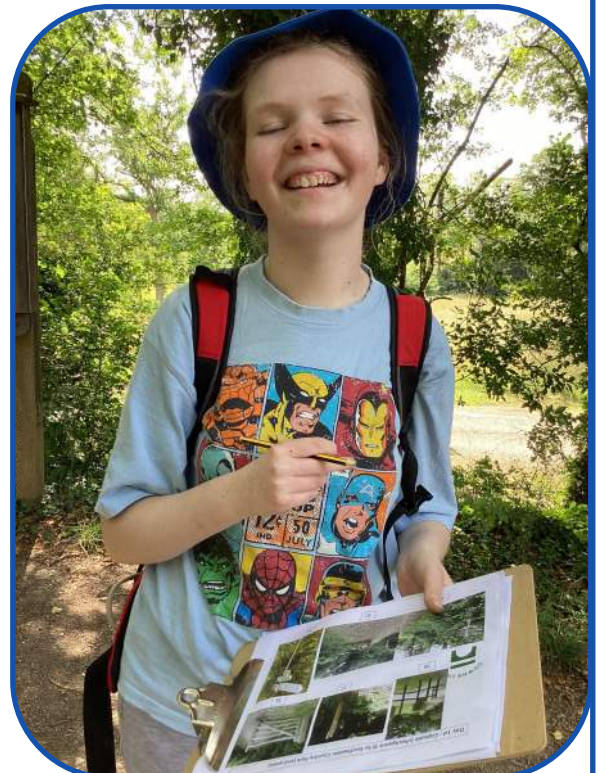
A big well done to all the students at DVLC for their achievements this year and wishing our Y14 leavers lots of luck for the future.

Thanks to all the staff at DVLC for their continued hard work and support for the students.

Wishing everyone a fantastic summer.

Best wishes,

Juliet



Year 14 expedition

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Downs View Link College

Year 13

Year 13 have been taking part in an arts/theatre project in collaboration with Theatre Royal Brighton.

We took part in three separate visits to the theatre where we had a backstage/onstage tour to inspire their art work for the exhibition.

The group were introduced to members of staff from different departments (Box Office, Usher, Tech, Maintenance etc). The students then made their own shadow puppets based on animals of Brighton.

The students also made mini theatres with stage set of their favourite things which included: cafes, parks, discos, flying and much more...

The event culminated with a final show/exhibition where families joined us to enjoy the work that the students had created, then on stage for refreshments and for the students to share all of their learning.

Theatre Royal Brighton will be exhibiting our work during their week long Collyfest running Mon 14 - Sat 17 July in the foyer - so pop along to see our work if you are passing!



Downs View Link College

Year 14



The Year 14s successfully completed their expedition along the Downs Link trail with an overnight camp. They used special photo maps to navigate the route.



On the last Friday of term Link College had their Year 14 leavers graduation ceremony in the morning, followed by the Prom in the evening. It was a great day of celebrations for the achievements of all the Year 14 leavers.

Downs View Life Skills College

Dear learners, parents and carers,

I can't believe we are nearly at the end of the college year!

This term learners have regularly accessed outdoor learning and engaged with the broader community. One of the highlights has been the monthly Community Garden events and our first anniversary party where we had the drumming band Unified Rhythm performing. We also welcomed the new learners for September 2025 to our successful Open House and annual "Welcoming Breakfast" in the garden. Other college events were the visit of the fire crew and engine, Arts week with visits from various local artists and our new Nando's workshop.



Some of the new learners started weekly work experience in the community garden and others are learning to enhance their safety skills on bikes. Room 6 have used the community garden to explore the senses through sensory stories such as the role of bees, care for nature and sustainability.

I am very excited and proud to announce that we have started a new work experience at Nandos. Our first learner is about to complete a successful work placement and it was lovely to hear some of the positive feedback. Learners in their second year have explored a wide range of work related events that have helped them develop their interests and skills for the future.

Our leavers have been busy exploring their future pathways with the support of the team, job coach and other external professionals. They have been working on their vocational profiles. They have been visited Team Domenica, Ambito, Chalk Farm and The Junk Food Project amongst others.

All the team at college have a mix of feelings, we feel very proud and excited but of course sad to be saying goodbye to you. We will be celebrating achievements and individuals at the Prom and at the college celebration of success event. You will always be welcome to our alumni reunion and to volunteer at our Community Garden Events. We look forward to seeing you in the not too distant future.

Thank you to all staff for the work and passion in what they do individually to support learners in what has been a fantastic year!



Have a lovely summer!

Raul



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Downs View Life Skills College



R4 Learners



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Downs View Life Skills College



Community Garden—Anniversary Celebration



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Downs View School Governors' Update

Dear Parents and Carers

We are approaching the end of another busy and fulfilling year at Downs View, and this marks a period of change for the Governing Board as we have said goodbye to some long standing and dedicated governors; Ro St John and Eddie Murphy and welcomed several new governors to the Board: Arnie Strong, Mike Walker, Joe Parvin and finally Gemma Turner. We are lucky as a board to enjoy the wealth of skills and experience from these committed volunteers.

The final FGB meeting of this school year was held on 14 July where Vanessa was able to confirm to governors that Downs View has maintained its outstanding judgement from the recent Ofsted inspection. Governors are very pleased and proud of this outcome and would like to thank Vanessa and her excellent staff for all their hard work, not just during the inspection, but over this past school year. Well done!

Governor Visits

At Downs View we work as a team with collective responsibilities as well as some individual link roles. One of these link roles relates to safeguarding which is currently undertaken by Jacqui Shepherd. In this context Jacqui visited the school site earlier this year and the Link College in July. She had the opportunity to observe and assess safeguarding measures in place across both sites.

At the school she observed the arrival of pupils into school in the morning and arrangements for getting them safely from transport into classrooms. She met with Deputy Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) to review and finalise the safeguarding audit and did a learning walk to observe safeguarding in practice.

At the Link College, there was also a learning walk to all classrooms to see the college in action and observe safeguarding practices. Jacqui was impressed by the excellent systems in place with all DSLs working well together and she noted that most staff were wearing their lanyards and clear posters are up around college to explain to students who their trusted adults are and who to go to.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer break to all of you!



Meet New Governor Mike Waller

Mike has been teaching for 15 years across private and maintained schools. His last role (Deputy Head, Academic in a private school) involved overseeing the academic side of school with a focus on the SEN dept. This involved supporting pupils with integration in the classroom and ways to support the teachers with planning a wide variety of tasks to engage the pupils. Prior to teaching he worked in small business management; he had his own coffee franchise, started an arts social enterprise and ran a community conference centre.

Being able to use his varied business knowledge and career experience, as a governor, for the betterment of the Downs View Community is important to him and he looks forward to being able to play a small part in the steering of the ship!

Outside of college, he and his wife have 2 young daughters and a cockapoo who keep them busy. They very much enjoy exploring the sea front and all that the city has to offer. Personally, he loves to keep as active as possible and so cycles to work and runs as often as he can, around family and work commitments.

FRIENDS OF DOWNS VIEW SCHOOL & LINK COLLEGE

Summer Fun Day

It was great to see so many DV families at the Summer Fun Day. Thank you to all those who came along and supported the event. The weather wasn't as kind as the forecast predicted, but everyone enjoyed the afternoon anyway. The bouncy castle was a hit as always! The cake stall, raffle and tombola did very well too.

A big thank you to those parent/carers and staff who helped with set up, running the stalls and pack down afterwards, plus securing extra raffle and tombola prizes from local businesses.

Ex student DJ Owen did an amazing job of keeping the music going all afternoon.

And not forgetting the time and energy put into planning the whole event by the Friends committee. A massive thank you to them.



Donation Received

Some great news to share with you that we have been awarded **£1,250** by **Waitrose Community Matters**. As part of their charitable giving programme, funds are gifted to organisations supporting young people and the work The Friends do for Downs View matched their criteria. This will be hugely beneficial as we turn our attention to raising money for the refurbishment of the soft play room at the school.

Bungee Jump!

A DV parent is planning to do a bungee jump to raise funds for The Friends. Now that's dedication to the cause! Hopefully there will be more information on this very soon and how you can donate to support this amazing/terrifying fundraiser!

For now though, on behalf of The Friends, happy holidays and see you in September for more fundraising.

Lisa Burgess, Chair of FODV.



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

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

Have your say

Our City Transport Plan 2035

Tell us what you think of our plans for the future of travel and transport in Brighton & Hove.



Venue	Date	Time
Jubilee Library	Tuesday 1 July	5-7pm
Patcham Library	Tuesday 8 July	2-4pm
Hangleton Library	Thursday 10 July	10am-12noon
Rottingdean Library	Monday 14 July	2-4pm
Portslade Library	Wednesday 16 July	3-5pm
Jubilee Library	Saturday 19 July	11am - 1pm
Hove Library	Monday 21 July	10.30am-1.30pm
Webinar - open to public	Wednesday 30 July	6-7pm

Find out more and give your views online by

10 August 2025

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ctpsurvey



To request a paper copy or another format please email transport.policy@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 07513 703194 and leave a message with your request and contact details.



PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH **FREE** SCHOOL UNIFORM



We understand that school uniform and school shoes are a huge expense for families.

PELICAN PARCELS IS HERE TO HELP!

Pelican Parcels is a charity (no.1179866) set up to ensure that babies and primary school aged children in Brighton & Hove have the essentials they need. We provide everything from cots and buggies to clothes, toys, books and more.

pelicanparcels.org.uk

We are providing free preloved non-branded school uniform and PE kit, new Black school shoes and new PE trainers to children accessing free school meals at the following schools, or those at nursery moving up to these schools:

**FREE
SCHOOL
UNIFORM**

★ Bevendean Primary ★ City Academy
Whitehawk ★ Coomb Road Primary
Downs View ★ Moulsecoomb Primary
Queen's Park Primary ★ Rudyard Kipling
St Andrew's Primary ★ St John the Baptist
St Marks CE Primary ★ St Martin's Primary
★ Woodingdean Primary ★

**ORDER THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL, WITH ONE OF OUR
PARTNERS, OR VISIT US AT A POP UP:**

 31 July 1-4pm: Moulsecoomb Place, BN2 4GA
 1 August 10am-1pm: Manor Gym, BN2 5EA
 9 August : Crew Club Family Fun Day, BN2 5QW

With Support
From:


**EAST BRIGHTON
TRUST**



pelicanparcels.org.uk
Charity no: 1179866

For more info and
a list of partners
scan here:

