

## **Celebrating Denefield Friday 20 May 2022**





Firstly, I would like to congratulate Year 11 and Year 13 students for their hard work and excellent conduct over the past week as they began their formal GCSE and A Level written examinations this week. I would also like to thank all staff for the extra lengths they are going to in order to support students, including running revision lessons the session before the examinations.

I would like to congratulate all the students who have gained over 300 achievement points this year, and who attended the special VIP breakfast, along with Mr Beard, Mrs McHugh and myself. To gain over 300 achievement points in slightly over 150 days of study this year is truly extraordinary. These are students who truly represent the school's CHARACTER values.

I would also like to congratulate all the students who have been involved in the Year 5 Roadshows. This is where six students from Denefield, along with three staff, visit all the local primary schools in turn, to talk to Year 5 students and parents/carers about life at Denefield. Our six students this week were Jess, Ava, Max and Lucas from Year 7, and Olivia and Beth from Year 12. All spoke extremely articulately – some speaking beautifully without notes – and they were a credit to themselves, their families and to Denefield.

Separately, the school takes the safety of its students incredibly seriously. As we move towards the summer months, the attraction of swimming in the Thames and local lakes becomes understandably greater. Each year, however, there are a number of tragedies in Berkshire as a result of young people getting into difficulty in water. As a result, we have been re-teaching students about water safety, using materials and guidance provided by the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. These materials can be found [here](#) and include both a Powerpoint presentation and several videos. I would strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with these materials, and go through them with your child.

I wish you all a very pleasant weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

## Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022

Monday 16 May to Wednesday 29 June	GCSE and A Level Exam season
Tuesday 24 May	Year 7 'X' Parents Evening - virtual
Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half term
Monday 6 June	Students return to school
Wednesday 8 June	Year 10 Parents Evening - virtual



## Maths

This week's curriculum entry is from our Maths department

### Year 11 Maths exams

Good luck with revision Year 11!

Make use of the websites that we subscribe to; Mathswatch and Mymaths.

Use the checklists of advance information given to you by your teacher.

Paper 1 (non-calculator): Friday 20 May AM

Paper 2 (calculator): Tuesday 7 June AM

Paper 3 (calculator): Monday 13 June AM

### Surprising Maths! The Birthday Paradox



What are the odds two people in your classroom share a birthday? Much higher than you think!

Sharing your birthday with someone can be fun, but having a day all to yourself is nice, too. Especially since you get to pick the party's theme (for me: always dinosaurs) and you get the largest slice of cake. Let's say there are 23 people in your class. What are the odds that two people share a birthday? At first glance, it seems like you're all pretty safe. After all, there are 365 days in a year; surely that's more than enough space for everybody?

Would you be surprised to learn that in a class of 23 people, there's a 50% chance that two or more people share the same birthday? And in a group of 50 people, that probability jumps to 97%?

We call this the Birthday Paradox (or sometimes the Birthday Problem) because it's a result that doesn't feel right. How can those probabilities be so high?

The Maths is quite challenging but if you are interested, you can have a look using the link here:

[Birthday Problem | Brilliant Math & Science Wiki](#)



## **More about Mrs Gibson**

I have always loved Maths but struggled at school until I had a teacher who made the subject really click for me. I enjoy the problem-solving aspect of the subject and love a challenge!

I also enjoy Art and have qualifications in British Sign Language and I am currently learning to play the guitar.

I have a degree in Mathematical Sciences from The University of Birmingham. I studied Pure Mathematics as well as Statistics, Mechanics and Computer Science.



From hurricanes to flowers and pinecones, spiral patterns are abundant in nature. Mathematics is the science of patterns, so it's not surprising that spirals have inspired mathematicians for centuries. One of these spirals is the golden spiral, thought to be a sort of code that governs the architecture of the universe. The golden spiral is a broad, fascinating subject that has played a prominent role in history and works of art.

The golden spiral has captured the imagination of mathematicians, designers and artists with its beauty. It's reflected in some of the greatest works of art and architecture. It also has been associated with beauty, as many believe beauty is centred on its unique properties in mathematics and geometry. Some mystics believe that the symbol will also bring balance and harmony into one's life.

Nature is full of spiral patterns but finding the actual golden spiral in nature is rare. Interestingly, scientists have found out that falcons fly in a golden spiral path when approaching their prey, likely because it's an energy-efficient flight path.



## Extra curricular

Please see below for a reminder of our extra curricular activities which take place during lunch times and after school

Lunchtime	Staff	When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
<b>Tuesday</b>				
3D Printing Club	Miss Simpson	TUE	Technology	All
Enterprise Club	Mrs Lamport & Ms Pavanel	TUE	A304	All
Gardening	Mrs Kelly	TUE		All
Chess KS3	Mr Mills	TUE	A204	KS3
Choir	Mrs Idowu & Mrs Bridger	TUE	M118	All
Maths Drop In KS3	Miss Pullen-Clarke	TUE	A102	KS3
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Surf #Stormriders	Mrs Breakenridge	WED	A106	Year 11
<b>Thursday</b>				
Maths Drop In KS4	Miss Pullen-Clarke	THU	A102	KS4

After School	Staff	When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
<b>Tuesday</b>				
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Denefield Discusses Podcast	Mr Neale	WED	A206	All
Architecture Club	Mrs Perry & Mr Nicholls	WED	M110	Year 9 to 13
Book Club	Mrs Buckley	WED	A211	All
Year 11 Maths revision	Miss Breakenridge	WED	A106	Year 11
<b>Thursday</b>				
CCF	Mrs Saverton	THU	Pangbourne College	Year 10

## PE Extra curricular

After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Year 7 and 8 Rounders	Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Years 7 and 8
Year 9 boys cricket	Mr Clare	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Year 9
Year 10 boy cricket	Mr Wright	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Year 10
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Year 7 boys cricket	Mr Clarke	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Year 7
Year 8 boys cricket	Mr Lean	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Year 8
Year 9 and Year 10 rounders	Miss Wheeler	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Years 9 and 10
<b>Thursday</b>				
Athletics	Mr Clark, Miss Wheeler, Miss Smith, Mr Wright	3.15pm to 4.15pm		



If you need help with period products please visit

[www.periodbox.uk/request-an-all-yours-box/](http://www.periodbox.uk/request-an-all-yours-box/)

and complete the form to tell us what you need.

We will send out what you need in a free All Yours box.

You can request a box for yourself and your family members and we offer a range of products to suit as many preferences and circumstances as possible.

We offer disposable products like period pads and tampons but we can also provide a full cycle set of reusable pads or a menstrual cup for those people who would like a long-term alternative to disposable period products.

If you have any questions about which reusable product to request, please just ask us using the form.

Boxes of period pads are now available for collection from Newbury, Thatcham and Hungerford public libraries.

Just ask a member of staff for an All Yours Box.

All requests are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

If you have any questions, please email

[allyoursmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:allyoursmonthly@gmail.com)

For more information on the All Yours community project, please visit [periodbox.uk](http://periodbox.uk)

## Berkshire Youth

### **Waterside Centre**

Berkshire Youth

#### **Youth Club - Climbing**

**Friday's Term Time**

**7pm-8pm**

**10th June - 15th July 2022**

**For young people in  
secondary school years 7 to 11**

**£5 per person per session**

Come and join our youth club climbing sessions where you can develop confidence and skills in an adventure setting.

All abilities welcome.

To book your places, please email:  
[Waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk](mailto:Waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk)  
or call 01635 018500

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



### **Waterside Centre**

Berkshire Youth

#### **Youth Club - Paddling**

**Friday's Term Time**

**4.30pm-5.30pm**

**For young people in school years 7 to 9**

**5.30pm-6.30pm**

**For young people in school years 10 to 13**

**£5 per person per session**

Come and join our youth club paddling sessions where each week you will have the fantastic opportunity to take part in Canoeing, Kayaking and Paddle Boarding activities.

All abilities welcome.

We recommend a towel and change of clothes & shoes be brought to every session

Please note: closed-toe shoes must be worn on the water

To book your places, please email:  
[Waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk](mailto:Waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk)  
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