

DENE MAGNA SCHOOL & SIXTH
FORM

DENE MAGNIFIER

December 2022

News from the headteacher

The sun is shining and Spring is in the air. As you can see, Dene Magna is buzzing with activity as Y11 and 13 begin their final exams and new senior students take on their roles. Please have a good look and celebrate the fantastic achievements of the students and staff in this edition. How can we be approaching the last half term of the year? Have a fantastic half term and thank you for your support of all that we do.

Points of interest

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Key Dates for Next Term

Students return to Week A on Monday 5th June

Thursday 8th June - First Y6 Induction Evening 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Wednesday 21st June - Sports Day

Friday 23rd June - Year 13 Leavers Prom

Monday 26th - Friday 30th June - Y6 Induction Week

Thursday 29th of June - Y6 Induction Parents Evening 5 pm

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th June - Timetable Suspension

Monday 10th - Friday 21st July - Timetable Rollover

Wednesday 12th July - KS3 Achievement Evening

Wednesday 19th July - KS4 Achievement Evening

Friday 21st July - Last day of Term!

**[Click here to see the Term Dates for both
2022 - 2023 and 2023 - 2024](#)**

Student Voice

Here you hear from our Head Boy and Head Girl...

Hello Everyone,

We are both delighted to be Head Girl and Head Boy. We really want to make a big difference this year and do as good a job as Macy and Kieran did. We want to thank them for what they did this year and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Year 11 students have started sitting their exams this term. We're sure they're all very stressed, but we are sure their hard work will pay off. We hope the rest of their exams go well and wish them luck. It's very strange to think this time next year how we and the rest of our year group will sit our exams. The time has flown by since year 7.

We were also introduced to the rest of the new senior students this week. They're all very excited about their roles, and we know they'll all do great in their roles this year. We will all meet soon to discuss moving forward from here.

Please don't be afraid to approach us at school; we're here for you anytime. We hope you all have a very relaxing half-term.

Alice & JJ

Spanish Play

On Friday 12th of May, I was lucky enough to watch a Spanish play performed by a theatre production company. It was great! They were very interactive with the crowd, and everyone watching laughed and smiled throughout the production. As the audience was Year 7 and 8, we did not understand everything; however, the two actors made sure to use many actions, so we could all follow along nicely. I am very grateful for being able to watch the performance—a special thank you to Friends of Dene Magna for funding this opportunity.

By Olivia Farbowski



Careers Information...

Firstly good luck to all the Year 11's and Year 13's in your exams! For those of you who may still need help and guidance around your next steps, please email me, and I can book in to see you.

Since March, we have successfully run two Business Breakfasts in the Sixth Form with both guest speakers: David Parry-Jones and Immy Smith (Alumni), talking openly and honestly about their time as a detective, including working on the murder squad and their time studying Psychology and Criminology at the University of Gloucestershire, respectively. Our next event is planned for the 24th of May, where our guest speaker, Tyler Adams (Alumni), will talk about his experience of undertaking a Degree Apprenticeship with the Royal Mail.

Following on from the success of the 'Inspiring the Forest' Careers Fair that Year 9's attended last November, Year 10's will all be attending the next event being held by the Forest Economic Partnership on 30th June. Each student will be given an opportunity to take part in an interactive demonstration and discussion with an employer from a number of different job sectors, with the aim to help identify the skills and knowledge needed to work in each of these sectors as well as find out about the hidden jobs that these sectors have to offer.

Work Experience for the Year 10's and 12's is well and truly underway. So that you know, any Year 10's that have yet to book their work experience prior to Timetable Suspension Week will need to attend 3 days of careers-related learning from the 5th-7th of July. All year 12's that still need to undertake their work experience must do so during Timetable suspension week.

I have recently added the latest Labour Market Information (LMI), specific to Gloucestershire, to the school website: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Labour+Market+Information+%28LMI%29&pid=699>

In light of some excellent feedback from employers about some of our students, I am awarding Work Experience Commendation Certificates. Please say a big well done to these three students if you see them. They have received glowing feedback following their placements.

Chloe Virgo
Tana Hughes
Thomas Partis

GCSE Berlin Trip...

From 30/03/2023 - 04/04/23, the year 10s taking GCSE History went to Berlin; it was an incredible experience. Here is a brief overview of what we got up to while abroad.

With a 02:00 start, we were already pretty weary, but the excitement of being abroad kept us awake as we piled onto the bus. After a 3-hour journey, we made it to the airport and successfully navigated security, then off to an area where we all dumped our bags and wandered the crowded airport to hunt for snacks.

Once on the plane, the excitement grew as we hurtled down the runway; we began to wonder what our time would be like in Berlin. Once in Germany, luggage safely deposited at our A&O Hostel, we went to see the iconic Berlin Wall Memorial and the famous graffiti showing Honecker and Breznev kissing. After a buffet breakfast, Day 2 started with a short train journey to meet a local guide who took us on a guided walking tour which was half a day, introducing us to many key Berlin landmarks (such as the Brandenburg Gate, the Bundestag, the Jewish Memorial and Hitler's Bunker) culminating in a close-up of Checkpoint Charlie. A very emotional start to our trip. We followed the walking tour with a visit to the Stasi Museum, where we learnt about the rise and fall of the Stasi. Overnight at the Hostel was quiet, with good opportunities to meet and speak with other guests from all over the world.

Day 3 involved more walking - this time without a local guide - to investigate the lifespan of the Berlin Wall. We saw a preserved area of 'no man's land', which really brought home to us what local residents had to face every day. In the afternoon, we spent some time in the Topography of Terror Museum to better understand how Nazi discrimination and persecution impacted Germany and how their policies brought them first power and then annihilation. Onwards to the Bundestag (complete with temporary building works) to learn about its destruction and rebuilding. Dinner back at the A&O involved an interesting German sausage which many of us found challenging.

We were not allowed to take photographs at the Jewish museum we visited on Day 4; there were too many sensitive items and topics. Our bags, coats and hats were temporarily confiscated too. The Checkpoint Charlie Museum was a very different in the afternoon; we learned that twelve children drowned in the river near the Wall because adults could not get close to them safely. The last museum of the day focused on the DDR, the old East Germany, and clearly showed us how two very different ways of life lived so close to each other. We went everywhere on either foot or by train, and we were very grateful for the railway system (although we had to be careful to stay together!).

An early start on our final day saw us packing our bags and moving them to the store room at the A&O whilst we travelled on foot to a local park to burn off some energy before our long journey home. Mr Harrington and Miss Adams seemed to enjoy the swings ...

Back on the couch, we couldn't believe it was almost over - our time away from home was jam-packed with new information and things to see. There were differences of opinion about the food on offer at our hostel, but nobody really went hungry. We arrived back in the UK and journeyed back to the forest of Dean via many road closures and diversions. We would change a few things about the trip, and we would all (probably) jump at the chance to go back to spend more time absorbing the atmosphere of a beautiful city with a heartbreaking past.

Overall the whole class had the time of a lifetime, and we learnt a lot about the history of Berlin and Germany. Everything we learnt in Berlin will help all students with our GCSE History course, and this trip left us with memories that will last a lifetime.

By Jess Farbowski (10D2) and Scarlett Hopewell-Kelly (10D2)

GCSE Berlin Trip Snaps...



Black Country Living Museum

Year 8 history students had a fantastic day visiting the Black Country Living Museum, where they could see and experience what they had been learning about Victorian Industrial Britain. Highlights of the day included a lesson in a Victorian school (where inevitably all of the teachers got into trouble!), delving into a dark coal mine to see what it would be like to mine the black gold that fuelled the Industrial Revolution, and speaking to 'residents' of the town who enlightened them with incredible knowledge of the area. We could enter houses and shops that have been painstakingly rebuilt precisely as they would have been during the Victorian era, eat delicious fish and chips, and fill up on traditional sweets from the confectioner. We really lucked out with the weather, and all students had an enjoyable and enlightening time, with many saying they would love to go back to see all the bits we didn't have time for! If anyone wants to visit this summer, we highly recommend it; details can be found at <https://bclm.com/>



Gardening club

We managed to move outside and started to plant the first few vegetables and herbs. We are looking forward to using these with Mrs Kitonga throughout the year. Our raised garden beds have come along, but we need more time to create all of our garden beds.

There will be a gardening session in half term, please let Mrs Cook know if you want to attend

May 31st, 12:30 to 14:30

A message to our Y11s

Our Year 11 students started their exams this term and finish next term. We know how hard they have worked to attend revision sessions after school and within half a term. We know your hard work will pay off! We are very proud of you, and just keep pushing on, and it will all be worth it in the end. Also, a thank you to all the members of staff who have put on a revision session.



Our Community Bookings Programme

A few clubs have finished over the winter, so we have availability on our mini Astro pitch in the evenings.

If you are interested in our facilities, please get in touch with Mr Beard at:
a.beard@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk



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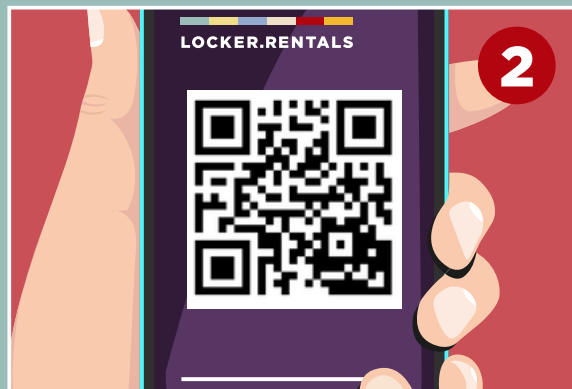
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Dowty House News

April brings about the start of the summer term, which certainly feels like a long time coming!

This time of year is one change for us in Dowty House, with Year 11 sitting their exams over the weeks and months ahead and therefore starting to relinquish their roles as Dowty senior students. I want to thank each and every one of our Year 11 senior students for their efforts and contribution to the house.

This has given the opportunity to our Year 10 Dowty students to put themselves forward for the roles for next year. We have had an incredible 24 students apply for roles across the House - including 6 students applying for Head Boy/Girl, which is a testament to the aspiration of our students. Following an excellent set of interviews, I am delighted to announce the senior students for the next academic year:

Senior Student List 2023/24

Head Girl: Alice Vale (Dowty)

Head Boy: JJ Horrobin (Wilson)

House Captains: Jess Farbowski, Jack Bishop

Vice House Captains: Harrison White, Keira Daugreilh

Head Mentors: George Suehr, Summer Burrows, Nuala Barcoe, Scarlett Hopewell-Kelly, Mae Watkins, Charles Suehr, Arthur Ross-Collins, Corah Barnard, Alex Groom

Sports Captains: Olly Cook, Jakson Thomas Phillips, Phoebe Mae Edwards, Bella Lloyd

Perfects: Chloe Woods, Amelia Linnane, Alfie Vile, Harry Woods, Connie Smith, Kacey Tilling, Brooke Murrell

Progress on Attendance

Attendance in Dowty House has always been something that we have strived to improve. This is undoubtedly on the up since Christmas, with Dowty's overall percentage now reaching 94% - making ground quickly on the other houses! Thanks for all of your efforts in terms of getting into school, and congratulations to those students who won vouchers for their attendance - more prizes and competitions are on the horizon!

Progress on Perfect Week

Students are awarded a perfect week if they have 100% attendance, no demerits and no latest. The house competition on this is a fairly close run now, with us making ground on the others. At the time of writing this, we sit in 3rd place, only 1% behind Wilson House which is the target for us by the end of this term!

Interhouse

Sports inter-house competitions mainly were completed before the Easter holidays but the boys events were seriously impacted by poor weather conditions and are yet to be completed. Despite this, seeing students giving their all for their house in fiercely competitive fixtures was brilliant. Well done to everyone for representing Dowty - epitomising our house motto 'Stronger Together'.

Best wishes

Mr Underwood

Stronger Together

Wilson House News

Another term done....albeit a very short one, we have just one term left to go! It is at this time of the year we wish the best of luck to our Year 11 students who this week have started their GCSEs. As we say farewell and good luck to our Year 11s, the Year 10 students started their interviews for senior student roles within Wilson House. Myself, Mrs Savagar and Mrs Hoare were blown away by the students enthusiasm and passion for Wilson House and the changes they would like to make! It is with great pride to announce our Senior Students for 2023/2024 :

House Captains

Olivia Cotterell and Tharsika Mylvaganam

Vice House Captains

Lily Christopher and Caitlin Hall

House Charity Reps

Scott Townsend	Lauren Kear
Rose Green	Levi Rahman
Sports Captains	Bailey Moore
Evie Peates	

Head Mentors

Cian Jeffery	Ruby Blackwell
Casey Wilkinson	Saskia Meek
Charlotte Weare	Olivia Hopkins
Eva Manton - Jones	

Perfect

Abbie Marshall-Andrews	Maria Shaporto
Jessica Kennedy	Archie Rossiter
Abi Jones	Thaurasan Mylvaganam
Sarah Ellis	Amy Kennedy
Courtney Phillips	Jaiden Gwiliam
Alexa Sprekelson	Tyler Baldwin

Well done to all of you who have secured Senior Student Roles, everybody in Wilson are really excited to work with you over the next year.

Recently one of our very own Wilson students has represented England U15s in Football. Macy Walby of 9W1 work's tirelessly training for Bristol City and still attending Dene Magna and was rewarded with her first international cap. We are so proud of Macy and everyone in Wilson knows that you will continue to achieve incredible things.

Inter – House Matches

Football, Handball and Netball house matches took place before half term, and I am pleased to share with you some of the amazing results we had!

	Girls	Boys
7W1	3rd	5th
8W1	5th	1st
8W2	1st	3rd
9W1	1st	5th
10W1	2nd	
10W2	5th	

This term we see Rounders and Softball interhouse and the elusive Sports Day!! A huge opportunity for us to gain some huge house points!!

Attendance

A huge congratulations to 8W1 who won the first round of our Attendance League and were rewarded with a pizza lunch!

The league has now restarted again and here is the table so far:

Team	PL	W	D	L	Pts	Position
10W1	2	2		0	10	1
9W1	2	1		1	6	2
10W2	2	1		1	6	2
8W2	2	1		1	6	2
8W1	1	1		0	5	5
7W1	2	0		2	2	6
11W1	1	0		1	1	7

We continue to work hard towards the attendance trophy and we currently sit in a disappointing 3rd place, but we are so close to Jenner now. Tutors and tutees are working super hard to ensure we all aim to be in school and doing our best. Pupils with no absence are 1.3 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above and 3.1 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above than pupils that missed 10-15% of all sessions.

This really highlights the importance of being in school, ready to learn and achieve your best.

Perfect Week

Our 'perfect week' challenge is based on 100% attendance, no negatives and no late marks. As a house, we are making great progress in this! Well done to all of you who contribute positively to this each week!

1st	Foley	0.6925
2nd	Wilson	0.6693
3rd	Dowty	0.6512
4th	Jenner	0.6510

Above and Beyond

Congratulations to the following students who are the highest above-and-beyond scorers in each tutor group:

7W1 – Iris Brady and Toby Hayward

8W1 – Katherine Beechey and Connor Whitehouse
8W1 – Tyler Baldwin and Theo Brain

8W2 – Annabel Lyons and Isabelle Brown

9W1 – Iris James and Darcey Terry-Lush

10W1 – Paige Drew and Ruby Blackwell

10W2 – Abbie Marshall-Andrews and Lauren Kear

Next term will be a busy one for sure, inter-house matches, sports day, welcoming our Y6's up for Induction Week and timetable suspension.....phew!! Mrs Hoare and I hope you all have a fantastic May Half term break, and we will see you with renewed energy after half term! Stay safe and enjoy! Mrs Hill

Jenner House News

Attendance

Looking at the latest data for attendance, Jenner House is currently 94.81%

We are still in 2nd place and slowly edging our way forward to 1st place!

It would be great to be first, so I need an even BIGGER push from now until the end of this academic year!

Perfect Week

9J1 continues to pave the way in this competition! They consistently lead every week, leaving all the other tutors behind.

As much as I am incredibly proud of 9J1, it would be great for them to have some healthy competition... whom will that be?

Senior Roles

I completed the senior role interviews a few weeks ago and am incredibly proud to announce that the following students will represent my house with ambition and pride. I can't wait to start working with them and making Jenner House even better than it already is!

POSITION	STUDENT
House Captain	Codi Reed
House Captain	Alana Haroun
Vice House Captain	Sam Hardie
Vice House Captain	Chloe McNaught
Sports Captain	Layton Hopkins
Sports Captain	Megan Warwick
Vice Sports Captain	Lola Newman
Vice Sports Captain	Lexi Barrington
Head Prefect	Josie Brain
Head Prefect	Amelie Phillips
Prefect	Tayah Pegler
Prefect	Dan Williams
Prefect	Kai Richards
Prefect	Leisha Williams
Prefect	Charlie Goodman
Head Mentor	Aiden Moore
Head Mentor	Joe Powell

'Jenner in the Spotlight'

This young man is Alfie Thomas. He is utterly obsessed with his ride-on lawnmowers and regularly races them! He decided to enter the Coleford Car Show this year and was even featured in the local Forester Newspaper. We are very proud of Alfie and hope he continues to embrace his love of mechanics.



Other news

Can I please remind everyone that mobile phones are not allowed. If seen, they will be confiscated. There seems to be an influx of students using mobile phones, including ringing/texting home to ask to be collected from school. Please can I ask, if this happens, you contact the school immediately and we will make a decision as to whether students need to be collected or not.

Thank you so much for your support with this.

Can I also ask that if your child calls/texts you to ask to be picked up that you ring the school to confirm this? We have had a rise in students directly messaging parents to come and get them without going through the proper procedures for this. Thank you in advance

Comments from LB

I am incredibly proud of all the students in Jenner who consistently 'GET IT RIGHT'! I don't think I say it enough, as sometimes the day can be caught up with other things, and for this, I apologise!

So...MAHOOSIVE WELL DONE to all of you!

I can not wait for Sports Day this year...Come on Jenner, let's show the other houses who we are!!!

Just remember - Concentrate on the process, not the outcome and everything will turn out right in the end.



Technology this term!

Year 8 Technology

Some of the year 8 students have been working on a light project in Design and Technology. They have learnt soldering to create a circuit, using Techsoft to create their engraved acrylic panel and construction to make the plywood box. Here is a very small selection of some of the lights made by the year 8 pupils this term.



Year 7 Technology

A selection of some of the students applique cushion covers in Textiles. The students have worked hard to design, applique and construct their cushions. Well done year 7.



Year 10

Well done to the year 10 Textiles students for completing their corsets. The skill level is extremely high and the quality and attention to detail is fantastic.



School & Community Games

Kayaking

We recently went on the water, where we went kayaking for our less confident pupils. We went to Mallards Pike with Wyedean Canoe Club. A massive thank you to their team for supporting our Forest of Dean Primary pupils!



Mountain Biking

Great Mountain Biking Meet at Newent School for our School & Forest Games. Massive thanks Head of PE, Steve Edgell & leaders supporting Alan Beard. Congratulations to; 1st - Tibberton, 2nd - Highnam and 3rd - Mitcheldean



Bowling

Our Forest of Dean pupils had a fantastic time at 10 Pin Bowling. A massive thank you to Chris from Panathlon Challenge, everyone loved it! Well Done to St White's for winning!



Mountain Biking

School Games ran our second primary MTB event at Wyedean School. Pupils participated in Mountain Biking; the results were: 1st - Ellwood, 2nd - Tutshill and 3rd - Yorkley. Thank you to Wyedean School and their young leaders for helping out and hosting.

