



Weekly Parent Bulletin No 32: Week Commencing Monday 19 May 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

As we head into the half term break, we want to take a moment to recognise and celebrate the hard work, determination, and resilience shown by our students, particularly those in Years 11 and 13, during what has been a very busy exam season so far.

Year 11 – An Excellent Start

A huge well done to all of our Year 11 students. This week alone, they have completed two English and two Science papers, along with a range of other subject exams. Yesterday, a number of students sat **three exams in one day** – a challenging feat, and one they approached with maturity and calmness.

We're incredibly proud of how they have prepared and performed. Many students have taken the time to speak with staff after their exams, reflecting on how topics discussed in lessons and recent booster sessions gave them a real sense of confidence. It's clear their hard work is paying off.

Looking ahead:

- ❖ **The first two days after half term (Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd June)** are normal school days, with valuable final lessons taking place. These sessions will be crucial for last-minute preparation with subject teachers.
- ❖ There are also **booster sessions running over the half term break** – students are encouraged to attend where possible.

Year 11 Revision Sessions During Half Term

There are two revision sessions happening during half term:

- Tues 9am -12noon - Maths Revision Session
- Tues 12noon -1.30pm – Catering Revision Session

Year 11 “Final Day”

Year 11s will have their traditional “Final Day” on Thursday 19th June. The day will start at 11.10am for shirt signing, with their final assembly commencing at 11.35am, followed by burgers and inflatables on the field.

Year 13 – Calm and Confident

Our Year 13 students have also begun their exam season in earnest. It has been fantastic to see them around the main site – calm, focused, and quietly confident as they head into each exam.

Just like Year 11, they are emerging from the exam hall saying, “It went well,” and “I gave it my best.” That level of self-assurance speaks volumes about their preparation and attitude.

As we enter the middle of the exam period, it's important to help them **plan a balanced routine** that includes revision, family time, friends, and rest. There are still three weeks to go, and pacing themselves will be key to sustained success.

Thank you for the support you're providing at home.

Student Leadership – A New Chapter Begins

We're excited to share that the process of appointing our new student leadership team is underway. We were thrilled to receive **18 applications** for the most senior student roles – a testament to the quality and ambition of our young people.

Each candidate was asked to:

- Submit a letter of application
- Deliver a five-minute presentation on their vision and legacy
- Complete a formal interview

We're proud to announce that **Rebecca Histed** and **Aoife Brady** have been appointed as our new **Head Students**. A huge congratulations to them both.

The selection process for our PE and House Leaders is now in progress, and Sixth Form student leadership roles are also being finalised. We'll share a full update, including photographs of the new team, soon.

All Gold Rugby League Tournament

On Wednesday 21st May, we took 26 girls from Year 7 - 10 to an All Golds Rugby League Tournament held at Churchdown School.

The Year 7 & 8 team faced opposition from Churchdown and Oasis. Making a really strong start, and playing an incredibly competitive match against Churchdown we came out on top by 8 tries to 7. We then faced a really tough match against Oasis, and went in 5-4 down at half term, unfortunately Oasis pulled away and they came away with a 9 tries to 5 tries win. A fantastic afternoon, displaying super teamwork and determination, with the girls finishing in 2nd position.



The Year 9 & 10 girls had more matches facing Churchdown, Oasis, Winchbourne and Orchard. The girls put on a magnificent display, winning every single one of their matches convincingly and they were crowned the All Golds Rugby League Winners!



We were really proud of how the girls conducted themselves at the tournament and they all threw themselves into every match!



Sporting Achievements - The Gane Brothers

Zachary Gane, Year 8 has been awarded Parents Player of the season for Cheltenham Town Football Club in the Junior Premier League! Zach has worked his socks off this season. He has also had his offer to play for the team next season. We are super proud of him & all his hard work!

Oscar Gane, Year 7 attended Cinderford Town Rugby presentation at Hartpury, where he won this seasons "Most Improved Player" award. We are extremely proud of Oscar also known as Otto on the Rugby pitch.



Thank You To Jenner House

Dear Members of Jenner House, Dene Magna School.

From all of us here at Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC), I would like to express a big thank you for your amazing £559.92!!!

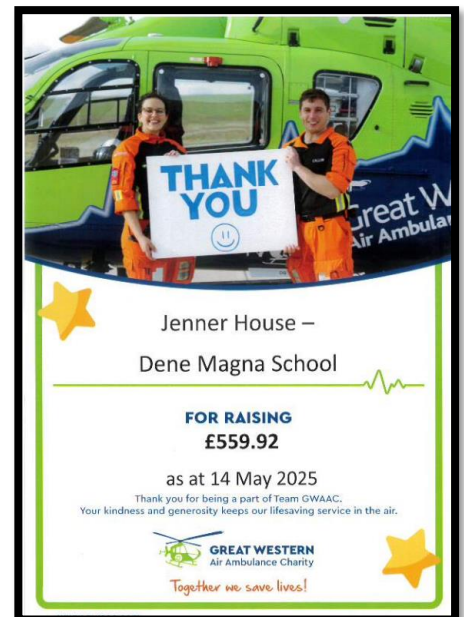
The amount you have raised will be enormously valuable in helping to ensure we can continue to provide the service we do. We are truly thankful for your support that enables us to be where we are needed.

It is because of wonderful, kind-hearted, persevered and hardworking supporters like you all that we can continue to be there for those in our shared community. Thank you for believing in our work and for keeping us flying and driving forward. We can't thank you enough.

*Sending all our very best wishes
Charlie the Critical Care Bear and all GWAAC Team.*

Active Reading Group Announcements Completing Swan Song

This term marks the end of our first ever group of Active Readers completing their first book 'Swan Song' by Gill Lewis where we have aimed to really bring the books to life for those reading them. Mr Marden-Harris and Miss Jones have been incredibly impressed with the dedication of the group and their commitment to embracing this pilot scheme and it is a bittersweet that the first book is over but we are all looking forward to the next choice. To celebrate their successes, all students have been presented with their own copy of the book and have had a celebratory start to the day as they work on sharing their thoughts and feelings of 'Swan Song' with a wider audience. Well done to all these inspirational students!



Slimbridge photo competition

As we promised in the newsletter last week, we can now update you on the winners of our Slimbridge Trip Photo Competition. The judges were very impressed with the way students interpreted the challenge and the range of images they submitted: we had some wonderful entries with a few of the best reproduced below. The overall winners were Oakley Mansfield and partner for their fabulous image of a Mute swan with their cygnets - congratulations to you both!



Matt Goodfellow Author Event

On Thursday, two groups of students participated in the Matt Goodfellow Author Event at Books for Bugs in Mitcheldean. The sessions were high energy, fascinating and highly inspirational. Matt spoke with passion about poetry, education and embracing who you are. I'm sure all who went will remember his messages of "You matter. Your experience matters" and his ability to engage his audience.

In return, Matt seemed impressed with our students as he pulled them in to sharing their advice to the Year 6s present on the transition from primary to secondary school which he addresses in his verse novel 'The First Year'. Miss Jones was equally impressed with their advice and the questions they asked at the end of the talks.

It was a privilege to be able to take these students to this event and I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did. To all those who went: I hope you enjoy your signed books and to those who missed out, you can still borrow a range of Matt's books from the library!



6th Form Transition Day

The Sixth Form Transition day is on Friday, 20th June, this is by invitation only.

If you haven't confirmed your place with us, use the QR code sent on your invite or contact the sixth form office on Dean 838549.



When: Friday 20th June



Where: Gloucester College Campus, Northern United Way, Cinderford, GL14 3FF



Time: 08:45

This will be a great opportunity to

- Meet your future classmates and teachers
- Explore the 6th Form and get a feel for life as an A Level student
- Take part in taster sessions and activities

Thank You To Dowty House

Dear Members of Dowty House, Dene Magna School

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £426.97.

Dementia is a huge and growing health crisis. By 2025, it's predicted that over one million people in the UK will be living with the condition. But while there is currently no cure for dementia, there is care – and care can change lives. That's why we're so grateful for your support.

Your donation will help us grow the number of specialist Admiral Nurses so they can provide a lifeline to more families facing dementia – like Steve and his wife, Julie, who was diagnosed with young onset dementia.

"Meeting my Admiral Nurse, Amy, was a breath of fresh air. She's a great listener and I can bounce my ideas for caring for Julie off her. She has empowered me to be the best carer I can for my wife. Without Amy, coping would be a much greater challenge.

Once again, thank you to all members of Dowty House for your generosity, because of you, our nurses can help more families face the future with confidence.

*Best Wishes
Dementia UK*

Huntley C of E School 150 years

Huntley C of E are Celebrating 150 Years of Huntley C of E Primary School with a Fete on 14th June 2025, 1pm - 5pm, All Welcome!!

Any former pupils of Huntley C of E Primary School (you, your family or anyone else you know!) we'd love to hear from you. If you have any memories and/or photos please email: PTFA@huntley.gloucs.sch.uk. Tours of the school will also be run if you'd like to take a trip down memory lane.



Young Reporter Scheme

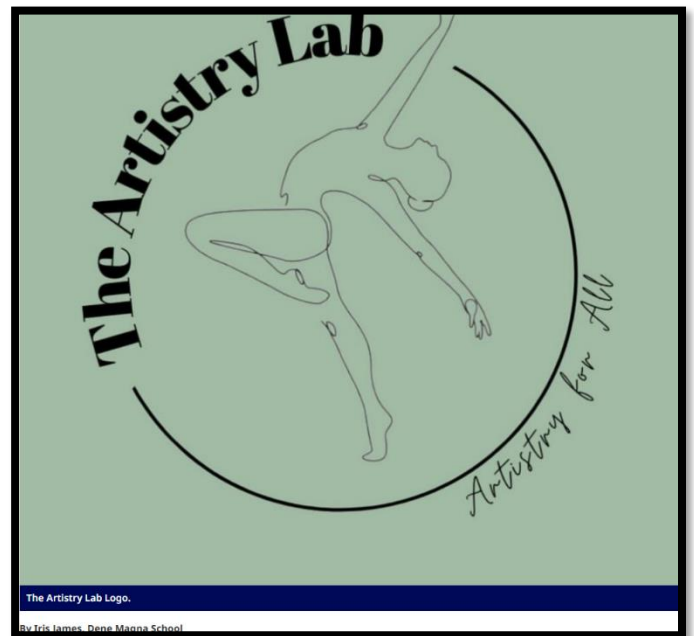
The Young Reporter scheme is a schools programme giving students in school years 10, 11, 12 and 13 an opportunity to write for a real live online newspaper. The programme runs for eight months during the school term, with various opportunities offered along the way. At the end of the scheme students are judged on the articles they have submitted throughout the year and an awards ceremony is held for the winners.

Below is an article written by Iona James.

Have you ever wanted to make your dreams a reality? Well, for local entrepreneur Iona James, she has recently taken the leap to make this happen. After spotting a gap in the choreography market, she decided to chase her dreams and create her own business, known as 'The Artistry Lab' that specialises in choreographing for Artistic and Acrobatic Gymnastics through the South West.

She is very passionate about dancing and has had experience through being a gymnast for the majority of her life herself where dance and more specifically gymnastics artistry was key for success in competitions. Enabling her to be very helpful for other gymnasts now as high quality artistry is rewarded in competitions more and more. Iona is also a qualified level 2 Women's Artistic Gymnastics coach meaning she understands all of the skills needed to be put into her routines and also how to coach them safely.

As a choreographer, she is very keen on providing artistry services for gymnasts of all levels; her main goal being making her business completely inclusive to all kinds of gymnasts. Upon asking about her goals, she replied that she "Wants to share her passion with others alongside providing inclusive services".



She is currently choreographing the Christmas Displays for the Forest of Dean Gymnastics Club, where she has planned out many routines for a range of gymnasts (these routines being for a big group where she has to decide on spacing and she aims to ensure that the choreography she provides is suitable for every level of gymnast in the group): from recreational groups to squad groups with high standard and fun choreography.

She has also created many routines for gymnasts at the club that have gone on to achieve awards for artistry at county competitions as she aims to make each routine unique and suit the gymnast she is choreographing for.

Iona can be found on social media, on handles like Instagram, where she will post snippets of her exciting new ventures, so tune in and get fired up for her captivating choreography!

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.

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.

Victory 80 Day

Please remember to support Victory 80 on 15th June - a celebration not to be missed! Please do come along and support this fantastic event.

Hope you have a restful half term.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

- 02.06.25 – New Term Commences
- 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
- 12.06.25 – Year 6 Induction Evening – Pastoral
- 15.06.25 – Victory 80 Celebration Day

