

Celebrating Denefield Friday 3 February 2023





Welcome to our first newsletter of February 2023. Although students have been spending the vast majority of their week developing new subject knowledge and skills, and in the case of Year 11 students taking some external BTEC examinations, there has been a very significant focus on extra-curricular and careers activities too. These have included Year 8 students attending a fantastic French play in the hall, students of various year groups impressing in the Bebras computing challenge, and Year 10 PE and Sports students acting as role models and leaders in the Denefield Shield cup competition for primary school students.




Meanwhile, Year 7 Success for Life lessons have been devoted to exploring the skills needed to undertake various careers using the Unifrog website that the school has subscribed to, while Health and Social Care students from Years 10 to 13 have benefited from expert advice on careers in the industry from some of the care sector’s leading apprenticeship providers. While at Denefield we say that academic qualifications such as GCSEs, BTECs and A-Levels provide the passport to a successful life, there is no doubt that that CHARACTER values gained from extra-curricular activities and the sense of direction developed from careers activities are equally valuable too.

Wishing you a very pleasant weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...




Other news...

The 2023 Denefield Shield

On Friday 27 January, the PE Department hosted the second instalment of the Denefield Shield. Local Primary Schools, including Downway, Long Lane, Westwood Farm, Birch Copse and Putterly all competed in a 5-a-side football tournament in order to secure bragging rights for another year. There was some excellent football on display throughout the tournament, which included some very fierce and evenly contested teams. This was exemplified by the fact there were more goals than any other result. Each individual Primary School was fantastic in their own right, whether it was Putterly for displaying excellent courage, Westwood Farm for their resilience, Long Lane for their determination, Birch Copse for their confidence, or Downway for their excellent sportsmanship.

The final goal was scored between Birch Copse and Downway and in a similar fashion went through to penalties after a draw in normal time. After exchanging five for the penalties, it was the Downway goalkeeper who was the hero as he made a brilliant fingertip save for their side and secured it was the mighty greens who took the trophy home for another year.

Thank you to all those who attended, including the fantastic Year 10 KSCE PE students, who refereed games and were role models throughout. We look forward to having the local Primary Schools here again soon for some sport in the sun (hopefully).




MFL

Yesterday Year 8 students who study French were lucky enough to watch a play in French.

Students were captivated by the engaging story and the expert funny tricks, including a magic trick which turned water into blood and back into water again. Two students were even brave enough to go on stage and take part in the action. On the way out there were lots of smiles, with students saying how much they enjoyed it.

Next week Year 8 students who are studying German will see a play in German and in May we will be hosting a play in Spanish. What fun!




La Maison Hantée

La Maison Hantée is a play which is both scary and frightening... ..well, it is supposed to be!

But, the actors regularly break out of character when things go wrong and break back into haunted play into an hilarious farce.

This play certainly is not scary, but it is definitely very very funny.




Other news...

Bebras Challenge

Following on from our participation in the Bebras competition last November, 24 students got through to Round one. This was the next round and the challenges were a bit tougher. Denefield's average points was 13.09. Bebras's average was 13.38 and nationwide it was 14.15.

Each student still needs a further certificate for taking part but who did not unfortunately get through to Round 2. George F did however come top amongst all of the students who took part, getting 24 points so it must have been a close competition! Well done to everyone that took part.



Careers news

We were very fortunate to host a visit from the Portbury Nursery Group and Children Training who came in to talk to students in Years 10 to 13 about working in the childcare industry and what an apprenticeship or training means. Students were able to hear about the skills and attributes it takes to work in the industry as well as how to be successful applying for a position and what prospects apprenticeship have moving on. Childcare and education is a growth sector in the South East of England and sees a number of students both from Year 11 but increasingly after completing Level 1 qualifications like awards and our BTEC Level 3 health and social care courses. Students have received the school's usual range, asked many more pertinent questions and were able to take away brochures and put their name down for more information on vacancies and work experience opportunities. Thank you to both these organisations and to our Health and Social care teachers for their participation in a very valuable experience for our students.



Other news ...

Childrens Mental Health Week

To support children's mental health week we are encouraging all students to bring their spare coins to our charity fundraiser in support of Mind.

Student Ambassador

Charity Fayre

10 February-DaVinci

12.20 - 12.55pm

New joining: Parents and teens, supporters, artists and poets



The Wellbeing Hub

Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week Feb 6th.....

- Podcast available on our Resources Page from 8th Feb: Peer-on-peer abuse and coercion with Adele Eastman, Senior Counsel in Forrester & Co's Safeguarding Unit & Board Member for the Centre for Social Justice.
- Webinar 15th Feb 6.30pm: Personal Safety: Navigating The Teenage Years with Andy Privett, Founder of BeStreetwise - visit the Webinar Page to book.

Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023	
Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023	Half term
Monday 20 February 2023	Students return to school
Thursday 9 March 2023	Year 10 Online Parents Evening – Details TBC



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The final was played between Birch Copse and Downsway and in typical fashion went through to penalties after a draw in normal time. After exchanging like for like penalties, it was the Downsway goalkeeper who was the hero as they made a fantastic fingertip save for their side and ensured it was the mighty greens who took the trophy home for another year.

Thank you to all those who attended, including the fantastic Year 10 GCSE PE students, who refereed games and were role models throughout. We look forward to having the local Primary Schools here again soon for some sport in the sun (hopefully!!)

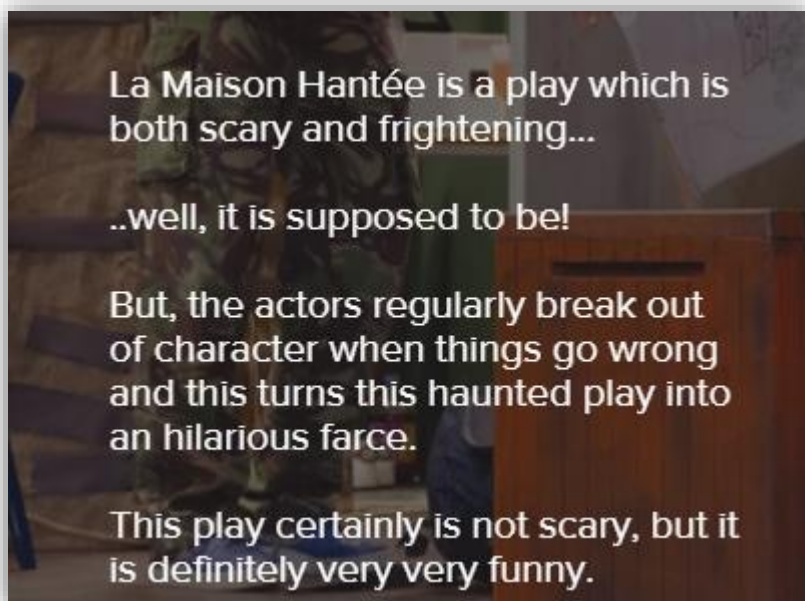
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Each student will receive a further certificate for taking part but who did not unfortunately get through to Round 2. George F did however come top amongst all of the students who took part, gaining 24 points so it must have been a close competition! Well done to everyone that took part!



Careers news

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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				

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Student Ambassador

Charity Fayre

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**Face painting
Sweets and treats
Competitions, activities and games**



The Wellbeing Hub

— The —
**Wellbeing
Hub**
— from Teen Tips —



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week Feb 6th.....

- Podcast available on our Resources Page from 8th Feb: Peer-on-peer abuse and coercion with Adele Eastman, Senior Counsel in Farrer & Co's Safeguarding Unit & Board Member for the Centre for Social Justice.
- Webinar 15th Feb 6.30pm: Personal Safety: Navigating The Teenage Years with Andy Privett, Founder of Be.Streetwise - visit the Webinar Page to book.



Tuesday February 7th at 6:00pm. Alicia will answer any of your questions about supporting young people. Visit the Homepage of The Wellbeing Hub to book



Get School Experience



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>



Berkshire Youth


Waterside Centre
Berkshire Youth

Feb Half Term Bat Box Making

For young people aged 10+

£5 per person

**Wednesday 15 February
10am - 3pm**

Come and join us at Waterside to make and decorate bat boxes that will then be used in the local community to look after our wildlife
(Participants will need to bring a packed lunch)

For more information and to book online, please visit:

<https://widget.eola.co/rh365>

Waterside Centre, Waldegrave Place,
31 Northbrook Street, Newbury, RG14 1DS

Waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk
01635 018500


Waterside Centre
Berkshire Youth

Feb Half Term Climbing

**For young people in
Primary School
Aged 8+**

£5 per person

**Monday / Wednesday / Friday
12.30pm
1.45pm**

For more information and to book online, please visit:

<https://widget.eola.co/rh365>

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01635 018500


Waterside Centre
Berkshire Youth

Feb Half Term Climbing

**For young people in
Secondary
school years 7 to 13
£5 per person**

**Monday / Wednesday / Friday
3.15pm
4.30pm**

For more information and to book online, please visit:

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