

Celebrating Denefield Friday 31 March 2023





As we enter the Easter holidays, I want to reflect upon the great successes that Denefield students have enjoyed over the past six weeks, as well as say goodbye to a teaching colleague who is taking up a promoted post at another school.

It has certainly been a busy and fulfilling term. The bulk of students' time, of course, has been spent learning new things in lessons, and in the case of Year 11 and Year 13, preparing for the qualifications that will open future doors to further education, apprenticeships and careers. This week, Mrs Davis and Mrs McHugh congratulated approximately 50 students in Year 11 who are doing particularly well – in some cases those who have gained particularly high grades in their PPE or mock examinations, and in other cases students who are exceeding their targets and who have made the greatest progress since they joined us in



Year 7. In addition, a great many students have been focused on sporting and extra-curricular activities. Particular congratulations must go to our Under 16 boys' football team, who last week beat Maiden Erlegh 5-1 and as a result came top of the U16s boys conference league. Our Greenpower electric racing car racing teams have been busily preparing for the new race season, building, testing and prepping the two cars they will race in April. Our Duke of Edinburgh students are focusing on their volunteering, skills and physical activities, ahead of the expeditions which take place in the summer term. Our mock trial team, consisting largely of lower school students supported by Harriet in Year 12, developed teamwork and articulatory skills before coming a very creditable third out of eight in the recent Reading-wide mock trial competition. And finally, there has been the exquisite school show 'Bugsy Malone', admirably described by Mr Shaw later in the newsletter. Please do check out the photographs of this extremely professional and moving event.

The end of the term is traditionally the time we say goodbye to colleagues moving on to pastures new. This term we have just one colleague leaving us, Mr Lean. Mr Lean has been an exceptional colleague during his time at Denefield. He holds his Science classes in rapt attention, has made a major contribution to sporting prowess and fixtures, has been a mainstay on school residential visits, and has been hugely important as deputy head of Sulham house. Mr Lean leaves us to take up a promoted post at another school. He will be replaced by Miss Rebecca Eckles, an experienced and first-rate Science teacher. Miss Eckles joins us in September, and so we have had to make some changes to the science timetable from Easter onwards – I apologise if this means your child has a different teacher as a result. Miss Upston, an experienced pastoral leader, takes up Mr Lean's position as deputy head of Sulham house.

It remains for me to thank you for your support for Denefield, and to wish you a very happy Easter holiday.

With best wishes

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher

Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023	
Monday 17 April 2023	Students return to school 9.28am for 9.30am start
Thursday 20 April 2023	CHARACTER awards 7.00pm in Sports Hall
Monday 1 May 2023	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 May 2023	Year 8 Immunisations
Monday 8 May 2023	Bank Holiday



Bugsy Malone

I am writing this review whilst the silly string is still drying and the audience are wiping the tears of joy (and more silly string) out of their eyes. Wow! What a show?! The whole cast and crew have shown us all what dedication is all about and what the fruits of hard work can be.

Rehearsals began many months ago and but the intensity was ramped up to a zillion percent within the closing weeks. All day rehearsals? In your own free time? On a weekend? In your holidays? What kind of craziness is this?? Well that's show business!

Many, many thanks to all those who had to make individual sacrifices for the good of the 'The Show'. I know birthday celebrations were postponed, matches missed, family gatherings swerved to name but a few.

I could begin to sound like I am biased of course, but believe me that this kind of experience is so valuable for the students as they learn to work, interact, collaborate, sing, dance, act and perform together, forming new levels of self-confidence and camaraderie, difficult to emulate anywhere else. Not only essential in the development of the young mind but also...wait for it....FUN!

In all theatre reviews, individual performers will be picked out for their merits but I will intentionally not name anyone personally as I would not like to give the impression that others do not need the accolade. I think it is fair to say that everyone had to 'dig-deep' and face some fears as standing up in front of large audiences is not a natural instinct. I have seen each member of the cast and crew need to assess and edit their own work so often in order to offer the audience their very best. The energy exuded on stage was almost tangible – the songs, the dances, the comic timing, the physical slapstick comedy combined with the seamless technical support for the light and sound crew, who need to remain very cool under pressure and are often under-appreciated.

Congratulations to all involved and if you didn't get involved or into the audience this time – there is always next year – where, all being well, we'll do this all again.





More photos of the show can be found [here](#) on the school website



Film Studies

This week's update is from our Film Studies department

FILM STUDIES!



Since our last newsletter page, we have seen the students continue to excel in their studies across GCSE and A-Level.

Congratulations to all of Year 13 who have now finished their coursework and are focusing on their upcoming exams – Mr. Neale is exceptionally proud of you all!

The Year 12 class are now in the grip of filming, editing and putting together their films for coursework! Not to mention hard at work on exam content with Miss Meyer and Mrs Tarrant!

Mr Neale is excited to look past the Easter break where the Year 10 GCSE class also start their own coursework!

COURSEWORK EDITOR – DAVINCI RESOLVE!



Our Year 12 students have been the first to experience a brand-new, industry standard editing software – allowing for professional looking films on completion!

If you would like to try it for yourself, there is a free version that can be downloaded at home!



MR NEALE'S FILM GUIDE!

As we approach the Summer term; whether you are partway through your own studies of Film, looking to Film as an option in Year 10 or are a parent/carer of someone taking Film... feel free to watch some of my below recommendations. These demonstrate fantastic examples of cinematography, editing, representation, culture and story!

The examples are selected from genres that we study on the course!

Hollywood Modern:

THG-Catching Fire
(Lawrence, 2013)



Hollywood Classic:

The Birds (Hitchcock, 1963)



Documentary: 102

Minutes that changed America
(Rittenmeyer, 2008)



Global Film

(English Language):

District 9
(Blomkamp, 2009)



Global Film (Non-English language):

Pan's Labyrinth
(del Toro, 2006)



The Wellbeing Hub



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week, March 27th ...

March's Theme: Sibling Relationships



Head to the Resources Page to catch up on our Webinar: Navigating the Complicated World of Sibling Relationships with Dr Tamara Scully, Clinical Psychologist & Expert in The Wellbeing Hub, this recording will be available for 1 more week.

For advice on How to help young people cope with Bereavement. Head to our Top Tips page.



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this week, April 3rd ...

April: Diversity & Inclusion

Blog on the Power of Kindness by Alicia Drummond, Therapist & Founder of The Wellbeing Hub, found in the Resources section.

Head to the Self Care section of The Wellbeing Hub and the A-Z of Wellbeing and see if Kindness could become a part of your recipe for wellbeing - 5 things to try.



Primary School Easter Egg Challenge

This week, 140 primary children from Long lane, Purley, Downsway and Westwood Farm primary schools arrived at Denefield over three days to take part in an exciting Easter extravaganza. The event was organised by Mrs Shaw and her troupe of 60 student ambassadors who had created a map of subject-themed Easter fun.

The ambassadors were hidden around the school for the children to find -an orienteering event in itself - and had the chance to complete a variety of fun tasks from charades to bench ball. The (laminated) Easter egg hunt was on!! Each one also hidden around the school site revealing a secret anagram before heading back to the community room for refreshments and prize giving. "More fun than a real egg hunt!" Said excited young uns

Thanks to Mrs Shaw and in turn she says thanks all our amazing students who have planned and taken part in the event- you were fabulous!





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				



Bracknell Rugby Club



13 TH APRIL 2023 GIRLS Y5 TO YEAR 12 FUN RUGBY BASED SESSION 3 TO 5PM

Play, Run, Fun, Rugby & Friends

Bring & Friend

We welcome your Daughter to come play rugby based games and challenges over the course of the afternoon and you don't need to have any prior rugby experience to join in.



Email : girls@bracknellrugbyclub.com

**Bracknell Rugby club
Girls Rugby**

Lilly Hill RG12 2UG

**Come a try rugby &
meet the girls**

**We train on
Wednesday and play
on Sundays**

**Enjoy playing and
making lifelong
friends**

Girls rugby is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK and we are growing the girls and ladies' games @ Bracknell. We will have U12, U14, U16 & U18s girl's sides as well as our Ladies team.

We have some fantastic girls and coaches and we are growing and would love you to be a part of the team



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. If these areas sell out, please contact our Ticket Office for further availability. Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off.

Coupon Code 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 either offer, please email sales@readingfc.co.uk or call 0118 968 1313.