



# PROSPECTUS

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Dene Magna School, Mitcheldean, GL17 0DU



# Message from the Headteacher

It continues to be my privilege to thank you for taking an interest in Dene Magna School at this exciting time. We are a thriving 11-18 school that is incredibly proud to serve our community and plays its part in continuing to raise aspirations and standards in the Forest of Dean. Students of all ability levels thrive here and it is with passion and conviction that I say that your son or daughter need not look any further than this school for the highest quality education. Dene Magna is a school that has a relentless passion for getting the very best out of our entire community. The expectations of students and staff at Dene Magna are very high because we know we have a vital role in ensuring that our learners become successful for the rest of their lives. Our central aim is "that every learner shall achieve their maximum potential...and enjoy the process".



To achieve this, staff continue to challenge and support each other in their teaching; sharing ideas and best practice and working with students to ensure that we all thrive. We believe that one of the things that set us apart from other schools is the genuine partnership between students, staff and parents/carers. Boundaries are clear, expectations are high and students are challenged to find their place in this ever-changing world. Students are supported along the way by our excellent House system, which fosters a sense of belonging, identity and competition and challenges each student to push themselves that bit further. Our exam results are high, progress measures outstanding, attendance and behaviour exemplary and we work hard every day to ensure this is the case. Visitors to the school, ex-students and parents/carers often remark that Dene Magna has a calm yet purposeful atmosphere, which promotes learning and belonging. The students make this place so special. Please come and meet them and allow them to tell you what being a Dene Magna student is like. We love our school and we look forward to meeting you so that you can see our community in action.

**Stephen Brady, Headteacher**

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# Dene



# Magna

# Maximise **your** potential



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Teaching is outstanding and assessment is used extremely effectively well to ensure lesson tasks meet the learning needs of all students.” (Ofsted 2012)

At Dene Magna teachers and students constantly reflect on how they learn and work together. Every day we strive to make real our central aim: “to help each and every learner achieve their maximum potential and enjoy the process”.

## CARE AND SUPPORT

“Students’ behaviour is exemplary and students flourish within a very supportive, caring and safe environment”. (Ofsted 2012) From the moment your daughter or son walks through the door of Dene Magna, they are entering an environment where they will be known, supported, challenged and cared for in equal measure. All members of the community, students, staff and parents/carers, work tirelessly to enable each individual to be “the best they can be”.



# Enjoy the Process



## LESSONS

Teaching and Learning is the core activity at Dene Magna. Lessons provide a range of learning experiences that meet the needs of each individual learner. Students at Dene Magna understand how to learn and thrive in an environment of challenge created by a committed and highly skilled group of teachers and support staff. Our central aim is that ‘...each and every learner will achieve their maximum potential... and enjoy the process’. This theme is found in every aspect of our work and is valued by students and staff alike.

## CURRICULUM

The Curriculum at Dene Magna aims to develop the key aptitudes and values that each child will need to develop into an effective lifelong learner. The underlying skills of Literacy and Numeracy are developed both in English and Maths lessons and across the curriculum. Each teacher has an in-depth knowledge of the students they teach. Work is matched to the individual needs of each learner and the quality of feedback and marking allows rapid progress to be made across all subjects. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum in which students are encouraged to develop their academic, linguistic, creative, sporting and technical skills. Alongside this, we foster a deep understanding and critical awareness of the world in which we live, both past and present.



# Near and Far

Some of the trips and opportunities you get as a Dene Magna student...

**New York**



**Paris**

**Summer Camp**



**Symonds Yat**

**Austria**



**Netball Tour**



**Berlin**



# Safeguarding

The Forest of Dean Trust is committed to safeguarding all students in the school. Our aim is to ensure that all students are safe in our school and that measures are in place to support any child who is at risk of harm. We adopt a contextual approach to safeguarding, recognising that as young people grow and develop, they are influenced by a whole range of environments and people outside of their family and online. We use a contextual safeguarding approach to keep young people safe by understanding their environment and liaising with other agencies to ensure the right guidance and support are offered at the right time.



Kellie Beale, Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead



Our Student Support Mentors work with all students, liaising with families and external agencies

# Maximise **your** potential



## **CELEBRATION**

“No matter their starting point and irrespective of special needs or any disability, students make rapid progress”. (Ofsted 2012)

At Dene Magna, every child matters and is valued. It is a pleasure to embark on journeys with all our students and celebrate and reward each achievement and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of an exceptional group of young people.

## **TUTOR**

At Dene Magna, each student is a member of a tutor group. During the first meeting at 8.40 am, tutors will check that their tutees are ‘Ready for Learning’. The relationship with the tutor is vital; the tutor is your first port of call if any issues arise. In the tutorial, tutors track the well-being and academic progress of their tutees, as well as assist with organisation and with Independent Learning Tasks (ILT). Tutors deliver RSHE, which covers diverse issues, including anti-bullying, First Aid, Internet Safety, Budgeting, Body Changes, Healthy Eating, Life in Modern Britain and Careers.



# Enjoy the Process



## COMMUNITY

“The School vigorously tackles discrimination in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony, and students are very well prepared for life in modern democratic Britain”. (Ofsted 2012)  
We think of Dene Magna as a family. When things go right, we celebrate, and when things go wrong, we seek to do better next time. Being part of that family means much more than just being at school. Our community is active in running clubs, visits and activities.

## STUDENT VOICE

“Students have a say in almost all things pertaining to the school. Tutor groups and assemblies make a very positive contribution to the life of the school community”. (Ofsted 2012)

The key ingredient, which makes Dene Magna so special, is its students. Everywhere you look in the school you will see evidence of Student Voice. Students are trained to work with teachers, as coaches, to help them stay at the peak of their profession.



# Maximise **your** potential



## **YEAR 6 INDUCTION**

Our staff visit each partner primary school once places have been allocated. Following this, Year 6 Students have an induction week in June. This allows them to experience a week of life at Dene Magna. They will have real lessons in all their subjects and have the opportunity to develop relationships with their tutors, staff and students from their own year groups and across the school.

## **YEAR 6 INDUCTION**

They also get to be proficient at getting on the buses and navigating the canteen. Parents/carers are also invited into the school during Induction Week and have the opportunity to meet their son/daughter's tutor, try on uniform and meet the House and Leadership Teams. This means that come September, each student and family will already feel part of Dene Magna and know the routines and ways of the school.



# Enjoy the Process



## STANDARDS

“The Headteacher provides clear, well-focused direction and leadership. He is very well supported by senior staff and leaders at all levels, so that their uncompromising vision for outstanding education is reflected across the entire school community”. (Ofsted 2012)

There is an expectation at Dene Magna that everyone will try their best. We seek to challenge each student to achieve more and leave Dene Magna with all the skills, knowledge and understanding to make a success of their lives.

## CARE

Each student is supported by their Head of House and Student Support Mentor. This provides a deep level of care, support and communication with parents/carers. Each Head of House works closely with the Student Support Mentor and a range of agencies to ensure that the needs of each child are met. We have a full programme of assemblies, which develop a sense of identity within each House, Year Group, Key Stage and across the whole school. Excellent attendance is vital and the school's target is 97%. We have a dedicated Attendance Officer, who works with the Heads of Houses and Student Support Mentors to monitor and support students on a weekly basis. Our students' excellent attendance contributes enormously to our continued success. Our Attendance Officer will contact you on the first day of absence, if we have not heard from you; this way we all know that your child is safe.



# Maximise **your** potential



## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

We offer all of our students many different extra curricular opportunities. We want our students to be well-rounded individuals. This is why we think it is important that students experience life, whether that be different cultures or different life experiences. We have a timetable suspension week where all students have the chance to go on some amazing trips from London to Japan!

## **SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE**

We believe in providing unwavering support and guidance to our students. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff members are committed to fostering a nurturing environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. We want our students to achieve their maximum potential and aim high. Our Careers Lead meets with our students to discuss their future and support them.



# Enjoy the Process



## IN THE COMMUNITY

Students are encouraged to grasp every opportunity to develop their whole personality. In Year 7, students have the opportunity to travel to France, including visits to the Bayeux Tapestry and World War 2 sites across the region. During the year, there are many trips and visits. These range from opportunities to organise and fundraise for overseas trips, to smaller-scale trips to Beechenhurst and Chepstow Castle. In KS3, students have the opportunity to go on a major trip each year. Currently, this is France in Year 7, London in Year 8 and Camp in Year 9. Each trip enables students to extend and deepen their learning and understanding of their local community and the wider world.

## ENRICHMENT

We believe that learning should never be limited to what happens within the classroom or within the school day. Dene Magna offers a range of opportunities for students to enrich their learning. We are proud of the achievement of our students in a wide variety of fields of endeavour. These include sport, performance, art, volunteering and participation in community groups within the Forest of Dean and beyond. P.E., Art, Drama and Music are outstanding departments that also contribute to the wider experience of students. Private Music lessons are available in a wide variety of instruments, and regular performances happen throughout the year. In sports, our students compete and perform at all levels, including at the county and national levels.



# Maximise **your** potential



## **DofE**

We offer the DofE Bronze award to our Year 9 and Year 10 students. All participants have to finish 4 sections of DofE to gain their full certificate. The sections are expedition, skills, physical and volunteering. These sections must be engaged in 3 to 6 months. We also offer the Gold award to our Sixth Formers. They also have to take part in a residential as well as the 4 sections, which must be completed within 12 to 18 months.

## **SCHOOL GAMES**

We host a Government funded Forest of Dean School Games, managed by the School Games Organiser - Alan Beard.

The purpose is to engage primary and secondary schools to offer various sporting and fun activities.

Within this role, we are committed to getting less active young people and utilising sports and activities to get them and keep them moving!

We work closely with local and national organisations to deliver these activities and to achieve our ultimate goal—some examples include; kayaking, netball, football, walking and orienteering to make a difference to all young people in the Forest of Dean.



# Student Achievements

Our wonderful student Amelia went to Holland with the Herefordshire Lions on a football tour! They only lost one game out of seven. We are incredibly proud of her and everything she has achieved!



Macy has been playing football since she was 3! She was the only female playing as she played through the age groups at Cinderford. Macy has represented her county several times and even trialled for England International under 15s! Well done, Macy!



Our Year 7 and 8 boys competed in the District Rugby Tournament at Cinderford RFC. We are incredibly proud to say that they won both of their tournaments! Both of our winning teams were awarded lovely shiny new cups for our trophy cabinet!



# Message From Our Head Students

The transition from primary to secondary can sometimes be daunting, but ultimately it opens up a whole new range of opportunities and possibilities. The staff at Dene Magna will help you along the way so that you can achieve your maximum potential and enjoy the process.

When you arrive, you will be allocated to one of four houses. Dowty, the blue house; Jenner, the red house; Wilson, the green house; or Foley, the yellow house. Each house offers great support to its students and is always well represented by the students in them. You will compete in inter-house competitions, things like the maths challenge and sporting challenges to name a few. These will all add up to who wins the House Cup at the end of the year. Each house takes great pride in these challenges and is proud of the student and staff who help make it happen. Attendance, merits and 'Above and Beyonds' are important and count towards the cup.

Throughout your Dene Magna journey, you will make great memories and achieve the best you can. There are so many ways to excel, whether it's through academia, art, design, music or sports. There are several clubs like a wide range of sports, including netball, rugby, tennis, football and many, many more. There are also debate clubs, book clubs, art clubs and games clubs. Most of these clubs will take place at lunchtime, but you may get asked to participate in fixtures for the sports clubs outside of school hours, which are always great fun! You will always be supported, and your concerns and suggestions will be listened to. You can talk to any member of staff, but student support mentors or heads of houses are there to help especially, as well as the Year eleven senior students. Then towards the end of the school year, you will get the opportunity to go on some great trips, Florence, Barcelona, London, Berlin and Skiing as well as many more.

We wish you the best of luck and hope you'll have a great time and excel at Dene Magna.

# Our Website

Our website is full of more information which you may be interested in. You will find detailed information about Our Community, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Safeguarding, SEN provision and more. We also keep parents/carers up to date via our website; this includes letters, our termly newsletter and subject information.



# Our Social Media

We currently have a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account; all of these accounts are under the name 'Dene Magna School'. We use our social media for announcements, achievements and to share photos and videos of our students. We love celebrating and keeping parents and carers up to date with what our students do at Dene Magna. Check out our social media!



# WILSON HOUSE



Edward Wilson was a physician and polar explorer from Gloucestershire. Wilson was a key member of the British Antarctic 1910 – 1912 Expedition. The group hit bad weather and, one by one, they sacrificed their own lives to save their fellow team members; a hugely commendable act.



”

Our House motto is:

*“Aspire Together,  
Achieve Together”.*

Together, we will aspire to win every competition we enter, whether this is: attendance, sporting events, maths challenges, cooking competitions and many more. Nobody will feel like they are on their own. I look forward to meeting all the new Wilson students in the New Year!



**Danielle Hill**  
**Head of Wilson**

# FOLEY HOUSE



Foley House, named after Winifred Foley, an author who wrote 'A Child in the Forest', is the true Forest of Dean House! Foley House is a 'fun and supportive house'. We take pride in everything we do and do all that is possible to ensure that each and every student performs to the best of their ability.



”

Our House motto is:

*“Only the Best Will  
Do”.*

This does not mean having only the best students but means that we will all be the best we can be every day. We always support each other with all aspects of school life, whether on the sporting field or with your academic studies. On behalf of our tutors and student House Captains, I welcome you to Team Foley!



**Ashley James**  
Head of Foley

# DOWTY HOUSE



Dowty House takes its inspiration and name from a local business that many families in the Forest of Dean will associate with: Sir George Dowty. Through his perseverance and dedication as an apprentice, he was able, in 1935, to set up his own company in Cheltenham making innovative aircraft equipment and named it Dowty's. He really reached for the skies and succeeded, so too shall we.



”

Our House motto is:

*“Stronger Together”.*

In Dowty House, we will be going on a learning journey together. We will enjoy discovering new knowledge and skills with an open mind. We will champion and support each other with whatever challenges we are faced with, and celebrate our achievements together. On behalf of the Tutors, House Captains and myself, I welcome you once more to Dowty House.



Aaron Underwood  
Head of Dowty

# JENNER HOUSE



I am very excited to welcome you to Jenner House. I am so proud to be the Head of Jenner because the students who are chosen to be in our house are very special. They are dedicated, hard-working and exude fabulousness! Jenner House is named after Edward Jenner. He was an amazing scientist who worked really hard to create a vaccination for smallpox. He never gave up, he kept going and as a result in 1980, it was announced that the world was free of smallpox.



”

Our House motto is:

*“Perseverance Breeds  
Success”.*

this means that no matter what, if you belong to Jenner, you will do anything and everything to succeed. Jenner students don't throw the towel in when the going gets tough... oh no, Jenner students persevere to achieve their very best and more. Attendance, Merits, Sports Day, Extra-Curricular Activities, Day to Day lessons, you name it, we strive to be the very best. Our door is ALWAYS open, and if you need me for anything, we are here for you every step of the way!



**Laura Burt**  
**Head of Jenner**





‘Skiing was a fantastic experience... an opportunity to learn something I never thought I’d be able to do.’

**Year 11 Student**



“I couldn’t have asked for better teachers to guide me through my five years at Dene Magna!”

**Year 11 Student**

# Dene Magna

## Sixth Form



*"It's a real privilege to work with the young people of the Forest of Dean, supporting them as they make their journey into further education. They are fantastic role models for our community, and we are really proud of them."*

**Elizabeth Balmer - Head of Sixth Form**

## About Us

Gloucestershire College opened its 'Forest Campus' in 2018 and is a state-of-the-art building with a fantastic array of facilities. Built with sustainability in mind, it is modern, clean and well-equipped. All our A-level teaching rooms house the latest in interactive boards, visualises and internet/WIFI access.

Students have access to a large and beautiful library, plus plenty of quiet study spaces. They all receive timetabled study support sessions which are designed to encourage a confident and independent approach to learning, this will, in turn, prepare our students for their onward journey to University.

The campus also offers plenty of spaces to relax and socialise, with a large refectory area, plenty of sofas and soft seating and a pool table. Our Sixth

Form is unique in that it offers the security and rigour of a school environment, alongside a more informal, adult approach, which is an endemic part of belonging to a Sixth Form College.

## Continuing Excellence

Students are now able to continue their educational journey at our excellent new Sixth Form facility. Dene Magna Sixth Form opened in 2019 and offers a broad range of A-Level subjects to students from across the Forest of Dean and beyond. Lessons are delivered by our outstanding staff, all of whom are passionate subject specialists. Classes occur at the Dene Magna site and the fantastic new Gloucestershire College Campus in Cinderford.





“I love the way it’s like school but really different. It’s chilled out and I feel like a grown-up.”

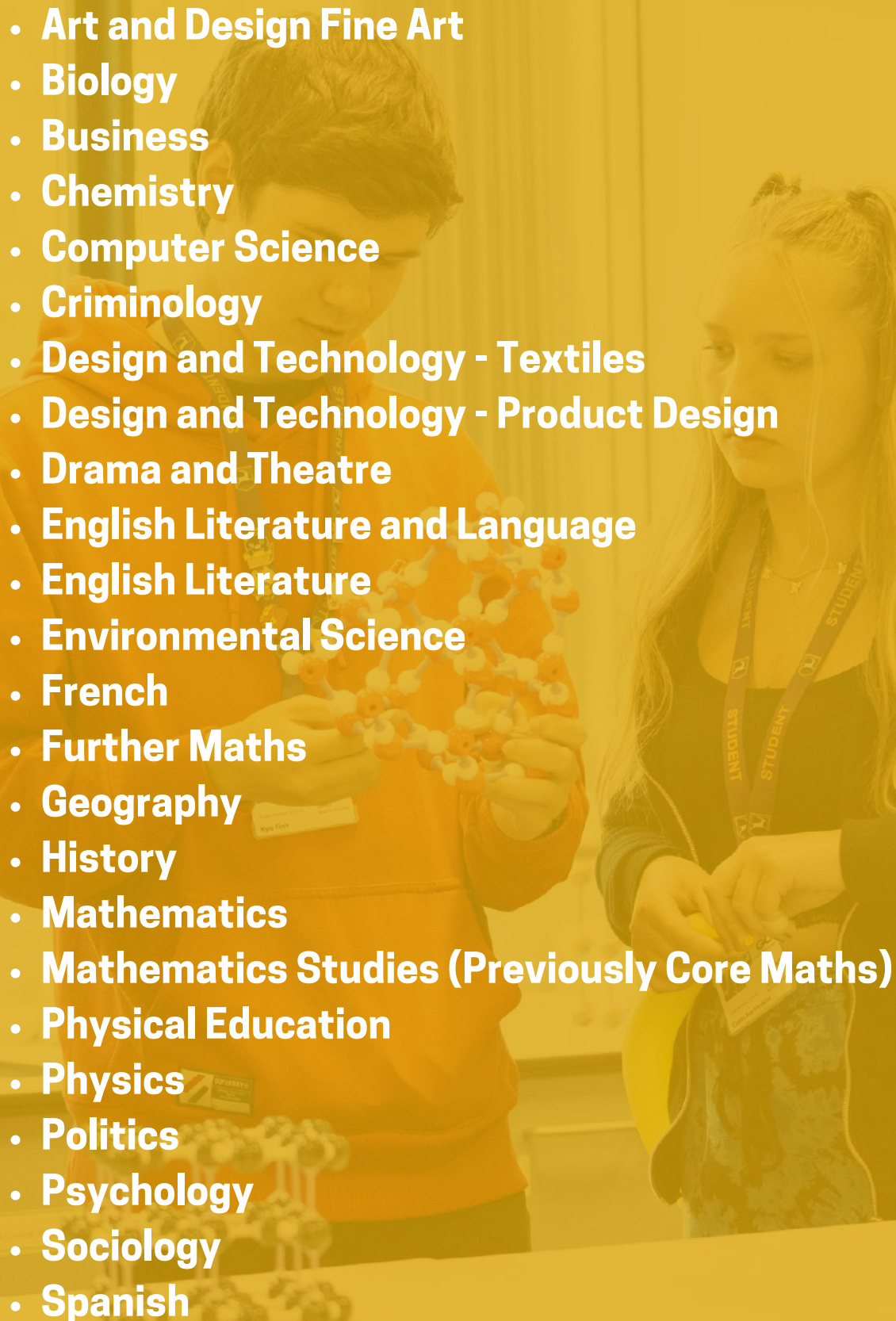
**Former Dene Magna Student**



“Everyone is really friendly and has been really welcoming.”

**Former Dean Academy Student**

# Our Subjects

- 
- A background image showing two students in a science laboratory. A male student on the left is holding a large molecular model, while a female student on the right is working with a smaller model. They are both wearing student lanyards. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.
- **Art and Design Fine Art**
  - **Biology**
  - **Business**
  - **Chemistry**
  - **Computer Science**
  - **Criminology**
  - **Design and Technology - Textiles**
  - **Design and Technology - Product Design**
  - **Drama and Theatre**
  - **English Literature and Language**
  - **English Literature**
  - **Environmental Science**
  - **French**
  - **Further Maths**
  - **Geography**
  - **History**
  - **Mathematics**
  - **Mathematics Studies (Previously Core Maths)**
  - **Physical Education**
  - **Physics**
  - **Politics**
  - **Psychology**
  - **Sociology**
  - **Spanish**



Providing high quality A Levels in the Forest of Dean



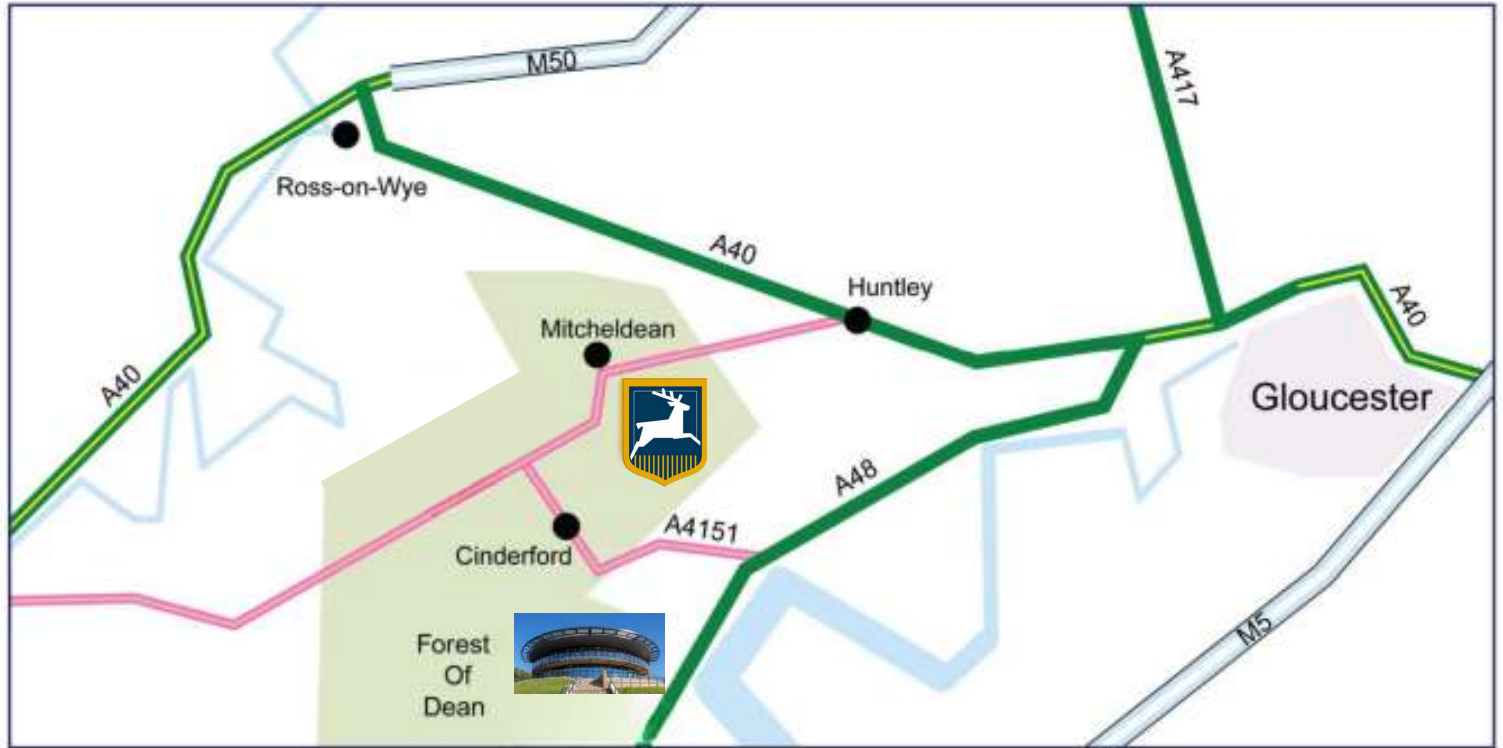
Dene Magna Sixth Form



# DENE MAGNA

Leading : Learning : Training : Technology

Headteacher: Stephen Brady BSc(Hons)



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