

Celebrating Denefield Friday 20 January 2023





We are at that time in the year when many older students are starting to make the choices that will determine their futures. Year 11 students are finalising their Sixth Form choices, Year 13 students are starting to receive university offers or are applying for careers or apprenticeships, and Year 9 students are starting to consider their GCSE option choices.

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended the Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday. We had over 350 parents/carers and students present, showing just how invested in their children's futures parents/carers at Denefield are. The link for applying for subject choices will be sent individually in the near future. The closing date for submitting options choices is 10 February.



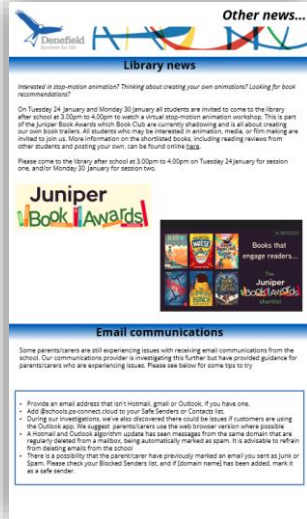
It is important that Denefield students become independently minded and critical thinkers, and this week Mrs McHugh focused on the significant of protest and disruption in society. Starting by looking at more recent examples of protest, including demonstrations against student fees and climate change in the UK, as well as pro-democracy demonstrations in China, Mrs McHugh spent the bulk of her assembly emphasising the significant of change that Martin Luther King brought to the USA, from through his incarceration in prison in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, to the March on Washington later that year, to his assassination five years' later. Mrs McHugh's presentation can be found [here](#).

Finally, I would be delighted to receive parent/carer feedback on Denefield. If you haven't already completed our annual survey which was emailed on Friday 13 January, then please do.

With best wishes for the weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



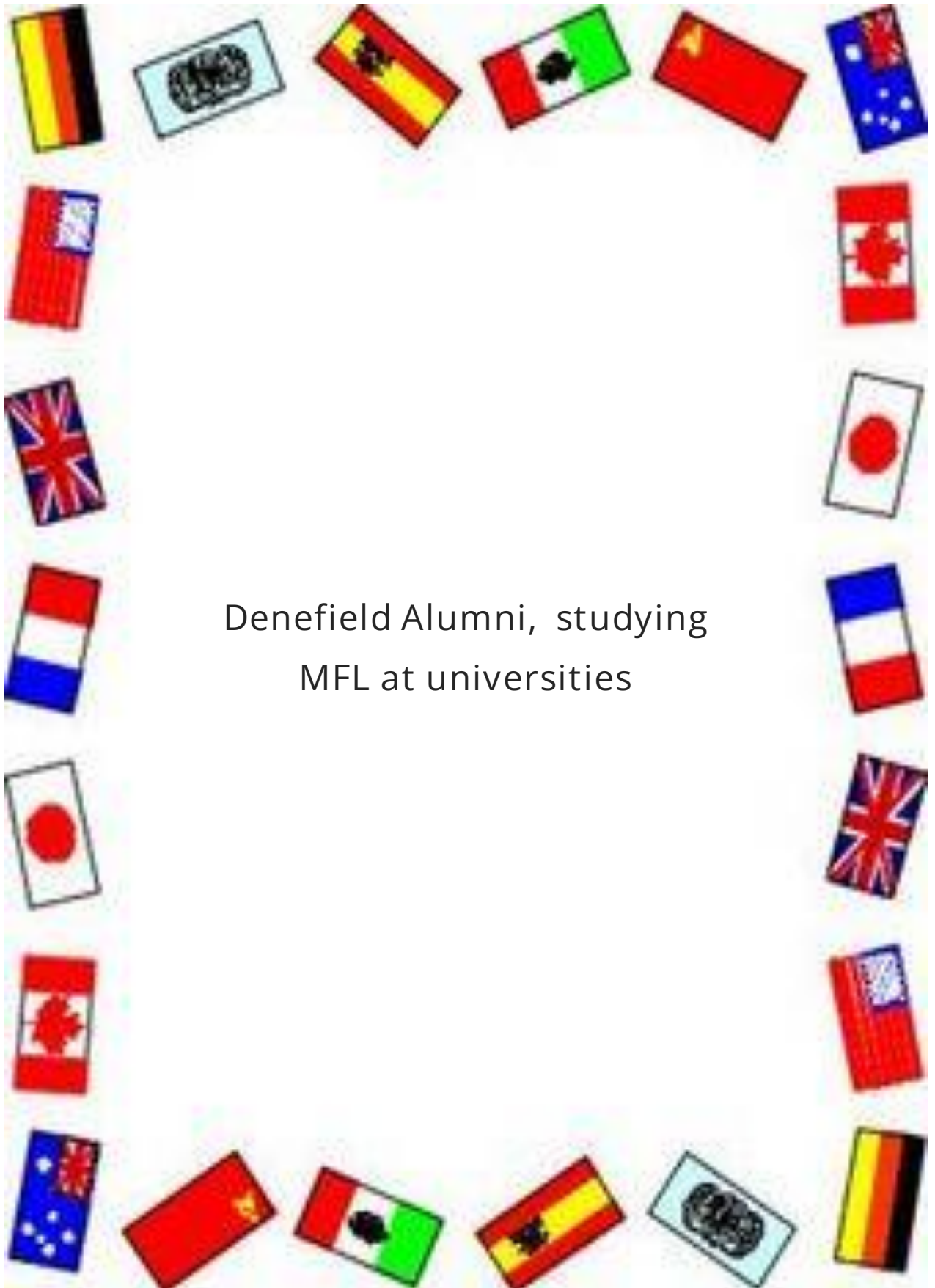
Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023	
Thursday 26 January 2023	Year 9 Online Parents Evening – 4.00pm to 8.00pm
Thursday 2 February 2023	Year 11 Online Parents Evening – timings TBC
Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023	Half term
Monday 20 February 2023	Students return to school



MFL

This week's update is from our MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) department.

This year we have been reflecting upon where studying a language here at Denefield can take you. Some of our previous students have shared what they're now doing





Elise B is studying Master of Arts in Modern Languages at Heriot-Watt University

'Hey! I am currently studying for a Master of Arts in Modern Languages (interpreting and translating) specialising in French and German studies at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. I chose to study languages because I love to talk to people, I am always inspired by those who can communicate with another person in their native language; the beauty of a university degree is only studying exactly what you love with people who love it too. In both of my languages we study Spoken and Written which is pretty self-explanatory. However, you may not have heard of Text and Aural Comprehension. These are to help prepare us for interpreting and translation. Text focuses on the importance of directing our translations to the target reader and having the use of proper English throughout. Aural Comprehension teaches us the skills required for interpreting helping us to develop our ability to summarise a text and articulate it to someone else, as well as this; I study an introduction to languages and culture module which has opened my eyes to the way that I speak English and the influences of language on cultures. I often experience different dialects or accents of English because of living in Scotland and the international connections with Dubai and Malaysia at HWU, so I find this particularly helpful in developing my tolerance for non-native speakers of English as well as allows me to put less pressure on myself when making mistakes in my foreign languages. There are so many career paths that languages can take you on and it is an open-ended degree, meaning you don't have to know exactly what you want to do with it when you start, I have recently decided that my degree is going to help me work towards joining the RAF as a weapon systems operator (linguist). If you have a passion for learning new things and you have ambitions and a travel-hungry personality then you should consider languages especially as you almost always have the opportunity to study abroad in your third year; it is most certainly the thing I am most looking forward to'.



Here I am at Gatwick airport on my way to Edinburgh (Sept 2022)



Standing proudly with the James Watt statue on Campus



Grace H is studying French, German and Russian at Bristol University

'I'm studying French, German and Russian, which I am really enjoying - despite the challenge of balancing the three. Russian was hard to begin with (and still is!) but I can feel myself progressing every week. We are supposed to be at A Level standard by the end of this year, so we will see how that goes! French and German language are manageable currently, we seem to be slowly recapping A Level. This year, I am studying Shaping France, which familiarises you with the key political, historical and social events that shaped/are shaping France today. It ranges from The Hundred Years war to modern day, with quite a large focus on colonialism. For my German optional unit, I study German Literature and Film: Genres, Texts and Contexts. We started with poetry, but focusing on methods of analysing poetry rather than the poems themselves. We have moved onto the novel *Der Geteilte Himmel*, and its film adaptation, which I find really interesting. I don't do any Russian optional modules this year, as we have so many hours of language learning.'



Jess P studied Spanish and German at Reading University and is now training to become an MFL teacher

Modules

Aside from the language modules, I also took modules to improve my knowledge about literature, cinema, culture and history. In the first year of my degree, I took a class called 'German Romanticism: The Search for Something More'. In this module, we read a variety of texts from the romanticism movement, like poems, some of the Grimms fairytales, and 'Die Leiden des jungen Werther' by Goethe. The assessment for this module consisted of an essay and a creative project. In my case, I was able to write diary entries in German in the perspective of the main character of the book, along with a short commentary to explain my creative decisions.

In my final year of university, I took the module 'Narrating the Colombian Conflict', which was about how the armed conflict in Colombia has been portrayed in cultural texts. Over the course of the year, we examined the different stages of the conflict and how different people were involved, such as the Colombian state, guerrilla groups and drug cartels. Every two weeks we would examine a new aspect of the conflict and look at examples of how it has been represented in media, which ranged from novels, documentaries, essays and even Netflix series like *Narcos*. All of the material that we analysed was in the target language, which gave me more exposure to Spanish and helped me to improve my vocabulary.

My year abroad

I spent the first half of my year abroad in Alcalá de Henares in Spain (in the Community of Madrid). A short walk away from the town there was a mountain range where I liked to go hiking sometimes, and I studied in the university. I studied translation between Spanish and German, and also did modules on syntax and morphology in Spanish.



I spent the second half of my year abroad in Potsdam in Germany. I studied for a semester at the University of Potsdam and took modules in Spanish language and German linguistics.



Advantages of studying languages at university

'One of the advantages of studying languages at university is the opportunity to study or work in another country for a year. This complete immersion is a great way to accelerate your progress as you are consistently using your target language every day in spontaneous situations, whether it be in a supermarket, in class, at work, or on public transport. The year abroad also allows you to become more independent, make new friends, explore new places and step out of your comfort zone.

Another benefit of studying languages at university is that the types of assessment are much more varied and you have more freedom. It isn't only essays and tests - you sometimes get the opportunity to do more creative projects, videos, and work in a group with your peers.'



Learn a Language club

Interested in learning a new language? Want to brush up your skills in the language/s you're learning at school? Come to 'Learn a Language Club' on Monday lunchtimes. This friendly and inviting club is staffed by some of our lovely Year 12 students, who will be happy to provide and help of guidance. This is what they had to say:

'Learn a Language Club happens every Monday lunchtime and is a great opportunity for students from all years to spend time and learn another language that is not offered in Denefield's MFL curriculum. There are many foreign languages being studied such as Korean, Russian and even Welsh. With the help from two Sixth Form students – David B and Evie C – this club is able to thrive on the passion to learn another language as well as their culture and way of life. Students here are also able to boost their confidence and articulacy skills. There are many reasons for the students to learn a language: here are some of the club members' statements for why they are learning a language –

Elsie F (Year 11) said that she likes to learn Welsh because it is a language that not many people know. She likes it because she goes to Wales a lot and knowing the language may be helpful for when she visits.
Lily T (Year 10) said that she has got friends who are Russian and wants to be able to connect with them in their own language.

With over 20 students who have joined, the club is able to help them achieve their potential of learning a new language! What language would you want to learn?

Vocabulary Testing

Regular learning of vocabulary is essential for progress in a language and this year we've started setting regular vocabulary tests in all our classes. Pupils are expected to spend roughly 30 minutes over a week revising a set list of vocabulary and they are then tested on it in lesson time, writing out words or sentences in the language they're learning. There are lots of ways to learn vocabulary:

Look, cover, say, check

Memorise the vocabulary, then ask someone to test you

Test yourself

Write out the words multiple times

See if the set of words is on quizlet, if it is practise online

Work with a friend – practise together and then test each other

The good news is that we have seen a big improvement in students' end of unit test scores as a result of the vocabulary learning, so well done everyone – keep it up!

Vocabulary Learning

Knowledge retention in MFL

As you are aware, our students undertake regular knowledge retention tests in MFL to help consolidate their previous learning and boost their confidence in speaking, writing and recognising the vocabulary that they need in lessons.

www.quizlet.com is an excellent web-based learning platform which is easily accessible from a phone, tablet or PC. Your young person's teacher will provide a link to enable them to access quizzes based on the set of words or phrases they have been asked to learn as their extended learning.



Guidance on using Quizlet

In order to use Quizlet effectively students will need to create their own, free user account. This is quick and easy to do and requires parental verification. Here is what the student needs to do:

1. Click on the hyper link that is included on the *Satchelone* assignment. Here is an example:

Chère classe,

This is your knowledge retrieval homework. You need to learn to recognise and write the phrases on the attached PDF list, you will need to be able make the connection between the English and the French phrases and write the French without errors.

NEW: Try using the website Quizlet to help you learn. Go to: <https://quizlet.com/join/bmfj5z8Ax> create your own, free account then click on the "join" button. You then need to click on the vocab set called **Studio 1, module 4, coucou**. I have added a sound file for you to listen to, this may also help you learn.

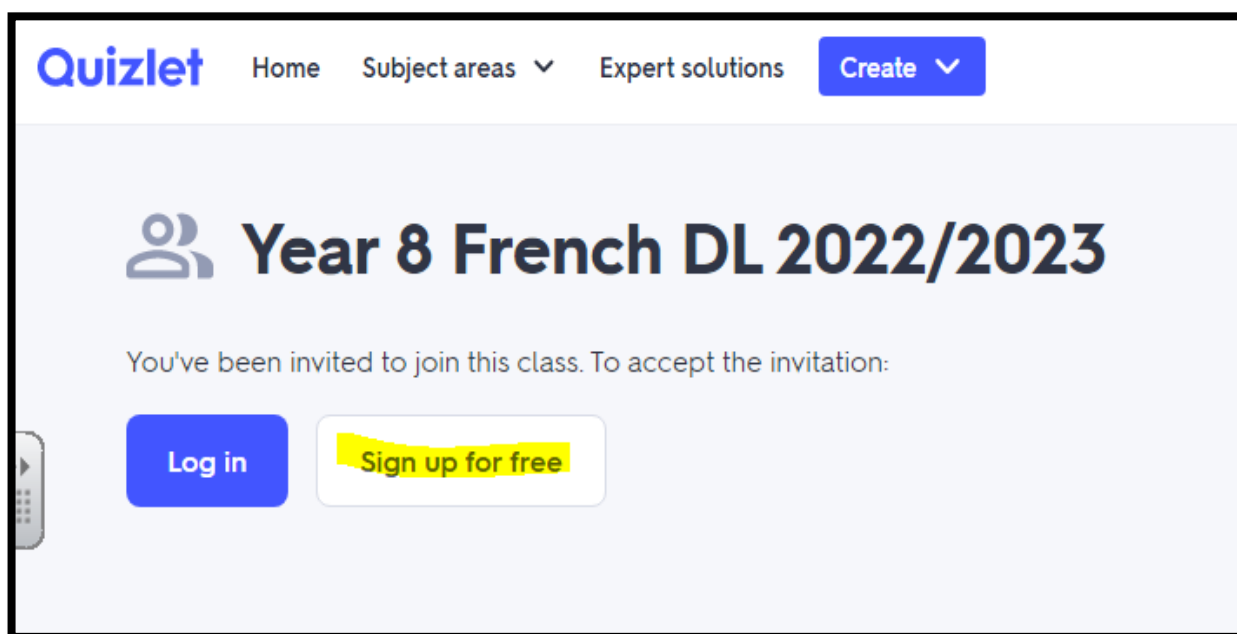
I will test you on **Friday 18th November**

Please spend at least 30 minutes on this task.

Tips on how to learn vocab effectively:

1. cut up a piece of scrap paper in to squares
2. write each of the English words/phrases on one side of the paper
3. write the French words/phrases on the back of the English
4. Use the pack of "cards" to revise for your test. Read the English, write down the French and then check from the back of the piece of paper that you have spelled everything correctly.
5. Remove the pieces of paper you get correct and continue to test yourself on the ones you got wrong.
6. You could also get a family member/friend to test you
7. Use Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/join/bmfj5z8Ax>

2. Click on the sign up link on Quizlet:



The screenshot shows the Quizlet homepage with a navigation bar at the top containing 'Quizlet', 'Home', 'Subject areas' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Expert solutions', and a blue 'Create' button with a dropdown arrow. The main content area features a large heading 'Year 8 French DL 2022/2023' next to a person icon. Below this, a message states 'You've been invited to join this class. To accept the invitation:'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: a blue 'Log in' button and a white 'Sign up for free' button with a yellow highlight.



3. Then enter student's date of birth, a username and a parent/carer's email address as per the example below. Then click on sign up

DATE OF BIRTH

13

▼

April

▼

2010

▼

?

PARENT'S EMAIL

set@denefield.org.uk

✓

USERNAME

Denefield_Student

✓

PASSWORD

.....

✓

☒

 I accept Quizlet's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

Sign up

To confirm that you have received this notice and consent to the collection and use of information described in this email, please select the button below.

Confirm now

4. Student can now return to Quizlet via the link on *Satchelone* and click on the join class button:



Year 8 French DL 2022/2023

Join Class

SORT

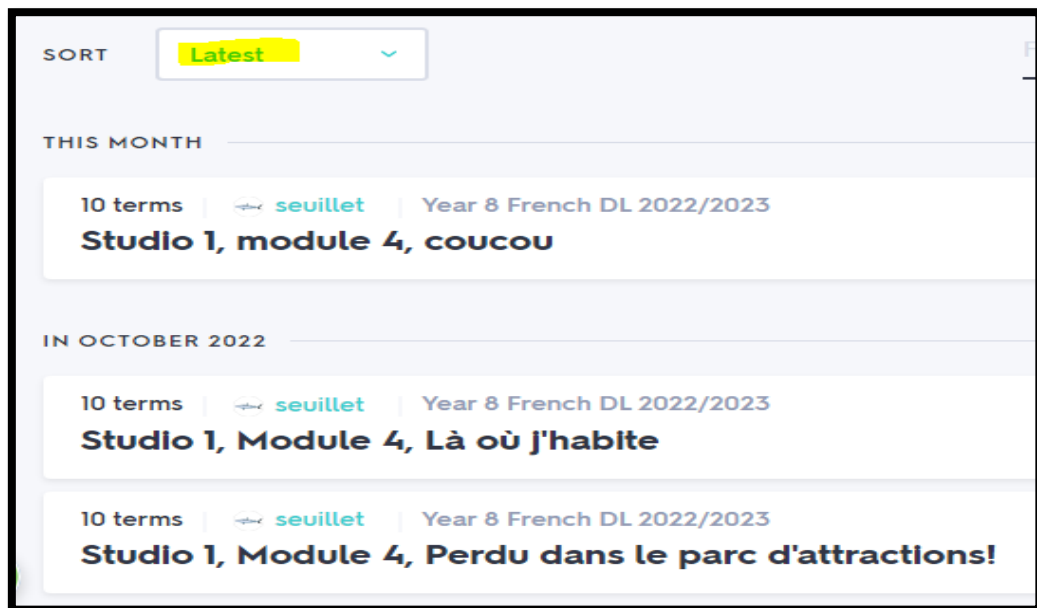
Latest

▼

Filter



5. Student will now see all of the sets of phrases that have been added to their 'class' (the example here shows a Year 8 duel linguist class). To ensure that they are studying the correct set they should keep the sort button set to latest and double check that the title of the learning set matches what is mentioned in the details on the *Satchelone* assignment:



Tips for revising:

Our GCSE and A Level classes will be sitting mock exams in January. Your teachers will have given you lots of ideas and tips about how to revise but here's a reminder:

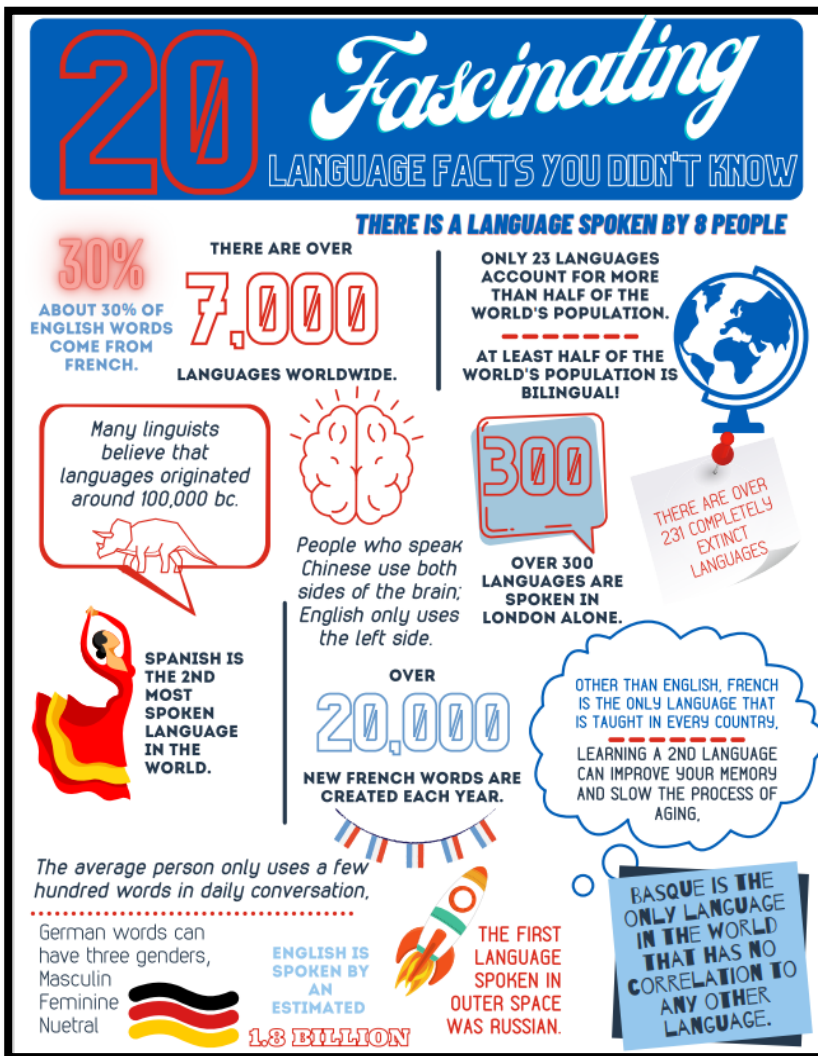
- Watch films/ DVDs/ even Netflix in French, German or Spanish
- Practise your reading skills regularly online. Simply google something you are interested in in French, German or Spanish and read....
- Log on to Kerboodle (French / German) or ActiveLearn (Spanish) and do extra reading/listening/translation practice. You can access our text book plus a host of other useful resources
- Use language websites to practise grammar and vocabulary such as languagesonline.org.uk, quizlet or apps such as duolingo
- Spend 10 minutes each day reading and re-reading your classwork, checking you can remember the new words you have written down
- Make flashcards with key vocabulary from each topic. Check through the cards regularly. If you re-visit words again and again, they will stick in your head.
- Answer writing paper questions under exam conditions and give them to your teacher to mark.
- Regularly go through your speaking booklet and learn key phrases for photo cards and role plays.
- Write your general conversation answers out on to flashcards and keep looking at them each week. Re-draft and improve your answers and get your teacher to mark them





Reasons to learn languages

Everyone in the languages department thinks that languages are fantastic. Here are some reasons why:





Spanish Films

This term our Year 9 students have been working on films. They started by revising types of TV programmes and films. They learnt to express opinions about different types of movies and they have explored how to describe and give opinions about characters. They watched a range of trailers in Spanish and learnt how to narrate what a movie is about. Finally, they learnt to talk about a film they have recently watched. Towards the end of the term, they watched 'Zipi Y Zape y el club de la canica', a Spanish movie in the original language. This was a great experience for them and most of the students really enjoyed it. After watching the film, they planned and wrote a short film review. They worked really hard to produce this piece of work, so it is only fair that we share some of them, so here are some of the brilliant results!

La semana pasada fui al cine y vi una película que se llama 'compañon'. La película tiene lugar en norte de Barcelona. se trata de un ~~amigo~~ grupo de amigos que ~~manejan~~ hacen magia.

Los actores principales son matira rose y sienta Barbiana mientras que los personajes secundarios millie mario y Ana poliganda. me encantan los actores porque es fantasia. sin embargo, es un poco aburrido.

En mi opinion, Es una película es remeinte commonavente y magica. tambien, creo que el titulo tiene sentido al final. sin embargo, por ser ricera la musica en un poco aburrido. porida ser mas dramatica para aumente el suspense

Ayer vi una película que se llama Zupi y Zope. Es ~~muy~~ personalmente muy interesante y divertido. ~~Es~~ Es una película de acción. La película tiene lugar en una escuela. Los actores principales son Samuel Casas y Thomas Coronado. Se trata de un grupo de amigos que juegan a juegos. Además, me encantan ^{las} películas de cómicas porque es divertido. También, me gustan los actores. Sin embargo, no me gusta una película de terror porque la música es loca. Generalmente no me gustan las películas de acción porque son aburridas, pero me encantan Zupi y Zope. ¡Es ~~muy~~ muy bien! También, es bastante emocionante.

la semana pasada es una película de acción completamente femenil y graciosa (los actores principales son emma stone, emma thompson, mark strong, la película tiene lugar en londres. cuenta la historia de una chica que trabaja haciendo velhidos y se convierte en villana. emma stone interpreta el papel de cabella y es muy buena. Me parece un poco divertida e inteligente. además, me encantan las películas sobre las historias de origen de los villanos. sin embargo, no me gusta el final como un poco aburrido. sin embargo, no me gusta a emma thompson porque ella no puede actuar. la música en "película" graciosa.

Acabo de ver una película de acción
aventura, y fantasía. En mi opinión,
es bastante emocionante y mágica. Se
llama "Zip and Zap and the Magic Gang"
o "Zifi y Zape y la club de la magia"
los actores principales son Paul Rivas, interpreta
de papel de Zifi, y Daniel Cerezo, interprete
de papel de Zape. La película tiene
lugar en España en una escuela de verano.
Está formada de unos chicos que ~~se~~
~~están~~ Puc una escuela de verano que
muy ~~interesante~~ horrible porque es no muy
juegos. La villan tenga un perro se llama
Dark. ~~El~~ Verán un tesoro pero verán
juegos. Sin embargo, muy fantástica.

Arabo de ver una película de aventura
y voy a escribir ~~mis~~ sobre la
película que se llama Zipi y Zape.
La película tiene lugar en un
colegio de verano en España. Además,
se trata de un grupo de
amigos que buscan diamantes
y también cuenta la historia
de dos niños, los personajes
principales son dos hermanos
~~que~~ se llaman Zipi y Zape.
Y los ~~1~~ personajes secundarios
son tres amigos, Mico,
Filo y Malilde. Me parece ~~que~~ ~~gusto~~ ~~me~~
y honestamente bastante intrigante
y ~~es~~ muy entretenido. En mi
opinión, ~~me gusta~~ ~~que~~ la película
es emocionante, pero sin embargo
no me gustó la música
porque es demasiado aburrido.
Normalmente, veo una película
romántica todo los días, pero
en el futuro voy a ver ^{una} película
de aventura porque ~~es~~ ~~más~~ ~~interesante~~ ~~que~~ ~~las~~ ~~románticas~~ ~~y~~ ~~comedias~~
más interesantes que ~~las~~ ~~románticas~~ ~~y~~ ~~comedias~~

la semana pasada fui al cine y vi una película que se llama 'Zipi y Zape'. Es una película de fantasía y aventura. Me encantó. Me encantó porque es muy divertida y mágica. Los actores principales son Zipi y Zape, que los papeles secundarios son Maico, Jota y Melillo. Me encantó Melillo porque en mi opinión es divertido y gracioso. La película tiene lugar en un colegio en España. Cuenta la historia de un grupo de amigos que hacen bromas a los profesores. En un momento de la película sucede un accidente. Substituye a Melillo al papel de Melillo y es muy bueno. Normalmente odio las películas de acción porque me excitan demasiado y me gustan películas más sencillas. Me me gusta la música porque es bonita. No me gustan los profesores porque son muy estrictos. Me gusta.

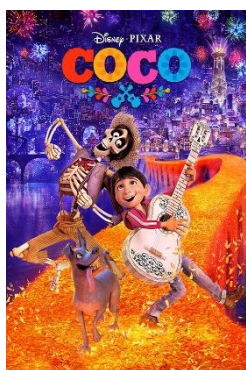
Final, Me parece 'Zipi y Zape' divertida y mágica sin embargo la música es bonita.



At Denefield, culture is an intrinsic part of the MFL curriculum. On the 1st and 2nd of November, our Year 7 students celebrated 'El Día de los Muertos' (The Day of the Dead) in their Spanish lessons. This Mexican festivity is celebrated around the whole country and goes back to pre-Hispanic indigenous communities, who used to organise a party to help their dead relatives cross to the other life. Back in 2008, UNESCO declared the celebration Intangible Cultural Heritage due its representation of tradition and its significance.



In class, students learnt key elements of this celebration and reflected on the idea of remembering their relatives and celebrating their lives. As part of these lessons, they learnt how Mexicans decorate their houses with candles, photos, flowers and colourful bunting. They listened to music and made links to Disney film Coco, where the celebration of the Day of the Dead is central to the plot of the film. Below you can see some of the skulls and altars that our students decorated, as well as research about the Day of the Dead.



The Day Of The Dead

The day of the dead, also known as El día de los muertos is a Mexican celebration dating back three thousand years to represent life and death. The famous altars are used to show their dead relative's favourite items such as their favourite food, they also use sugar skulls to represent each dead relative. Another important part of the altars are the candles to guide their passed family to the altars. Mexicans believe that the souls did not die and they live on in Mictlan (place of rest), the souls of their dead relatives are guided back to celebrate the joys of life. Traditionally, the flowers typically used are marigolds. Other items such as the capal (incense), toys and food dishes adorn the altar to entice back the souls to their residence to bring family back together in time for celebration.

La comida- dead bread
Las calaveras- skulls made from paper maché, sugar paste or carved bone
El picado- paper cut folk art
Las velas- Candles lit to burn throughout the evening to represent the departed souls and guide them.



Normandy visit for Years 8, 9 and 10

After almost three years without a French residential visit, the MFL department is very excited to take 40 of our Year 8, 9 and 10 students to Normandy on a study trip for a week at the end of March. It is a great opportunity for our students learning French to have a first-hand experience of French culture and life; they will have a great opportunity to improve their speaking skill by engaging in conversations with native speakers in markets and at landmarks we will visit. We will also take part in various team building activities, all led by native speakers!

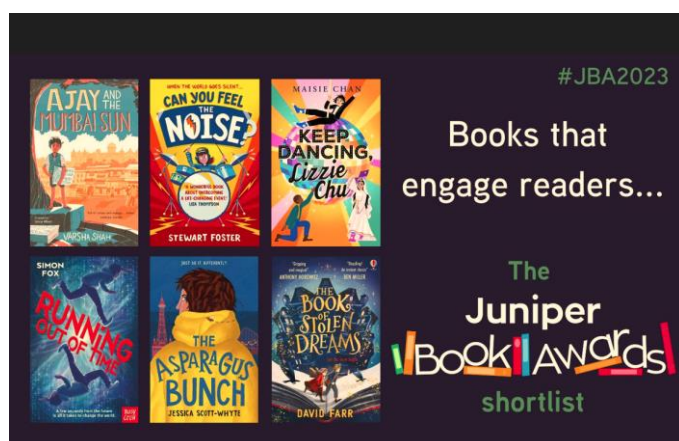


Library news

Interested in stop-motion animation? Thinking about creating your own animations? Looking for book recommendations?

On Tuesday 24 January and Monday 30 January all students are invited to come to the library after school at 3.00pm to 4.00pm to watch a virtual stop-motion animation workshop. This is part of the Juniper Book Awards which Book Club are currently shadowing and is all about creating our own book trailers. All students who may be interested in animation, media, or film making are invited to join us. More information on the shortlisted books, including reading reviews from other students and posting your own, can be found online [here](#).

Please come to the library after school at 3.00pm to 4.00pm on Tuesday 24 January for session one, and/or Monday 30 January for session two.



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 parents/carers 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. It is advisable 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. Please check your Blocked Senders list, and if [domain name] has been added, mark it as a safe sender.



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				

Road safety

Please continue to remind your child or children to be vigilant and have safety as a priority when travelling between school and home. There are a couple of specific reminders that we advise talking to your children about: to give road safety due regard, and to treat members of the public with caution, walking with friends, if possible. It is good to have regular conversations with your child about how to keep safe and what to do in case of emergency.

Parking on site

A polite request for parents/carers regarding parking/waiting on site.

Members of the public and local residents have been in touch to ask if parent/carers picking up from school could be more considerate and ensure that they do not block driveways; remember that the highway code should be always adhered to by not parking on double yellow lines and please do not cause a hazard to other road users when students are exiting the school premises. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Westwood Wanderers



GIRLS' FOOTBALL

**WESTWOOD
WANDERERS WILDCATS
AGES 4-18
FREE TASTER SESSIONS**

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:
WILDCATS@WESTWOODWANDERERS.COM**



WESTWOODWANDERERSFC

