

## **Celebrating Denefield Friday 2 December 2022**



It has been another busy and important week at Denefield. On Monday Miss Yates introduced the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to Year 9 students. The award, with its focus on developing physical skills, practical skills, volunteering and an expedition, is available at three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold, and is an excellent way of ensuring students gain new friendships and develop their CHARACTER skills. We already have a sizeable number of Year 10 and Year 11 students participating in the scheme, some of whom are due to gain their awards before Christmas. Any Year 9 students who are interested in undertaking the Bronze Award should contact Miss Yates as soon as possible.



House assemblies this week, led by Mrs Holley, focused on the importance of sleep, and how to optimise it. Teenagers need 8-10 hours

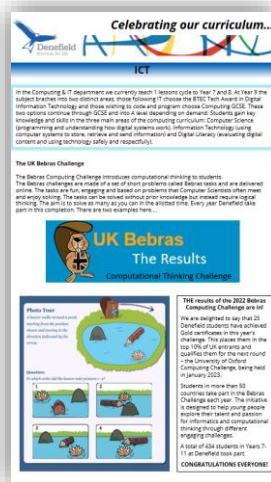
of sleep each night, but many get considerably less. Mrs Holley emphasised how sleep rebuilds the body mentally and physically, and how tiredness can impair our ability to think, function and feel effectively. She also gave good 'sleep hygiene' advice, focusing on eating early, stopping using digital devices an hour or two before bedtime and leaving them downstairs, and taking a warm bath or shower before bed, as well as going to bed and getting up at the same time every day. What is perhaps less well known is the importance of daytime activity on getting good sleep, including having plenty of exercise, particularly outdoors, eating healthy food and in particular drinking plenty of fluids during the day. By following this advice teenagers can get plenty of sleep, and wake feeling refreshed and ready for the day ahead.

A reminder that we have our Christmas Concert on Thursday 8 December at 7pm. I very much look forward to seeing parents/carers there.

Please wrap up warm this weekend!

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



## Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

Monday 5 December 2022

Year 7, 8 and 9 Flu Immunisations

Thursday 8 December 2022

Christmas concert 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Thursday 15 December 2022

Sixth Form parents evening online 4.00pm to 8.00pm

Friday 16 December 2022

End of term – students finish at 12.40pm

## Tutor group – Mr Pritchard

During recent Tutor periods, our tutor group have thought carefully about the World Cup Finals currently taking place in Qatar. These finals are perhaps the most controversial yet with number of political and social factors raised around the tournament. These are just some of the examples of the questions raised:

- Should visitors be allowed to demonstrate their feelings about Qatar's anti-gay laws by wearing the emblem of the rainbow?
- Indeed, should Qatar have been allowed to host the tournament at all with their questionable human rights and conditions?
- Was the awarding process in the first place all fair and above board?
- Should visitors expect to be able to buy alcohol in a normally "dry" country?



N-TPD have considered and discussed such questions and also thought generally about football and how it can impact on peoples' lives for better or worse. A diverse set of opinions were expressed by some students:

I guess the World Cup is inclusive ... football can pull people apart and cause arguments because some are really passionate about it. However, football also brings happiness to a lot of people and some footballers have done iconic things.'



'In my opinion, the World Cup should not be in Qatar because they don't respect you if you are from LGBTQ+ or, if you are a girl, you are not going to have any say and the men have all the power.'



'I think that everyone should respect Qatar's laws and decisions like we do with any other country. We should not try and change them because some of the world do not agree.'

'Football brings people together and helps create a more diverse society. But, it can also pull people apart causing violence and discrimination.'

'I think it is just a game and should have nothing to do with politics or anything in that realm.'

'I think it brings people together because no matter who you are, if you support the same team, it gives you something in common. Everyone is happy at the game and people can talk about the football and become friends.'

'Football will always divide, anger and upset people but will also always unite people. It is a sport where people can agree and disagree.'



## **Curriculum updates**

This week we have curriculum updates from our Drama department and ICT department.

### **Drama**

I am here in the Drama department and I can see a great deal of activity and bustling about. The Year 7 students are using a story as a stimulus for performance and as an opportunity to learn about some key drama techniques. Each lesson offers an opportunity for them to try out the technique or strategy ranging from creating tableaux (that's freeze-frames to you) of imagined dark and dismal dungeons, to creating empathy through performance, sound and monologue as they retell the sad story of a young boy and his hamster.

The Year 8's are exploring the Victorian Melodrama so don't be surprised if you see some villains hatching evil and ill-conceived plans to capture the damsel as the hero will save the day. (#melodramaspoiler) We are hoping to see some groups be able to perform short, scripted plays that they have devised based on what they have been learning – time to look for moustaches and top hats.

In keeping with the festive season, the Year 9 students are knee-deep in the Pantomime and seeing some of the scripts and make-up designs, I am hoping that they will have the confidence to perform to each other as the term ends. There is no better way to end a Christmas term (*oh yes there is! Oh no there isn't etc.*).

The Christmas Concert is also in our sights so a small group of actors are with me at lunchtimes preparing for a delightful performance of the (heavily reduced) A Christmas Carol by Dickens. It promises to be an enjoyable evening and the Drama Department are proud to be making a contribution.

Tickets for the KS4/5 theatre visit have proven popular so our visit to see Teechers by John Godber, in January is all set to go. It's great to be able to see live theatre again! It's invaluable for the students as it forms a part of their written exam but also as we can support the Arts and help to get them back on their feet.

Can you name 5 spaces to watch live theatre in Reading? Answers to Mr Shaw on a postcard (or £5 note!).

In other excitement, the GCSE students can't wait to get this pesky holiday out the way so they can finally get stuck into the Drama PPE in the New Year. Who doesn't love a written exam eh? A chance for the students to stop acting and start writing...great. They will be focusing on Blood Brothers and a play they have seen – they could talk about the Pantomime at the Hexagon if they like. See? It's a win-win. The students learn and local theatre thrives.

A merry Christmas to you all

The Drama Department





## ICT

In the Computing & IT department we currently teach 1 lessons cycle to Year 7 and 8. At Year 9 the subject branches into two distinct areas, those following IT choose the BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology and those wishing to code and program choose Computing GCSE. These two options continue through GCSE and into A level depending on demand. Students gain key knowledge and skills in the three main areas of the computing curriculum: Computer Science (programming and understanding how digital systems work), Information Technology (using computer systems to store, retrieve and send information) and Digital Literacy (evaluating digital content and using technology safely and respectfully).

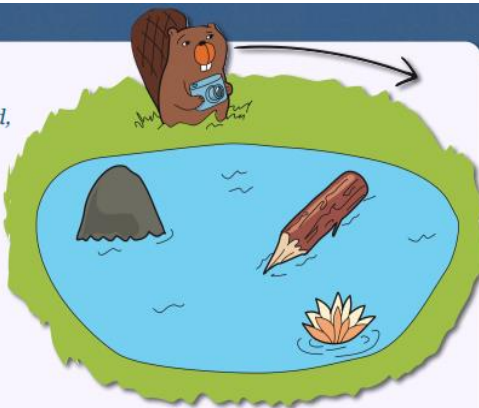
### The UK Bebras Challenge

The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. The Bebras challenges are made of a set of short problems called Bebras tasks and are delivered online. The tasks are fun, engaging and based on problems that Computer Scientists often meet and enjoy solving. The tasks can be solved without prior knowledge but instead require logical thinking. The aim is to solve as many as you can in the allotted time. Every year Denefield take part in this completion. There are two examples here....



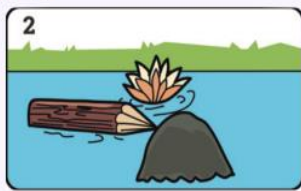
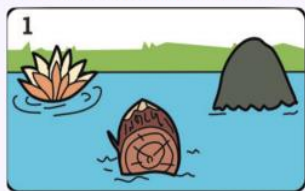
#### Photo Tour

*A beaver walks around a pond, starting from the position shown and moving in the direction indicated by the arrow.*



#### Question:

*In which order did the beaver take pictures 1-4?*



#### THE results of the 2022 Bebras Computing Challenge are in!

We are delighted to say that 25 Denefield students have achieved Gold certificates in this year's challenge. This places them in the top 10% of UK entrants and qualifies them for the next round – the University of Oxford Computing Challenge, being held in January 2023.

Students in more than 50 countries take part in the Bebras Challenge each year. The initiative is designed to help young people explore their talent and passion for informatics and computational thinking through different engaging challenges.

A total of 434 students in Years 7-11 at Denefield took part.

**CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!**

## Secret Messages

Agents Boris and Bertha communicate using secret messages.  
Boris sends Bertha the secret message: MEETBILLYBEAVERAT6  
He writes each character in a 4 column grid as shown on the right.  
(He puts an X in any unused spaces.)

The secret message is created by reading from top to bottom and column by column starting from the left: MBYVTEIBE6ELERXTLAAX

Bertha then uses the same method to reply to Boris. The secret message she sends him is: OIERKLTEILH!WBEX

**Question:** What message does Bertha send back?

- A OKWHEREETOMEET!
- B OKIWILLBETHERE!
- C WILLYOUBETHERETOO?
- D OKIWILLMEETHIM!

M	E	E	T
B	I	L	L
Y	B	E	A
V	E	R	A
T	6	X	X



Find out more at: [bebras.uk](http://bebras.uk)

## Percentage of Students in each year group who got Distinction or Merit

Year	7	8 & 9	10 & 11
Distinction	28%	25%	30%
Merit	24%	25%	27%

Congratulations  
to everyone  
who had  
Merits &  
Distinctions  
2022

Each student will receive a certificate in due course that will be either Best in School, Distinction, Merit or Participation. Check out the top 10% achievers in each age group here...

### Juniors Year 7

Jessica S	Best in School
Samuel M	Distinction
Grace T	Distinction
Freya M	Distinction
Rusne A	Distinction
Gabriella T	Distinction
Luca R-F	Distinction
Thomas D	Distinction
Jessica T	Distinction
Lucy F	Distinction

### Intermediate Years 8 and 9

Sian O'C	Best in School
George F	Distinction
Nathan M	Distinction
Charlie C	Distinction
Benny C	Distinction
Lucas D	Distinction
Max D	Distinction
River M	Distinction
Jonah D	Distinction
Talia-Joy P-S	Distinction



<b><u>Seniors Year 10 and 11</u></b>	
Jacob C	Best in School
Matthew H	Distinction
Christopher L	Distinction
Charlie T	Distinction
Kade T	Distinction
Andy C	Distinction
Krists K	Distinction
Eduard-Nicolae P	Distinction
Jack R	Distinction

## Gold Certificates

### Top 10% nationally

Megan B
Jasper B
Jacob C
Benny C
Charlie C
Adam C-Y
Max D
Marcel D-T
Lucas D
Jonah D
Geny F
Lucas F
George F
Matthew H
Jessica H-L
Harry H
Frankie J
Christopher L
Nathan M
River M
James M
Sian OC
Talia-Joy P-S
Sam W
Niamh Z

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Students in more than 50 countries take part in the Bebras Challenge each year. The initiative is designed to help young people explore their talent and passion for informatics and computational thinking through different engaging challenges.

A total of 153 students in Years 7 to 11 at Denefield took part.

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!

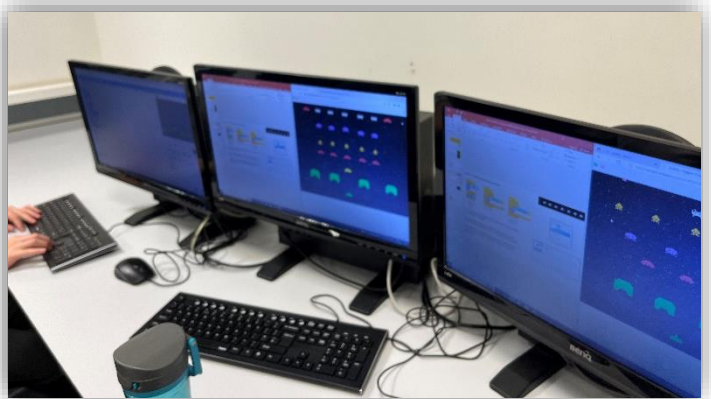
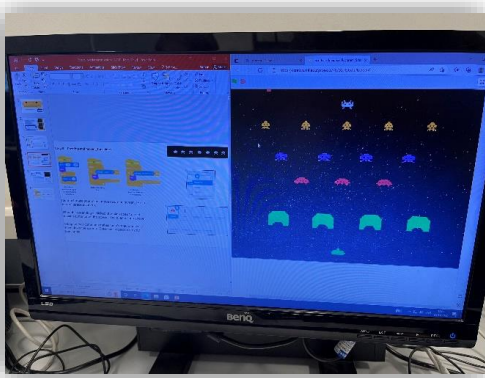




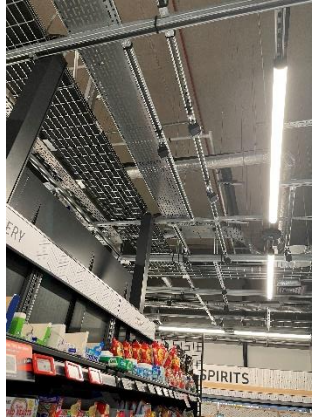
## Focus on Year 8

In Year 8, this term students develop their skills in Scratch a block based programming language. Students complete numerous tasks and learn how to program the iconic Space Invaders game.

Students have to become familiar with co-ordinates to position the characters on the screen, below are some examples of work in progress.



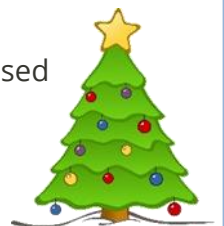
## Christmas shopping



Amazon Fresh is the first convenience grocery store to offer Just Walk Out Technology in the UK. As a computing and IT teacher I just had to pay a visit to the Wembley store to check it out – or not as the case may be...lol...

The checkout-free shopping experience is made possible by the same types of technologies used in self-driving cars: computer vision, sensor fusion and deep learning. Just Walk Out Technology automatically detects when products are taken from or returned to the shelves and keeps track of them in a virtual basket. When you're done shopping, you can just leave the store. Later, they email you a receipt and charge your Amazon account. No queues, no checkout.

The use of this technology is amazing and I love to talk about how computers are used in the outside world to the students...







## Duke of Edinburgh – Year 9 Launch Assembly

On Monday 28 November, Year 9 were introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh's award.... Students were given an overview of what the award involves and you can see the before and after in our Da Vinci space... banners were revealed showing the four sections that students have to work towards.

Students were asked to discuss the award with their parents/carers and watch a video sent to them on Satchel. They are were asked to return an expression of interest and in due course a further meeting will be held outlining the next steps for the official sign up.





## Library news

Our book club Christmas reading will be the books shortlisted for the Juniper Book Awards. All students are invited to join club on Tuesdays in the library after school from 3.00 to 4.00pm to lead sessions, play games, and take part in discussions about what we are reading. Students can also read and post reviews online [here](#). The best review will win a prize at the awards ceremony in March! In January all library club members will be invited to take part in a two-part Into Film virtual workshop where we will learn stop-motion animation. More information to follow in the new year. In the meantime, please borrow a book from the library and start reading one of these fantastic books!



## Get School Experience days





### THINKING OF A CAREER CHANGE? MAKE A DIFFERENCE, CONSIDER TEACHING!

**Come to one of our 'Get School Experience' Days!**

Secondary School	Get School Experience Days	Subjects on offer:
	7th November 2022 6th March 2023	Science, Maths, Geography
	4th November 2022 6th December 2022 24th January 2023	Maths, English, Science, Computing, Design Technology, Modern Foreign Language
	24th January 2023	Design & Technology, Geography, Modern Foreign Language (French)
	12th January 2023 20th April 2023	Maths, English, Science, Modern Foreign Language
	9th November 2022 11th January 2023 1st March 2023	Maths, English, Science, Modern Foreign Languages, History, Computing
	26th January 2023 16th March 2023	English, Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Computing, RE

You will get the opportunity to find out more about teacher training & to experience a day in the life of a secondary school teacher.

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 on 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)

**What is the Two Counties Partnership?**  
The Two Counties Teaching Partnership is made up of neighbouring secondary schools in western Reading, West Berkshire & Hampshire. We offer full time secondary PGCE with QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) courses that are all planned & delivered in collaboration with The University of Reading.

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



## 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>				
Choir		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	Years 8 to 13
KS3 Maths Boost		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS3
Pride Club		12.30pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Enterprise		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Fashion		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
<b>Thursday</b>				
Choir – Year 7		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	Year 7
DofE drop in		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M119	Year 9, 10, 11
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
<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		3.00pm to 4.45pm	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 PE		When	Where	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
No PE clubs/activities				
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Girls Football		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	All
KS4 Basketball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 10 and 11
<b>Wednesday</b>				
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
<b>Thursday</b>				
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
<b>Friday</b>				
No PE clubs/activities				

## Tilehurst Parish Council Activities

**TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL**  
Serving the Communities of Birch Copse, Calcot, Denefield and Westwood

 **READING FC COMMUNITY TRUST**

 **BERKSHIRE YOUTH**

# KICKS SESSIONS!



Bored? Need something to do after school? Why not come and join us for FREE kicks football sessions after school?

Tilehurst Parish Council in partnership with Berkshire Youth & Reading FC Community Trust are offering sporting sessions at Cotswold Sports Centre!

Join by booking, using the QR code below.

**Who:** Suitable for year 7 - year 9 

Thursday 3rd November - Thursday 15th December 2022.

**What:** Football Activities

**When:** Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:00pm  
\*The sessions are term time only\*

Any questions, please contact: [jessica.kirby@berkshireyouth.co.uk](mailto:jessica.kirby@berkshireyouth.co.uk)  
To book a space, scan the QR code:



**TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL**  
Serving the Communities of Birch Copse, Calcot, Denefield and Westwood

 **BERKSHIRE YOUTH**


# Tilehurst Youth Club

Jubilee Annexe, The Calcot Centre,  
Highview, Reading,  
RG31 4XD




 **Weekly - 6:30pm - 8:30pm**  
**Term Time Only!**

\*no sessions on: 22.12.2022, 29.12.2022, 05.01.2023 (Christmas Holidays).\*

**Activities include:** arts & crafts, music, dancing, singing, cooking, board games, challenges, workshops and much more!

 **Just £2 per week!**  
**First Week Free!**  
**School Years: 7 - 9**

**To book please contact:**  
[jessica.kirby@berkshireyouth.co.uk](mailto:jessica.kirby@berkshireyouth.co.uk)  
07881941345



## Spotlight UK



Do you shop at any of the co-op food stores across Reading.

Become a member and support a local charity

**SPOTLIGHT** UK

Spotlight Uk are a local charity that have been working in your local area for the past 13 years.

We offer emotional support, food bank, clothes bank, toys bank, mentoring for children, family support and free youth activities and family events.

We work with young children and families that have been affected by mental health, loss or separation, neglect or abuse, Children in care, low income families and service families. We receive our referrals from Schools, Early Help Hubs, Social Workers, Family Support Service and other professionals.

To keep these sessions free we need your support! Becoming a co-op member is an amazing way of helping us without any expense to yourself. Its a win-win-win, for everybody involved.

Spotlight Uk Registered charity number 1129258

## How to sign-up!

Head to the Co-op website, and select the sign in button.

Complete the sign in page to become a member, this cost a one time purchase of £1.

Once you are signed in you can "Choose a local cause"

If you don't see Spotlight UK right away, head down to the "Find other causes", and change the "Distance from you" to 15 miles

This then allows you to find Spotlight UK.

## How this helps us!

Once you have selected Spotlight Uk as your local charity, for every £1 you spend in the co-op stores, using your membership, 2p will go directly to Spotlight UK.

You also receive discounts using your membership card!

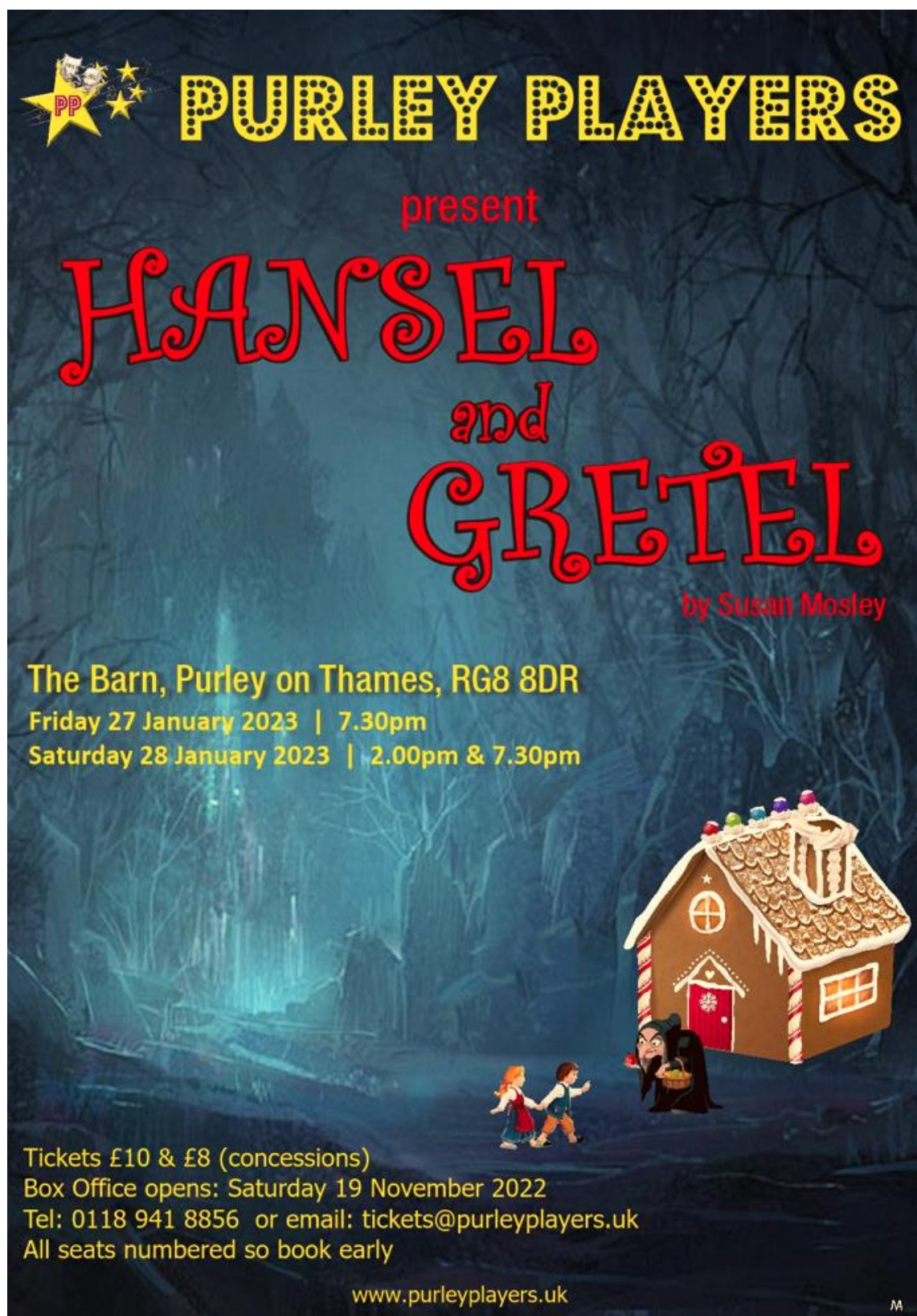



Scan me to find more information on Spotlight UK





## Purley Players



 **PURLEY PLAYERS**

present

**HANSEL  
and  
GRETEL**

by Susan Mosley

**The Barn, Purley on Thames, RG8 8DR**  
**Friday 27 January 2023 | 7.30pm**  
**Saturday 28 January 2023 | 2.00pm & 7.30pm**

Tickets £10 & £8 (concessions)  
Box Office opens: Saturday 19 November 2022  
Tel: 0118 941 8856 or email: [tickets@purleyplayers.uk](mailto:tickets@purleyplayers.uk)  
All seats numbered so book early

[www.purleyplayers.uk](http://www.purleyplayers.uk)

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