

# **Celebrating Denefield Friday 21 October 2022**





In many ways the past two months have seen a great deal of change and upheaval nationally. By the end of the half term holiday we will have had the third prime minister since September, at the same time as having mourned the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III. At Denefield, by contrast, we have seen stability and continuity. I have spent much of the past fortnight visiting lessons, watching students study, listening to them talk about their work and looking at what they have produced in their books. I am more and more impressed by their intensity and focus in lessons, beginning with the ten minutes' of silent and solo where students' knowledge is checked, before the teacher explains new information, models it and then students practise using their new knowledge. This week, for example, I visited the lessons of the nine teachers in the Languages, Business and Travel faculty, and in every lesson students worked with an intense focus, whether it was practising new vocabulary in Year 7 French, German and Spanish lessons, or revising their Year 9 content in Year 11 Business Studies lessons. This calm focus has been noticed by the several external visitors we have had this year, included headteachers Phil Bevan from Faringdon Community College and Charlotte Wilson from Trinity School in Newbury. There is no doubt that students are demonstrating the CHARACTER values of resilience, ambition and courage in lessons, that this will lead to excellent qualifications when they come to Year 11 and Year 13, and help give them lifelong success when they leave Denefield for pastures new.

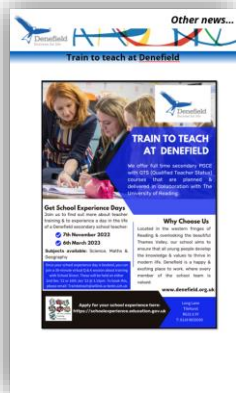


I would like to thank all the teaching and support staff for their excellent work this term. Two reminders: students return at 9.30am on Monday 31 October (or more precisely, 9.28am at the gate), while on Thursday 24 November we have our Sixth Form Open Evening.

With best wishes for the next week

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 9.30am (students to arrive at 9.28am)
Tuesday 1 November 2022	Visit – Year 13 ‘Safe drive Stay alive’
Wednesday 2 November 2022	Visit – Film Studies Warner Bros studios (selected students)
Monday 7 November to Wednesday 9 November 2022	Year 11 core subject PPEs
Thursday 24 November 2022	Sixth Form open evening 6 to 8pm



## **Tutor group**

Students in our tutor group have spent the last few weeks gradually getting to know each other and have settled down well into a routine. We have had some lively and interesting discussions during our current affairs sessions and we've also discovered some excellent readers in the group. We were all very pleased to achieve second place in both the Attendance and the Achievement categories during the Langley Awards Assembly. In addition, many of our group gained some of the top number of individual achievement points, with a special congratulations for Maihan S who was overall top in Year 8 with an impressive 45 points to date.

I am pleased that many in the group are involved in extra-curricular activities this term. Megan C and Tianna L are both keen Netball players whilst Callum D and Jack L attend Rugby and Boxing respectively. David C also loves Rugby and is a member of the U14 team with many wins this term whilst Dajuan A won the league with her Football team.

We also have talented musicians; Ethan C, guitarist, performed with his band in a recent performance at the Avenue School, whilst pianist Sophie K and singer Megan C are preparing for the Autumn Recital at the start of next term.

Meanwhile, Ethan S attends 3-D Printing Club, Logan B attends Manga and MFL clubs and Tilly fits in 3-D Printing, D & T Club as well as being a finalist in the Denefield Bake-off! Well done everyone for participating fully in school life and I look forward to seeing what next term in L-MIU with you brings.







## **U16 Girls Football**

Congratulations to the U16 girls who won the U16 Reading Football League. They remained undefeated throughout the competition and only conceded one goal whilst netting 19 goals. In the final they beat Maiden Erlegh Wokingham 2-0 (Ellie and Cerys) and then went on to beat Highdown on penalties (2-1). A huge performance by all and we are incredibly proud of them! The winning team: Leah G, Dajuan A, Lily A, Neve J, Caitlin B, Fleur W, Maria A, Phoebe E, Ellie M, Alisha B and Cerys C.



## **Student charity sponsorship event**

One of our Year 10 students Michael Lavelle is taking part in an amazing charity sponsorship event on behalf of the charity Parenting Special Children on Thursday 27 October. Please see below from his parents for more information

My son, Michael Lavelle (Year 10 at Denefield), is going to be undertaking another fundraising challenge on behalf of the charity Parenting Special Children, on Thursday 27th October. We know that many families of students at Denefield access our services and have benefitted from the support we offer, and we are hoping that the school may be able to support him in this event. I have attached his sponsorship form which explains what he has agreed to do for us, if it would be possible to print and display in a visible area such as the staff room we would greatly appreciate it, or forward this email as appropriate please.

He did a marathon bounce last summer for this charity, raising £1,000 on his own, including donations from staff and students at Denefield, which was match funded by The Greenham Trust to £2,000. This year, for the event in October the Greenham Trust will be matching £4 for every £1 he can raise, so for example a £5 sponsorship amount would turn into £25, plus gift aid. The link to the event is: [£5K becomes £30K! - Greenham Trust](#)

Parenting Special Children (PSC) is a Berkshire-based charity which provides specialist support services to vulnerable families of children and young people with special needs, disabilities and early life trauma. The families we support care for children who face complex challenges, disability, neurodiversity, physical and mental health diagnoses, neglect, abuse and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Our aim is to improve the well-being of parents/carers so they are better able to support their children. We also work directly with the children and deliver training to the professionals that work with them. Funding will enable the charity to support families of children/young people with special educational needs and disabilities including children in foster care and adopted who have faced early life trauma.

Thank you so much for your support and understanding.



## **Business and Travel and Tourism**

Discussions in class over the last few weeks have been ever changing as inflation, economic stability and actions of businesses, the Bank of England and the government have an impact on the decisions that we make as consumers.

The ongoing changes in the news has allowed us to spend time in lessons across all of the courses taught in the department to discuss the implications of the decisions and how these relate to the ongoing increase in prices of products, the weaker pound and the level of disposable income that we have to spend on luxury products as well as those which are a necessity.

Currently in Year 10 GCSE business students are investigating enterprise and entrepreneurship looking at the reasons why businesses are started.

Year 11 GCSE Business have been learning about human resources looking at recruitment, remuneration, contracts and motivation.

In Year 10 BTEC Travel and Tourism students have been learning about the component industries and the different types of businesses in the industry.

Year 11 BTEC Travel and Tourism have been investigating market research used by businesses and the impact trends can have on the industry.

Year 12 BTEC Business have been learning about marketing campaigns and the factors that influence the success or failure of them reflecting on the campaigns that have been used by large businesses in recent years.

Year 13 BTEC Business have been investigating businesses in the private and voluntary sectors, specifically looking at their organisation, stakeholders and the factors that affect them.

Year 12 A Level Business are currently investigating the different types of businesses and the principles of leadership and management.

Year 13 A Level Business have been learning about the factors that affect businesses including financial, economic, political and legal factors paying particular attention to the recent changes in the UK economy.

Year 12 BTEC Travel and Tourism are currently learning about the travel and tourism industry, the types of tourists and reasons for travelling.

Year 13 BTEC Travel and Tourism are currently investigating the use of marketing in the industry and how businesses will look for gaps in the market.

There are lots of interesting documentaries and programmes available to watch which will increase students understanding of the topics they are learning and offer those who are not studying our subjects an insight into a range of businesses. Our recommended business and travel documentaries to watch this term are:

Dragons Den - BBC

The secret world of series - Channel 4 – looking at the marketing of food products

Inside Legoland - Channel 5

British Airways: 100 years in the sky – Channel 5

How do they really do it series Channel 5 – looking at companies such as IKEA, Subway, Primark and Amazon.

In conclusion, I would choose option 2. This is because it will <sup>(bring)</sup> create a variety of different ideas to the business. Although the success is dependent on making sure they are loyal to the business. One way of potentially making them more loyal is to provide benefits. This could be anything from company car to health insurance.



## Great Denefield Bake Off

Another year, another Great Denefield Bake-Off and this year we had some tough competition. We had 12 finalists from Years 7 to 11 competing for the title and prize of an inspirational cook book to help them continue their culinary journey. The students were given two hours to bake and decorate a Swiss Roll which needed to represent what their tutor house that they belonged to was all about. Inside the Swiss Roll the students were expected to include a jam or curd that would complement the flavours of their sponge and decoration. The judges had a difficult decision to make as all cakes had merits such as a beautiful fluffy sponge or intricate designs with delicately piped buttercream decoration or delicious flavours that worked in harmony with each other. After much deliberation and consideration, it was decided that the winner was Elsie in Year 11 for her depiction of the Langley lion with a lemon curd filling and white chocolate outside. In joint second place we had our previous Bake-Off winner Lucy and Isabelle both producing their own take on the Sulham castle and including delicious blueberry flavours. We would like to thank all of the participants in this year's Bake Off and congratulate them on all of the creativity and hard work and we hope to see you all entering next year's competition.

Well done to all of the participants this year:

Lucy D Year 7  
Tilly C Year 7  
Warren T Year 7  
Millie S Year 8  
Isabelle J Year 8  
Elissa G Year 8  
Layla J Year 8  
Phoebe F Year 8  
Mia L Year 8  
Lucie C Year 9  
Leah W Year 11  
Elsie F Year 11

**Warren  
Year 7**



**Tilly  
Year 7**



**Elissa  
Year 8**



**Leah  
Year 11**



**Mia  
Year 8**



**Millie  
Year 8**



**Lucy  
Year 7**



**Phoebe  
Year 8**



**Layla  
Year 8**



**Isabelle  
Year 8**



**Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Lucy  
Year 9**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Elsie  
Year 11**





### Black history month

October is Black History Month and our students have been spending time in tutor periods this week recognising and understanding the contribution of important historical figures and contemporary people who are making history. The presentation is attached [here](#)

We are also using this month to launch an important anti-racist strategy for our school, building on the work that we have been doing on equality, diversity and inclusivity over the last two years. Our focus is on hearing the voices of our students and staff to better understand the experiences of our black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. We are currently gathering a body of students to lead our school in raising awareness of the challenges that are faced in school and society and want all of our students to join the journey of challenging and stamping out racist, discriminatory and prejudiced attitudes in our community.

### Success for life

We had many thoughts and reflections following the Year 9 visiting production 'Risking it all'. Here is a sample that shows how the play created new awareness for our Year 9s and educated them about the perils of drugs, county lines, sexting and knowing who to trust. We hope this has prompted debate and discussion at home, please feel free to contribute any thoughts, advice or comments to Mrs Breakenridge (Success for Life Lead) [SBE@denefield.org.uk](mailto:SBE@denefield.org.uk)

The play made me think about all the people who have experienced this or people who know others that have this experience and how it affected their lives and mental health. It made me feel grateful of everything I have at the moment and helped me realise there are lots more people less fortunate than me

I learnt that it's so easy to be exploited and that it can happen so seamlessly and without you knowing.

The play made me feel bad for the people going through the hard times and it made me think that people could be going through this and dealing with the hard emotions every day and are unable to open up about it.

I thought the play was a comical, yet educational way to educate the dangers of drugs, under aged sex, nude sending, gangs and meeting up with people who aren't what they seem

## Extra-curricular

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

Lunchtime	When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>			
Learn a language	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A301	All
Ukulele club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M117	All
<b>Tuesday</b>			
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
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Enterprise	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Fashion	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
<b>Thursday</b>			
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
<b>Friday</b>			
Chess Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	All
Feminism Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All

After School	When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>			
Manga	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
<b>Tuesday</b>			
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
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Denefield Discusses Podcast	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A206	All
Warhammer	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
<b>Thursday</b>			
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
<b>Friday</b>			
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
<b>Monday</b>				
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Girls Football	Miss Wheeler/Miss Colbourne/Miss Angell	3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	All
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Year 9 Rugby	Mr Clare	3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	Year 9
Girls Netball	Miss Wheeler/Miss Colbourne/Miss Angell		Courts	All
<b>Thursday</b>				
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
<b>Friday</b>				
GCSE Badminton		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	



## Train to teach at Denefield



### TRAIN TO TEACH AT DENEFIELD

We offer full time secondary PGCE with QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) courses that are planned & delivered in collaboration with The University of Reading.

#### Get School Experience Days

Join us to find out more about teacher training & to experience a day in the life of a Denefield secondary school teacher:

- ✓ **7th November 2022**
- ✓ **6th March 2023**

**Subjects available:** Science, Maths & Geography

Once your school experience day is booked, you can join a 30-minute virtual Q & A session about training with School Direct. These will be held on either 2nd Dec '22 or 16th Jan '23 @ 3.15pm. To book this, please email: [Traintoteach@willink.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:Traintoteach@willink.w-berks.sch.uk)

#### Why Choose Us

Located in the western fringes of Reading & overlooking the beautiful Thames Valley, our school aims to ensure that all young people develop the knowledge & values to thrive in modern life. Denefield is a happy & exciting place to work, where every member of the school team is valued.

**[www.denefield.org.uk](http://www.denefield.org.uk)**



**Apply for your school experience here:**  
<https://schoolexperience.education.gov.uk>

Long Lane  
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## Reading FC Community Trust



**READING FC  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST**

### Holiday Activities October 2022


Week 1	24/10	25/10	26/10	27/10	28/10
The Dome & 3G Pitch (RG2 0FL)	✗	✗	✗	10am – 3pm	10am – 3pm
Cantley Park (RG40 5QG)	10am – 3pm (£25)	10am – 3pm (£25)	10am – 3pm (£25)	10am – 3pm (£25)	10am – 3pm (£25)
Academy Sport (RG2 8DF)	10am – 3pm (£25)	10am – 3pm (£25)	10am – 3pm (£25)	✗	✗

Book online

Book Reading FC Football Courses &  
Soccer School Sessions  
([officialsoccerschools.co.uk](http://officialsoccerschools.co.uk))



## Christmas Toy Appeal




# CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

(2022)  
Please Donate New Toys for Our Local Kids This Christmas

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## Collection points needed in Reading

For More Information About Our Christmas Appeal:  
01256242330 or [mollie@spotlightuk.org](mailto:mollie@spotlightuk.org)  
Spotlight UK registered charity 1129258





# CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

## How To Donate?

Donation can be made various different ways!

You can purchase gifts through our Amazon wishlist, attached to the QR code below, and have the gifts sent directly to Spotlight Offices!

You can donate towards the appeal on give as you live, attached to the QR code below.

You can donate a new toy to any of our collection points! To find your nearest collection point please look at our website, attached to the QR code below.

You can donate your time by volunteering to become a gift wrapper! For more information on this please email [michaela@spotlightuk.org](mailto:michaela@spotlightuk.org)

If you donate don't forget to complete our Donation Consent Form!

If you cannot use the QR code please visit either <https://spotlightuk.org/> or <https://linktr.ee/SpotlightUK>





Spotlight UK registered charity 1129258