

Celebrating Denefield Friday 13 May 2022





This week it was my pleasure to join with staff and parents/carers to present CHARACTER Awards to students. This is the first time the event has been held in person with all prize winners and their parents/carers present since 2019. Approximately 200 Denefield students won awards and certificates, supported by nearly 100 staff and 300 parents/carers. Some of our most talented and hard-working musicians performed on the piano, guitar, and saxophone, and the audience were regaled with an outstanding performance of the chorus from the school show 'Little Shop of Horrors.' Our students richly deserved the awards and certificates they won, and my congratulations go to them all.

With best wishes for a good 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

Year 8 Tutor – Miss Williams

Life has been increasingly busy in S8-RWS with students participating in our tutor time Success for Life lessons encompassing a vast range of topics from mental health, diversity, Britishness and the work of the emergency services. We sometimes fit in the occasional wordle too and make sure we are up to speed with current affairs!

Students have been working hard and amassing house points; Corey became our first recipient of the gold award for over 200 points - well done! Kira put on a sterling effort to make it through to the final of the spelling bee, which was a great achievement. As a tutor group we proudly won the punctuality award last term so tutees have enjoyed munching their edible prizes.

Extra-curricular activities both in and outside of school are a huge focus for the students - Julian is enjoying working on Denefield's recently launched podcast which covers a variety of topics and interviews with staff and students. [Click here](#) if you would like to listen to recent podcasts. Lucy is our baking expert and many of the tutor group participate in sporting activities; Freya plays football for Reading under 14's and Berkshire County under 14's; Lola is a member of a gymnastics squad; Mae received two distinctions in her recent dance exams; Freddie has won three Westwood football tournaments and their 'champions' league'; Miriam continues to swim competitively for Reading Swimming Club and Nahum recently had his first boxing victory!

I'm really proud of all their achievements and know there will be more to come!





History and Religious Studies

This week's curriculum entry is from our History and Religious Studies department

History

What have students been studying most recently:

- Year 7 – English Civil War
- Year 8 – Consequences of WWI
- Year 9 – Medieval Crime and Punishment in Britain
- Year 10 – The American West
- Year 11 – Preparing for their GCSEs
- Year 12 – Quality of life and culture in the USA, 1917-80
- Year 13 – Preparing for their A-level exams

What will the students be studying next?

- Year 7 – French Revolution
- Year 8 – Interwar Years
- Year 9 – Early Modern Crime and Punishment
- Year 10 – The Wild West
- Year 12 – Reagan's presidency

Our History teachers were asked for their favourite historical book, either fiction or non-fiction.

Mr Wheeler – Orlando Figes, *The People's Tragedy* (2009). It is an epic piece of work detailing the socio-economic causes of the Russian Revolution in 1917, and highly accessible. For fiction, it has to be the Bernie Gunther series of books, written by Phillip Kerr. Bernie Gunther is an ex-policeman, turned private detective, dealing with cases in 1930s Nazi Germany and post-WWII Europe.

Miss Plumpton – Hallie Rubenhold's *The Five* for non fiction. It is a brilliant and eye-opening view on the Whitechapel murders, putting the focus of the narrative back onto the five innocent women who were murdered, thus taking the spotlight away from the brutal murderer who was never caught anyway! Rubenhold's brilliant world-building really sets the scene for the context on Industrial Whitechapel and is a brilliant read for those taking History GCSE as well.

Mr Taylor – Fiction: *Fatherland* by Robert Harris. It is a crime thriller set in a brutal alternative world where Hitler has won the Second World War and is a fascinating and, at times, terrifying read. Non-fiction: *SPQR* by Mary Beard. It is a thorough history of Ancient Rome which spans 1,000 years and practically every facet of Republic and Empire, and though based on monumental research, the book is refreshingly accessible. Mary Beard is arguably Britain's best-known classicist and is a Professor of Classics at Cambridge University. Definitely worth a read if you are interested in ancient history!

Mr Peacock – For fiction, *Munich* by Robert Harris is peerless. Harris has a history degree and has combined academic research with superb storytelling to create a series of novels on life in Nazi Germany. *Munich* describes the lives of two diplomats during the 1930s. For non-fiction, *Witchfinders* by Malcolm Gaskill is a brilliant summary of the complex roots of the witchcraze in the 1640s, weaving the European and English contexts into a narrative of personal feuds and religious tension. It's also currently on offer for £3 in The Works so worth a go!

History heroes

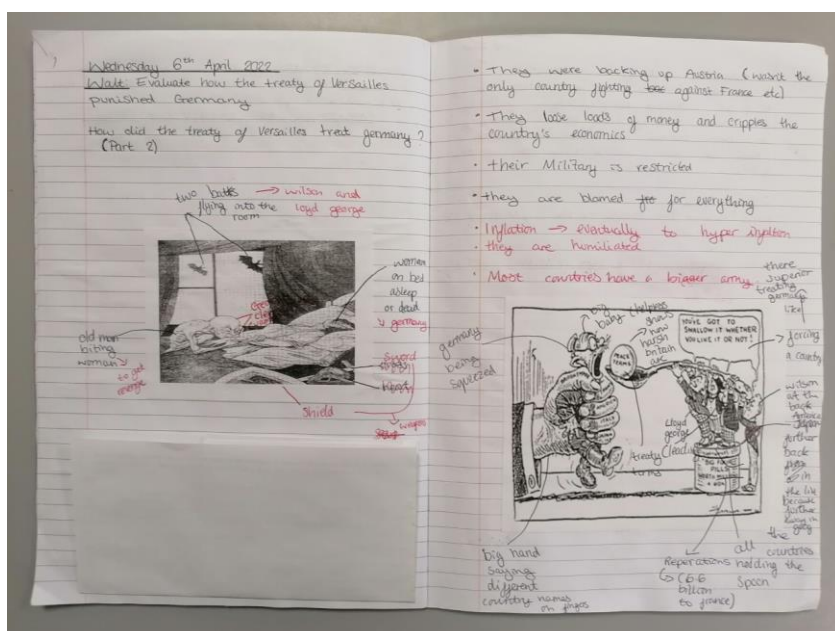
The following students have been recognised by their teachers for going above and beyond in and out of the classroom. Well done to you all!



These Year 11 students have shown outstanding commitment to their revision in and out of school.



A superb piece of source analysis from Mr Peacock's Year 8s on views of the Treaty of Versailles





Religious Studies

The following students have been recognised by their teachers for going above and beyond in and out of the classroom. Well done to you all!

What have students been studying most recently in Religious Studies:

- Year 7 – Christianity
- Year 8 – New World Religions
- Year 9 – Philosophy
- Year 10 – Relationships and Families
- Year 11 – Preparing for their GCSEs

What will the students be studying next?

- Year 7 – Christianity
- Year 8 – Judaism
- Year 9 – Christian beliefs and teachings
- Year 10 – Existence of God

We put this question to our RS teachers, and here are their responses:

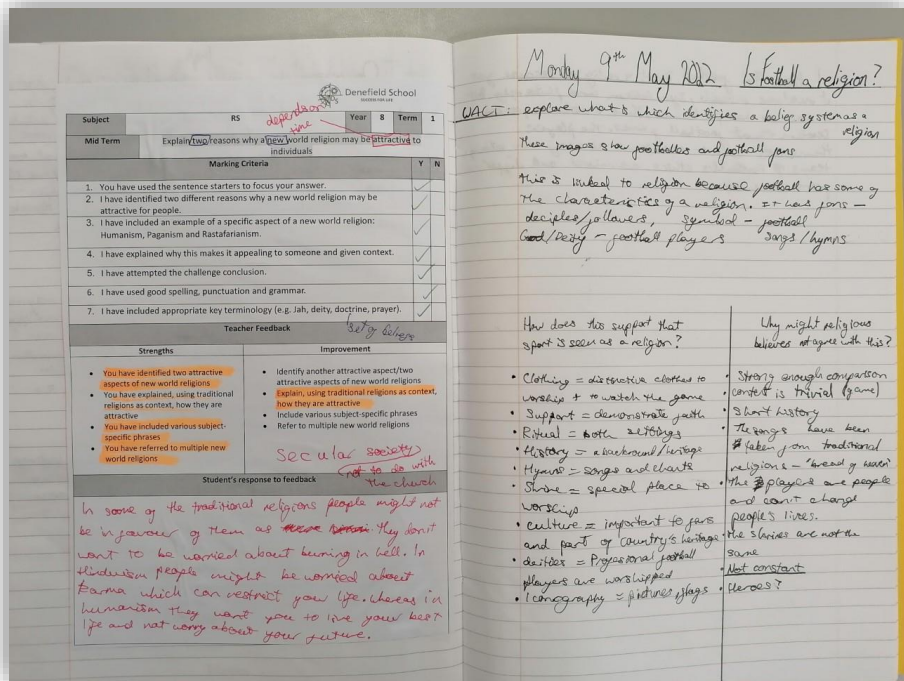
'Can science and religion co-exist in modern society?'

Miss Plumpton – I believe they can, and sometimes, can work together. For example, a friend of mine who is very religious works as a scientist in a lab. She said she loves learning about science as it amazes her that God could make something so complex and unique.

Mr Wheeler – They can co-exist as religion can provide the emotional environment and support in testing times and science help us make sense of the world and how it works and how we can make it a better place in some ways.

Mr Peacock – Although the two may clash on issues like creationism and the concept of an afterlife, there is much that unites the two sides. A belief in the significance of nature and the environment, the importance of dedication to your beliefs and the philosophical approach to our place in the universe are all common to both science and religion.

A great piece of work from a student in Year 8 - Some brilliant improvements made to the SIT (Strength and Improvement Task), and key issues explored in the lesson on football's links to religion.



Denefield School
STRENGTH AND IMPROVEMENT TASK

Subject	RS	Year	8	Term	1
Mid Term	Explain reasons why a new world religion may be attractive to individuals				
Marking Criteria					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> You have used the sentence starters to focus your answer. I have identified two different reasons why a new world religion may be attractive for people. I have included an example of a specific aspect of a new world religion: Humanism, Paganism and Rastafarianism. I have explained why this makes it appealing to someone and given context. I have attempted the challenge conclusion. I have used good spelling, punctuation and grammar. I have included appropriate key terminology (e.g. Jah, deity, doctrine, prayer). 					
Teacher Feedback					
Strengths			Improvement		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have identified two attractive aspects of new world religions You have explained, using traditional religions as context, how they are attractive You have included various subject-specific phrases You have referred to multiple new world religions 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify another attractive aspect/ two attractive aspects of new world religions Explain, using traditional religions as context, how they are attractive Include various subject-specific phrases Refer to multiple new world religions 		
Student's response to feedback					
<p>In some of the traditional religions people might not be in favour of them as people they don't want to be worried about being in hell. In Hinduism people might be worried about Karma which can restrict your life. Whereas in Buddhism they want you to live your best life and not worry about your future.</p>					

Monday 9th May 2022 *Is Football a religion?*

WAGT: explain what is which identifies a belief system as a religion

These images show footballers and football fans

this is linked to religion because football has some of the characteristics of a religion. It has fans = disciples/followers, symbol = football God/deity = football players songs/hymns

How does this support that sport is seen as a religion?	Why might religious believers not agree with this?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clothing = distinctive clothes to wear + re-watch the game Support = demonstrate faith Ritual = both anthems History = a background/heritage Hymns = songs and chants Stane = special place to worship Culture = important to fans and part of country's heritage deities = Professional football players are worshipped Iconography = football flags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong enough comparison context is trivial (game) Short history The songs have been taken from traditional religions - "bread of life" The players are people and can't change people's lives. The stanes are not the same Not constant Herods?



Religious Studies heroes



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



 Old School
UNIFORM

Old School Uniform is the **UK's No.1** website for recycling school uniform items. It offers parents/guardians and PTA's the unique opportunity to give away or sell their unwanted school uniform items.

THIS SERVICE IS TOTALLY FREE TO USE.

WE CHARGE NO COMMISSION TO BUYERS OR SELLERS.

YOU KEEP 100% OF ANY MONEY YOU MAKE.

**REGISTER
FOR FREE
ON** 

www.oldschooluniform.co.uk

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
Monday				
Tuesday				
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
Wednesday				
Surf #Stormriders	Mrs Breakenridge	WED	A106	Year 11
Thursday				
Maths Drop In KS4	Miss Pullen-Clarke	THU	A102	KS4

After School	Staff	When	Room	Years
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
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
Thursday				
CCF	Mrs Saverton	THU	Pangbourne College	Year 10

PE Extra curricular

After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
Monday				
Tuesday				
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
Wednesday				
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
Thursday				
Athletics	Mr Clark, Miss Wheeler, Miss Smith, Mr Wright	3.15pm to 4.15pm		

Road closure

We have been made aware of the following road closures next week, which may impact your journey to or from school.

A329 Reading Road/Knowsley Road Roundabout in the Parish of Purley on Thames will be closed from the 17 to 18 May 2022 between the hours of 9.30am to 3.30pm. This closure is to enable Volker Highways to carry out machine patching work on behalf of West Berkshire Council.

Blue light access will be maintained throughout this closure.

All enquiries please contact West Berkshire Council on 01635 519080

A plan of the closure can be found [here](#)

Berkshire Youth



MAY HALF TERM

Secondary school years 7 to 11

Date	Activity	Session Time
Mon 30th May	Climbing	2pm-3pm
		3pm-4pm
	Paddling	2pm-3pm
		3pm-4pm
Tue 31st May	Climbing	2pm-3pm
		3pm-4pm
	Paddling	2pm-3pm
		3pm-4pm
Wed 1st June	Climbing	2pm-3pm
		3pm-4pm
	Paddling	2pm-3pm
		3pm-4pm



Come and join us for Climbing, Canoeing, Kayaking and Paddle Boarding activities.

All abilities welcome.

For paddling 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.

**£5 per person
per session**

**To book your places in advance,
please contact:
Waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk
or call 01635 018500**

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