

## **Celebrating Denefield Friday 10 June 2022**





I have been deeply impressed with Denefield students again this week. There has been considerable interest in the school from Year 5 students and their parents/carers, and every morning this week approximately 100 of them have visited Denefield to get a feel for the school during the school day. The feedback from both the primary school children and their parents/carers has been very positive. The Sixth Form students who conducted the tours were described as kind, knowledgeable, articulate and proud of their school. Meanwhile, our visitors were delighted at the lessons they saw and the excellent conduct of students.

I always take the first assemblies of a new term. This week my focus has been on prosocial and antisocial behaviour. I contrasted the prosocial behaviour shown at the Platinum Jubilee, and the fantastic support shown to the Ukrainian football team by both Scottish and Welsh supporters, with some of the more distressing scenes we have seen more recently of pitch invasions and attacks on players at the end of the Premier League season. I shared the opinion of Gareth Southgate that there has been a rise in antisocial behaviour over recent years. I was also clear that the conduct of Denefield students is generally exemplary, and as a school we are incredibly supportive of the local community. If our students fall short of our expectations and act in an anti-social way outside of school, however, then we will of course take action where appropriate.

With best wishes for a warm and sunny weekend.

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



## Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022

Monday 16 May to Wednesday 29 June

GCSE and A Level Exam season

Wednesday 22 June

Sports Award Evening – Details TBC

Friday 24 June

Year 11 Leavers breakfast

Monday 27 June

Year 11 Prom

Tuesday 28 June

Year 9 immunisations

Year 13 Leavers assembly

Monday 4 July to Friday 8 July

Year 7 Residential visit – Boreatton Park, Shropshire



## **Year 7 Tutor – Mr Hopwood**

It brings me great joy to write to you about N7-RHD. Every member of this group is a superstar, and I can't wait to tell you why.

Every morning, the happiest (and coolest) group walk through my door, ready to set the day alight. It doesn't matter what session we have that day, be it anything from assembly on Mondays to current affairs on Fridays, they're always ready for a challenging conversation. I admire how quiet and attentive they are in assemblies, or how maturely they discuss key topics like the effects of climate change, racism in film and TV, or the importance of water safety – their behaviour is always exemplary.

They brought this fire to our tutor group assembly too, delivering a passionate presentation on world Africa day, happy to incorporate some cheerful games while also delivering some very cutting and important details about the situation many Africans face. This was a topic they chose themselves, told me what they wanted to say, and stood in front of an entire hall of their peers to deliver this information.

Their success doesn't just stop there though, our very own Lucas F earnt the award for the most house points in the entirety of Norcot last term. Several members of our group have taken part in and excelled as characters within the school play. Several members of our group have excelled outside of the group too, in anything from gymnastics to football competitions. They tell me about these successes in our 'Awards and Achievement' session every Thursday morning (though with so many achievements, I hear about them all week long!).

Tuesdays and Wednesdays are our 'success for life' sessions and deal with a range of topics in a very comprehensive PSHE programme. We've covered volunteering, water safety, the dangers of energy drinks, and loneliness (part of mental health week) just to name a few! We've seen Ruby M naming EVERY pride flag at the front of the class, Layla J and Maisie H coming up with some fantastic ideas for fundraisers in beautiful posters, and Max H always knowing the correct answer to every question anytime we do our quiz of the week.

There's a real potential in every member of this group and I've loved seeing each of these stars grow in confidence, awareness, and empathy through each day and I can't wait to see how much further they'll grow.







## Performing Arts

This week's curriculum entry is from our Performing Arts department

***Sumer is icumen in*** (Summer is coming).

*Why did he write it like that?* You may ask. Well. Fun fact time –this is the title of a Medieval round. *What's a round?* You may well ask. Another fun fact...it's a circular piece of music that is sung so each voice begins at different times to create a texture and harmony. Look at us...always learning!

Not only that but our very own Year 7 have been learning to sing and play ***Sumer is icumen in*** during their music lessons this term, which have been based around traditional and contemporary Folk Music!

Where was I? Oh yes, the reason I mentioned the piece is because it is sometimes known as the Reading Rota because the earliest known copy of the composition, was found at Reading Abbey and a copy of the manuscript in stone relief is displayed on the wall of the ruined chapter house of Reading Abbey. Go Reading!! So there you have a little bit of Music and History to get the ball rolling.



Summer means good weather and outdoor events and so plans are underway to bring some of Denefield's talented musicians to local schools for public engagements. I strongly believe that live music of all kinds is an invaluable in adding a depth and ambience to any event so all being well our bands and performers will be busy. I am very pleased to say that now the Covid fog is lifting, the uptake in musical instrument tuition is picking up again and this time next year we should have several groups up and running. Having taken up drums when I was Year 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> year, in those days) I haven't stopped yet and I can't recommend it highly enough.

### **Ukulele club**

This has been running throughout the year and has been regularly attended by students from all year groups, although proving particularly popular with Year 11's.

### **Choir**

Running this term on Wednesdays and Fridays, the students continue to enjoy singing together and are working towards their next performance.

### **Drama Club**

Following the end of the school show, the Drama department has been offering a Drama club that focusses largely on script work, organised by two of our excellent A level Drama students. It is proving popular and the performance culture is showing a healthy recovery. Whether this will culminate in a live performance is yet unclear but the enjoyment of script reading and acting is the aim, really.

### **Cultural visits**

Both the Drama and Music departments have been lucky enough to be able to offer a range of exciting and enriching visits, offering the students the opportunity to experience live performance and all the magic it holds. The KS4 and KS5 theatre visits to see Jekyll and Hyde and Blood Brothers demonstrated how masterfully audience emotions could be manipulated across the spectrum through ingenious combinations of action and mise-en-scene.

Also, for the first time in Denefield's music history 50 students across Years 8 to 11 went to The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden to experience a performance of Verdi's Opera, *La Traviata* and it was very heart-warming to see so many book a place on the trip. Although a totally new experience for many, the students thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were impressed by the dramatic world-class singing, accompanied by a full orchestra and the spectacular stage sets. Also a little more locally, there was a trip to our very own Hexagon for a night of classical music.



## GCSE

The Year 10's are reaching the exciting climax of their devised modules and did recently complete their PPE's where they could get a clear idea of their progress so far. By the time we break for summer, the module will be complete and leaving us clear for Year 11 and the scripted performance module. Always a fun module as see the actors and technicians get into role.

Music students in Year 10 are working hard on developing their composition skills in preparation for Year 11 and fine-tuning their performances; the group will be provision some musical background accompaniment to the Art Exhibition.

## PIANO LESSONS - FREE TASTER SESSIONS

Berkshire Maestros are offering a free taster session for you child. If you are interested in sign up, please email [shw@denefield.org.uk](mailto:shw@denefield.org.uk) and I will get in in touch with more details. it will take place this term.

Here are some pictures below from The Royal Opera House visit and the school show in March





## Extra curricular

Please see below details of our extra curricular activities which take place during lunch times and after school. These will start after May half term

Lunchtime	When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>			
<b>Tuesday</b>			
3D Printing Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Technology	All
Enterprise Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Gardening	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Garden	All
Chess KS3	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	KS3
Walking Club	12.30pm to 1.00pm	M119	All
Maths Drop In KS3	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A102	KS3
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Board Games	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M107	All
Boxing	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Gym	All
<b>Thursday</b>			
Pride Club	12.30pm to 1.00pm	A108	Years 8 to 13
Drama Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Drama studio	All
<b>Friday</b>			
Chess Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
Year 10 Feminism Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	Year 10

After School	When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>			
Baking club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	P206	All
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Design Technology Club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	M102	
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Denefield Discusses Podcast	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A206	All
Architecture Club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	M105	Year 9 to 13
Book Club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A211	All
Boxing	3.00pm to 3.45pm	Gym	All
<b>Thursday</b>			
Boxing	3.00pm to 3.45pm	Gym	All
CCF	3.15pm to 5.00pm	Pangbourne College	Year 10
<b>Friday</b>			
Greenpower	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Technology	
DJ Club	3.05pm to 4.00pm	Drama Studio	

## PE Extra curricular

After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
<b>Tuesday</b>				
All Years boys cricket	Mr Clare/Mr Wright/Mr Lean	3.15pm to 4.15pm		All
<b>Wednesday</b>				
All Years girls <u>rounders</u>	Miss Wheeler/Miss Colbourne/Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm		All
<b>Thursday</b>				
Athletics	All PE staff	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Years 7 to 10
<b>Friday</b>				

## Second hand uniform

We are very happy to accept donations from parent/carers of old school uniform that we can reuse, but we also wanted to make you aware that Denefield has now registered for parent/carers to use the online service provided by Old School Uniform.

Old School Uniform (OSU) was started in 2019 and was built to offer parents/carers and schools the opportunity to give away or sell their unwanted school uniform items free of charge.

There many benefits for using their site:

Helping the environment by recycling and not sending to landfill.

Users have the ability to view items without registering.

With their unbranded shop, parent/carers can pick up unbranded items from all across the country.

If parent/carers have registered, they can receive notification when items are added to their chosen school, so they are always up to date with what is happening on their school shop page. Parent/Carers can add additional schools to their account.

### How it works

Parent/Carers would register for an account.

They would then activate their account.

Finally, login and start uploading unwanted items.

Parent/Carers will contact you via the messaging system when they want an item.

Parent/Carers can pay on collection or pay via a paypal account or similar. Some people do bank transfers, but the choice is solely down to the seller to arrange with the buyer.

Please [click here](#) for the link to our school shop page



## Glass jars

Some of our lovely Sixth Formers are working on a project with our feeder primary schools and we need your glass jars please!

Please could you send any washed, empty glass jars to school. They can be handed in to reception, where they will be passed on to those doing the project.





## Canteen

Please see below for details of a Tex Mex style menu in the canteen on 21 June 2022.



**HARRISON**  
STREET  
FOOD

**HARRISON**  
food with thought

**Tex Mex Style**  
21st June 2022

Southern fried chicken with crunchy slaw and seasoned wedges £2.40

Chilli dog, topped with cheese, served with wedges and slaw £2.40

BBQ ribs £1.50

Roasted pepper, halloumi and mixed bean taco, served with wedges and slaw £2.40

Cheese and salsa nacho pot £1.60

## West Berkshire activities



**Waterside Centre**  
Berkshire Youth

**BERKSHIRE YOUTH**

**BoxWise Sessions**

**Wednesdays**  
15th June – 20th July 2022  
4.45pm – 6pm  
For young people aged 12 - 16

**FREE 6-week non-contact boxing course.**

Classes consist of a warm up and cool down, technique and teamwork drills, plus bag and one to one pad work.

Each student will be provided with a free BoxWise T-shirt, water bottle, hand wraps and hot meal after every session.

To book your places, please contact:  
[waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk](mailto:waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk)  
01635 018500

Waterside Centre, Waldegrave Place,  
31 Northbrook Street, Newbury, RG14 1DS

[berkshireyouth.co.uk](http://berkshireyouth.co.uk)

**BOXWISE**  
NMF.org



[WWW.LEARNINGCENTRENEWBURY.CO.UK](http://WWW.LEARNINGCENTRENEWBURY.CO.UK)

**LEARNING CENTRE**

**SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

**JULIA DONALDSON BOOK CLUB**  
Mon 25 - Wed 27 Jul 10am - 4pm  
Rejoice in the wonderful world of Julia Donaldson as we bring her books to life! There will be drama games, arts and crafts, storytelling and more. Join us in conjuring up characters from this well-loved author in our series of workshops, make friends and learn new skills. All was quiet in the deep dark wood...  
£30 PER CHILD, PER DAY. £90 IF ALL 3 DAYS BOOKED IN THE SAME TRANSACTION | SUITABLE FOR AGES 4 - 7

**CREATE AND MAKE**  
Mon 8 - Fri 12 Aug 10am - 4pm  
Join us for some creative fun in the school holidays. Activities include arts and crafts, drama and more! Your little one will get to work with professional practitioners to explore the creative arts, develop new skills and make new friends.  
£25 PER CHILD, PER DAY. £140 IF ALL 5 DAYS BOOKED IN THE SAME TRANSACTION | SUITABLE FOR AGES 9 - 11

**SUMMER THEATRE SCHOOL**  
Mon 15 - Fri 19 Aug 10am - 4pm  
A play in a week! Join us for some theatrical fun, learn drama games, make new friends and perform a play at the end of the week for your friends and family! This week will be led by Director Tabitha Dark and will take place in the Corn Exchange auditorium.  
£200 PER CHILD | SUITABLE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS AGES 11 - 18

**DOMINOES**  
Sat 25 Jun 3pm **FREE (NO BOOKING REQUIRED)**  
Thousands of concrete blocks installed by hundreds of volunteers form a meandering line through the town, traversing roads, pavements, waterways and parks. At a pre-arranged signal, the first block falls, knocking over the second, the third and the fourth - gaining momentum until the toppling blocks surge through the streets, creating a spectacle that is engaging, mesmerising and witty. Blocks climb steps, cross bridges, teeter from high places and execute gravity defying routines along the route. Choose your place to watch as the domino fall comes past or plan to chase them en route to their final destination in this monumental but fleeting installation.  
**BE PART OF DOMINOES:** Email [hello@101outdoorarts.com](mailto:hello@101outdoorarts.com) if you are interested in volunteering to support the event.