

Celebrating Denefield Friday 24 March 2023





Along with final preparations for the French visit to Normandy next week, this week saw the long awaited and much anticipated school show 'Bugsy Malone.' And what a show it was. The quality of singing, dancing and acting, from a cast of 30 students drawn from Years 7 to 11, was simply fantastic. There were many, many standout moments – the sublime solos sung by Mollie in Year 10 and Megan in Year 11, Lucas's (Year 8) dazzling suit and equally dazzling solo, Rosie's (Year 10) or Elise's (Year 11) command of the stage as Bugsy Malone and Fat Sam respectively, or Darcey's (Year 8) extraordinary combination of pretending to die in one scene and pretending to box in another. The cast were supported by a live band that included Daisy (Year 12) playing both flute and saxophone (not simultaneously); Daisy was recently awarded a Distinction in her Diploma in flute by ABRSM – the highest award that can be given, and that only comes after the best part of a decade of learning and practising an instrument. The show showcased the talents not only of students, but also of our dedicated staff. My thanks go to Mr Shaw (director), Mrs Shaw (choreographer), Mrs Idowu (musical director), Mrs Lotter (stage design), and Mrs Williams (piano).



A reminder that we have Year 8 online parents' evening next week, and then the school closes at 12.40pm on Friday 31 March for the Easter holiday.

With best wishes for a good weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher



Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

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 12.40pm

Monday 17 April 2023

Students return to school 9.28am for 9.30am start



Student success

Well done to Ben T in Year 9 who has been progressing very well with his Clay Pidgeon Shooting.

On 15 March, Ben competed in the Schools Challenge which takes place annually in Oxford, where a number of schools are represented. Ben scored well against stiff competition. Well done Ben!



Student assembly

On Wednesday, we held an assembly on Teams where two of our students, Tanzika (Year 11) and Momina (Year 12), shared their experiences of Ramadan.

We decided to share our personal experiences in Ramadan and the Islamic perspective behind it because many people don't know about it. Furthermore, everyone has a very narrow opinion about it, whereas it is so much more than that. It's the community building, it's the build up of joy and it is the mental achievement you feel from it. We touched on how Ramadan is not only fasting but a time of connection to yourself and your religion. And many non-muslims will look over this and focus on the burdens of fasting despite the abundance of blessings - islamically and personally. We hope that muslims in this school feel much more represented after this, and feel a sense of pride in themselves. We look forward to doing this more often. Ramadan Mubarak!





Year 11 Prom

As we enter the 'business end' of the school year for many Year 11 students, thoughts turn to the hard work of revision for their upcoming GCSEs but also of the excitement that our annual prom brings.

A reminder to all Year 11 parents/carers that this year's prom takes place at Trunkwell House on 27 June 2023. Tickets will go on sale shortly so if your child would like to attend please ensure that you follow payment instructions which will be provided soon.

We are currently in the midst of a fundraising push to support the prom. Mrs Hill with the aid of some amazing Year 11 students from each of our four houses have been attending assemblies and tutor groups to promote our Easter hampers.

Students can win one of the two hampers through purchasing a raffle ticket from our Year 11 helpers over the course of the next week. Raffle tickets cost 50p a strip. We would be very grateful for any support you and our students can give. The lucky winners will be announced in the end of term celebration assembly





Art

This week's update is from our Art department

It's exam time in the art department and students in Year 11 and Year 13 have been working very hard to complete their component 2 portfolio work in GCSE Fine Art, GCSE Art Craft and Design, A Level Fine Art and A level Photography, in preparation for their exams. The exam dates are 22 and 24 March for the GCSE art & design subjects, 25, 26 and 27 April for A Level Photography, and 2, 3 and 4 May for A Level Fine Art. Students have been working very hard on this work, and we are expecting a successful series of exams.



Year 7 are currently working on their Indian Fighting Kites project, which focuses on pattern, and teaches students colour theory and painting technique. Students are just beginning to draw out their kites after a period of research work, during which they explored the art and design of India. Year 8 have been working on a portrait project and have produced some wonderful semi-abstract monochrome portraits





Year 9 have been working on their Pop Art Food project. During the project students have researched the art of artists such as Sarah Graham, Claes Oldenburg, and Andy Warhol, and have produced Pop Art prints, and Ceramic outcomes on the theme of food. Students in Year 9 have also recently chosen their options GCSE, and we are very pleased that so many of our 'art superstars' in Year 9 have decided to carry on their creative education in the art department by studying GCSE Fine Art.



Year 10 and Year 12 are currently developing their own themes. Year 10 work is based on the starting point of 'Manufactured or Natural Forms'. For this, students are developing many wonderful and creative ideas, and we now have projects based on many varied themes such as 1970's Rally Cars, Jelly Fish, Human Anatomy, and the films of the Japanese animation company Studio Ghibli.





Year 12 in both Fine Art and Photography, following a number of exercises designed to develop technique, students are also working on their own personal ideas including projects on architectural towers, knitted masks, and digitally drawn interiors.



One member of the Art team has been particularly busy lately. As you will be aware, our fantastic Drama department have put on an excellent production of 'Bugsy Malone' this week. Our technician Mrs Lotter has single handedly produced a fantastic set, as well as numerous props for the production, from 'splurge guns' and 1920's telephones to Gangster suits and flapper dresses. Well done Mrs Lotter for all your creativity and hard work on this year's production. Also well done to our Creative Faculty colleagues in Drama and Music, Mr and Mrs Shaw, Mrs Idowu and Miss Nicholl. You are all so Denefield! Please keep a look out next week for more pictures of the show on the school website!





The Wellbeing Hub

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



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week, March 20th ...

March's Theme: Sibling Relationships



- Webinar: Wednesday 22nd March 6:30pm on Navigating the Complicated World of Sibling Relationships with Dr Tamara Scully, Clinical Psychologist & Expert in The Wellbeing Hub.

Please note that a recording of the webinar will be available to watch within the Resources Page for 2-weeks after it takes place.

Protecting children online

Please [click here](#) for a powerful FT drama starring Jodie Whittaker (Dr Who), Paul Ready (Motherland), Shaniqua Okwok (It's a Sin), that looks at online harm, regulation and responsibility. The search for their missing son leads a mother and father to a tech company, and a digital gatekeeper who seems to have all the answers.



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				