

A word from the Chair.....

The Downs School Association (DSA) is run by parents from across all year groups. Our aim is quite simple. We organise fun events to raise money. All the money we raise is put towards funding projects that directly enhance our children's time at the school. This year the DSA is funding a climbing frame and some Imagineering Blocks for the Pre Prep. In addition the DSA has funded a piano for one of the music pods, Arts Week, which ran in June 2018 and the DSA is looking at funding a video system for the theatre.

The last term of school was a busy one for parents, children and the DSA. The DSA finished off the academic year with the Fete which was blessed with sunshine this year. A week later we hosted the Fathers Day Cricket Festival which was really well attended by many families from every year group.

The next DSA event is Bonfire night on Saturday 10th November, so make sure you have the date in your diary. Tickets will go on sale in October.

Please take a few minutes to read this Newsletter, I very much hope to meet some of you at our DSA Friends meeting on **Monday 15th October from 3-5pm or at 7:30pm.**

Tiffany Aikens

Summer Fete

The 2018 Fete was a great success, even the sun shone! The summer fete team continued to build on the success of last years fete. New for this year was the second hand children's clothes stall, the book stall, Mocktails, T-shirt design and a beautifully revamped Cake stall. The children's stalls did brisk business, special thanks to all the parents who helped their children with supplies for the stalls. The Bar stocked with Wickwar Brewery's finest bitter, the Prosecco Bar and Sheila's Cream Teas, all proved to be very popular, as did the giant inflatable assault course and the DSA run sweet stall. Thanks again to all the staff who helped with the setup of the event and to all the volunteers who helped to run the stalls. The Fete raised over £3,500 what a fantastic achievement!

Davina, Tish and Naomi

Fun Fitness

Fitness classes for parents run in the Downs School Sports Hall during term time every Monday and Friday from 8:30 – 9:15. Open to all parents and suitable for all fitness levels, Mondays class focusses on interval training and Fridays class is a gentler mix of yoga, pilates and Cardio. Run by Emer Henning a qualified fitness instructor and Downs School parent, the classes cost £20 for 4 sessions, or £7 drop in, with a contribution from each session going to the DSA.

Fathers Day Cricket Festival

On another sunny day, teams of Dads from each year group battled it out to be crowned Downs School Dad's champions! The honours went to Year7. Thanks to the ladies that manned the bar in the Cricket Pavilion, to the Groundsmen who did such a fantastic job in preparing the grounds. Special thanks also to Mike Flavin who very kindly donated some of Wickwar Brewery's finest and Adam for organising the Cow Shed BBQ and for providing the Raffle prizes! Thank you to everyone who turned up, we are awaiting final confirmation, but we think the event raised around £1,200. A brilliant total. David Lixton



Forthcoming DSA Events – Dates for your Diary – Can you help?

Forthcoming DSA Events

Bonfire and Firework Night Saturday 10th November

Quiz night – Date TBC (February/March 2019)

Fete – 8th June 2019 (TBC)

Fathers Day Cricket Festival – 16th June 2019

New ideas for 2019/20

Circus, Golf Day, Summer Festival and more....

DSA Committee members

Tiffany Aikens (Chair), Katy Manson (Treasurer), Davina Lewis (Secretary), Valerie Gunn (School Representative), Helen Walker (SMT Representative) Karen Davis, Lizzie Finlay, David Lixton, Rowella Matthews, Tonia Painter, Marina Tadayon, Carey Williams, Laetitia Parkes and Naomi Triggol.

Please do let us know if you would like to be involved by coming to our welcome meeting on 15th October. Please RSVP office@thedownsschool.co.uk

The DSA NEEDS YOU!

There are many more projects that the DSA would like to support. But we need your help. Could you join the DSA? We hold between 6 and 8 meetings a year at 8pm on a Monday evening at the school. You will be fully supported by the other members of the DSA as each event is planned. Your involvement will range from getting volunteers to man stalls at our events, selling tickets to your year group and helping to organise the events.

If you would be interested in joining the DSA, come along to the meeting on Monday 15th October between 3-5pm for Coffee and cake or from 7:30pm for drinks and nibbles. Please RSVP to office@thedownsschool.co.uk

We would particularly love to welcome more men on to the committee and parents from Reception, Y1 and Y4. Any new members would be very welcome from any year group.

Downs School Lottery

The DSA Lottery will once again be running for the academic year 2018/19. The annual cost is £10 per lottery number and provides you with the opportunity of winning a monthly cash prize. 50% of the money generated goes into the prize fund and the other 50% to the DSA for the direct benefit of the children at school. There are posters going up around the school, and you can also email any questions to lotto@thedsa.net. Thank you and good luck!

DSA on Facebook!

Thanks to Naomi Triggol for setting up the Downs School Association Facebook page. On there you will find details of forthcoming events and pictures from events the DSA have recently held. Send a request! We are waiting to welcome you!

Recycling at DSA Events

All rubbish generated at DSA Events is recycled by the company that handles the school waste. All the left over toys, books and clothes from the Fete were donated to the Children's Hospice South West.

DSA Fund Raising

You can support the work of the DSA by coming along to our events, entering the Lotto and buying DSA merchandise. The DSA sells large golf umbrellas and thermos mugs at DSA organised events and the Christmas Bazaar.