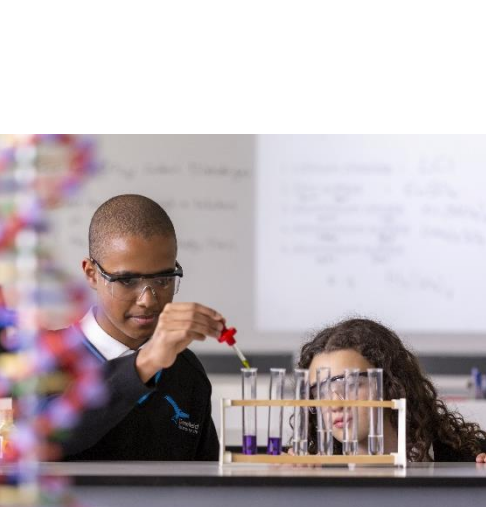


Celebrating Denefield Friday 4 March 2022





It has been an important and moving week at Denefield. Monday 28 February marked the end of LGBTQ+ History month, and also to the unveiling of the rainbow or Pride pavement at the front of school. This has deliberately been designed as a symbol not just of LGBTQ+ rights, which are protected in law, but also of the rights that all citizens have in a democracy. I am proud of the fact that as students, staff and visitors arrive at school they are reminded of the inclusive and tolerant nature of our community. I am also delighted that the pavement has prompted discussion amongst students on the nature of rights, and our responsibilities towards others.



My assemblies this week have partly focused on this theme of protected rights. I have also explored the invasion of the Ukraine and the shock and anxiety this has caused. We have many students and staff who have close family living in Russia, Ukraine or neighbouring countries such as the Baltic states or Poland. I am keen for all students to understand where Russia and the Ukraine are, what is happening in Ukraine at the moment, and how this has been influenced by the history and the geography of the area – as well as the personality of Vladimir Putin. Our sympathies lie with all those affected by the invasion.

Finally, Thursday was World Book Day. Many staff dressed up as their favourite characters from novels, and spent time reading with students in lessons. Top faculty once again was the English faculty, but there were also fabulous costumes on display from Mrs Gibson, Mrs Holley, Mrs Jackson, Mrs McHugh and Mr Simpson – amongst many others.

I wish you all a pleasant and peaceful weekend.

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022

Friday 4 March to Sunday 6 March	Visit - Sixth Form Geography Field Trip
Monday 7 March	Year 9 Deadline for option choices
Tuesday 22 March to Thursday 24 March	School show – Little Shop of Horrors
Tuesday 29 March	CHARACTER Awards evening - TBC
Thursday 31 March	Year 8 online Parents Evening – ‘X’ side
Tuesday 5 April	Year 8 online Parents Evening – ‘Y’ side
Thursday 7 April	End of term 12.00pm



Year 7 Tutor Group – Mrs Golda

Hello from S7-AGA! Our tutor time has focused mainly on equality recently.

In the week before half term, we were learning about LGBTQ+ history month, where we celebrate diversity and everyone enjoying equal rights. We talked about various people who are very successful and are a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

We created a beautiful wall, decorated to the brim with lovely posters we made that have famous quotes from Martin Luther King on them. Our favourite quote is 'find a voice in a whisper'. This reminds us to listen to other people and their needs. We learnt how important Martin Luther King was for the black community and gaining equal rights.

This term we are trying to accumulate the most achievement points in Sulham. We are very proud of how many we currently have. Some students have gold and even platinum certificates!

All of the tutor group is amazing and I am very proud of each and every one of them! They all deserve a special mention but there isn't enough space! Well done S7-AGA!

CCF

Just before half term, cadets were given their uniforms and berets for their chosen discipline. Eight of our cadets have requested the Royal Marines with the remaining two deciding to stay with the Army. A little time moulding the berets is in order but our cadets looked very smart and proud of their kit.

We then had an intense training session in the armoury looking at the different rifles, how they work, how to hold them, how to load rounds, and why do they have clear plastic behind the targets? We are looking forward to future Field Days when they can put it all into practise.





Drama

Pinch, Punch first of the month, they say. 'they' may say that but what I say is ...
'ONLY 3 WEEKS UNTIL THE SCHOOL SHOW!!!'

Yes that's right - the first night of The Little Shop of Horrors is Tuesday 22 March and will run for three nights. Tickets will be on sale very soon (at time of writing) so come and see Denefield's first musical in a long time. It's great to work with such enthusiastic and talented students and we can't wait to get the audiences in.

Rehearsals have been running for a while now and the students are working very hard coping with the stresses of line learning, dancing and singing. Mrs Idowu is rehearsing the whole ensemble right this very minute, whilst I type – surrounded by wood off-cuts and scenery in the making. Mrs Shaw is choreographing the show and Mrs Lotter has been making some unbelievably good puppets and props (If you stand still long enough, she'll paint **you** green!). Never seen this musical – well now's the time. A rock and roll night with a touch of horror.

In other news the GCSE students are 'looking forward' to their next round of PPE's and their practical exams are also on the horizon. The devised performances have been recorded so the focus is now the scripted performance. This will take place in the Drama studio when ready and friends and family will be invited to watch. Always good to add to the pressure eh??

Drama Script club is now up and running every Thursday and this allows students who particularly enjoy script work (rather than devising) a chance to explore texts. The club is being organised by our delightful Drama A level Sixth Formers and it's proving popular. Currently it's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – who knows what's next? Not me!



Foodbank appeal



**CAN YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY HELP OTHER
FAMILIES IN NEED?**

**Help support
West Berks Foodbank
this Easter**



**Help support
West Berks Foodbank
this Easter**



- As the cost of living has increased, so has the demand for the services of charities such as the West Berks Foodbank by families in crisis.
- For example, people are paying much more in gas and electricity than they were a few weeks ago. For households where money is already tight, this makes providing the basics more difficult.
- Denefield is co-ordinating a collection of food items from students and staff this term.
- If your family feels able to help please consider adding one or two of the following items to your shopping trolley:

Shopping List Essential items

Tinned Meat
Tinned Fish
Tinned Custard
Tinned Vegetables
Baked Beans
Pasta Sauce
Spaghetti Hoops
Long Life Fruit Juice
Cereal Bars
Biscuits
UHT Milk
Sugar
Lunchbox Snacks
Ketchup
Jam
Shampoo
Toilet Roll

- Just one item would be a very welcome and generous donation
- Feel free to donate more if you want to
- Your tutor has handy shopping lists to help you remember what is needed
- Bring any items to main reception by
31 March 2022



01635 813390

westberks.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1151996)



**IF YOUR FAMILY
NEEDS HELP, CONTACT**



01635 813390

westberks.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1151996)

Supporting Parents/Carers in Education

Please see below for information regarding upcoming webinars and events to help support young people through secondary school. If parents/carers are interested in signing up to SPACE, please email Hannah at space@studyhigher.ac.uk to request a link or visit www.studyhigher.ac.uk/space to sign up before **Monday 7 March 2022**



Supporting Parents and Carers In Education



New for 2022

Supporting your young person through school and exams

S.P.A.C.E is a free programme of virtual events to give parents and carers the tools they need to help their young people through secondary school. The programme explores higher education, further education and the opportunities available to young people. Parents are encouraged to bring their young person along to the sessions.

WED 23 MARCH 7-8pm
Introduction to Higher Education
A welcome session to the programme. In addition, this session will give a general overview about University.



WED 30 MARCH 7-8pm
Study and Recall
This session, delivered by MADE Training, aims to support parents and carers to adopt an encouraging way of monitoring and celebrating their young persons commitment to academic progression.



WED 6 APRIL 7-8pm
Student Finance
This session, delivered by the University of Reading, will help you understand how student finance works and the other financial support that is available.



WED 27 APRIL 7-8pm
How to Apply
Delivered by the University of Oxford, this session will support you with how to go through the university application process.



WED 4 MAY 7-8pm
Wellbeing
Positively YOU will deliver an interactive and reflective workshop focusing on upskilling students to become resilient to setbacks.



WED 11 MAY 7-8pm
Student Life
Oxford Brookes University will deliver this session from the perspective of current students. Student ambassadors will cover topics such as accommodation, social life, societies, sports and studies.



TUESDAY 18 MAY 7-8pm
Vocational Routes
Buckinghamshire New University will deliver this session on the different vocational routes on offer and how to apply for apprenticeships.



If you'd like any more information, please contact Hannah space@studyhigher.ac.uk


Click here or scan the code to book your free place!




Each session will have an additional 30 minutes allocated for a Q+A, which is optional to attend.

www.studyhigher.ac.uk





Supporting Parents and Carers In Education



Study Higher
Oxford Brookes University
OX3 0BP

SPACE: Supporting Parents and Carers in Education

Study Higher would like to invite parents and carers of your students in years 9 - 13 to sign up to a host of weekly webinars called **SPACE: Supporting Parents and Carers in Education**. SPACE is a FREE program of events to give parents and carers the tools they need to help their young person through secondary school. The program will also explore higher education, further education, and the opportunities available to young people. The online virtual workshops will take place on the following dates and cover the following topics:

23 March 19:00-20:00: 'Welcome and Introduction to Higher Education'
A welcome session to the programme, introducing Study Higher's four partner universities: Oxford Brookes University, the University of Oxford, the University of Reading and Buckinghamshire New University. In addition, this session will give a general overview about Higher Education.

30 March 2022 19:00-20:00: 'Study and Recall'
MADE Training will share ideas of how we can encourage and promote healthy discussion between parents/carers and young person with regard to studying and motivation.

6 April 2022 19:00-20:00: 'Student Finance'
The University of Reading will be delivering a session on student finance. This session will help parents/carers understand how student finance works and the other financial support that is available.

27 April 2022 19:00-20:00: 'How to Apply'
Delivered by the University of Oxford, this session will support parents/carers with how to go through the university application process.


4 May 2022 19:00-20:00: 'Wellbeing & Resilience'
Positively YOU will deliver an interactive and reflective personal development workshop focusing on upskilling students to become resilient to setbacks.

11 May 2022 19:00-20:00: 'Student Life'
Oxford Brookes University will give you an insight into student life from the perspective of current students. A student ambassador from each partner university will support this session to cover topics such as accommodation, social life, societies, sports and studies.

18 May 2022 19:00-20:00: 'Vocational Routes'
Buckinghamshire New University will deliver a session on the different vocational routes on offer and how to apply for apprenticeships.

If parents/carers are interested in signing up to SPACE, please email Hannah at space@studyhigher.ac.uk to request a link or visit www.studyhigher.ac.uk/space to sign up before **Monday 7 March 2022**. Parents and carers are encouraged to bring along their young person to the online sessions. More information **can be found** on our website.

Best wishes, Hannah Ford



Supporting Parents and Carers In Education



Covid-19 information

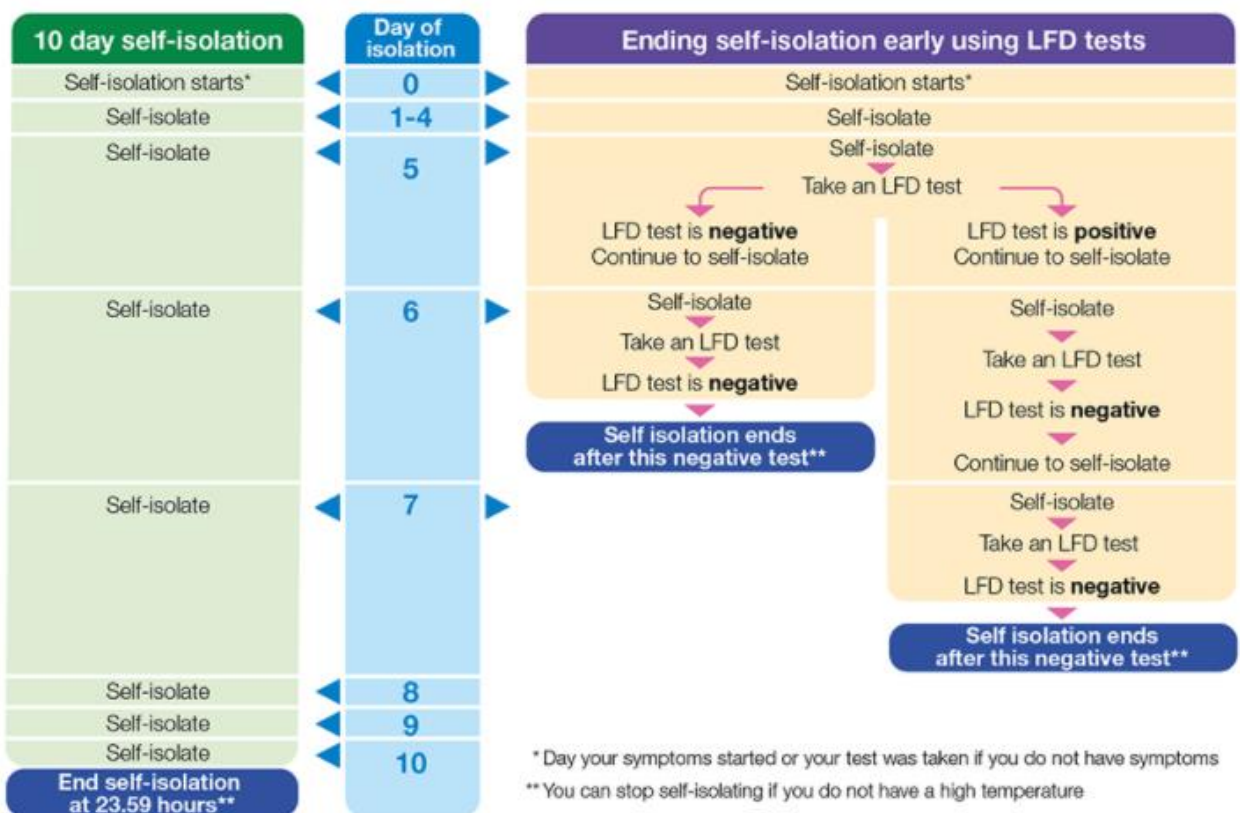
The government is now advising those who have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19 to isolate, rather than making this a legal requirement as previously. The main symptoms remain:
New and continuous cough;
High temperature or
Loss of, or change in, sense of taste or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

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				

Nut and sesame allergies

We have a number of students in school who have severe nut allergies so we kindly request that parents/carers do not send their children in with nuts or nut based products in their packed lunch or for a snack.

This means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter / Nutella sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

In order to best manage the risk of allergic reactions and keep all our students safe in school please could we ask that all parents/carers adhere to this approach.

Community notice



West Berkshire's Family Placement Team are seeking new foster carers for children of all ages, but specifically teenagers currently.

If you are warm, patient and resilient, and have a spare room, you could care for a teenager needing love and support during their vital years.

**Get in touch today to see if you could
#WriteTheNextChapter**

**Phone: 01635 503429 Email: fostering@westberks.gov.uk
Website: westberks.gov.uk/fosternow**