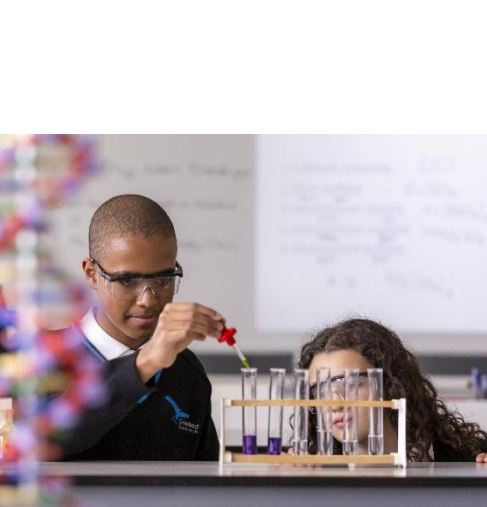


Celebrating Denefield Friday 10 March 2023





Firstly, a very warm welcome to Year 6 parents/carers who have joined the mailing list for our newsletter. Welcome to the Denefield community!

Despite the cold and snowy weather in the middle of the week, it has been a quiet and productive week at Denefield. For older students, the focus is on their end of year examinations, and on their destinations afterwards. In some subjects at Year 11 and 13 the syllabus has now been completed with all lessons and homework time devoted to revision; in others revision is being injected into lessons at the same time as the final aspects of the course are being taught. In Science, a different part of the course is being tested in the 'silent and solo' time that happens at the beginning of every lesson. This regular drip feed approach is definitely the best way to revise, rather than leaving everything to the last minute.



Year 8 students are continuing to focus on their career aspirations, and in Success for Life lessons are familiarising themselves with the Unifrog careers platform. Year 11 and 13 students, meanwhile, are finalising what they will do after their exams are over. Sixth Form interviews have taken place this week, and it is extremely encouraging to see not only how well Year 11 students are doing in their lessons, but the ambition they are showing for the future. A very large number of Year 11 students are planning to return to take up places at the Denefield Sixth Form and are linking the courses they want to do in the Sixth Form with their career aspirations.

Finally, thank you to all Year 10 parents/carers who attended the online parents' evening on Thursday, and to their children who are working hard in school. I know that teachers gave a number of tips for success to students and their parents/carers and look forward to these being put into practice in lessons and for homework and revision.

With best wishes for the weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Included in this edition...



Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023	
Friday 17 March 2023	Red nose day – Non uniform day (please see email)
Tuesday 21 March to Thursday 23 March 2023	School show
Monday 27 March to Friday 31 March 2023	Normandy Visit - Year 8, 9 and 10 (selected students)
Thursday 30 March 2023	Year 8 Online Parents evening 4.00pm to 8.00pm
Friday 31 March 2023	End of term



Science

This week's update is from our Science department

Science in the News!

Below are some of the science departments favourite recent science news stories. Follow the links if you're interested to find out more about any of the topics below!

'Magnetic Powder Could Help Clean Microplastics from Earth's Oceans'



This breakthrough material was created by scientists at Melbourne's RMIT. Where current methods take days to clean up plastic in water, this takes just one hour. Given Microplastics are one of the world's biggest environmental concerns, this is a huge step in saving our oceans!

Links to: Year 8 Earth and GCSE Biology Ecology. Please click [here](#).

Level: Easy

'Building blocks of life' recovered from asteroid Ryugu are older than the solar system itself'

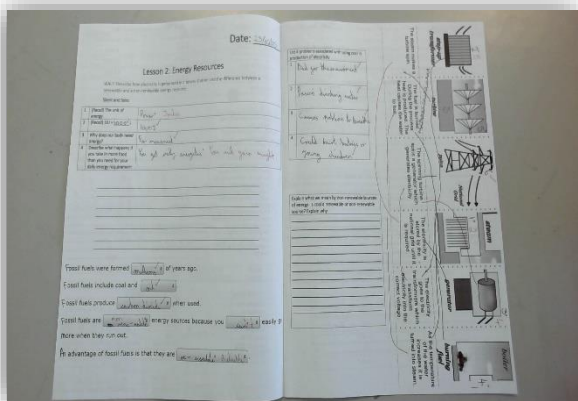
This article is about how Japan's Hayabusa2 spacecraft brought back, for the second time ever, a sample from an asteroid. In this sample, there were molecules crucial to all known life, and may have even formed in a primordial cloud of interstellar dust that formed the asteroid!



Links to: KS3 Earth and Space, Physics GCSE and A-Level, Biology GCSE and A-Level. Please click [here](#).

Level: Advanced

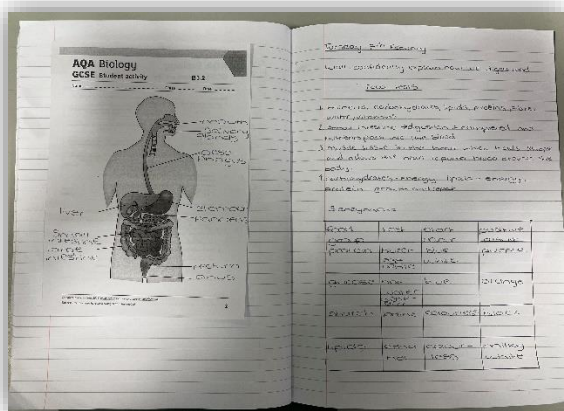
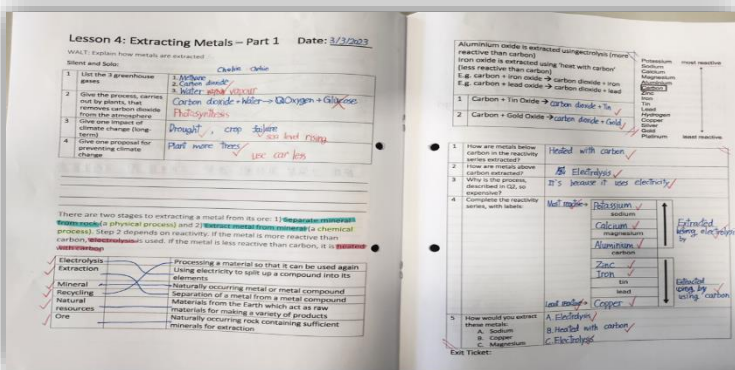
Science in the curriculum – What are students learning this term in their lessons?



This term in Science Year 7 have been learning about energy. We looked first at the energy we obtain from our food and how to judge the amount of energy in different food items using their labels. We then look at how our electricity is made and the energy resources we can use for this. This also addresses the global warming crisis and encourages us to consider in a balanced way which resources we should be using. We will now go on to look at the ideas of power, how energy is transferred between stores and efficiency.

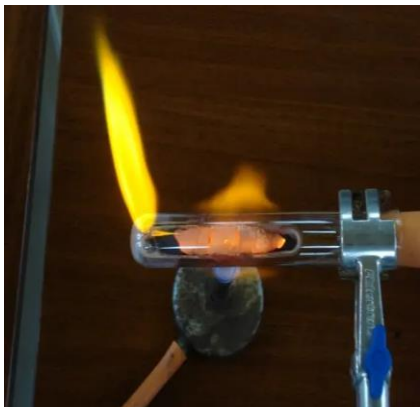


This term in Science Year 8 have been learning about the Earth and the resources in it. For the last few weeks, each class has been building there understanding of ores and metals in time for a big practical experiment next week where we will extract copper from rocks!



This term in Biology Year 9 have been learning about the digestive system. They have studied how the digestive system works and can name all the parts of the digestive system. They have also learned how digestive enzymes break down food in our digestive system, and have completed a practical activity to find out more about this.

This term in Physics Year 10 have been learning about waves. We started by looking at the general features of waves such as the two types (longitudinal and transverse) and how we can measure their amplitude, wavelength and frequency. This allowed us to study the wave equation and then use it to determine the speed of water waves and waves on a vibrating string. We will then go on to look at what waves can do and focus particularly on the electromagnetic family of waves and how they can both benefit and harm us.

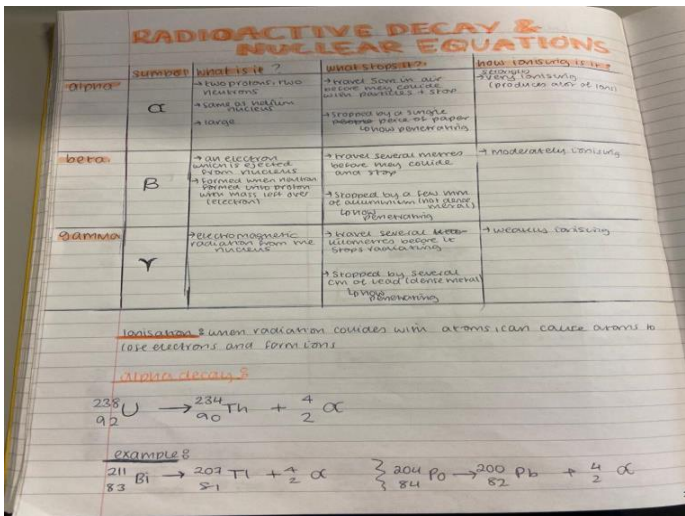
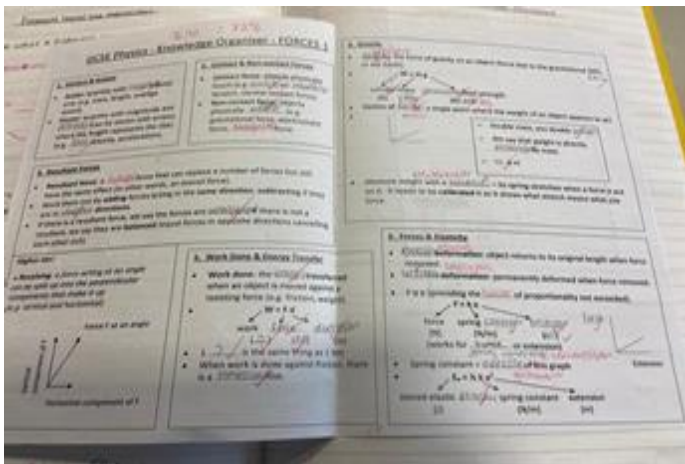


Year 10 have been learning about chemical changes and how we can extract metals. They have performed different techniques to extract metals, such as displacement with heat and carbon or electrolysis. Electrolysis is a crucial technique to extract reactive metals. Heating metals compounds with carbon allowed access to the first metals that humans used, such as copper and iron. Students have managed to extract small pieces of copper by heating copper oxide with charcoal.



Year 11 Physics students are in full flow with their GCSE revision. They have recently completed their second round of PPEs and we are excited to review them with students in the coming weeks. In class we have been revising the Atomic Structure topic where students are revisiting; types of radiation, nuclear equations and radioactive half life.

Finally, this year we have introduced a strategy for students to complete one knowledge organiser per week in their starter activity. This will run for seven weeks and ensures all students revise the factual knowledge for their GCSEs, which makes up 40% of their exams!





Educake – Science Quizzing - League Tables

Each week students across all year groups are set extended learning to complete science quizzes on Educake.

We would like to congratulate the students who have completed the most questions so far this year in their science quizzes. Each student in the lists below have received a top award for their efforts.

Rank	Student	Class(es)	Qs Answered	Rank	Student	Class(es)	Qs Answered
1	Maisie L	7Y/Sc3	3565	1	Sam W	8Y/Sc1	3335
2	Molly M	7X/Sc1	3375	2	Sraman G	8X/Sc1	3244
3	Benjamin P	7Y/Sc3	3329	3	Samira M	8X/Sc4	3183
4	Jack S	7X/Sc3	3303	4	Nina M	8X/Sc4	2993
5	Kian D	7Y/Sc3	3251	5	Aryan K	8X/Sc2	2987
6	Joshua H	7X/Sc2	3250	6	Millie S	8Y/Sc3	2979
7	Samuel M	7X/Sc2	3236	7	Lola D	8X/Sc4	2947
8	Chloe I	7X/Sc2	3225	8	Hiba F	8X/Sc4	2887
9	Ava B	7Y/Sc1	3038	9	Abrar A-M	8X/Sc1	2852
10	Callum B	7Y/Sc2	3023	10	Nabil S	8X/Sc1	2841

Rank	Student	Class(es)	Qs Answered	Rank	Student	Class(es)	Qs Answered
1	Connor T	9X/Bi1	4962	1	Elizabeth J	10XY/Bi1	7670
2	Lilly K	9X/Bi1	4517	2	Lily A	10XY/Bi1	7499
3	Victoria L	9Y/Bi1	3540	3	Evie B	10XY/Bi2	7110
4	Joe L-W	9X/Bi2	3368	4	Cece M	10XY/Bi3	6019
5	Callum B	9Y/Bi1	3077	5	Evie A	10XY/Bi2	5480
6	Manuel R-P	9Y/Bi2	2841	6	Ruby G	10XY/Bi4	5290
7	Ben P	9Y/Bi1	2730	7	Lily P	10XY/Bi4	5145
8	Max D	9Y/Bi1	2706	8	Yuvleen S	10XY/Bi1	5133
9	Jack C	9Y/Bi1	2670	9	Aidan T	10XY/Bi5	5105
10	Archie S	9Y/Bi3	2644	10	Shreeya N	10XY/Bi3	4400

Rank	Student	Class(es)	Qs Answered
1	Ellie S	11XY/Bi3	6897
2	Maria A	11XY/Bi3	5809
3	Holly C	11XY/Bi4	4864
4	Natalia W	11XY/Bi4	4768
5	Elsie F	11XY/Bi2	4647
6	Paris B	11XY/Bi3	4497
7	Brianna M	11XY/Bi1	4450
8	Abigail R	11XY/Bi1	4060
9	Alice J	11XY/Bi1	4053
10	Grace T	11XY/Bi1	4050



The Wellbeing Hub



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week, March 6th...

March's Theme: Sibling Relationships

- Top tips for managing sibling relationships with Dr Tamara Scully, Clinical Psychologist & Expert in The Wellbeing Hub.

National Careers Week (6th – 11th March)

- Why not have a look at the careers section in The Wellbeing Hub for articles and tips, as well as the Inspiring Futures podcast series—insiders' perspectives on different industries, roles, and career paths.
- Check out our latest careers resource focusing on Alternatives to University by Rachel Harrison, Career Coach and Trainer in Resources Page.



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



Careers

What is Engineering? Oxford Advanced Skills (OAS) visit to school

Last week we were fortunate to host Chanida Fung and Bethy Clarke from Oxford Advanced Skills, talking to a group of 45 students in Year 10 and 11 about what engineering careers entail and the apprenticeships they offer. Oxford Advanced Skills is a partnership between the UK Atomic Energy Authority and the Science and Technology Facilities Council. This is a unique training provider, in that they work directly with several big engineering employers such as Amazon, Williams Racing, Abbott and many others, to match potential apprentices with employers. They outlined what engineering is, and told the story of the fascinating people they work with including Paralympic Champion Emma Wiggs MBE. Emma is a canoeist who needed a new design for her paddle to make it stronger but lighter, so Chanida talked the group through the design and construction process that the team used, and Emma won a gold medal at the Paralympics in 2020.

The students were able to ask a host of questions ranging from success rates of applications, to travel queries and more specific questions about software engineering and higher level qualifications. They also got to see a range of models created using the 3D printers at their headquarters, including a laser-scanned replica of the T-Rex skull at the Natural History Museum. We are very grateful to OAS for their time and are looking forward to them hosting a coding activity with a group of very talented Year 9 students next week!



Next Open Evenings: Tues 21st March and Thurs 20th April





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
Choir		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M118	Years 8 to 13
KS3 Maths Boost		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS3
KS4 & KS5 Debate Club		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	KS4 & KS5
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
DofE drop in		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M119	Year 9, 10, 11
KS4 Maths Boost		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A104	KS4
Friday				
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				
Baking		3.00pm to 4.30pm	P206	All
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				
Warhammer		3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
Thursday				
Architecture		3.00pm to 4.00pm	Art studio	All
Board games		3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
CCF		3.45pm to 6.00pm	Pangbourne College	Year 10 and 11
Science Crest award		3.15pm to 4.15pm	P205	All
Friday				
Aim high		3.00pm to 4.00pm	A203	All
Greenpower		3.00pm to 4.00pm	M106	All



PE Extra-curricular

After School PE		When	Where	Years
Monday				
No PE clubs/activities				
Tuesday				
GCSE Badminton		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports hall	Year 10 and 11
Netball – Years 8 & 9		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	Year 8 and 9
Girls rugby		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	All
Wednesday				
Girls Netball – Years 7		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Courts	Year 7
Handball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	All
Thursday				
Basketball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Sports Hall	All
Friday				
No PE clubs/activities				

Library news

The library celebrated World Book Day last week with activities at break and lunch including make your own bookmark, word games such as Scrabble and Bananagrams, Roald Dahl colouring in, author word searches, and design a National Book Token competition. World Book Day tokens and bookmarks were given out (more are available from the library) and staff around the school dressed up and shared their favourite books with students. The librarian also led a fun story session with some children who visited from Little Oaks nursery. Some student library helpers have also been working hard to help weed and shelf resources, so a big thank you to them!

Please download your World Book Day token [here](#). It can be used until 26 March 2023.

You can also enter the design a book token competition [here](#). The closing date for entries is 2 April 2023.





Reading FC Grassroots

You have been invited to Reading Football Club's 4th and final Schools and Grassroots Fixture of 2022-23!

When?

Reading vs Burnley
Saturday 15 April, 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 4th and final 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 Stand. 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 15 April 2023!