

December 2023

DENE MAGNA SCHOOL & SIXTH  
FORM

# DENE MAGNIFIER



## News from the headteacher

This half term is a short one, but we have continued our massive push on reading and Mr Marden is delighted to report that the average reading ages continue to rise. Y11 and Y13 students are now pushing on with their exam preparation and the rest of us are looking forward to Spring! As you will see, we continue to have a packed schedule and I have to thank you all for the support you give us in our work. It continues to be a real privilege for all of the staff to work with your children and we hope you enjoy a restful half term.



# Key Dates for Next Term

Students return to Week A on Monday the 19th of February

**House Talent Show - Thursday 22nd Feb**

**Y11, Y12 & Y13 Photos - Wednesday 6th March**

**Y10 Parents Evening - Thursday 7th March**

**Y11 Parents Evening - Thursday 21st March**

**Ski Trip Leaving**

**Deadline for Head Girl/Boy Applications -  
Friday 22nd March**

**[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 all,

It seems so strange this term is almost over. I can't believe how quickly Christmas went by! I hope all of you had a lovely Christmas and New Year with your families. With half term coming up, hopefully, we'll all get to spend more time with our families and relax. I'm sure everyone stuck to their New Year's resolutions, although I wasn't very committed to mine, unfortunately!

Before the Christmas break, the Year 11s had done their mocks. I want to say well done to everyone who got the results they wanted. And for those that didn't, don't give up yet. There's still plenty of time, and I'm sure your peers and teachers will be there to support you every step of the way. Please remember there are lots of period 6s and interventions to attend if you feel you need a bit of extra support. I believe there is now a minibus running for those who struggle to get home from period 6s, so please don't be afraid to ask if you need help getting home.

The year 9s are choosing their options. How exciting! I remember choosing mine and being a bit stuck on what to choose. All of you will make the right choice and can choose options you both like and think you'll do well in. Remember, at the end of the day, these options could help you decide what to do for your future.

So, as this term ends, I hope everyone has had a good and productive term. I also hope next term will bring good things for everyone and that we all come back after half-term refreshed and ready for another term!

Best wishes

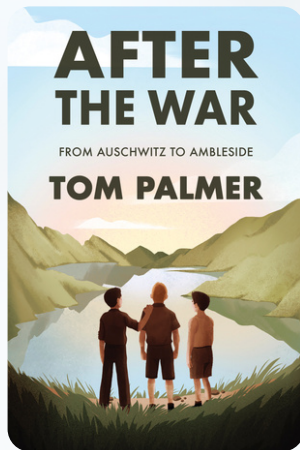


# Library

## Book of the Month

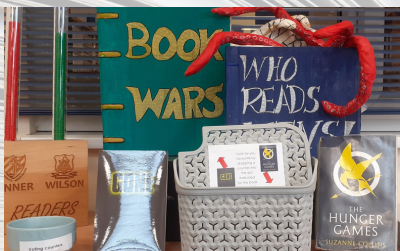
### After the War by Tom Palmer

Set just after World War II ends in Europe. Mordecai, Yossi and Ben are three of the children to have survived the horrors of the concentration camps. With no surviving family located they are flown to the Lake District where they must begin to rebuild their lives but how, exactly, do you do that when you have nothing and no-one left?



**A brilliant book that haunted me long after I'd finished it and shines a spotlight on what happened to the survivors of such horror.**

## Library in focus



Students are being asked to vote for their favourite option as a range of books go cover-to-cover in the library. Voting options can be found in the library (pictured) or online via the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/DDa3tSVdjWAwcnhx8>). Keep an eye on Facebook to see January's winner and February's choices.

## Student Book Clubs

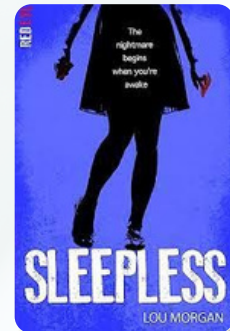
Tuesday - Years 7-9

Wednesday - Literature Festival

Thursday Years 10-11

## Student Book Review

Sleepless by Lou Morgan



How desperate are you to succeed? How far would you go? What would you try? For Izzy and her friends, facing their exams, the answer is a 'study pill' but all is not as they thought.

This is a VERY good book - with a theme that carries on through the whole story. There is always something going on to keep you on your toes with a great twist at the end.

This book may not be for everyone but if you enjoy your horror, give it a go!

Year 9 student

## Library Opening Hours

**Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 4.30pm**

**Friday 8.30am - 4.00 pm**



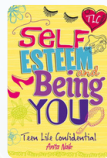
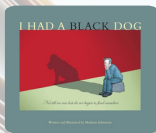
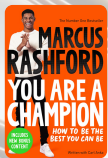
# Library

## Spotlight on Mental Health and Wellbeing

With Children's Mental Health Week in February, it seems like the perfect time to highlight some of the books students (and adults) can find to borrow in the library on a range of mental health, wellbeing and life issues.

Many of these can be found in an easy access area in the library or by browsing the ShelfHelp reading list on the catalogue.

Below are just a few of the great titles that can be found:



World Book Day Second-Hand Book Sale  
Request for donations of any books you no longer want but think someone in school may enjoy. All proceeds will be going to World Book Day charities.

Donations to the library by 6th March

## Remember...

1. To check when your books are due and to renew or return them in time!
2. Students can borrow books at any time using our e-book and e-audio library via the student quicklinks.
3. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Miss Jones in the library - I'm here to help!

## Volunteer update

One of my proudest achievements since I've been at Dene Magna has been the launch of the library volunteers. Not, I stress, for anything I've done but for their amazing contributions to making the library a better place for everyone.

We are fortunate to having a thriving volunteer team who work contribute at least 15 minutes of their time a week, but often do much more.

Some of their work and activities are highlighted below but if anyone else would like to be involved, you are always welcome to talk to me about it!

### Shelving is a constant process



As is preparing new stock and withdrawing old



Displays of both physical books and book covers





# Art

Jenson B, year 7 has created an amazing Pop Art inspired retro trainer.

Jenson has created a cardboard trainer and patiently and individually added coloured sequins to represent the Ben Day dots used by the artist Roy Lichtenstein. Jenson has also created a Pop Art inspired shoe box for the trainer.  
Fantastic effort Jenson, Well done





# Careers

The Year 11 mock interview event will be held on the 30th January 2024 from 9am to 2pm. We have 30 employers who have volunteered to help us with the event! Thank you so much to them for giving up their valuable time to help conduct interviews.

Our Post 18 Careers Fair is at the Sixth Form on the 22nd February 2024 from 3pm to 6:30pm and is open to other schools in the Forest of Dean. Year 11's will be taken to the sixth Form to have a look around the Fair in Period 5 (you will be back in time for buses). So far, we have 14 Universities that have confirmed their attendance, local HE providers such as Gloucestershire College to talk about their HND provision, the Civil Service, Army and RAF plus a number of local Employers/Apprenticeship providers such as: Crowe LLP, Versarien, Boom Satsuma and Ontic.

REMINDER: if you need any help with looking for work experience please email me for an appointment. I also have guidance here:

[https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?](https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Work+experience+%28yrs+10+%26amp%3B+12%29&pid=58)

[title=Work+experience+%28yrs+10+%26amp%3B+12%29&pid=58](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.

As always please check out information on the Careers Pages on the school website: [https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?](https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=Careers+Years+7+to+13&pid=227)

[title=Careers+Years+7+to+13&pid=227](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.

# Safe @ School Update January 2024

The Safe @ School Ambassadors are a group of students who champion every student across the Trust and actively work to reduce bullying and increase awareness of what to do if this should happen.

They have undertaken research and assemblies to ensure students understand the difference between conflict and bullying.

Bullying is the persistent intent to harm, intimidate, tease and abuse others whether it is verbal, physical, emotional or online. This is not a one off issue, but is repeated.

Bullying is not conflict.

Conflict is a serious disagreement or argument. This is usually a one-off event.

It is important that both are dealt with swiftly, appropriately and consistently. Much work has been going on to ensure that students know the different channels that they can use to report incidents such as via tutors, teachers, student support mentors, Heads of House, the safeguarding email on the website ([safeguarding@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)), Safe @ School Ambassadors and any other trusted adult across the school. Students are also encouraged to gain as much evidence of persistent bullying where it is possible as it makes it easier to build the case and deal appropriately with the actions, as this is harder when it is one person's word against another.

In November, the Safe @ School Ambassadors have also helped lead an Anti-Bullying Week across the school. This was to raise awareness of bullying and what we can do to overcome it. The week involved an assembly, secret supporter cards, an anti-bullying poster competition, anti-bullying related RSHE and SPAG lessons and talks from different students and staff. We are looking at ways to extend this next year.

The Safe @ School Ambassadors meet every term and work on projects to help develop awareness and the school culture towards bullying. They have worked hard to spread the message that the bully is the weak person, not the person being bullied. The bully has the insecurities that mean they have to make others feel scared, intimidated or upset to make themselves feel better. Everyone has the right to feel safe. Everyone has a responsibility for this. Bullying behaviour either face to face or online has no place in our school. We want everyone to stand up to bullying so our school can be in the best community possible.

Bullying is not a part of our culture and will never be accepted here.

The Safe @ School Ambassadors are also looking to develop and improve our website with more resources and information for their next project. If anyone has any ideas on how we can improve what we do further, please feel free to pass this onto your Student Council representatives or Safe @ School Team.



# Policies

We have been working very hard to update our policies on our school website and have made some minor adjustments to our safeguarding, student behaviour, attendance, anti bullying and RSHE policies. They can be found in the policies section of the website.

## Operation Encompass

I would also like to remind you that as a school we are part of the Operation Encompass alert scheme.

Operation Encompass is a joint scheme between Police and schools. When a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse, Police report this to schools during the following school day. For more information on this please read the letter below. This can also be found on our school website.

## Mental Health

As you know we work closely with outside agencies such as TIC+ and YMM to ensure that our students receive mental health support if they are struggling. Please find a link here to their privacy notice. This can also be found on our website.

# Our Community Bookings Programme

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

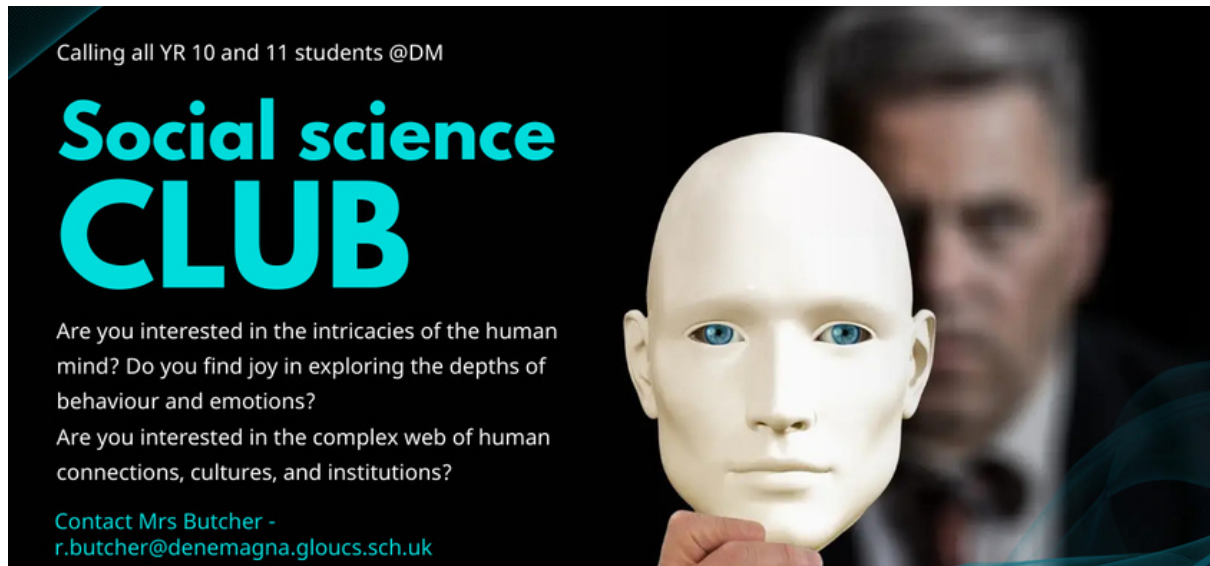
If you are interested in our facilities, please get in touch with Mr Beard at:  
[a.beard@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:a.beard@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)



# Social Science Club

Social Science club is starting for our Year 10 and 11 students!

This is an excellent opportunity for our students. It is being held in S6 every Tuesday week B lunchtime.



## Year 7 Textiles

The Students are adding an Interstellar theme to their aprons to use within the department. Here are a few of the finished aprons





# Dowty House News

Happy New Year to everybody, I hope you had a great Christmas! As we start a new term there are many exciting opportunities coming up over the coming weeks which I am excited to see Dowty students apply themselves to. The end of term gave us an opportunity to look at the year to date house standings and we currently sit in 3rd place.

## Attendance

Since the last newsletter we have managed to jump into second place on attendance, moving above Wilson and closing in on Foley. This is thanks to the hard work done by tutors, parents and students, striving to get into school everyday.

## Perfect Week

We are also in a strong position looking at perfect week. We sit in second place and are closing in on Wilson house - some hard work over the next few weeks and we have the change of first place. 7D2, 8D1 and 11D2 are still showing repeated success - leading the way in their year groups!

## Individual Student Mentions

Harry Evans in 9D1 is worthy of our Dowty special mention this month. After discovering at year 9 options evening that he has an interest in journalism, the PE team are utilising both his skills and his passion through getting him to create teamsheets and graphics for our sports fixtures. Harry is also keen to interview players and teachers following fixtures to boost the profile of this area of the school. Great stuff Harry!

## Student of the Month

Student of the month for January is based around students' progress scores. This is one of the most important aspects of school and these students are certainly thriving

7D1 Abigail Swaine

7D2 Wilson Smith

8D1 Bethany White

9D1 Olivia Farbowski

9D2 Phrynia Kibble

10D1 Elizabeth Frost

11D1 George Suehr

11D2 Charles Suehr

## Looking Forward

As we approach spring I have a goal of continuing our recent improvements in both the perfect week and attendance categories as well as driving on our interhouse scores. There will be many events coming up over the next few weeks and I look forward to seeing Dowty students competing for their house colours!

# Wilson House News

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely Christmas and New Year for you all. We are nearing the mid-way point of the year and so much has happened but we still have so much to fit in!! Coming up this term we have the Talent Show, and I really am hoping on a Wilson win this year, especially as we have the reigning champion in Wilson, inter house matches will take place, and the accelerated reader challenge continues. Our Student of the Month for January were selected on the students who have the s:

7W1 - Olivia Betty  
7W2 - Boe Howell  
8W1 - Toby Hayward  
9W1 - Millie Dickinson - Gay  
9W2 - Morgan Smallpage  
10W1 - Stan Lock  
11W1 - Nicole Kavanagh  
11W2 - Freddie Wilman

Well done to you all....who will be on February's list!

## Attendance

We continue to work hard towards the attendance trophy and we currently sit in a disappointing 3rd place. Tutors and tutees are working super hard to ensure we all aim to be in school and be doing our best, our breakdown by tutor groups is:

8W1	95.52%
11W2	95.42%
11W1	95.15%
10W1	95.03%
7W2	94.89%
7W1	93.27%
9W1	90.22%
9W2	90.14%

Well done to 8W1 who are the best achieving attendees in Wilson, 9W1 and 9W2 lots of work to do!! I would like to share this piece of research with you, which I share with the students all the time....

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.

During a House Council meeting at the start of the year, the students voted to have an attendance league, where each week, tutor groups have "fixtures" against each other, and the winner at the end of the league this term was:

11W1

## 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	Wilson	0.6743
2nd	Dowty	0.6490
3rd	Foley	0.6464
4th	Jenner	0.6199

Your tutors, Mrs Hoare and I hope you all have a great half term, and we will see you with renewed energy after half term! Stay safe and enjoy! Mrs Hill



# Jenner House News

Nearly at the end of what seems like the longest month with 750 days in it but, only two more weeks before we break up for half term, which seems so fast!

This term will go by in a blink of an eye, what with Year 9 choosing their options, Year 11 having mock interviews, etc.

I will be having interviews with Year 10 students to decide who will be my senior students next year. I am very much looking forward to listening to all their ideas on how we make Jenner great!

## Attendance

It's still 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 hoping for better attendance next term. As I write this, we are currently in 4th position in the House Attendance League with 93.60%. The school target is 97% or above and 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 February.

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

## Merits

Since September, Jenner has received a staggering 4982 merits...and this has put us in 2nd place, just behind Wilson House.

7J1 have received 1383 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

We have had the following students chosen as Student of the Month by their tutors.

### December:

7J1 Lily Bevan

8J1 Nicole Long

8J2 Isaac Evans

9J1 Jed Brooks

10J1 Noah Rawlings

10J2 Ashleigh Williams

11J1 Codi Reed

### January:

7J1 - Bella White

8J1 - Allegra Harman

8J2 - Elliot Cook

9J1 - Anais Jarrett

10J1 - Charlotte Loveridge

10J2 - Lucy Baker

11J1 - Josie Brain

## 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 am hoping that this will all turn around in 2024.

# Jenner House News

Students who are AMAZEBALLS!!

10J2:

These are some of the things the students in this amazing tutor group have done so far.

Katrina & Ashleigh: Playing excellent roles in Matilda before Christmas.

Harley enjoys Motor Cross and has been travelling to places such as Oxford and Thornbury to compete

Harrison has been playing centre-midfield (like David Beckham) for Highnam. They won 8-6 playing SevernSide last weekend

Devlin and Connor play football for Mitcheldean

Poppy - Last year Poppy trained with Shift Movement and is now an accredited Yoga Teacher.

Every Friday, she has been teaching a group of year 7 and 8 students different yoga sequences and relaxation techniques. Some of which include square breathing, word meditation and sun salutation. The sessions have been going really well, and some students are using these techniques to improve how they handle stressful situations.

As you can imagine, their tutors, Mrs Aldred and Miss John are extremely proud, as am I!

## 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.





# Community

It was great to see Drama Queens offer a fabulous dance festival at Whitemead Forest Park for FOD School children to keep them active and have fun! 🕺 All students loved this activity. Thank you to everyone involved!



Our School Games Organiser, Mr Beard, recently organised the New Age Kurling/Table Cricket event for our local primary schools. A huge thank you to Newent School for hosting and for their helpers and PE staff. Another thank you to Jeanette from the Glos Cricket Foundation. 😊



Here are the point results -

1st: Yorkley A

2nd: Primrose Hill A

3rd: Ellwood

Well done to everyone who participated, and we hope all students enjoyed this event!

