

December 2023

DENE MAGNA SCHOOL & SIXTH
FORM

DENE MAGNIFIER



News from the headteacher

What a fantastic way to end the year! The school is awash with Christmas jumpers and we have just had the most amazing Christmas lunch. As always, things are very busy at Dene Magna and this was epitomised by our school production of Matilda which drew in the crowds and was a great platform to showcase some amazingly talented young people (and staff!). Thanks for taking the time to read this edition and do have the most amazing Christmas.

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Key Dates for Next Term

Students return to Week B on Monday the 8th of January

Thursday 18th January - Y9 Options Evening

Friday 19th January - Y11 Exams Information Evening

Thursday 25th January - Y13 Exam Prep Evening

Thursday 1st February - Y9 Parents Evening

Thursday 8th February - Y12 Parents Evening

**[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, we hope you're all well and looking forward to Christmas! I can't believe this year's almost over, but I hope you've used it wisely. Hopefully, we'll be doing some fun Christmas activities in school soon. Don't forget to buy your Christmas dinner tickets! I'm sure this year's Christmas dinner will be as lovely as usual. I know we're at the point of the year when everyone gets tired, but we haven't got long left now.

Year 11s are at the end of our mocks now. Thank you to all the teachers and invigilators who supervised our exams. It's very useful to get us used to what our actual exams will be like. Hopefully, it'll help us feel more prepared for sitting our actual GCSEs in the summer. We hope everyone has done well in their mocks and wish them the best of luck. I'm sure you've all been missing using the sports hall! Don't worry it's all back to normal for now.

As we enter this new year, we hope 2024 will be a good year for everyone and that we'll all excel to the best of our abilities. We could all devise a new year's resolution to help us work on something we struggle with this year. As I said, I hope everyone has had a good and productive year.

Goodbye and Merry Christmas!

Library

It's been a busy term for the library with a range of events either side of the break and more to look forward to in the New Year!

Roger Haines and Sarah Greene Author Visit

We were fortunate to welcome these wonderful authors into school to talk to Years 7 and 8 in Yellow week about their books and how to develop ideas into stories. It was fantastic to see the students absorbed by Derren Brown's Mystery box, asking some really interesting questions and getting excited about their own ideas for stories.

Year 7 Book Buzz

The annual Year 7 Book Buzz breakfast took place as we all returned to school with students collecting the books they'd chosen and enjoying a mid-morning snack while listening to some of our excellent Year 8s reading from the selections. We hope all the students enjoy their new books and if they would like to explore some of the others, they are available to borrow from the library.

Scholastic Book Fair

This created a brilliant buzz in the library at the start of December with students browsing and buying from the book and stationery selections. The sale was available for everyone to browse at break and lunchtimes for a week with many KS3 students having an additional opportunity to discover the range.

Upcoming:

World Book Day will be on Thursday 7th March 2024. We are hoping to hold another second-hand book sale for World Book Day in March to raise funds for the reading charities WBD support. If you are having a clear out and come across books you think others in our school community would enjoy, please do consider bringing them into the library from this point forward where they will be stored until March. More information will be released closer to the time so keep an eye out for this.

Sixth Form News

Our Year 13 Business Studies students participated in the 2023 Business School Challenge at the University of Gloucester on the 13th of December. A small team of students prepared a product and presentation, which the amazing Gemma then delivered. She gave a fantastic presentation of their online peer mentoring platform proposal. This is essentially a tutoring system that students would develop to help other students revise for their academic subjects. It was a fantastic idea that was also really well executed.

The judges were highly impressed by Gemma's presentation and gave her an award for the "Most Professional Individual". It was an honour to take her, and she made Dene Magna very proud. Well done, Gemma!

by Mrs Cook

Our Chemistry student has made their own science-influenced Christmas tree! The Christmas spirit has flowed around the Sixth Form for the staff and students. We hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas and we are very much looking forward to seeing you in the New Year!



Catering

Our students have had an absolutely fantastic term in terms of catering. We have had the facilities upgraded, and they have had several trips. For some snaps and even more achievements, our students have done this term...

[Click here](#)

RSHE

Our students had a brilliant time at Gloucester Crown Court observing cases in action. Students were able to grasp an understanding of the judicial system and the role that the police and others play. It was an enriching experience as part of our RSHE and Careers curriculum.

Thank you to Di Harill, Judge Lawrie and all who allowed us to be part of their court.



We understand that it can be hard to provide food and activities for your family during these harsh times. For information which you may find useful - [Click Here](#)

A Level Biology

These are the photos from Y11 Triple Scientists visiting the sixth form campus to have a taster of what A-level Biology is like.

The Y12s had the Y11s helping them with a tricky core practical and the Y13 One Health Society led them through a fascinating (and a little stinky) rat dissection. We all had a great time and everyone got stuck in.



Gold DofE

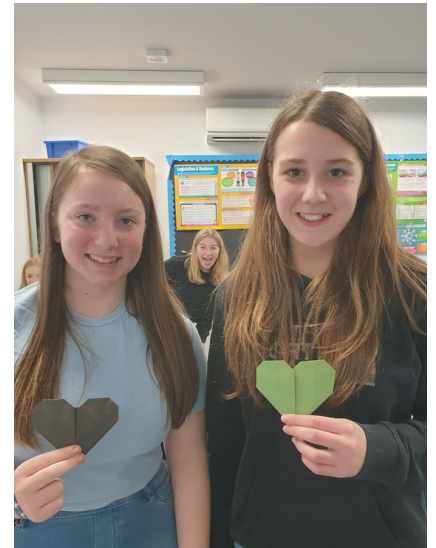
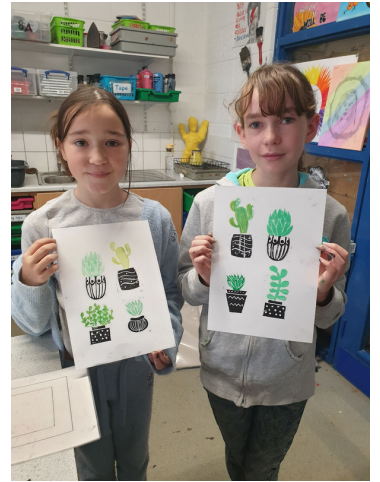
At our Sixth Form, some of our students have decided to participate in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, which we offer. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students, and when they complete this award, they will be invited to Buckingham Palace! This also allows students to gain lots of life skills and experiences. Our students recently took part in first-aid training and took their first practice walk. Well done, students and thank you to the staff who accompanied them.



Yellow Week

Last term, our students completed their first-ever Yellow Week! This was an excellent opportunity for our students to take part in a large variety of activities. Many students also went beyond the school gates to some fabulous places.

Even though it was jam-packed, this was a wonderful experience for all of our students and staff. Seeing the students and staff trying new things and enjoying it was great!



Christmas Card Competition

This term, we held our annual Christmas Card competition! We had lots of entries this year, and we would like to say a huge well done to everyone who submitted an entry; it was a very hard decision this year!

Well done 8W1 - second time winning the chocolate hamper !!! 8W1 again submitted the most entries and won the amazing Christmas hamper!



STEM Roadshow

The STEM roadshow visited us on 4th December for a show 'The depths of the oceans to outer space' the pupils watched and participated in an interactive display including concepts such as scale and the properties and conditions in those areas. A good time was had by all and we look forward to seeing the team again next year. The roadshow is sponsored by BAE Systems The RAF and The Royal Navy.



Santa Dash

Our local primary schools had a blast doing the School Games Santa Dash! This is being done in an attempt to keep children active! At Huntley C of E Primary School, a massive 92 students and 6 adults took part! Well done to everyone who took part!



Girls Football

We recently held ESFA Girls Football qualifiers for the county finals. Dene Magna sport leaders lead the sessions and did a fantastic job. We saw some great football from all teams who took part. Well done to St Whites School who went through into the finals.



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



One Health Society

Our A-level One Health Society had to start stitching up some fruit today. They are practising their suturing skills for future careers in animal or healthcare services. These are some great skills for our students interested in healthcare and even to have a go! They all gave it a good go and did a fantastic job! Some pretty nifty stitches were seen!



Dowty House News

This term has certainly flown by, at the time of writing this we are only 2 weeks away from breaking up for the christmas break and at the end of the first full term. Dowty House have really started to move up the house tables over the last few weeks, winning perfect week and attendance on back to back occasions!

Attendance

Since the previous newsletter, Dowty have moved off the bottom of the leaderboard on attendance (always a target for us) and now sit in 3rd place - closing in quickly on Wilson in second. There have no doubt been colds going around since we came back in September, but hopefully now we will see our attendance continue to rise over the next term.

Perfect Week

Perfect week has also been a success for us over the last few weeks, almost joint second with Foley House and 2nd is a target for us by the time we reach the Christmas break! Remember, each student achieves a perfect week if they go a whole week without a demerit or any absence. There have been wins for most tutor groups, with special mentions for 7D2, 9D1, 11D1 and 11D2 who have had repeated success.

Interhouse

Interhouse events have been completed at the end of the first half term, with wins for Dowty in both football and netball competitions - representing Team Dowty excellently, showing passion both in success and failure. Interhouse is something that makes me especially proud to be Head of Dowty house, students wearing the Dowty blue with pride!

Student of the Month

Our Dowty students of the month for November have been recognised for showing kindness to others - something which embodies our house motto of 'Stronger Together'. Congratulations to all of the following students!

7D1 - Jet Allen

7D2 - Ebony Fletcher

8D1 - Issy Noble

9D1 - Rae Barnard

9D2 - Logan Taylor

10D1 - Elizabeth Frost

11D1 - George Suehr

11D2 - Jamie Chevis

Looking Forward

As Christmas and the end of term approaches I am really happy with how Dowty have started the year - well in the mix for the House Cup this year if we continue the good work that we have started. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and parents involved with Dowty House a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Underwood

Stronger Together

Wilson House News

I cannot quite believe I am writing this and it is nearly the end of our first full term! What a busy period we have had since September....House Council Elections, Children in Need, House Cross Country, Mock Exams to name but a few!!

Our Student of the Months for October were selected based on their commitment to anti-bullying and fundraising:

7W1 - Carlos Sprekelson

7W2 - Dominik Wrzyszczyński

8W1 - Iris Brady

9W1 - Millie Dickinson - Gay

9W2 - Izzy Brown

10W1 - Ella-Mae Rawlings

11W1 - Abigail Marshall - Andrews

11W2 - Olivia Dunton

Attendance

Our attendance is a real cause for concern at the moment and we have dropped massively over the last

few weeks. We know that there is a direct link between attendance and progress in school, so every day is

a really important one!

Foley – 94.93%

Wilson – 93.84%

Dowty – 93.65%

Jenner – 93.44%

Merits

Look at this list of students who have the highest numbers of merits within Wilson House – well done to you all!! Can you add your name to this list?

Iris Brady – 46

Isabelle Brown – 45

Elodie Jackson – 45

Carlos Sprekelson - 44

Lydia Miles – 41

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 0.6947

2 nd – Foley 0.6745

3 rd – Dowty 0.6723

4 th - Jenner 0.6339

Cross Country Results

Recently, all students in school competed in our Inter House cross country event. Well done to everyone who took part, the results are in.....

1 st - Foley

2 nd - Wilson

3 rd - Dowty

4 th - Jenner

Amazing results well done!! As a result of our cross country we then selected a school team, to go to

the District Cross Country Finals held at Newent School, Otto Horlick achieved a gold medal and Maddy Howell picked up a bronze medal!!

Thank you to all of the Wilson community, students, teachers, parents / carers for your continued support of us.

As the term draws to a close, Mrs Hoare and all your tutors hope you all have a fantastic Christmas

and wish you all a very happy New Year. We cannot wait to see you all back in January, ready and

eager to continue the Wilson march to fill our trophy cabinet to the brim! Merry Christmas!

Jenner House News

I can't believe that we are nearly at the end of 2023.

It's been a tough year for lots of us...I know, I've been through some personal heartbreaking trials this year, and so I'm hoping for a more positive 2024.

Attendance

It's not good news, I'm afraid...we are currently in 4th place and seem to be staying there.

Despite my disappointment, I remain optimistic and hope for better attendance next term. As I write this, we are currently in 4th position in the House Attendance League with 93.51%. The school target is 97% or above, so I hope you can appreciate my frustration.

There are some students who are regularly having a day off a week and these students are, unfortunately, letting us down. It would be great to improve this in January.

If your child has 80% attendance by the end of Year 11, that basically means that your child has had a whole year off.

59% of Jenner Students are currently lower than 97% in their attendance.

21% of Jenner Students are still on 100% attendance, which is AMAZEBALLS and they will go into a draw to win some edible goodies at the end of the term!!!

Merits

Since September, Jenner has received a staggering 3266 merits, putting us in 2nd place, just beyond Wilson House.

7J1 have received 912 of these merits...not only making them the top scorers in Jenner House, but top scorers in the entire school...I AM SO PROUD OF THEM ALL!!!

A BIG push from now until half term would mean the world to me...that way, we can finish on the top of the leaderboard. Merits are being given for meeting the WALT & WILF in lessons...this means that every student goes into every lesson with merit...all they need to do is KEEP IT!

Students of the Month

Our tutors have chosen the following students as Student of the Month.

September:

7J1 - Zak Fisher

8J1 - Heath Rawlings

8J1 - Molly Witts

9J1 - Iona Moore

10J1 - Maddie Partridge

10J2 - Callum Lancett

11J1 - Alana Haroun

October:

7J1 - Chloe Swanson

8J1 - Emily Burnard

8J1 - Lucian Jarrett

9J1 - Elizabeth Lewis

10J1 - Harriet Savidge

10J2 - Ashley Williams

11J1 - Lexi Barrington & Frankie Frowen

Jenner House News

November:

7J1 - Freya Stokes-Richardson

8J1 -

8J1 - Jack Cinderey

9J1 -

10J1 - Fran Stokes-Richardson

10J2 - Katrina Scruton

11J1 -

Perfect Week

Unfortunately, we are currently in 4th position for PW. Perfect Week is based on Attendance and Demerits, and we have quite a few students just not making the right decisions at the moment.

Again, ever the optimistic, I hope this will all turn around in 2024.

Students who are AMAZEBALLS!!

7J1 A little something their tutor wrote about them...

Just like in Year 7, I also changed schools in September, so I was a bit more nervous than usual, just like them. But I've been so lucky with the tutor group I was given. They are the BEST bunch of young people. All very kind and hard-working.

Together we had a great time during Yellow Week. Other teachers continuously praised 7J1 for being positive-minded and participating enthusiastically and respectfully. I was told we were among the best groups doing yoga and salsa. (photo 1) Everyone got involved and brought something in for the Christmas shoe box appeal. Harry and Tiffany even brought in fully filled boxes!

Four of my students ended up on the runner-up list for the Christmas Card competition. (photo 2)

7J1 is just a great bunch; I'm lucky and proud to be their tutor.

Ms V.

8J2 BOYS were so amazing in their Interhouse competitions during our Yellow Week, they won their competition! Miss Eldridge and I are so incredibly proud of them!!! CONGRATULATIONS BOYS!!!

10J1 - Tom Evans has a radio show he is presenting and we are working with him to produce some sort of Podcast at Dene Magna. Noah Rawlings performed an original song at the Ross on Wye Christmas Fayre. He is also giving guitar lessons to younger students.

11J1 - Amazing effort in their mock exams and college applications underway. Exciting times!

Comments from LB

I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support. I really appreciate it.

I am extremely 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 to celebrate all of your successes and help you on your journey at Dene Magna.

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

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and I will see you all on Monday 8 January, ready to show the other houses who Jenner really are!!!



Careers

Our Year 13 Mock Interview Event in October was a great success with glowing feedback from both the students who found it a really worthwhile experience and the employers, all of whom are keen to come back and support us at the Year 11 Mock Interview Event on the 30th January 2024. The Employers were really impressed with the calibre of our Sixth Form students, well done!

The Sixth Form Open evening was also a big success. If anyone missed out and would like to have a look around the Sixth Form, please let me know.

Reminder: Year 10's and 12's please remember to start looking for work experience and ensure that this is logged onto Unifrog. If you leave it to last minute you are less likely to find something that is worthwhile to you. It really can help you to make decisions about your future plus looks great on your application forms. Well done to Beth Brain who received excellent feedback from her employer following her work experience in October.

Thank you to staff members and students who tried out the Careers Chat Bot CiCi. I'm still collating the feedback to see if it's something worthwhile using in the future to help support our Careers Programme. If you haven't done so already please would you fill out the feedback form I emailed to staff and students. Many thanks.

There will hopefully be some exciting opportunities to work with local employers coming up through work I will be doing with the Gloucestershire Growth Hub and The Gloucestershire Careers Hub, watch this space.

Events to watch out for:

13th December 2023 Sixth Form Business Breakfast with Sarah Williams, Senior Lecturer in Policing at the University of the West of England (UWE)

December 2023 (TBC) Sixth Form Business Breakfast with Ryan Turner, Barrister

30th January 2024 Year 11 Mock interviews

6th February 2024 Gloucestershire College Taster Day (I will send an email out shortly about this)

22nd February 2024 Our Dene Magna Post 18 Careers Fair

To book an appointment for some careers/next steps advice please email Jo Rich:
j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk

Careers Related Information:

Website: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Careers+Years+7+to+13&pid=227>

Facebook: Dene Magna Careers

Careers Google Classroom