

DOWN'S VIEW NEWSLETTER

Autumn Half Term, October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year, and it has been lovely to see pupils settling into their classes and routines, building relationships and enjoying their learning.

Thank you to all our families and staff for your support in helping to make the start of the year so positive. I would also like to say a special thank you to Maddy Tabona, Gemma White and Chloe Sly, who have stepped up this half term and done a brilliant job in their interim roles.

We have some fantastic fundraising and funding news:

Over the summer we received the highest number of votes in the Tesco Blue Token Scheme, securing £1,500 towards new trikes – a huge thank you to everyone who supported us by using their blue tokens in Tesco stores. Your votes have helped make a real difference.

Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children at school are looking forward to enjoying and exploring their new trikes.

At Link College, we have also secured £20,000 from The National Lottery Community Fund towards the Sensory Garden. A huge well done and thank you to Nick Sell for his work in securing this funding. We can't wait to see the garden take shape!

Over the summer, Odie's dad, Will, swam the length of Lake Geneva, raising an incredible £30,000+ for Downs View. The money will go towards our Soft Play Room at school, which we aim to launch at our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27 November.

Will is also going to give a talk about the swim as part of the morning. More info later in this newsletter.

I am delighted to share that we have recruited a new Deputy Headteacher and two new governors, and we look forward to introducing them and sharing more information with you next half term.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the many things we have been doing and celebrating across our school and colleges community this half term.

Thank you,

Vanessa



Term Dates

Thursday 3 September – Friday 18 December 2026

Half Term

Monday 26 – Friday 30 October 2026

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DOWN'S VIEW SCHOOL

Welcome back! 🤗

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the new academic year. Thank you to our parents, carers and our exceptional Downs View team for all their hard work and support in ensuring that our pupils have settled happily and confidently into the new term.

A special mention goes to our new pupils, who have transitioned remarkably well into life at Downs View. We are delighted to see them so happy, confident, and eager to explore their new school environment.

Staff News 🙌

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our Downs View team: Emily (TA, Otters), Helena (TA, Hedgehogs), Rowan (TA, Badgers), and Mary (TA, Rabbits). We are delighted to have them join our school community and look forward to the positive contributions they will make to the lives of our pupils.

Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to two amazing members of our team, Laura (Manual Handling Lead), and Annie (LTA Robins) both of whom have dedicated many years to supporting the pupils and families of Down View. Laura has played an important role in many aspects of school life, including the development of our After School Club, and their commitment and care have made a lasting impact on our school community.

We would like to thank both Laura and Annie, and we wish them every success and happiness in their exciting new roles and future careers.

Class News 🎓

Cubs, Foxes and Badgers Class

Our Early Years/Key Stage 1 classes, *Cubs*, *Foxes* and *Badgers*, have had a fantastic start to the term. The children have been engaging in daily PSHE sessions, developing important life skills such as brushing their teeth and washing their hands independently.

They have also thoroughly enjoyed participating in interoception activities, exploring different sensations and identifying things they like and do not like using their hands and feet.

These sessions help the children to develop a greater awareness of their bodies, feelings, and preferences.

In addition, the pupils have been spending time sharing toys and books, cooking, building positive relationships with their peers and developing their social skills. One of their favourite activities has been swimming, where they have loved developing their water confidence and having fun in the pool.



DOWN'S VIEW SCHOOL

4LS Class

Our Key Stage 3/4 class, 4LS, has been busy creating a rocket display. The pupils have enjoyed exploring different materials and taking part in a range of activities to help bring the project to life.

With support from familiar adults, the pupils have been developing important skills such as making choices, taking turns, sharing resources, and working alongside their peers. Each pupil has made their own valuable contribution to the display, and it has been wonderful to see their engagement, curiosity, and pride in the finished project.

We are very proud of all the pupils for their participation.

One Voice at the Brighton Dome

We are delighted that 12 of our students will be taking part in One Voice at the Brighton Dome on 1 December this year, led by our wonderful 3JE teacher, Josie. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to perform as part of a musical event and showcase their singing talents alongside other schools from across the city.

Letters will be sent home shortly to the families of participating students with further details, including information about how to purchase tickets. We are very much looking forward to what promises to be a memorable and exciting experience for everyone involved.

Upcoming dates

- Halloween disco – Friday 23 October – Children can wear fancy dress on this day if they wish. We will be having a Halloween-themed disco in the afternoon to celebrate!
- Macmillan fundraising/soft play opening - Look forward to seeing you on the 27 November for our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We will send more information about this closer to the time.
- As we build up to our winter shows, more dates will follow

Enjoy your half-term!

Gemma, Maddy and Chloe

Interim Deputy Heads and Interim Assistant Head



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DOWN'S VIEW LINK COLLEGE



Hello everyone,

It has been a busy start to the new academic year. A big welcome to our new students and their families. All of our students have settled in and are doing well at DVLC.

We are looking forward to our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27 November, where we will enjoy the cakes and hopefully raise a lot of money for such a good cause.

It was great to see many of our parents and carers at DVLC for the recent Parents Evening earlier this term. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to visit college and meet the staff as well as to discuss the targets that have been set for the students to work on this term.



The Student Council has already had their first meeting this term where they introduced themselves to each other. After half term we will be doing the healthy and safe at college survey which we do each year at this time, the Student Council members will be helping with this in their classes.

Autumn is always such a lovely time of year. It's great to see the students enjoying being outside in the college grounds. There are lots of celebrations and festivals to enjoy including Diwali and Bonfire Night so the students will be learning about these in class and in assembly.



Best wishes, Juliet

Room 1 / 2 - This term we have been getting to know the new members of our class. We have enjoyed community trips this term, and next term we are looking forward to a visit to the cinema.

We have been exploring foods we enjoy, including nachos, pizza and pasta. We have also taken up drumming lessons, where we have had lots of fun with all kinds of instruments. In art, we have been working to make an autumn scene to go up on our wall. Well done, Room 1/2, on a fantastic first half term!



DOWN'S VIEW LIFE SKILLS COLLEGE



Dear learners, parents and carers,

Welcome to the Autumn term and in particular a warm welcome to all our new learners! This half term learners have been very focused on transitions, getting back into college life, strengthening existing relationships and developing new friendships. Our newcomers have settled down very well and it is fantastic to see the college so vibrant, while continuing to provide a relaxed and engaging learning environment.

Learners have recently started their work experience and community opportunities. Some learners are developing their skills at Scope, others are working alongside Caterlink at the college canteen, while others are undertaking gardening work experience and contributing to our Community Garden and at Our Lady of Lourdes, among other opportunities. It is great to see learners starting to develop their confidence, independence and work skills in real environments.

Some learners have also participated in a set of radio podcast workshops with Carousel. This has been a fantastic opportunity to generalise important life skills such as working together, problem solving, communication and developing their special interests, while being involved in a popular project within our local community.

We have also welcomed the Fire Brigade to college. Learners had the opportunity to meet them and develop their understanding and awareness of fire safety. It was another great opportunity to learn important life skills from professionals in our community.



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DOWN'S VIEW LIFE SKILLS COLLEGE

Our Community Garden Day brought the whole college and the wider community together, with learners caring for nature and developing their understanding of sustainability. Learners continue to take an active role in growing and caring for produce, and what they grow is then used within our termly recipes. It is lovely to see learning going through the full process from growing and caring for our environment to using the produce in practical life skills.

Our Learners Board has also been very busy this half term! Learners have focused on our college rules, with the rules chosen by them and giving them an active voice in how we want our college community to be. They have also focused on Black History Month and diversity, celebrating and learning from the different people and communities around us.

Finally, our leavers have welcomed the visit of our external careers adviser, starting important conversations about their aspirations and helping them to identify possible next steps after college. Preparing learners for adulthood and supporting them to think about what they would like to do in the future continues to be an important part of college life.

I have been very impressed with how learners have started the year and how quickly our new learners have become part of our college community.

Well done everyone and thank you to all staff for their hard work and support in making the beginning of the academic year a great success!

Have a lovely half term!

Raul



Here is the latest pup date from Norman the Life Skills sponsored guide dog. Thank you to everyone over the last couple of years who have bought Room 6 soup to support Norman through his training. Hopefully he will graduate in February and go to a family to work with someone who is blind. We then hope to sponsor our next dog, if the learners vote for that. <https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/sponsor-a-puppy-today/pupdates-norman/>

DOWN'S VIEW GOVERNOR UPDATE

October 2026

A Message from the Governing Body

As we reach the end of a busy first half term, the governing board would like to thank all our pupils, families and staff for such a positive start to the 2026 academic year. A warm welcome again to the new pupils, parents and staff who have joined our school community this term.

Governors provide strategic leadership and support our Headteacher and staff in delivering the highest standards of education and care. Here is a brief look at what we have been focusing on this term:

- **Full Governing Board meeting (28 September):** Governors received updates on safeguarding, changes to the Senior Leadership Team, recruitment, staff absence, and health and safety. Several policies with minor updates were approved.
- **Headteacher appraisal:** The co-chairs and our School Partnership Advisor completed the Headteacher's annual performance review, looking back at the 2025–26 targets and setting priorities for 2026–27.
- **New governors:** We are recruiting two new governors, one co-opted and one parent governor. We look forward to welcoming them and will share more in the next newsletter.
- **Health and safety:** Joe Parvin, our health and safety governor, will visit the school at the end of November.
- **Finance Committee:** The first meeting of the year takes place online on 11 November. A key item on the agenda for governors this term is a review of the school's budget at the halfway point of the financial year. This will allow governors to consider the school's current financial position and ensure that resources continue to be directed towards supporting the best possible outcomes for students.

We are pleased to welcome Joe Parvin as a new member of the finance committee.

Wishing you and your families a safe and restful half term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in November.

The Governing Body



Help Us Reach an Incredible Milestone

Our Macmillan Fundraising Campaign Starts Now!



We're excited to announce the launch of our 2026 fundraising campaign for Macmillan Cancer Support, culminating in our annual **Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27 November 2026.**

At Downs View School and Link College, supporting Macmillan is a cause that is incredibly close to our hearts. Since we began fundraising in 2015, our amazing community of staff, families, students, and supporters has raised an outstanding £16,833.51 for this wonderful charity. The last two years have been our most successful yet, raising over £7,500 overall. This year, we're aiming to reach a very special milestone: £20,000 raised for Macmillan. With your support, we know we can get there.

What's Happening?

We've planned a fantastic range of fundraising activities, including:

Thursday 29 October 2026

Sponsored Half Marathon Walk – [sponsor here](#)

Monday 2 November 2026

Raffle Tickets on Sale – from Abi or Jenna at school or Alice at college

Friday 27 November 2026

Macmillan Coffee Morning consisting of:

- Cake Sales (all day)
- Tombola (all day)
- Raffle (draw at 14:00)

Please also join us at 09:30 on the day for a talk from Will Ellis on his amazing swim across Lake Geneva to raise funds for our new Soft room at the school. [Read his blog here.](#)



Every pound raised helps Macmillan Cancer Support continue providing vital practical, emotional, and financial support to people living with cancer and their families.

How to get involved

We've planned a fantastic range of fundraising activities, including:



Donate a prize to help us create an exciting draw for our tombola or raffle.

Make a donation through our [fundraising page](#) or by scanning our QR code – see below.



Make a cake or bake to sell at our coffee morning – remember strictly no nuts or sesame.



Take part in our events and help spread the word to family, friends, and colleagues.

Together, let's make this our biggest fundraising year yet and take another step towards our **£20,000** milestone.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



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COME ALIVE

ECHO PERFORMING ARTS CIC

8 NOVEMBER



Echo Performing Arts CIC invites you to a mysterious world, that explores a wonderland of talent and originality, from their vibrant community of diverse dancers.

Come Alive echoes the imagination, culture, identity and social expression of Echo's dancers. Echo Performing Arts CIC is a community in Brighton and Hove, who facilitate classes and performance opportunities with neurodivergent and learning disabled dancers.

This show is a blend of dance, performing arts, animation and film in two unique halves. The first half explores what it means to be human in the diverse cast of dancers' way of experiencing the world around them. After the interval, the cast invite audiences into their own fantasy world, where they explore their cultural differences in how they tell their stories.

16:00 – 18.30, Sunday 8 November, The Old Market, 11A Upper Market St, Brighton and Hove, England, BN3 1AS

Tickets: £8, concessions £6, *Plus £2 venue levy*

Age: Suitable for all ages, under 16s must be accompanied by an adult

[More info and book tickets here](#)

Learn to Ride holiday course



Thursday 28 October, 13.15 - 14.15, Ages 8 to 15, Hove and Preston Parks.

Places are limited and on a first come first served basis.

Our friendly instructors will guide your child through the essential skills needed to ride confidently, including getting on and off the bike safely, braking, steering, balancing, and pedaling.

The session is designed to be fun, supportive, and pressure-free, helping children build confidence at their own pace and feel comfortable on their bike.

All training takes place in a safe, traffic-free environment, giving children plenty of space to learn, practice, and enjoy riding.

To book a place visit <https://cycling.envelope.host/courses> or contact 01273 293847 or email cycletraining@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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