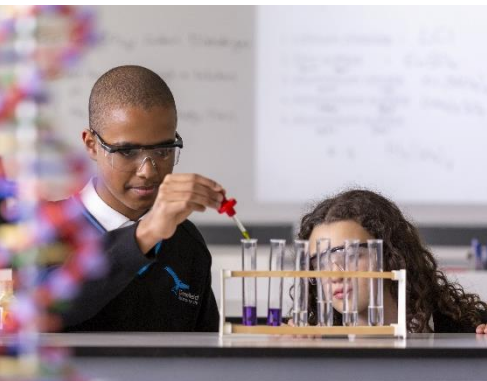


Celebrating Denefield Friday 13 January 2023





The theme of pride has permeated Denefield this week. Pride was the focus of Mr Simpson's assemblies throughout the week. Mr Simpson shared examples of his personal pride of his family, his achievements and his work – both in school and voluntary and encouraged students to reflect upon what does, or what could, make them proud. He also acknowledged that pride is not exclusive - Mr Simpson is proud of his local football team, Sunderland, but accepts that Mr Clare is just as proud of Sunderland's rivals, Newcastle United.

I am also proud of the hard work that Year 11 and Year 13 students put into their PPE or mock examinations. The purpose of these examinations is to find out what students do and don't know, so that they are fully prepared for the real examinations in the summer.



Finally, I mentioned last week that Denefield would continue to receive visitors over the academic year. Sir Alok Sharma, MP for Berkshire West, visited the school this morning. He was ably guided around the school by Glenn, Head Boy, and Jessica, Year 8 ambassador. During the tour Sir Alok admired Denefield's facilities, including our new 3G pitch, and visited lessons, including Mr Nicholls' Art lesson, Mr Beard's Sociology lesson, and Mr Thomas's Science lesson. It is fair to say that Sir Alok was extremely pleased with what he saw; in his feedback to me afterwards he said he thought the school was 'very impressive' and that it was 'great', 'fantastic' and 'brilliant'. Along with the quality teaching and excellent facilities he saw, he particularly focused on the calm and purposeful atmosphere that exists.



Following his tour, Sir Alok and I discussed at length the pressures schools like Denefield are under. We talked of the significant financial pressures that exist, along with the difficulties of recruiting and retaining excellent staff at a time when salaries are not keeping pace with inflation.

Ultimately my message was clear: if as MP Sir Alok likes what he sees at Denefield – which he clearly did – then Denefield and other schools need to be properly funded. This is a message he is taking back to the Department for Education. I would like to thank Glenn and Jessica for being excellent tour guides and positive role models.

With best wishes for the weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023	
Thursday 19 January 2023	Year 9 Options Evening in school – 6.00pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 26 January 2023	Year 9 Online Parents Evening – 4.00pm to 8.00pm
Thursday 2 February 2023	Year 11 Online Parents Evening – timings TBC
Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023	Half term



Tutor group – Miss Williams

S-RWS have taken the decorations down and all students are settling quickly back into our routines and tutor time sessions! Year 11 have been working hard revising for, and then sitting their PPE (mock) exams in non-core subjects, while Year 9 are looking forward to the up-coming options evening where they will decide what to study going into Year 10.

In tutor time we have been learning about how Braille was invented and looking at the Hindu Lohri festival and Sikh Maghi festival which take place this weekend in India. As a group, S-RWS is a sporty, creative bunch and participate in many extra-curricular activities, both in school and beyond. Activities include horse riding, baking, football, biking, art, ice skating, netball, sailing, gymnastics, green power and boxing. Both Miriam and Lucy also swim for Reading swimming club. We were proud as a tutor when Frankie and Luke (Combined Cadet Force) and Lily B (sea cadets) represented us at the moving remembrance parade Denefield held on site in November. In terms of achievement points, Jacob has smashed through the 100+ mark, with Lily B, River and Gemma in hot pursuit!





Geography

The Geography department welcomed a 'new' member of staff to the team. Miss Ahearn started at the beginning of this term. Some older students may remember Miss Ahearn from three or four years ago. Miss Ahearn has spent the past three years at Didcot Girls School as their Head of Geography. The Humanities faculty is extremely pleased that Miss Ahearn has returned to Denefield School and is the Head of Geography.

Members of the Geography department were asked for their favourite geographical place in the world, which did make them think! Here are their responses:

Miss Ahearn stated the Lake District which is not a surprise as she is from the north of England. Miss Ahearn commented that this part of England is breathtaking, beautiful and was and is a source of cultural inspiration. The landscape was shaped by glaciers in the past.



Mrs Holley adores the French Alps which have been shaped by glaciation leading to fold mountains. She also loves the way that people interact with the Alps in terms of numerous outdoor activities.

Ms O'Connell is very passionate about Reading (keeping it local). She was not born in Reading but has lived most of her life there. Ms O'Connell loves the local history and commented that Parliament was held at Reading Abbey during the reign of Henry VI. The feature of Reading which Ms O'Connell adores the most is its diversity with different ethnic restaurants on many major streets of the town.

Miss McKay instantly said Zambia. She has been fortunate enough to spend a month in the country and clearly loves it in terms of the people and the landscape. Miss McKay described it as 'a wonder of the world'.

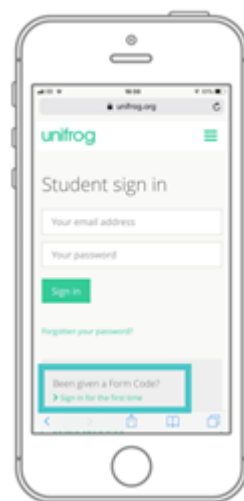


Unifrog – online careers platform

As part of our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we are using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students in Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 now have access to this website and students in Years 8 and 9 will shortly be accessing it in Success for Life lessons.

Students can access the platform whenever they want to using their email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step.

If you would like your own Unifrog account then please contact Mrs Jackson on jjn@denefield.org.uk and we can set up a personal account for you, so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process.



The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, online courses and webinars

Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills

Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more

Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)

If you have any feedback on our careers learning programme, we would be happy to hear it at careers@denefield.org.uk.





Email communications

Some parents/carers are still experiencing issues with receiving email communications from the school. Our communications provider is investigating this further but have provided guidance for parents/carers who are experiencing issues. Please see below for some tips to try

- Provide an email address that isn't Hotmail, gmail or Outlook, if you have one.
- Add @schools.ps-connect.cloud to your Safe Senders or Contacts list.
- During our investigations, we've also discovered there could be issues if customers are using the Outlook app. We suggest asking parents/carers to use the web browser version where possible
- A Hotmail and Outlook algorithm update has seen messages from the same domain that are regularly deleted from a mailbox, being automatically marked as spam. Ask your parents/carers to refrain from deleting emails from the school
- There is a possibility that the parent/carer have previously marked an email you sent as Junk or Spam. Request they check their Blocked Senders list, and if [domain name] has been added they need to mark it as a safe sender.

Additionally, check the Blocked Email Addresses section in IRIS Reach to make sure the parent or carer not listed there.



Extra-curricular

Please see below details of our extra-curricular activities which take place during lunch times and after school. Details can also be found [here](#) on our website.

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
Basketball Year 8		12.20pm to 1.00pm	Sports Hall	Year 8
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
Basketball Year 10/11		12.20pm to 1.00pm	Sports Hall	Year 10 and 11
DofE drop in		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M119	Year 9, 10, 11
KS4 Maths Boost		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS4
Friday				
Basketball Year 9		12.20pm to 1.00pm	Sports Hall	Year 9
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				



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				

West Berkshire Heritage

Please click [here](#) for details of learning and fun opportunities that are taking place locally





Reading FC Schools and Grassroots fixture

SCHOOLS & GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE MAKES A RETURN AGAINST BLACKPOOL

Don't miss out on another fantastic opportunity to see the Royals in league action as part of a great initiative.

Paul Ince's side host Blackpool on Saturday 25 February at 3pm and we're delighted to once again be hosting a Schools & Grassroots match.

Our Schools & Grassroots fixtures have provided some great stories so far this season – with the young fans helping the team to a 1-0 win against Coventry City in December and a 3-1 win over Huddersfield Town back in October.

For clubs and schools that are signed up, tickets available for just £1 for kids aged 12 & Under and discounts available for all age-groups as part of the scheme. We want to see the stadium packed to the rafters again.

Please share the below with all your children, friends, family and staff and let me know if you require any further information.

Reading Football Club's 3rd School and Grassroots Fixture of 2022-23!

You have been invited to Reading Football Club's 3rd School and Grassroots fixture of 2022-23!
When?

Reading vs Blackpool
Saturday 25 February, 3pm

Where?
Select Car Leasing Stadium

How to qualify for the discount and confirm your attendance?

We would be delighted if you could join us for our 3rd schools and grassroots fixture of 2022-23. And as part of our special invitation, we would like to offer the below discounted prices:

12 and Under: £1
17 and Under: £3
18 to 24: £5
65 and over: £5
Adult: £10

To redeem, please visit <https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk> and enter the following unique coupon code: #DenefieldSchool in the basket once you have logged in and selected your tickets.

How many tickets can we purchase?

There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy using your unique code. And, for every ticket which is purchased you will receive one entry in a prize draw for a chance to win a series of 'money can't buy experience' prizes!

Important! This offer applies to tickets in the Eamonn Dolan Stand blocks and Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski. Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off and availability is limited, so please act quickly to avoid disappointment.

If you have any questions about this offer, please email sales@readingfc.co.uk or call 0118 968 1313.

We hope to see you all on Saturday 25 February 2023!

Come on URRZZZ!