

DAY AT DOWNSIDE

everything but everything except the bed
(and sometimes even that!)



DOWNSIDE SCHOOL



At Downside what we strive for on behalf of all our girls and boys can be summed up in the words

‘A LIFE FULLY LIVED’

One shining example of this idea in action is the opportunities and advantages offered to those who choose to be day pupils with us. In this part of the country, we believe that we offer the best combination of academic focus, co-curricular breadth and pastoral care.

As well as this, our day option makes possible a combination of features that helps not only the pupil, but the whole family to live a full life, too.

Our school day fits the working day and with everything on one beautiful rural campus, rushing to after-school activities is a thing of the past. This gives the family significant flexibility at no extra cost. Parents tell us that this added freedom has a very positive impact on the quality of time at home.

Also, many of our day pupils stay as late as 9pm, meaning that prep and exam revision can be done in a supervised atmosphere, surrounded by other pupils. Again, parent feedback tells us that this is not only effective, but helps home life for the child.

Furthermore, all meals, including supper if required, can be taken at school. So, you can relax and let our caterers take the responsibility of feeding a hungry teenager!

Lastly, it is an acknowledged truth that there is real value in the boarding experience - the development of independence, a sense of purpose and social confidence. Downside welcomes day pupils into the very heart of the place, but it remains a boarding school, meaning that our day pupils benefit enormously from constant exposure to this boarding ethos.

Given all this, we believe the day option at Downside offers a value for money unparalleled in the South West.



TYPICAL DAY – OUR SCHOOL DAY FITS THE WORKING DAY

All pupils arrive at School at 8.15am and are free to leave after 5.30pm or earlier if commitments permit.

The timetable is packed with academic lessons, music, sport and a host of activities.

Day Pupils are welcome to stay for all meals, socialising and supervised prep with the boarders at no extra cost with the latest pickup time at 9pm

8.20am Assembly in Houses

8.40am Lessons begin for all pupils

11.05am Back to houses for break time and snacks

11.35am Lessons

12.45pm Cafeteria-style lunch in the School Refectory for all pupils

1.30pm Time to meet your Tutor

2.00pm Back to Lessons

3.15pm Free time and the Weld Café is open for all pupils

3.45pm Every day is different sometimes with more lessons, sometimes academic societies to take part in, or more time with your Tutor.

5.40pm Supper

6.00pm Minibuses depart

Most pupils change out of uniform at suppertime and there is plenty of time to socialise with friends until 7pm, when everyone settles down to do their prep in houses, in a supervised and supported environment.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

We fit in an extra four lessons each week by having school on Saturdays and after break time there is time devoted to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. A wide range of topics is covered throughout the academic year and pupils are motivated to enter into discussions.

On Saturday afternoons all pupils are encouraged to take part in seasonal sports fixtures: rugby, hockey, football, cricket and tennis for the boys and hockey, netball, cricket and tennis for the girls. There is also a very popular cross-country running team for boys and girls who enjoy making the most of our beautiful Somerset countryside. Parents are encouraged to support our teams from the side lines and afterwards our afternoon teas for everyone are legendary.

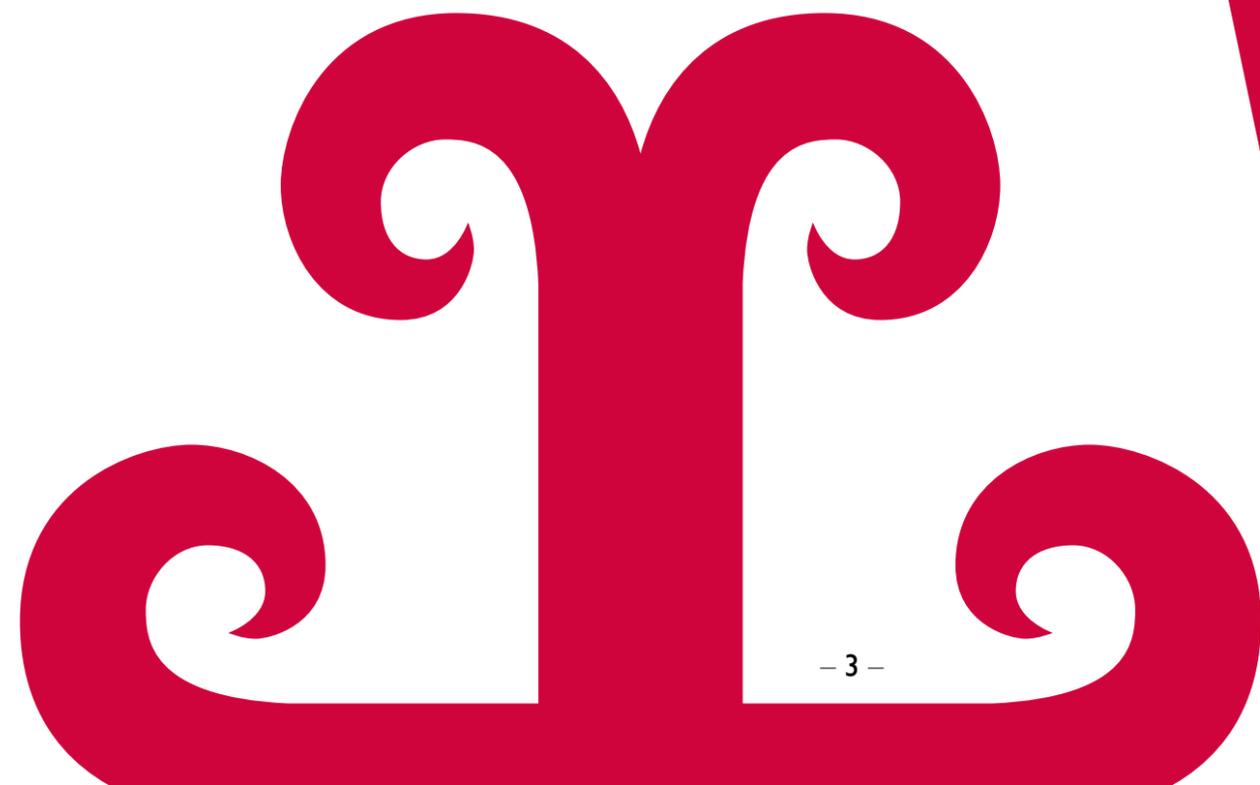
Evenings and weekends are a time for socialising with friends and again day pupils are welcome to stay until 9pm if they wish to join in.

DAY PLUS

There is so much going on at School that parents find it easier for children to stay overnight sometimes. Work commitments for parents or simply the opportunity take part in boarding life can be very attractive. We aim to offer that flexibility if we possibly can for up to three regular nights a week subject to availability and a termly charge.

SO MUCH TO DO...

Our results in exams put us on a national as well as regional stage. Our teams, in some 25 sports, are known throughout the South West. Our activities, clubs, societies, are, in their number and diversity, astounding (Did you know that we have the oldest accredited Debating Society in the country?)



FITTING IN

Girls and boys become members of a House from day one (Girls Isabella House, boys Powell). If you join from the Fourth Form onwards you will become a member of a senior House. The House is central to life at Downside. Each House has a House Mistress or Master who oversees the individual care of each pupil, day and boarder equally. Each pupil

is assigned from the outset to a House Tutor who has responsibility for their academic progress. Each House has an Assistant, two House Parents (who used to be called Matrons) and non-resident Tutors. In this way we provide a latticework of pastoral care, as well as the all-important exposure to adults in all areas of school life.

AND A FEW PRACTICAL DETAILS

All day pupils are fully integrated into every aspect of school life. All meals are taken centrally in the Refectory. They can also do their prep at school. There is a full programme of evening and weekend activities and day pupils are encouraged to join in as much as they can. Many of our day pupils come in on Sundays to take part in the choir, concerts, plays, societies and any of the other countless activities on offer.

Each day pupil will have a designated work station in their House, with lockable space for their belongings – so no need for a crammed school bag to be carried every day! For sports, which play an important role at Downside, each House has changing rooms, showers and lockers for kit.

And lastly, when it comes to decisions about extra responsibilities at House or School level, such as prefects, team captains or pupil reps, these posts are open to day pupils and boarders alike.



LET'S HEAR FROM SOME DAY PUPILS AND THEIR PARENTS

“ At Downside, there is a lot of freedom and we have way more activities than I'd experienced before. There is so much choice and you don't have to go home at a certain time, plus, the minibus is great, it stops near to my home and travels straight to school. ”

Celestine



“ I was a day pupil for a number of years before becoming a boarder at Sixth Form and I found that it was nice to get away for a bit of privacy. I'm lucky to play cricket for the county and it's been really useful being a day pupil at Downside as it's all here, and Somerset even use the site for training too! School give the day pupils the same options that boarders have... it's brilliant. ”

Hugo

“ It's great being a day pupil at Downside and it's nice to have the option to go home. However, I can also stay and do all of the things that the boarders do; there isn't any kind of divide in the houses. ”

Edith



“ I feel my children benefit from the best of both worlds: the nurturing of the boarding house plus regular family time at home.

They are shepherded safely to school from Bath each day with the friendly bus service and we can be as flexible as needs be. If there's late choir practice, they stay late and join their friends for supper:

They've always preferred to get their prep done at school and Oscar (now a Sixth Former) has always appreciated the space and time they get at school for independent study.

They love being day pupils at Downside and really benefit from the boarding structure: less pressure to squeeze in all of the extra activities in the normal school day; more downtime with their friends; scheduled prep time. It makes the transition between school and home so much more seamless. ”

Mrs Healy



DAY FEES 2018-19

Year 7 & 8	Day Fees	£5,414 per term	£16,247 per annum
	Day Plus 2 nights	£6,356 per term	£19,068 per annum
	Day Plus 3 nights	£6,827 per term	£20,481 per annum
Year 9 onwards	Day Fees	£6,417 per term	£19,251 per annum
	Day Plus 2 nights	£7,962 per term	£23,886 per annum
	Day Plus 3 nights	£8,735 per term	£26,205 per annum
Ad hoc nights subject to availability	Juniors £45 per night	Seniors £70 per night	

Second and subsequent siblings are entitled to a 10% discount on the published fees when at the school concurrently. Details of any extras are on our website.

IS YOUR CHILD GIFTED AND TALENTED?

- Academic Scholarships and Exhibitions 11+ / 13+ / 16+
- All-Rounder Scholarship 13+
- Art Scholarships and Exhibitions 13+ / 16+
- Choral Exhibitions 11+ / 13+ / 16+
- Music Scholarships and Exhibitions 11+ / 13+ / 16+
- Product Design Award 13+ / 16+
- Sports Scholarships and Exhibitions 11+ / 13+ / 16+

Applications need to be made at least one year before entrance to the School is envisaged. In the first instance please contact our Admissions Department by emailing admissions@downside.co.uk for further details.



BUS ROUTES

Daily buses are available from Bath, Frome and the Chew Valley with stopping points by arrangement. They arrive at School at 8.15am and depart at 6pm.

Minibus fees	Payable termly
Journey of less than 5 miles	£275/term
Journey of greater than 5 miles	£325/term

Generous sibling discounts apply: 25% for each of 2 concurrent pupils; and 50% off for each of 3 or more concurrent pupils.

