



## Weekly Parent Bulletin No 31: Week Commencing Monday 12 May 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have made a fantastic start to their exams. They have approached each one with focus and determination, and their hard work and commitment have truly impressed us.

### Good Luck Year 11s

Year 11s received a good luck message from our Local MP

*To all Year 11 students,*

*As you begin your GCSE exams, I want to take a moment to wish every one of you the very best of luck.*

*These exams mark an important milestone in your education journey, and I know how much work, focus, and determination you've put in to get to this point. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and you should be proud of everything you've achieved so far.*

*While exams can feel daunting, remember that they are just one part of a much bigger picture. Keep calm, do your best, and know that your hard work will pay off.*

*You have the support of your teachers, families, and our entire community behind you — and I'm sure you will all do well. And remember, whatever the outcome, your next steps will open up new opportunities.*

*Matt Bishop*

*Member of Parliament for the Forest of Dean*

### Head Boy/Girl Interviews

This week also marks the start of the selection process for our new student leadership team. Today, I will complete interviews with 18 outstanding candidates for the position of Head Student. I have been immensely proud of each one of them for having the courage to step forward and their desire to lead our student body.

### Rugby League

Year 7, 8 and a combination of 9 & 10 boys enjoyed a chance to play in a rugby league tournament organised by the All Golds at Churchdown School. They all played well and adjusted to the new rules required for Rugby League, representing the school with enthusiasm and energy. The tournament will be back this time next year, so any keen boys, please keep an eye out. The girls are heading to the same tournament next week, and we wish them good luck.



### Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh student's undertook their weekend practice expedition. 3 groups of students ventured out and about in the woods in very hot weather, testing their map work, wood walking & camping in the Forest. They did well the girl's team must be commended for fully completing their practice walk with the other groups getting a little lost along the way, however they all survived the experience. Thanks to all parents & carer's for their support. Well done to all the students, Many thanks to our DofE Manager and AtoZ Expeditions for the support over the weekend. We wish them good luck for the main expedition in July.



### Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

Meanwhile, our Year 13 students completed another Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award practice walk – a 10km loop in sunny Lower Lydbrook. They made excellent progress honing their skills and racking up the miles ahead of a bigger full kitted walk after half term.



### Year 10 10-A-Side Rugby Tournament

Year 10 boys were invited by Gloucester Rugby to play in the EDF 10-a-side tournament at Kingsholm. They were outstanding and adapted their game to suit the 10-a-side game. They played against local rivals Newent and Crypt in the pool stages and then played Marling in the 3rd place match.

It was a lovely evening and the boys played some fantastic rugby in a world-class club stadium. For many, this was the first time playing at Kingsholm and a fantastic experience it was. Well done to all the boys involved.



## VE Day Celebrations

A number of events are taking place over the course of May and June to mark VE 80 - the end of WW2 in Europe. Year 7 students showed their inquisitive nature by asking so many questions to guest speaker, Monty Walker, from the British Legion, that he was delighted by their engagement during assembly last week. Students in KS3 and our Year 10 historians have all had special lessons on the significance of VE Day. Year 8 will have Cadets in next week to speak with them and the canteen is even serving food from the Allies.



All of this will culminate in our community celebration on Sunday 15th June - we are delighted to announce that we have secured an aerial display from the Royal Navy Raiders - time to be confirmed.

### Your School Needs You!!!

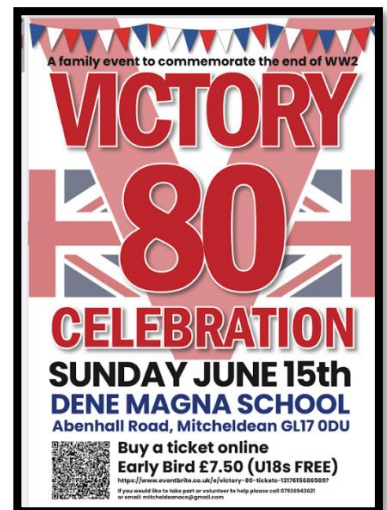
We are in need of material for a massive bunting project - ideally in DM house colours (red, yellow, green, and blue) and plain, but a bit of pattern will also be fine. If you have any old clothes or bedding that you would like to donate, it would be much appreciated!


We would like them ASAP in order to get started, so if anyone is having a sort out over half term and can send some fabric our way, we would be very grateful.

### Year 7 Author Event

There is still outstanding places on the Year 7 Author Event on Thursday 22nd May with Matt Goodfellow at "Books for Bugs" at Vantage Point. All Year 7s have received a letter, to attend please return the permission slip or phone

*"Matt Goodfellow was born in Manchester and brought up in the Stockport, spending most of his early life dreaming of becoming a rock star and playing in bands to make it a reality before he realised it wasn't going to happen. Changing lanes, he became a primary school teacher and the song lyrics slid into poems about life and all its challenges. The poetry began to take over, awards and books followed and Matt is now an award winning poet who travels the country to inspire others. Matt is a phenomenal speaker and poet and his sessions are always enjoyable so we are thrilled to have the opportunity to experience this for themselves".*





### Year 7 Author Event


**Matt Goodfellow**

Thursday 22nd May

During the school day

£5 = event + copy of 'The First Year'

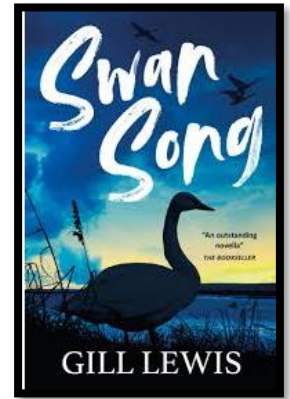
Get your reply slips back ASAP to take part!!



The BRILLIANT author and poet, Matt Goodfellow will be doing an event at Books for Bugs and YOU are invited to attend...

## Active Reading Group - Slimbridge Visit

This year Miss Jones and Mr. Marden-Harris launched a pilot Active Reading Group for a group of students in Y7 with the aim of reading a book as a group and really bringing it to life. For the last two terms we have been reading 'Swan Song' by Gill Lewis, a beautiful story of a boy excluded from school who finds peace and himself again by helping his grandad to rehabilitate and save a whooper swan.



Recently, we took six students from our Active Reading Group to enjoy an educational and exciting trip to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre, where they explored the fascinating world of migratory birds including whooper swans. During their visit, they learned about the incredible migration routes of various bird species, gaining insight into the long journeys many birds undertake each year across continents.



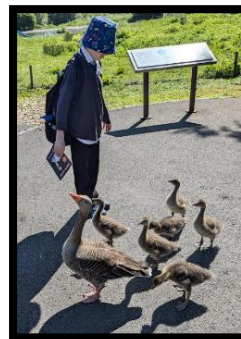
The group also took part in real conservation work by helping to count and record the activities of different bird types, contributing to the ongoing research efforts at the centre. Armed with a keen set of eyes and recording sheets, they carefully observed bird behaviours and noted their findings with enthusiasm.

A highlight for many was the opportunity to feed the swans from the story—some pupils showed great courage and calmness, offering food to the elegant birds by hand. It was a memorable moment that brought them up close to nature in a truly unique way.



Overall, the pupils were a credit to the school, and the trip provided a perfect mix of learning and adventure, helping to bring the work of the characters in the book to life while giving our students a similarly conservationist experience.

Congratulations to Esmail W and Emii-Rai T for winning the habitat recording task! Keep your eyes posted for the winner of our best photo competition next week!



## Overdue Library Books

Any student, especially Year 11s, who have received a bill for overdue library books please pay the bill via Sco Pay or the return the book in good condition as soon as possible.

### **Year 8 & 9 Science Festival Trip**

There are still places available on the Year 8 & 9 Science Festival trip on 4<sup>th</sup> June to Cheltenham, cost is £24.00, if your son/daughter is interested please see Mr Pike for a letter.

Have a great weekend enjoy the sunshine.

Declan Mooney  
Headteacher

#### Dates For Your Diary:

- 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 @ 3.20pm
- 02.06.25 – New Term Starts
- 04.06.25 – Year 8 & 9 Cheltenham Science Festival Visit
- 05.06.25 – Black County Museum Visit
- 08.06.25 – Final Instalment of £50 for the Year 8 London Trip