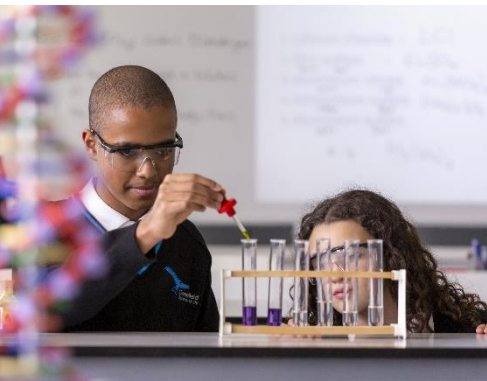


Celebrating Denefield Friday 18 March 2022





Firstly, a very warm welcome to Year 6 parents/carers who have joined the mailing list for our newsletter. Welcome to the Denefield community!

It has been another busy and exciting week at Denefield. Year 11 and Year 13 are in the full throes of revision for their GCSE and A Level exams respectively, which take place in approximately eight weeks. Year 10 PPEs or mock exams begin after Easter, and so students are beginning to prepare for them in lessons and at home. Rehearsals for our school show 'Little Shop of Horrors' have been ongoing after school and at the weekends. Performances take place from Tuesday to Thursday next week – there are still a limited number of tickets available [here](#).

It is of course Comic Relief, or Red Nose Day today, and I am proud that the school has raised £2350 so far towards children's charities and activities in the UK and abroad. Finally, amongst all this busy-ness it is important that we are all conscious of our physical and mental health. Today is also World Sleep Day, and Mr Thomas's Year 11 tutor group articulated the benefits of a good night's sleep extremely well in the assembly they delivered. Adults generally require seven hours of sleep per night; teenagers require more. A good night's sleep can lead to happiness, tolerance and resilience – three of the school's CHARACTER values. And, as the Year 11 assembly showed, the ingredients of a good night's sleep are in the habits and routines that we develop. Their presentation can be found [here](#)

It promises to be a lovely weekend full of sunshine. Have a great weekend.

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022

Tuesday 22 March to Thursday 24 March	School show – Little Shop of Horrors
Thursday 31 March	Year 8 online Parents Evening – 'X' side
Friday 1 April	Visit – La Traviata, The Royal Opera House (students selected by ballot)
Tuesday 5 April	Year 8 online Parents Evening – 'Y' side
Thursday 7 April	End of term 12.00pm
Saturday 9 April to Tuesday 12 April	Visit – Sports Tour, Years 8, 9 and 10 (students selected by ballot)
Monday 25 April	Students return to school



Year 10 Tutor Group

In L10-DNN we have recently spent time celebrating LGBTQ+ and discussing issues that LGBTQ+ people can face. We have also been looking at ways to help our own mental health and future careers. Students have really participated well in conversations and have enjoyed listening to a range of points of view.

We have also just delivered our assembly about space travel and exploration – a fascinating topic and one that is very topical. Please [click here](#) to see what we presented to the rest of Year 10.

Success for Life

A highlight from Year 8 Success for Life last week - we conducted a mini-competition called 'The Diversity Factor' encouraging students to come up with a band that celebrated diversity and promoted inclusivity.

Here four students, Victoria L, Callum N, Abi A and Talullah L presented a wonderfully diverse band championing a variety of cultures, bringing in a didgeridoo from Australia celebrating the Aboriginal culture and sporting a "Carpathian shirt" from Romania where the specific embroidery tells a rich story about the region it comes from.



U12s Netball

The Under 12 girls have made an excellent start to their netball season and continued this on Tuesday with a 12-0 win over The Wren! Player of the match was Lilly W, well done! Well done to all the girls, keep up the great work!





Year 12 and 13 Geography Field Trip

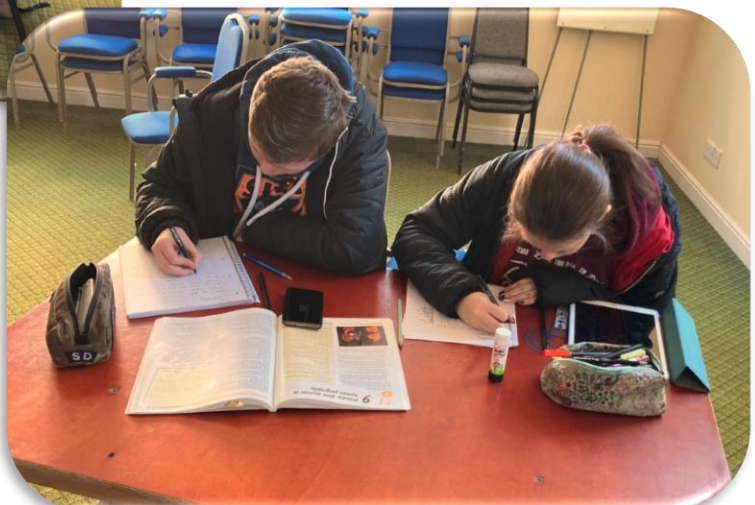
On Friday 4 March, Year 12 and 13 Geography students took part in a three day field trip as part of their A Level studies. One of our students has provided a write up of the visit below



Year 12 and Year 13 Geography Field Trip to Westwood ho! By Zachary M

On Friday 4 March, we departed Denefield ready for our exciting trip ahead. The mood was high and we made good time, all thanks to Mrs Holley's driving! No rest for the wicked, as once we arrived it was straight off to conduct the pilot studies. With strong winds and high spirits, we learned how to conduct wave counts, field sketches and coastal defence studies. We had a walk down the promenade to the magnificent pebble ridge. After a quick demonstration on how to conduct beach surveys, it was over to us. With the sunset in the background and the tide coming in, we worked hard and learned loads of new skills. It was then back for hot food and a good first lesson. Tonight's aim was to prepare for the next day, so we were all ready to collect our data for our individual studies. It was an early bedtime as a fun and exhausting day was ahead! After double breakfast and a double shot of sugar for Josh, we went to classes to finalise our preparation. With maps primed, routes planned and food collected we set off for the day. The aim of today was to collect data for our investigations. The sun was shining and what a success it was! We all managed to collect the data we needed to answer our own key questions. After dinner, we had fun and games with football and ping pong. Sunday was downtime but not without a last trip to the beach. Additional data was collected and after a few last pictures were taken, it was time to head home. With sing songs and good memories for years to come we set home. All we have to do now is get that A!







Combined Cadet Force Field Day

Last Thursday our Combined Cadet Force – CCF - members visited Pangbourne College for a fun filled Field Day. In addition to our weekly visits to Pangbourne, Cadets have the amazing opportunity of attending three Field Days throughout the academic year. We were lucky with the weather which made the day even more enjoyable especially the raft building and testing in Pangbourne's outdoor pool – shame the heating wasn't working! Those rafts not quite up to scratch meant some students got very wet despite the sunshine. Other stands included learning and testing stalking skills complete with riffles, webbing and additional foliage for disguise. Stretcher races with a live casualty – crash hats provided – to teach leadership skills and team building, not to forget the brilliant laser tag competition. And finally no field event would be complete without a gun run; a timed event of endurance. This involved building a dismantled cannon, running it across a course and then dismantling it again once on the other side of the marked course.

Each stand was interrupted with yummy snacks and a well-earned visit to Pangbourne's impressive mess hall – canteen. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed a full day outside learning and practising recently learnt skills. Well done Cadets, you all participated with true CHARACTER and were a credit to Denefield.



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				
Ukulele Club	Mrs Idowu	MON	M118	All
GCSE Drama Booster	Mr Shaw	MON	Studio	KS4
Mixed Basketball	Mr Clarke	MON	PE	KS3
Tuesday				
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 Lampert & Ms Pavanel	TUE	A304	All
Gardening (currently suspended for winter)	Mrs Kelly	TUE	A305	All
Mixed Badminton	Mr Clare	TUE	PE	KS4
Wednesday				
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
Thursday				
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	THU	PE	All
Friday				
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
Monday				
Baking Club - 10 wks only	Mrs Gough	MON	P206	KS3
Tuesday				
DT Club	Miss Newey	TUE	M102	Year 9
School Show Rehearsals	Mr Shaw	TUE	Drama	All
GCSE ART booster	Mr Nicholls	TUE	Art	Year 10 and 11
Wednesday				
Student Newspaper	Mr Neale	WED	A206	All
Architecture Club	Mrs Perry & Mr Nicholls	WED	M110	Year 9 to 13
Book Club	Mrs Buckley	WED	A211	All
Boxing	Mr Simpson	WED	PE	Year 7 to 9
School Show Rehearsals	Mr Shaw	WED	Drama	All
Thursday				
Band Practice	Mrs Idowu & Mrs Bridger	THU	M118	All
CCF	Mrs Saverton	THU	Pangbourne College	Year 10
STEM Club	Mr Lean & Mr Dawson	THU Wk A	P103	Year 9
Boxing	Mr Simpson	THU	PE	Year 9 to 13
Friday				
Music GCSE Catch Up	Mrs Idowu & Mrs Bridger	FRI	M118	KS4
Greenpower	Miss Simpson	FRI	M102	Year 7 and 8

PE Extra curricular

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

Lunchtime	Staff	When	Where	Years
Monday				
Year 9 and 10 handball	Mr Wright	MON	Sports hall	Years 9 and 10
Tuesday				
Girls indoor cricket	Mr Clare	TUES	Sports hall	All
Wednesday				
Years 7 and 8 handball	Miss Wheeler	WED	Sports hall	Year 7 and 8
Thursday				
Girls volleyball	Miss Smith	THU	Gym	All
Friday				
Basketball	Mr Clarke	FRI	Sports hall	Years 10 and 11
After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
Monday				
Year 7 and Year 8 Girls Football	External coach	3.00pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 7 and 8
Tuesday				
Year 8 boys football	Mr Clare	3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 8
Badminton	Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	All
Wednesday				
Year 9 girls netball	Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Netball courts	Year 9
Year 9 boys football	Mr Lean	3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 9
GCSE Badminton	Miss Colbourne	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	Year 10 and 11
Thursday				
Year 7 girls netball	Miss Colbourne	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Netball courts	Year 7
Year 8 girls netball	Miss Colbourne	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Netball courts	Year 8
Year 7 boys football	Mr Wright	3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 7
Year 10 boys football	Mr Clarke	3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 10
Friday				



Little Shop of Horrors School Production

Denefield proudly presents Little Shop of Horrors!

We are so excited that our school production is back! Come and join us between Tuesday 22 and Thursday 24 March. Running time is approximately two hours excluding the interval, during which refreshments will be on sale (cash only so please come prepared). There are still a few tickets remaining and tickets are £6.00 each. Please [click here](#) for further information and to book your tickets.



Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who has donated to National Red Nose this year we have raised £2350 so far!

If you would still like to donate, please [click here](#) for further information and [here](#) for our just giving page.



**COMIC
RELIEF**

Fundraising

Please see below for details of an upcoming doughnut sale to raise funds towards this year's Year 11 prom. If students wish to take part, please can they bring the money in to tutors by Wednesday 6 April



Krispy Kreme Sale

Thursday 7 April 2022

£1 per Doughnut (max 2 per person)

Order from your Tutor Today!

Doughnuts will be delivered to Tutor Time on Thursday 7 April 2022



Covid-19 information

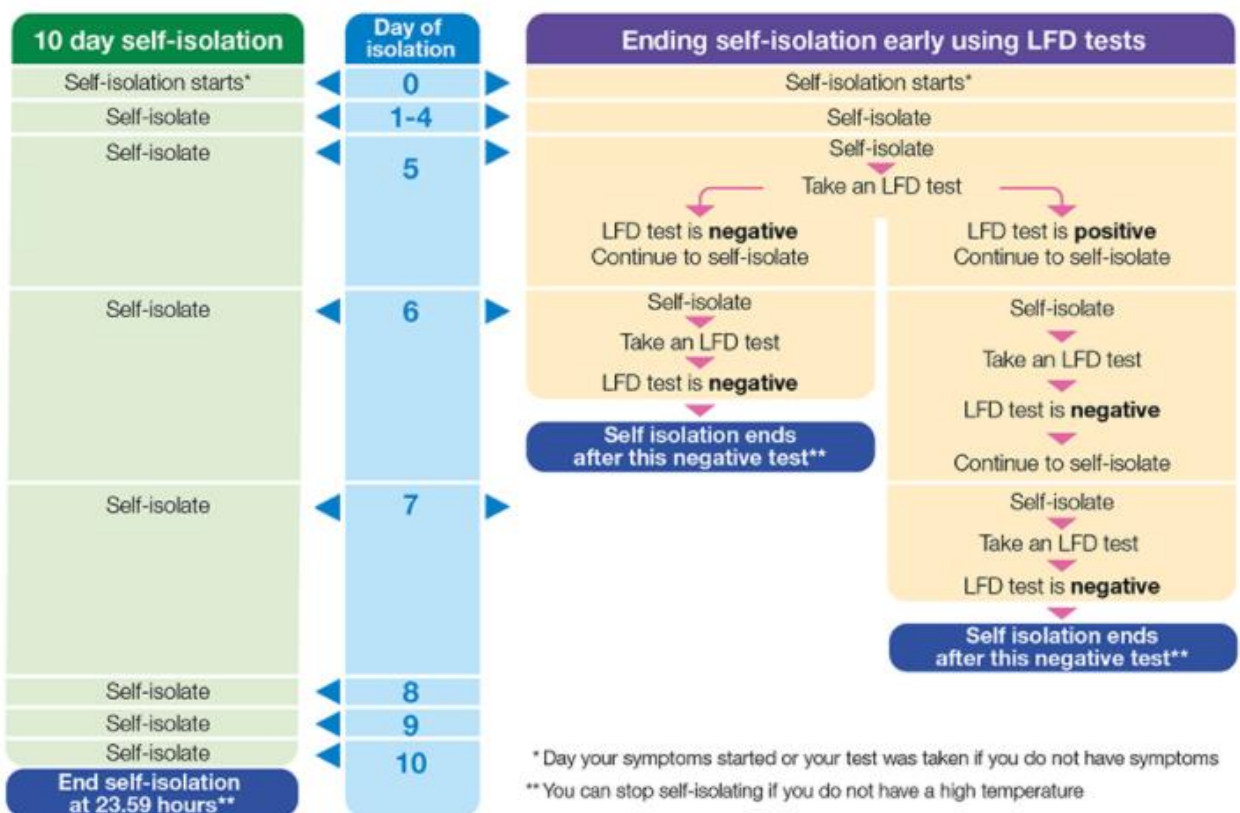
The government is now advising those who have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19 to isolate, rather than making this a legal requirement as previously. The main symptoms remain:
New and continuous cough;
High temperature or
Loss of, or change in, sense of taste or smell.

As a result, any student who has any of these main symptoms should:
take a PCR test and self-isolate unless the PCR test is negative;
take an LFD test on days 5 and 6 (where day 0 is the date of the onset of symptoms); if both LFD tests are negative then self-isolation may end;
if LFD tests continue to be positive, then self-isolation ends at the end of day 10.

The school reserves the right to ask a parent/carer whose child is presenting with Covid-19 symptoms to remove them from school until they test negative.

We have a small residual stock of LFD tests that can be made available for students who are self-isolating; LFD tests can also be ordered through www.gov.uk.

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



Further information can be found in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).



School Site Safety

A polite reminder that parents/carers and visitors to the school site by car should follow the school parking and one way guidance:

- Students should not be driven onto the school site at the beginning or end of the school day.
- Please drop children at an appropriate stopping place outside the school grounds - the school buses need clear access to enter and leave the car park
- When collecting students throughout the school day for appointments please use proper clearly marked parking bays
- Do not park on double yellow lines
- Do not double park along the side of the Montessori/Piaget buildings at the front of the school toward the 3G pitch
- If collecting students from after school activities on the 3G pitch or field please use the main car park and walk to collect students please do not double park
- Please continue to use the one way system through the school gates, do not attempt to enter the exit only gate by Knowsley Road roundabout.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in keeping our students safe on the school site.

Theale and Tilehurst Cricket Club

Theale and Tilehurst Cricket Club would like to share information about their club and training sessions. Training Nets takes place every Wednesday in the main sports hall at Little Heath School from February to April. Outdoor sessions take place at Theale Cricket Ground on Thursdays.

For any further information – please contact: Rita Gupta at youth@thealeandtilehurst.co.uk or visit their website for further information www.thealeandtilehurst.co.uk

