



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 7 Week Commencing Monday 13th October 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

An Amazing End to a Busy Term

Sports Highlight

Our Year 9 rugby team faced a very strong side from Newent this week. The boys showed tremendous discipline and commitment to their team throughout the tough fixture. A particular moment of note was seeing Zac C display fearless determination in taking down a player who was reportedly six foot two! This kind of courage and teamwork is what we love to see on the pitch.

Berlin Trip Update

The much-anticipated Berlin trip departed late on Sunday. Unfortunately, the students experienced a significant setback due to a flight delay of over five hours. Despite this long wait, they kept their spirits up and eventually arrived safely in Berlin, settling in for tea on Monday. Students' spent a thoughtful morning at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial. Here, not just Jews, but political prisoners, religious leaders and members of the LGBT+ community were murdered. Later, it became a work camp under the Soviet regime too.



Students enjoyed a bit of German life trying out the U-Bahn, an Escape Room and finishing the evening with the Festival of Lights

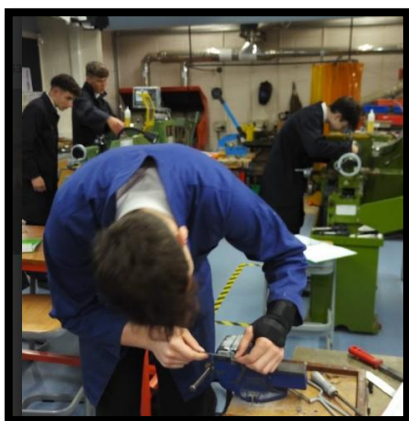


We look forward to hearing all about their cultural experiences!

Year 11 Product Engineering

Year 11 Engineering Students have been furthering the making of their parts for their coursework. The parts require a mix of hand and machine working. Accurate marking out and cutting is a must as the tolerance on the parts is 0.3 of a mm, Centre Lathe, Milling machine, Drill Press and Laser Cutter are all pieces of equipment that the students must be able to use with confidence and like all good Engineers solve problems throughout the journey.

We very proud of the professionalism they are showing and all they have achieved so far.



Year 11 Catering

The Year 11s had the opportunity to practice their 4 hour practical exam during this year's Discovery Days. They had to cook two full dishes and all of the dish accompaniments in four hours.



They produced some amazing food to include hollandaise sauce, fresh pasta, brioche rolls and perfect profiteroles. A very successful couple of days!



Year 9 Imperial War Museum Visit and Manchester City Stadium

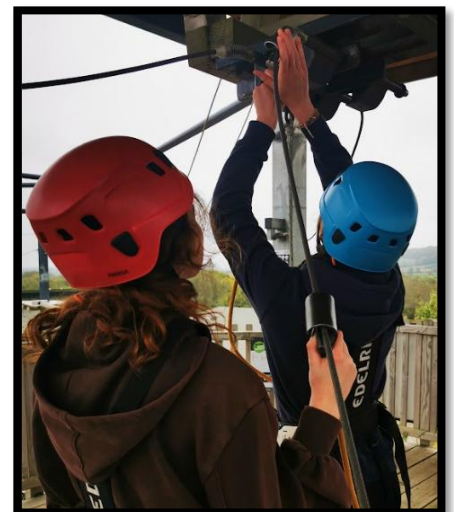
Year 9 enjoyed their day out in Manchester visiting the Imperial War Museum in the morning before having a stadium tour and talk of the Etihad stadium in the afternoon. The trip helped inform students in their History and English work, providing wider context to their global warfare and war poetry topics respectively. Alongside an impressive tour of Manchester City's stadium, the students also had a talk about careers in football to help inform their GCSE choices next year, showcasing the wide variety of jobs available within football stadiums. Students represented Dene Magna wonderfully, asking a variety of questions and taking in a wide range of knowledge. Thank you to Miss. Barker, Miss. Morris, Mr. Smith, Mr. Goodwin, Ms. Edmonds and Mrs. Ratcliffe for accompanying them despite the early start and late finish!



Year 12 Trip - 270 Climbing

Y12 had a great time at 270 Climbing on Wednesday. They tackled the climbing wall, low and high ropes, and the terrifying free fall. We were really proud of all who attended - they supported and encouraged each other, challenged themselves, and showed great resilience 'feeling the fear but doing it anyway'. Well done Y12!

Mrs Balmer's entire being was shaking, the look of terror all over her face, but she did not scream or stir up any commotion, she knew that the entire day was about the Year 12's stepping outside of their comfort zone and she had to do the same. The idea of standing 50ft up on a ledge with only a rope for comfort, eyes watching, silence waiting—it made her stomach twist. But something deeper—something louder—nudged her forward and she stepped off the platform and descended to the ground. Leadership personified.



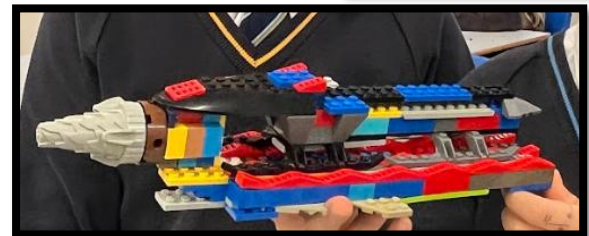
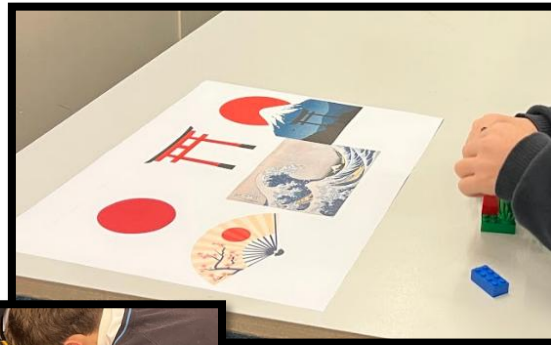


Year 8 – Japanese Themed Events

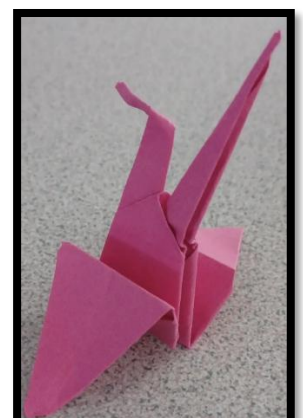
Year 8 have spent some time this week being creative with Lego through a series of Japanese themed events.

They have worked together to create bigger Lego sets, designed their own mini figures, used Lego to print pictures with ink and learnt some common Japanese letters, numbers and words along the way.

They all thoroughly enjoyed their time building, a special thanks to the students for bringing their creativity and fun to the sessions and to the staff for making this fun event happen.



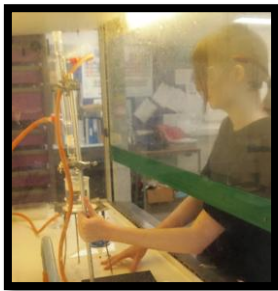
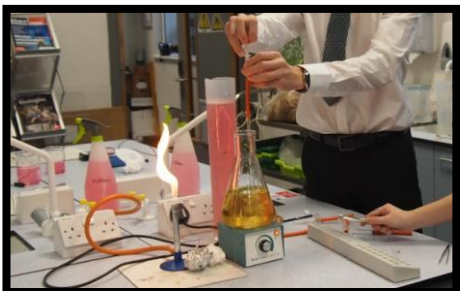
Year 8, took a virtual trip to Japan. We learned about Origami, the ancient art of paper-folding, and we made Shisha Lions from air dry clay. The lions are famous all over Okinawa, where according to legend, they keep the inhabitants safe from evil spirits.



KS5 Science

Y12 and Y13 spent a whole day challenging their practical skills in Biology and Chemistry. Microbial growth rates were measured and the effect of sucrose concentration on pollen tube germination were investigated.

In Chemistry they investigated the oxidation of ethanol and synthesised aspirin. They all did brilliantly.



Year 7 Viney Hill Adventure Centre

The Year 7 students who attended the trip to Viney Hill Activity Centre had a wonderful time taking part in a range of exciting outdoor activities. They represented the school impeccably throughout, showing respect, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour.

During their stay, students developed important teamwork and leadership qualities while challenging themselves and supporting one another. It was fantastic to see them grow in confidence, build new friendships, and, most importantly, have lots of fun!



Year 9 Murder Mystery

Year 9 spent a fantastic day with the science department, helping us to solve our mystery, "who murdered Ms Hammond". The students completed a series of chemical and investigative tests, gathering evidence and allowing them to come to a conclusion, based on evidence. This is designed to give them an insight into forensic science as a career. They also had an hour with "Medical Mavericks" who showcased medical careers and some of the techniques that are used in the NHS, these were hands-on and the pupils got to have a go! Special thanks go to our student support assistant, Daniella DH who supported our students superbly during this.

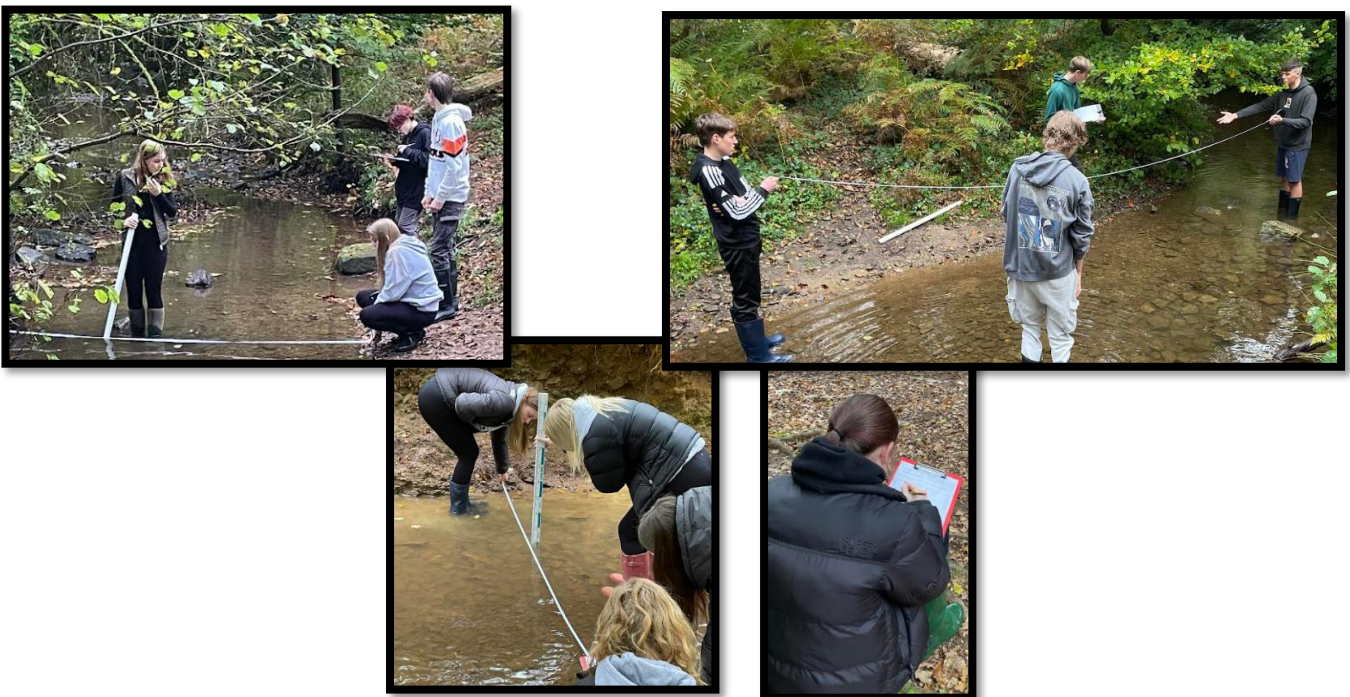
Year 11 GCSE Geography trips.

Over the last four days, year 11 have been undertaking human and physical geography fieldwork as part of preparation for the Paper 3 Geography GCSE exam.

For our physical geography fieldwork we conducted a river study at Blackpool Brook. The students worked in teams to collect data at two contrasting points in the river to establish how depth, width and velocity varied between a meander and a straight channel. Students also drew annotated field sketches to identify features of the river that we have learned about in class.

For our human geography fieldwork we conducted a study at Gloucester Quays. The students again worked in teams to complete a land-use survey, environmental quality survey and a pedestrian count at different sites at Gloucester Quays and then at Eastgate Street. Students again drew annotated field sketches to compare the two sites. This data will enable the students to determine the impacts of regeneration at Gloucester Quays.

Our students worked brilliantly together and were a credit to Dene Magna School. They enjoyed the opportunity to put classroom theory into practice in the real world and everyone who attended is now in a strong position to be able to confidently answer the fieldwork section of Paper 3.



Year 11 Business Studies Visit - Amazon

As a Discovery Day activity for Year 11 some of the Business students were taken to Amazon fulfilment centre in Bristol. We were hosted by the Reliability and Maintenance Engineers who

showed us round the workings of the enormous (about 7 rugby pitches) site and it was a fantastic experience. The students were fully engaged and fascinated by how the business operates on such a large scale. We learned a lot about logistics, technology, and efficiency, and it was great to see classroom concepts come to life in a real-world setting. We also learned about the numerous apprenticeships available to students. Overall, it was an inspiring and educational day for everyone.



Year 10 Work Experience

A huge well done to our Year 10 students (over 100 of them) who have been out on work experience this week, we've had such great feedback from employers so far. We hope you gained valuable skills and insights! We'd love to see what you have been up to so please send in any photos from your placement that you're happy to share. Please make sure you have permission from your placement provider before sending any photos that include their workplace or staff.

For those year 10's not on work experience we'd like to say a huge thank you to our guest speakers from Gloucestershire College, Young Gloucestershire, RISE and GROWS for delivering informative talks on post-16 options, apprenticeships, Labour Market Information, skills and qualities and career pathways.

Year 8 Bristol Aquarium and We The Curious Trip

Year 8s visited Bristol Aquarium and We the Curious during Discovery days and had a wonderful time. Their behaviour reflected well on Dene Magna with members of the public commenting on their helpful attitudes and their good manners. The students enjoyed seeing different species of fish but really took a shine to the turtles. Students loved the wide range of exhibits offered by We the Curious they wanted to stay longer.



Year 11 Pre-School Visit

Year 11 child development went to a local preschool and joined in with all of the activities provided and engaged in a very positive manner with the children and staff at the preschool.



Year 7 Activities

Year 7, took a virtual visit to Mexico to learn about the Dia de los Muertos celebrations which take place at this time of year. Students learned to dance some groovy Salsa moves, they made Calavera cards and bookmarks, and they tried a variety of tasty Spanish foods from the Ofrenda. The biggest hit on the food front was the sunflower seeds!



They also researched the Mexican festival of Day of the Dead which is a joyful celebration, creating vibrant decorations like marigolds and sugar skulls.



Cheltenham Literature Festival

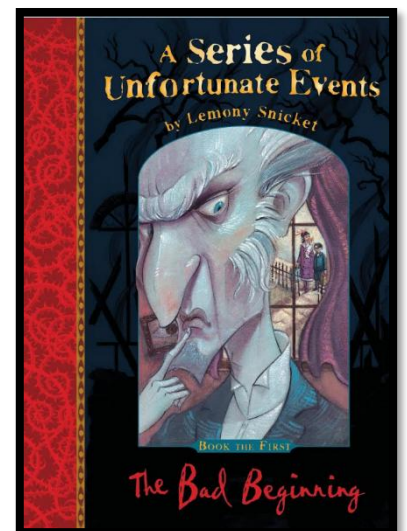
On Friday 10th October, Mr Marden, Miss Taylor and Miss Jones had the pleasure of taking 50 students to the Cheltenham Literature festival. We were fortunate to attend an incredible talk by Jonathan Stroud, author of a wide-range of books including the Lockwood and Co books which was adapted into a Netflix series as well as having time to browse the festival site and bookshops. Many were so inspired by the talk, they immediately headed back to the bookshop to get a copy of one of his books personally signed (we hope you enjoy them!). The students were fantastic and we have shared some of the highlights of our trip in the photos below!



Battle of the Books

When Cheltenham Literature festival stopped running their Battle of the Books, Dene Magna adopted the idea and this year has seen our Year 7 students voting on the eventual winner. Our theme was the most monstrous character in a fiction book with book club attendees meeting since April to narrow down a long list to 3 finalists and working in groups to create a short speech to 'champion' their choice of villain. Once we had decisions on who was most villainous, we then continued the theme of battling books with a game of book charades between the tutor groups which everyone seemed to really enjoy! Thanks go to all the book club members who worked so hard to achieve this, especially to those who bravely presented the speeches to Year 7s, and to the Year 7s themselves for being such an amazing audience! We hope everyone had a fantastic time!!

The winner of the Battle of the Books for most monstrous book character is Count Olaf from 'The Bad Beginning' beating Professor Umbridge from 'Harry Potter and the Order Phoenix' and the Commandant from 'An Ember in the Ashes'



Frozen Fundraiser Success

A huge thank you to everyone who donated towards and came along to our "Frozen" fundraiser on Friday evening. It was a fun night of quizzing and games, and we're delighted to report that we raised over £462.00 from the evening, with hopefully a little bit more to come in from additional cake sales this week!

The students who helped out in the evening were absolutely fantastic, and the parents, friends and family of the cast and crew who came along were incredibly generous with their donations. Thank you so much for your support — it really does make a difference to our production.

Year 13 Mock Interviews

Thank you to all of the employers who supported our Year 13 Mock Interview event on Wednesday! Their time, expertise and feedback has provided our students with invaluable experience and confidence as they prepare for their future careers. We truly appreciate their commitment to helping our young people. If any parents/carers would like to volunteer for future events please email our Careers Lead, Jo Rich: j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk.



Year 13's approached the experience with confidence, professionalism and enthusiasm, a brilliant step towards your future careers, well done.

Feedback from employers is below

"Brilliant students, a real pleasure to chat to"

"Just wow at the students I met"

"Very impressed with all students"

"I was very impressed with the knowledge and attitude of the students"

"It was so lovely to hear from the students and see how passionate they are. Also a good reminder of the talent that is coming through"

"Always good to meet, enthusiastic, bright young people"

"Blown away" by the 5 students I met today.



RSHE Update

RSHE topics your son/daughter will be discussing after half term will be:

- Year 7 - Belonging, Mattering, Building Trust, Conflict Resolution
- Year 8 - 7 Senses & Wellbeing, Personal Safety, Peer Pressure, Communication
- Year 9 - 7 Senses & Wellbeing, Understanding Mental Health, Sticky Beliefs, Conflict Resolution
- Year 10 - Health Checks, Respect & Tolerance, Human Rights, Sexism & Misogyny
- Year 11 - Organ & Blood Donation, Independent Living, Fake News

Year 7 – 11 Flu Vaccinations

These are being held on school site on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th October, if you have yet to consent please can you visit ghcimmunisation.co.uk/forms/flu and complete the form, School Code is GC137387. Please can you complete the form even if you do not want your son/daughter to receive the vaccination.

Celebrating Success

Kynon D along with Emily F and Milo R, all members of Wilson House, achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award, the first of these awards to be achieved by members of 1st Cinderford Scout group. The Chief Scout Gold Award is the top Scout award and includes completing nine challenge awards which involves things such as teamwork, leadership, commitment and resilience. They had to complete an expedition planned by themselves with everything they would need for the 2 day one night adventure. The expeditions were completed in canoes by Kynon and Emily along with another 5 scouts and Milo completed his by participating in a 2 day overnight hike, very similar to DofE along with Kynon and six other scouts. The award also requires scouts to have spent a number of nights away on a variety of camps, the three of them spent 10 days in Belgium in the summer on a district camp which played a part in the overall completion of the award. Congratulations.



Harrow Hill FC U12s Needs You

Harrow Hill FC are recruiting a mixed U12 football team at Harrow Hill Football Club. It's a great opportunity for boys and girls in Year 7 to join us to access the sport in a local setting regardless of their level of experience.

Open Mic Evening for 11-17 Year Olds

There are so many talented local young people, who have few opportunities to sing publicly or in front of a live audience, with this in mind we would like to advertise "Open Mic Night" at Broadwell AFC on Saturday 15th November, for all 11-17 year olds, please see poster for all details.

Sixth Form Open Evening

A message for all local Y11 students, parents and carers Dene Magna Sixth Form's Open Evening is rapidly approaching, and we would love to see you there on the 6th of November from 5pm!

Come and find out about the exciting subjects and opportunities on offer, explore our beautiful campus, and learn what it's like to study A Levels with Dene Magna. It doesn't matter if you're not sure yet what path you're going to take after GCSEs - come and see what you think! Our staff and current students can't wait to welcome you and answer your questions.

This event is open to all and there is no need to book, please share to anyone who may be interested

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



The top poster is for Harrow Hill FC Youth, featuring a rose logo and the text: "HARROW HILL FC YOUTH NEW U12 MIXED TEAM! TRAINING: SATURDAY AM HARROW HILL FC, GL17 9JP BOYS & GIRLS IN SCHOOL YEAR 7 U12S THIS SEASON PLAN: TRAIN AND PLAY FRIENDLIES READY TO JOIN THE SEVERN VALLEY YOUTH LEAGUE AS U13S NEXT YEAR (2026/27) SEAN.THOMAS1623@GMAIL.COM CHILD'S NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, & LITTLE BIT ABOUT THEM, PARENT NAME, PARENT CONTACT NUMBER WHEN THERE ARE ENOUGH PLAYERS, SEAN WILL MAKE CONTACT REGARDING THE 1st TRAINING SESSION COME AND BE PART OF THE HARROW HILL FC FAMILY NO EXPERIENCE IN FOOTBALL NECESSARY -ALL WELCOME-". The bottom poster is for "OPEN MIC NIGHT 11-17 year olds" with a yellow star background, a microphone icon, a QR code, and the email "mychancetosing@hotmail.com". It also includes a note: "Please note: Event is subject to numbers, closing date for singers 31st October".



The poster for Dene Magna School and Sixth Form features a purple background with a logo for the "Council of Dean Trust" and the text: "DENE MAGNA SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 6TH NOVEMBER 17:00 - 20:00, open to all Cinderford Campus, GL14 3FF DENEMAGNA.CO.UK". On the right side, there is a photograph of two students, a girl and a boy, looking at a laptop screen.

Forest Of DeanTrust CPD

If you would like a place on our upcoming CPD session on AI in Education then please email cpd@fodt.co.uk for a place.

As you are reading this, the whole school are on the Dene Magna Annual Sponsored walk for charity. The weather is very autumnal by dry, with glorious colours, a write up and photos will follow in the next edition of the newsletter.

Have a well-earned half term break enjoy the rest.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

- 18.10.25 – Deposit of £40 due for the Year 9 Camp Trip
- 1.11.25 – Second Payment of £200.00 for Barcelona Visit
- 3.11.25 – Start of New Term
- 5.11.25 – Yr 8 & 10 Girls Netball @ DM
- 5.11.25 – Yr 7 & 9 Boys Rugby @ DM
- 6.11.25 – Sixth Form Open Evening @ 6th Form College from 5.00pm until 8.00pm
- 10.11.25 – Yr 9 Girls Netball Challenge Cup @ Cheltenham Ladies College
- 10 & 11.10.25 – Flu Vaccinations
- 10.11.25 – Ski Presentation Evening
- 11.11.25 – Yr 7 Rugby @ DM
- 13.11 – Yr 7 Girls Netball @ Five Acres
- 13.11 – Yr 7 Boys Rugby @ Five Acres
- W/C 17.10.25 – Year 11 Trial Exams Start

