

# **Celebrating Denefield Friday 7 October 2022**





As you will be aware from previous newsletters, one of the priorities of the school is to ensure a focused intensity in all subject lessons and having a strong and positive culture at all times. In addition, we also have a regular focus on safety and safeguarding, and on the personal development of each student. This week, Mrs Williams, who is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, led assemblies to all houses, focusing on how students can keep themselves and others safe, and how to make adults in the school aware if they feel something is wrong. Mrs Williams's assembly can be found [here](#). In addition, on Thursday, Year 10 watched a powerful and thought-provoking play called Unacceptable, which focused on how toxic and destructive sexist comments and attitudes can be. I would like to congratulate Year 10 on how well they focused on the performance and engaged in the question-and-answer session afterwards. The theatre company, Alter Ego, commented afterwards about how impressed they were with the culture of our students, focusing silently during the play, and showing real attention and alertness to the issues raised. Year 9 will be watching a play on Friday which will also raise awareness of crucial personal development and social issues; further information on that will be given in next week's newsletter.

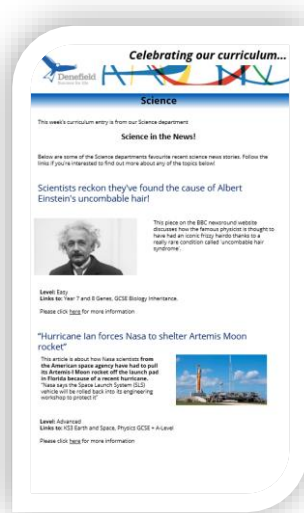


Our trips and extra-curricular provision is in full swing at the moment; following on from the recent Year 11 History visits to Winchester and Year 10 Geography visits to Rushall Farm, our Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Award students will be undertaking their overnight expedition next Thursday and Friday. Our programme of lunchtime and after school extra-curricular activities is now up and running and although some clubs are now full, there is still time to sign up for most activities.

With best wishes for a pleasant weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



## Diary dates - academic year 2022 - 2023

Thursday 13 October and Friday 14 October 2022

Visit - DofE Bronze Year 11

Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022

Half term

Monday 31 October 2022

Students return to school



## **Tutor group – Ms Euillet and Mrs Jackson**

I am delighted that we have been able to revert back to vertical tutoring as it means that I have been able to welcome back some familiar faces into the tutor group as well as getting to know some new ones. On Wednesdays they are well looked after by my co-tutor Mrs Jackson who always refers to them as “a lovely bunch” and they really are! Tutor time in K-SET is generally calm and productive and it’s lovely to see some new friendships forming as students make the leap across the year group divide and chat about their weekends or what lessons they have during the day ahead.

The activities that we most enjoy as a group are the news quizzes and chatting about the latest current affairs. This week we are celebrating Poetry Day and have put pen to paper to produce some lovely verses about nature and the environment, I’ve included an example below for your to enjoy.

### *Autumn*

*The leaves on trees are quickly turning  
Yellow, orange, red  
It won't be long before they're swirling, twirling  
Falling on our heads*

Also this week we are rooting for one of our star bakers as she will be entering the Denefield bake-off competition (I’ve made sure she knows when my birthday is and I’m hoping she’ll take the hint).

Among our group we have some keen sportspeople with many enjoying playing and watching football and we also have accomplished athletes, swimmers and gymnasts, so I’m feeling very optimistic for when sports day comes around.

Coincidentally many of the students seem to share my love for trying out more daring sports which generally involve throwing oneself off high buildings or structures; cliff-diving, rock climbing, zip-wire and mountaineering all got mentioned when I asked them to share with me what their most awesome experience was.

Ms S Euillet, Mrs J Jackson & the lovely bunch







## **Sporting success**

### **Football**

Massive congratulations to Reuben P and Kyle G for making it through to the next round of football county trials. 140 boys attended the U14 trials on the 22 September and 48 made it through to the next round which is a massive achievement for both our boys from Denefield. We wish them every success in the next round of selection.

### **Rugby**

Year 11 boys' rugby is back!

Year 11 boys' rugby is different for many reasons. Experience levels have increased, physicality increases and because it's the last year of representing the school in sport, there seems to be an increased willingness to go out on a high.

Game 1 vs Piggott started well after we spent some time in the opposition 22. Strong carries and deft offloads from George, Raoul and James put us in a great position, but it was Piggott who drew first blood after bundling over the line from close range. Two more unanswered scores left Denefield chasing the game and after losing star centre Euan to a knee injury, we were up against it. Nevertheless, the team dug deep and after forcing a number of errors from Piggott, we scored in the final play of the game after a strong carry from James.

Game 2 looked far more even on paper, coming up against a strong Willink side lined with Tadley RFC stars. We once again started well and good breakdown play from Theo, Stanley and Freddie, our early pressure paid off with Raoul dancing through the defence to score a well-deserved try. Willink then came back hard and the game was evenly contested with a lot of big hits and neither side giving an inch. However, two Willink tries in the space of two minutes rocked Denefield and after losing Thomas, we had to play on with 13 players. Up against it, we conceded another try and went onto lose the game.

The boys played on with courage, resilience and determination and ended up losing 21-7 in both games but were an absolute privilege and represented the school impeccably. Stand out players were George, Theo, James and Raoul.

Onto next week with home games as Holme Grange and Reading Boys coming to The Long Lane fortress!!





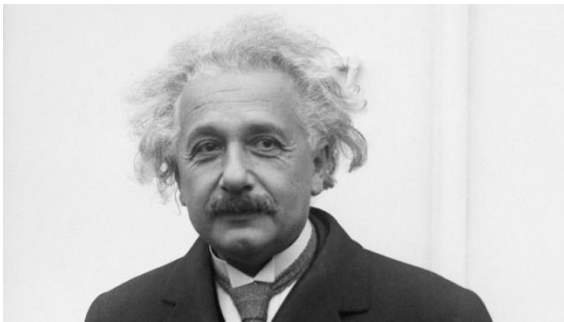
## Science

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!

## Scientists reckon they've found the cause of Albert Einstein's uncombable hair!



This piece on the BBC newsround website discusses how the famous physicist is thought to have had an iconic frizzy hairdo thanks to a really rare condition called 'uncombable hair syndrome'.

**Level:** Easy

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

Please click [here](#) for more information

## "Hurricane Ian forces Nasa to shelter Artemis Moon rocket"

This article is about how Nasa scientists **from the American space agency have had to pull its Artemis-I Moon rocket off the launch pad in Florida because of a recent hurricane.**

"Nasa says the Space Launch System (SLS) vehicle will be rolled back into its engineering workshop to protect it"



**Level:** Advanced

**Links to:** KS3 Earth and Space, Physics GCSE + A-Level

Please click [here](#) for more information



## Educake Science quizzing – league tables

Each week students across all year groups are set extended learning to complete science quizzes on Educake.

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	Caeleb S	7Y/Sc3	898
2	Kayla C	7X/Sc4	600
3	Benjamin P	7Y/Sc3	580
4	Jaiden S	7X/Sc2	555
5	Faha M	7Y/Sc2	548
6	Seren C	7Y/Sc1	542
7	Kian D	7Y/Sc3	540
8	Emily V	7X/Sc1	525
9	Kelsie H	7Y/Sc2	518
10	Lexi P	7X/Sc4	510

Year 8			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Sraman G	8X/Sc1	1070
2	Lola D	8X/Sc4	800
3	Leon D	8Y/Sc1	725
4	Lilly W	8Y/Sc2	630
5	Lucas F	8Y/Sc2	600
6	Layla J	8Y/Sc3	600
7	Jaiden L	8X/Sc3	581
8	Aimee T	8X/Sc3	570
9	Alexis T	8X/Sc2	541
10	Joana R	8X/Sc3	510

Year 9			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Connor T	9X/Bi1	963
2	Joe Lloyd-W	9X/Bi2	930
3	Evans T	9Y/Bi3	781
4	Lilly K	9X/Bi1	766
5	Oli S	9X/Bi4	720
6	Millie P	9X/Bi4	604
7	Manuel R	9Y/Bi2	540
8	Lucas B	9X/Bi4	520
9	Liam C	9Y/Bi2	510
10	Adam E	9Y/Bi3	501

Year 10			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Elizabeth J	10XY/Bi1	1560
2	Lily A	10XY/Bi1	1459
3	Cece M	10XY/Bi6	1251
4	Daisy B	10XY/Bi6	980
5	Zachary H	10XY/Bi3	960
6	Solomon C	10XY/Bi7	914
7	Ruby G	10XY/Bi4	880
8	Evie B	10XY/Bi2	865
9	Kaitlin B	10XY/Bi5	854
10	Shreeya N	10XY/Bi3	836

Year 11			
Rank	Student Name	Class	Questions Answered
1	Raoul J	11XY/Bi1	1080
2	Charlie L	11XY/Bi7	961
3	Alex B	11XY/Bi4	959
4	Eduard-Nicolae P	11XY/Bi1	930
5	Alex M	11XY/Bi1	900
6	Kaitlin S	11XY/Bi2	840
7	Rowan C	11XY/Bi6	812
8	Monica D	11XY/Bi2	810
9	Tanzika I	11XY/Bi1	790
10	Martin S	11XY/Bi2	782

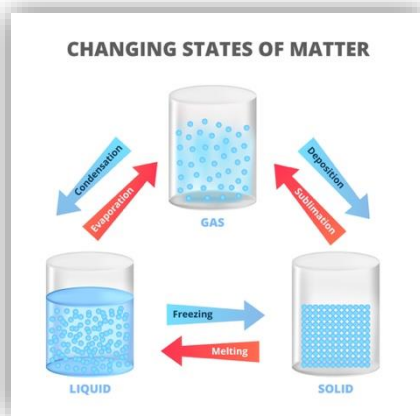


## Science in the curriculum

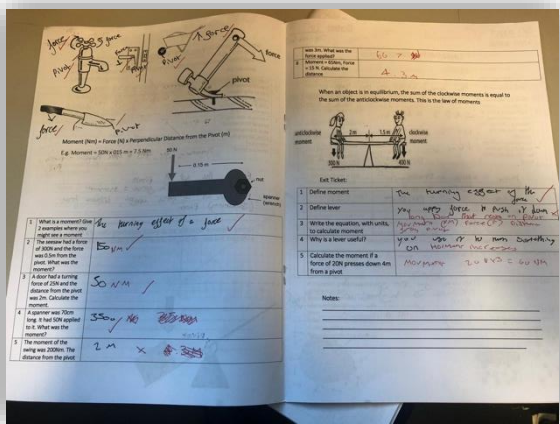
What are students learning about in their lessons this term?

### Year 7

This term in Science, Year 7 have been learning about the fundamentals of matter and the particle model. This topic is extremely important as it lays down the key concepts for further study in both chemistry and physics throughout their time at secondary school. The property of matter starts as an exploration of the behaviours of solids, liquids and gases and the changes of state, but students will eventually be able to define what is meant by elements and compounds. Students will learn how to separate mixtures of substances and why some things can't be separated.



### Year 8



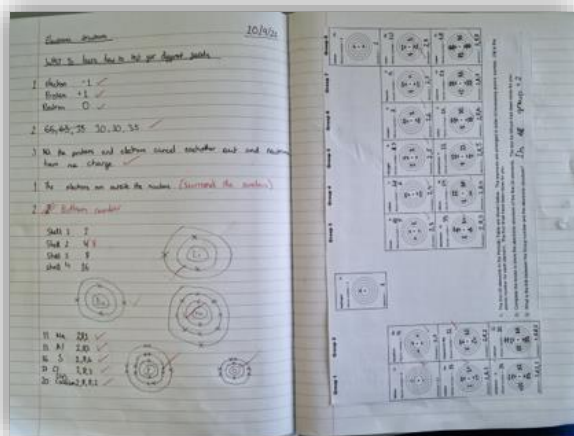
This term, Year 8 students have been learning about Forces which is the key to explaining changes in the motion of an object or in its shape.

The motion of an object can be explained or predicted if you know the sizes and directions of all the forces that act on it. Understanding forces helps us to predict and control the physical world around us.

In everyday situations, a driving force is needed to start an object moving, and to keep it moving. This can come directly from a person or animal or machine pushing or pulling it, or can arise indirectly through a more complicated set of actions (e.g. pedalling a bicycle; the engine of a car turning the driving wheels; the engine of a boat turning a propeller, etc.).

### Year 9

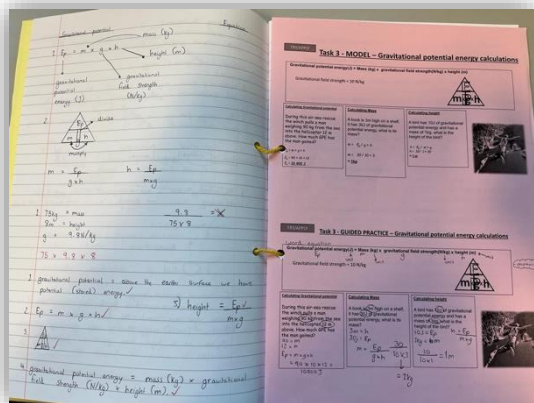
This term in Chemistry, Year 9 have been learning about the structure of the atom. This has involved taking a deep-dive into knowing how many protons and neutrons can be found in any atom, and how to draw the electrons that orbit it. This topic links to some of the most ground-breaking discoveries in our understanding of the universe. Understanding these sub-atomic particles (the purpose of the large Hadron collider) is how we came to discover the Higgs Boson – the particle that sparked the big bang!



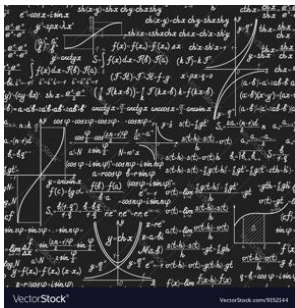




This term in Physics Year 9 have been learning about Energy. Students learn about the various Energy stores and pathways and how to calculate them. This topic is lays emphasis on our how our energy choices and decisions impact Earth's natural systems in ways we may not be aware of, so it is essential that we choose our energy sources carefully.

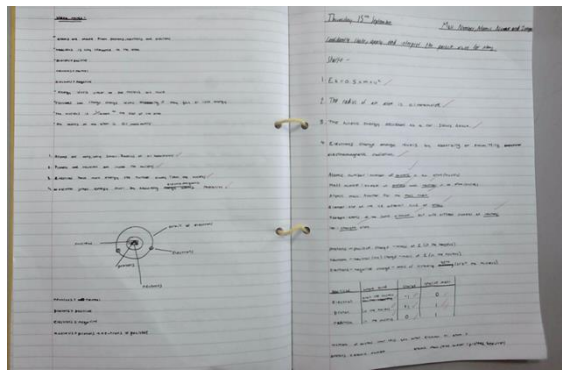


## Year 10



This term in Chemistry, Year 10 have been learning about amount of substance, the masses of elements and compounds, and the atom economy of reactions which indicates it's efficiency. Students learn about how chemists in real life will prepare their chemical reactions with the correct proportions of reagents and how they predict the quantities of products. This topic relates to the practice of chemists in the modern world, how do we reduce our useful of solvents which often rely on crude oil to manufacture, how do we find more cost-effective methods of synthesis?

This term in Physics, Year 10 have been learning about the structure of atoms. Scientists believe that everything is made of atoms but this raises the question *what are atoms made of?* Up until GCSE studies, we have suggested that atoms are very, very small hard spheres like marbles. Now year 10 are looking at what we think is inside them, they find that atoms are mostly empty. They just have an extremely tiny nucleus in the middle which is made up of minute particles called neutrons and protons and around this nucleus move even tinier particles called electrons. The electrons form a fuzzy cloud like bees around a hive. So, it turns out that we think atoms are more like fuzzy balls than hard marbles. Year 10 will go on to study what radioactivity has to do with this structure



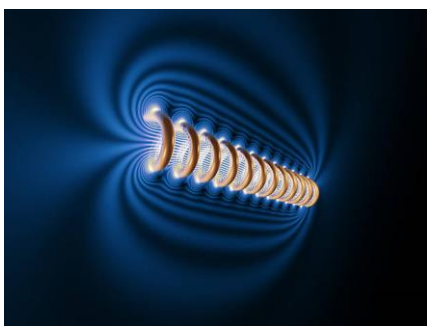
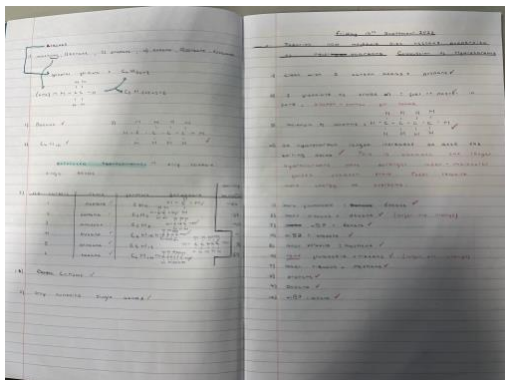




## **Year 11**

This term in Chemistry, Year 11 have been learning about crude oil and fuels. Students study the journey of crude oil, through formation to refining, and consider the products that we use every day that are derived from it.

This topic links to important real word questions about the pollution caused through burning fossil fuels and whether our reliance on plastic products has an impact on our planet.



This term in Year 11 Physics, most of our students have been learning about electromagnetism. The topic started by covering the basic principles of electromagnetism including how magnets interact, identifying magnetic materials and how magnetic fields are produced around electric wires. Most recent lessons taught the Motor Effect which is the basic principle behind how electric motors work. Students then learnt about the parts of an electric motor, how they produce motion and the many uses for electric motors - anything from electric cars to hairdryers!



## Career roadshow

Last week, we were fortunate to have Virgin Media bring a roadshow to school. Students in Years 10 to Year 13 heard about the company, their partnership with O2, their apprenticeship programme and the application process. The team, including three apprentices or former apprentices from different parts of the company including business and marketing, field engineering and fibre engineering, spoke to students about their roles in the company, what a typical day consisted of and how they got to where they are today.

Students asked great questions about subjects they had enjoyed at school, about salaries and benefits and learnt what marketing and engineering actually was. They also got the chance to see what roles might suit them through an interactive quiz. A huge thank you to Virgin Media for bringing the industry to life for our students.



## Year 10 production

We would like to thank Alter Ego Productions for their dynamic and thought-provoking play about 'Sexism' which was performed for our Year 10 students this week. The definition of sexism was blown open with all its complexities and subtleties and the protagonist was asked to face his unconscious biases towards women or girls and examine the potential impact of using seemingly innocuous comments like 'don't be such a girl...' As stories are told in the play of uncomfortable moments of sexual harassment he only really takes it in when it becomes evident that one such incident happened to his sister - and only then could he really get in touch with the injustice and fury about it. The play asks us all and our students to question why does it have to happen to someone we care about before we are prepared to think about the consequences of our casual 'banter'. It was extremely thought provoking and we hope that your children have come home with questions and thoughts that may have prompted discussion and debate at home. It is a journey, and an important message of the play was that this is not about blame and shame - it is about being a 'game changer' and starting to think for ourselves and taking personal responsibility.

If there are any questions or thoughts please feel free to contribute to the debate and email Mrs S Breakenridge [SBE@denefield.org.uk](mailto:SBE@denefield.org.uk) (Success for Life Lead)

## ChatHealth launch

The School Nursing service is very excited to be launching **ChatHealth**, which has been launched on 3 October, this is an anonymous text messaging service for parents/carers of 5 -19 year olds and for 11-19 year olds. We will be able to offer parents/carers advice and support on many topics such as sleep, behaviour, parenting, healthy eating, bedwetting, emotional health & wellbeing, managing medical conditions.

For 11-19 year olds we will offer advice on issues such as relationships, drugs & alcohol, smoking, self harm, anxiety, stress, bullying, low mood. This service has been well received where it has already been running in different parts of the UK.



**ChatHealth**

**NHS**  
Berkshire Healthcare  
Children, Young People and  
Families services

**Aged 11-19?**  
**Need some advice?**  
We can help with all kinds of things like:

**Relationships** **Healthy eating**  
**Drugs & alcohol** **Anxiety** **STRESS**  
**Low mood** **Bullying** **Self-harm**  
**Body changes** **SMOKING** **Sleep**

**Text a school nurse**  
for confidential advice and support  
**07312 263266**

**cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk**

We do not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact the school nurse. We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we received your text. Texts will only be sent between Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact a member of school staff, a trusted adult, or your GP. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS (picture messages). We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). Prevent the school nurse from sending messages to you by texting STOP to our number. Please respect your school's mobile phone policy. Messages are charged at your usual rate.





## Tilehurst Parish Council

Tilehurst Parish Council have provided an update on progress on developments for youth services in Tilehurst as a direct result of the survey feedback they have had from young people living in or going to school in the parish.

An art club was set up in the summer term in our Jubilee Annex at the Calcot Centre in conjunction with Berkshire Youth. Sadly this wasn't as popular as we might have hoped and hasn't been restarted this term.

A summer of sports activities, again with Berkshire Youth, took place at Cotswold, Cornwell and Turnham's Farm parks with over 400 young people attended - even in the very hot weather. Berkshire Youth has created and run sports sessions at the Cotswold Sports Centre every Thursday from 4:30-5:30 for years 7-9.

September 15th saw the launch of a brand new youth club at the Calcot Centre for years 7-9 every Thursday from 7.30-9pm which is going really well thanks to the efforts of Jessica Kirby from Berkshire Youth.

We are engaging with providers to consider the possibility of workshops focussing on performing arts and film production. We will keep you posted.

Work continues apace to create outdoor gyms starting with the Cotswolds Park initially then moving onto Turnhams Park. Once we have all the information needed it will be sent for consultation with Residents. We would however very much welcome input from Young people on this and I will contact you again soon to arrange a suitable time to meet with the Student Council. Installation of new seating in all our parks - high on the list of wants from the youth survey. Sadly however, time and money has had to be diverted from this to remove and refurbish the covered seating in Cotswold which was badly vandalised recently along with the play surface in the play area. The shelter refurbishment and relocation **back** into the park should be completed by the end of the year along with new seating at our parks.

We are starting to look at activities suitable for slightly older teens, particularly those that chill in the Cotswold sports centre reception area - possibly engaging with the Boxing Club there. We are investigating the possibility of the provision of an additional Skate park at Calcot Park. We were also looking at the possibility of adding a Pump Track and were delighted when West Berkshire Council announced the provision of a Pump Track to be situated in the south west corner of Linear Park. Whilst not within the parish many young people from our area use Linear Park and the new Pump Track will, no doubt, prove tremendously popular with skate boarders, Scooters and Bike riders alike

Thank you once again for your support with this



## Job vacancy



**WE'RE HIRING** reliable, community-orientated, team players who are flexible and amenable to join our mission!

**Job Title:** Community Connector

**Job Type:** Part-time, permanent

**Salary:** £10 per hour

**Location:** Denefield School - Long Ln, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6XY

**Hours:** Must be available to work between the following hours:

4:45pm - 10:15pm on allocated weekday evenings

7:45am - 10:15pm on allocated Saturdays and Sundays

**How to apply:** Please complete an application form through the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8coKLY4RaPhLy81ZGyxPVJRvMZOXldgvCptzz3crQwC0v3g/viewform>

Alternatively you can apply via our website [www.school-space.org](http://www.school-space.org) or email us at [team@school-space.org](mailto:team@school-space.org) and a member of the team will be in touch!

### What do we do?

**School Space** is a social enterprise which works with schools to rent out their facilities to the local community for regular groups and one-off events. The income generated is used by the schools to improve education and facilities for their students, in addition to creating stronger connections with their neighbours. Local residents and small business owners get access to quality venues on their doorstep that house clubs, activities and celebrations.

### Key responsibilities include:

- Opening and closing Denefield school in the evenings and weekends
- Carrying out checks as necessary and light cleaning/tidying after bookings
- Setting up, and clearing away of tables and chairs so that our events can run in open spaces (training provided)
- Providing great customer service and communicating what's happening at schools to the operations team.

### Training and support:

You'll receive a full training programme to get you up and running at the school, followed by regular sessions with team leaders, operations managers and the wider School Space team.