

Celebrating Denefield Friday 11 March 2022





It has been a busy and fulfilling week at Denefield. On Monday our Chair of Trustees, Mrs Doyle, joined me to do some lesson visits. We saw some fantastic experiments in Science, and some exemplary Art work being produced, as well as rehearsals for Little Shop of Horrors, which runs from 22 to 24 March. I have also seen some excellent student work in the many other lessons I've visited - Year 11 German students adeptly switching between tenses both when writing and speaking, Year 11 Business Studies students practising applying their knowledge of business concepts and practices to longer exam type questions, Year 12 Business students looking at the impact of changes in demand and supply to break even and profit, and Year 13 Travel and Tourism students researching the customer base for different tourist attractions in Britain and abroad.

attractons in Britain and abroad.

We have also had presentations by the National Citizens' Service to both Years 11 and 12, and I would encourage students to sign up to this exciting programme. And, as features later in this newsletter attest, our extra-curricular programme continues to go from strength to strength, in particular school trips to hear classical music (the next such visit will be to see the opera La Traviata at the Royal Opera House in London), as well as the launch of our student-led Denefield podcast. This is an exciting school and our students are doing amazing things.

Wishing you a pleasant and enjoyable weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022	
Friday 18 March	Red Nose Day – non uniform day
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
Monday 25 April	Students return to school



Year 9 Tutor Group

Over the last week in K9-SMP we have been focused on the war in Ukraine and learning about the different people involved and discussing what we as a country are doing to help those living in the country.

We have also been preparing for our assembly which we did on National cereal day which was on Monday 7 March. As part of this we have looked into the history of cereal and how it was originally designed as a digestion aid during the American Civil War when they mainly had a meat-based diet. We looked in detail at the Kellogg's Brothers and how they invented cornflakes as one of the first major cereal brands. After that they looked at the different range of cereals we have today.

If you would like to participate in National cereal day here are some ideas that we discovered they do in America to celebrate.....

1. Have cereal for every meal

Be sensible and start with some Fibre One. For lunch, live a little and have a more robust Lucky Charms (they are magically delicious). When dinner rolls around, go a little crazy and mix regular cornflakes with some frosted ones and follow up with a Rice Krispy treat for dessert!



2. Try a new cereal you've never had before

There are quite possibly over a hundred cereals to choose from and if you want to expand your breakfast horizons

3. Buy one or two cereal fun packs and hand them out

Whether it's to co-workers or friends, hand them a small box of cereal to commemorate the occasion. If you're more of a DIY type of person, get some zip lock bags and fill them with a potpourri of your favourite cereal!

U16s Girls Football

Congratulations to the U16 girls who finished the season off with a 6-0 win over St Barts, a fantastic effort by all involved!. Goals were scored by Phoebe, Ellie, Caitlin, Cerys. Well done everyone!





Social Sciences

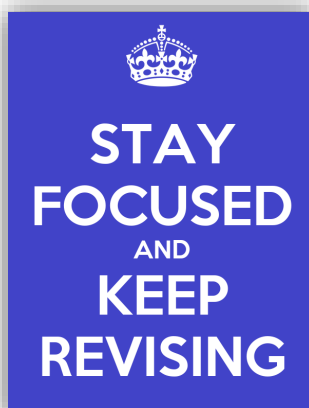
Year 12 Psychology students have been preparing for National Psychology competition held at Royal Holloway University.



The competition question for 2022 is: **'How can psychology help solve societal and global problems?'** Our students are exploring different possibilities and ways of how psychology can save the world. They will be producing a poster and two minute videos before competing between each other. Two winning groups then will represent Denefield at Royal Holloway nationally. Well done to all for hard work and good luck!



Our Year 11 and Year 13 Psychology and Sociology students have just sat their PPEs and all are now in their final lessons of the course. Revision for final May and June exams are coming up fast; and we are confident and ready for it. Bring on the exams!



Music news

Pangbourne Piano Festival

Denefield students took part in the festival last week and had the wonderful opportunity to perform on Steinway concert grand piano:

Lily B and Darcey B (Year 7) both performed took part in a solo class, and both received Outstanding. They also performed together in the Duet class where they achieved Highly Commended.

Valerija R (Year 11) performed a Stephen Sondheim piece in the Age 15 - 16 solo performer's class and received Highly Commended.



Well done to these students for performing so well in the festival in front of a large audience for the first time!

GCSE Music trip to The Hexagon, Reading

Year 10 and 11 students enjoyed a recent trip to the Hexagon to see the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - one of the UK's leading orchestras.

They were performing great works from the romantic repertoire - Bruch's Violin Concerto - with the amazing Cuban-born soloist, Ellinor D'Melon. After that we heard Tchaikovsky's 6th Symphony, a work of great drama and pathos. All students were thoroughly impressed by the orchestral sound which displayed an incredible range of dynamics and emotions. Here is a personal commentary from Year 10 student Abigail:

'The orchestra was a great experience and it was amazing to see so many talented musicians playing together to create incredible classical music. It was super beneficial to our work in class to see such a proficient orchestra performing live and an adept violin concerto was one of the highlights of the evening. For most of us it was our first time seeing classical music being performed and overall the music displayed much emotion and intensity. Definitely something I would do again!'

Abigail R – Year 10



Denefield Discusses Podcast

Welcome to Denefield Discusses...! A brand-new podcast set up by the students (with the guidance of Mr Neale) for the students, and wider Denefield community.

Each episode, the students will be discussing events from around the world, supported by one of our fantastic members of staff to lend their wisdom on a range of topics from the perspectives of our students.

This week's episode is a reflection on LGBT+ History month, where across February, the school undertook educational activities and assemblies linked to LGBT+ History, and what steps our students are taking to ensure we make Denefield an inclusive community. We are incredibly proud of the work that's been put into this podcast, from sound choices, to editing, to sponsorships and questions for discussion - the students know how to put together a professional piece of media!

Please feel free to listen alongside our students, where episodes can be accessed on our school YouTube channel or our school Twitter page (@denefieldschool). We'd love to hear from the parents/carers of our school community who would be eager to send in some feedback to share with the students. Happy listening! Please follow the links here to access the episodes on [youtube](#) and [twitter](#).



Careers

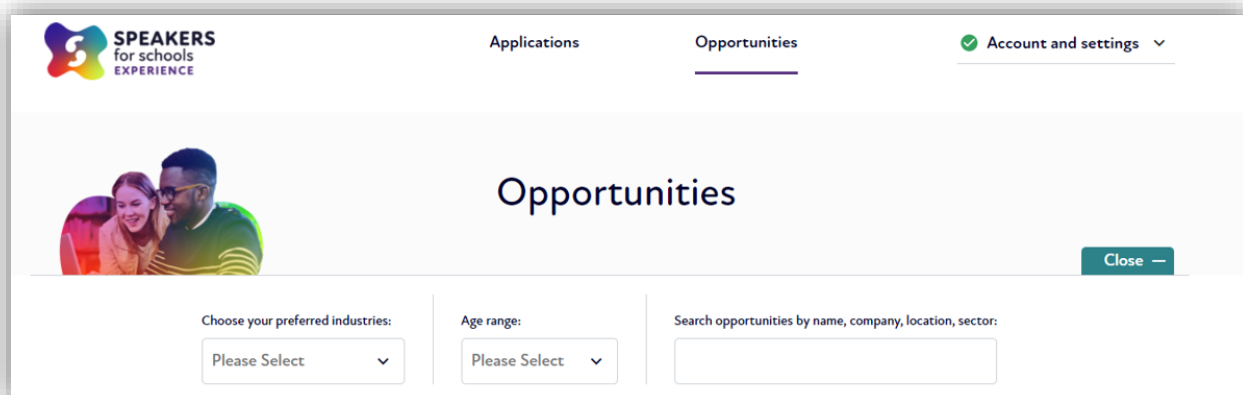
Speakers for Schools is a UK Wide charity that provides a free portal that links students with virtual workshops and work experience opportunities. Our school account portal is accessible [here](#):

For example, students have requested more information on interview skills and assessment centres, and writing a CV or personal statement. The following free workshops are coming up on the portal, but why not login and see what else is available?

22 March – Workshop by Tesco on CV Writing and Interview Skills [Opportunity details - Experience Portal \(speakersforschools.org\)](#)

31 March – Workshop by Santander on How to prepare for a Virtual Assessment Centre [Opportunity details - Experience Portal \(speakersforschools.org\)](#)

Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.



SPEAKERS
for schools
EXPERIENCE

Applications Opportunities Account and settings

Opportunities Close

Choose your preferred industries: Please Select

Age range: Please Select

Search opportunities by name, company, location, sector:

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 Lamport & 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				

National Red Nose Day

On Friday 18 March, Denefield will be hosting a non-uniform day in aid of National Red Nose Day. Please [click here](#) for further information and [here](#) for our just giving page.





Covid-19 information

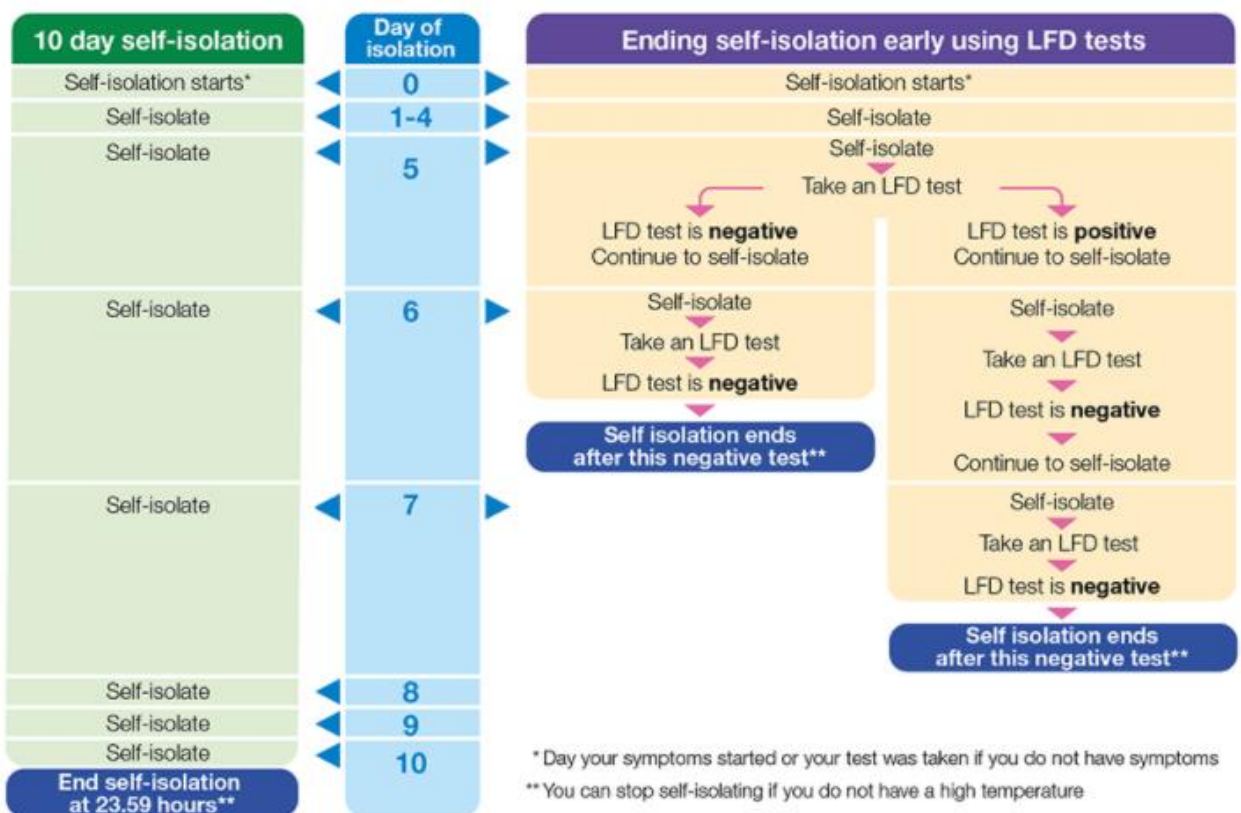
The government is now advising those who have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19 to isolate, rather than making this a legal requirement as previously. The main symptoms remain:
New and continuous cough;
High temperature or
Loss of, or change in, sense of taste or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