

Celebrating Denefield Friday 6 January 2023





I trust you and your households had a good Christmas and new year. I would like to congratulate Denefield students for the way they have settled back into school routines, the hard work they are doing, and the courtesy and respect they have shown. They have given a warm welcome to our two new teachers, Miss Upston (PE, Health and Social Care), and Miss Ahearn, who has returned to the Humanities faculty as Head of Geography and Deputy Head of Faculty. You may recall that we are trialling year group toilets; feedback from students this week has been very positive, with students saying that as a result the toilets feel less crowded and busy.



I always do the first assemblies after a holiday. This time I chose to focus on new year's honours and resolutions. These honours, such as being given a knighthood, OBE (Order of the British Empire) or MBE (Member of the British Empire) are a way of rewarding people for years of public service. We looked at some examples, from Leah Williamson and Francesca Simon (OBES) to Brian May and Alok Sharma (both knighted). We then explored typical new year's resolutions, and I shared that while in many ways the most beautiful resolutions are those focusing on helping others, self-care, in terms of eating, exercising and sleeping well, is fundamental to anything else we try to achieve. Separately, I explained that we have had many headteacher visitors over the past year and will continue to do so into the new year. This type of peer review allows visitors to see how proud we are of Denefield students, and for fellow headteachers and me to share ideas and good practice. In addition, at some point in the next six months, we expect visitors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), since we were last inspected five years ago, in January 2018. You can see my assembly presentation [here](#).

Finally, as we move towards the second half of the year, it is time to take stock, reflect, and start gradually to plan for the new academic year in 2023. To that end, I will shortly be inviting all stakeholders – students, parents/carers, and staff – to complete our annual stakeholder surveys. Please look out for a separate communication regarding this shortly.

With best wishes

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Please [click here](#) for Term Dates 2022-2023

Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

Thursday 19 January 2023	Year 9 Options Evening in school – details TBC
Thursday 26 January 2023	Year 9 online Parents Evening – timings TBC
Thursday 2 February 2023	Year 11 online Parents Evening – timings TBC
Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023	Half term



Anti-Bullying

Anti-Bullying at Denefield: Be the Change You Want to See – An update from Miss Plumpton

For those parents/carers whom may not be aware, I (Miss Plumpton) am the Head of Sulham House, a History and Religious Studies teacher, and I'm also the Anti-Bullying lead member of staff at Denefield. This is a responsibility I have undertaken since the beginning of this academic year, and one I take incredibly seriously.

In fact, like all schools, Denefield takes the issue of bullying very seriously. I, like many teachers, parents/carers and students alike, wish that I could say bullying doesn't happen at Denefield. However, that would be naïve, as unfortunately bullying can and does occur at every school. Therefore, our focus is to do everything we can to eliminate bullying and where it does occur, to equip students with the ability and resources to be upstanders and report any bullying in the confidence that Denefield will deal with it effectively.

As the Anti-Bullying lead, I have joined the Anti-Bullying Alliance UK. They define bullying as the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Recently, during Anti-Bullying week, I delivered an assembly to the whole school on the topic of Anti-Bullying. This involved what bullying is, the different forms of bullying, and what actions we as a school are taking and will take to eliminate and deal with it effectively. This was followed up by a tutor session, in which every student wrote their own Anti-Bullying Pledge. I am proud to say that these pledges can be seen on display in classrooms, serving as a constant reminder of the actions Denefield students are taking to stand up to bullying.

We are currently in the process of updating our Anti-Bullying Policy and creating an Anti-Bullying Charter. As part of this, we have surveyed students and will be meeting with groups of students to find out their views and experiences, and to ensure we have Student Voice embedded within the updated policy and charter.

Of course, there will be communication with all parents/carers and students when the updated policy and charter are finalised. In the meantime, I would encourage you to listen to the latest Denfield Discusses podcast episode, in which myself, Mr Neale, and some Denefield students discuss the topic of Bullying and Anti-Bullying. The link to the episode can be found on the Denefield Twitter account.

Christmas card delivery

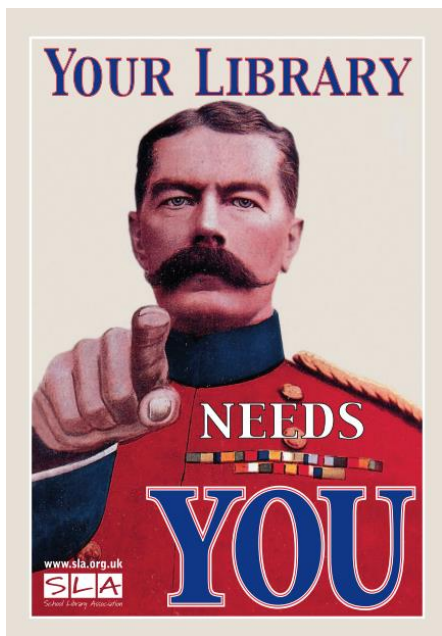
At the end of last term, some of our students were selected for the annual Christmas card delivery to our neighbours along Barbaras Meadow and Long Lane. We have received a thank you from a member of the community thanking students for doing this. Well done to everyone who was involved in this



Library news

Happy new year and welcome back! The library needs new student librarians this term (January to Easter.) Please collect an application form from the library and, once completed, return it to Mrs Fogarty, your librarian. All students are invited to sign up but priority will be given to those who have not yet been a student librarian. Chosen helpers will receive a notice via their tutors to let them know they have been successful in their application. Student librarians will volunteer to work at the library desk once a week at break or lunch time to issue/ return resources and help keep the shelves organised. More information is available in the library, please speak with Mrs Fogarty.

There is also a variety of library clubs that students can join. Just drop in to the library after school, 3.00 to 4.00pm. Students can also use the library computers and printer to complete any homework until 4.00pm. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Fogarty in the library.



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.



➤ 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.



➤ 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.



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://schoolexperience.education.gov.uk>

Extra-curricular

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

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				
3D printing Years 7 & 8		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
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				
3D printing – Years 9 to 11		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
DofE drop in		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M119	Year 9, 10, 11
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				
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				
Boys Football – Years 10 & 11		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 10 and 11
Basketball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	All
Wednesday				
Boys Football – Year 9		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 9
Girls Netball – Years 7 & 8		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	Year 7 and 8
Girls Netball – Years 9 & 10		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	Year 9 and 10
Thursday				
Boys Football – Years 7 & 8		3.15pm to 4.15pm	3G Pitch	Year 7 and 8
Girls Rugby		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	All
GCSE Badminton		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 10 and 11
Friday				
No PE clubs/activities				