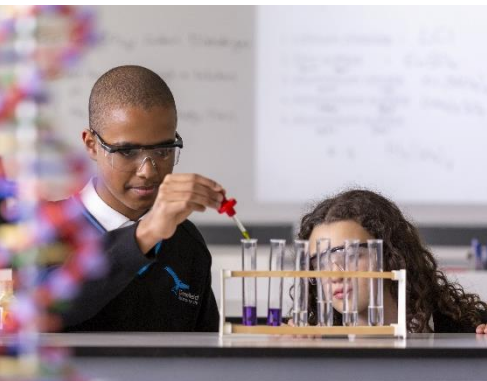


Celebrating Denefield Friday 16 December 2022





As the term draws to a close, and Christmas draws nearer, I simply wish to thank all our teaching staff and support staff for their excellent work this year, and to thank and congratulate all students for their focus, positivity and contributions to school life. I was delighted that yesterday we were able to reward our hardest working and most reliable students by giving them a cinema experience in the hall. In the morning around 100 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 and in the afternoon around 100 students from Years 10 and 11 were treated to a Hollywood blockbuster, complete with popcorn, while their classmates continued with their studies. It was a very fitting way to reward some of the many Denefield students who get it right every time and who are a credit to themselves as well as the school.



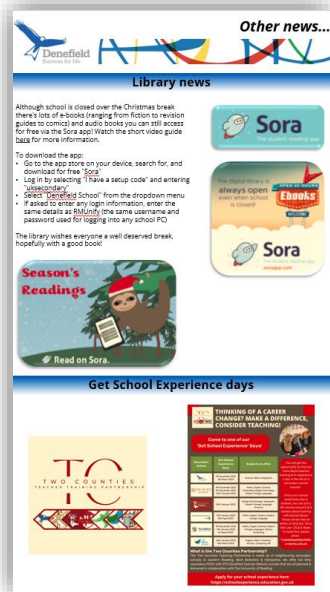
We are saying goodbye to an important handful of teachers who have made a big contribution in their short time with us. Mrs Blower leaves the English and Media faculty and is relocating to Lincolnshire. Miss Angell leaves the PE, Sport and Health faculty and is relocating to South Wales. Mr White is leaving the Maths and Computing faculty for pastures new. I wish all three staff the very best in the next phase of their lives and careers. We are fortunate to have made two excellent appointments to start in January. Miss Ahearn, who used to teach Geography at Denefield until 2019, returns as Head of Geography and Deputy Head of Faculty, releasing Mr Jim Wheeler, an excellent all-round teacher, to teach Maths). Miss Upston, an experienced local teacher, joins the PE, Sport and Health faculty to replace Miss Angell. We wish these new members of staff a very successful and enjoyable start to their time with us at Denefield.

I do hope you and your households have an enjoyable Christmas break. I look forward to seeing students back in the new year!

With best wishes

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

Friday 16 December 2022

End of term – students finish at 12.40pm

Tuesday 3 January 2023

Students return to school 9.28am for 9.30am registration

Thursday 19 January 2023

Year 9 Options Evening – details TBC



Christmas Concert

Denefield students set a festive note last Thursday at the annual Christmas Concert. There was a wide range of musical styles and drama performances on offer and all age-groups were represented, making this a truly special occasion.

The tone was set from the start as Mollie sang the aptly entitled *It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas*. Thereafter, we heard some excellent solos - notably Judith's *Meditation* by Massenet and Evie's *In the Bleak Midwinter* - duets, such as Daisy and Joseph's *O Holy Night* and trios, including Abi, Fleur and Cery's own arrangement of *Last Christmas*. The drama group performed an excellent short version of Dickens' Christmas Carol.

More lively pieces included the Wind Ensemble's jazzy versions of *Jingle Bells* and *We wish you a Merry Christmas*, and the Year 8 Band's alternative version of *Jingle Bells*. The Ukulele Group charmed us with their performance of *Silent Night*, while the Year 10 GCSE group presented a stylish interpretation of *Wonderful Christmstime*. The choir, too, were busy, singing two numbers from *The Lion King* and giving a rousing end to the evening with Elton John/Ed Sheeran's *Merry Christmas* and Shakin' Stephen's *Merry Christmas Everyone*. Very well done to all!





Student success

Well done to Layla Jones who is performing, with her fellow cast members of Berzerk productions, in this years production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at The Oakwood Centre in Woodley. Tickets are available [here](#) if anyone wishes to attend



Mental Health update

Everybody at The Wellbeing Hub wishes the Denefield School community a happy and peaceful festive season. Remember that The Wellbeing Hub resources remain available for all during the festive season 24/7.



Library news

Although school is closed over the Christmas break there's lots of e-books (ranging from fiction to revision guides to comics) and audio books you can still access for free via the Sora app! Watch the short video guide [here](#) for more information.

To download the app:

- Go to the app store on your device, search for, and download for free "Sora"
- Log in by selecting "I have a setup code" and entering "uksecondary"
- Select "Denefield School" from the dropdown menu
- If asked to enter any login information, enter the same details as RMUnify (the same username and password used for logging into any school PC)

The library wishes everyone a well deserved break, hopefully with a good book!



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

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://schoolsexperience.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
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	Years 8 to 13
KS3 Maths Boost		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS3
Pride Club		12.30pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
Wednesday				
Enterprise		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Fashion		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
Thursday				
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
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		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 PE		When	Where	Years
Monday				
No PE clubs/activities				
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				
No PE clubs/activities				



Virtu Academy



EVOLVE

VIRTU ACADEMY

OPEN TRAINING SESSION

UNDER 16'S
THURS 12 JAN
17:30-19:00
@ DENEFIELD SCHOOL 4G

VIRTU ACADEMY

West Berks Strep A guidance



Tel: 0344 225 3861
Email: SE.AcuteResponse@ukhsa.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/guidance

8th December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Increase in scarlet fever

We are writing to inform you of a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken if you think that you or your child might have scarlet fever.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A *Streptococcus* (GAS). It is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red 'strawberry' tongue.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics if prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work until at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

Contacts of scarlet fever cases (including siblings or household members) who are well and do not have symptoms do not require antibiotics and can attend school/work. They should seek treatment if they develop symptoms.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria

can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Stop the spread

During periods of high numbers of scarlet fever, there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings. We work in conjunction with these settings and you may receive further advice from the setting in the event of an outbreak. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery / school / work until **24 hours** after the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection.

Yours sincerely

South East Region Health Protection Team
UK Health Security Agency

Resources and links

[NHS – Scarlet Fever](#)
[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#)
[Hand hygiene resources for schools](#)

Ice safety

ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE





Scan for more

Ice Safety

Be careful around water in winter. Frozen water is dangerous and can have fatal consequences.

Our Advice:

- Never venture onto frozen water. Even if it appears thick from the bank, it can easily break and you do not know how deep the water is below or how thin the ice is.
- Do not be tempted to test the thickness of the ice. It is easy to slip from the bank and fall through into the freezing water.
- Time your walks to make the most of the daylight; if you need to walk in the evening only use well-lit areas or take a route that avoids water.
- Do not wander near the edge, icy or wet conditions could cause you to slip.

What to do if you fall through the ice:

- Keep calm and shout for help.
- Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you.
- If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice.
- Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank.
- If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you.
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.
- Once you are safe, go to the hospital.

If you see someone fall through ice:

- Shout for assistance and phone 999.
- Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue.
- Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm.
- Try to reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, or anything else which can extend your reach, such as clothing tied together.
- When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats across the ice for them to hold onto whilst help is on the way.
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services and continue to reassure the casualty.
- Make sure an ambulance has been called.
- Lay the casualty flat, check for normal breathing.
- Prevent them from getting colder by covering them with warm clothing and blankets.
- Create some shelter and get them out of the cold if possible.
- Do not rub their skin and do not apply hot water bottles.

[f](#) RoyalBerksFRS
 [t](#) @RBFRSOfficial
 [i](#) RoyalBerkshireFire
 Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service www.rbfrs.co.uk

December 2022