

DENE MAGNA SCHOOL & SIXTH  
FORM

# DENE MAGNIFIER

December 2022

## News from the headteacher

It has been a very long term, but we have crammed so much into it. From a fabulous open evening to the trial run of Yellow Week, our students and staff have put everything into making these experiences the best they can be. As I write this, we are about to set off on our sponsored walk, and the sun has come out. Have a fabulous half-term, everyone, and thank you for your continued support.

### Points of interest

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# Key Dates for Next Term

**Students return to Week A on Monday the 6th of November**

Thursday 9th November - Sixth Form Open  
Evening 5pm - 8pm

Thursday 23rd November - Y8 Parents Evening

Monday 27th November - Inset Day

Wednesday 13th December - School Performance  
Evening

Thursday 14th December - School Performance  
Evening

Friday 15th December - School Performance  
Evening

Wednesday 20th December - Christmas Lunch

Friday 22nd December - Inset Day

**[Click here to see the Term Dates for both  
2023 - 2024 and 2024 - 2025](#)**

# Student Voice

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

**Hello everyone,**

I hope everyone had a great summer. It went by so quickly! Unfortunately we didn't have much sun but we all still managed to enjoy ourselves. We've already had our open evening this term, thank you to all the staff and students who helped out. It was a great night and it went really well. Well done especially to the year sevens who gave speeches, I thought they were brilliant! We also have the sixth form open evening coming up which will be interesting, especially getting to look round the college.

Our year eleven trial exams are coming up, only a few weeks left to go. We wish everyone the best of luck in their exams and hope it goes smoothly for everyone. I'm sure it won't feel like long until it's the real thing! Luckily we have our exam information evening this week so hopefully that helps us out a bit in terms of what to expect.

Yellow week is also only one week away. During this week the whole school will go off timetable and take part in different activities such as pizza making, scavenger hunts and life skills to name but a few. The sponsored walk also happens during yellow week, which is always a fun activity to participate in, despite lots of walking. Hopefully the weather won't be too bad this time, if I remember it was quite nice last year.

JJ and I are really enjoying growing into our roles as Head Boy and Head Girl. It seems like yesterday we found out we had got the roles. We hope we can help all of you in some way and make your voices and opinions be heard. As we go forward in the year don't be afraid to come up and talk to us, whether you have an issue or just want to talk.

We hope to see you around school and we hope you all enjoy the upcoming activities, and that you all have a great half term!

# Library

## Author Visit: 26th November

We are looking forward to welcoming Gloucestershire authors Roger Haines and Sarah Green to speak to Years 7 and 8 during the last week of term and hope students will be inspired to try some of their books - now available in the library - as a result of this. Roger enjoys writing twisty tales of mystery full of ingenious puzzles to solve, while Sarah enjoys creating wonderful tales of history and fantasy.

## Scholastic Book Fair 30th November - 5th December 2023

This provides students with an excellent opportunity to browse and buy some new books or to do a bit of Christmas shopping! Payments can be made by cash or through the Scholastic website, and vouchers can be purchased from there for use at the Fair.



# Careers

Year 11s and 13s, it's time (if you haven't already) to start thinking about your Post 16 and 18 Options (your next steps after school/sixth form).

Year 11's please watch this video explaining all of the different Post 16 pathways available here: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Careers+Years+7+to+13&pid=227> and Open days for local colleges/providers are advertised here: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Open+Events&pid=57>

If any of you would like to talk through the different options with someone for some impartial advice and guidance, please email me at [j.rich@denemagana.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:j.rich@denemagana.gloucs.sch.uk) to book an appointment. Please be aware that I am only in school for two days a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays), and my waiting list can get quite long, so please bear with me.

Year 10's and 12's, it is time for you to start thinking about your work experience. If you missed the launch assemblies, please ask your tutor for a copy of the presentation and remember that a list of providers that have hosted placements recently are on the Year 11 Careers Classroom and the DM6 Futures Hub, respectively.

Please don't leave this until the last minute, as you are less likely to find a good opportunity. For the Year 10s that don't secure any work experience throughout the year, you will have 3 days of careers-related learning with me in school, whilst the others will get three days doing some challenges at home!

If you need any help looking for work experience, please email me for an appointment. I also have guidance here: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Work+Experience+%28yrs+10+%26amp%3B+12%29&pid=58> ALL work experience MUST be logged and approved on Unifrog before you attend.

We are running our first Sixth Form Business Breakfast of the year on 11th October. Our guest speaker is Charlie Taylor, an ex Primary School Teacher who is now a published Author, runs her own Publishing Company and is a Ghost Writer.

We are also running Year 13 Mock Interviews at the Sixth Form on the 24th October, details to be sent out shortly.

As always please check out information on the Careers Pages on the school website: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Careers+Years+7+to+13&pid=227>, watch out for useful information on the Careers/Futures Google Classrooms and follow Dene Magna Careers on Facebook.

# Language Week 2023

During Languages Week this year, students of all ages had a chance to participate in many activities led by our excellent MFL teachers and our Year 11 Language Ambassadors, Jess Farbowski and Sophie Ross.

Many students took part in learning new languages such as Welsh, Danish and Makaton, and students were very eager to play some games and use the French/Spanish-themed Photo Booth. They even had fun learning some Salsa on Friday lunchtime. Many students won small prizes for attending lots of events.

European Day of Languages is usually celebrated on the 26th of September; however, at Dene Magna, we extend the celebrations to a whole week as we place a huge amount of importance on learning languages and about other cultures, and we hope this encourages our students to learn other languages in the future.

We hope to see you during Languages Week next year!

By Jess Farbowski and Sophie Ross



**DENE MAGNA**

PRESENTS



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL  
JR.

BOOK BY  
**DENNIS KELLY**

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
**TIM MINCHIN**

**WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER**  
**THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER**  
**FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER**

TICKETS ARE ON SALE FROM RECEPTION

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

# Battle of the Books: Cheltenham Literature Festival

On Monday, 9th October we took a group of students to the Cheltenham Literature Festival to participate in the Battle of the Books championing the book that we believed most inspired change in our world: 'The Other Side of Truth' by Beverley Naidoo. We were fortunate to have Olivia representing our book on stage and answering questions from both the judges and the audience. Whilst we didn't win (this year), Olivia gave an excellent performance, ably supported by the other enthusiastic members of the Dene Magna Lit Fest book group who had put hours of time into reading and discussing a range of books and crafting the speech. Really well done to all who participated!

Whilst at the fair, students also had the opportunity to browse the bookshops and share with each other their love of books and reading, and I'm looking forward to hearing more about the books they discovered and what they think of them.



## 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](mailto:a.beard@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)**



# Hockey Sticks

We held our Forest of Dean Quick Sticks Hockey this term at Newent School. We had a fabulous day with great weather, and we would like to thank Newent School and their PE team and Newent Hockey Club. There were thrilling semi-finals; Primrose Hill overcame St Briavels and St Whites 1, beating St Whites 2. We then saw a very close final, with St Whites 1 becoming the champions! A massive thank you to Harrison Clark and Rickerbys, who sponsored the medals. Well done to all teams who took part!



# Cross Country

It was a lovely October day for our FOD Primary Team Cross Country this week. A 'Massive Thank You' to Five Acres High School & Berry Hill RFC - Forest of Dean for letting us utilise their facilities & Sports Leaders Your School Games.

Well done to all runners in all of the schools, it was a brilliant effort from all. Here are the top 3 places in both girls and boys events-

First Place Boys:

Coalway Junior School

Second Place Boys - St Whites Primary

Third Place: Primrose Hill

First Place Girls: Primrose Hill

Second Place Girls: St Whites Primary

Third Place: Tibberton Primary



# Dowty House News

Already one month into the new academic year and it seems to have flown by! An official warm welcome to Dowty year 7's who seem to have settled really well into Dene Magna School and have made an outstanding start! Not a single de merit has been recorded on the behaviour system at the time of writing this - long may it continue!

## Attendance

This still is a target for us - we have not made the greatest start to the year with plenty of new term colds doing the rounds! Please try your best to be in school, even if you are feeling a bit under the weather as good attendance is the number 1 factor in achieving strong grades at GCSE level. Our Y11 students are leading the way with this - a special mention to 11D1 Who managed to achieve a brilliant 100% attendance for the final week of the month!

## Perfect Week

As a reminder, this is a combination of several factors - if a student has 100% attendance, no de merits and no lates for the week they achieve a perfect week. This is then collaborated into a competition between all of the tutor groups. We started off a bit slowly (mainly due to attendance) but we have started to pick up in recent weeks with wins for 7D2, 9D1 and 11D1 (all received sweet prizes in tutor time!).

## Student of the Month - Criteria - Students who have made a Great Start!

7D1 - Oliver Gibbons

7D2 - Roman Clark

8D1 - Macie Chaffey

9D1 - Reuben Vale

9D2 - Becca Histed

10D1 - Josh Andrews Weaver

11D1 - Kodi Edwards

11D2 - Anja Dodds

## Looking Forward

As we enter October we start to see the inter house competitions come around, so an exciting opportunity for students to compete for house points and represent Team Dowty! I am looking forward to seeing our students shine in events from music, arts, maths and the sporting events!

Mr Underwood

'Stronger Together'

# Wilson House News

Welcome back to everyone in Wilson House, what a busy start to the year we have had!! Welcoming our two new Year 7 tutor group's 7W1 and 7W2 to Wilson House and our new tutors Miss Barker and Miss Eade. Our senior students have hit the ground running, starting to leading intervention sessions for younger students and conducting their weekly duty.

Our Student of the Months for September were selected based on who has made the best start to being a Wilson Warrior:

7W1 – Mckenzie Burge  
7W2 – William Lyons  
8W1 – Dennis Cholefko  
9W1 – Millie Dickinson - Gay  
9W2 – Isabel Jones  
10W1 – Miruna Zimcenco  
11W1 – Will Hanson  
11W2 – Paige Drew

Well done to you all for making a fantastic start to the year! Who can get their name in lights for October, November and December?

## Attendance

We have made a really great start to the year on the attendance front. Currently sitting 2nd in the House attendance cup!! Some great individual tutor group results, well done to all of you. We know that there is a direct link between attendance and progress within school, so well done to you all on making a massive effort to be here!!

Foley - 95.11%  
Wilson - 94.89%  
Dowty - 94.04%  
Jenner - 93.72%

## Perfect Week

Perfect week is weekly statistics that get shared to tutors, this information is based on students having no 'negatives' and no absences. If students achieve all of this then they achieve a perfect week!!

1st – Wilson  
2nd – Foley  
3rd – Dowty  
4th – Jenner

I am so proud on how everyone has settled into this new academic year, and the incredible start we are making in attendance and perfect week, let's hope this continues!! We are eagerly awaiting the first inter house results from the PE team – so watch this space for the winners!! There are lots of opportunities over the next few months for students to take part in inter house competitions, here are some of the opportunities, accelerated reader all year around, Poetry competition, Christmas card competition, Black Friday Maths Competition....let's see how many we can win!!!

I hope you all have a restful half term and come back rearing to go in the Christmas term!!

# Jenner House News

I can't believe that we are heading towards half term already.

This term has gone by in a flash. We've had our Open Evening, where our Senior Jenner students were terrific, giving parents and year 6 students tours of the school.

Year 7 has settled into the routine of our school and is doing so well! Top of the leaderboard in Jenner House and the entire school for merits and attendance. I am so proud of them!

## Attendance

We started in September in the lead, but unfortunately, our attendance has taken a beating, and we are now currently in 4th position with 93.45% attendance.

It would be great if we could all make an effort to be in school, every day from now on so we can start making a dent in this % and give the other houses a run for their money.

Special mention must be made to 7J1, currently in the lead in Year 7 with 97.30%. Well done!!!

## Merits

Since September, Jenner has received a staggering 1570 merits...we are currently in 2nd position with Wilson in the lead.

Year 7J1 is in the lead in the entire school with 358 merits!! Well done!!!

I am so proud of every student in Jenner that's 'getting it right!'

## Jenner Charities

This year, we have collectively chosen the following Charities:



## Great Oaks Hospice

Great Oaks provides supportive, palliative and end-of-life care programmes according to our community's ongoing and changing needs. All of their services are free of charge and provided by experienced staff, supported by trained volunteers, and we are very proud to be supporting this charity.

## Baby Bank

A local group of volunteers who care enormously about our community.

Families in a financial crisis can access essential baby items, equipment and clothes for their children. The public and businesses donate these items.

## The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army expresses its faith through charitable action by working at the heart of communities across the UK and Ireland. We have 650 churches and community centres where we offer friendship, practical help and support to some of the most disadvantaged people in our communities.

Motivated by our Christian faith we offer practical support and services to all who need them, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Our work includes:

Homelessness

Modern slavery

Poverty

Addiction

Campaigning and social policy

Older people

Community - debt advice, unemployment, isolation

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!

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



# Secure

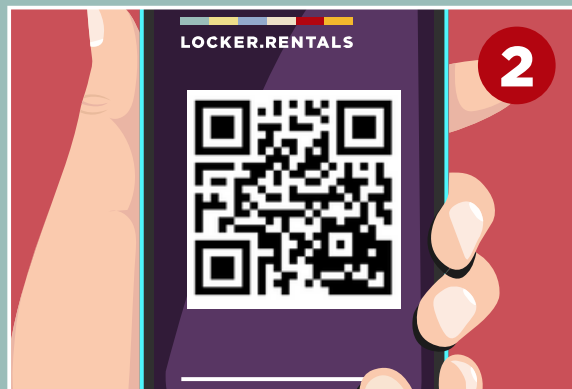
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