

# Celebrating Denefield Friday 14 October 2022











As you will see from this newsletter, there is a great deal of exciting activity happening at Denefield. Every newsletter has a focus on a curriculum area – this week it is the Creative faculty that includes Art, Design Technology, Food Technology, Music and Drama. We also highlight a tutor group each week – this week it is Mr Wheeler's S-AWR group. Our extra-curricular offer goes from strength to strength – note the articles on Greenpower and on the Great Denefield Bake off, as well as our feature on the school library. Lastly, and importantly, it is Mental Health Awareness this week. Ms Netton, who is our Mental Health Lead, has been running assemblies on mental health, focusing on practical measures that all members of the community can take in order to maximise their wellbeing, as well as signposting people and resources that can help. In school, we have Year 10 Peer Mentors and Year 12 and 13 Mental Health First Aiders, as well as tutors, welfare managers, and Heads and deputy Heads of House. The school has invested in the



Wellbeing Hub, and this is being rolled out through Success for Life lessons. Finally, any student who has a concern – whether about themselves or another student - can email <u>listening@denefield.org.uk</u>. The email address is regularly monitored by welfare and safeguarding staff.

I would also like to say a very big thank you to Waitrose, for their exceptionally kind donation of £331. We will be investing this money in extra-curricular and welfare provision.

With best wishes for the weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023					
Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022	Half term				
Monday 31 October 2022	Students return to school				
Tuesday 1 November 2022	Visit – Year 12 'Safe drive Stay alive'				



### Tutor group – Mr Wheeler

It has been very good to go back to vertical tutoring and there are some familiar faces for me as their tutor of S-AWR. The familiar faces are now in Year 10!

It has been a calm, quiet start to tutor times. The new Year 7's have adapted quickly to the Denefield way of life and accumulating stacks of house points which is great to see. One or two of them are coming out of their shells and making verbal contributions to tutor time. Casey A entered the Bake Off competition along with Lucy C. The Year 11's have made a good start to their final year and some of them are using tutor time to do some homework and ensuring that it is of good quality. One of the Year 11's has one of the highest amount of house points in the tutor group which is a rare feat! Hollie S-B has 25 at the moment. Charlie C-S has just joined the local air cadet unit and will go on to do gliding, shooting and take part in numerous military based activities. Finally and continuing with the military theme, Sasha H is starting her second year with the CCF. A great start to the year S-AWR!

# **Sporting success**

#### **Gymnastics success**

A huge congratulations to Mollie H in Year 8 who became the South Region champion last weekend. Well done Mollie! Mollie will then, once again, be representing the South of England at Nationals finals in December. We wish Mollie all the best for this.





### Greenpower

Last weekend saw the International final of the Greenpower racing circuit, where teams travelled from as far as Brazil to compete in the competition. With both cars making the final, all students involved were really excited to race.

In Race 1 both cars had problems, with car 2 failing to make it of the start line due to electrical issues. These were soon fixed though and they were back out on the track.

Car 1 was then involved in a crash in the first lap that nearly ended their racing for the day as they were hit from behind and one back wheel was completely destroyed. Fortunately, a very generous benefactor helped to replace the wheels and the students in car 1 worked together to get the car back on the track.

Unfortunately, due to these bad starts the cars came in 35<sup>th</sup> position for car 2 and 40<sup>th</sup> position for car 1 out of 45.

All students got together at the start of race 2 and presented well as a team and to walk the track in style with matching uniforms and even fancy dress in the form of a blow up dinosaur. In Race 2 both cars fared better as there were no mechanical faults or collisions. There was still a lot of competition this meant that car 2 came 28<sup>th</sup> and car 2 came 31<sup>st</sup>.

This team had worked so hard during the race and faced many challenges and showed many of the character values of the team. Special mention to Jack R for helping both teams and to Oliver S for always staying positive.

Our hard work was rewarded at the end as Denefield racing car 1 won the Spirit of Greenpower award for dedication and resilience when facing problems on the day.

We would also like to thank our volunteers for both weekends Mrs Herbage, Mr Hayton, Mr Dixon, Miss Pullen Clarke, Mr Hawkins, Mr and Mrs Spokes and finally Mr Wallbank for all his help throughout the season.

Another mention needs to go to any of the companies that have donated over the last few months. Craven motor club, Waylands, Dixon heating and Plumbing limited, Tilehurst Loft conversions and GS Property Developments.





Following the Greenpower event, we have also received the following feedback from a parent that attended the event

### Dear Mr Towill

You may now have received the fantastic news of what your students, who are members of the Greenpower Team achieved yesterday. As a parent, I was in the fortunate position of being able to watch my child take part in the final, this I believe is only the second time the team have qualified for the final and the first time that both age categories have made the final. To watch these children engage in an opportunity rarely afforded to children was simply thrilling. The team spirit and camaraderie was simply inspiring. Despite setbacks endured by both teams, whilst certainly not winning, they endured and finished – emulating many in not all of the attributes of the 'CHARACTER' values referenced at Denefield School.

The younger team were awarded the prestigious award of 'Spirit of Greenpower' – which truly encapsulates what I myself witnessed.

This event in the vast majority is represented by the public school sector – which is clearly apparent when the teams arrive, how they are dressed and the extensive support kit/spare parts afforded to them. We are one of the very few state schools to participate at this event. During the day the older team had a tyre shred and the younger team were hit by another team and lost a wheel. As neither team has any spare items, this would have resulted in both teams being withdrawn from the event, being unable to continue. However, one parent purchased a replacement tyre (£45 and another parent purchased a new wheel £145), just to ensure these tenacious children could continue to compete in the final.

Your staff Miss Simpson and Mrs Herbage are an absolute credit to Denefield and the time and energy they give to this activity is outstanding and I cannot thank them enough for the time and energy they give to these children. Also supporting them is an ex-parent, Mr Wallbank, who continues to provide his support to the team and without him, again this activity would simply not happen. He arranges to borrow a friend's van in order to transport the two kit cars to the various race meetings, he gives his time on Friday evenings and at the race meetings to support and assist the children in repairs and yet, as I have mentioned, both his children have now left the school, however he continues to give his time and share his engineering knowledge to enable these children to have an experience that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

I have now taken it upon myself to contact local businesses in the hope of raising donations to ensure that these children can continue to participate in an activity rarely afforded to those in state school education, however, I am also a strong believer in charity beginning at home! I believe for a school club that has managed to achieve so very much with so very little, imagine what they could achieve with a little more help.

Further information on Greenpower can be found here www.greenpower.co.uk/about



### **Creative arts**

It's been a busy start to term in the Art department. Year 7 have been working through the 'Formal Elements' project learning about the fundamental principles of all art, from colour to tone. Most recently they have introduced themselves through the medium of drawing! Each student has drawn a picture of an object that best represents who they are.

Year 8 are learning about styles of architecture including the Gothic and Classical styles. Beautiful Rose window paintings show all they have learnt about Gothic stained glass and their brilliant attention to detail. Next, they will explore the architecture of Reading, learning from the buildings they see every day.





Year 9 are working on a GCSE style project on the theme of Food, exploring different drawing and painting techniques, and exploring the work of artists such as Sarah Graham and Claes Oldenburg.







Year 10 are exploring Manufactured and Natural forms through drawing and painting, while Year 11 are developing ideas for their GCSE Component 1 portfolios.



Year 12 are exploring creative painting techniques, while Year 13 are developing ideas for creative outcomes.

On Tuesday 4 October, our Sixth Form Art, Design Technology, Photography, Drama and Music students visited the CREATE YOUR FUTURE 2022 Exhibition at the ExCel Centre in London. The event gave Denefield students the opportunity to explore hundreds of creative courses, apprenticeships, and careers in design, music, and the performing arts.

Students had the opportunity to talk to current university students, creative industry professionals, and university course leaders to find out what a future in the creative industries could look like and to get expert guidance in ways forward into a creative career. Our students also had the opportunity to watch live performances by current university students, to get involved in creative workshops, and to take part in student talks and live Q&As with industry experts.

Our visit to the Create your Future exhibition was very inspiring, and our students were full of exciting ideas and possibilities for their futures.















Recently we have also been adding to the school's collection of art, which is hung on the walls of our different buildings. We have added new GCSE pieces to the walls of the Sixth Form Centre, and over half term we will be hanging a fantastic piece made up of ceramic tiles made by the students in summer school, under the guidance of Mrs Lotter.







# **Mental Heath support**

At Denefield we have been doing a lot of work on looking after the wellbeing of everybody. Pupils have access to a wide range of support including their tutors and teachers, their welfare managers, a dedicated email address for worries (listening @denefield.org.uk), as well as peer mentors for our Year 7's and Year 8's and Mental Health First Aiders for our Year 10's and Year 11's.

The Peer mentors and the Mental Health First Aiders are Denefield students who have received specific training in supporting younger students and any student who feels they would benefit from a peer mentor or a MHFA should speak to their tutor in the first instance.

In addition if students have particular concerns or worries then they have the opportunity every morning to ask their tutor to make them an appointment with a welfare manager, who will then find a dedicated time to speak to the student 1:1.

For students, staff and parents/carers there is the Wellbeing Hub. This is a fantastic resource with lots of information for all. The information runs from how to revise to how to manage certain conditions in your child as a parent to looking after your own resilience as a teacher and includes texts, podcasts and videos. We would encourage all of you to set up a login and explore the site. The QR codes are below.

### Years 7 and 8





#### Years 9 to 13



## **Great Denefield Bake off**



Last week saw the entries for the Great Denefield bake off with more that 30 students taking part from all year groups. The standard was very high this year with amazing decoration and delicious tasting cakes. The cakes were judged by heads of house and deputy heads of house over two days as there were so many to get through.

The cakes were judged on appearance, fluffiness of the sponge, consistency and flavour. Due to the high level of the entries 13 students were taken through to the final where they will have to produce a Swiss roll that relate to the house that they are part of.

The following students made it through to the next round -Isabelle J, Millie S, Elissa G, Layla J, Lucy D, Tilly C, Leah W, Lucy C, Pheobe F, Casey R, Elsie F, Mia L and Warren T

Good luck to all these students and well done to everyone that took part.

Please look out for next week's Newsletter to find out the winner of the Great Denefield Bake-off.









### Library news

The library is open to everyone at break, lunch and after school until 4pm. Students can use the computers and printer for homework, join any of the library clubs, sit and read, play games with friends, or even run their own D&D campaigns!

There are lots of after school clubs based in the library and there are still spaces for you to join! Drop in and join: Manga Club on Monday, Book Club on Tuesday, Warhammer Club on Wednesday, and Board Games Club on Thursday. All clubs are from 3-4pm. Students can plan and lead their own sessions and Mrs Fogarty organises activities such as drawing, origami, discussions, debates, quizzes, colouring in and so much more! Warhammer models are provided free of charge and exciting new board games are brought in for you to try. As part of Book Club we participate in a variety of book awards (including the Berkshire Book Award, Carnegie Award, Juniper Award and the Information Book Award for non-fiction/ information books.) We go on school trips to meet authors and work with students from local schools, for example, as part of the Juniper Book Award students create their own digital book trailers and at the Carnegie conference students plan presentations to persuade us to vote for their favourite shortlisted book. (Previous presentations have included drama performances, shadow puppets, and sculpture building!) All regular club members and library helpers will also be invited to the library Christmas party.

If you have any questions, please speak to the librarian, Mrs Fogarty, or email her at <u>bfy@denefield.org.uk</u>. We look forward to seeing you at a new club soon!











# **Extra-curricular**

Please see below details of our extra-curricular activities which take place during lunch times and after school.

Lunchtime	When	Room	Years		
Monday					
Learn a language	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A301	All		
Ukulele club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M117	All		
Tuesday					
Pride Club	12.30pm to 1.00pm	A201	All		
Choir	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	Years 8 to 13		
KS3 Maths Boost	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS3		
Wednesday					
Enterprise	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All		
Fashion	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All		
Thursday					
Gardening	12.20pm to 1.00pm		All		
3D printing	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All		
KS4 Maths Boost	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS4		
Year 7 choir	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	Year 7		
DofE drop in	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M119	Year 9, 10, 11		
Friday					
Chess Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	All		
Feminism Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All		

After School	When	Room	Years				
Monday							
Manga	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All				
Tuesday							
Baking club	3.00pm to 4.30pm	P206	All				
Books	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All				
Boxing	3.00pm to 4.00pm	PE	All				
DT	3.00pm to 4.00pm	M106	All				
Wednesday							
Denefield Discusses Podcast	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A206	All				
Warhammer	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All				
Thursday							
Board games	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All				
CCF	4.00pm to 6.00pm	Pangbourne College	Year 10 and 11				
Architecture	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Art studio	All				
Friday							
Aim high	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A203	All				
Greenpower	3.00pm to 4.00pm	M106	All				



# **PE Extra-curricular**

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			



### Virtu Academy



# Reading Football Club's 2nd School and Grassroots Fixtures of 2022-23

You have been invited to Reading Football Club's 2nd School and Grassroots fixture of 2022-23!

#### When?

Reading vs Coventry City Saturday 10 December, 3pm **Where?** Select Car Leasing Stadium

#### How to qualify for the discount and confirm your attendance?

Thank you for being part of our first School and Grassroots fixture of the season when we hosted Huddersfield Town on Saturday 1 October.

Over 5,000 tickets were sold for local children, parents, teachers and coaches. As our manager Paul Ince said after the match: "We won't always win games. But I hope these kids keep coming again and again and that we see them here again for the years to come!"

With that in mind, we would be delighted if you could join us for our 2nd schools and grassroots fixture of 2022-23. And as part of our special invitation, we would like to offer the below discounted prices:

12 and Under: £1 17 and Under: £3 18 to 24: £5 65 and over: £5 Adult: £10

To redeem, please visit <u>https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk</u> and enter the following **unique coupon code**: **#DenefieldSchool** in the basket once you have logged in and selected your tickets.



# **Reading Football Club's 2nd School and Grassroots** Fixtures of 2022-23

### How many tickets can we purchase?

There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy using your unique code. And, for every ticket which is purchased you will receive one entry in a prize draw for a chance to win a series of 'money can't buy experience' prizes!

**Important!** This offer applies to tickets in the Eamonn Dolan Stand blocks and Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand. Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off and availability is limited, so please act quickly to avoid disappointment.

### Reminder: Coupon Code valid for Reading FC Women's fixture

This is a reminder that you can use the same coupon code to join us for our first ever schools and grassroots fixture for Reading FC Women.

#### When?

Reading Women v Leicester City Women Sunday 30 October, 2pm **Where?** Select Car Leasing Stadium

Prices 12 and Under: £1 17 and Under: £2 18 to 24: £3 65 and over: £3 Adult: £5 Important! This offer applies to tickets in the blocks Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand only. Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off and availability is limited, so please act quickly to avoid disappointment.

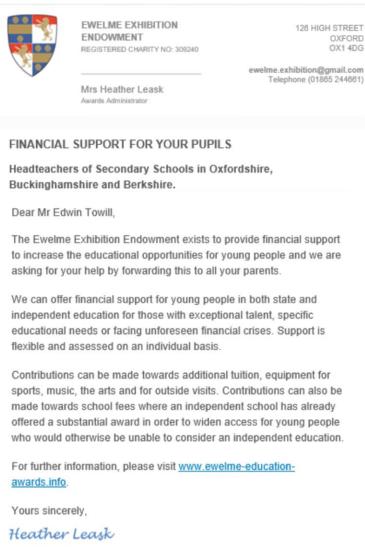
If you have any questions about this offer, please email <u>sales@readingfc.co.uk</u> or call 0118 968 1313.

We hope to see you back at the Select Car Leasing Stadium soon!

Come on URRRZZZ!

# Community notices... Constitution of the second sec

# **Financial support**



Heather Leask E: <u>ewelme.exhibition@gmail.com</u> T<sup>:</sup> 01865 244661



# West Berkshire Emergency Cost of Living Appeal

Local charities urge people to support West Berkshire Emergency Cost of Living Appeal to help people in crisis this winter.

Charities in Newbury are asking for people who can afford it to donate to the Cost of Living Crisis Appeal to support residents in desperate need.

Greenham Trust awarded £50,000 of match funding to the appeal via its funding and fundraising platform The Good Exchange, alongside West Berkshire Council, which means any grants and donations made will automatically be doubled up to £100,000. All funds raised will go directly to emergency food, energy poverty and homelessness prevention charities.

The appeal has already raised £33,430 out of its £200,000 target.

Loose Ends is a Newbury drop-in centre, open five times a week providing a hot meal and supplies to disadvantaged, vulnerable and homeless.

Linda Fergusson, Chair of Loose Ends, said: "We have been delivering our service for over 30 years and in our view the coming winter will be the most challenging we and our clients have experienced. We urge businesses and the public to be as generous as they can in these difficult times to help those in our community who are at risk of going without food and warmth."

Meryl Praill, CEO of Newbury Soup Kitchen, which provides day-to-day food, mental health and fuel poverty support and homelessness prevention, added: "Our clients now do not have the choice or 'luxury' of choosing to pay their rent, heating their accommodation and cooking a hot meal even if that means a kettle for a Pot Noodle. That luxury has gone for many, and we are still at the beginning of this Winter. We are scared as a small charity with the demands on the horizon to support people through the tidal wave that is coming. With your help, we can help our clients keep the lights on, to be fed and warm ultimately avoiding evictions and increased mental health complications."

Chris Boulton, CEO of Greenham Trust, said: "Thank you for the very generous donations to the appeal so far. We want to help as many people as possible during this difficult winter. If you can afford to donate some of your £400 energy discount from the Government, please consider donating to the West Berkshire Emergency Cost of Living Crisis Appeal."

As part of its cost of living crisis support, West Berkshire Council is also working with Greenham Trust, Volunteer Centre West Berkshire and other key local charities, is launching an emergency Cost of Living Crisis Hub to signpost those most in need to the right help.

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Leader of West Berkshire Council, said: "With rising costs this is going to be a difficult winter for many people. It's important that help is available to people who need it, and this fund will help local charities to support them. I sincerely thank everyone who has already donated, and to those in a position to give I would say please do consider doing so. With match-funding available it means your contributions will go even further in providing support to vulnerable residents."

To donate to the appeal please visit <u>https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/19728/greenham-</u> <u>trust/west-berkshire-emergency-cost-of-living-crisis-appeal</u>



### Young singers competition



# Family fun day





# **October Half Term Activities**



Please note: - All disclaimers and questionnaires must be completed via booking system prior to start of session

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



