

# Downs View Newsletter

Friday 10th February 2023

General Information Newsletter: No.3



**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider



## Term Dates

### Spring Term 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan-31<sup>st</sup> March

Half Term:13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Summer Term 2023

17<sup>th</sup> April-20<sup>th</sup> July

Half Term: 29<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June

## INSETS

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

## Notices

### **DVLC Fab Café**

Tuesdays at 10.15 - 11.00

### **Holi**

Wednesday 8th March

Primary 10.00

Secondary 14.00

### **Easter**

Wednesday 29th March at  
10.00

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has just flown by and we are already at the half term break. We have been very busy this term as you will see from the fantastic pictures that have been included in this newsletter. Many classes have still been able to get out and about despite the recent cold weather.

It was lovely to see some of you at our recent coffee morning with PaCC and at the Pupil Progress evenings. The school site have activities planned for Easter and Holi which you will also be welcome to join—please see Rachel's note for further details. Parents/carers are always welcome to join the FAB Café at DVLC as well. It runs every Tuesday at 10.15—please just check on the morning that it's open and let them know you are coming.

Have a lovely half term.

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

## **Makaton signs:**



later



now

# Downs View School

Hello all,

So we are now at the end of another term and how great to have the sun out and see the young people enjoying a range of outdoor activities. We have welcomed back Antigone into Butterflies class from her maternity leave and said goodbye to Tina from Bell Tree music therapy who is now focussing her time on her PHD studies, so in her place we have Chloe also from Bell Tree who is familiar to the students and great that the sessions can continue.



What feels like a long time ago at the start of the term, we had a panto! As they unfortunately had to cancel over Christmas, so the first week back we were treated to a performance of Aladdin. We also had the parent/carer meeting that PACC delivered full of lots of useful information and also great to see so many of you at the parent carer meetings to share all the progress the students are making on their journey to becoming young adults. Some of the students also attended a football tournament this term at Burgess Hill and supported each other very well during the game.

On Tuesday this week it was NSPCC Safer Internet Day with the theme 'Want to talk about it'- 'Making space for conversations about life online.' I thought it would be useful to share some resources from the NSPCC Safer Internet Day blog. Please see below.

Take care and enjoy the half term holidays, Jackie

## NSPCC

Our top tips are:

- 1. Start a conversation:** An open and honest conversation is often the first step in keeping your child safe online. It also plays an important role in supporting them if something has gone wrong. Talk to your child about what has happened, how they feel about it, and what the next steps are for you to take as a family. Keeping your child in the loop about what you are going to do to resolve the situation can help them to feel in control of it and can help them to feel like they can come to you with any future problems.
- 2. Be curious, not furious:** Remaining calm and asking questions like 'how did you get to that?' or 'what did you click on?' will help you to understand how the content has appeared in the first place. Children will often remember the immediate response from an adult – remaining calm and open will show them that you are someone they can turn to for help.
- 3. Try not to place blame:** It may be that your child has clicked on something by mistake or even gone looking for the content on purpose. Either way, it is still important to remain calm and be supportive.

# Downs View School

Hello all,

We're celebrating Holi on March 8th - the pupils are all having assemblies about the Hindu festival of Holi. Holi is considered one of the most revered and celebrated festivals of India and it is celebrated in almost every part of the country. It is also sometimes called as the "festival of love" as on this day people get to unite together forgetting any past troubles and enjoying being joyful together <https://www.holifestival.org/> we thought this would be a really good sentiment for us to treasure and are inviting you to join us!

Parents and families are welcome to celebrate with us- please prepare to get wet and very colourful!!

Please send your children in with old clothes, so we don't ruin any favourite items of clothing. We'll be out on the field with water and coloured paint and looking forward to having fun- all welcome.

It'll be primary at 10.00 and Secondary at 2.00.

All families welcome, looking forward to seeing you there.

We are also celebrating Easter on 29th March in the morning at 10.00- we've not got a full programme of activities yet but please put the date in your diary!

Best wishes, Rachel

On Wednesday 8th of February 3D class went on a trip to Pizza Express to make their own pizzas. All of the students enjoyed the experience.



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# Downs View Link College

Hi everyone

It has been a busy half term at DVLC. I have enjoyed going into classes during the day and seeing the students working on a number of different themes including learning about different types of transport, creating power point presentations on subjects of interest, working on collaborative art pieces linked to sustainability, enjoying sensory stories about travelling the world and learning about celebrations such as Chinese New Year.



Students in Y12 and Y13 have been doing a great job of running the Fab Cafe on a Tuesday morning. In Food Tech lessons, the students in Y13 make delicious snacks such as cheese and tomato pastries and sausage rolls to sell and everyone from around the college enjoys the opportunity to go along to the cafe each week. We have appreciated the support of parents and carers who have come along to the cafe for a cup of tea and a bite to eat too.

There have been a number of exciting trips out into the community over the half term too including trips to the Jubilee Library, One Garden and to Hove Museum.

Also, some DVLC students have taken part in the Leap then Look exhibition. Details can be found at the end of this newsletter. I hope everyone has an enjoyable half term. Best wishes, Juliet

Year 13 had a brilliant trip to Pizza Express at the Marina. We all got to make a pizza and they even gave us a gluten free base for Daniel. Some of us had a few cheeky slices in the restaurant but most of us took our pizzas home for dinner. It was a great morning out. Thanks to all the staff that helped us at Pizza Express.



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# Downs View Life Skills College

Dear learners, parents and carers,

I am very pleased and proud to inform you that after being part of an extensive local communication audit we have received the highest score for Adults Inclusive Communication: Excellent. This enhances our commitment and expertise to meet all our learners' needs and supporting them effectively on a daily basis.

This has been an exciting term full of new events.

Classes have been visiting different National Trust parks as part of the sustainability outdoor curriculum. Speak Out organised advocacy groups to discuss types of jobs, independence, options after college and likes and dislikes. The Learners Board has been particularly busy this term: learners started to organise the Open House, we also had a focus on careers. On another occasion they discussed what they want and need for the new sensory room and chose a new charity to support. We celebrated Internet Safety Day and focused on understanding better how to use the internet, how to use it safely and who to ask for help. Additionally, we have set another art exhibition in Hove Train Station. You all are welcome to see it! We are currently organizing exciting career events for the next term and World Book Day with a focus on sustainability and nature. In March some learners will visit the local Carers Fair and one more year will organize the Careers Week as well. This supports learners to enhance the encounters and opportunities to further develop their independent and employment skills, as well as critical thinking. Additionally, they will attend bespoke workshops with a volunteering hub.

Have a lovely half term! Best regards, Raul



Below are some photos of Room 4's recent work experience. We have been working at the Scope Charity shop, helping to sort the clothing stock. The Real Junk Food Project Cafe, helping to prepare food and at Portslade train station, helping to create raised flower beds.



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# Downs View Life Skills College



DVLSL Overall score: **Excellent**



DVLSL registered in 2021-2022 to be part of B&H Inclusive Communication Charter. This is a benchmark for communication support in adult learning disability services.

In 2014 the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists developed the 5 Good Communication standards to ensure that services use an inclusive communication approach.

By being part of the charter, DVLSL agreed to implement all the standards. DVLSL was part of an audit for each individual strand. This included speaking with professionals, looking for evidences and observing lessons.

In August 2022 DVLSL was granted with the highest overall score of "excellent".

*Communication is at the heart of our vision to support learners in their adulthood individually. We are already working to improve how better we can use an inclusive communication approach and support their communication.*

**Raul Ortiz**

**Head of site DVLSL**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raul Ortiz".

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# FRIENDS OF DOWNS VIEW SCHOOL & LINK COLLEGE

Friends of Downs View,

Thank you to the Friends committee for a productive meeting last month.

Further discussion took place about the school playground refurbishment which is our new project and will benefit all the young people on the school site.

There are five pieces of equipment currently being discussed by staff, as well as a wheelchair swing, although this would not be in the playground itself, but somewhere more accessible to the young people who would be using it.

Once final decisions have been made, a proper costing can be done. In addition to the equipment, a new safety surface for the playground will need to be laid and there is a retaining wall that needs repairing as part of the preliminary work.

The actual installation of the equipment will take 3-4 weeks and so would need to be completed over a Summer holiday.

We should have more details on the cost of the project and the phases of it after our next Friends meeting on 1st March.

Two smaller projects that we are delighted to be funding at the Link College are

- ◆ A Garden Project- the idea of Nick Sell, a teacher at the Link, to support the work on biodiversity and sustainability at the College and to create a space for students to enjoy and grow plants and herbs. We will fund the purchase of soil, compost, plants and tools and work should get underway on 1st April.
- ◆ Eco Shop – Tania Banks, teacher in charge of sustainability at the Link is starting an Eco Shop which will provide meaningful work experience for Yr 12 students and we will be funding uniforms for the students. The hope is that the shop will become a 'pop up' across the sites and a refill station for household products.

## Brighton 10k Run – Sunday 2nd April 2023

It's that time again and we have four places left! Two have already been claimed by fantastic members of staff. So please contact me if you would like to take one of the remaining ones and raise money for our amazing young people – [lisaburgess777@gmail.com](mailto:lisaburgess777@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance for your support and have a lovely half term break!

We look forward to meeting you!

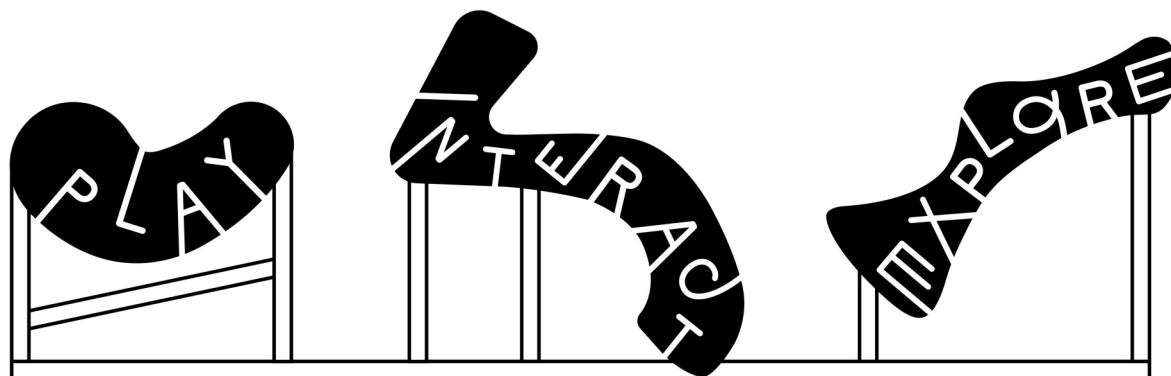
***Lisa Burgess, Chair of Friends of Downs View***

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Charity no: 1013621 • [www.justgiving.com/FriendsofDownsViewSchool](http://www.justgiving.com/FriendsofDownsViewSchool) • [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)



# LEAP THEN LOOK



Leap Then Look Exhibition

PLAY INTERACT EXPLORE

Towner Eastbourne

7th February to 5th March 2023

Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00am to 5:00pm