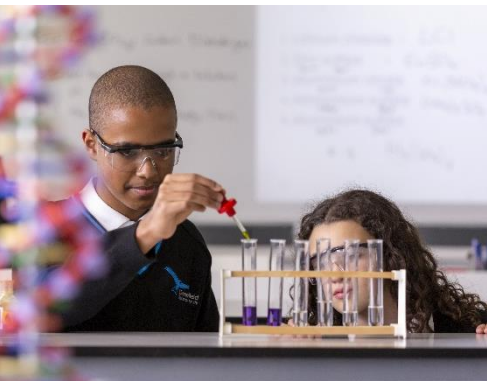


# Celebrating Denefield Friday 8 September 2023





Firstly a very warm welcome to Year 7 parents/carers, and to any others whose children have just joined Denefield. Secondly, a huge congratulations to last year's Year 11 and 13 students for their outstanding exam results in the summer. Denefield's GCSE results broke all school records, with each student gaining an average of nearly one grade higher in each subject than in 2019. We have always had a friendly rivalry with our neighbouring schools in Tilehurst, but Denefield's GCSE results this year put the school at or near the top of all schools in Reading and West Berkshire. Our students last year had excellent attendance and punctuality, worked hard in lessons and at home, and listened carefully to the advice that their teachers gave them. Many congratulations to each and everyone of them on their excellent achievements.



It has been a delight to see all students back in school. They are smart, and punctual, move around the school courteously and respectfully and are working hard in lessons – despite the warm weather. Our extra-curricular activities are already beginning, with a Greenpower racing event imminent and a Year 11 theatre trip to Blood Brothers taking place next week. The full extra-curricular programme will be published in due course, and we will be holding a launch event where all students can sign up to whichever club or activity they wish to participate in. You will see details of our PE clubs later in this newsletter which are starting next week.

Over the next term we will be changing the way we communicate with parents/carers. We are replacing MyEd with ClassCharts – a mobile app and website that gives parents/carers live access to all the important information on their child – attendance, punctuality, rewards, homework and, where relevant, sanctions. We will be establishing a more comprehensive social media presence, so parents/carers can see what is happening at the school and celebrate their child's successes more easily and quickly than at present. Every week I will be sharing a short videocast with parents/carers on how things work at Denefield and why we do what we do – the first one will be next week. And then every short term I will be holding a 'headteacher's open house' where parents/carers can meet me, share any ideas and discuss any concerns they may have. Once all this is up and running the newsletter will be issued less frequently – perhaps once a short term, or six times a year.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to new staff, or to staff who trained with Denefield and have now taken up teaching positions. They are:

Miss Leahy – Maths  
Miss Eckles – Science  
Miss Ivory-Castile – Science  
Mrs Walters – French and Business Studies  
Mr Taylor – History and Sociology  
Mrs Hall – Literacy Assistant  
Ms Rudin – Teaching Assistant  
Miss Swadling – Marketing & Communications  
Miss Sharp – First Aid  
Mrs Vickery – Admin  
Mrs Zaidi – Cover supervisor

We also have a changed pastoral team, with Mr Wright becoming Head of Kentwood and Ms Pavanel becoming Deputy Head of Kentwood, while Mrs Hallows becomes Acting Head of Norcot and Mr Mills becomes Acting Deputy Head of Norcot. Ms Plumpton remains Head of Sulham with Mrs Arias Martin as her deputy, and Mr Beard remains head of Langley with Mr Adango as his deputy.

These are all excellent appointments and I am wish all these staff every success and happiness at Denefield.

With best wishes for the weekend

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher



## Diary dates – academic year 2023 – 20234

Thursday 14 September 2023	School photos
Monday 18 September 2023	<p>Early closure for Students – Students finish at 12.50pm</p> <p>Open evening for prospective students and parents/carers 6.00pm to 8.00pm</p>
Friday 22 September 2023	INSET day
Monday 16 October to Friday 20 October 2023	Visit – Year 10/11 visit to Cologne (select students)
Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2023	Half term
Monday 30 October 2023	Students return to school

Please click [here](#) for Term Dates 2023-24

Please click [here](#) for the School Calendar



## Wellbeing hub



This Week (11th September) on The Wellbeing Hub  
This month's theme is: Anxiety

Blog on perfectionism by Dr Thomas Greenspon,  
Author of 'What to Do When Good Isn't Good Enough'

Don't forget to sign up for this month's webinar:  
Autism and Anxiety

Wednesday 27th September 6:30pm

With Dr. Luke Beardon, Senior Lecturer in Autism at Sheffield  
Hallam University

## Extra-curricular

We are currently working on our full extra-curricular activities for this year. Please keep a look out in the coming weeks for details of the clubs which will be on offer from October. In the meantime, here are our PE extra-curricular activities which are starting next week, week commencing 11 September.

Lunchtime PE		When	Years
Monday			
No PE clubs/activities			
Tuesday			
Girls Basketball		1.05pm to 1.30pm	All
Girls handball		1.05pm to 1.30pm	All
Spike-ball		1.05pm to 1.30pm	KS3
Handball		1.05pm to 1.30pm	KS3

After School PE		When	Years
Monday			
No PE clubs/activities			
Tuesday			
GCSE Badminton		3.15pm to 4.15pm	Years 10 and 11
Wednesday			
Girls Football		3.15pm to 4.15pm	All
Boys Handball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	All
Thursday			
Boys Basketball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	All
Friday			
Girls Basketball		3.15pm to 4.15pm	All

## Harrisons catering vacancy

Please see below for details of a vacancy with Denefield catering team

### Catering Assistant

Hours – 2 to 3.5 hours a day (Earliest start 11.00am – finish 2.30pm)

Term time only

Duties – serving food, till operation, general cleaning. Some food prep may be required.

Please contact the Catering Manager via email [denefield@harrisoncatering.co.uk](mailto:denefield@harrisoncatering.co.uk) or Philip Stockwell, Area Manager- [philip.stockwell@harrisoncatering.co.uk](mailto:philip.stockwell@harrisoncatering.co.uk)

## Home-Start West Berkshire

### Could you support a family in need? Volunteer for Home-Start West Berkshire

"What gives me the most satisfaction is the knowledge that supporting the family will have a positive impact. This is the most crucial stage to offer support as a preventative measure."

Home-Start Volunteer



**This exciting and rewarding voluntary activity requires energy, commitment, reliability, creativity and good organisational skills. Our volunteers support families in their own homes once a week. Full training is provided.**

### Training Course dates:

Introductory Session	About the Course (online)	Friday 29th September	10-11am
Session 1	The Role of a Home-Start Volunteer	Friday 6th October	9.30-12.30pm
Session 2	Values, Attitudes and Listening	Friday 13th October	9.30-12.30pm
Session 3	Supporting Parents and Meeting Children's Needs	Friday 3rd November	9.30-12.30pm
Session 4	Safeguarding and Confidentiality	Friday 10th November	9.30-12.30pm
Celebration Session	Bringing the Course to a Close	Friday 17th November	10.30-12.30pm

### Home-Start volunteers tell us...

"I am beginning to realise that my knowledge of just being a mum and all the training you are giving me should hopefully be enough to get me started."

"Parenting provides you with a wide range of skills and knowledge. Volunteering with Home-Start is an opportunity for you to share your parenting skills and experience with a family that really needs it".

For more information or an application pack, please contact our office on 01635 760310 or email [office@home-startwb.org.uk](mailto:office@home-startwb.org.uk)

## Indoor Bowls



# WHITEKNIGHTS INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

## FREE TASTER DAY

PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED



**SUNDAY 1ST  
OCTOBER FROM  
09:30AM**

**SUNDAY 8TH  
OCTOBER FROM  
14:30PM**

- ✓ Everyone Welcome
- ✓ No Experience Needed
- ✓ Junior Equipment Available
- ✓ Full Coaching Provided
- ✓ Other dates available

 **21 Beech Lane, Earley,  
Reading, RG6 5PT**

**Please bring clean, flat soled shoes or trainers on the day**

**TO BOOK CONTACT:**  
**0118 986 0759**

**More Information:** [www.whiteknightsibc.co.uk](http://www.whiteknightsibc.co.uk)  
[clubmanager@whiteknightsibc.co.uk](mailto:clubmanager@whiteknightsibc.co.uk)