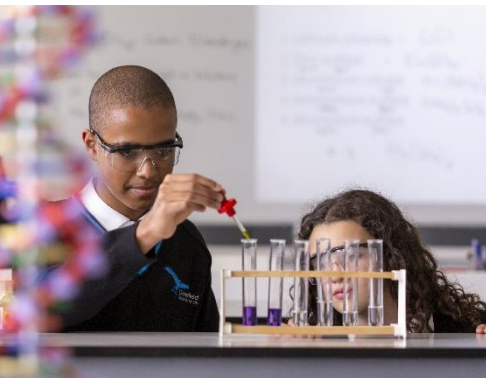


Celebrating Denefield Friday 27 January 2023



It has been another extremely productive week at Denefield. Students have continued to focus well in lessons, as well as developing their extra-curricular skills. Of particular note recently has been students of all year groups competing in the Bebras computing challenge and students in Years 10 and 11 continuing with their Combined Cadet Force training. I am also delighted with the further success of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Many of our Year 11 students have now completed their Bronze Award. Year 10 students are currently completing their skill, volunteering and sporting activities, and will take part in their expedition later in the year. Meanwhile, it was fantastic to see so many Year 9 students and their parents/carers attend our Duke of Edinburgh information evening. We plan to continue growing the Duke of Edinburgh programme so that the majority of students from Year 9 option can gain the bronze award or higher.




On Thursday, the school welcomed another visitor – Dr Michelle Sancho, who is the interim Director of Education for West Berkshire. Dr Sancho spent Thursday afternoon in school, visiting lessons, meeting staff and students, and getting an excellent understanding of the school. We discussed how West Berkshire can further support the school, either through providing additional support for those students who need it, or capital funding for the parts of the school that need replacing. Like Sir Alok Sharma two weeks ago, Dr Sancho commented on how calm and purposeful the atmosphere at Denefield was during her visit.

A reminder that because of industrial action we will be moving to remote learning on Wednesday 1 February. Students who wish to work in school may do so, subject to our capacity to supervise them. Full details can be found [here](#).

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Celebrating our curriculum ...

ICT and Computing

This week's update is from our ICT and Computing department.

Option Choice ?

Information Technology vs Computer Science

If you are considering a career in technology, you may be deciding what path to take. The two career paths that you'll encounter most often are Information Technology and Computer Science. Though these two careers both involve technology, they are different. What are the main differences between the two (which one is best suited for you)?


Computer Science	Information Technology
Generally, computer science refers to designing and building computers and computer programs.	Information technology, on the other hand, refers to maintaining and troubleshooting those computers and their networks, systems, and databases to ensure they run smoothly.
This generally requires a lot more mathematical skills.	

Which is better Computer Science or Information Technology?

Which is better Computer Science or IT? There is no such thing as "better" because they lead to different careers and have different specialisations or subfields. Either discipline is a great choice for you, as long as you're passionate about technology, and you understand what each study option implies.

Which is easier IT or computer science?

Remember that both computer science and information technology are vast fields. One is not easier or more difficult than the other. Both of these areas have so much to learn, and many people have different aptitudes, so whichever one you choose should be based on what is most interesting to you.



Other news...

DofE

Duke of Edinburgh Update

Year 9


Official Meeting / Sign-up Event held on 25 January 2023 with Ridgeline Adventures. Deadline for sign-up is 3 February 2023. Students will be enrolled on the program and will be able to start on the Physical, Skills and Volunteering Sections. Evening Training 24 May 2023 - 3.15pm to 7.30pm. Practice Day Walk - 25 May 2023 - 9.00am to 4.00pm. Expedition - 3 June and 3 June 2023. Deadline for completion Friday 29 September 2023.

Year 10

Students to complete the Physical, Skills and Volunteering Sections and get assessors to sign off evidence. Refreshers and Evening Training 22 June 3.15pm to 6.00pm. Expedition - TBC. Deadline for completion Thursday 20 July 2023.

Year 11

Deadline for all sections of the Bronze Award to be completed is Friday 31 March 2023. Presentation of Certificates and Badges to be presented at the Character Awards Evening in April. Any questions or queries email: ya@denefield.org.uk. Duke of Edinburgh Manager.



Other news...

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 [back](#) on our website.

Lunchtime	When	Room	Years
Monday	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
Library	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M117	All
Tuesday	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
3D printing Years 7 & 8	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Sports Hall	Year 8
Basketball Year 8	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	Years 8 to 11
Chess	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A109	K51
CS Maths Boost	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
Wednesday	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Enterprise	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
Fashion	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
Thursday	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
3D printing - Years 9 to 11	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Sports Hall	Year 10 and 11
Basketball Year 10/11	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Sports Hall	Year 9, 10, 11
DofE Drop in	12.20pm to 1.00pm	M119	Year 9, 10, 11
K54 Maths Boost	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	K54
Friday	12.20pm to 1.00pm	Sports Hall	Year 9
Basketball Year 9	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	All
Chess Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
Chess Club	12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All
After school	When	Room	Years
Monday			
Music	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
Tuesday			
Books	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
Reading	3.00pm to 4.00pm	PE	All
IT	3.00pm to 4.00pm	M106	All
Wednesday			
Denefield Debates	3.00pm to 4.00pm	A206	All
Podcast	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
Thursday			
Board games	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
CCF	3.00pm to 4.45pm	Pearlbourne College	Year 10 and 11
Architecture	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Art studio	All
Friday			

Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023	
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

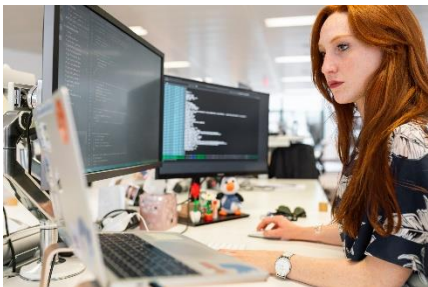


ICT and Computing

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DofE



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Practice Day Walk - 25 May 2023 – 9.00am to 4:00pm

Expedition – 8 June and 9 June 2023

Deadline for completion Friday 29 September 2023

Year 10

Students to complete the Physical, Skills and Volunteering Sections and get assessors to sign off evidence.

Refresher and Evening Training 22 June 3.15pm to 6.00pm

Expedition – TBC

Deadline for completion Thursday 20 July 2023

Year 11

Deadline for all sections of the Bronze Award to be completed is Friday 31 March 2023.

Presentation of Certificates and Badges to be presented at the Character Awards Evening in April

Any questions or queries email

rya@denefield.org.uk

Duke of Edinburgh Manager



Library news

Last week the library book clubs attended a Berkshire Book Award shortlist event. We visited Blue Coat School to work with students from other Berkshire schools and listen to a guest speaker announce this year's shortlisted titles. It was a fantastic visit and fun (and lots of biscuits) was had by all! In book club students are invited to lead their own sessions and choose activities and games. We are currently shadowing the Berkshire Book Awards, a unique local book award where all books are nominated and voted for by young people. We have until April to read, discuss, and vote for our favourite book in the shortlist. More information about the award is available [here](#).

Please note that from Tuesday 31 January until the end of term library clubs will be cancelled due to staff absence. Thank you for your understanding. All library clubs will resume as normal after half term and all students are invited to join.





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.

West Berkshire Museum




WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

Schools Newsletter | February-March 2023

The new term is underway and you are possibly thinking of activities for the spring and summer.

It is ***free*** to do a self-led visit of the museum galleries (see current exhibitions, right) and we can also provide the required number of museum trails free-of-charge as well as lend you clipboards and pencils for your visit. Here's the **Focus on Thatcham** museum trail to tie-in with the special exhibition:



You can often combine a free gallery visit with one of our led museum sessions (please see the attached brochure) and most can also be delivered in school (£45 per session).

***NEW* museum artefact loan box**

West Berkshire Museum has a small collection of museum artefact loan boxes, containing a selection of real and/or replica objects on a theme as well as a set of laminated teachers' notes.

Whether you regularly borrow a box or have never done so before, I hope that you will be interested in the ***new*** museum artefact loan box, **Fleece, Fame and Fortune**, which looks at the local cloth trade, the Winchcombes and the Newbury Coat. The box even includes a child's size replica of the Newbury Coat as well as a selection of objects themed around cloth making. There is also a laminated resource pack and teachers' notes.

A museum artefact loan box can be borrowed by a school for up to three weeks for £15 and must be collected and returned from/to the Museum by a school representative. For more information on borrowing this box or another, please see the attached FAQ leaflet and/or contact Clare.

Current exhibitions

Special exhibition: House of Toomer. An exploration of the families associated with this shop.

Special exhibition: Focus on Thatcham. An exploration of the history of this parish over two galleries.

Special exhibition: The Age of Dinosaurs. An exploration of the Mesozoic era. Ends late April 2023.

Special exhibition: Hope and Pride. Exploring how UK Pride started & the events that have led to social and political change.


Permanent exhibition: Lives and Landscapes. The story of West Berkshire.



Image: A pair of caners. One of the objects in the new Fleece, Fame and Fortune museum artefact loan box. Available to borrow now!

To find out more about booking a visit to the Museum and/or an outreach session:

Clare Bromley (Ms),
Learning and Participation Officer,
West Berkshire Museum,
The Wharf,
Newbury RG14 5AS.
Tel: 01635 519562
Email: clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk



School Loan Boxes



West Berkshire Museum has a small collection of boxes containing objects on different themes, e.g. Stone Age, Fossils, Romans and Toys of the Past, which are available for schools to borrow. This leaflet aims to answer the frequently asked questions we receive about the West Berkshire Museum loan box scheme:

What is in a loan box?

A loan box contents will be determined by the theme but there will be real objects, e.g. Stone Age scraper, or a mixture of real and replica objects, along with laminated teachers' notes that provide information on each object in the box.

How many objects are in a loan box?

This varies, but there is usually a minimum of six objects and a maximum of twelve in a loan box.

What does a loan box look like?

Some of the loan boxes are metal or fabric suitcases and others are plastic storage boxes of various sizes.

The objects are either in purpose-designed slots, or are wrapped in acid-free tissue paper and bubble wrap. For the latter, there is a laminated sheet in the box giving information on how to repack the loan box.



May we handle the objects in a loan box?

Yes, the main purpose of a loan box is for its contents to be handled (with appropriate supervision).

There is a laminated sheet in each box that provides information on how to utilise the objects in a classroom environment.

Please note: some of the objects are fragile and so are mounted (in clear plastic or similar) or stored in a clear document holder. We ask that you do not try to remove them.

How long can a loan box be borrowed?

A loan box can be borrowed for up to three weeks. It must be collected and returned from/to West Berkshire Museum by a school representative on the dates and times agreed with the Learning and Participation Officer.

How much does it cost to borrow a loan box?

A loan box costs £15 to borrow.

How do we find out more about the loan box scheme?

For a full list of loan box themes and to find out more about the scheme please telephone the Learning and Participation Officer on 01635 519562 or email: clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk

What happens next?

When you ask the Learning and Participation Officer to book a loan box, you will be sent a short booking form to complete.

A booking is not confirmed until the Learning and Participation Officer receives the completed booking form, processes it and sends an email confirmation.



West Berkshire Museum

Learning and Participation Service

West Berkshire Museum reopened after refurbishment in August 2014. The museum is housed in two of the town's most historic buildings – the Cloth Hall and Corn Stores – and these are joined with a purpose-built link building containing a reception, shop, café and toilets, accessible toilet and baby changing facilities. The entire museum is fully accessible with a lift at each end of the building.

West Berkshire Museum's Learning and Participation Service comprises of sessions, loan boxes, resource packs, museum visits and trails.

LOTTERY FUNDED

West Berkshire COUNCIL

Resource packs

We also have a small selection of resource packs. They are available to buy for a small charge of £15 per pack.

"The pack contained very detailed information and was well priced." Year 3 teacher.

Loan boxes

We have a small selection of loan boxes containing replica and/or real objects. They are available to borrow for three weeks and need to be collected and returned by the school. There is a small charge of £15 per box which must be made before or on collection.

"The loan box was fantastic, it really inspired the children and brought the topic to life. They loved looking at the objects and trying on the helmets!" Year 5 teacher.

Museum visit

It is free to visit the museum and activity trails can be provided. Most activity trails are available free-of-charge and it is possible to borrow pencils and clipboards from the museum. If given enough advance notice, the Learning and Participation Officer is able to tailor-make trails to fit your topic. There is usually no charge for this service. The museum encourages schools to visit on Mondays and Tuesdays when it is closed to the public; all museum visits must be booked in advance with the Learning and Participation Officer.

The permanent exhibition, Lives and Landscapes, tells the story of West Berkshire in chronological order, from its geological beginnings and the start of human history to more recent times, it is located in the four rooms on the ground floor of the Corn Stores.

Upstairs, in the Corn Stores, there is a community gallery (room 5) and five rooms of special exhibitions, and the Cloth Hall (also upstairs) contains the story of the two historic buildings that make up the museum. The Long Room (downstairs) is the learning and community space.

If there is a topic you are studying then please ask the Learning and Participation Officer if there is an exhibition or museum learning resource that will support it.

"The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip. One said it was 'the best trip ever!'" Year 3/4 teacher.

"The museum staff were very welcoming, patient and helpful – their passion for the exhibits and what you can learn from them is infectious!" KS2 teacher.

Contact details

For more information about anything mentioned in the brochure, please contact:
Clare Bromley (Ms), Learning & Participation Officer, West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS.
Telephone: (01635) 53562. Email: clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk

Sessions

The West Berkshire Museum Learning and Participation Service offers a range of national curriculum-based cross-curricular sessions that can be delivered in school or at the museum.

A session costs £45 (for up to 35 children unless stated differently).
*Session involves object handling (real and/or replica objects).
For more information and/or to make a booking, please see contact information overleaf.

Where's my sheep?*
EYFS/KS1
60-75 minutes

Through a story, hands-on gallery activities and a simple craft the children will learn about sheep and being a shepherd.
Museum only.

"The children had a lovely time and the session leader was very informative – a good selection of different displays and activities. A very good session." Reception and Year 1 teacher.

Where's my sheep?*
KS2
60-75 minutes

Explore the permanent exhibition galleries to find the lost sheep. Discover more about the sheep, how cloth is produced as well as find out about local cloth-related people and events. There is also a cloth-themed riddles trail to complete.
Museum only.

"This session was very good. The resources were tailored to suit our needs and the children's previous knowledge was built on." KS2 teacher.

What's the connection?*
KS1/2
60-75 minutes

By examining a set of objects from different time periods, the children work out the common theme (bed warmers), what the objects are made from and how they were used, with an activity to place them on a simple timeline.

"The children were all engaged and said how much they had enjoyed the session." KS2 teacher.

Roman Britain*
KS2
60-90 minutes

By examining a range of artefacts to see what they tell us about life in Roman Britain, the children also consider how 'Romanised' the native Britons became.

"A good session. The session leader was very engaging and enthusiastic about the subject and the objects being handled. She was able to engage with the group really well." Year 4 teacher.

Rocks*
KS2
60-90 minutes

Based around the three categories of rocks and the rock cycle, this session includes a classification activity using rocks from the museum's collection as well as an opportunity to view and handle some local fossils.

"The children enjoyed the session very much. They have been talking about rocks a lot since and building up their own collections of 'rocks' from the playground." Year 3 teacher.

Anglo Saxons*
KS2
75-90 minutes

Exploring culture and everyday life through an object handling activity and gallery trail, this hands-on session includes dressing-up and the opportunity to experience two crafts (of your choice) from this list: cord-making, writing a message in runes, making a saucer brooch, decorating clay with replica stamps.
Museum only.

"A good session. A nice balance between practical and hands-on activities." KS2 teacher.

The Stone Age*
KS2
60-90 minutes

By handling flint tools and looking at a mammoth's tooth the children find out about the Stone Age and the role archaeology has to play in telling us about the past.

"Really enjoyable session. The children were engaged throughout and talked about it all afternoon. Timings were excellent." Year 3/4 teacher.

Design a tour
KS2/3
120 minutes

Starting with a discussion on what makes a good museum tour, your class will explore the permanent exhibition to source the material for a tour that they will present to museum staff for certification.
Museum only.

"I wish we could do this every week for History." Year 4 girl.

Victorian Toys*
KS1/2
60-75 minutes

Through play the children compare the toys of the past with their modern equivalents, find out about Victorian children and make a simple toy.

"We had a fantastic morning at the museum. The children really enjoyed themselves and the session's learning activities were set at the right level for them." Year 1/2 teacher.

"All the children enjoyed the balance of activities – there was something for everyone." Year 3 teacher.

The Cloth Hall
KS1/2
60-75 minutes

Looking at how and why the Cloth Hall was built, the children can make a simple model of the Cloth Hall and/or try a traditional building technique (wattle and daub), as well as explore the Cloth Hall through a trail.
Museum only.

"A fabulous session!" KS2 teacher.