

A word from the Chair.....

It was lovely to meet so many of you at the Curriculum Coffee mornings in September. It was a chance for me to explain what the DSA does and to recruit some new members. I'm delighted that we now have representatives from nearly every year group. It's not too late to join, please contact me via the school office if you would be interested in joining or coming along to our next meeting.

The Firework and Bonfire night was a tremendous success, we raised just over £3,000! Thank you to everyone involved.

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.

Please take a few minutes to read this Newsletter, it includes information on forthcoming events and what projects we will support in 2019.

Tiffany Aikens

Chair

Firework Spectacular!

The weather was kind and the evening went with a bang! Over 670 people attended the annual Firework and Bonfire night on Saturday 10th November. The bar, hotdog, novelties and hot chocolate stalls were all very busy. A very big thank you to all the volunteers on the night who helped the evening run so smoothly. Special thanks to Liam Hopkins for donating the sausages and cider and to Mike Flavin from Wickwar Brewery for the beer. The online tickets worked really well and we will use it for future DSA events. It was a great night that raised just over £3,000!!!!

Quiz night – 22nd March

Get the 22nd March in your diary for a great night of fun, questions, wine, cheese and Sheila's amazing pie and chips! Quiz masters Ben Thefault and Tim Richmond return to test the knowledge of parents, teachers and gap students! So if you're a mastermind, a fan of music or geography or a fan of the obscure or you just fancy a fun night out – we will see you there.

Tickets on sale very soon.

Spend, Spend, Spend!

This year the DSA will be funding a number of smaller projects which will benefit children from Reception to Year 8.

The DSA will again sponsor Arts Week in 2019. The event is hugely valued by everyone for both its enjoyment and educational benefits.

In addition the DSA will fund the purchase of

- A new school kiln (arriving after half term)
- Piano for the music pods
- Outdoor table tennis table
- 20 sub suits for use at tournaments

The school is currently costing 2 further projects that the DSA hope to be able to support in 2019.

I'm thrilled that the DSA is able to support such a wide variety of projects.

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

Forthcoming DSA Events

Quiz night – 22nd March 2019

Fete – 8th June 2019 (TBC)

Fathers Day Cricket Festival – 16th June 2019

PLUS

The DSA is looking to run some smaller pop up events like a car boot sale, gin tasting, mums rounders & an open air cinema night. Can you help? Do you have any ideas for a fun event?

DSA Committee members

Tiffany Aikens (Chair), Katy Manson (Treasurer), Davina Lewis (Secretary), Valerie Gunn (School Representative), Helen Walker (SMT Representative)

Reception – Stewart Mulligan, Sian Gissing-McMeel

Y1 – Emma Moseling **Y2** – Davina Lewis **Y3** Rowella Matthews & Anupa Shaunak

Y4 – Davina Lewis, Katherine Foster, Bella Smith & Anupa Shaunak

Y5 – Karen Davis, Bella Smith & Carey Williams

Y6 – Tish Parkes, Tonia Painter **Y7** - Marina Tadayon, Katy Manson & Tiffany Aikens

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 our next meeting. Please RSVP to office@thedownsschool.co.uk

We would particularly love to welcome more men on to the committee. Any new members would be very welcome from any year group.

Downs School Lottery

The DSA Lottery is once again 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. You will soon be able to buy your Lotto number online, you can email any questions to lotto@thedsa.net. Thank you and good luck!

Fitness for all

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.

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 **reduced to just £15** and thermos mugs at DSA organised events. Contact the DSA via the office to purchase DSA merchandise.