



Weekly Parent Bulletin No 29: Week Commencing Monday 28 April Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

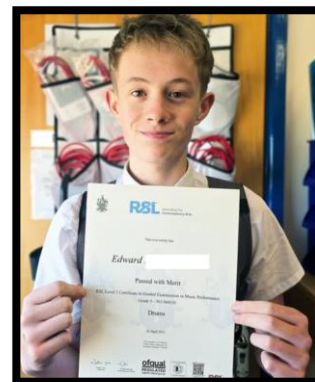
Music Achievement

A huge congratulations to **Edward Barnes**, who recently took his **Grade 5 Drum exam** and achieved a **Merit!** This is a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to his hard work and dedication. We're incredibly proud of him and excited to see where his musical journey takes him next.



Sporting Success'

Well done to **Thomas Rawlings (Year 9)**, who has been competing at a high level in swimming for Forest of Dean Swimming Club. He recently **qualified for the England South West Regional Championships** and competed in the **100m backstroke** this weekend. Thomas has huge aspirations for his swimming career, and we're all cheering him on! Thomas we wish you good luck.



Huge congratulations to **Macey Walby** who has won the U21s Players' Player of the Year and the Golden Boot winner across the whole Bristol City academy.

Weather and Uniform

With the recent spell of warm weather, we've had some questions about students wearing PE kit to school. While we understand the desire to stay cool, we've always known this warm period wouldn't last. If we experience a longer stretch of hot weather, we will communicate any changes to the uniform policy. We regularly check the forecast and are in regular contact with other Head Teachers across the Forest of Dean to ensure a consistent and considered approach to extreme weather conditions.



Exam Season Underway

It's been a busy week for exams!

- ❖ **Year 11** students have completed their **French and Spanish speaking exams**.
- ❖ **Year 11 and Year 13 Art students** have also sat their practical exams—10 hours for GCSE and 15 hours for A Level.
- ❖ **Year 13 PE students** attended moderation at **Katharine Lady Berkeley's School**, where they demonstrated their skills across a range of sports to the exam board.

We are incredibly proud of how prepared, focused, and committed our students have been. They are a credit to themselves and the school.

Please note that students will be in school until the end of their exams, there is no study leave.

Exam's start on Thursday 8th May – we wish all our Year 11's good luck

- ❖ Thursday 8 May – Drama Exam – “Understanding Drama
- ❖ Friday 9 May – Business Studies Component 1

Message from the Finance Department

Please could parents of Year 11s ensure that all Year 11 lunch accounts are cleared before they leave us.

Year 11 Sunday Science Revision Sessions

Science will be holding Sunday revision sessions from 9.00am to 11.00am on the following dates:

- ❖ Sunday 18th May - before the chemistry paper 1
- ❖ Sunday 15th June - before the physic paper 2

Road Works at Steam Mills

We have recently spoken to a member of Grindles Coaches with regards to the GR4/GR5 – Littledean/Cinderford/Drybrook route, below is a copy of the letter they sent out to all parents of students that use this bus:

“I'm sure that you will all be aware that the temporary traffic lights in Steam Mills are causing significant congestion whilst exiting Cinderford. Unfortunately this has undoubtedly resulted in the delay of our two services to Dene Magna School. They are expected to be in place for approximately 10 weeks.

I just wanted to send a quick email to reassure parents and students that we are monitoring the situation very closely. We are acutely aware of the upcoming exam season and do not want anybody to be panicked or cause any unneeded stress, ahead of the exams.

At the moment, GR4 has been arriving at school for approximately 08:30-08:35, before the bell rings.

GR5, once completing its pickup's in Cinderford, has been approximately 10 minutes late to Steam Mills and the stops in Drybrook, resulting in it not arriving at Dene Magna School until 08:40.

I have spoken to Mr Mooney at Dene Magna School and he has confirmed that these current timings will not have any effect on students starting their 9:00am exams. We'd like to reassure parents/students that the bus will arrive, and to ask students to wait at their stop until it does.

For extra reassurance, please remember that it is possible to track the progress of the bus, by clicking on the link on your ticket. If you have lost the original or using a screenshot, the link to your ticket can be obtained by logging into your 'ShuttleID' account at <https://passenger.shuttleid.uk/login?redirect=>. Otherwise, if your child receives transport courtesy of Gloucestershire County Council, I can resend your ticket via our system”.

Budding Author

Connie Parry (Year 7) has written and self-published her own book, “The Teen Detectives”. The book can be purchased on Amazon at a cost of £6.99, (<https://amzn.eu/d/hvtHGiy>).

“When Cassie Rane gets an unexpected call causing a change in her life, what will she do? She makes the biggest decision of her life and moves halfway across the world where she finds her true family, but it takes her time to adjust. But over time, she learns that her mother’s favourite thing to say. “A home isn’t a place, it’s the people you’re with”, is what is most important. Her new friends are her real family.”



Duke of Edinburgh Update

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award students undertook their first fully-loaded training walk on Wednesday, even carrying their sleeping mats (though no camping was involved this time)!

The students all did really well, using their map-reading skills to navigate safely and even managing to avoid getting too wet. Next time, they'll be challenged further with a full day hike



Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended the **Year 7 Parents' Evening**. It was wonderful to hear such positive feedback about how well your children have settled into life at Dene Magna. It was especially lovely to hear stories about students stepping out of their comfort zones and having the courage to try new things—this is exactly the kind of spirit we want to nurture.

- ❖ "I am thrilled with how my son has settled and how he is performing thank you for this wonderful transition"
- ❖ "My daughter is thoroughly enjoying Year 7. Thank you to all of the staff who have supported and encouraged her this year"

Year 11 Prom

On Friday 27th June, Forest Hills Golf Club will be hosting the annual Dene Magna Prom event. Our hope is that this will be an opportunity for students and staff to celebrate successes, share and make memories and have a really enjoyable evening. Tickets for the event will be £35 and this will include a disco, food and a drink - all other drinks will need to be purchased on the evening. All tickets must be purchased by Monday 12th May. Students will be expected to arrive at the event between 6pm and 6:30pm and will need to be collected by 10:00pm. Photography will be done by the brilliant Teresa Owen throughout the evening. Photos will be available to purchase after the event.

Congratulations!!!

To Mrs Beard and Mrs Moverley who competed in the reverse London Marathon which started at midnight on 27.4.25. A big well done from all at Dene Magna School.



Free Tennis Event

FREE tennis event for all ages: Forest of Dean Tennis Club are holding an Open Day at Dene Magna on Saturday 3rd May, come along and give tennis a try or show off your skills!

Reminder

Any student walking home through the field below the school entrance please can they stick to the designated footpath that goes from the school to Silver Street and not roam all over the field and take their rubbish home with them.

VE Day Celebrations

In celebration of VE Day on Thursday 8th May, students can wear cadet/guide/scout uniforms etc. We will also have a 2 minutes silence at 3pm.

The school will be hosting a VE Day Celebration on Sunday 15th June, we will update you with further information closer to the date.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend, hopefully the sun will shine!!

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

- ❖ 05.05.25 - Bank Holiday (May Day)
- ❖ Week Commencing 05.05.25 – 'A' Level & GCSE Exams Begin
- ❖ 06.05.25 – Year 11 GCSE PE Moderation @ Churchdown School
- ❖ 08.05.25 – 7th Instalment of £50 due for the Year 8 London Trip
- ❖ 10 & 11.05.25 – DofE Expedition Practice Walk
- ❖ 13.05.25 – Year 8 HPV Vaccination Catch Up Session
- ❖ 22.05.25 – 4th Instalment of £250 for the Berlin Trip
- ❖ 22.05.25 – Year Author Visit to Books for Bugs @ Vantage Point
- ❖ 23.05.25 – End of Term

