

DOWN'S VIEW NEWSLETTER

May 2026



Dear all,

We've had a very busy half-term!

Students at school are taking part in a sponsored swimming event - The Big Splash! - between **Monday 8th June 2026 and Friday 19th June 2026.**

All our students will take part during their normal swimming sessions, some will count how many splashes they can do and others will count how many lengths of the pool they can swim. To celebrate their amazing efforts by donating please visit our [Just Giving page](#), or please hand in/send any cash to the office.

Our fundraising efforts will combine with the ongoing [fundraising campaign of parent Will Ellis](#), who is swimming the length of Lake Geneva this summer. All fundraising will go towards renovating the soft room in school.

Don't forget that you can vote for us to win £1500 to put towards new trikes, just add your blue token in our box at these participating Tesco stores: Hove Express, Hove Superstore, Hove Denmark Villas Express, Droveaway Hove Express, Portslade Superstore, Woodingdean Express, Hove Western Road Express, Brighton Jubilee Street Express, Brighton Queens Road Express, Westway Hove Express, Brighton Western Road Express.

Voting closes at the end of July 2026 and we will be notified of the outcome early September 2026.

We have done a lot of recruitment and will be able to confirm all the new roles in the next half term!

I hope you have a restful half term, and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 1st June.

Thank you

Vanessa



Reminder - If you need to take your child out of school for exceptional reasons, please remember to complete a 'Term-time Leave of Absence Request Form' and hand in to the office. We understand that it is sometimes necessary to travel during quieter periods, please state on the form the reasons and provide as much detail as possible.

Term Dates 2026

Summer Term

13 April – 22 July

Half term

25 – 29 May



DOWN'S VIEW SCHOOL



Summer Term News

Hello to all our Downs View families,

The summer term is always full of energy, and this year is no exception.

The children have already taken part in a fantastic range of activities, and there's plenty more to look forward to.

☀️ What We've Been Up To

From cycle training to table cricket, softball cricket, and swimming sessions at St Luke's, it's been wonderful to see pupils getting active and having fun.

We were also lucky to welcome the Mozartists group, who delivered immersive and relaxed classical-style music sessions for different classes. Staff received valuable training on delivering music sessions, and parents were invited in to see the brilliant work. We hope to welcome the Mozartists back again next year.

On Friday 15 May, four classes enjoyed the Discoverability Cricket Day at Hove Cricket Ground — always a highlight of the summer term.

This term we also hosted the Barclays Education Bus. Classes took part in an engaging session on money skills and fraud awareness — important life lessons delivered in a fun and accessible way.

Teachers have also been inviting parents in for their termly learning-support sessions. Thank you to everyone who has joined us so far.



Respect Aspiration Resilience



DOWN'S VIEW SCHOOL

After half term, we'll be taking part in the Downs View Splashathon in support of Friends of Downs View and Odie's dad, Will, who is swimming the length of Lake Geneva!!

And don't forget... **Sports Day is on 8th July**. Time to dust off those running shoes — we can't wait to see you there.

🧠 Staff Training

During our recent INSET day, staff took part in a range of valuable training sessions. Educational Psychologists led sessions on executive functioning, Josie - English Lead delivered a session on phonics, Lewis – Behaviour Lead delivered a session on Positive behaviour support and our Occupational Therapists shared how they support children's learning. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

👤 Parent Support

CAMHS-LD will be running their termly PBS course here at Downs View from **4th June**, running for four weeks. We hope many families will find this helpful. To book or request further information, please email: spft-camhs-ld@nhs.net

🌍 Curriculum Activities

This term, students are exploring:

Primary: Under the Sea / Aquatic Environments

Secondary: Waste and Sustainability

🌳 Outdoor & Local Resources

Woodland Trust explore a range of exciting outdoor learning resources on their website.

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership A fantastic local non-profit helping people learn to cook, access a healthy diet, grow food, and reduce waste. They also support families in need of emergency food supplies. Website: <https://bhfood.org.uk/>

👋 A Warm Welcome

We're delighted to welcome **Crystal**, our new MDSA, who has joined the Bumblebees and Butterflies teams

🎓 Looking Ahead

After half term, we'll begin preparing to say goodbye to our leavers. Some will be moving on to DVLC, while others head to Brighton MET, SupaJam, or Plumpton. We are incredibly proud of each of them and excited for their next steps.

Date for your diary – for those parents/carers with learners leaving DV either for DVLC or for other local colleges, this year's graduation will be in the morning of the 10th July. More details to follow.

Towards the end of June, we should be able to share with families the class groups for next term.

Look forward to seeing you all at our summer events,
Jackie Hutchings

Deputy Head



DOWN'S VIEW LINK COLLEGE



Juliet



Hi all

We've had a busy half term at DVLC. Students have enjoyed participating in the sports event at Chailey Heritage and the Cricket Disability Day at the cricket ground in Hove.

The Fab Cafe continues to run on a Tuesday morning and students work hard cooking, taking orders and serving our customers. We had visitors from Hill Park and Downs View school, so the cafe has been busy. We also had a visit from Judy one of our Co-Chair of Governors.

Year 14 students in Stuart's class have achieved their Communication Awards this term. During a learning walk, I was lucky enough to see a couple of the presentations. Thanks to our other Co-Chair of Governors Sue for coming in to support with this award. Well done to the students in Stuart's class.

The student council met this term to think and talk about the key words from the DV vision statement **Respect Aspiration Resilience** and having **Fun**. The students then worked on these themes in class and showed their work in assembly.

Wishing everyone a happy half term holiday and see you soon.

Best wishes

Juliet



DOWN'S VIEW LINK COLLEGE



Room 6

What a year so far for the pupils in Room 6 and so many highlights already. We have been so pleased at the pupils getting out and about in the local community and really being a big part of Brighton and beyond. Our visits have been varied and fun and thanks to all the local places and events which cater and support our young people. Some of the highlights include

- In the winter, a visit to Santa's grotto, kindly given by Clive at Hassocks garden centre, who also donated another £200 worth of plants for the Link College and its gardens.
- In the autumn term being part of the 'into film festival' where we took all our pupils for free to the local cinema to see 2 films.
- Throughout the year numerous visits to local farms, parks, the seafront and local gardens.
- A brunch at the local pub for a slap-up meal.
- An amazing day out at the Pavilion Gardens (see next page).
- Being part of the Brighton electric bus launch in the Summer term and representing Downs View.

We have lots to look forward to which include a trip to Chailey for a sports day, Drusilla's and another planned and supported visit with Brighton Pavilion.

Here's to an amazing and exciting second part to the summer term.



Respect Aspiration Resilience



DOWNNS VIEW LINK COLLEGE



Pavilion Gardens

Room 6 had a great day out at the Pavilion Gardens to explore and engage with the surroundings. The pupils had a tour of the gardens, which included feeling, smelling, looking and learning about the different plants found in the garden.

They enjoyed an indoor activity of making herb bags and playing with objects linked to a sensory story about the pavilion and nature. The day was really enjoyable and the support for the students was brilliant.

Many thanks to Lynn and Brighton and Hove museums for their support in this piloted programme. There are big future plans for the Pavilion Gardens to make them more inclusive so watch this space! We look forward to some more visits over the year as a college.



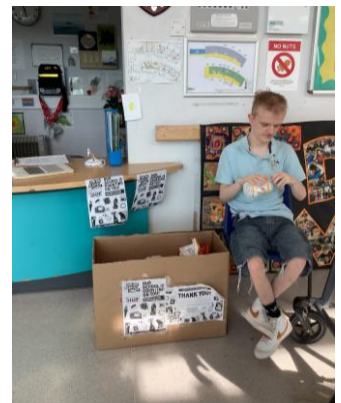
Big Plastic Count

Everyone at DVLC has been involved in the Big Plastic Count this year. They helped put plastic into a box by reception each day – we collected 3 large bin bags in a week. We counted how much plastic we used to reveal the scale of plastic use and push for action.

The goal is to gather evidence and to reduce the amount of plastic we use, especially single use. We're happy to join the largest people-powered investigation into plastic waste in the UK.

We recycle plastic, paper, card, glass, metal and all our food waste and all the pupils are involved to help as a whole college.

Thanks to all those who help to continue our efforts to be a more sustainable college. Nick - lead on sustainability at the Link College.



DOWN'S VIEW LIFE SKILLS COLLEGE



Dear learners, parents and carers,

We have started the summer term with lots of engagement. This term learners have focused on the arts, we have celebrated Art Week's "Our values" with various local artists offering workshops and presentations. Learners also created their own canvases, sculptures, collaborative work and designed a new mural to be displayed in the entrance of college, what a beautiful welcoming entrance! Learners are working towards their Art Awards and their portfolios are looking very creative. A huge thank you to all learners, staff and visitors, and in particular to the Art Lead Gemma!

I have enjoyed seeing good learning in fire safety, sun safety, kitchen hygiene and safety, interview skills, and also identifying who can help in the community. It is fantastic to see great collaborative work and enhancing money skills in role play too.

Some learners have also started work experience in the community garden, we welcome you to walk around and take some vegetables and herbs grown by learners! Room 6 also designed and made a creative sensory wall in the community garden, some of the learners really like to interact with it. We are very proud of the ongoing impact of learners in the local community!

We have some exciting events coming up after half term such as the Open House and the Welcome Breakfast for the Link leavers as part of our transition programme. Some learners are also attending a workshop at the Miller and Carter Pub, and we have a fire engine coming to college!

More exciting, we will celebrate the Community Garden Anniversary with a special performance, please do come and join us.

Have a lovely half term.

Raul



DOWN'S VIEW LIFE SKILLS COLLEGE

Room 4

The learners in Room 4 have really enjoyed Art Week and taking part in a range of different activities. They loved making sculptures with clay and creating a big mural with a garden theme that celebrated diversity and respect for others. They have also enjoyed taking part in different art workshops and meeting new artists.



Room 6

Room 6 have been caring for caterpillars this half term, they changed into chrysalises and we waited patiently for them to become butterflies. Then we released them to live in our sensory garden area. During art week we created a sensory wall in the community garden for everyone to enjoy from recycled materials, which would otherwise have gone into the rubbish. On Friday the 15th of May we joined in the Discoverability Day at Sussex Cricket Ground and made friends with the Sussex Sharks!



DOWN'S VIEW GOVERNOR UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

Since the previous update in the March newsletter, the Governing Board has continued to work closely behind the scenes, with a particular focus on the school budget. On 1 May, the Finance Committee met to review the proposed 2026–27 budget, presented by the School Business Manager. Following detailed discussion, the committee approved the budget, which was then formally signed off by the Full Governing Board during an additional online meeting on 7 May.

The Full Governing Board (FGB) also met on 18 May. During the meeting, Headteacher Vanessa updated governors on the current opportunities and challenges facing Downs View. Governors contributed to constructive discussions and were pleased to recognise the continued hard work and achievements across the school. We also received a presentation on the School Development Plan and the priorities for the year ahead.

As governors, one of our key responsibilities is to act as a “critical friend” to the school - offering both support and challenge to help ensure the highest standards for pupils and staff. Monitoring visits are an important part of this role. Below is a snapshot of three recent visits:

Health and Safety

Governor Joe Parvin visited the Link College site in March 2026 to review health and safety arrangements. Discussions with senior leaders focused on incident reporting, lockdown and evacuation procedures, staff medical training, and risk assessment processes.

The visit highlighted many positive improvements, including new access controls, safer stair barriers, bridge safety coverings, and improved cleaning standards. Several maintenance priorities were also identified, including paving repairs, outdoor site upkeep, gym equipment maintenance, and ventilation works in the Life Skills Room.

Overall, the visit demonstrated the school’s continued commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment for pupils and staff.

Focus on Anti-Racism Strategy at DVLC

Co-chair Judy Bingham visited DVLC in April 2026 to review the implementation of the school’s anti-racism strategy within the SEND environment. The visit highlighted strong leadership and teamwork across all sites, with diversity and inclusion embedded throughout the curriculum and wider school life through PSHE, visual learning resources, celebrations, food, music, and everyday teaching. Staff have received anti-racism and unconscious bias training, and learning resources have been thoughtfully adapted to reflect diversity in meaningful and accessible ways for pupils.

Overall, the college was found to be making positive progress in promoting equality, inclusion, and student voice across the school community.

Communication Awards

Co-chair Sue Dowling visited Link College in May 2026 to observe Year 14 students completing their Communication Awards. Students demonstrated a wide range of communication and life skills through presentations, games, telephone tasks, and social interactions. Activities had been carefully adapted to meet individual needs, including support for pre-verbal students using iPads and other communication tools. The visit highlighted the dedication and encouragement provided by staff, alongside the strong focus on developing students’ confidence, independence, and essential communication skills for adulthood.



DOWN'S VIEW GOVERNOR UPDATE

Meet governor Jack Cassidy



Jack is a 41-year-old English teacher who has worked in education since 2010 and has been a qualified teacher since 2013. His son joined Downs View this year and, combined with his professional background in education, this inspired him to become a parent governor.

Since becoming part of the Downs View community, Jack has been hugely impressed by the school and wanted to contribute in any way he could. Outside of work, parenting, and his governor role, he enjoys keeping fit, reading, and listening to music.

FRIENDS OF DOWN'S VIEW SCHOOL & LINK COLLEGE

DOWN'S VIEW SCHOOL, WARREN ROAD, WOODINGDEAN, BRIGHTON, BN2 6BB

Friends of Downs View Event – Save the Date!! Dig out your sun hats and sun cream, because the **DV Summer Fun Day** is coming!

Date: **Saturday 11th July**
Time: **1 – 4pm**
Venue: **DV Woodingdean site**

An afternoon with attractions out on the field including, **music, a raffle, tombola and cake stall**, plus a **bouncy castle**. The fantastic playground and will also be available to the young people to use on the day.

Please remember to bring **cash** with you for the cake stall, raffle and tombola tickets.

The Friends of Downs View are really looking forward to welcoming **Woodingdean, Link College and Life Skills College families and staff** to this event, bringing us all together to celebrate our amazing community.

More information to come after the half term break on how you can help the event be a great success.

Keep everything crossed for sunshine and we'll see you there!

Happy half term break to everyone,
FODV Committee.

