

# Celebrating Denefield Friday 23 June 2023





It has been a really emotional week at Denefield, as we said goodbye to our fantastic Year 11 students. Of course, many will return to Denefield for the Sixth Form, but finishing GCSEs and Year 11 is still a very important rite of passage. The school marked the occasion with a special leavers' breakfast and assembly, complete with awards and an outstanding leavers' video created by Mr Neale. After this, our Year 11 students were given a special guard of honour by lower school students, with thunderous applause greeting them as they left the site. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to have known our Year 11 students. They are an incredibly kind, hard-working and fun year group, with a great sense of humour and determination to succeed. I look forward to seeing them again on GCSE results day – I am certain they will have done very well indeed.



I would also like to thank all our Sports Ambassadors who helped with Westwood Farm's sports day this week. I know our students really enjoyed the experience and benefited from the leadership opportunities they were given, and I am delighted they were able to give something back to younger students. We had lovely feedback from Westwood Farm, who said *I just wanted to send a quick email to say a huge thank you to all of the staff and students who were involved with supporting our sports day yesterday. They were so well organised and knew exactly what they were doing. They were so encouraging and supportive towards our children and showed themselves to be very good role models. I hope they enjoyed the experience as much as we did. Thank you once again and we look forward to getting a date in the diary for next year!*

A reminder that Monday 26 June is an INSET day. I look forward to seeing all students back in school on Tuesday.

With best wishes for a pleasant weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher



## Diary dates – academic year 2022 – 2023

Monday 15 May 2023 to Thursday 29 June 2023	GCSE and A-Level examinations
Monday 26 June 2023	INSET day
Tuesday 27 June 2023	Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 27 June 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023	Year 12 PPEs
Tuesday 27 June 2023 to Thursday 29 June 2023	Year 6 transition days
Thursday 29 June 2023	Into Year 12 Induction 8.30am to 3.30pm
Thursday 29 June 2023	Da Vinci Awards 6.00pm
Friday 30 June 2023	Year 13 leavers assembly
Monday 3 July 2023	Sixth Form summer ball
Thursday 20 July 2023	End of term for students



## DofE Bronze Award



### Duke of Edinburgh's Award Year 11 Bronze



On the 20 April at our Character Awards, 24 of our Year 11 students received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Certificate and Badges. Having started the award at the beginning of Year 9, it was real significant achievement.

***Congratulations go to the following students.***

Maria A	Caitlin B	Monica D	Ayah E
Lauren F	Elsie F	Mollie H	Finley H
Sasha H	Bethany L	Evelyn L	Lola M
Lucy M	Theodore M	Abigail R	Gianluca S
James S	Kemianna S	Lily S	Kayla S
Libby T	Leah W	Siena W	Fleur W

### Year 9 – Training

Back in January we launched the DofE for Year 9 and we have 36 signed up to complete their bronze this year. On Thursday 24 June there was an afternoon of training where students were given the basic First Aid training and what to put in their rucksacks. They also planned their routes and practiced cooking a meal. The next day they met at Goring station to put their map reading skills into practice and spent six hours learning how to navigate. They returned via Combe Field East and had great views of the River Thames





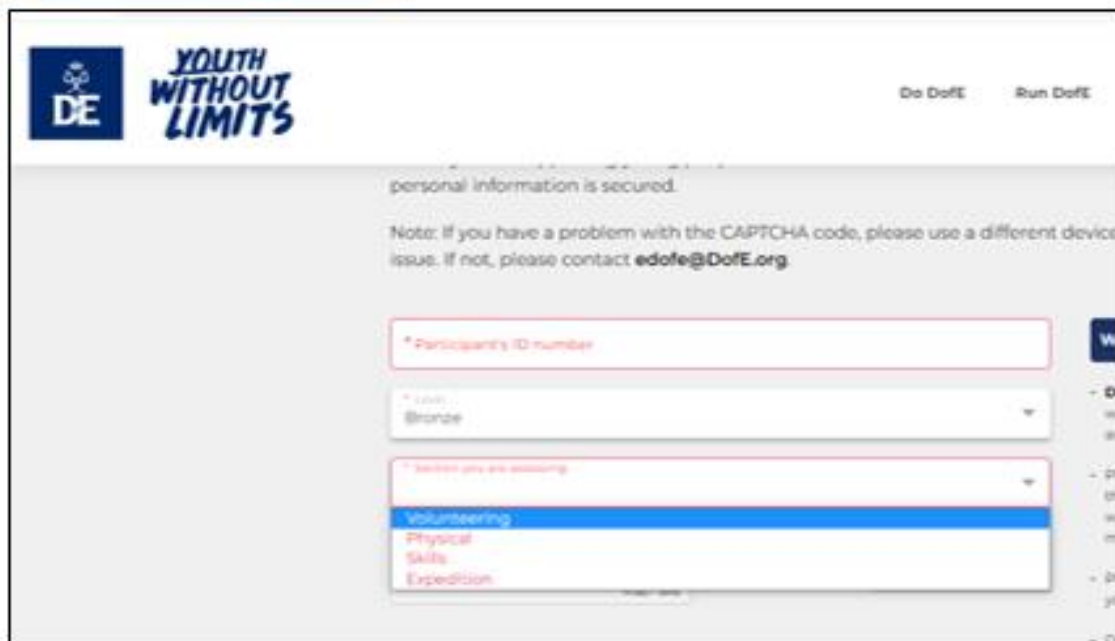
On the 8 and 9 June the groups set off to complete their Bronze Expedition walking from Denefield School to Rushall Park Farm on Day 1 and from Rushall Farm to finish at The Rowbargate Pub near Midgham on Day 2. The teams had very hot weather for their expedition but coped well with the conditions. Despite a few navigational issues the teams worked well together and arrived in good time at the checkpoints. They were very well organised packing up in the morning and planning their food for the evening. They had various meals between them including pasta with tomato sauce, carbonara and curry and one group of girls had smores. The groups really enjoyed spending time with their friends and discovering more about the area near where they live. I think they would have all preferred a much cooler expedition.





The other sections must now be completed. These are skills, physical and volunteering. The only way these can be signed off is by sending the assessor the following link with your ID number. If you do not know what this is then please see Miss Yates.

<https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>



## Year 10 Bronze Update - Expedition

Our 34, Year 10 students are due to take part in their Expedition on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 of June. They will follow the same route with an overnight camp at Rushall Farm. It is of upmost importance that they sign off their three other sections as above so they can be presented with their award at a Presentation Evening on Monday 17 July.

Any Questions Email – [rya@denefield.org.uk](mailto:rya@denefield.org.uk)







## Student success

The English Department would like to congratulate Nathan M from Year 9 on winning the Spelling Bee finals for Kentwood House with the word 'necessary'. Nathan showed great articulacy and recall with his performance and has done himself, his House, and Mr Raw's form proud. Runners up Lily B, James M and Alfie P also produced stellar performances and did exceptionally well to reach the final.





## MFL

This week's update is from our MFL department

### Spanish play

In May Year 8 were treated to a play in Spanish by the fabulous Onatti Company, who came into school for the afternoon. For 50 minutes we were entertained by some excellent acting and a very funny storyline. This marks the third foreign language play that Denefield has hosted this year and we hope to host more next year.



This is a play about identity. Fernando is a teenager looking for his own identity. He has started College and is worried about not being unable to make new friends.

Helped by several mysterious new acquaintance, he tries out many different personalities. Sadly, all attempts to reinvent himself end up just frustrating him - but greatly amusing his fellow students!

A superbly funny play about teenage identity.

### Having more fun with languages

Students often ask us what they can do to enhance their learning of a language outside of lessons, in this age of modern technology there are lots of opportunities to be learning more without it seeming like a chore.

Two really easy additional ways to boost your learning are:

Do a search for radio stations in a country where your chosen language is spoken, and use their website or your smart speaker to listen, you'll be amazed at how quickly you start to understand the chatter.

When watching your favourite TV streaming service, go to the audio settings and switch to the language of your choice, you could add subtitles in English to help you get started. This works really well if you re-watch something that you have already seen in English. Look out for shows which replicate shows that are popular in the UK, for example the French version of Bake-Off, which is called *Le Meilleur Pâtissier*.

For those who prefer a more interactive approach to learning, here are our top recommendations for free websites or apps that fun and easy to use:



<https://lyricstraining.com/>

Have fun listening to music and to identifying words from the lyrics with gap-filling activities.



<https://www.blooket.com/>

Requires you to create a login but is free to use. Use the easy search function to find vocabulary games to help you learn for the topics you are studying in class or something new!



<https://quizlet.com/>

Try the vocab matching quizzes, create a free login for more enhanced access, easy to use search function.



<https://www.studystack.com/>

Can be used to create your own flashcards including computer-generated sound for help with pronunciation. Perfect for vocab learning!



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## Challenge yourself

When learning a language, it is essential to invest time outside the classroom practising the target language. This can be done watching videos in YouTube, reading a short story or developing your vocabulary with a language App such as Duolingo. To encourage students to have fun learning a language while expanding their vocabulary, we're launching the Summer Duolingo Challenge on 9 June.

To take part in this, students have to create an account – if they didn't have one already. They have to choose one of the modern foreign languages they study at Denefield. Then, they have to take a photo of the points they had on the 9 June and complete as many tasks as they can during the following month. The challenge deadline is on the 9 July, when students will have to send a photo of the total points they achieve by that time. They will need to send the photos to [gfo@denefield.org.uk](mailto:gfo@denefield.org.uk)

We hope all students enjoy this challenge and excel in learning a modern foreign language. Good luck to everyone! Viel Glück! Bonne chance! ¡Buena suerte!



One of our lovely Year 10 students, Ellen, is learning Korean via Duo Lingo:

'I started learning Korean in October of 2022 on Duolingo because it was one of the easiest way to learn Korean. I started to learn Korean because I got selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in August 2023. The jamboree is hosted in Seoul in South Korea and it will last for 3 weeks. The main reason I started to learn Korean is because it is very useful to know the native language of a country especially as we get to spend a week in Seoul as part of our jamboree experience.'

What could you achieve?

Learning languages in the Sixth Form and at Languages Club

A photo of the A301 White board, written by the members of the Learn a New Language club, using the languages they know between them







## What is it like learning a language in Sixth Form?

'I have always loved and been so interested in German, since I began in Year 7 so it was always an option to carry it on in both GCSE and A level. Currently, in A level, it is difficult – I will not lie – but with the teachers being really supportive, I have been able to ease myself into it. The classes are small and with that you get more one-to-one time with the teachers which make for a better learning experience. It is an amazing opportunity you won't want to miss, that I will recommend to everyone'. Evie, Year 12

'Taking a language for A Level was a great choice for me. In A Level you not only do the typical language learning but you also get to study a film and a book. Which personally I find refreshingly different and it's my favourite part of the course. I find having a small of class of people who also like the subject and who want to learn quite helpful, it keeps me focused. With the support from my peers and the kind teachers, I find even the most challenging topics fun. Overall, I would strongly recommend taking a language to anyone'. David, Year 12

'My name is Judith and I currently study German at A Level, having studied German and French at GCSE. I really enjoy speaking to people in their native language. I think English speakers do have an advantage, in that our language is widely spoken, but I want to show my respect for other nationalities by putting the effort in to learn their language. Also, learning a language opens up opportunities; in the careers field but also with Netflix options! I am really hoping to go on to university and do a joint honours degree in German and French'. Judith, Year 12

'Doing a language in Sixth Form is an amazing experience because we learn about lots of different topics in so much detail and get to know the context of them in the country of origin. We also get to create a project on an aspect of this country, which means we can research and write about real life subjects we enjoy, whilst developing deeper skills and knowledge of the language. Studying films and books also makes the course even more interesting and gives us a variety of ways through which we learn the language – not just from a textbook'. Frankie, Year 12

'Having thoroughly enjoyed studying both Spanish and German at GCSE level, there was no doubt that I would continue my language studies at A level. Not only is the curriculum very engaging, but it provides both a challenging and rewarding experience for us students who study languages. The course prepares us with vital language skills to take with us for any future employment either abroad, or at home; ultimately benefitting not only personal cultural understanding but also pay-checks in job opportunities!' Alex, Year 12

## What are former students up to?

In our last MFL report, we featured articles from some of our Denefield MFL students who are studying languages at university. Here we have another report, this time catching up with Ruby, who studies at the University of East Anglia:

Hello! I am in my second-year of studying International Development with an Overseas Placement at the University of East Anglia. I studied German at A Level, and I am currently taking a French module alongside my studies, which I plan to continue with in my final year.

My degree combines economics, politics and anthropology and is not really associated with languages. However, the experience of learning a language left me with many skills useful for university, such as self-discipline, memorisation and finding ways to enjoy learning, even when it gets hard. Universities often offer languages as either a partner degree (e.g., Business with French) or as individual modules to take for a semester, which is another great way to continue your language studies. I would really recommend this, as it can add so much variation to your degree and experience at uni. This also comes with opportunities to study or complete work placements abroad! It may be different for other unis, but UEA is



really good for financial assistance and bursaries when it comes to opportunities like this. It is definitely challenging, but learning a language can be really satisfying and allows you to communicate with so many new people.

In the summer, I am set to complete a work placement in Ghana with a Ghanaian-German organisation focusing on digital education. The co-founder and a lot of the interns are German, and they showed an interest in my A Level during the interview. This shows how useful taking a language can be, even if you do not plan to study it beyond A Level!



## Trips and Visits

One of the best things about studying a language is the trips....

### Normandy 2023:

At the end of March, some of our Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 French students went on a visit to Criel-sur-Mer, Normandy for a week. This was the first trip out of the UK since COVID and the excitement was palpable among students and staff alike. We set off very early on Monday morning in our coach, mostly sleepy but buzzing with anticipation. The coach journey was smooth, (we even had time to stop for a quick break!) and we arrived at Dover's port with plenty of time to spare before boarding our ferry. The students enjoyed going through customs and getting their passports stamped upon entering the EU! After a pleasant sea crossing and another uneventful coach ride, we arrived at our chateau, our home for the week.

We unpacked and had dinner, and then we went straight into some French speaking activities and played some games outside. Our *animateur* organized a treasure hunt at the chateau, which gave our students the opportunity to explore the beautiful grounds and to learn new French words as they were trying to solve the riddles.

On Tuesday morning, we met our *animateur* bright and early and played some sports in the sports hall. All student and teachers displayed their excellent handball and football skills, in a friendly yet competitive morning of fun.

In the afternoon, we set off to Criel-sur-Mer, where we had the opportunity to get on the funicular and see the stunning cliffs and surrounding landscape. Our *animateur* explained when and how it was built and gave the children opportunities to ask questions. In the evening, we all took part in a French lesson and filled our trip diaries, before going to bed for a well-deserved rest.

On Wednesday morning, we left the chateau promptly to go to Boulogne-sur-Mer, where we visited the market and where the children had the chance to buy some souvenirs and other items in French from the local vendors. We then walked along the harbour to Nausicaa, the biggest aquarium in Europe, where they students learnt more about marine life and practised their language skills by ordering ice cream at the café!

Once we returned to the chateau, we enjoyed our evening activity, which was a talent show. All students took part, and a range of incredible talents was shown: from French joke telling, to poem reading, to impressions and football skills.

Thursday was a very exciting day as we made bread with our competent *animateur*, and learned a traditional French recipe. In the afternoon, we headed to Rouen to visit the Cathedral and the town centre. We also enjoyed some time at the Art museum, where we were able to see the work from a range of famous artists including Monet, Renoir and Delacroix.

On the way back lots of games and some diary filling took place, leaving us ready for a hearty meal and our evening entertainment, which consisted of a team quiz in French. The students participated enthusiastically and demonstrated some fabulous rope-jumping skills, amongst other abilities.





On Friday morning, we were all very sad to be leaving again, and after a traditional French breakfast, we got on the coach and started our journey back to England. We stopped in Calais for a quick trip to Carrefour, where we stocked up on French goodies, and then we made our way to the ferry.

The journey back was not as peaceful as our previous one, but it definitely felt more like an adventure, and it gave us all a chance to rest before the final part of the journey.

We arrived at Denefield around 8pm, tired but happy, with lots of brand new memories, having made new friends and having spoken lots of French throughout the week. It was an incredible experience for everyone involved and it left us all wanting to go on another trip soon!



## Koln 2023

In October 36 intrepid Year 10 and Year 11 students will be heading off to Cologne in Germany for a week of German inspired action. In addition to visiting a chocolate museum, doing a river cruise and taking in the views from a chair lift students will have lots of opportunities to practice their German, having to find their way around, conduct surveys and solve locally based puzzles and trails. Watch out Germany – here we come!







## The Wellbeing Hub



Coming Up in The Wellbeing Hub this Week, June 26th ...

### June's Theme: **Hormones**

Blog: Sleep and its effects on the hormones that regulate your child's growth and development by Dr Catherine Whitlock, Science Writer and Author

Share our checklist of Sleep-Promoting Behaviours in our Resources Section of The Wellbeing Hub with your child.

Use the search bar and type 'sleep' and you will have access to 95 available resources on the subject of Sleep.

## 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
<b>Monday</b>				
Learn a language		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A301	All
Ukulele club		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M117	All
<b>Tuesday</b>				
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
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Enterprise		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A304	All
Fashion		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M106	All
Knitting		12.20pm to 1.00pm	M111	All
<b>Thursday</b>				
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
Gardening		12.20pm to 1.00pm		All
<b>Friday</b>				
Chess Club		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A204	All
Feminism Club		12.20pm to 1.00pm	A201	All

After School		When	Room	Years
<b>Monday</b>				
Manga		3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
<b>Tuesday</b>				
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
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Warhammer		3.00pm to 4.00pm	Library	All
<b>Thursday</b>				
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
<b>Friday</b>				
Aim high		3.00pm to 4.00pm	A203	All



## PE Extra-curricular

After School PE		When	Where	Years
Monday				
No PE clubs/activities				
Tuesday				
Cricket		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	All
Wednesday				
Athletics		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	All
Thursday				
Rounders		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Field	All
Friday				
No PE clubs/activities				



## Water safety

### ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Scan for more

## Drowning is Preventable

### Stay safe in the water this summer

#### Did you know?

- More than **300 people** accidentally drown in the UK and Ireland every year.
- Inland waterways, such as **rivers, lakes** and **canals**, are where most drownings happen.
- Alcohol and drugs are a factor in almost **one-third** of all UK accidental drownings.
- Anything **below 15°C** is defined as cold water. Average UK and Ireland sea temperatures are just 12°C. Rivers and canals can be colder.

#### Our Advice:

- If you are in trouble in cold water, remember '**Float to Live**'. Try not to panic. Float on your back for up to **90 seconds** until the shock passes, swim to the edge or call for help.
- If someone else is in trouble - **Call, Tell and Throw** - Call 999, tell the person to float on their back and throw something to help them float, like a throwline.

#### Safety around water:

- If you are thinking of entering the water, consider your **exit point** before you enter.
- 'Tombstoning' - **Do not jump into open water from bridges or ledges**. There may be hidden dangers beneath, such as sharp objects, reeds and strong currents which could pull you under.
- Avoid swimming alone. **Join a group** if taking part in sports such as paddle boarding or kayaking.
- Tell someone **where you are going** and when you are likely to return.
- Stay clear of the water's edge if you are running or walking. **Riverbanks and cliff edges can be unstable**. Keep an eye out for slip or trip hazards.
- Never enter the water to try and save someone or an animal, **even if you are a strong swimmer**. Call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service if you are inland. If you are at the beach or near the sea, ask for the Coastguard.



## West Berkshire Parent/carer forum

**contact** *For families with disabled children*



West Berkshire parent carer forum  
set up group  
WhatsApp group



### WEST BERKSHIRE PARENT CARER FORUM VIRTUAL DISCUSSION

Join us to find out more about the role of  
parent carer forums and the plans to  
establish a new local forum.

**Monday 19th June 18:00-19:00**  
**Friday 23rd June 10:30-11:30**  
**Monday 26th June 13:30-14:30**

To find out more or reserve a space email  
Ruth at [ruth@hobbbsconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:ruth@hobbbsconsultancy.co.uk)  
or scan the QR Code



## Swimming lessons



**MADDEN SWIM SCHOOL**

**Weekly Term Time Swimming Lessons  
& Intensive Holiday Courses**

- Monday, Thursday & Saturdays at  
Downe House School pool, Cold Ash, Thatcham
- Friday & Sundays at  
The Oratory School pool, Woodcote, Reading
- 6 children per class
- 25 meter swimming pools
- Beginners to deep end stroke improvers
- Children from age 3.5 to 16 years
- July 24-28<sup>th</sup> Intensive 5-day crash course, £65
- 12 weekly term-time lessons, £155

**Book now!**

**Julie@maddenswimschool.co.uk**  
**07788 427227**  
**www.maddenswimschool.co.uk**

