

Celebrating Denefield Friday 24 June 2022





It has been a very emotional week at Denefield, with two sets of awards evenings, as well as our farewells to Year 11 who have now finished their GCSE exams. Over the past fortnight an exhibition of the very best work in Art and Technology has been held in the school's Da Vinci Space. On Tuesday evening, two former Denefield Art teachers, Miss Bryan and Miss Leigh, returned for the evening to judge the exhibits with four worthy winners emerging in a tightly contested competition. On Wednesday evening, Premier League footballer and Denefield alumnus Shandon Baptiste returned to school to present the Sports Awards. Further details of both the Da Vinci Awards and the Sports Awards will be available in next week's newsletter.



Our Year 11 students completed their final GCSE exams on Thursday. Their focus and maturity throughout the process has been exemplary.

On Friday morning they returned to school for their leavers' breakfast and awards event. Prizes were given for most achievement points, best attendance, and for contributions to art, sport and music. Two students were awarded free Prom tickets, and the year group were treated to a lovely video of staff and students compiled by Mr Neale. As they left, members of Year 7 to 10 lined the entrance to the school to applaud them on their way. We will very much miss Year 11, though not for long – they have their Prom on Monday 27 June and their Sixth Form Induction days from 29 June to 1 July. I wish all Year 11 a fantastic and well-deserved summer, and give my very best wishes to those progressing to college or apprenticeship.

With best wishes

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Diary dates – academic year 2021 – 2022

Monday 16 May to Wednesday 29 June	GCSE and A Level Exam season
Monday 27 June	INSET DAY for STUDENTS Year 7 residential visit meeting – 5.30-6.30pm in Main Hall Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 28 June	Year 9 immunisations Year 13 Leavers assembly
Monday 4 July to Friday 8 July	Year 7 Residential visit – Boreatton Park, Shropshire
Wednesday 29 June to Friday 1 July	Sixth Form Induction
Thursday 14 July	Sixth Form summer ball
Wednesday 20 July	End of term for students 12.00pm



Science

This week's curriculum entry is from our Science department

Science in the News!

Below are some of the science departments favourite recent science news stories. Follow the links if you're interested to find out more about any of the topics below!

'Nasa: US space agency to launch study to find out if UFOs exist'



This piece on the BBC newsround [website](#) documents how the US Space Agency – NASA are investing in a project to investigate UFO sightings. With 144 sightings of unexplained aerial phenomena each year, read about how NASA plans to unpick this bizarre occurrence where science meets science fiction.

Level: Easy

Links to: Year 7 Earth and Space

'Huge plan to map the DNA of all life in British Isles'

This [article](#) is about how scientists want to try to map the DNA sequences of all living things in the UK. They think that by collecting this information they will be able to understand more about how these animals evolved and survive, but could also link to new medicines or the development of nature inspired materials

Level: Advanced

Links to: Year 7 and 8 Genes, GCSE Biology – Inheritance





Educake – Science quizzing – League tables

Each week students across all year groups are set extended learning to complete science quizzes on Educake. Below we would like to congratulate the students who have completed the most questions so far this year in their Science quizzes. Each student in the lists below have received a top award for their efforts.



YEAR 7			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Rosa D	7X/Sc3	4622
2	Layla J	7Y/Sc1	3651
3	Aryan K	7X/Sc3	3385
4	Nabil S	7X/Sc3	3241
5	Joe B	7Y/Sc2	3121
6	Jaiden L	7Y/Sc1	2987
7	Nina M	7X/Sc3	2962
8	Jaylon H	7X/Sc2	2958
9	Ethan S	7X/Sc1	2881
10	Joana R	7X/Sc1	2881

YEAR 8			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Connor T	8X/Sc1	9345
2	Kaydn P	8X/Sc4	6780
3	Joe L	8X/Sc2	4380
4	Lilly K	8X/Sc1	3877
5	Darion B	8X/Sc2	3780
6	Logan B	8Y/Sc3	3595
7	Mim L	8X/Sc4	3418
8	Freddie M	8Y/Sc2	3388
9	Josh W	8X/Sc4	3362
10	Liam C	8Y/Sc2	3330

YEAR 9			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Elizabeth J	9Y/3	4906
2	Ruby G	9Y/2	4565
3	Sam H	9X/1	3706
4	Lily A	9Y/3	3578
5	Solomon C	9Y/2	3558
6	Dominic M	9Y/2	3395
7	Anya H	9Y/2	3316
8	Jaime A	9X/4	3288
9	Evie B	9Y/2	3248
10	Caitlin T	9X/1	3193

YEAR 10			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Ellie S	10X/3	8050
2	Hollie S	10X/5	6905
3	Kai B	10X/7	6193
4	Jessica C	10X/3	5902
5	Grace T	10X/1	5702
6	Alice J	10X/1	5379
7	Matthew S	10X/7	5241
8	Sophie M	10X/4	5193
9	Charlie G	10X/3	5190
10	Elisha C	10X/3	5121

GCSE Science Visit – Science Live

Back in February, a group of 30 Year 10 students were accompanied by members of the Science department to the Oxford new theatre to watch a series of lectures from top scientists, academics, and broadcasters to find out more about how GCSE science applies to the world around us.



Students heard fantastic presentations from inspirational scientists, including Lord Robert Winston, Professor Alice Roberts, Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Dr Anna Ploszajski. The day also included sessions run by the lead GCSE examiner, who gave tips, tricks and ideas about how to revise and approach different types of questions in exams.

Prof Jim Al-Khalili is a theoretical physicist who talked about the possibility of time travel through the use of two of Einstein's theories. His engaging presentation was both interesting and extremely complicated, but his ideas got students thinking about some of the biggest questions in science today.





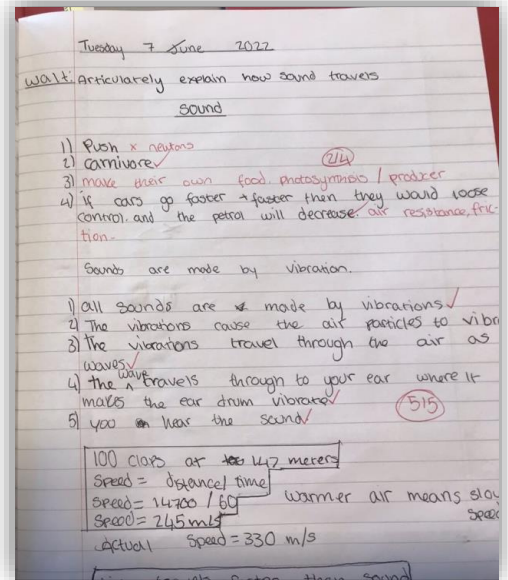
Science in the curriculum – What are students learning this term in their lessons?

Year 7

This term in Science Year 7 have been learning about 'Waves' and 'Genes'.

In the waves topic students have been studying light and sound waves, they attempted to calculate the speed of sound using echos and investigated reflection and refraction. Students have also been tackling some tricky wave frequency calculations.

In the genes topic the Year 7 students looked at human variation and discussed what causes this and how it can be advantageous. Students will also learn about the human reproductive system, including puberty, fertilisation and the female menstrual cycle.

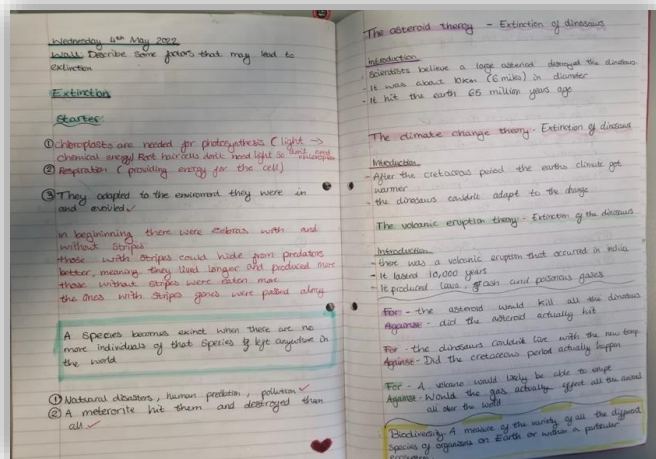


Year 8

This term in Science Year 8 have been learning about 'Waves' and 'Genes'.

Waves is a physics topic where students have been studying the different types of waves including sound waves, water waves and electromagnetic waves. Electromagnetic waves are particularly interesting as much of our modern lives rely on them, from mobile phone signal to Wi-Fi and cooking our food with microwaves and scanning our bodies in medical applications with x-rays.

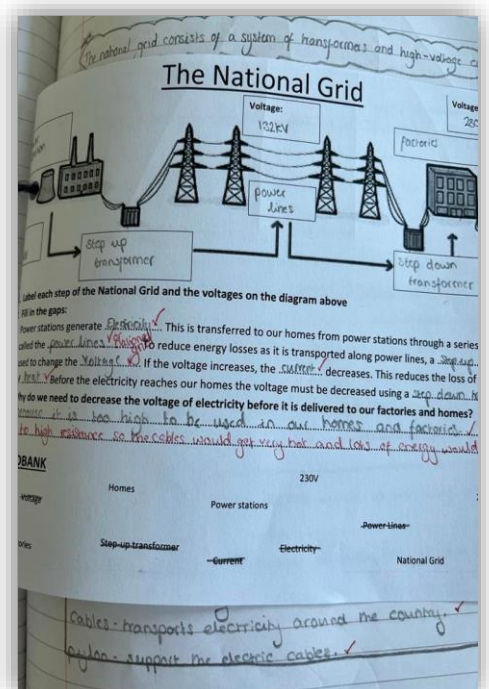
Genes is a Biology topic where students learn about the work of the great scientist Charles Darwin and this theory of natural selection. They go on to study how our DNA and genes contribute to making us who we are and give us certain characteristics.



YEAR 9

This term in Physics, Year 9 have been learning about Electricity. Electricity is a Physics topic where students have been studying about various circuit symbols, drawing circuit diagrams, learning about current, potential difference, voltage and power. Students particularly enjoyed learning about National Grid as this helped them to understand how electricity reaches our homes using transformers and cables.

This term in Biology, Year 9 have been learning about Infection and response to introduce students to the range of microbes that can cause disease. This helps them to get away from thinking just of 'germs' and allows them to distinguish between bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi. and how pathogens are passed from one person to the next are investigated through a series of simple practical activities. Students consider the immune system before looking at how antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections and seeing how resistant strains can develop.





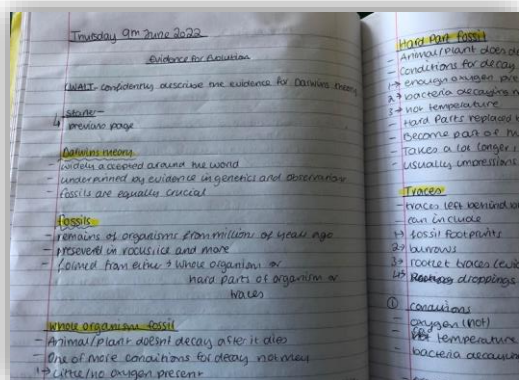
YEAR 9

This term in Chemistry, Year 9 have been learning about rates of reaction. Rates of reaction is all about how fast chemical reactions go, from slow reactions like rusting to fast reactions like the explosion of gunpowder in a firework. Our students are learning how different factors will affect the rate of a reaction, including changing the temperature, concentration of solutions and surface area of the materials reacting. They are also investigating the use of catalysts to speed up reactions, just like a catalytic convertor on a car exhaust!



YEAR 10

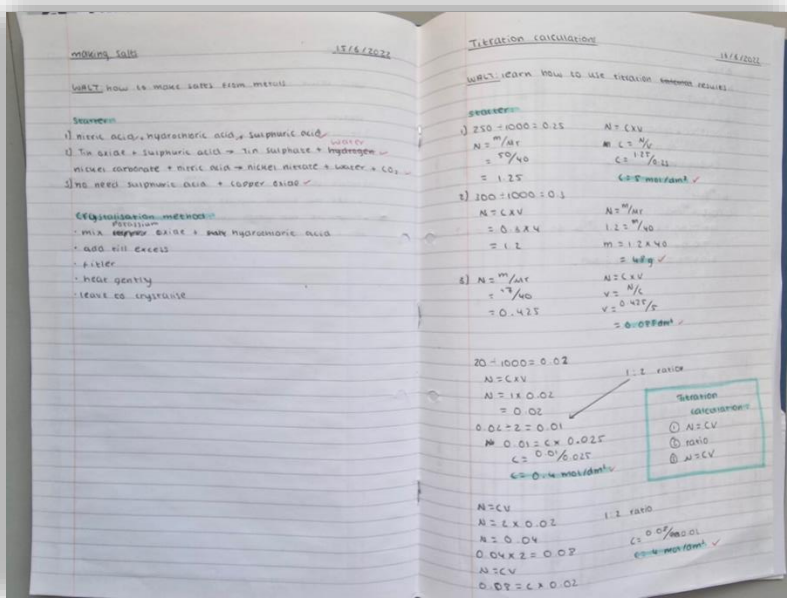
This term in Biology Year 10 have been learning about Genetics and Evolution. Students need to be able to describe what evidence there is for evolution. This includes an understanding of the work of Darwin and Wallace., as well as An understanding of the sequencing of DNA that would result in them understanding what is happening currently, like the various variants of the coronavirus and vaccines .



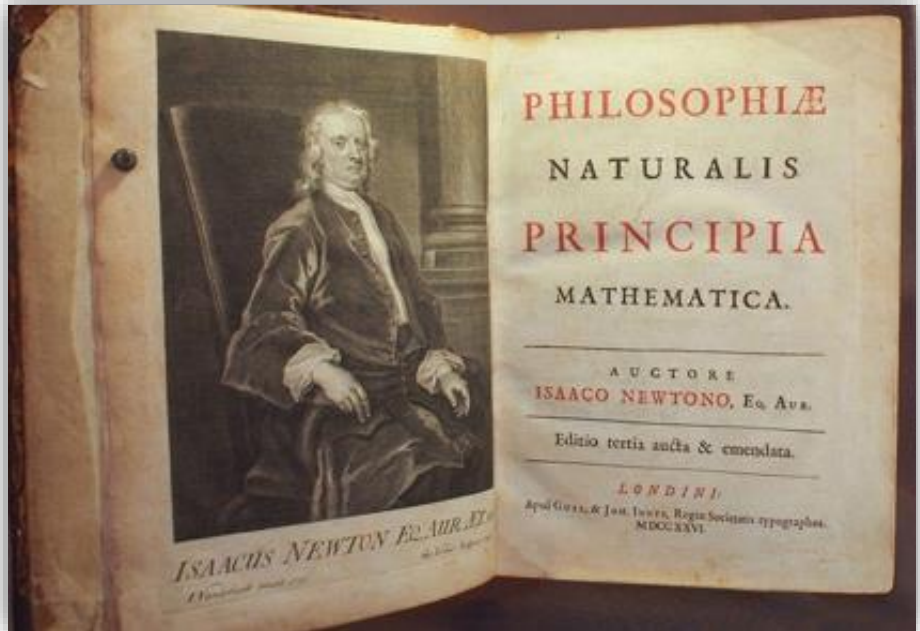
This term in Chemistry Year 10 have been learning about Chemical changes', and 'Energy changes'.

Chemical changes is a topic where students use their understanding of reactivity to predict and carry out metal extractions from ores! Be it making pure copper through burning it with charcoal or running electricity through it, the students have had their hands full!

Energy changes is a topic where students understand that some reactions release heat and others take them in, giving a string of lessons where they've seen a range of reactions – some that freeze glass and others that make water boil!



This term in Physics, Year 10 have been learning about the second half of the *Forces* topic. This relates to how forces affect motion and vehicles in particular. For example, we have studied Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion. These first appeared in his masterpiece *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (1687). Although they have proved insufficient to explain what happens to very small things (like subatomic particles) and very large things (like black holes), they are still used widely today to explain our world at a human scale. They have been superseded at a higher level by Relativity and Quantum Mechanics but have stood the test of time and still form the basis of the Newtonian Physics taught to high school students the world over, demonstrating what a genius Isaac Newton was.





Women's Rowing

Last weekend Miss Alonso Ares competed in a women's national and international rowing event and has provided a great write up of the event

Last weekend was a big weekend for Women's Rowing at both national and international level and I had the pleasure to compete there!

Each year, more than 1,500 rowers travel from across the UK and from the world compete in this prestigious event.

There were crews from the US like University of California, Brown University and crews from Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands and of course homeland, such as University of Cambridge, University of Oxford and Brookes amongst many other top rowing Universities, and some of the top clubs like Leander Club, London Rowing Club and Tideway's Scullers.

I was racing for City of Oxford in a coxless 4, a boat with no cox or more commonly known as the person yelling at the crew.

Conditions were challenging in different ways. We had the time trial on the hottest day of the year at 12.20 pm, probably the hottest time of the day as well! All I can say is that being Spanish does not prepare you for the British heatwave, however, having mastered the art of napping anywhere, anytime came in very handy!

Unfortunately, things changed drastically to a very strong headwind, heavy rain, and very choppy water on the Saturday for our race against one of the UK's top club, London Rowing Club, who won the whole division.



We had a very competitive time trial coming 11th out of 20 qualifying our boat- only the 16th first crews qualified and raced the following day.

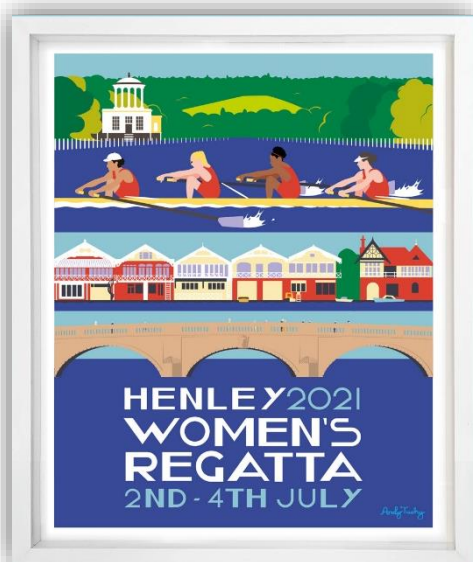
The course is marked by boons and crews who hit the boons might be disqualified or risk losing their race. (This is especially hard for coxless boats like mine as a rower will have to row and steer. In the case of my boat, stroke- the first person in the boat- was setting the stroke or rhythm and steering at the same time).

There are two stations, Bucks station and Berks station, and crews must ensure that they stick to their station. Same rules applies if a crew goes in the other crew's lane. For that reason, an umpire will follow the crews down the lane and will put a white flag up towards the crew that needs to move. All crews get a launch or umpire ticket, and tickets can also be bought. However, people on the launch must be silent or their crew can be disqualified as well. Filming is allowed though. My poor coach went on the launch on the Saturday in the middle of a pour down.

All races apart from the Time Trial are rowed two abreast and only the winner process to the next round.

Reaching this point was especially important for me for many reasons. For starters, I lived in Henley for several years when I first arrived in the UK, so Henley is my home away from home and it's known for being the home of rowing. Secondly, we have trained tirelessly day after day, many days before and after school and training three or four times a day during half-term and Easter. And last but not least, a couple of years ago, I lost all movement on my left arm after having surgery. I am still recovering but thanks to all the hard work, patience, motivation and determination, I was selected to race in one of biggest rowing events in the world. We might have not won, but for all those reasons mentioned above, I am taking this race as a big win!!

This was meant to be my retirement from rowing but it looks like I'm racing again in Henley in a couple of weeks.



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 adhere to this approach.

Second hand uniform

We are very happy to accept donations from parent/carers of old school uniform that we can reuse, but we also wanted to make you aware that Denefield has now registered for parent/carers to use the online service provided by Old School Uniform.

Old School Uniform (OSU) was started in 2019 and was built to offer parents/carers and schools the opportunity to give away or sell their unwanted school uniform items free of charge.

There many benefits for using their site:
Helping the environment by recycling and not sending to landfill.
Users have the ability to view items without registering.
With their unbranded shop, parent/carers can pick up unbranded items from all across the country.

If parent/carers have registered, they can receive notification when items are added to their chosen school, so they are always up to date with what is happening on their school shop page.
Parent/Carers can add additional schools to their account.

How it works

Parent/Carers would register for an account.
They would then activate their account.
Finally, login and start uploading unwanted items.
Parent/Carers will contact you via the messaging system when they want an item.
Parent/Carers can pay on collection or pay via a paypal account or similar. Some people do bank transfers, but the choice is solely down to the seller to arrange with the buyer.

Please [click here](#) for the link to our school shop page



Old School UNIFORM

Old School Uniform is the **UK's No.1** website for recycling school uniform items. It offers parents/guardians and PTA's the unique opportunity to give away or sell their unwanted school uniform items.

THIS SERVICE IS TOTALLY FREE TO USE.
WE CHARGE NO COMMISSION TO BUYERS OR SELLERS.
YOU KEEP 100% OF ANY MONEY YOU MAKE.

REGISTER FOR FREE ON 

www.oldschooluniform.co.uk

Email issues

We've been advised by our communications provider, IRIS Reach, that there are issues with some parents/carers not receiving school emails in their Outlook or Hotmail account. Unfortunately, Outlook and Hotmail may be preventing the delivery of some messages from us because their filters identify them as Spam or Junk.

There are a couple of things you can do to help you receive emails we've sent:

- Add @schools.ps-connect.cloud to your Safe Senders list in your email account
- Provide an email address that isn't Hotmail or Outlook if you have one
- If you are using the Hotmail or Outlook app, try using the web browser or desktop version
- Refrain from deleting emails from the school as Hotmail and Outlook algorithms could treat repeated deletes from the same email address as potential spam

Please contact us if you think you haven't received messages and we can check our records.

Extra curricular

Please see below details of our extra curricular activities which take place during lunch times and after school. These will start after May half term

Lunchtime	When	Room	Years
Monday			
Tuesday			
3D Printing Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Technology	All
Enterprise Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Gardening	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Garden	All
Chess KS3	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	KS3
Walking Club	12.30pm to 1.00pm	M119	All
Maths Drop In KS3	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A102	KS3
Wednesday			
Board Games	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M107	All
Boxing	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Gym	All
Thursday			
Pride Club	12.30pm to 1.00pm	A108	Years 8 to 13
Drama Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Drama studio	All
Friday			
Chess Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
Year 10 Feminism Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	Year 10

After School	When	Room	Years
Monday			
Baking club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	P206	All
Tuesday			
Design Technology Club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	M102	
Wednesday			
Denefield Discusses Podcast	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A206	All
Architecture Club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	M105	Year 9 to 13
Book Club	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A211	All
Boxing	3.00pm to 3.45pm	Gym	All
Thursday			
Boxing	3.00pm to 3.45pm	Gym	All
CCF	3.15pm to 5.00pm	Pangbourne College	Year 10
Friday			
Greenpower	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Technology	
DJ Club	3.05pm to 4.00pm	Drama Studio	

PE Extra curricular

After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
Monday				
Tuesday				
All Years boys cricket	Mr Clare/Mr Wright/Mr Lean	3.15pm to 4.15pm		All
Wednesday				
All Years girls <u>rounders</u>	Miss Wheeler/Miss Colbourne/Miss Smith	3.15pm to 4.15pm		All
Thursday				
Athletics	All PE staff	3.15pm to 4.15pm		Years 7 to 10
Friday				

All Yours

All Yours

Summer support with period products

We are here to support anyone struggling to afford or access period products over the summer holidays. We are happy to support both young people and their parents or carers, and have a wide range of period products available to choose from. There are period products available for all ages and circumstances.

There is the option of requesting disposable products and also a choice of reusable products. If you are interested in using a reusable product we are happy to provide additional information on how to use and care for the product before you make your selection.

If you would like to order period products, please visit our website:

<https://periodbox.uk/request-an-all-yours-box/>

You are also able to collect boxes of period pads from Newbury, Thatcham and Hungerford libraries if you would prefer. Just ask a member of staff for an All Yours box.

Please allow 14 days for your box to be delivered. We would recommend ordering before the end of term to ensure you have the period products you need for the summer holidays.

ALL REQUESTS ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

If you have any questions please email allyoursmthly@gmail.com

For more information on the All Yours Community project, please visit our website <https://periodbox.uk/>

Volunteering

FAMILY GROUP VOLUNTEER

We need volunteers to help at one of our Family Groups. If you love playing with little ones and chatting to parents this role is for you. Safeguarding training is provided.

Monday	10-1pm	Calcot
Tuesday	10-1pm	Newbury
Wednesday	10-1pm	Thatcham

BABY BANK VOLUNTEER

The Baby Bank is a new addition to the Home-Start service. We have a small unit where we receive preloved donations of children's equipment, clothes and toys. If you want to volunteer to reduce waste and you love folding and organising then this role is for you. Training is provided.

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEER

We are on the look out for volunteers to help us with fundraising from experienced grant writers to anyone willing to help run fundraising events.



TRUSTEE

Our board needs people who have a real understanding of family life and good financial, business and management experience. If this sounds like you, please get in touch.

ADMIN VOLUNTEER

Do you enjoy administrative tasks and have a few hours to spare? We are seeking volunteers to help us with our database and to support our Resilient Families project making up resources packs.

Charity number: 1111171

VOLUNTEER FOR HOME-START

Find us on
Facebook

twitter

Instagram

HOME-START OPEN DAYS

Come and chat to us about
volunteering for Home-Start

Sunday 26th June
Thatcham Fun Day
Henwick Worthy
Sports Ground
11-4pm

Friday 8th July
Thatcham Market
Thatcham High
Street
8.30-2pm

Tuesday 12th
July
East Family Hub
Calcot
10-12pm

Wednesday 13th
July
Educafé
Newbury Library
11-2pm

Saturday 23rd July
Thatcham
Sustainable Market
Catholic Hall
10.30-1pm

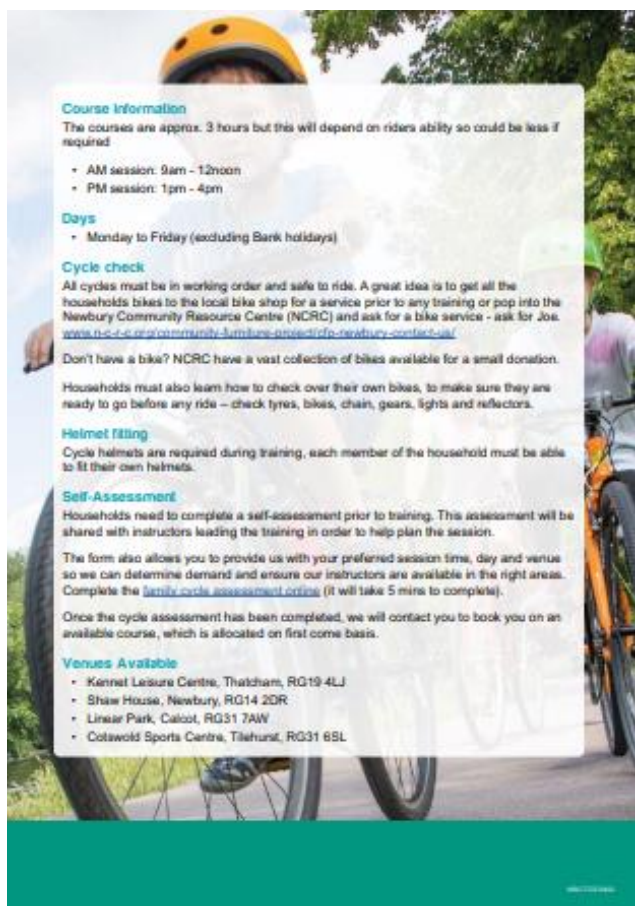
Wednesday 14th
September
Educafé
Newbury Library
11-2pm

Contact us: office@home-startwb.org.uk
01635 760310
www.home-startwestberks.org.uk

Charity number: 1111171



Summer cycling courses



Course Information
The courses are approx. 3 hours but this will depend on riders ability so could be less if required

- AM session: 9am - 12noon
- PM session: 1pm - 4pm

Days
• Monday to Friday (excluding Bank holidays)

Cycle check
All cycles must be in working order and safe to ride. A great idea is to get all the households bikes to the local bike shop for a service prior to any training or pop into the Newbury Community Resource Centre (NCRC) and ask for a bike service - ask for Joe. www.ncrc.org.uk/community-bikes-price-40p-newbury-centre-uk

Don't have a bike? NCRC have a vast collection of bikes available for a small donation.

Households must also learn how to check over their own bikes, to make sure they are ready to go before any ride - check tyres, brakes, chain, gears, lights and reflectors.

Helmet fitting
Cycle helmets are required during training, each member of the household must be able to fit their own helmets.

Self-Assessment
Households need to complete a self-assessment prior to training. This assessment will be shared with instructors leading the training in order to help plan the session.

The form also allows you to provide us with your preferred session time, day and venue so we can determine demand and ensure our instructors are available in the right areas. Complete the [family cycle assessment online](#) (it will take 5 mins to complete).

Once the cycle assessment has been completed, we will contact you to book you on an available course, which is allocated on first come basis.

Venues Available

- Kennet Leisure Centre, Thatcham, RG19 4LJ
- Shaw House, Newbury, RG14 2DR
- Linear Park, Calcot, RG31 7AW
- Cotswold Sports Centre, Tilehurst, RG31 6SL



**Cycle training programme
Summer 2022 - Family**

Bikeability Family provides a tailored training package to help people living in the same household cycle together. Nothing beats the feeling of exploring as a family and our family cycle training can help you all gain confidence to enjoy adventures together.

Available for families of 2 adults and up to 4 children (min 3 riders / max 6 riders). £20 per session.

These courses are run by DBS-checked, Bikeability qualified cycling instructors.

There is no minimum age for participating riders, provided each rider is able to cycle i.e. set off, pedal, slow down and stop.

For the course you will need the following:

- Road worthy bike - including 2 working brakes
- Suitable bicycle - please ensure this is the correct size for the rider
- Cycle helmet that fits - not full face helmets
- Appropriate footwear - trainers are ideal. No sandals/flip flops
- Appropriate clothing including coats if needed due to bad weather
- We cannot provide refreshments so please bring a bottle of water

We will provide:

- Suitable high visibility vests to wear during the course
- A copy of the Bikeability parents handbook
- Fully qualified Bikeability trained instructor

For more information please email actvetravel@westberks.gov.uk



The family that cycles together...

Nothing beats the feeling of exploring as a family and our family cycle training can help everyone to build confidence and enjoy adventures together. **Bikeability Family** is a tailored training package for families of 2 adults and up to 4 children (min 3 riders / max 6 riders).

The courses are run at venues across West Berkshire by DBS-checked, Bikeability qualified cycling instructors and cost £20 per session. They run Monday to Friday (excluding Bank holidays) for around 3 hours, depending on rider's ability.

• AM session: 9am - 12noon • PM session: 1pm - 4pm

All cycles must be in working order and safe to ride. They may need to go to the local bike shop for a service prior to training or you can pop to the Newbury community resource centre (NCRP) for a bike service - ask for Joe. Don't have a bike? NCRP have bikes available for a small donation.

Families must complete a **self-assessment** prior to training. This will be shared with instructors to help plan the session.

Complete the **family cycle assessment** [here](#) and we'll contact you to book your course. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For more information please email actvetravel@westberks.gov.uk



Cycle training for children aged 10-17

The following courses are run by DBS-checked, Bikeability qualified cycling instructors and cost £20 per course.

25 & 26 July (12 places available)
Kennet Leisure Centre, Thatcham RG19 4LJ



To book

27 & 28 July (12 places available)
Shaw House, Church Rd, Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DR



To book

29 July (6 places AM / 6 places PM)
Kennet Leisure Centre, Thatcham RG19 4LJ



To book AM

To book PM

1 & 2 August (12 places available)
Linear Park, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AW



To book

30 & 31 August (12 places available)
Shaw House, Church Rd, Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DR





To book

Bikeability Level 2 should be completed and practised before attempting Level 3.

See [more information](#) or email actvetravel@westberks.gov.uk for details.

Boxing



Boxing Taster Session

Saturday 9 July 2022
For young people aged 10 - 16



£3 per person per session

We are running two taster sessions:

- 10am to 11am for those aged 10–12
- 11am to 12pm for those aged 13–16

To book your places, please contact:
waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk
01635 018500

Waterside Centre, Waldegrave Place,
31 Northbrook Street, Newbury, RG14 1DS



berkshireyouth.co.uk