



THE DOWNS
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
BRISTOL

Bertie's
NURSERY SCHOOL
Wraxall

1.5

HISTORY OF THE DOWNS SCHOOL

<i>1894</i>	The Downs School was founded at 8 Upper Belgrave Road, Clifton. Morton Luce was the Headmaster, until 1896.
<i>1896-99</i>	Bertram Bevan-Petman was Headmaster.
<i>1899</i>	Hugh Charles King became Headmaster. There were 8 boarders and 8 day boys.
<i>July 1906</i>	The Downs School Record was a simple manuscript.
<i>Dec 1906</i>	The first official Record was made available at a price of 5p
<i>June 1907</i>	The School competed in an athletic match against Braidlea, Colchester House, Elveden and S. Oswalds XIV.
<i>Summer 1907</i>	C.R. Disney took 59 wkts with an average of 3.01. Cricket XI travelled to Weston Lodge by train to play cricket.
<i>July 1908</i>	Four brothers, Webb, in attendance at the School simultaneously.
<i>July 1908</i>	J.T. Moloney gained an Exhibition to Sherborne worth £21 per annum.
<i>July 1908</i>	The King and Queen drove past the School during their visit to Bristol.
<i>Easter 1909</i>	School was connected by phone on Bristol 521.
<i>Easter 1909</i>	First parents' race took place.
<i>Summer 1909</i>	27 boys were enrolled in the School, double that of September 1899.

<i>Summer 1910</i>	School sent £1 to Captain Scott's South Polar Expedition, towards the expense of sledge equipment.
<i>Spring 1911</i>	25 or 29 boys in the School contracted measles.
<i>Summer 1911</i>	Three days holiday was awarded to celebrate the Coronation. Three days were then added to the end of term!
<i>1913</i>	The awarding of class prizes was first mentioned.
<i>Summer 1914</i>	1st XI played the Parents, Parents won by 10 wickets.
<i>Spring 1915</i>	Lieutenant Commander G.G. Grant was awarded DSC. He was the first old boy to be decorated.
<i>1915</i>	May 30th – first old boy to be killed in the Great War, Sergeant Colin Hutchinson, at Gallipoli.
<i>Summer 1915</i>	Headmaster became Chairman of the Association of Preparatory Schools.
<i>Sept 1915</i>	2nd Lt. Cockburn Tod, KOSB's killed at Flanders, aged 19. Cup presented by parents. Now known as the Cockburn Cup "To encourage others to follow a good example".
<i>Spring 1916</i>	First girl enrolled V.M.S. (Sally) King.
<i>Summer 1916</i>	Unbeaten cricket XI. Conkers came under the Conscriptio Act and 3cwt. Collected for munitions.
<i>Spring 1918</i>	An allotment was started in Stoke Bishop producing potatoes, peas, beans, sugar beat, marrows and jam making. 2/- (10 pence) for each sixth of an acre.
<i>Summer 1918</i>	First XI Invicta.
<i>Summer 1919</i>	Wilfrid and Eelfric Harrison (brothers) appointed Headmasters. There were 41 boys.
<i>Winter 1919</i>	School's first attempt at a Shakespearean play, two acts from <i>Julius Caesar</i> .
<i>Spring 1920</i>	43 pupils on the roll.
<i>July 1922</i>	Start of the Old Boys' Club. Record cost 9 guineas to produce. Sold 50 at 1/6 (7.5 pence).
<i>July 1922</i>	First World War Memorial unveiled. Cricket was seen as the "King of Sports", "Any interference with cricket's

prerogative is regarded with a certain amount of disfavour". No practice for athletics meeting with four other schools, hence poor showing.

- Spring 1923* School number reaches 50 for the first time.
- Easter 1924* Wilfrid Harrison convalescing in Canvey Island. Aelfric Harrison, his brother, in spite of losing one arm in the war, captained Gloucester at hockey. He played with his brother for Dorset at cricket, being an extremely good bowler.
- Summer 1927* The Downs School moved to Charlton House, Wraxall. There were 48 boys in the School.
- Sept 1927* First School concert was held.
- Spring 1928* Inter-house chess competition was started.
- Summer 1928* The scout group formed, 165th Bristol troop, with 13 boys.
- Winter 1928* The first boxing competition was held.
- April 1930* Following the visit of the HMI, The Board of Education, affirmed the School was efficient and placed it on the list of Preparatory Schools.
- Summer 1932* J.L.F. Armitage took 77 wkts. at an average of 4.87.
- Winter 1932* A gift of six brace of pheasant for game pie, donated by T.R. Davey.
- 1932* Rev. Stock joined the staff. He was a soccer and hockey blue at Oxford and captained England at hockey. Three awards were won in the same term to Winchester, Clifton and Weymouth College.
- Summer 1933* D.D. Mitchell held ten athletics records at the time of leaving. J.L.F. Armitage scored the first 100 (131 n.o.) at the Charlton ground.
- Sept 1933* First oak bench presented by W.M. and M. L. Eldeton.
- Summer 1934* F.A.C. Gyles scored 470 runs in 17 innings.
- 1935* Honours board included the names of captains of soccer, hockey, rugby and cricket.
- Summer 1936* Wilfrid Harrison retired. His brother Aelfric continued as Headmaster.

<i>Summer 1937</i>	M. Rawlins took 83 wickets at an average of 5.07.
<i>Spring 1938</i>	Ann Christie achieved a scholarship to Badminton. Clock situated at the bottom of the stairs was presented to commemorate this (still going strong!).
<i>Summer 1938</i>	G. Lucas took 88 wkts. at an average of 5.62.
<i>May 1939</i>	The first School play performed at the inauguration of the pavilion. Cellars were gas-proofed and glass-proofed; the local air raid warden expressed them to be admirable.
<i>Summer 1939</i>	C.A. Paterson scored 124 n.o. versus Kingwell Court.
<i>Summer 1940</i>	Crazes during the summer were keeping pet spiders, sailing boats on the lily pond, bicycle polo and gliders.
<i>1944</i>	School telephone number Nailsea 8.
<i>1945</i>	Week after summer term began the war in Europe ended. V.E. celebrations were held.
<i>1946-47</i>	Most of the Easter term was snow and ice bound. John Bromhead won a scholarship to Oakham and Peter Cornwell an exhibition to King's School, Bruton.
<i>1948</i>	George Shallow took over as Headmaster. There were 70 children on the School roll, and fees were 90 guineas and 60 guineas per annum for boarders and day pupils respectively.
<i>1958</i>	Lt. Col. C.R. Shallow Indian Army (Ret'd) (Commandant, Army School of Education Belgaum India 1937-40) was Second master assisted by 5 resident masters and 1 resident mistress together with two matrons.
<i>1963</i>	Peter Lazarus took over as Headmaster. There were 48 boys on the School roll.
<i>1964</i>	The Downs School Record was resurrected, the last edition having appeared in 1947, hence the above gap in the history of the School.
<i>1965</i>	90 boys in the School.
<i>1966</i>	Back yard surfaced for 'roller-skating'. There was a return to hockey as the main sport. The new pavilion erected in the spring. Big Bedford 39-seater coach acquired. Possession was taken of the farmhouse and the dormitories started to take shape. The Banbury Building

was put up. On 27th September Mary Lazarus was born. There was a half day holiday to commemorate. There were 23 boys boarding in the farmhouse. The carol service was held at Wraxall Parish Church for the first time. An obstacle course was built in the woods. First VII were runners up in Rosslyn Park National Schools Tournament. First school trip abroad by Downs pupils to Liechtenstein on a walking holiday.

- 1969* 75th anniversary of the founding of the School. An appeal was started to finance a new science laboratory that was to be situated in the coachman's yard. Changing rooms and a new dining room were all erected at the same time. In the spring the first ski-ing party visited Kuhtai.
- Summer 1970* New stable block was in use providing a science laboratory and three teaching rooms. German was offered in the sixth form as an optional subject.
- Summer 1971* First XI enjoyed an unbeaten cricket tour in Holland. First major success at sevens in winning the Caldicott tournament.
- Sept 1972* The School became an Educational Trust. "Drum Mass" was performed at Christ Church, Clevedon and at the Theatre Royal, Bristol Old Vic, written by Paul Nicolaidis, Director of Music. Clubs were formed including bridge, modelling, radio, stamp and chess clubs. 1st XV Invicta by default as five games were cancelled due to hepatitis.
- Summer 1973* Justin Bar achieved the highest aggregate of runs, 494 at an average of 61.8. The new carpentry block was opened on the opposite side to the stable block. The new boilers were situated in the greenhouses.
- Summer 1974* Mark Jones scored 102 as a Colt cricketer in only 49 minutes.
- October 1974* First XV rugby tour to Berlin took place.
- October 1975* Downs School Parents' Association was formed as a legal charity. Hard playing area was constructed providing room for three tennis courts. First XV Invicta – P16, W16, Pts. F735 A24, with Paul Marchionnie scoring 63 tries.
- Easter 1976* First win at Rosslyn Park. In the 6 matches played, the Downs scored 210 points and conceded only 10.
- Sept 1976* The Downs first formally admitted girls.

<i>March 1976</i>	First VII win Downs 7's for the first time.
<i>March 1977</i>	First VII make a successful defence at the Rosslyn Park tournament.
<i>March 1978</i>	The Downs win for an unprecedented third consecutive time at Rosslyn Park. There was an Easter tour by the first XV to Germany.
<i>March 1979</i>	The first VII win at Rosslyn Park for the fourth time in succession.
<i>Summer 1979</i>	Both first and second XI's enjoyed unbeaten seasons.
<i>Sept. 1979</i>	The Pre-Prep was opened, along with the first girls' dormitory. The Colts XV were unbeaten.
<i>1 April 1980</i>	The death of Peter Lazarus. When he arrived at The Downs in 1963, the School consisted of 48 pupils, by the time of his death this had increased to 279 pupils.
<i>1980</i>	A record 12 scholarships were won.
<i>1980-81</i>	Michael Owen, Senior Master, was appointed Acting Headmaster for two terms. David Bishop became Headmaster for two terms.
<i>Summer 1981</i>	The new swimming pool was opened.
<i>Sept. 1981</i>	James Macpherson was appointed Headmaster. First Rugby XV Invicta.
<i>1982</i>	First hockey, first cricket, and Colts XV Invicta. This was an unparalleled success.
<i>1983</i>	First XV, second XV, Colts XV and under 10 XV were all Invicta.
<i>1984</i>	The new dining hall was completed. The walled garden was surfaced creating space for three new tennis courts. Noni Breakwell retired from her post as senior matron after 20 years of service. The girls' hockey XI was Invicta for the first time ever.
<i>May 1987</i>	The new science laboratories and classroom block were opened by the Chairman of the Governors.
<i>May 1988</i>	Jeremy Costello scored 103 not out.
<i>July 1988</i>	Tony Brown retired after 20 years teaching.

<i>July 1991</i>	Terry Brooks left after 22 years.
<i>Feb. 1992</i>	The Sports Hall was opened by Jonathan Webb.
<i>1992</i>	Michael and Pat Owen retired after 37 years at the School.
<i>Winter 1992</i>	The old gym was converted in to a music and drama theatre. Colts Rugby XV Invicta.
<i>May 1993</i>	Charltonians (ex-pupils Association) founded.
<i>July 1993</i>	Joyce Fray retired after 23 years' service.
<i>Summer 1993</i>	There were 196 pupils in the School (of whom 62 were in the Pre-Prep).
<i>1994</i>	Colts VII triumphant – win six tournaments. Matthew Bessell (800m & 1500 m) and Jessica Hammond win gold medals at national championships.
<i>1995</i>	Fifth win at Rosslyn Park National Sevens. Tom Leigh averages 90.1 with the cricket bat. Highest score 170 n.o. against Christ Brecon.
<i>1996</i>	19 scholarships to senior schools. 1st XV tour to South Africa.
<i>1997</i>	Colts Invicta. U.9 National mini rugby champions.
<i>Summer 1997</i>	Downs Award Scheme introduced.
<i>July 1999</i>	James & Sarah Macpherson leave the Downs after 18 successful years.
<i>Sept. 1999</i>	Ted Liston appointed Headmaster of The Downs School.
<i>Dec. 1999</i>	Colts Invicta without conceding a point in 14 matches.
<i>March 2000</i>	Colts retain title at National Mini Rugby champions for 3rd year.
<i>Jan. 2001</i>	Tony Williams appointed Acting Headmaster for two terms. Ted Liston left after being Headmaster for four terms.
<i>March 2001</i>	1st VII win at Rosslyn Park for the sixth time.
<i>Sept 2001</i>	Marcus Gunn appointed Headmaster.
<i>Dec 2001</i>	1st XV Invicta.

<i>March 2002</i>	1st VII win at Rosslyn Park for seventh time. The Downs, along with Caldicott, have now won the tournament more times than any other Prep School. U.11 VII Girls hockey team runners-up at IAPS National mini hockey championships.
<i>July 2002</i>	After the death of Lord Wraxall, the freehold of The Downs School is acquired along with additional land, for The Downs School Educational Trust.
<i>June 2003</i>	Arts Week was introduced.
<i>July 2003</i>	Miss Mary Biller and Mr John Evans retired after thirty-two years of unstinting service to The Downs.
<i>Summer 2004</i>	U.13 Girls rounders team won the IAPS National Rounders Championships. Three girls are selected to play for England.
<i>Sept 2004</i>	Early Years is closed. A Pre-Prep Department is opened under the leadership of Mrs Audrey Marsden. Charlton Nursery opens.
<i>Summer 2005</i>	The 8th year leavers are awarded a record 21 scholarships. Additionally, Christy Rush scores the highest total score in the Winchester Entrance.
<i>July 2005</i>	Saturday school is concluded. Saturday fixtures and weekly boarding continue.
<i>Summer 2006</i>	U.11 Lacrosse team wins the IAPS National Lacrosse Championships and the United Kingdom Schools Championships.
<i>July 2006</i>	Boarding is concluded.
<i>Sept 2006</i>	The new Pre-Prep extension is opened – Reception classrooms and changing rooms.
<i>July 2007</i>	Mr Alastair Currie becomes Chairman. He is the first Charltonian to hold the office.
<i>Sept 2007</i>	Cordelia Milward is Head Girl. She follows her brothers Alex (2001-02) and Max (2003-4) who were Head boys.
<i>July 2008</i>	Mr Phillippe Baling retires after thirty-eight years of unstinting service to the School. He is replaced with a younger, more attractive French model!

October 2008	The new Astro Turfs and Netball Courts are opened.
2010	Matt Cardle (Charltonian) wins the X Factor Woodland play area created. The Downs enters the first Formula 24 Greenpower Race. Katie Swan wins U10 Orange Bowl (International Tennis Event).
2011	100 mb internet installed down the drive Site made WiFi New Computer Room opened.
2012	Pre-Prep Drive resurfaced Coachman's Cottage refurbished to become After Care and Parents Café. Katie Swan National U14 LTA Champion
2013	Sports Hall refurbished Scout Hut becomes wood work Centre
2014	New Classroom Block – Year 4, 5, and 6
2015	New Head of Pre-Prep; Miss Heather Fulton Extended Pre-Prep Car Park Developed Reception play area Refurbished Laboratories Katie Swan Runner Up in Australian Junior Open Chamber Choir reach final of Choir of the Year Competition and sing to packed audience at The Royal Festival Hall
2016	Maintenance Team erect new pavilion New Tree House Oliver Buckle, at ten years old, becomes youngest to climb Old Man of Hoy 3 boys pass into Winchester College Chamber Choir reach final of Choir of the Year Competition again
2017	New Drama and Dance studios, new Music Pods – the performing arts is booming Mr Alastair Currie retires as Chairman. He is followed by Mr Mark Burchfield, former parent Mr Matthew Mann, Head of the Prep School
2018	The school is re-branded; The Downs School Preparatory Bristol. The Gibbs heraldry crest is combined with the school shield to create a new school crest with motto: January Bertie's opens; The first Downs School Nursery is Named after the Headmaster's dog – Mrs Kathy Tannion is the Head.

Year 8 pupils move on to 14 different schools including Eton, Winchester, Oundle and Cheltenham Ladies College

2019 The Theatre and the Dining Room are upgraded.
Dr Colin Bayne Jardine, Chairman and governor for 35 years dies.

2020 Marcus and Valerie Gunn retire after 19 years
First female Head of The Downs Mrs Debbie Isaachsen
Head of Prep School; Mr Tom Westray
Head of Pre-Prep; Mrs Imogen Payne
New Head of Bertie's; Mrs Margaret Wookey

This policy (or Handbook) was updated on	Signed on behalf of the School/Nursery	Date for next review
<i>01.03.2020</i>	<i>M Gunn</i>	<i>01/09/2021</i>

Overview required by Governor Committee - date	Policy upload to ISI Portal - date	Policy uploaded to website(s) - date
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