

December 2022

DENE MAGNA SCHOOL & SIXTH
FORM

DENE MAGNIFIER



News from the headteacher

It has been a fantastic term, and I cannot believe it is this time again! As always, this term and academic year have flown by. I would like to thank all of the staff and students, as they have all been amazing.

Points of interest

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Key Dates for Next Term

Students return to Week A on Thursday 7th September

Y7, 9 & 12 Photos - Tuesday 12th September

Y10 KS4 Welcome Evening 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Thursday
14th September

Y11 Parents Evening 4 pm - 7 pm - Thursday 21st
September

Open Day and Evening - Thursday 28th September

Y12 Information Evening 5 pm - 7 pm - Thursday 5th
October

Y13 Parents Evening - 4 pm - 7 pm

Y11 Exam Information Evening - 5 pm - 6 pm - Thursday
19th October

Sponsored Walk - Friday 27th October

**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 hope you're all doing well. Only a week left until the summer holidays, but it doesn't feel like summer with the amount of rain we've had! Despite the rain we have had sports day this week, thank you very much to all the staff that organised it and helped out on the day. It was a very successful day and everyone that partook had great fun.

The year elevens have now left, and it does feel strange only having four year groups in the school, but it won't be long until there are five again. We wish them all the best of luck as they move onto the next step of their lives.

It also hasn't been long since timetable suspension week, there were some great trips happening as usual this year. I definitely had an amazing time in Florence!

With the school year coming to and end, we hope you have a great summer holiday and that you have enjoyed and made the most out of this year. See you all after summer!

Year 7 - Normandy

We once again spent time last week at the wonderful Chateau du Molay in Normandy with Year 7 students. The long coach journey is completely worth it for the packed days of adventures and sights to see. On the way to the Chateau, we stopped at the lovely marina town of Honfleur, where students got their first opportunity to experience French culture, practise their language skills and buy traditional French items...you guessed it! Back they all came with bracelets, slushies and the odd baguette!

Day One (full day) - playing with the goats and learning about the cheese-making process on a real French farm.

Following this, we focused on D-Day. We were possibly some of the last groups to visit Pointe du Hoc as it is due to be closed this year due to the erosion that is taking place on the coast. Here, students were able to see the remnants of German defences and the shell holes left by the preparations for D-Day. We also had an unexpected visit from a Eurofighter, which swooped and circled over us, giving us a fantastic demonstration of the noise that fills the air when jets are in it. From here, we moved on to the American cemetery. Students were brilliant as we explained how close they were to Omaha Beach, which you can see from the cemetery, to show just how little land some men were able to take. After this, we moved on to the phenomenal 360-degree cinema, which completely overloads the senses as the sights and sounds of the Normandy invasion surround you. This was followed up by a visit to the newly refurbished D-Day museum in Arromanches to get more details about the Normandy landings.

Following a brilliantly historical afternoon, students were able to wind down back at the chateau with a swimming session, games, tasting frogs legs and snails and then a night of "singing" at the karaoke!

Day Two - In our time machines, we went back almost 1000 years to view the Bayeux Tapestry. Students were blown away by how big the real thing is and the time it would have taken to embroider something so intricately. Free time in Bayeux for ice creams, souvenir shopping and spending time with friends in one of the prettiest French towns.

Miss Adams' most memorable part of every trip was next - the memorial service at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Bayeux. Mrs Turner, Mr Smith and Miss Taylor all did readings to show the effects of battle on soldiers. Annabel and Heath presented the school's wreath and we had a minute's silence before each student took a cross to lay on a grave. The students represented the school absolutely beautifully and really took the time to honour the fallen. Back to the chateau for more fun and silliness after a more reflective afternoon - team challenges, more swimming and crepe making followed by a disco.

And already we were on the way back home with a stop at a hypermarket to break up the journey.

Well done to all those Year 7 students who went and made the most of it. Importantly, thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to make the trip possible.

Florence Trip

Our KS4 students were brilliant on our trip to Florence during the timetable suspension.

Students witnessed the origin of some of the maths they learn today and experienced Italian culture.

We're proud of our students for how they represented the school and obviously immensely proud of all who successfully climbed all 463 steps of Brunelleschi's Dome!

We look forward to next year.



Careers

Most of our Year 10s have finished their work experience, and I want to say a huge thank you and well done to those of you who have had such great feedback from the employers. You really should be proud of yourselves! Work Experience Commendations over the last month have been awarded to:

Alex Groom
Crystal Burns
Ellis Bees
Eva Manton-Jones
Jess Farbowski
Katie Bayliss
Olivia Dunton
Oscar Claydon
Tiesha-Louise Harding



I've been so inspired by some of the work experience stories this year that I'm going to put a page on the Careers section of the school website over the summer holidays. Watch this space!!

For those who were unable to secure work experience, we spent time table suspension learning about Blue Sky Thinking, Project Management, Teamwork, Identifying our Skills and Qualities and CV's in addition to this, students practised Interview and Presentation skills. We were also given a tour of the Sixth Form and Gloucestershire College. I'd like to say a huge thank to Mrs Salisbury who supported me throughout the whole 3 days and planned some brilliant activities, e.g. cheese making, and thank you to Mr Matthews and Mr Timney who ran really interesting sessions where students got to investigate their own crime scene and undertook some soldering practice.

The Year 10's have also attended the Inspiring the Forest Careers Fair; please see more information here: <https://www.theforester.co.uk/news/young-people-get-a-flavour-for-their-future-careers-at-inspiring-the-forest-event-in-cinderford-624685>

Some great professional photographs were taken at this event.

Please remember to follow Dene Magna Careers on Facebook and check out the Careers information on the school website: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=News+%26amp%3B+Events&pid=7>

I hope everyone has a brilliant summer. I will be at both the GCSE and A-Level results days so please come and find me if you need help with anything.



The Brilliant Club Graduation

The Scholars Programme began and ended with a visit to a competitive university. Experiencing the intellectual and physical environment of the university is a key part of The Scholars Programme and aims to encourage more students to go to university.

On the 24th March we started this programme by visiting the University of Reading. Students were shown around the university, experienced a lecture theatre and were introduced to their assignment.

Although the assignment was very challenging, a total of 12 students submitted it and received their final feedback from their scholar.

We went to Oxford University for our graduation ceremony on the 4th July. Chay delivered a very impressive speech on behalf of Dene Magna and all students behaved impeccably. They enjoyed finding out how other schools got on and were a credit to Dene Magna.



French Play

A French visiting theatre performed a play, “ La Maison Hantée ”, watched by Year 7s and Year 8s on Friday, 23rd June. This play is about two young ladies who are trapped in an old, creepy house because there is a serial killer on the loose. The police told them that they should lock themselves inside the haunted house for safety. There all sorts of creepy stuff happened for example;

- The moving picture frame
- The ghost of the deceived house owner
- The bloody axe and walls
- The message on the walls

Interaction with the audience caused a sprout of humour to arise. Many thanks to the Friends of Dene Magna Association for paying for this extravagant play for us to watch! We enjoyed it very much.



Bay of Naples Trip

An amazing time was had by the 40 students who travelled to Rome and the Bay of Naples during the timetable suspension week. We flew into 'The Eternal City' on Monday and started with an ice cream in the Piazza Navona, then followed this up with a tour of the Colosseum, one of the wonders of the ancient world. Four days in Sorrento then followed, which included a tour of the Roman city of Pompeii and a trip to the crater of Vesuvius. The weather was hot, the beaches provided a welcome cool down time and the students became experts in all things pizza and gelato! Fantastico!



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



Dowty House News

I can't quite believe that I am writing to you at the start of July, and the academic year is nearly over! Lots have happened since the last time I wrote in the newsletter.

Firstly, the Y10's have started their roles as senior students in earnest, representing the school at functions, and the Head Mentors expertly leading the year 6's on their induction week.

Induction week was certainly a busy one, with two prospective Dowty tutor groups spending the week with us. I was amazed by how well they settled into the school, and I am really looking forward to working with both them and their families in the new academic year as they become the new 7D1 and 7D2!

Our progress in terms of attendance and the perfect week is continuing to head in the right direction, with our attendance now sitting at 94.42%, which is brilliant to see and will only benefit students' progress in the future. A special mention to 8D1, who won the school-wide attendance cup competition - an outstanding effort! A perfect week is also looking much better now, with our overall score close to the other 3 houses, with much credit going to the outstanding Dowty tutors who work tirelessly to ensure all students are reaching their maximum potential.

Looking forward, we still have a lot to squeeze into the last couple of weeks of term, including inter-house competitions, Sports Day and, of course, the House Cup results, which we are all eagerly anticipating!

Thanks to students, parents and tutors for all of your support this year for both myself and Mr Adams - Dowty house certainly functions well when everyone works together as a team!

Have a great summer break, and stay safe

Mr Underwood

Stronger Together



Wilson House News

We have made it! It has felt so amazing to have a normal academic year compared to the last few!! I have been so proud how all of our students have approached this academic year and thrown themselves into every opportunity we have had. In the last few weeks, we certainly have not taken our foot off the pedal! We welcomed our newest recruits to Wilson House from our local primaries for their Induction week, and what a week it was. Team building, house competitions, lessons and meeting new friends, they had it all. Whilst they were guided by Mr Evans and Miss Adams last week, they will have new tutors in September, who will be Mr Powers and Miss Eade. We welcome all of 7W1, 7W2 and your parents and carers into the Wilson Warriors!

At the time of writing this house news, we have sports day just around the corner, and I cannot wait to see what amazing achievements our Wilson students achieve. I know we have lots of students hoping to achieve school records and much more! Our newly appointed sports captains have been flying around the tutor groups organising, persuading and encouraging everybody to take part in all the events on offer! Here is hoping we can bring home the Sports Day Trophy this year!

The Wilson tutors and myself have been working really hard on the perfect week over the last term, and the efforts are really starting to show. A Perfect week is a combination of 100% attendance and no negatives, the data is collected by Miss Beale and shared with us each week. We regularly have winning tutor groups and as it stands, we currently sit in 2nd place behind Foley. Attendance is the key figure that is really letting us down as a house, and something that is and will continue to prevent us from winning the overall House Cup. Attendance will be a key focus for us all when we return in September.

The last month has seen us say farewell to our Year 11's who finished their GCSE's and had their farewell day, we cannot wait to see you all at Prom!

A special thank you to Mr Evans who has been the tutor for 11W1 for the last 5 years, and sadly leaves us at Dene Magna as he has taken up a new job in Wales, I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mr Evans the best of luck.

The last few weeks we still have lots going on with Sports Day, Inter house Rounders and Softball and I am confident of some really good wins and positions here....remember everything counts towards the House Cup!!

I would really like to celebrate the following Wilson students who are the top 3 highest over and above scorers in each year group, you all really epitomise what it means to be a Wilson Warrior, we are all very proud of you, well done!

7W1 – Iris Brady, Toby Hayward and Cora Meek

8W1 – Katherine Beechey, Connor Whitehouse and Jessica Beechey

8W2 - Annabel Lyons, Isabelle Brown and Morgan Smallpage

9W1 – Darcey Terry-Lush, Annika Deering and Iris James

10W1 - Abi Marshall -Andrews, Maria Shaporto and Lauren Kear

10W2 - Lily Christopher, Paige Drew and Ruby Blackwell

In our final assembly of the year, prizes will be awarded for those students with the highest attendance and those with the highest number of perfect weeks! Will you be the lucky winner?

11W1 we wish you good luck in receiving your results in August and with your new ventures at college, sixth form or whatever your endeavours are. A final thank you is to all of our tutors and Mrs Hoare, all of who play a vital role in ensuring Wilson House runs as smoothly as possible and that you are all supported as well as you possibly can be! I literally could not do it without them!

I hope you all manage to have a restful summer, stay safe and be ready to go in September! For those of you, who have not always got 2022/2023 right.....let 2023/2024 be your year! Happy Holidays Wilson! Enjoy the rest!

Mrs Hill

Jenner House News

As we approach the conclusion of yet another academic year, I find myself astounded by the profound achievements of my esteemed Jenner students.

The diligent efforts of our Year 11 students, whom we bid farewell to just last month, deserve resounding applause. I extend my heartfelt wishes for their prosperous futures and sincerely hope they keep in touch, as their intellectual brilliance has left an indelible mark on our cherished institution.

Meanwhile, the remarkable Year 10 cohort swiftly rose to the occasion, deftly assuming senior roles through an exemplary interview process. Their dedication to excellence is undeniable as they diligently apply themselves in their newfound positions. Next year is a significant one for all Year 10 students as they become Year 11, and prepare for their GCSE exams. The maturity, commitment, and hard work that I have witnessed so far, are astounding and I know they will all reap the rewards next year.

Year 9 students, having made their momentous selections for GCSE subjects, now eagerly await the unveiling of their new timetables and the excitement that accompanies the prospect of diverse classes that lie ahead. Their eagerness to embrace these academic challenges is truly commendable.

The unshakeable spirit exhibited by our newest additions, the Year 7 cohort, within the welcoming embrace of Jenner House, speaks volumes of their rapid assimilation and intellectual prowess. Their unwavering dedication throughout the year shows a promising Year 8 journey that brims with anticipation and potential. I cannot wait to see what they have to offer.

Year 6 joined us for their Induction Week and all my Jenner students stepped up to the mark and welcomed these students with open arms.

Year 10 senior students were particularly amazing, making sure that all Year 6 students knew where to go and what to do. I would like to publicly THANK each and every one of my senior students for that!

In light of these momentous accomplishments and future prospects, I stand in awe of the remarkable intelligence and achievements displayed by my Jenner students. Their unwavering pursuit of knowledge and scholarly excellence continues to fuel my profound pride.

It is with great satisfaction that I announce our noteworthy ascent from fourth place to an impressive second place in attendance rankings within the school. This accomplishment speaks volumes about the collective commitment to punctuality and engagement, and I ardently hope we maintain this esteemed position throughout the remaining term. May we continue to astound the other houses, leaving them to marvel at our unwavering dedication in the upcoming year.

I look forward to the new academic year...a year where Jenner will be noticeably recognised for their grit and determination. A year where all other houses will be astounded by our perseverance and hard work. A year where we will leave the others behind and WIN the lot!

Have the most wonderful Summer Holidays... rest up, because next year is OURS for the taking!!

Mrs Laura Bendall-Burt ♥



Textiles

Year 7 have ended the term finishing more Nature inspired cushions. Well done year 7, some colourful cushions to brighten up any room.



Crochet & Knitting Club

Examples of some of the work that has been produced at 'Crochet and Knitting club'. We have had some amazing students from experts to beginners, it has been a great relaxed atmosphere with everyone learning from each other. Thank you to those students who have attended the club this term. Mrs Ratcliffe and Mrs Lewis



Science Notice

Science revision guides are available to buy on Scopay

KS3 revision guides for year 7 going into 8

GCSE revision guides for years 8 into 9 and above

Once payment is made please ask your child to go and see Mr Bullivant or Miss Clark to collect their books.

School & Community Games

Gloucestershire School Games offered a help pupils at a health and well-being event aimed at Y6 pupils across Gloucestershire. These students were transitioning from Y6 to Y7, we offered them some confidence-building activities to assist their journey as they head into secondary school. This is just one way in which we support young people to reach their full potential.



We recently held a successful Team Challenge event for Your School Games. This event offered challenging activities, the overall winner was Pillowell school! The students loved working together and gained some great skills. Many thanks to Parkend Cricket Club ground, Adam from Sportily & Jonathan from Forest New Life Church.



Big thanks to all the Dean Forest Railway staff and the amazing primary pupils. We did a walk and train ride; the students loved it (as well as the staff). It was a great day for everyone. Your School Games Youth Sport Trust Offers different activities for all!



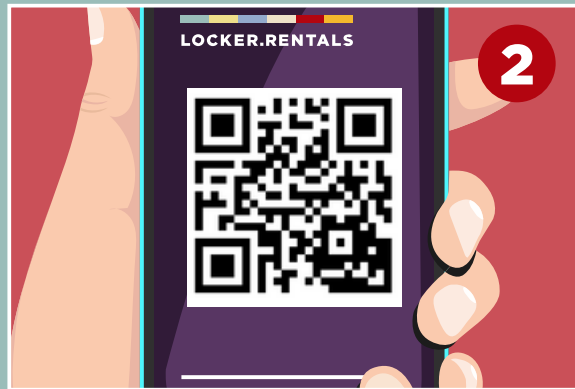
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