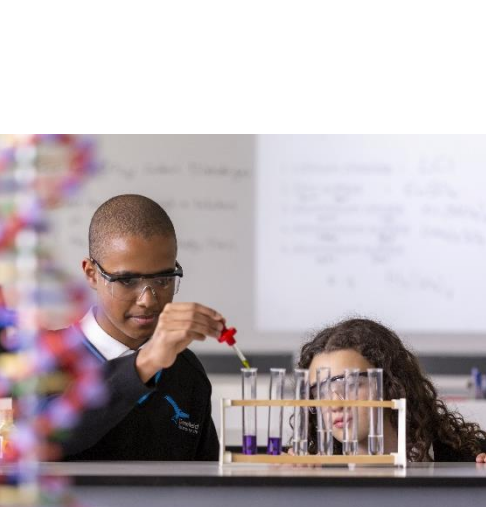


Celebrating Denefield Friday 10 February 2023





Student leadership has been a key theme of this week. Over the past year, students from minority ethnic backgrounds have developed and run our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion group. The aim has been to ensure that all students, whatever their background, feel equally valued, included and celebrated at Denefield. On Tuesday, two representatives of this group, Kemianna and Tanzika, led our staff training. Speaking to nearly 100 teachers and members of support staff, they explained the small but significant changes our staff body can make that will help ethnic minority students become an even fuller part of Denefield. Many members of staff commented that this training was some of the most important and impactful that they have had, and that they would like further training from students in future.

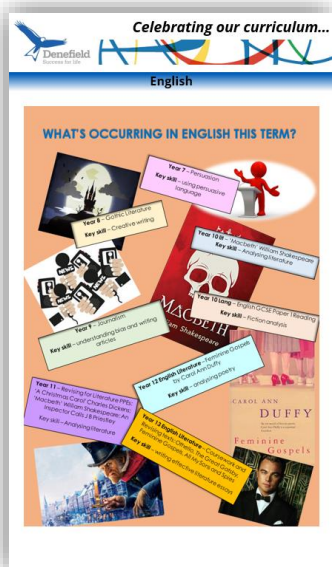


As many will be aware, this week is national children's mental health week. To support this, on Friday our student ambassadors ran the Charity Fayre to raise money for the mental health charity Mind. At time of writing, the amount raised has yet to be confirmed, but judging by the number of football penalties taken and scored against Mr Wright, or the number of custard pies that covered Mr Lean's or Mr Olsen's faces, or the number of stunning homemade cakes and confectionery that were consumed, the sums raised are likely to be significant.

It has been a busy past six weeks, and next half term begins with Year 11 core PPEs, or mock exams. Half term is a vital time for students and staff to reconnect with themselves, their friends, their families and with the outdoors. I wish you all a pleasant break, and look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 20 February.

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023	
Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023	Half term
Monday 20 February 2023	Students return to school Year 11 return at 8.45am All other students return at 9.28am
Thursday 9 March 2023	Year 10 Online Parents Evening – Details TBC



English

WHAT'S OCCURRING IN ENGLISH THIS TERM?



Year 7 – Persuasion
Key skill – using persuasive language

Year 8 – Gothic Literature
Key skill – Creative writing

Year 9 – Journalism
Key skill – understanding bias and writing articles

Year 10 lit – 'Macbeth' William Shakespeare
Key skill – Analysing literature

Year 10 Lang – English GCSE Paper 1 Reading
Key skill – Fiction analysis

Year 11 – Revising for Literature PPEs:
'A Christmas Carol' Charles Dickens;
'Macbeth' William Shakespeare; An
Inspector Calls J B Priestley
Key skill – Analysing literature

Year 12 English Literature – Feminine Gospels
by Carol Ann Duffy
Key skill – analysing poetry

Year 13 English Literature – Coursework and
Revising texts: Othello, The Great Gatsby,
Feminine Gospels, All My Sons and Spies
Key skill – writing effective literature essays



Mock Trial Meetings

Every Thursday, a selection of Year 8 and 9 students meet with Miss Doyle to prepare for the Magistrates' Mock Trial competition, in association with the charity Young Citizens. The competition will take place, in March, at Reading Crown Court with the team competing against other schools in the local area.

Our team consists of two prosecution lawyers, two defence lawyers, a group of magistrates, witnesses, a legal advisor, and an usher. Young Citizens created a fictional criminal case involving the use of a weapon in public and the team have made a convincing argument both for and against the defendant's prosecution.

It has been fantastic to watch the team grow in confidence over the weeks as preparation ramps up. They are fortunate to have the guidance of future law student, Harriet in Year 13, who has helped them practice and build confidence in their legal debating skills. There is a plethora of transferable skills which are being used during rehearsals, relating nicely to work students are completing in their English lessons. For example, Jessie and Lucas (our prosecution lawyers) have had to use their analytical skills to comb through witness statements and create challenging questions that will lead to a guilty verdict.



National Apprenticeship Week



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week

6th to 12th February 2023

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2023 aims to shine a light on the amazing work being carried out by apprentices, employers, and their training providers across the country. The picture of apprenticeships is changing and they are now a highly competitive and respected alternative to further or higher education.

This week and last we have been celebrating National Apprenticeship week through tutor time Success for Life lessons focussing on busting myths about apprenticeships and looking at the local picture for apprenticeship opportunities. Teachers have shared video clips to highlight apprenticeship opportunities based on their subjects and the links for the Apprenticeship Arcade where students can complete quizzes and play games to learn more about opportunities, have been put on Satchel One. To find out more about NAW 2023, please click [here](#)

Learn by playing? Visit the Apprenticeship Arcade here: [Apprenticeship Arcade - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2023 aims to shine a light on the amazing work being done by apprentices, employers, and their training providers across the country. The picture of apprenticeships is changing and they are now a highly competitive and respected alternative to further or higher education.



Here is a link to [The Parents' Guide to National Apprenticeships Week 2023](#) – a handy guide covering why apprenticeships could be a first rate career-path for their child and including information from:

The Parents' Guide to Amazing Apprenticeships
HM Government's – Get The Jump
National Apprenticeship Events

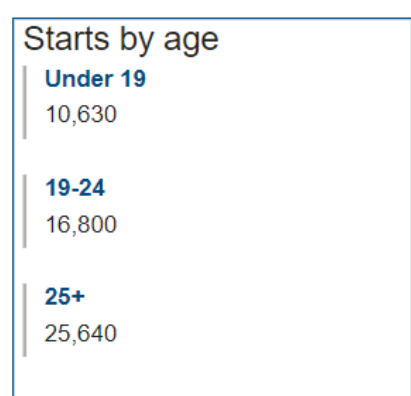
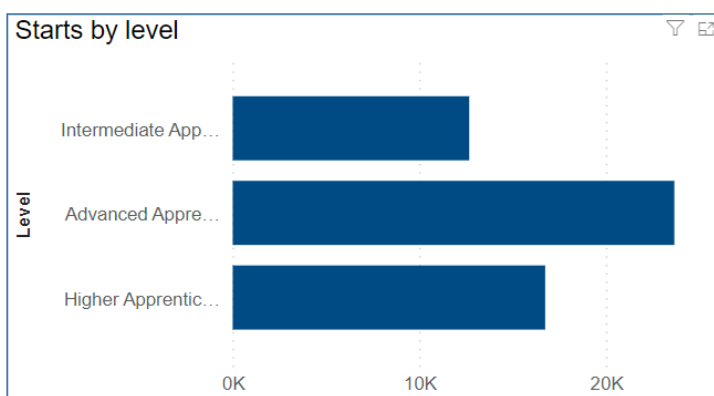
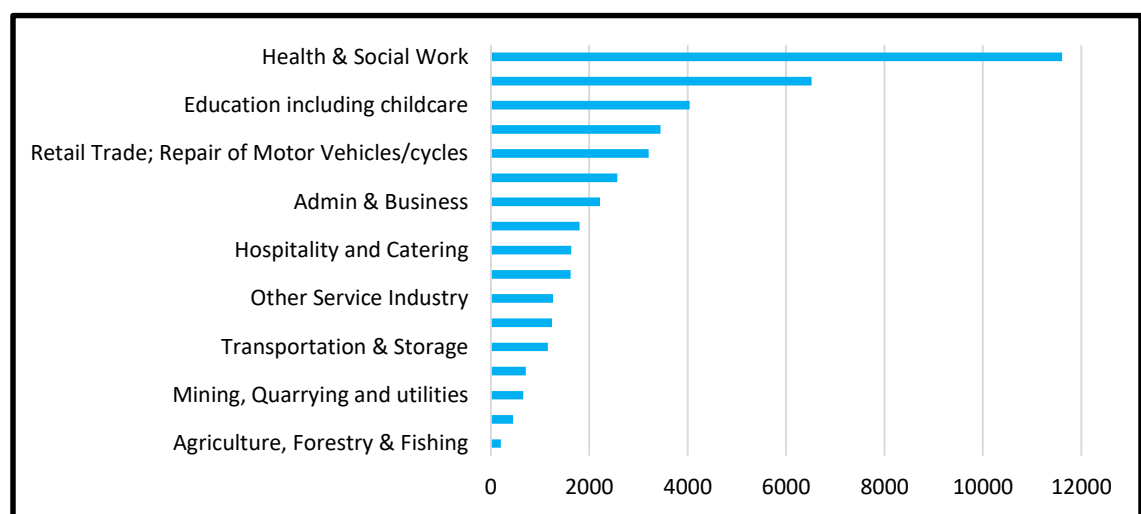
And here is a link to a parents' toolkit that you may find useful: www.talkingfutures.org.uk

Like Podcasts? Here is the link to the Parent Perspective podcasts: [The Parent Perspective | Episode 1: The Choice - what are your child's options post 16? \(transistor.fm\)](#)



These graph shows the number of apprenticeships in the South East by sector, level and age last year.

This data comes from here: [Apprenticeships and traineeships, Academic Year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)



Here are some tools to help search for vacancies

- Use the Unifrog Apprenticeships tool: [Sign In - Unifrog](#)
- Visit Berkshire Opportunities for local vacancies: [Explore Apprenticeships | Berkshire Opportunities](#)
- The national database: [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



DofE



Duke of Edinburgh Update

Year 9

- Official Meeting / Signup Event held on 25 Jan 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 – 8/9 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 – 29/30 June 2023
- 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



Childrens Mental Heath Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year is *Let's connect*. Students have been reflecting upon the people and groups with whom they have connections, such as friends, family, pets, online friends and groups. We have also thought about how songs and poems can help us with connections, both inspiring us and helping us to feel less alone.

Our Mental Health First Aiders have been helping with connections by visiting local primary schools. Last week they led a workshop on positive thought jars with Year 5 students at Westwood Farm Primary School, encouraging Year 5s to think about how they can manage worries and develop positive thinking. Here are some of the jars that were created by the Year 5 students



The Wellbeing Hub



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week Feb 13th.....

- Webinar 15th Feb 6.30pm: Personal Safety: Navigating The Teenage Years with Andy Privett, Founder of Be.Streetwise - visit the Webinar Page to book, it is free for all members.
- 17th Feb - Random Acts of Kindness Day visit our A-Z of Wellbeing and select K for our suggestions on What is it? Why is it good for your mental health? and 5 ideas to try with your child/ren.



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



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				

School show – Buggy Malone

The Drama department are looking for costume donations for the upcoming school performance of Buggy Malone.

Think Gangsters, trilby hats, suits, shirts, braces, bowties and ties ,1920's flapper dresses, drop waist dresses, boas, pearls gloves, headbands ...any shoes that could fit the era!

All donations would be warmly accepted, please bring them in to school following the half term break

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Shaw on msh@denefield.org.uk





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>



Lunchtime Controller Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for Lunchtime Controllers at Denefield.

The session runs daily from 12.15pm to 1.05pm and is paid at a rate of £13.99 per session. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested, please use this [link](#) for further information and to apply.



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 URRRZZZ!



Reading FC Schools and Grassroots fixture

Coupon Code now valid for Reading FC Women fixture

We are delighted to let you know that you can use the same coupon code to join us for our 2nd Schools and Grassroots fixture for Reading FC Women.

When?

Reading Women v Everton Women

Sunday 23 April, 2pm

Where?

Select Car Leasing Stadium

Prices

12 and Under: £1

17 and Under: £2

18 to 24: £3

65 and over: £3

Adult: £5

Important! This offer applies to tickets in the blocks Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand only.

Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off.

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