

# **Celebrating Denefield Friday 30 September 2022**





I would like to start by thanking students – and by extension their parents/carers – for the excellent culture that exists around school. We conducted Monday’s uniform check indoors, as the weather was poor, and I was delighted by how smart our students were, and how they wear their uniform with pride.

On Tuesday, Mr Phil Bevan, a fellow Headteacher from Oxfordshire, visited the school. I was keen for his visit not to be choreographed, and in the three hours he was with us Mr Bevan chose to observe students arriving on site in the morning, watched the Langley house assembly, visited lessons of his choice, spoke with students he had requested to meet, toured the site at lesson changeover and break time, and talked with students individually and in groups. He was exceptionally positive about Denefield students and about the culture of quiet focus that exists around the school.



We will, of course, continue the work we do with students on all their CHARACTER values, whether it is individual values such as courage, ambition and resilience, or societal values such as tolerance, empathy and respect.

Parents/Carers will know that we are proud to be part of the national Behaviour Hubs programme, and on Monday 10 October all students will complete a short survey on the behaviour culture in school. We will repeat this survey at the end of the academic year.

Students have had many opportunities this week to develop their CHARACTER values. There are three important roles open to students. The first two were introduced in assemblies this week – our Key Stage 3 Student Ambassadors, who organise activities that enrich the life of the school, and Key Stage 4 Peer Mentors, who look after younger students. The third - Sixth Form Mental Health First Aiders, who support students throughout the school to develop positive mental and emotional health, will be introduced in a forthcoming assembly.

Finally, our educational visits programme is now in full swing, with History visits to Winchester this week and upcoming Geography visits to Rushall Farm. We launched our extra-curricular programme Friday lunchtime, with a diverse range of lunchtime and after school activities available. These include: music activities such as ukulele club and two choirs; cultural clubs such as book club, podcast club and manga club; sports clubs such as football, rugby and boxing; practical clubs such as fashion, 3-D printing, Greenpower (electric car racing), gardening and baking; feminism club and Pride club; games clubs such as chess, board games and Warhammer; community activities such as Combined Cadet Force and Duke of Edinburgh; and finally academic pursuits such as languages, maths and architecture. A full programme will be published in a forthcoming newsletter.

With best wishes for an enjoyable weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



## Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

Tuesday 4 October and Wednesday 5 October 2022	Visit – Year 10 Geography visit Rushall Farm
Tuesday 4 October 2022	Visit – Sixth Form ‘Create your future’ event, Excel London
Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022	Half term
Monday 31 October 2022	Students return to school

## **Football success**

Congratulations to Grace and Freya who have successfully been selected for Berkshire Schools Football team after two rounds of trials.



Also, huge congratulations to Ellie in Year 11 who also has successfully been selected for the U16 Berkshire Schools football team.



## Maths

### Meet The Team

**Mrs D Gibson**  
Head of Faculty



Favourite joke:  
What did zero say to eight?  
Nice belt.

**Miss G Pullen-Clarke**  
Deputy Head of Faculty



Favourite joke:  
Which knight of the round table,  
made the table round?  
Sir Cumference

**Miss L Bennett**  
4<sup>th</sup> in Faculty



Favourite joke:  
What do you call a group of  
mathematicians?  
Algebras

**Mrs S Breakenridge**



Favourite joke:  
Where do mathematicians  
like to swim?  
Indices.

**Miss V Anderson**



Favourite joke:  
What did you call a hen that  
is good at counting?  
A mathemachicken.

**Mrs A Williams**



Favourite joke:  
There are 10 types of people in  
this world. Those who understand  
binary, and those who don't.

**Mr F White**



Favourite joke:  
Heard about the Mathematical  
plant?  
It has square roots.

**Miss N Hall**



Favourite joke:  
What is a mathematicians  
favourite animal?  
A Pi-thon.

**Miss B Leahy**



Favourite joke:  
Have you heard about the  
statistician?  
Probably.





## Careers in Maths

- Scientist - standard form
- Pilot – bearings
- Carpenter – trigonometry
- Chef – ratio and measurements
- Business person – profit and loss margins



## Famous Mathematician - John Horton Conway (b1937)



From Liverpool, he is best known for the serious maths that has come from his analyses of games and puzzles. In 1970, he came up with the rules for the Game of Life, a game in which you see how patterns of cells evolve in a grid.

Early computer scientists adored playing Life, earning Conway star status. He has made important contributions to many branches of pure maths, such as group theory, number theory and geometry and, with collaborators, has also come up with wonderful-sounding concepts like surreal numbers, the grand antiprism and monstrous moonshine.



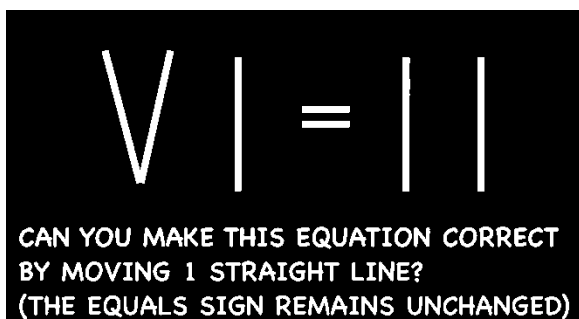
## Riddles – answers below

**Bronze level** - If there are 4 apples and you take away 3, how many apples do you have?

**Silver level** – where can you add 2 to 11 and get an answer of 1?

**Gold level** – How many days are there in 4 years?

## Problem Solver



## Useful Websites

<https://corbettmaths.com/>  
<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>  
<https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>



## 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.

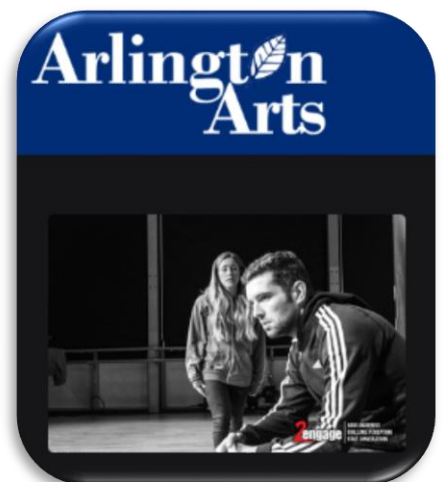
Please feel free to email our Success for Life Lead Mrs Breakenridge on [SBE@denefield.org.uk](mailto:SBE@denefield.org.uk) should you have any further questions, thoughts or comments.

## Year 9, Risking It All Production – 7 October

Risking it all - is a Theatre in Education performance and workshop covering themes such as child sexual and criminal exploitation, unhealthy relationships and drugs and alcohol.

On Friday 7 October, our Year 9 students will be watching this performance. This interactive performance and workshop touches on many of the issues looked at in our Success for Life lessons.

Parents/carers are invited to attend a FREE showing of this performance at the Arlington Arts Centre on Tuesday 4 October at 7.30pm. This is a great opportunity to learn about and to gain confidence to talk about issues that may affect your young people. They have also invited guest speakers from the police, children's services and Berkshire youth to answer questions on the night so it will be a deeply informative and helpful event. Tickets can be booked here <https://arlingtonarts.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873628211>



Recognising that not every parent/carer will be able to attend in person next Tuesday, the session will be livestreamed; joining details and password below.

<https://westberks-gov-uk.zoom.us/RIA>

<https://tinyurl.com/4b4bw4sr>

Password: 189780

We encourage all parents/carers to attend, to enable conversations to begin and develop at home. These topics are sadly only too prevalent and by being aware, as a community, of the risks facing our young people, we can all help to make a change for the better.

If you have any comments, or questions please do not hesitate to email our Success for Life Lead Mrs Breakenridge, [SBE@denefield.org.uk](mailto:SBE@denefield.org.uk)