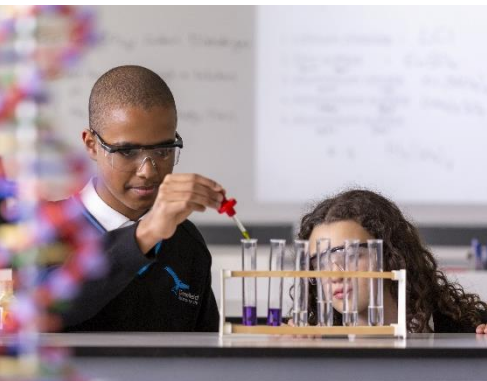


## **Celebrating Denefield Friday 17 December 2021**





As we draw towards the close of 2021 I would like to reflect once again how proud I am to be part of the Denefield community. The strength and diversity of the school was shown once again during the Christmas concert, which took place on Tuesday. Students from Years 7 to 13 performed an incredible array of music from a range of genres, from string to woodwind, from choral to rock. It was a great end to what has been a great, if albeit challenging, year. Today I delivered my final assembly of 2021 to students, and reflected on all that they have achieved this year – moving seamlessly to live online lessons at the beginning of the year, moving back to face to face lessons from March, undertaking a wide variety of fund-raising and charitable endeavours,

including Race for Life and Children in Need, paying tribute to the fallen during Remembrance Day and becoming involved in an incredible number of extra-curricular activities since September. It is this type of resilience, tenacity and determination that will stand students in good stead as they move through life, and helped ensure Denefield was named School of the Year two weeks ago. Please do have a look at my assembly [here](#)

We are today saying goodbye to two teachers who have given a huge amount to Denefield over an extended period of time. Mrs Sharman leaves us having made an enormous contribution to the PE department and as acting head of Sulham, as well as having led the school's peer mentoring scheme for a number of years. Mrs Bridger leaves us having played an extremely valuable role in the Music department. I am extremely grateful to them both for their contributions and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

In January, we welcome Ms Colette Wheeler to the PE department. I am also delighted to confirm that Mrs McDonald, who took over temporarily from Mr Clark in Geography, will be continuing to teach Geography for the remainder of academic year.

A reminder that we have a staggered start at the beginning of January, to enable all students to be tested in school prior to their return to lessons.

Thank you to all parents/carers for your trust and support over the past year. I do hope you and your households have an enjoyable Christmas break. I look forward to seeing students back in the new year!

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

## Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022

Friday 17 December 2021	End of term for students 12.00pm Buses depart at 12.10pm
Tuesday 4 January 2021	INSET DAY  Testing for Years 11 and 13
Wednesday 5 January 2021	Years 11 and 13 return to school  Testing for Years 7, 10 and 12
Thursday 6 January 2021	Years 7, 10 and 12 return to school (in addition to Years 11 and 13)  Testing for Years 8 and 9
Friday 7 January 2021	Years 8 and 9 return to school (in addition to all other year groups)





## West End Success

Well done and congratulations to Anna who is taking part in the West End Christmas production! This is an amazing achievement, well done!



## Football

The PE department would like to give a HUGE thank you to all the students who donated football boots to the school. The PE department hosted a donation football match for all students that brought in football boots

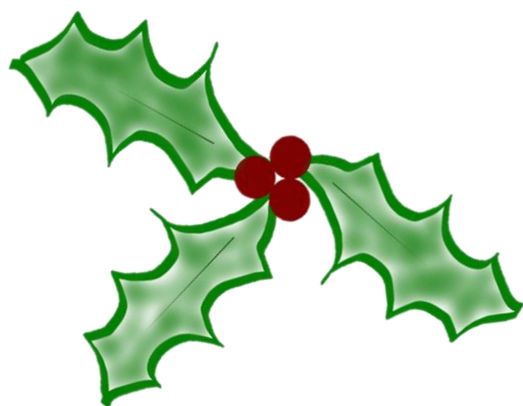
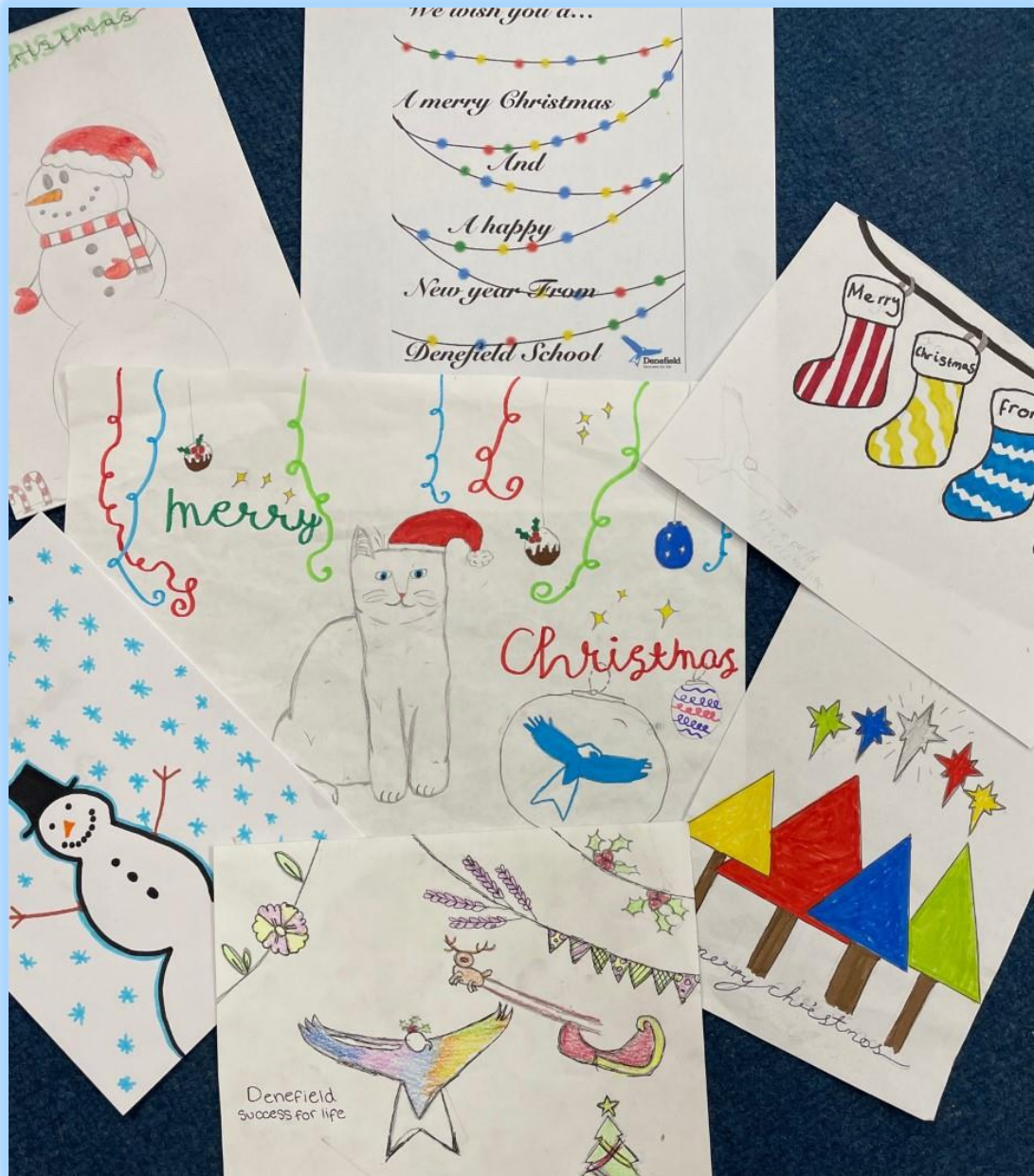


If other students still have any football boots to donate, we would still welcome any donations. Please drop them off at the PE department!



## Christmas card competition

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Christmas card competition. We had some beautiful designs! Achievement points will be given to all the designs handed in.



Special mentions to the entries below – Highly commended receiving a Top Award for their efforts

Tallulah L Year 8



Isabel J Year 7



Marcel D Year 8







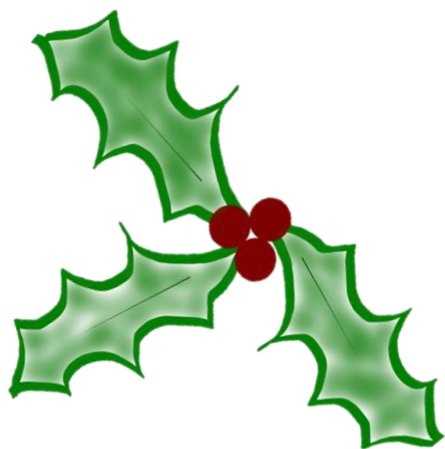
Layla J – Year 7

Alara Hanson – Year 8



Luke D – Year 7

Congratulations to the winner Ella G in Year 8



## 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>				
Ukulele Club	Mrs Idowu	MON	M118	All
GCSE Drama Booster	Mr Shaw	MON	Studio	KS4
Mixed Basketball	Mr Clarke	MON	PE	KS3
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Choir	Mrs Idowu & Mrs Bridger	TUE	M118	All
Maths Drop In KS3	Miss Pullen-Clarke	TUE	A102	KS3
History Club (debate)	Miss Plumpton	TUE	C202	Year 8
Enterprise Club	Mrs Lamport & Ms Pavanel	TUE	A304	All
Gardening (currently suspended for winter)	Mrs Kelly	TUE	A305	All
Mixed Badminton	Mr Clare	TUE	PE	KS4
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Maths Drop In KS5	Miss Pullen-Clarke	WED	A101	KS5
Surf #Stormriders	Mrs Breakenridge	WED	A106	Year 11
Fashion Club	Miss Simpson	WED	M105	All
African Culture	Mr Adango	WED	A215	All
Boxing	Mr Simpson (Only 12 spaces)	WED	PE	All
Mixed Basketball	Mr Wright	WED	PE	Year 10 and 11
<b>Thursday</b>				
Feminism	Miss Meyer	THU	A201	Year 7 to 9
Maths Drop In KS4	Miss Pullen-Clarke	THU	A102	KS4
3D Printing Club	Miss Simpson	THU	M106	KS3
International Film Club	Ms Netton, Ms Euillet, Mrs Bodsworth	THU	MFL	All
Year 7 Art Club	Mr Nicholls & Miss Unwin-Beharrell	THU	M111	Year 7
Pride Club	Miss Falahi	THU	A108	All
Gardening	Mrs Kelly	THU	A305	All
Duke of Edinburgh	Mrs Hinton	THU	P104	Year 9 to 13
Mixed Kinball	Miss Smith	THUR	PE	All
<b>Friday</b>				
Feminism	Miss Meyer	FRI	A201	Year 10 and 11
Chess	Mr Mills	FRI	A204	All
Mixed Netball	Miss Colbourne	FRI	PE	Year 7 to 9





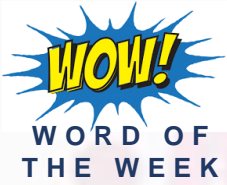
After School	Staff	When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
Baking Club - 10 wks only	Mrs Gough	MON	P206	KS3
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Healthy Eating	Ms Greenhalgh	TUE	Prep	SF
DT Club	Miss Newey	TUE	M102	T1 Yr 9
School Show Rehearsals	Mr Shaw	TUE	Drama	All
GCSE ART booster	Mr Nicholls	TUE	Art	10/11
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Student Newspaper	Mr Neale	WED	A206	All
Architecture Club	Mrs Perry & Mr Nicholls	WED	M110	9-13
Book Club	Mrs Buckley	WED	A211	All
Boxing	Mr Simpson	WED	PE	7-9
School Show Rehearsals	Mr Shaw	WED	Drama	All
<b>Thursday</b>				
Band Practice	Mrs Idowu & Mrs Bridger	THU	M118	All
CCF	Mrs Saverton	THU	Pangbourne College	10
STEM Club	Mr Lean & Mr Dawson	THU Wk A	P103	9
Boxing	Mr Simpson	THU	PE	9 - 13
<b>Friday</b>				
Music GCSE Catch Up	Mrs Idowu & Mrs Bridger	FRI	M118	KS4
Greenpower	Miss Simpson	FRI	M102	7/8

## PE Extra curricular

After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
Reading FC programme	Mr Wright and Mr Fuller	MON	As per fixture list	KS5
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Year 8 boys football	Mr Clarke	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 8
Year 8 and 9 girls rugby	Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 8 and 9
Year 11 boys football	Mr Clare	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 11
Year 7 boys football	Mr Wright	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 7
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Year 9 boys football	Mr Lean	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 9
Year 7 girls football	Miss Colbourne	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 7
Year 10 and 11 girls rugby	Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 10 and 11
<b>Thursday</b>				
Year 7 and 8 basketball	Mr Clarke	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 7 and 8
Year 10 and 11 mixed netball	Mrs Sharman	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Netball courts	Year 10 and 11
Year 10 boys football	Mr Clare	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 10
Year 9 and 10 trampolining	Mr Wright	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Gym	Year 9 and 10



## FUN FACTS from our Department



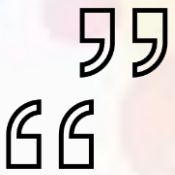
### Word of the Week:

la fête des rois – Epiphany



### Fact:

In France they celebrate the Epiphany by eating a *Galette des rois*. For more information visit this [website](#)



A man who knows two languages is worth two men – French proverb

## Safety

The police have informed us that there have been reports of youths aged around 13 to 15 years, riding electric scooters on the pavements in Tilehurst, specifically Lower Elmstone Road, Armour Road and Hilden's Drive. This is causing a nuisance and is dangerous to other pedestrians, as well as it being illegal to use electric scooters on public roads and pavements.

## Covid-19 information

**What to do if your child has Covid-19 symptoms, has a positive LFD test, or you have been notified they have been in close contact with a confirmed case**

- If your child has a positive LFD test, then they should immediately self-isolate and take a PCR test. If this PCR test is positive, then they must continue to self-isolate; if it is negative then they may return to school.
- If your child has Covid-19 symptoms – a new and persistent cough, raised temperature or loss of taste or smell, then they should immediately self-isolate and take a PCR test (an LFD test is not suitable if you have symptoms). If this PCR test is positive, then they must continue to self-isolate; if it is negative then they may return to school once their symptoms have cleared.
- The school will no longer identify close contacts of positive cases and will no longer require students to self-isolate. Instead, if a person has a positive PCR test, NHS test and trace will identify close contacts and advise them what action to take according to the latest government guidance.
- If someone in your household has a positive PCR the rest of the household must get a PCR test too (an LFD is not suitable if you are a close contact).