

DOWNSIDE
SCHOOL

A large, light-colored, stylized letter 'Q' graphic is positioned in the background, partially overlapping the text. The 'Q' is composed of a thick, rounded stroke that forms the bowl of the letter, and a thin, curved tail that extends downwards and to the right.

FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS

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WHAT ARE DOWNSIDE'S ACADEMIC RESULTS LIKE?

Academic results have improved dramatically in recent years and the improvements are set to continue.

- A Level – 77% A to B (71% A to B in 2006)
- GCSE – 60% A* or A (56% A* or A in 2006)

The latest academic league tables confirm Downside to be Britain's leading co-educational Catholic boarding-school.

WHAT ARE THE TARGETS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN ACADEMIC RESULTS?

GCSE

The School is aiming for 65% A*/A and 100% A*/C over the medium term, with a medium term target of 80% A*/A.

A Level

The School is aiming for 80% A/B grades over the short term, followed by a gradual rise to 85% A/B grades in the medium term.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL DOING TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

Over the past three years the School has implemented a range of measures to improve academic performance across the ability range at Downside.

- Academic incentives for pupils – the academic house competition and individual rewards.
- Academic societies – year-group society meetings and subject societies.
- Rigorous academic monitoring of pupils – Interim, Half-Term and End of Term reporting; electronic reporting every two to three weeks.
- Internal examinations – more regular examinations, at appropriate times in the academic cycle.
- Enhanced protocols for assessment of teaching – frequent lesson observation and a new appraisal / professional review system.
- Year group academic instruction – key topics addressed on a year group basis.
- Ongoing improvement of teaching and learning resources – intranet, electronic whiteboards and IT centres, new academic faculties and libraries.

DOES DOWNSIDE HAVE A PASS MARK AT COMMON ENTRANCE?

Yes. Pupils from outside the School, and from St Oliver's – our junior house for pupils aged 9 to 13 – must achieve at least 50% as an average mark across the range of their subjects at Common Entrance.

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE AT DOWNSIDE?

Classes contain a maximum of twenty pupils.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL DOING TO IMPROVE FACILITIES?

Over the past three years the School has invested over £6m in upgrading facilities. Major refurbishments have been undertaken and are ongoing. In this year alone Isabella, the second new girls' house, was opened, and the Petre Library, classrooms and workshops have been updated.

The next major project is the development of the theatre, swimming-pool and gym complex.



WHERE DO DOWNSIDE'S PUPILS COME FROM AT 13+?

As a national boarding school, Downside takes pupils from far and wide, but boarders come principally from the South West and South East of England, London and the Midlands. A small number of pupils join us from the Catholic countries of Europe, and from the rest of the world.

Downside will remain a traditional, national, full-boarding school, not a weekly boarding school, or a flexi boarding school, or a regional day school with international boarding.

About a third of Downside's Third Form (Year 9) pupils graduate from St Oliver's House. The rest join us from a wide range of preparatory and primary schools, both Catholic and non-Catholic.

All Hallows Preparatory School, Somerset
Beaudesert Park School, Gloucestershire
Beeston Hall School, Norfolk
Birchfield Preparatory School, West Midlands
Caldicott Preparatory School, Buckinghamshire
Cheltenham College Junior School, Cheltenham
Cheltenham Ladies College, Cheltenham
Cothill House Preparatory School, Oxfordshire
Dean Close Preparatory School, Cheltenham
Donhead, Wimbeldon
Dulwich College Preparatory School, London
Farleigh School, Andover
Hanford School, Blandford
Highfield School, Hampshire
Hordle Walhampton School, Hampshire
King's College Junior School, Wimbledon
King's Hall School, Taunton
Knighton House School, Dorset
Ludgrove School, Wokingham
Moreton Hall Preparatory School, Bury St Edmunds
Mount House School, Tavistock
Mount School, London
Norman Court Preparatory School, Wiltshire
Orwell Park School, Suffolk
Perrott Hill School, Somerset
Port Regis, Shaftesbury
Sandroyd School, Wiltshire
Sherborne Prep School, Dorset
St Augustine's Catholic College, Trowbridge
St Edmund's School, Hindhead
St John's Beaumont School, Windsor
St Louis Catholic Middle School, Bury St Edmunds
St Martin's College, Malta
St Neot's Preparatory School, Hampshire
St Oliver's, Downside
St Richard's Preparatory School, Herefordshire
The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, London
The Dragon School, Oxford
The Elms School, Malvern



Thorpe House School, Buckinghamshire
UWCSEA, Singapore
Westminster Cathedral Choir School, London
Woodcote House School, Surrey

WHERE DO DOWNSIDE'S PUPILS COME FROM AT 16+?

Downside has a comparatively small annual intake into the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12) because few pupils leave, or swap schools, after GCSEs. Almost all Sixth Form entrants are boarders, often seeking the advantages of a co-educational school for their A Level years. Again, pupils come from all over the United Kingdom and beyond.

DOES DOWNSIDE HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL INTAKE OF PUPILS?

Yes. Downside is proud to welcome pupils from all over the world. In 2007/08 90% of our pupils are from the United Kingdom, 6% from Europe, and 4% from the rest of the world.

ARE ALL PUPILS AT DOWNSIDE CATHOLIC?

The vast majority of pupils at Downside are Catholic, and the faith of the Church is taught in its fullness. Downside welcomes families and children from other Christian denominations, but asks them always to remember its distinctively Catholic and Benedictine identity.

HOW MANY PUPILS ARE THERE CURRENTLY AT DOWNSIDE?

Downside Senior School is currently at maximum capacity of 345 pupils.

WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC AIM FOR THE SENIOR SCHOOL (13-18 YRS)?

The strategic aim for the Senior School (13-18 yrs) is to be a 60/40 boys/girls school, with 85% full boarders, in five Year Groups of 68.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL FEES?

Fees, payable termly and in advance, for the academic year 2007/08 are as follows:

Senior School	Boarding £7,406	Day £3,975
St Oliver's	Boarding £5,882	Day £3,573

DOES DOWNSIDE OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS?

Yes. The School offers a variety of scholarships and awards for boys and girls joining the Senior School at 13+ (Year 9) and the Sixth Form at 16+ (Year 12). Detailed booklets are available from the Registrar, or you can download them from our website, along with application forms, by clicking [here](#).



WHAT BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Bursaries for children of Old Gregorians

- 5% for each child

Sibling Bursaries

- First child 5%
- Second child 10%
- Third child 15%

WHAT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE ON OFFER?

- Art Club
- Badminton
- Ballet
- Basketball
- Beekeeping
- Bridge
- Chess
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Classical Greek Club
- Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
- Community Service
- Cookery
- Croquet
- Debating
- Dining Society
- Dissection Club
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- Fencing
- Film Club
- First Aid Club
- Fly-fishing
- French Club
- Gardening
- Golf
- Hebrew
- History Society
- Indoor Football
- Jewellery Club
- Justice and Peace Club
- Kayaking
- LAMDA Speech and Drama
- Life drawing
- Local History Club
- Mandarin
- Marching Band
- Martial Arts
- Mathematics Club
- Model United Nations (MUN)
- Music
- Orchestra



- Philosophy Reading Group
- Photography
- Pipe Band
- Polo
- Song Writing
- Spanish Cooking
- Sports Leadership Awards
- Squash
- Tarantula Club
- Tennis
- Theatre Lighting and Sound
- Ulysses Club
- Vintners
- Weight Training
- Young Enterprise Award

WHAT IS THE WEEKLY TIMETABLE IN THE THIRD FORM (YEAR 9)?

Mondays to Fridays: Summer

7.00 am	Pupils rise
7.30 am – 8.15 am	Breakfast in the Main School Refectory
7.40 am – 8.00 am	Mass in the Old Chapel (Thursday)
8.25 am	House Assembly and morning prayers Day pupils arrive
8.45 am – 10.55 am	Lessons
10.55 am – 11.25 am	The Half (morning break)
11.25 am – 12.50 pm	Games (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday)
12.05 pm – 12.50 pm	Lessons or first sitting of lunch
12.55 pm – 1.35 pm	Lessons or second sitting of lunch
1.35 pm – 2.20 pm	Lessons
2.35 pm – 4.00 pm	Lessons Activities (Tuesday and Friday)
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
4.05 pm – 4.35 pm	Academic detention
4.45 pm – 6.10 pm	Lessons Activities (Wednesday)
6.10 pm	Day pupils depart
6.10 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper
6.40 pm – 7.15 pm	Activities /free time
7.15 pm – 8.45 pm	Supervised Preparation (homework)
8.45 pm	House assembly, fruit juice, cocoa and biscuits, evening prayers
9.25 pm	Return to dormitories
10.00 pm	Lights out

Mondays to Fridays: Winter

7.15 am	Pupils rise
7.30 am – 8.15 am	Breakfast in the Main School Refectory
7.40 am – 8.00 am	Mass in the Old Chapel (Thursday)
8.25 am	House assembly and morning prayers Day pupils arrive
8.45 am – 10.55 am	Lessons
10.55 am – 11.25 am	The Half (morning break)



11.25 am – 12.50 pm	Games (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)
12.05 pm – 12.50 pm	Lessons or first sitting of lunch
12.55 pm – 1.35 pm	Lessons or second sitting of lunch
1.35 pm – 2.20 pm	Lessons
2.40 pm – 4.00 pm	Lessons (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) Activities (Tuesday and Friday)
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
4.05 pm – 4.35 pm	Academic detention
4.45 pm – 6.10 pm	Lessons (Activities on Wednesdays)
6.10 pm	Day pupils depart
6.10 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper in the Main School Refectory
6.40 pm – 7.15 pm	Activities
7.15 pm – 8.45 pm	Supervised Preparation (homework)
8.45 pm	House assembly, fruit juice, cocoa and biscuits, evening prayers
9.25 pm	Return to dormitories
9.45 pm	Lights out

Saturdays: Summer and Winter

7.15 am	Pupils rise
7.30 am – 8.15 am	Breakfast
8.25 am	House assembly and morning prayers Day pupils arrive
8.45 am – 10.55 am	Lessons
10.55 am – 11.25 am	The Half (morning break)
11.25 am – 12.10 pm	Lessons
12.10 pm – 12.45 pm	Lunch Day pupils may depart
1.00 pm – 6.00 pm (variable)	Games fixtures
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
5.30 pm	Check-in
6.10 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper
6.40 pm – 9.00 pm	Free time / House DVD
9.00 pm	House Party (cheese, pickles, ham, bread, jam, hot and cold drinks)
10.15 pm	House assembly
10.30 pm	Return to dormitories
10.45 pm	Lights out

Sundays: Summer and Winter

7.15 am	Pupils rise
7.30 am – 8.15 am	Breakfast
10.00 am – 11.00 am	Mass in the Abbey Church
11.30 am – 12.30 pm	Brunch
1.00 pm – 5.00 pm	House outings / activities
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
5.00 pm – 6.00 pm	Supervised Preparation
6.00 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper
7.30 pm	Film in the School Theatre / House DVD
9.15 pm	House assembly and evening prayers
9.30 pm	Return to dormitories
9.45 pm	Lights out



WHAT IS THE WEEKLY TIMETABLE IN THE SIXTH FORMS (YEARS 12 & 13)?

Mondays to Fridays: Summer

7.30 am – 8.00 am	Pupils rise
7.30 am – 8.25 am	Breakfast
7.40 am – 8.00 am	Voluntary Mass in the Old Chapel
8.25 am	House assemblies and morning prayers Day pupils arrive
8.45 am – 10.55 am	Lessons
10.55 am – 11.25 am	The Half (fruit, squash / milk in Houses)
11.25 am – 12.10 pm	Lessons
12.05 pm – 12.50 pm	Lessons or first sitting of lunch
12.55 pm – 1.35 pm	Lessons or second sitting of lunch
1.35 pm – 2.20 pm	Lessons
2.35 pm – 4.00 pm	Lessons (Monday and Thursday) Activities (Tuesday and Friday) Games (Wednesday)
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
4.05 pm – 4.35 pm	Academic detention
4.45 pm – 6.10 pm	Games (Monday and Thursday) Lessons (Tuesday and Friday) Activities (Wednesday)
6.10 pm	Day pupils depart
6.10 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper
6.40 pm – 7.20 pm	Activities
7.30 pm – 9.00 pm	Preparation (homework) in Houses
9.00 pm	House assemblies and evening prayers
9.10 pm – 10.00 pm	Activities
11.00 pm	Lights out (Lower and Upper Sixth Forms)

Mondays to Fridays: Winter

7.30 am – 8.00 am	Pupils rise
7.30 am – 8.25 am	Breakfast
7.40 am – 8.00 am	Voluntary Mass in the Old Chapel
8.25 am	House assemblies and morning prayers Day pupils arrive
8.45 am – 10.55 am	Lessons
10.55 am – 11.25 am	The Half (fruit, squash / milk in Houses)
11.25 am – 12.10 pm	Lessons
12.05 pm – 12.50 pm	Lessons or first sitting of lunch
12.55 pm – 1.35 pm	Lessons or second sitting of lunch
1.35 pm – 2.20 pm	Lessons
2.40 pm – 4.00 pm	Games (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) Activities (Tuesday and Friday)
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
4.05 pm – 4.35 pm	Academic detention
4.45 pm – 6.10 pm	Lessons (Activities on Wednesdays)
6.10 pm	Day pupils depart
6.10 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper
6.40 pm – 7.20 pm	Activities
7.30 pm – 9.00 pm	Preparation (homework) in Houses
9.00 pm	House assemblies and evening prayers
9.10 pm – 10.00 pm	Activities
11.00 pm	Lights out (Lower and Upper Sixth Forms)



Saturdays: Summer and Winter

7.30 am – 8.00 am	Pupils rise
7.30 am – 8.25 am	Breakfast
7.40 am – 8.00 am	Voluntary Mass in the Old Chapel
8.25 am	House assemblies and morning prayers Day pupils arrive
8.45 am – 10.55 am	Lessons
10.55 am – 11.25 am	The Half (fruit, squash / milk in Houses)
11.25 am – 12.10 pm	Lessons
12.10 pm – 12.45 pm	Lunch Day pupils may depart
1.00 pm – 6.00 pm (variable)	Games fixtures
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
6.10 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper in the Main School Refectory
6.30 pm – 7.00 pm	Transport to Bath for Sixth Formers
9.30 pm	House Parties
10.00 pm	Check-in for the Lower Sixth Form
11.00 pm	Check-in for the Upper Sixth Form
11.30 pm	Lights out (Lower and Upper Sixth Forms)

Sundays: Summer and Winter

8.30 am – 9.00 am	Pupils rise
8.30 am – 9.00 am	Breakfast
10.00 am – 11.00 am	Mass in the Abbey Church
11.30 am – 12.30 pm	Brunch
1.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Recreation / trips / activities
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Sixth Form detention
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Tea
5.00 pm – 6.00 pm	Preparation (homework)
6.00 pm – 6.40 pm	Supper
7.30 pm	Film in the School Theatre / House DVD
10.00 pm	House assemblies and evening prayers
11.00 pm	Lights out (Lower and Upper Sixth Forms)

HOW DO I REGISTER MY SON OR DAUGHTER?

You can register online at www.downside.co.uk. Registration forms are also available from the Registrar, Mrs Terri O'Shea. (The registration fee is £100.)

Tel 01761 235103 Email registrar@downside.co.uk

WHERE CAN I GET UP-TO-DATE ADMISSIONS DETAILS, NEWS ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND PDFS OF ALL DOWNSIDE PUBLICATIONS?

Go to www.downside.co.uk. We challenge you to find a better school website, anywhere!

