

Celebrating Denefield Friday 4 November 2022





Despite the stormy autumnal weather, it has been a calm and purposeful week at Denefield. I have been very impressed with how students have settled back into their routines, and how focused they are with their studies. My assemblies this week have centred on the routines and habits that we have at Denefield, and the concept of 'it takes a village to raise a child' – in that young people at Denefield learn their positive behaviours from all adults across the school, and that by acting in a consistent manner, these adults give students security and certainty, and help young people develop into confident young adults.



The highlight of the week was Tuesday's autumn recital. Approximately thirty musicians took place, treating their parents/carers and the audience to a range of solo, duet and ensemble performances, on keyboards, guitar, saxophone, violin, drums and other instruments. The quality of some of the singing was also amazing. Congratulations to the young people involved, and my thanks to Mrs Idowu and Ms Nicholl, our Music teachers, for making this event happen. We are all very much looking forward to seeing these musicians perform again in the Christmas concert on Thursday 8 December.

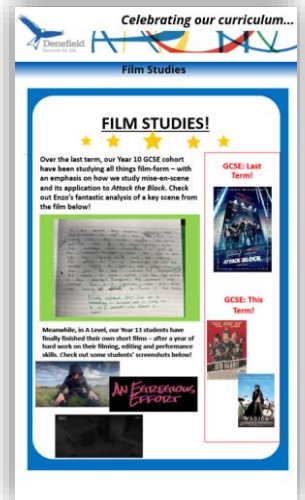
Parents/carers may be interested to know that the government has published 2022 GCSE performance data for all schools. Denefield is exceptionally proud of its 2022 Year 11 cohort, who achieved on average a grade 5.5 across their GCSE subjects, and whose overall progress – taking into account their KS2 starting points – was comfortably above the national average. The results for Denefield, and for other schools locally and nationally, can be found [here](#). Please note that the A Level data is out of date, since it is from 2019 rather than 2022.

I wish all our Year 11 students the best of luck with their PPEs, or mock exams, in English, Maths and Science next week. And a reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 24 November at 6pm.

With best wishes for the weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

Monday 7 November to Wednesday 9 November 2022

Year 11 core subject PPEs

Friday 18 November 2022

Children in Need – non-uniform day

Thursday 24 November 2022

Sixth Form Open Evening 6.00pm to 8.00pm



Tutor group – Mr White

We have quite a few lively characters in our tutor group, which makes for an interesting and enjoyable half hour at the start of every day. The new uniform and equipment checks have been embraced with good nature along with some appropriate banter, as has the more recent 'walking on the left, even outside' edict. We are supplementing our Success for Life sessions with some other ad-hoc discussions of what's going on in the world, and our recent political events have provided us with quite a lot of material!

We were pleased to have a strong showing in the House Awards last term, with our own Zac V storming off with the most Year 7 achievement points in the whole of Norcot House, achieving 46 points!

Many of our house have represented the school in sports so far this year, with Harry W, Victor R-G, Zac V, and Luca D in rugby and Lilly-Mai B and Millie A in football. Others play sports outside of school, with Millie P-R competing in swimming at Dev 1 level and Luca D also trains 5 times a week at football.

Many of our tutees are involved in extra-curricular activities, with Lillie-Mai B regularly attending Netball, and Chloe I and Charlotte W enjoying Design and Technology club, as well as the Library Club. Victor and Zac also attend the 3D printing club.

All in all a great start to the year, and looking forward to the rest of this term! Keep up the great work N-FWE!





DofE



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Year 11 Bronze

On Thursday 13 and Friday 14 October, our Year 11 students completed their Bronze expedition walking from Denefield School to Woolhampton.

They camped overnight at Rushall Farm and had to cook themselves an evening meal. There was of course the traditional pot noodles but other teams were more adventurous. There was fried halloumi and one team as part of their challenge carried eggs along the journey without breaking them, as seen in the photo.



Covid set back the progress we would have liked to have made over the last two years. The challenge of getting the expeditions up and running has not been easy due to many changes with regard to supervision. However, the Year 11 are now in the position to complete their award before they start their exams.

The other sections that must be completed are skills, physical and volunteering. The only way these can be signed off is by sending the assessor the following link with your ID number. If you do not know what this is then please see Miss Yates.

<https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>





DofE

Here are the updates regarding the following Year groups...



Year 10 Bronze

Although we planned to try and get Year 10 to complete their expedition unfortunately autumn descended upon us and we are planning to run the expedition in June/July 23 next year. We will update you as soon as we have more information. However, students must also ensure that their other sections are signed off by their assessors.

<https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>

Year 9 Bronze

We are planning to create a launch assembly with Year 9 either late December or at the beginning of January 2023. Students will then be able to start work on their Physical, Volunteering and Skills sections from January and complete the training and expedition in the Summer Term.

We are working hard to get the Duke of Edinburgh's award back on track, please be patient as we continue to do this. We will seek to publish dates for expeditions as soon as we can.

If you need any further information or have questions or need anything else such as ID numbers – please email Miss Yates on rya@denefield.org.uk



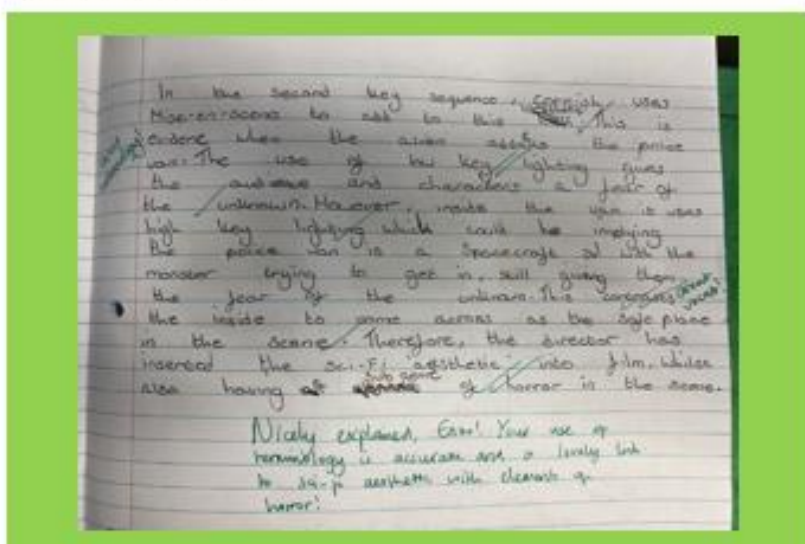


Film Studies

FILM STUDIES!



Over the last term, our Year 10 GCSE cohort have been studying all things film-form – with an emphasis on how we study mise-en-scene and its application to *Attack the Block*. Check out Enzo's fantastic analysis of a key scene from the film below!



GCSE: Last Term!



GCSE: This Term!



Meanwhile, in A Level, our Year 13 students have finally finished their own short films – after a year of hard work on their filming, editing and performance skills. Check out some students' screenshots below!



AN EGTREGIOUS EFFORT



A MAGICAL TRIP!



This week, students from across the course in Years 10, 12 and 13 were able to take part in a cinematography workshop conducted by experts at Warner Bros. studios! The workshop allowed students to show off what they know about camera work and got to witness some authentic props and designs used in the Harry Potter films!



Students also had access to a free digital photo of their green-screen broomstick experience. Check out Lucas absolutely dominating in a game of Quidditch!



Mr Neale also had a great time – and enjoyed a nice butter beer as a reward!

However, we're unsure if Miss Meyer has yet recovered from her run-in with a Death Eater...

WE CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK WITH A NEW COHORT NEXT YEAR!

Library news

To kick start non-fiction November, in Book Club this week (Tuesday 8 November 3 to 4pm in the library) we will be watching a live author event with Jeffrey Boakye, teacher and author of Musical Truth. Musical Truth is a History book that you can dance to! Structured around a playlist of 28 songs, from Linton Kwesi to Stormzy, each song tracks key moments in black history and the emotional impact of both the songs and the artists who performed them. Last week we submitted some questions and listened to the playlist, you can find the playlist on YouTube at musicaltruthplaylist.co.uk. This week we will watch this exciting and musical book talk. All are welcome to attend this free event, please just drop into the library on Tuesday after school.

All library clubs are free to attend, please see the attached flyer for more information.

Join a library club!

Try something new, make new friends, come on trips and meet authors

Drop in to the library after school, 3-4pm

➤ Monday – Manga

Run your own sessions, create your own manga, learn origami, and shadow the Excelsior Book Award where we judge and vote for our favourite shortlisted manga and graphic novels.



Juniper
Book Awards



➤ Tuesday – Books

Run your own sessions, chat about books and shadow a variety of book awards with the opportunity to create digital book trailers, go on trips to work with students at local schools, and meet authors.

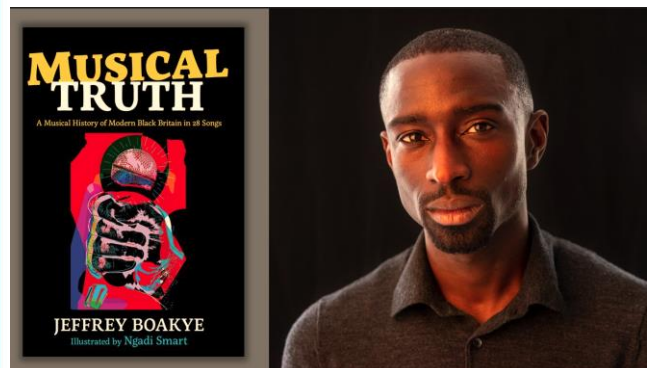
INFORMATION
Book Award
SLA
School Library Association

➤ Wednesday – Warhammer

Free models, paints, and brushes are provided!
Learn the game then build, design, paint and play with friends.

➤ Thursday – Games

Play new and unique board games.



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			
Choir	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	All
KS3 Maths Boost	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS3
Pride Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
3D printing	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	Years 7 and 8
Wednesday			
Enterprise	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Fashion	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
Thursday			
DofE drop in	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M119	Years 9, 10, 11
Gardening	12.20pm to 1.00pm		All
3D printing	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	Years 9, 10, 11
KS4 Maths Boost	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS4
Friday			
Chess Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	All
Choir	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	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	3.00pm to 4.45pm	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		When	Where	Years
Monday				
Tuesday				
Girls Football		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	All
KS4 Basketball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 10 and 11
Wednesday				
Girls Netball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	Year 8 and 9
Girls Netball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	Year 10 and 11
Football		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 10 and 11
GCSE Badminton		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 10 and 11
Thursday				
Netball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	Year 7
Badminton		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	All
Football		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 7 and 8
Football		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 9
Friday				



Online safety

Please see below information from [actionforchildren.org.uk](https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk) regarding Online Safety for parents/carers of teens. Please click [here](#) and [here](#) for additional information

As a parent/carer, you may worry about whether your teenager is safe online. It can help to understand what the risks are, and how to support your child.

Being informed may make it easier to talk to your child, too.

Online spaces can be a positive thing. But they can also come with risks. Understanding where the dangers might be can help you educate your child.

The risks can be broken into three areas:

Content: This may be content that is inappropriate or unreliable. It could include content that is sexual, violent, biased or extreme in opinion.

Conduct: They may put themselves at risk through their own behaviour. This could include sharing too much information.

Contact: This includes bullying, harassment, grooming, or pressure to behave a certain way.

Before you speak to your child, think about your attitude to your child spending time online. Do you complain about them spending time online, or dismiss social media? If your child thinks you have a negative attitude, conversations may feel more confrontational.

Take some time to think about how you spend time online and why the space could be important to your child too. Consider both the positives and negatives.

Try starting an honest conversation with them. It might not feel like an easy topic. Your child may be secretive or defensive when you approach the subject. Talk about the things you both enjoy and share your favourite sites with each other. Let them know that they can come to you with any worries, and you will help them work out what to do.

Help your teen stay safe

- Support your child to learn how they can look after themselves. Try to create a positive environment.
- Instead of just making rules, talk with your teenager about online safety. Make sure they feel involved in decisions and know that you're there to chat if they're worried.
- Empower them with information. Make sure they know how to block and report someone. Let them know what behaviours are unacceptable or illegal.
- Find ways to help build their resilience and self-esteem. This will put them in a good position to handle difficult situations.
- Encourage your child to talk to their friends about what they encounter online. They may not always come to you for help but they'll be able to ask someone, and upskill each other.
- Allow them some room to experiment. Make sure they can access sites and games you've agreed on, as long as they know what to do if there is an issue.
- Talk to them about healthy relationships and consent, and how to say "no". This is as important online as it is offline.
- Try doing the 'Billboard Test' with your child. Ask them to imagine that everything they put onto social media and chats shows up on a billboard. This includes pictures, comments and personal information. How would they feel? Would they change what they post?
- Put some restrictions in place to protect them. For example, install software to filter out harmful content.



Online safety

Think about how you can support your child

Ask some questions to understand if your child might need extra support.

Do you think your child could be at risk? Think about what your child is using the internet for and how much they know about staying safe.

What can you do to help them know what the risks are? Learn what you can so you're able to share your knowledge.

What information do you need as a parent to support your teenager?

Further advice and support:

[Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online \(internetmatters.org\)](https://internetmatters.org)

Contact the school if you have any concerns about your, or another, child.

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

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



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

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