

# Downs View Newsletter

Friday 15th December 2023

General Information Newsletter: No. 2



**First day of Term**  
**Monday 30th October**

## Term Dates

### Autumn Term

6<sup>th</sup> Sept-15<sup>th</sup> Dec

### Spring Term 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan-28<sup>th</sup> March

Half term:

12th Feb-16 Feb

### Summer Term 2024

15<sup>th</sup> April-19<sup>th</sup> July

Half Term

27th May-31st May

## INSETS

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2024

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,  
I hope you are all keeping well.

It has been a very busy term with all of the winter celebrations and it has been lovely to see so many of you in school and college. I hope you enjoyed your visits.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to some of our staff team at the end of this term. We wish Jim Harwood, Penny Macnamara, Katie Ward, Tamsin Silver and Emma Pumphrey all the best for the future and thank them sincerely for their contributions to school and college.

Can I just remind school parents/carers to park safely outside the school gates and ensure that the pavement is accessible for pedestrians. Also, the service road outside the cottages should not be used at any time.

Thank you for supporting us to ensure that people are parking safely in the vicinity of the school.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing the students/learners back on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

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**

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

Downs View School  
Warren Road  
Woodingdean  
BN2 6BB

Tel: 01273 601680  
Email: [office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

# Downs View School



Primary have had a fantastic half term, culminating in the Winter Celebrations and class visits with parents. I'd like to say a huge thank you to the teaching staff for their creativity and organisation in planning for these events, especially Chloe and Lizzie who were pivotal in pulling it all together.

We have had such lovely feedback from the parents and carers that have attended these events, which is wholly appreciated. We look forward to offering you the opportunity to join us for further activities in 2024. Please look out for our Parent Survey on Ping, giving you the opportunity to help us to shape these activities for families.

The children have been absolute stars, continuing to shine and share enjoyment in their play and learning, with the support of their hardworking class teams.

Best wishes, Sarah



Coldean Cubs and parents meet Father Christmas



Foxes Festive Fun

# Downs View School



Hello all

Thank you to all students, staff and parents for another exciting term. It has been lovely to see so many of you at the key stage events and the class activities, getting an insight into how we support your young people on a day to day basis. We are so proud of all their achievements, from those students who overcome barriers to join their class in the hall to those who stood up and sang and danced. I really hope you enjoyed all the activities. Next term this will continue with both key stage and class events, dates and times to follow after the holidays. Also we aim to be part of the Children's Parade in May.

The students also recently enjoyed a panto by a professional theatre company adaptation of Treasure Island. Other highlights this term have been seeing some of our older students in Y10 supporting in the primary classes, which they have really enjoyed, the weekly class led assemblies and I must not forget the visits from



Harry and Hector his therapy dog. This week, we had a visit from Santa and his Elf and we ended the week with a Christmas disco! I hope you all enjoy the holidays and a happy new year.  
Best wishes  
Jackie

# Downs View Link College

Hi everyone,

The Christmas holidays are almost here and it has been another busy term at DVLC. The students have been working hard on their individual targets and I have seen some great learning taking place across the college.

The Fab Cafe reopened this term and the students have really enjoyed visiting the Fab Cafe on a Tuesday morning. Well done to the students who have visited the cafe and also to the students who have been doing their work experience there too.

The first Student Council meeting of the year was held earlier in the term and representatives from all of the classes across the college got together to meet and think about what we like to do at college and what makes us happy and feel safe at college.

As part of our PSHE focus this term, students were then supported in class to complete the health and wellbeing survey which again showed the importance of a varied and diverse curriculum and one that particularly includes music, community trips, opportunities for movement and physical activities and of course time with friends.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support this term and would also like to thank staff for their hard work and commitment.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas.

Best wishes, Juliet



This term has been amazing in Year 13 at the Link college. We have settled in really well and have all worked hard to make sure that we do our best work hard and are kind to each other. We have so many things to be proud of including the Fab cafe which runs from the Link College on Tuesdays from 10 till about 11. Year 13 are in charge and we make sure that all your teas, coffees and hot chocolates are hot and your snacks are served quickly! All

parents are welcome with their friends so do pop along if you are free. Its a bargain as everything is £1 and home made hot sausage rolls are back on the menu.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Concordia Project who are coming in on Tuesday afternoon to work with us on team building, employability and community action. Indy and Nicky have been amazing and we really look forward to seeing them every week.

Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year. The Year 13 Team



Downs Link College  
Surrenden Road  
Brighton  
BN1 7FP

Tel: 01273 507719  
Email: [office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

# Downs View Life Skills College

Dear learners, parents and carers,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I would like to thank you for all your support as we work together as a college community, raising standards and transforming young adult's lives.

There has been so many brilliant events where learners have kept developing essential skills for life. Year 17, college leavers, have already started to focus on next steps and identifying what pathway they want to follow after the Life Skills College. The teachers and job coach have worked with the external careers advisor and learners to identify next steps and skills to continue developing. We also celebrated our first Future Pathways Event with a very high turn out and many providers from education and social care pathways. Another highlight for learners was celebrating the Christmas Fair at the Patcham Memorial Hall.

Some of learners in year 17 have undertaken the role of "mentors" to support other students and newcomers. You have done fantastic work and have had a positive impact on your peers. Newcomers have also settled so well that it looks like they have been part of the college life for longer than a term. It is brilliant to discover what they have been doing when they present their work and achievements during the Learners Board.

Learners from room 6 have started their own Enterprise by making and selling soup at college. They are experts at tasting and exploring flavours and now they are making a range of soups not just for themselves but for others too. They are delicious!

Bringing the learners together, as a community, is paramount and the learners love it! They have continued to develop their own individual skills for life by sharing interests and working collaboratively with new peers during enrichment options, social clubs and the Learners Board. This term learners focused on antibullying, parliament day, college shared values and making our traditional Christmas chutney, we hope you enjoyed it!

I will continue holding parent/carer coffee mornings next term and the first one will be about supported living. I will share more information after the break.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for their dedication and support to learners and college during this term. Their work is invaluable.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break and we look forward to welcoming learners back refreshed and ready for the next term.

Enjoy the festive time!

Raul



# Downs View School Governors' Update

## Meet our new Co-Chairs



Jacqui Shepherd

I have been a co-opted governor at Downs View for over 5 years and took on the co-chair role this year with Ro St John. In my working life I have always been in education as a teacher and then in more recent years as a lecturer in education at the University of Sussex – training teachers in inclusive education. My son has been at Downs View for over 10 years, and it has been the best possible place for him. I have always been impressed by the commitment, patience, hard work – and humour – of the staff and being a governor is my way of giving back. There are so many pressures on our schools in so many ways in the current climate and, as governors, the least we can do is to help and support the school to make the right decisions that have the best interests of the children at heart.



Ro St John

I have been a TA, a teacher and a governor at Downs View school and Link College for around 12 years. I now work for a Local Authority advising and supporting schools across the county to be inclusive and provide excellent education to all children and young people with special educational needs. Having left Downs View as a teacher nearly 3 years ago, I still feel heavily invested in the future of the school and college that plays a hugely important role in the lives of children and young people and the community around them. This is why I chose to work with Jacqui and Vanessa as co-chair of the governing board.

On behalf of the Governors, we wish all families a super festive season and a very happy new year!



# FRIENDS OF DOWNS VIEW SCHOOL & LINK COLLEGE

## FRIENDS OF DOWNS VIEW UPDATE

*Many thanks to those who attended our AGM at the end of November. Great to see some new faces and returning ones. The mood was positive and the commitment to move forward with events, both social and fundraising was very evident. Also with new projects to benefit our young people. The reports and discussions from the meeting will be made available for all to read and will include a list of post holders and those who have taken on responsibilities for the charity. Huge thanks to them for stepping up. In summary, your generosity through fundraising meant we could provide the following in 2022-2023 -*

- Renewal of the Drusillas pass*
- Funding for the Garden Project at the Link College*
- An adapted trike, much needed at the Link College*
- Half the funds for the new playground at school, plus a wheelchair swing*

*Huge thanks as well to three committee members who have decided to take a step back. Nickie Poulton, Keely Lewis and Michelle Edser will be much missed, but have certainly 'done their bit' and then some over many years of fundraising for the Friends.*

### Brighton 10K – 7th April 2024 Places available

*As in recent years, we have six places available for those keen pavement pounders among you! It is a fantastic fundraising opportunity for us, so please get in touch if you would like to secure your place [info@friendsofdownsview.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofdownsview.org.uk) This is open to staff as well as parent/carers.*

*Remember you can use the above email address to contact the Friends at any time and with any questions, queries, suggestions you might have. It doesn't commit you to anything, it's just a great way of connecting with us if meetings just aren't your thing!*

*From all of the Friends, have a very merry Christmas, happy holidays and a great New Year.*

*Lisa Burgess, Chair FODV*

EMAIL: [friends@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:friends@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk) • [www.friendsofdownsview.org.uk](http://www.friendsofdownsview.org.uk)



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





## Christmas Holiday Consultation Line

Dear Parents/Carers,

Do you have a child or young person at school in Brighton & Hove?

**If you have any concerns about their Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing you are invited to talk to a Primary Mental Health Worker or Education Mental Health Practitioner from the Schools Mental Health Service.**

Telephone consultations are available over the Christmas Holiday.

***December 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> along with 2<sup>nd</sup> January***

***9am-12pm.***

**Please email [SchoolsMentalHealthService@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolsMentalHealthService@brighton-hove.gov.uk)**

You will need to send us your name and phone number, with a brief outline of your concerns, and a Primary Mental Health Worker or Education Mental Health Practitioner will call you back.

Whilst we aim to call back within two days, please be aware we may have a high demand, so your patience is appreciated.

Please note, this would not be in place of current services you may already be engaged with.

**This is not a crisis number – if you require immediate support you need to contact your GP, call CAMHS duty care on 03003040061 or go direct to A&E**

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