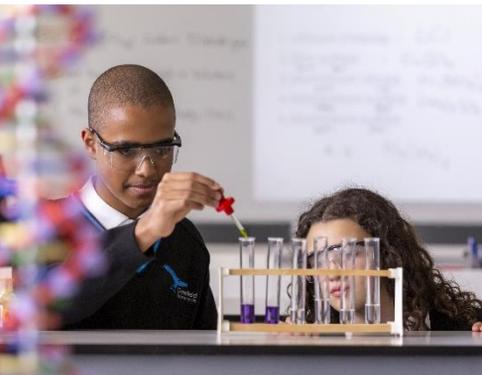


Celebrating Denefield Friday 16 September 2022





It will come as no surprise to know that a significant focus of the school's work this week has been the life and legacy of the late Queen Elizabeth II. I have been greatly impressed with the sensitivity and understanding that students have brought to discussions of the monarchy and the monarch, in lessons such as History and Success for Life, and in conversations in corridors and playgrounds. Mrs McHugh, Deputy Headteacher, devoted her assemblies to the late Queen. A copy of this can be found [here](#). She explained carefully about the concept of constitutional monarchy with the Queen, rather than an elected politician, as Head of State. She explained that Elizabeth was never destined to become Queen, but when she acceded to the throne in 1952 she devoted her life to the service of others. Mrs McHugh emphasised the Queen's longevity, but also her humanity and compassion. Students were particularly interested in the Queen's response to the Aberfan disaster in 1966, when a landslide from millions of tonnes of coal waste engulfed a primary school,



killing 116 children and 28 staff. Visiting the town in the South Wales valleys, a visibly moved Elizabeth received a bouquet of flowers with the message 'from the remaining children of Aberfan.' The Queen returned several times, to show her sympathy and solidarity with the stricken assembly. The life of Queen Elizabeth II means different things to different people. To us as Denefield, it is about her tireless devotion to her people, and her compassion and sensitivity. As Mrs McHugh put it, she was the embodiment of the phrase 'Work hard, be kind.'

The school will be closed on Monday 19 September as a mark of respect to the late Queen, and to enable students to view the funeral proceedings.

A reminder that the school closes at 12.40pm on Thursday 22 September, to enable students and staff to attend Open Evening. All Year 6 students and their parents / carers are warmly invited to attend. The evening begins at 6pm, with talks from the Headteacher, Year 7 students and the Head Boy and Girl, at 6pm, 6.45pm and 7.30pm. The evening concludes at 8.30pm.

A final reminder that the school has an INSET day on Friday 23 September.

With best wishes for a peaceful and reflective weekend.

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher



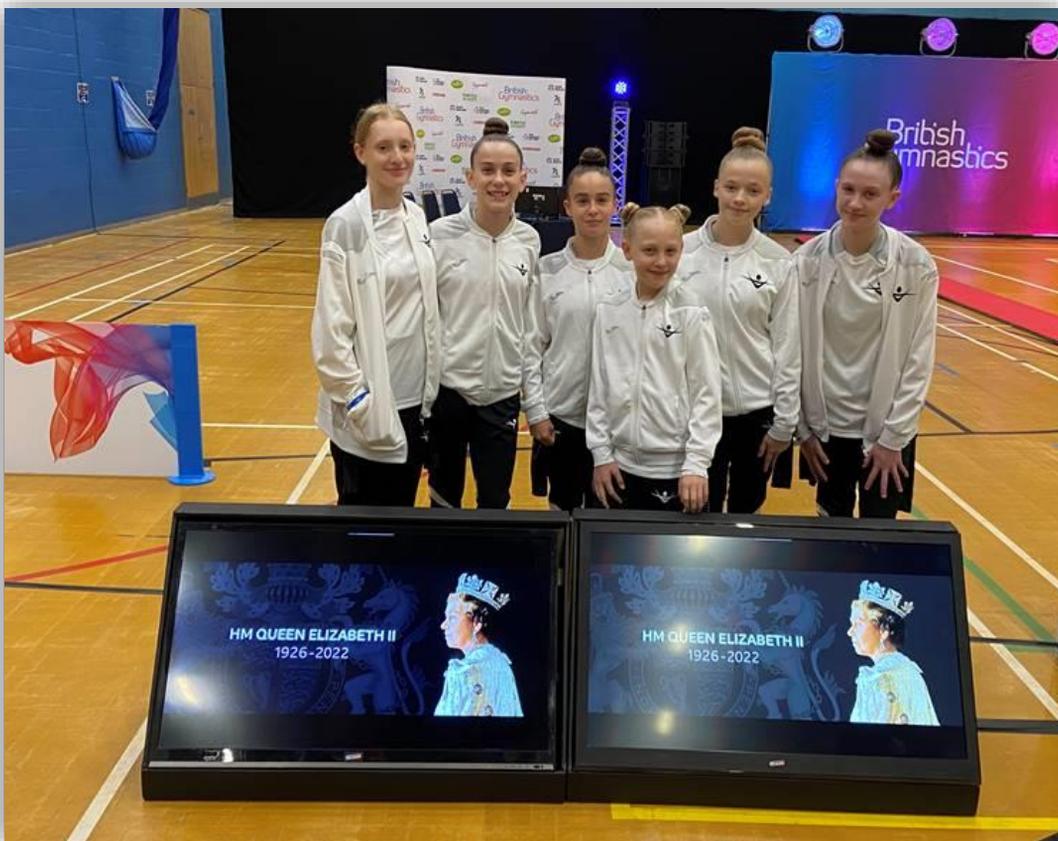
Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday 19 September 2022 | Bank Holiday |
| 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 |



Gymnastics success

Well done to six of our students, Naomi (Year 12), Kiera (Year 9), Tiana (Year 9), Isabelle (Year 7), Teagan (Year 11) and Aimee (Year 8) who competed in the Aerobic Gymnastics British Championships at the weekend. They all attend Virtue Gymnastics in Tilehurst and train for 10 hours a week. This was their hardest competition of the year as they were competing against the top gymnasts in the country, some of whom compete for GB all over the world. All of the girls performed amazingly. Naomi and Teagan came third with their group routine securing Bronze medals. Kiera, Tiana and Aimee came 5th with their group routine just missing out on a medal by 0.5 points. We wish them all good luck for their next competition in November is The Welsh Aerobic Open Championships





Year 10 Visiting Production – 6 October

We are excited to welcome Alter Ego productions who are bringing a play called 'Unacceptable' to our Year 10's in our Success for Life program on Thursday 6 October. This is to help promote debate and understanding about the sadly too pressing issues of sexism, sexual harassment and sexual violence. Unfortunately, an issue in society today. In order to combat these issues, we need to understand and raise awareness of what they are, what creates them and what can be done to expose and respond to the harmful attitudes that perpetuate harassment and gender injustice. 'Unacceptable' is a new applied theatre project, developed by AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd, aimed at raising awareness, kick-starting conversations and promoting cultural change. We hope this might provide helpful stimulation for conversations at home and dialogue and learning to take place for our whole community.

Please feel free to email our Success for Life Lead Mrs Breakenridge on SBE@denefield.org.uk should you have any further questions, thoughts or comments.

Library news

Welcome to our new Year 7's and welcome back to our older students! We are pleased to let you know that the library is once again fully open!

The library is open at break time, lunch time, and after school until 4pm to read, borrow books, use the computers and printer for homework, and play board games with friends. There will be no library cards issued, students can borrow books with just their name. Students can also sign up to be a library helper, working in the library once a week at break or lunch time to issue and return books, shelve items, and assist students with book recommendations.

There is also access to Denefield's library online via our web app, Accessit. Online, you can search for and browse resources, reserve or renew loans, save favourites, make a bibliography, read e-books and audio books, and read and write book reviews. Please click [here](#) (Or simply scan the QR code).



Extra curricular

On Friday 30 September students will have the opportunity to explore the many Extra-Curricular activities on offer at Denefield this year. At lunchtime on Friday 30 September in Da Vinci, students can sign up to a wide array of clubs including chess, gardening, 3D printing and manga. Please look out for details!

Please see below for details of our PE Extra Curricular activities

| 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 | |

Spotlight UK



Our Aim: To support the most vulnerable children & adults across Hampshire & Berkshire

Christmas & Care Packs

Last year, Spotlight UK provided over 3000 children with Christmas presents, 400 Christmas food hampers for families, 500 Christmas Stockings for elderly in care homes.

We also provided over 1500 mental health care packs to young and old who were struggling with their mental health as a way to give a pick me up/soothe pack to bring a smile on faces. This year we are in the process of doing it all over again making it bigger and better and we have already smashed this target supporting children who are struggling with their mental health and elderly who are feeling isolated and lonely.



Ray of Hope...

Spotlight's Ray of Hope appeal sponsors trips out and free experiences to children who are vulnerable or disadvantaged including young carers, children in care, children from low income families, children who have experienced domestic abuse or loss or separation.

Our view is we cannot take away the past but can create new positive memories. A chink of light in darkness.



How you can help...

Donate via our website - www.spotlightuk.org/donate

Fundraise to help fund our support work

Volunteer your time

Do your shopping through www.giveasyoulive.com/spotlightuk (donate at no cost to you)

Sign up for Co-op membership for £1 and nominate Spotlight UK and Co-op will donate 2p for every £1 spent

Sponsor Spotlight UK through Reading Community Lottery (<https://www.readingcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/spotlight-uk>)

www.spotlightuk.org

Registered Charity No. 1129258

"Proud to be providing affordable activities and care for all to increase confidence and social interaction..."

admin@spotlightuk.org 01256 242330