



## Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 5 Week Commencing Monday 29 September 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

### Year 11: Preparing for Mock Examinations

This week, Year 11 students have been actively preparing for their upcoming trial examinations (mocks) during their morning RFL (Raising Futures and Learning) sessions, led by Mr Derrick.

On Monday, Mr Derrick helped students plan their revision timetables. Our office staff are laminating these, and they should be coming home today.

Please take time to review them with your child, as your support over the next month will be vital to their success in the trials.

For the remainder of the week, students have been taught various revision strategies that they can use to support their learning.



We have an upcoming Year 11 Parents' Information Evening on the Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 5pm, a letter inviting you to this was emailed home this week.

During this evening, we will go through these revision techniques in more detail. We will also host short talks from some sixth-form providers as we approach the crucial sixth-form open evening season.

## Netball Challenge Cup

On Tuesday, the U16s took part in the Netball County Challenge Cup today @ Cheltenham Ladies College. The girls played amazing and made their opposition work hard to beat them. The girls came away with 1 win, 1 draw and 3 narrow loses! Fab effort, Well done girls!!



## Year 7 Rugby Victory

I was delighted to watch our Year 7 boys' rugby team play away against John Kyrle. It was a fabulous match! Our students displayed quick movement throughout the game, excellent turn speed on the wings, and sheer determination, resulting in an impressive 25-0 win. They have now beaten every team they have faced so far, and they continue to improve with each match. I can't wait to see what this talented team achieves next!



## Year 8 "Crashing" Performance

Last Friday, our Year 8 students watched a production called 'Crash.' This performance is a key part of our ongoing RSHE (Relationships, Sex, and Health Education) and safeguarding curriculum. It focused on the serious issue of exploitation, including how it can occur, the signs to look for, and what help and support is available.

## Sixth Form Enrichment

All of our Sixth Form students take part in Enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon, and they've made an enthusiastic start to their extracurricular activities - whether that's undertaking an EPQ, working towards a Gold Crest Award, enjoying arts and crafts, writing for the school magazine, learning Japanese... or more!



## Art News

The Art Department and students have started making poppies, lots of students have been helping with poppy making, and a special mention goes to

- Hannah H
- Sophia OB
- Ingrid PF
- Daisy S
- Hamish C
- James M
- Ruby B
- Millie P
- Miri P



The poppies are made from plastic bottles which will be used in a Remembrance Display we still need donations of these, please bring any clean bottles to Reception.

Poppy making club runs every Tuesday after school until 4:20, and on Wednesday lunch time up until half term. Students in Year 7 and 8 are welcome to attend.

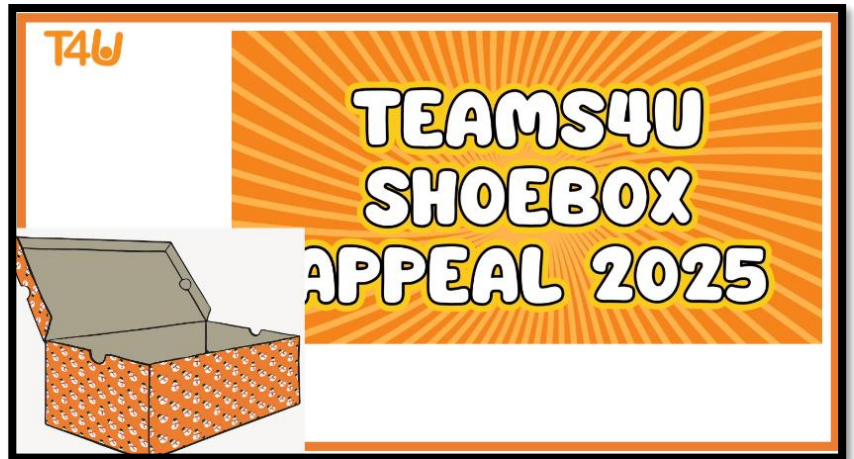
## Performing Arts Achievement

We would like to congratulate **Cora M** for achieving a Distinction in her ABRSM Grade 4 exam for Singing for Musical Theatre Performance.



## Shoe Box Appeal

This year's Shoebox Appeal has been launched with all students. The charity, Teams4U, arrange for shoeboxes filled with gifts to be sent to children in Eastern Europe who have had their lives disrupted by conflict and struggle. Year 7 tutor groups will be in competition with each other to produce the most amount of shoeboxes. Students in all year groups are asked, if they can, to either contribute whole shoeboxes or make contributions of items that can be used to make up shoeboxes by the charity.



Please find a list below of all items that can be accepted. Donations will need to be in school by Friday 7th November.

### For Boys or Girls:

Toothbrush & toothpaste, hair accessories/brush, soap & flannel, stationery items, gloves, hat & scarf, new socks/underwear, a soft toy, glove puppets, playing cards, puzzle, small musical instruments, toy vehicles, small bat, sweets (use by date from June onwards), a photo and message from yourself.

When choosing items please make sure they are "age appropriate".

### The Home Box:

Candles, cooking utensils, plastic containers, t-towels, washing up clothes, hairbrush, small toiletries, bowls & cups, small decoration, soap, clothes pegs, headscarves, new socks and underwear, jewellery, new makeup, first aid kit.

Items should be NEW. However, pre-loved items in good condition are acceptable.

Many thanks if you can contribute in any way at all.



## Celebrating Success

**Ellyn W** from 7D1, one of our Year 7 students, won the AMCA British Girls Trials Championship over the weekend - what an amazing accomplishment requiring skill, determination and resilience! Ellyn, we are very proud of you!

Congratulations to **Phoebe B** and **Neve R** who have been invited to join the Gloucester Developing Rugby Pathway, the girls were nominated by their current rugby club and will receive specialist rugby training at Gloucester Hartpury.



Also congratulations to two ex-students, **Ko Ko C** and **Anais C** who have all been selected as part of the Player Development Group.

This is a program within the RFU pathway designed to identify and nurture talented female players. The PDG provides enhanced skill development, coaching, and playing opportunities for U16 and U18 age groups, bridging the gap between local club rugby and the professional game. It is part of a nationwide system of nine centres delivering a consistent talent development framework for girls across England.

## Cake Sale

The school held a Cake Sale yesterday to raise funds for Adam D, who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

The school raised over £600. This money will be used to purchase items to help Adam.

A big thank you to all Year 7 and 8 students who donated cakes we had a huge amount, for all students who sold the cakes, there was none left and to all those who purchased or donated money on the day.



We couldn't have done it without you.

Further fund raising events will be organised in the future and we appreciate all the support.



## European Day of Languages

Last week, our Modern Foreign Languages department was buzzing with excitement as we celebrated European Day of Languages. A variety of activities took place across the week, giving students the opportunity to explore and enjoy different languages and cultures.

In school, students had the chance to learn Welsh, Makaton, and Danish, as well as enjoy a taste of French culture through watching a film and having a French breakfast. At home, some of our students were busy baking delicious cakes and biscuits, all with a link to languages or a country of their choice.

Our celebration of European Day of Languages has not only been fun and memorable, but it has also encouraged everyone to embrace new languages and cultures, reminding us of the importance of communication and understanding across the world.



## Discovery Days – 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October

We are pleased to provide some further updates about our upcoming **Discovery Days** (formerly known as *Yellow Week*). These special days are designed to broaden our students' learning experiences and provide enrichment opportunities across all year groups.

Full, individual schedules will be given to students during their RFL sessions next week. In the meantime, please find a summary below:

### Year 7

- *Day of the Dead* inspired activities.

### Year 8

- *A Japanese Journey* including Lego-based activities.

### Year 9

- Guy Fawkes-theme
- Medical careers insight
- Forensics Day

### Year 10

- Sessions with outside speakers
- Exploration of post-16 options, including apprenticeships

### Year 11

- A focus on core subjects alongside enrichment opportunities:
  - Local nursery visit (*Child Development students*)
  - Amazon facility visit (*Business Studies students*)

### Sixth Form

- Completion of Biology and Chemistry practical's
- Additional careers and academic development sessions

## Sponsored Walk – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

To finish the week, all students will take part in the sponsored walk. Students may wear **comfortable clothing and sensible footwear**.

- A **fundraising sale** will also take place to support the *Okinawa Exchange Programme*. We kindly ask students to bring a small amount of cash to contribute if possible.

## FAQ

Will my son/ daughter be required to wear school uniform?

– Yes all students are expected to wear full uniform, the only exception is the Year 7 Viney Hill trip and Sponsored Walk.

Does my son/ daughter need to bring any equipment to school?

- For in school activities please bring a pencil case

What are the arrangements for lunch on school trips?

- Please make sure your son/ daughter brings a packed lunch and a drink

My child is entitled to FSM, will these be provided on a trip?

- Yes students **must** order their packed lunches from the canteen

Year Group	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October
7	Group A – Viney Hill trip (7D2, 7F1, 7W1) Group B – Day of the Dead activities	Group B – Viney Hill trip (7D1, 7J1, 7W2) Group A – Day of the Dead activities	S p o n s o r e d  w a l k
8	Group A – We the curious/ Aquarium trip (8F2, 8J1, 8W1) Group B – A Japanese Journey	Group B – We the curious/ Aquarium trip (8F1, 8D1, 8J2) Group A – A Japanese Journey	
9	Group A – Imperial War museum trip Group B – Guy Fawkes activities	Forensic Science and Medical day	
10	Work experience or RISE skills workshop and Post 16 Options	Work experience or Apprenticeship talk from Gloscol and Careers workshops	
11	A mix of practical and academic subject sessions: Geography or Berlin trip, nursery visit or coursework involving practical subjects	A mix of practical and academic subject sessions: Geography, Amazon or Berlin trip, nursery visit or coursework involving practical subjects	
12	Teambuilding day at 270 Climbing	A mix of academic and careers related subject sessions and Biology and Chemistry practical's	
13	Mock interviews and Biology and Chemistry practical's	A mix of practical and academic subject sessions involving Biology and Chemistry practical's, EPQ workshop and coursework	

## Sponsored Walk – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

You will have received this week information regarding the Sponsored Walk, please can we ask that you return the consent form ASAP, even if your child is not participating. All school buses will run from the college at the end of the day, a bus will be put on to bring back students who live in Mitcheldean. Fingers crossed for a dry day!!!!

## Attendance

Regular school attendance is fundamental to your child's success, well-being, and future opportunities. Every day your child is in school matters, and missing even a few days can have a significant cumulative impact on their learning and development.

The UK government is clear on the vital role of attendance:

- Consistent attendance directly links to better results. The Department for Education states, "The evidence is clear - even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects." For instance, Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve the crucial Grade 5 in English and Maths

GCSEs compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time. This means missing just 10 extra days a year can reduce the likelihood of achieving those key grades by around 50%.

- School provides a safe, supportive environment essential for your child's wider development. Being in school allows them to form strong friendships, develop social skills, access pastoral care, and engage in extra-curricular activities. The Children's Commissioner highlights that school "illuminates children's lives not just with education and learning, but with social skills, new experiences and activities, and to make friendships."

As a parent, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child receives a full-time, suitable education. The government expects attendance to be as high as possible. We ask that you partner with us to prioritise attendance, only keeping your child home when genuinely ill, and arranging appointments and holidays outside of school hours wherever possible. **Holidays during Discovery Days, Sponsored Walk or Timetable Suspension will not be authorised, only exceptional circumstances will be permitted.** By making every day count, you are building the foundation for your child's bright future.

## RSHE Update

RSHE topics your child is discussing this half term:

Year 7 - Connecting thoughts and emotions, Gremlin Beliefs, Belonging

Year 8 - Building Resilience, Communication, 7 Senses & Wellbeing

Year 9 - Building Resilience, Sleep, 7 Senses & Wellbeing

Year 10 - Developing a Growth Mindset, Managing Mood, Health Checks

Year 11 - Happiness, Screen Time and Health Checks.

## Primary School Games

Thank you for coming out to Support the Forest of Dean Team Cross Country, super weather for 1st October & **thanking Five Acres School & Toni Hayward with the PE Team & Berry Hill Rugby FC for the facilities so we could run this and park in the local area.**

Thank you also goes out to the **Young Sports Leaders from Five Acres** who did an outstanding job across the day, we always have a few issues to overcome but it did not spoil the day.

Finally to thank all the runners involved, the parents & you & School staff, it is always appreciated what you do to get the pupils to attend.

It's a team event so I offer the Top 3 results, please thank all your runners for giving it a go across just over 1.2km course.

### GIRLS TEAM RESULT for Top 3:

1st:	Highnam	25pts
2nd:	Forest View 1	53pts
3rd:	Newnham	63pts



Well done to **Highnam Girls Team**, super low score and an outstanding result.

## BOYS TEAM RESULT for Top 3:

1st:	Ellwood	49pts
2nd:	Forest View 2	63pts
3rd:	Coalway	94pts



Top Effort from **Ellwood Boys Team today**, well done to them all.

Mr Beard, School Games Co-ordinator is taking Bookings for the Quick Sticks Hockey at Newent School on Tuesday 14th October.

## Celebrating More Success

We would like to congratulate Rae B and Becca H who play cricket for Ruardean Hill Cricket Club, women's section. Both girls received awards at the Cricket Club's annual award ceremony.

Rae being presented with the Women's most improved player and Becca being presented with the Hardball Bowler of the year (and highest wicket taker for the league) and Women's player of the year



All the Dene Magna community would like to congratulate the England Women's Rugby team and especially Natasha "Mo" Hunt, former student on their victory on Saturday over Canada, breaking records and highlighting the women's game worldwide. Mo the school are extremely proud of you and would love you to visit us with your winner's medal.



## My Child At School App

Please can we ask that any updates to student's personal information, parents emergency contact details, email addresses and medical conditions be added via the "My Child At School" app

## Outside Achievements

If your son/daughter takes part in any activities outside of school and you would like their achievements published in the weekly bulletin, please send in a small paragraph or two about them and their success and a photo to [reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk).

## Calling All Musicians

Gloucestershire Music are promoting a new Forest Music Centre and are looking for new recruits, please see poster below:

## Your Six Form Needs You

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Events and Fundraising Student Reps are running a **Bake Sale** on **Thursday 17th October**, to raise money for our 6th Form. There will be an amazing table of baked goodies for sale outside the 6<sup>th</sup> form college - set up as a stopping point during the Sponsored Walk that's taking place on the same day.

If you are walking - don't forget to bring some cash to purchase something along the way!

We are kindly asking for donations of cakes, biscuits or any baked treats you can provide. For home baked creations, please note the ingredients down in case of allergies.

Please support our Sixth Form and the efforts of our brilliant reps, Kiera and Scarlett, every donation will be greatly appreciated. Donation can be left in the 6th Form office on 16th October.

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

After the Duke of Edinburgh launch meeting last week, any student wishing to participate in this fantastic adventure, please collect a letter containing all the details from Reception, reply slips to be returned to Mr Beard or Reception asap.

## Year 13 Parent/Carer Evening

We are holding our Year 13 Parent/Carer Evening on Thursday 9 October at our 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, from 4pm until 7pm, please remember to book your appointments via "School Cloud" or alternatively contact 6<sup>th</sup> Form Reception who will be only too happy to help.

## A Gentle Reminder!!!

We have a number of parking spaces at the front of the school designated for "Disabled Parking" can we ask that these are kept free for those who need them. Thank you.

Another busy week has passed, hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Declan Mooney  
Headteacher



## **Dates For Your Diary:**

- 6.10.25 - Year 7 & 9 Boys Rugby @ Wyedean
- 6.10.25 - Year 8 & 9 Girls Netball @ Wyedean
- 7.10.25 - Year 9 Netball @ Newent
- 8.10.25 - Year 10 & 11 Netball @ Dene Magna
- 8.10.25 - Year 9 Boys Rugby @ Dene Magna
- 8.10.25 - Year 7 Rugby @ Newent
- 8.10.25 - Scholars Launch Meeting
- 9.10.25 - Year 13 Parent/Carer Evening
- 10.10.25 - Final Payment of £70.00 for Girls Netball Trip
- 10.10.25 - Cheltenham Literature Festival Visit
- 13, 14, 15 & 16.10.25 – Year 10 Geography Field Trip
- 13.10.25 – Berlin Trip Departs
- 13.10.25 – Year 7 Girls Netball @ Newent
- 14.10.25 – Year 8 Girls Netball @ Dene Magna
- 15 & 16.10.25 – Year 7 Trip to Viney Hill Adventure Centre
- 15.10.25 – Year 9 Visit to Imperial War Museum
- 15 & 16.10.25 – Year 8 Visit to Bristol Aquarium & We The Curious
- 16.10.25 – Year 11 Visit Business Studies Trip
- 16.10.25 – Year 11 Information Evening 5pm – 6pm
- 17.10.25 – Dene Magna Annual Sponsored Walk
- 17.10.25 – End of Term
- 4.11.25 – New Term Commences