

Celebrating Denefield Friday 9 September 2022





I would like to congratulate students for their excellent return to school this week. It has been fantastic to see students wearing their Denefield uniforms smartly and with real pride, and to witness their excellent conduct around the site and as they start back in lessons.

Congratulations are also due to last year's Year 11 and Year 13 students, who did extremely well in their GCSE and A Level examinations. The GCSE results of Denefield students were far above the national average:

	Denefield	National
9-7	32%	26%
9-5	71%	58%
9-4	84%	73%



Denefield A Level results were also exceptional, with 82% of students gaining A* to C, an up from 51% in 2019 – an increase of 31 percentage points. Other schools nationally also recorded an increase in the percentage of students getting A* to C grades, but only by 7 percentage points. 75% are taking up university places, including Sam H (History) and Luke F (Biochemistry), who are taking up places at Oxford University. Congratulations to all Year 11 and Year 13 students on their excellent results.

Of course, academic results, important though they are, are not everything. Denefield also has a vibrant extra-curricular offer, which helps build students' CHARACTER skills. At present we are finalising our extra-curricular plans for 2022-2023, and will be sharing these with students and parents/carers shortly.

A couple of dates for the diary: on Thursday 22 October we have our Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students and their parents/carers, taking place from 6.00pm to 8.30pm. This is always a very popular and busy event, and if you have a child in Year 5 or Year 6 you are strongly encouraged to attend. A significant number of students from across different year groups will be involved in the Open Evening. School will close at 12.40pm on 22 September, and will be followed by an INSET day on 23 September.

Finally, although it is a time of congratulation at Denefield, it is a time of sensitivity and sadness across the country as a whole. It is difficult to imagine a world figure or monarch as well-liked, respected or admired as Queen Elizabeth II and her passing has touched us all. We reflected on the late Queen's kindness and legacy in our tutorial periods this morning, and next week's assemblies will be devoted to further thoughts and reflections on the life and legacy of one of Britain's greatest monarchs.

With best wishes for a peaceful weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

Thursday 15 September 2022

School photographs

Thursday 22 September 2022

Year 6 Open Evening 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Early school closure – 12.40pm

Friday 23 September 2022

INSET Day

Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022

Half term

Outdoor learning

Calling all aspiring horticulturalists!



We are very proud to collaborate with Five a Day Garden and offer our students an opportunity to undertake an additional qualification, an Outdoor Learning certificate.

This offer is open to all students in Year 9 upwards, including Sixth Form, who are considering a career in horticultural, environmental or nature studies.

The course involves attending six sessions running throughout September and October on a Wednesday afternoon from 4.00 to 6.00pm. These sessions will focus all aspects of managing a horticultural space and will be led by an experienced session leader.

This community horticultural project is based in Englefield opposite the garden centre: Five A Day Market Garden, Englefield, Theale, Berkshire.

By the end of the course students will:

- understand the different aspects of the garden space and why they are all important.
- how to create the right environment for healthy crops
- the growing season
- why we need different areas for different needs – raised beds for mobility needs, increased precautions for young children and older people etc.
- HS&E



For more information please see **Mrs Kelly in A305** or email kky@denefield.org.uk

Also see link: <https://www.cambiumsustainable.co.uk>

Extra curricular

On Monday 26 September students will have the opportunity to explore the many Extra-Curricular activities on offer at Denefield this year. At lunchtime on Monday 26 September **XXXXXX** students can sign up to a wide array of clubs including chess, gardening, 3D printing and manga.

Please see below for details of our PE Extra Curricular activities starting next week.

After School	Staff	When	Where	Years
Monday				
Tuesday				
Girls Football	Miss Wheeler/Miss Colbourne/Miss Angell	3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	All
Wednesday				
Year 9 Rugby	Mr Clare	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 9
Girls Netball	Miss Wheeler/Miss Colbourne/Miss Angell		Courts	All
Thursday				
Year 7/8 Rugby	Mr Wright/Sixth Form	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Years 7/8
Year 10/11 Rugby	Mr Clare/Mr Clarke			Years 10/11
Friday				
GCSE Badminton		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	