

WELCOME TO DOWNEND SCHOOL

Downend School

PARENT NEWSLETTER:

25th June, 2026

Head's Messages

I hope everyone is well and managing to stay as cool as possible in the heat. Thank you all for your patience as we've worked hard to rearrange or adapt the events planned for yesterday and today.

Where possible, activities have been rescheduled, including some of the missed Year 12 PPEs, which are essential for UCAS applications; the Year 12 Induction Day, now taking place on **Wednesday 8th July**; the Year 6 parent/carer meeting this evening, which will now be held **online**; and the second-hand uniform sale, which has been moved to **Thursday 2nd July, 3.30pm–5pm**.

Unfortunately, there are some events and activities that may not be able to be rearranged within the remaining weeks of the school year. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to navigate these challenges.

Reopening Friday 26th June

Following the two days of school closure as a result of the red weather warning, school **will reopen on Friday 26th June**. Although the temperatures are expected to drop a little we are still anticipating it being very warm. As such students can wear their PE kit (Downend School PE t-shirt, football style shorts and trainers). Short, tight cycling / gym shorts are not part of the PE kit and should not be worn.

More typical temperatures are expected to return next week and therefore normal uniform rules will return on Monday 29th June.

To help us keep everyone protected in the heat, please make sure your child comes to school with the following essentials:

- **A filled water bottle** — We have refilling stations around school which can be accessed.

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- **A sun hat** which can be worn if they are spending time outside e.g. at break and lunch time or in PE lessons.
 - **Sun cream applied before school**

During lessons staff will be doing their best to keep classrooms as cool as possible and at break and lunch, children will be encouraged to stay in **shaded areas**. We have continued to relocate classes timetabled in rooms which we know to be the hottest. These small steps make a big difference in preventing heat exhaustion and keeping everyone happy and healthy.

Phone Free Site

On Monday we became a phone-free site with the introduction of the Yondr pouches for students. We have been really proud and pleased to see how positively students have responded to what is a significant change for them. Staff are already noticing an increase in students chatting, socialising, and playing games together during break and lunch times.

As we are still in the early stages of establishing these new habits, we would appreciate parents and carers continuing to remind students to bring their pouch into school each day.

If you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please contact main reception on 01454 862300, speaking to the receptionist, leaving a message on the answer phone or emailing dow-admin@cset.co.uk

Well done to Year 11 and 13

As we reach the end of the Year 11 GCSE exams and the Year 13 A Level exams, I want to extend my sincere congratulations to all our students. The exam season is always a demanding time, and we have been incredibly proud of the maturity, resilience, and dedication they have shown throughout.

I hope the long summer ahead brings plenty of time for rest, relaxation, and fun. We look forward to celebrating with you when you collect your results in August, and we are confident that your hard work will be rewarded.

If any Year 11 students have uniform they would like to donate for the second-hand uniform sale, we would be very grateful for any contributions. Revision guides that are in good condition and no longer needed can also be handed in at reception.

Enrichment week

Next week is enrichment week and this week the students have been finding out about the different things that are planned for them in school. The staff have been working incredibly hard to plan activities that enrich the curriculum experiences for your child both on residential visits and in the school.

Students are expected to be in the normal school uniform for enrichment week unless attending residential trips. Similarly, students are expected to have their phone in their Yondr pouch for school based activities.

We look forward to sharing updates on our Facebook page during the week and there will be an end of week round up.

If your child is unwell during enrichment week and can not attend school (or work experience for Year 10) please use the normal channels for reporting student absence.

Homework

As part of our school improvement priorities we have been reviewing the current principles and practices used across the school for homework. This is an area that will continue to be a school priority into the new school year. We would really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete this short [Parent / carer questionnaire](#). The form will close on Monday 6th July..

Next Term's Key Dates

26th June	Year 7 Transition day
29th June	Enrichment week - All years
8th July	Year 12 Induction day (Rearranged from 24th June) Year 9 HPV vaccinations Art exhibition 4-7pm Summer Music concert
9th July	Downend Awards 5-7pm

14th July	Year 12 Geography fieldwork trip 14th -17th
21st July	Last day of term 6

Term time dates for 2026/2027 and Inset dates

This is just a reminder of the term dates and inset dates for next academic year (2026/2027). We politely request that holidays or other events are not booked within term time. It is exceptionally **unlikely** that they will be authorised and likely you will be fined by the local authority.

The term dates for **2026/2027** are:

Term 1: 3/9/26 - 23/10/26	Term 2: 2/11/26 - 18/12/26	Term 3: 4/1/27 - 12/2/27
Term 4: 22/2/27 - 25/3/27	Term 5: 12/4/27 - 28/5/27	Term 6: 7/6/27 - 23/7/27

The INSET Days for 2026-27 are as follows:

Thursday 3rd September* Friday 2nd October 2026 Monday 2nd November 2026

Monday 4th January 2027 Monday 12th **and** Tuesday 13th April 2027

Monday 5th July 2027

*Please note that only Year 7 and 12 will start on 4th September, all other years will start on Monday 7th September.

It is important to highlight that the term dates **do not** align 100% with South Glos Local Authority dates (start of term 1 and end of term 6 are different) and therefore if you have a child in another school which is not within the CSET academy, these dates will be different.