



Weekly Parent Bulletin No 21: Week Commencing Monday 3 March 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

Fabulous Win for Our Under 14's!

I could not be more proud of our under 14's who achieved a fantastic victory this Wednesday, beating Farmor's School 24-10. The team truly embraced the magnitude of the occasion and gave it their all. They will remember this moment for years to come, especially being able to say they played at Kingsholm, the home of Gloucester Rugby, and came out victorious! It was wonderful to see so many family members, students, and staff cheering them on. Roll on next year!



Year 7 Football Success

At the end of last week, our Year 7 boys played a football match at home against Five Acres, and once again, the winning streak continues with a 4-1 victory. Well done to all involved!



Guest Speaker Duncan McDonald

It was a pleasure to welcome back ex-student Duncan McDonald, who came to talk to our Sixth Form about his career journey. Duncan, who also worked as an IT technician at Dene Magna, is now the Cyber Security Director at NCC Group, a global cyber and software resilience business. His return to the Forest of Dean and sharing his expertise was a perfect example of our school values in action, inspiring the next generation of students.

World Book Day Celebrations

World Book Day was a huge success, with many students dressing up as their favourite literary characters and proudly showcasing the breadth of literature they've been reading. Staff joined in the fun too, with costumes ranging from Willy Wonka and his Oompa Loompas to characters from *The Lord of the Rings*. It was a wonderful celebration of books and reading!



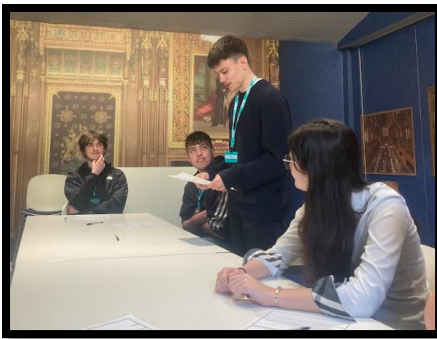
The competition was extremely tight, but after much deliberation and heated debate between our judges the top 3 were:

- ❖ 1st Place - Summer Clark 8W2 as Medusa
- ❖ 2nd Place - Ruby Hill 7F1 as Sophie from 'The BFG'
- ❖ 3rd Place - Lily Bevan 8J1 & Penelope Tudor 8W2 as Fern from 'Charlotte's Web'



Year 12 Politics Trip to Westminster

Y12 politics students spent a sunny Monday in London having a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, including a visit to the House of Commons followed by a workshop led by the Parliament Education Service. They were also able to have a Q&A session with the MP for the Forest of Dean, Matt Bishop, where they asked him about the role of an MP as well as questions on local issues such as bus fares! We finally topped it off with a pass by 10 Downing Street (although the PM was out!), and a snap in front of Elizabeth Tower.



The Student Standard

Our Sixth Form students have been working hard on the latest edition of *The Student Standard*. This publication gives an insight into Sixth Form life, student experiences, and much more. A lot of time and effort goes into writing and editing the Standard, and we hope you enjoy reading it as much as the students enjoy creating it.

Year 7 History

Year 7 students have been working hard on creating their own Motte and Bailey castles for ILT. In class they have been learning about the castles built during William the Conqueror's early reign, used as a method of helping control the land and people, and it is wonderful to see how they have applied that knowledge creatively! A special mention to Lily C (7J1) who created her Motte and Bailey Castle out of cake and generously shared with the class!



Auschwitz Project

Miss Eldridge along with over 100 other history and/or RS teachers from around the country completed the Lessons from Auschwitz project with the Holocaust Education Trust. This included a seminar in London, with talks from a Holocaust survivor, and on Wednesday a day trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The project is a carefully designed educational programme used to help discuss how such an important topic can continue to be taught reflectively, inspired by individual stories and the reflections of those who experienced the tragic event within their lifetime.



Art

Students have been exploring the powerful war drawings of Henry Moore, focusing on his depictions of shelters during the Blitz. Inspired by his work, students engaged in a life drawing exercise, sketching staged models wrapped in blankets within a confined space to reflect the atmosphere of wartime underground shelters. Using a range of media including ink, bleach, wax and graphite (Like Henry Moore), students captured the emotion and depth of Moore's style in their own unique interpretations.



Scholars Programme

We are thrilled to share the highlights of our recent **Graduation trip to the University of Bristol**. It was a privilege to take 20 students from year 9, who recently graduated from the Scholars programme which involved writing a 2000 word essay about Archaeological Science.

The trip started in a lecture theatre whereby students from different schools shared their experiences and evaluated which skills they had gained from the programme. We had a Tour of the University and the different facilities. The University is classed as a City University, which means the individual buildings are spread across Bristol and it involves some navigation between different Campus buildings. The sun was out on the day and we had a great tour around the site, which involved navigating plenty of hills and walking up to the top of a Sports facility.

In the afternoon students continued to reflect on their Educational Journey and the Lord Mayor of Bristol appeared to give his keynote speech. He made it very clear that he came from a humble background, growing up in a single family household in a council house. He shared his story on how a lot of hard work, a little bit of luck and the right support ensured that he went to university, had various careers and ended up as the "First citizen of Bristol" (a privilege of the current mayor).

All students who attended should be immensely proud of their achievement and this will set them for their next stage in their school education throughout Year 10 and beyond. We are looking forward to seeing what this cohort will do next.



Local Youth Theatre Performance

Found in the Forest Youth Theatre is presenting "Beasts & Beauties: Tales from Europe" on Thursday 20th March and Friday 21st March at The Wesley in Cinderford. The performance starts at 6pm and is part of the FOD Fringe festival.

The show includes several Dene Magna students:

- ❖ Maisy T
- ❖ Teyha Rose B
- ❖ Georgina B
- ❖ Sofia B
- ❖ Tabitha B

They're offering free tickets to under-18s.



Year 10 Parents/Carer Evening

A big thank you to all the parents who attended Year 10 Parents/Carer Evening. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces. We have now moved towards a QR Code for parents to give feedback, this is working extremely well and we will carry on this new system for all upcoming parents events. Thank you for all those parents that completed the feedback form this is most appreciated. We would like to share with you some responses:

“Just like to say a huge Thank you to you all, both my daughters had a great education with you and the support you have given my son (and myself) during our families crazy time has been incredible. We have a lot to Thank you all for!!!”

“We were very impressed with the support of our son’s Maths, PE, Science and Product Design teachers. Miss Eade from Geography clearly knows our son and his learning needs really well. We thought she was brilliant”.

“Teachers of my son have a real passion for their subject and getting the best out of him”.

Once again thank you for your continued support.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

- 10.03 - Year 10 Boys Football v Five Acres
- 12.03 - Year 8 & 9 Boys Basketball v Newent
- 14.03 - UK University & Apprenticeship Event @ Ashton Gate
- 18.03 - Year 8, 9 & 10 Girls Netball v Wyedean
- 18.03 - Year 10 Boys Football v Forest High

- 21.03 to 23.03 – Year 11 Girls Netball Tour