

# Celebrating Denefield Friday 22 September 2023





Firstly, many apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter in your inbox. We will continue to send our newsletters out on a Friday for the time being. As our social media presence grows, we will issue a termly newsletter which brings together all the successes, events and excitement of Denefield over the previous 6-7 weeks. Watch this space!

I would like to say a big thank you to all parents/carers of Year 6 students who attended last Monday's Open Evening. I would also like to congratulate all Denefield students who helped out, including our three Year 7 students who spoke so eloquently alongside our Head Girl and Head Boy, the many Year 8 and Year 12 students who acted as warm and confident tour guides, and the large number of other students who helped out in subject areas and extra-curricular displays. Contributing in this way develops students' articulacy and social skills and makes a significant impact on the Denefield culture and community.



Finally, I would like to warmly invite interested parents/carers to Denefield's first Headteacher's Open House event, which will be held on Monday 9 October at 5.00pm in the school library. Parents/carers sometimes comment that they rarely get the opportunity to come into secondary schools, and don't have the chance to meet staff such as the Headteacher. This event is a great opportunity to hear about aspects of the school, to ask questions and to raise points or issues. At Monday's meeting we will be sharing our plans for reporting on student progress, as well as listening to parents'/carers' views and taking feedback. I will be attending alongside two of our trustees. Please do attend if you are interested – see further details and sign-up instructions below. These events will be held every short term, i.e. every 6-7 school weeks.

With best wishes

Mr E Towill MA (Oxon), Headteacher



**Monday 9 October 2023**  
**5.00pm to 6.00pm**

**Denefield invites you to our**

**HEADTEACHER**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

**Discuss, listen and learn.**  
**Denefield values parental partnership.**  
**We'd like to share our ideas with you and hear from you in return!**  
*Sign up is required, please follow the link provided.*

Please click [here](#) to sign up



Diary dates – academic year 2023 – 20234	
Monday 25 September to Friday 6 October 2023	Year 6 tours
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





## Greenpower

Over the last two weekends the Greenpower team have been in action at Castle Combe and Dunsford race tracks.

On Sunday 10 September they travelled to Dunsford the home of Top Gear . Denefield Racing car 2 had been modified by adding gearing this year made a good start. They set off with good speed and stayed in line with many of the rivals. Being the first time out for these changes meant that we were learning how much we could push the car. They managed to push the car harder in the second race and achieved place 22<sup>nd</sup> in class. Denefield Racing car 1 made a good start to race one but communication issues between the drivers meant that an unplanned pit stop meant that too much time was lost and they fell behind in the first race. In the second race after practicing pit changes at lunch Denefield Racing 1 worked really well as a team and pushed the car to their fastest distance and best position of the season. They finished 13<sup>th</sup> in class.

This weekend at Castle Combe saw the worst weather that the Greenpower team had driven in. Both races were hard to manage for both team with the rain making pit changes and driver changes difficult. The track was very slippery but all drivers drove well and stayed safe. These conditions were hard for both teams to manage. The races were completely different for both teams with Denefield Racing 2 having a great tactical race and conserving battery power well so that when other cars started to fail they rallied and pushed to their best result of the season. They finished 9<sup>th</sup> in class. Denefield Racing Car 1 had the opposite result in race one with pouring rain they struggled to keep with the pace of the race. In the second race they worked hard as a team and pulled together to finish 21<sup>st</sup> in class. A big shout and congratulation to Anike who although was involved in a crash in the warm up picked herself up and in the second race achieved one of the fastest lap times of the day.

We would also like to thank Mrs Davis for stepping in to support us during the two weekends and our volunteers , Mr Hayton, Mr Dixon, and finally Mr Wallbank. I would also like to thank all the parents that came to support even in the pouring rain.

Another mention needs to go to any of the companies that have donated over the last few months. Craven motor club and GS Property Developments thanks for your support.





## 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

## School show auditions

We are pleased to announce that this years school show is 'We will rock you'! If students are interested in auditioning, open audition sign up will take place on Tuesday 26 September between 3.00pm to 4.00pm in M109 and then solo auditions for lead roles will take place on Tuesday 3 October 2023 between 3.00pm and 4.45pm in M109.





## Class Charts

As we continue the success of the launch of ClassCharts, we are now ready to activate the behaviour and house points comments. This will mean that you are able to see more details regarding how your child/ren are doing. Having more information will help you to celebrate with your child/ren the many things they are getting right each day. It will also empower you, as parents/carers, to have more informed conversations if your child has received a behaviour point.




If you have yet to access your child/rens account/s, we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Over the coming months we will be transferring homework and eventually messaging to this platform, to further enhance our home/school communication. Look out for further updates!







## Bracknell Foodbank




The best way to stay up to date with our current list of needs is by downloading 'BankTheFood' app. We update this throughout the week with the products we are most in need of- and it can even send you a reminder as you approach the supermarket to pick up donations!



**BankTheFood**  
Help your local Foodbank:  
★★★★★



Follow the QR code to take you to the app:



## West Berkshire Museum



### Roman Family Fun Day

**Saturday 14 October 2023**  
**10am - 3pm | Drop-in | Free**

Learn about life in Roman Britain with the historical re-enactors from Butser IX Legion.

With hands on activities, demonstrations, crafts and a Roman-themed trail!

[www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on](http://www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on)

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West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AS  
T: 01635 519562 E: [museum@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:museum@westberks.gov.uk)



West Berkshire  
COUNCIL

## Ben Kinsella Trust

Please click [here](#) for the link to book onto the workshops

### Parents & Carers workshops

#### Exploitation, Gangs and Knife Crime Awareness

Parenting children and young adults is hard, sometimes it can be scary and overwhelming with news stories and social media influencing how safe we feel our children are and the risks they may face in today's climate.

Join our FREE workshop on **Tuesday 3rd October & Tuesday 10th October (7pm-9pm)** on zoom to learn more about what is regular teenager behaviour or what might be signs that a young person in your care is being groomed or exploited.

Sign up



### Parents & Carers

#### Exploitation, Gangs & Knife Crime Awareness

## West Berks Halloween Trail



**me** West Berkshire Mencap

# Halloween

## SPOOK-TACULAR

FOLLOW THE SPOOKY TRAIL FIND THE  
CLUES AND WIN PRIZES IF YOU DARE

FOOD + DRINKS + COSTUME CONTEST

£6 PER CHILD    £1 PER ADULT

ROOKWOOD HOUSE AND GARDENS, STOCKCROSS, RG20 8JX

**OCTOBER**  
**27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**  
FROM 11AM - 5PM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE  
FACE PAINTING  
BISCUIT DECORATING  
PUMPKIN TRAIL

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO  
WEST BERKSHIRE MENCAP

JB GROUND CARE LTD  
fences - landscapes - trees

STRUTT & PARKER  
BHP PARIBAS GROUP



## PlayStation Schools cup



The poster is dark blue with white and red text. It features the PlayStation logo and the England national football team crest in the top right corner. The main title 'PLAYSTATION SCHOOLS' CUP' is in large white letters, with '23/24 LAUNCHES' below it. A red headline reads 'THE PLAYSTATION SCHOOLS' CUP IS BACK!'. Below this, two paragraphs of white text describe the cup's purpose and the current year's activities. A photo of a young woman sitting on a beanbag and playing a game is in the bottom right corner.

**PlayStation**  
SCHOOLS' CUP

PS5 | 

# PLAYSTATION SCHOOLS' CUP

## 23/24 LAUNCHES

**THE PLAYSTATION  
SCHOOLS' CUP IS BACK!**

The PlayStation Schools' Cup is back to inspire another generation of pupils to push themselves to reach the next level.

This year, we have loads of ways for your school to get involved and inspire your students through the combination of football and gaming.

