

## **Celebrating Denefield Friday 14 January 2022**





I have very much enjoyed working with and talking to students throughout this week. I was deeply impressed by the group of Year 8 students who visited Rushall Farm near Pangbourne, where they engaged positively in a variety of fieldwork activities despite the bitter cold. Students learnt a great deal about physical and environmental geography, and about modern farming practices, as well as developing their observation, thinking, social and teamwork skills.

I also enjoyed delivering my start of term assemblies to students from Year 7 to Year 11. I chose as my theme Reading West MP Alok Sharma, and posed the question of what he has to do with

students at Denefield today. We explored Alok Sharma's background and early career in finance, the role he has played as a Member of Parliament since 2010, and then as a government minister since 2017. We considered how the party with the most MPs in the House of Commons gets to form a government, and the leader of that party becomes Prime Minister, with the right then to choose ministers such as Alok Sharma. We discussed that whether we agree with Alok Sharma's political views or not, he has successfully achieved what he set out to do. This then led to a discussion of the characteristics that the Confederation of British Industry say are necessary for success in the workplace. In particular, we focused on self-awareness and self-control, and linked these back to school life – including the need to be at the school gate for 8.28 in the morning in order to be in tutor rooms by 8.30am, and the need to take responsibility if we make a mistake in a lesson. My assembly can be found [here](#)

The new year is typically the time when students in Year 11 and Year 13 finalise their options and learn their destinations for the following year. This year, 77% of students in Year 13 have begun or completed their university applications, up from the 66% who applied last year and 55% the year before. Many students have already received university offers, with two students receiving offers from Oxford University – one for History and one for Biochemistry. Of course, university entrance isn't the only ambitious and prestigious route for Year 13 students, and many others are considering high-level apprenticeships, and will be applying shortly.

At the same time, we have received 139 applications to join Year 12 in September 2022. This is another school record, and is testament to the high quality of teaching on offer, the many extra-curricular and community service activities we run, the effective careers and university support available, and the very positive role models provided by Sixth Form students around the school. Sixth form interviews will be taking place shortly, with Year 11 students receiving their formal Sixth Form offer soon afterwards.

Finally, Year 9 students have been having GCSE taster lessons to help them choose their options for next year. Parents will shortly be invited to the Level 2 Options Evening, and then to the 9x or 9y parents' evening as appropriate. While there are of course several subjects all students take in Years 10 and Year 11, this will be the first change Year 9 students will have had to take some ownership and control over which subjects they pursue.

Wishing you and your households an enjoyable weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher



## **Dates for the diary**

### **Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022**

Monday 17 January to Wednesday 2 February (moved from 5 January to 21 January)	Year 11 into Year 12 Interviews
Wednesday 19 January	Year 11 Parents Evening
Wednesday 26 January	Virtual drugs awareness workshop for parents 6pm
Wednesday 2 February	Year 9 Level 2 options information evening online – details TBC
Wednesday 16 February	Year 9 'Y' Parents Evening
Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February	Half term
Monday 28 February	Students return to school
Tuesday 1 March	Year 9 'X' Parents Evening

## 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 Lampert & 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	THU	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>				
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
<b>Wednesday</b>				
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
<b>Thursday</b>				
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
<b>Friday</b>				
Music GCSE Catch Up	Mrs Idowu & Mrs Bridger	FRI	M118	KS4
Greenpower	Miss Simpson	FRI	M102	Year 7 and 8

## 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
<b>Monday</b>				
Year 7 basketball	Mr Clarke	MON	Sports hall	Year 7
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Year 10 and 11 basketball	Mr Clare	TUES	Sports hall	Years 10 and 11
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Year 8 and 9 basketball	Mr Wright	WED	Sports hall	Year 8 and 9
<b>Thursday</b>				
Year 7 to 9 Girls Dance	Miss Smith	THU	Gym	Years 7 to 9
<b>Friday</b>				
Girls badminton	Miss Colbourne/ Miss Wheeler	FRI	Sports hall	All year groups

After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
Reading FC programme	Mr Wright and Mr Fuller	MON	As per fixture list	Years 10 to 13
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Year 8 boys football	Mr Clarke	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 8
Year 7 girls rugby	Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 7
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
Year 8 and 9 mixed badminton	Miss Wheeler	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Years 8 and 9
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Year 9 boys football	Mr Lean	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 9
Year 10 and 11 girls netball	Miss Colbourne	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Netball courts	Year 10 and 11
Year 7 and 8 boys handball	Mr Clarke	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 7 and 8
Year 8 and 9 girls hockey	Miss Wheeler	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 8 and 9
<b>Thursday</b>				
Year 7 and 8 girls football	Miss Colbourne	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 7 and 8
Years 10 and 11 GCSE mixed badminton	Mr Wright	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 10 and 11
Year 10 boys football	Mr Clare	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 10
<b>Friday</b>				





## PE Fixtures - Covid-19 requirements

For any students that are selected to take part in PE fixtures, we are requesting that a lateral flow device test is taken the night before or on the morning of the fixture. We will contact students if this is required prior to a fixture and will request that results are emailed to the member of staff organising that fixture.

## Covid-19 information

Students should continue to test twice weekly at home and [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to the school [here](#). Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow the guidance below.

### **Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings**

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January.

This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms listed above, even if your symptoms are mild, stay at home and [arrange to have a PCR test](#).

There are several other symptoms linked with COVID-19. These symptoms may have another cause and are not on their own a reason to have a COVID-19 PCR test. If you are concerned about your symptoms, seek medical advice.

If you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine and have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or have received a positive LFD or PCR test result, you should still follow this guidance. This is because it is still possible to get COVID-19 and spread it to others, even if you are vaccinated.

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

### **Stay at home and self-isolate**

Stay at home and self-isolate if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have a positive LFD or PCR test result. Self-isolation will help protect your family, friends and the wider community by reducing the risk that you will pass the infection on to others.

Your self-isolation period starts immediately from when your symptoms started, or, if you do not have any symptoms, from when your positive LFD or PCR test was taken, whichever test was taken first. Your self-isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days. It may be possible to end your self-isolation earlier (see below).

This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your self-isolation period ends at 23:59hrs on the 25th of the month.

## Covid-19 information

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms you have are a cough or anosmia, which can last for several weeks. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

### **Ending your self-isolation early – Please note this guidance is due to change from Monday 17 January**

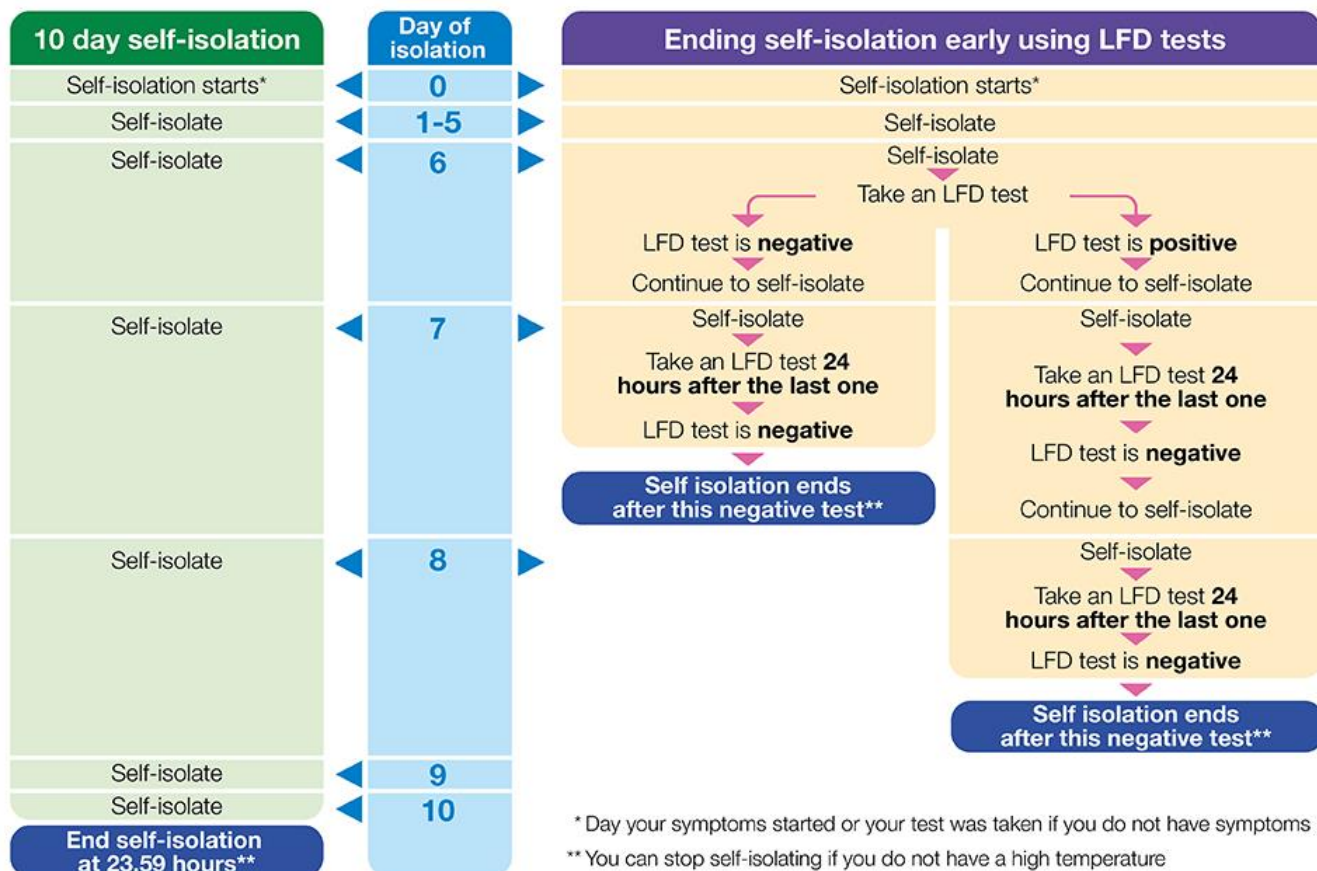
You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result.

[Report your LFD test results](#) after taking each test and to the school [here](#)

You should not take an LFD test before the sixth day of your self-isolation period, and you should only end your self-isolation after you have had 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. You should stop testing after you have had 2 consecutive negative test results.

This guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

### **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](#).

# Waterside COMMUNITY LARDER

  
**Waterside Centre**  
Berkshire Youth

## What is a community larder?

A membership programme that provides:

- Access to surplus food
- Local business discounts
- Little larder club
- Access to other services and support
- Meet new people in a friendly environment

Tuesdays  
2 – 4pm  
**Waterside  
Centre**  
Waldegrave Place  
Newbury  
RG14 1DS

## Who can join?

Anyone who wants to prevent food waste and save money. It is not means tested.

## Where does the food come from?

A Didcot based charity, providing surplus food, training and opportunities to young people and organisations.

One Off  
**£10**  
Joining Fee



INDIVIDUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
FROM  
**£3.50**  
P/WEEK

FAMILY  
MEMBERSHIP  
FROM  
**£7**  
P/WEEK

Membership entitles you to access to surplus food, local business discounts, and additional services

Want free food and a bunch of other benefits?

**Sign up today!**  
**[www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com)**

Registered Charity Number 1155783

