



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 10 Week Commencing Monday 24th November 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

We have had a very productive period focused on preparing our senior students for their upcoming academic challenges and fostering global understanding through Interfaith Week.

The Year 11 trial examinations have begun this week, and it has been great to see the students make an amazing start.

The change in their approach is very obvious; they have settled into the exam routine well, and their positive attitude towards the trials has been fantastic. They are quickly getting a feel for the pre-exam briefings, and it is lovely to see so many students choosing to revise before school starts. We are one week down with one intensive week left to go. Teachers have been marking furiously, and we are pleased to announce that the Mock Results Day will take place on December 17th, starting at 8:15 am. Parents are more than welcome to come in and join us to celebrate their children's achievements and discuss their progress.

As one set of trials wraps up, preparation begins for the next. **The Year 13 trial examinations** will start on **Tuesday 6th January** and run for two weeks. All of these trials will take place at the main school site in Mitcheldean. Students will be transported (mini-bussed) down from the Sixth Form campus for the exams if they are unable to arrange their own transport to the Mitcheldean site.

Interfaith Week

Interfaith Week has been a huge success across the school. The theme this year was "Community: Together We Serve."

Sphere of Influence: Students focused on their personal sphere of influence, and it was lovely to hear numerous students talk about the profound influence their parents and family have had on them. They explored what it means to be a part of a community and what their personal obligation is to that community. We studied numerous quotes from various world religions focusing on the shared values of being kind and welcoming to everyone. The week was finished off with a celebratory sharing of food. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all families for supplying some of the food for the students to share, it was a wonderful way to bring the theme of community to life.



Okinawa Exchange

This week we had the pleasure of welcoming 8 pupils and 2 teachers from Okinawa to our school. The pupils stayed with host families from our community and spent time in lessons as well as the local area.

Our exchange students hosted an assembly for our Year 8 & 9 students, introducing themselves and providing an insight into Japanese culture.



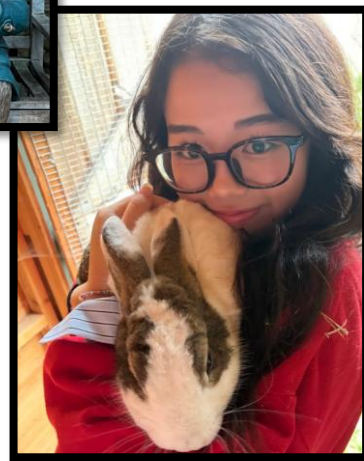
During their time at Dene Magna, they visited London, Chepstow Castle, Gloucester Cathedral and Oxford.



The students also enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea created by our Catering Department.



Our host families involved the Okinawa students in family life, experiencing Christmas markets, the Sculpture Trail, Puzzlewood, a pub dinner, meeting Paddington Bear and even rabbit cuddles.



When they left, they said how their favourite part of being here was the people and how welcoming everyone was at Dene Magna.



The Dene Magna pupils involved were brilliant role models of the school and we are extremely proud of them. A big thank you also, to the host families and staff who supported their visit, for the time and effort they put in. Without their support this exchange would not be possible!



Relational Circles

As a school we have been working hard to introduce relational practice and relational circles into our RSHE lessons this year. This change in the way we deliver RSHE has been positively received by students from all year groups who report that it gives them an opportunity to have a voice and be heard.

On Friday Ms Beale was invited to join Jo Walker, Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council, Charlotte Fearn, Relational Schools Programme Lead from GCC and other education leaders across Gloucestershire. The purpose of this collaboration was to share our experiences and help Jo to understand the impact this work has on the young people in Gloucestershire. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the exciting work we are doing at Dene Magna but also share ideas from other leaders who are a little further along on their relational journey.



As we continue to embed relational practice we will be working on and sharing our Character Curriculum with you. Keep your eye out for a short questionnaire related to this...

Year 10 Engineering

The Year 10 Engineering students have been hard at work transforming a technical working drawing of a bottle opener into their very own steel creation. Throughout the project, they have practised a wide range of workshop skills, including drilling, filing, sawing, tapering, riveting and polishing.



It has been a hands-on learning experience filled with plenty of measuring - and then even more measuring - to ensure each student produces a high-quality, functional piece. The results are shaping up brilliantly, and students should be proud of the craftsmanship they are developing.



Year 9 Jewellery Project

Some of our Year 9 students have just completed a Design & Technology jewellery rotation. During this unit, they learned about the properties of different metals, how metals react, and a variety of techniques for creating their own pieces. They also developed skills in working at a small scale and learned the value of persistence to achieve a polished finish.

The students produced some lovely outcomes and provide a great introduction to design and craftsmanship in the workshop.

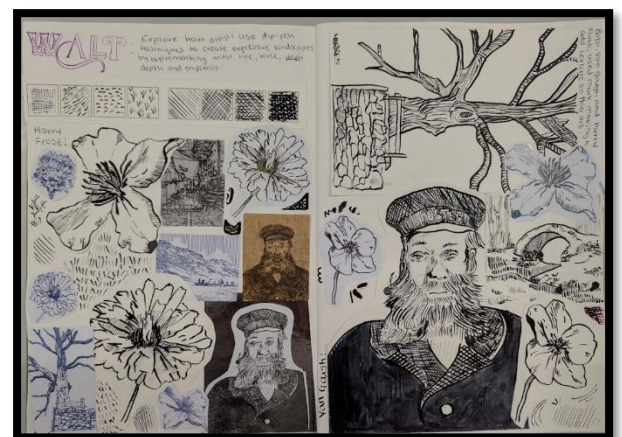


Year 9 Art News

Year 9 have been getting 'GCSE ready' in their Art lessons this term.

They have undertaken two projects, one exploring a range of watercolour techniques and another using traditional dip pens. Students have experimented confidently, exploring levels of saturation and incorporating detailed, textured mark-making. Through this, they have developed both skill and control, producing outstanding visual outcomes and showing exceptional pride and care in the presentation of their work.

A special mention to Lily-Mae Rawlings who has been doing additional paintings at home to enhance her sketchbook. Recently she painted her reimagined version of Van Gogh's chapel.



Sporting News

This week our girls Netball and Rugby Teams have ventured to other schools to compete.

Our Year 7 Netball teams took on Five Acres and John Kyrle High School, both teams played extremely well winning 3 out of 4 games and drawing the other.

Well done girls!!

Teams A results:

Dene Magna 5 – 0 John Kyrle

Dene Magna 5 – 1 Five Acres

Team B results:

Dene Magna 1 – 0 John Kyrle

Dene Magna 1 -1 Five Acres



U14 EDF Champions

We are immensely proud of our U14 Girls' Rugby Team. They competed against four other teams from Gloucestershire, winning their semi-final against Crypt 5–1 and advancing to the final against Ribston, where they secured a 6–1 victory.

Champions! Well done, girls.



School Production – Frozen Jnr

Students have been working hard in rehearsal, backstage crew are busy creating props, all culminating in this year's school Production, Frozen Jnr.

Performances will be held on Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th December with the curtain going up at 7.00pm.

Tickets are £4.00 for adults and £2.00 children and concessions and are available to purchase via Scopay or Reception.

RSHE Update

RSHE topics your child is discussing this half term:

Year 7 - Belonging, Mattering, Building Trust, Conflict Resolution

Year 8 - 7 Senses & Wellbeing, Personal Safety, Peer Pressure, Communication

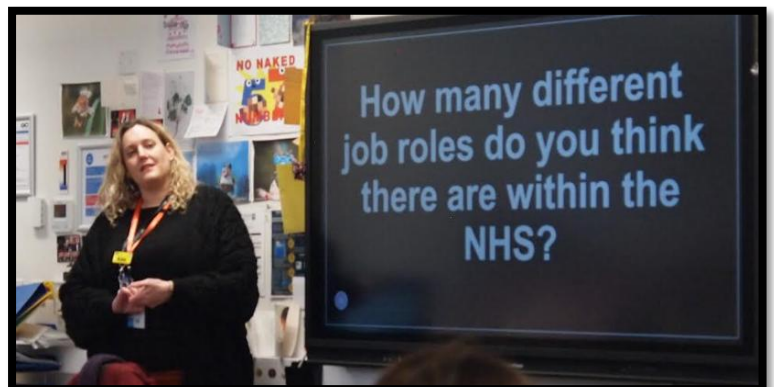
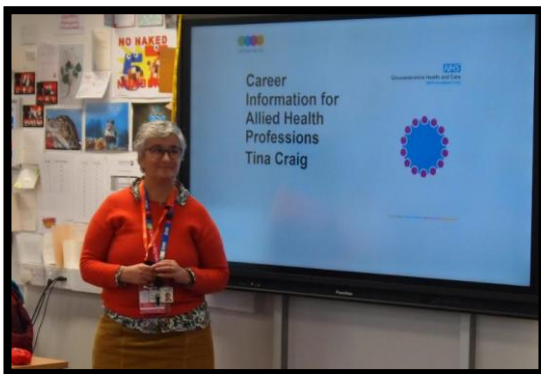
Year 9 - 7 Senses & Wellbeing, Understanding Mental Health, Sticky Beliefs, Conflict Resolution

Year 10 - Health Checks, Respect & Tolerance, Human Rights, Sexism & Misogyny

Year 11 - Organ & Blood Donation, Independent Living, Fake News

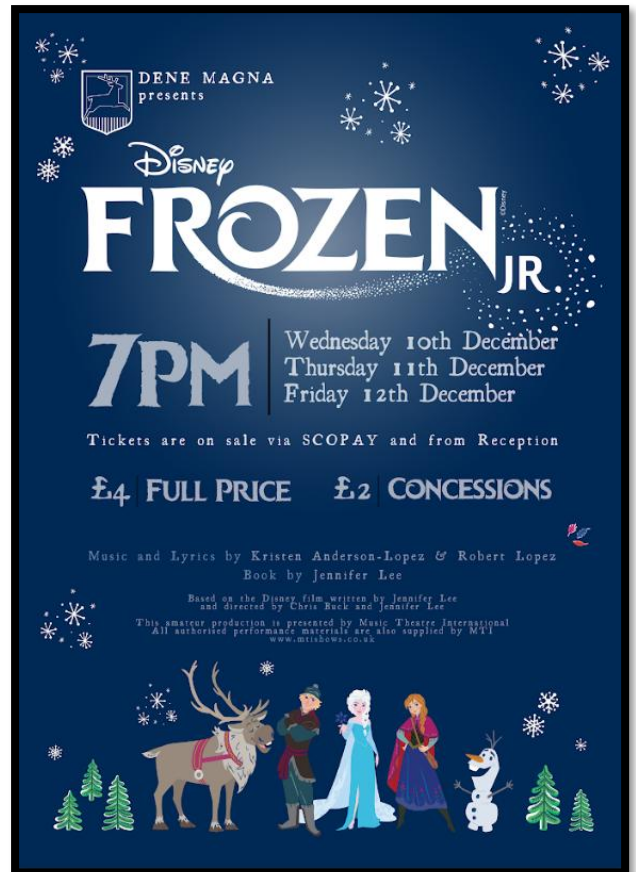
NHS talk

Students from Year 11 to Year 13 were invited to our Insight into Healthcare afternoon. They heard about the hundreds of different careers in healthcare and the variety of pathways you can take to get there. Several healthcare professionals shared their experiences and passion for their work and the students left feeling very inspired. We would like to thank Dr Emily Boait, GP Partner Lauren Hayden, Nurse Associate Victoria Baker, Registered Nurse and Kate Loram NHS ICB for giving up their precious time to support our students.



DNA profiling

Our Year 13 Biologists have been busy solving crimes using the sophisticated and challenging technique of gel electrophoresis of DNA. The DNA fingerprints they produce will help them to identify the DNA of the suspects.



This lot have tremendously steady hands!



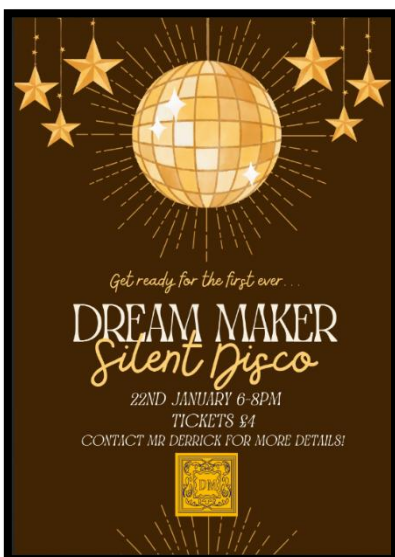
6th Form Bake Sale

The A Level students will be holding a Bake Sale on Friday 28th November at main school to help raise funds for Sixth Form.

Year 12 and Year 13 students we kindly ask for any donations of baked goods to support this fundraiser. These can be homemade or shop bought - all contributions are very much appreciated. Please bring your donations to the Sixth Form Office by 09:00am on the 28th, so we can prepare the stall at school in good time.

Year 7 – 11 students if you would like to purchase any of the baked goods please bring in some money on that day as the money on your cashless catering account cannot be used for this event.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.



Dream Makers – Silent Disco

Year 7 get your dancing shoes on and start practicing your moves as Mr Derrick will be organising a Silent Disco for all year 7 Dream Makers, to be held on Thursday 22nd January from 6pm until 8pm, tickets will cost £4.00.

More details will be released as we get closer to the event.

Teacher Taster Days

If you are considering a career change, Pates Grammar school are holding a secondary Teacher Taster Day on Tuesday 2nd December and Woodmancote School are holding a primary Teacher Taster Day on Wednesday 3rd December. Please see poster for more details.

Scholastic Book Fair: 1st - 9th December

The Scholastic book fair is returning with an incredible selection of books to browse and buy: with prices starting at £3.99 we hope there will be something for everyone!

The book fair will be open at break and lunch in the library and payments can be made by cash in school or via the Scholastic online payment system (please do remember that if you pay online, the completed wish list needs to be returned to the library so we know what books you have bought!).

Books purchased during the fair are delivered afterwards to your child and the school receives a proportion of the takings back as Scholastic vouchers to spend on more books for the school. We look forward to sharing the excitement of this event with you in upcoming newsletters and, as ever, thank you for your support.

Celebrating Student Success

Congratulations to **Ocre MK** and her skating team. Ocre performed with her Synchronised Ice skating team, Reflections on Friday 14th November at Lee Valley ice centre in London. The team competed for the first time and won a Bronze medal.



Odyssey
Teaching School Hub

Want to Train to Teach

In Gloucestershire?

Join us for a Teacher 'Taster Day'

to find out everything you need to know about training to teach locally

Secondary - Tuesday 2nd December
Pate's Grammar School, GL51 0HG
9:30am

Primary - Wednesday 3rd December
Woodmancote School, GL52 9HN
9:30am

TO BOOK NOW OR FIND OUT MORE

admin@odysseytsh.org 01242 538 276
www.odysseytsh.org

SCHOLASTIC TEACHING BOOKS

Come to the BOOK FAIR

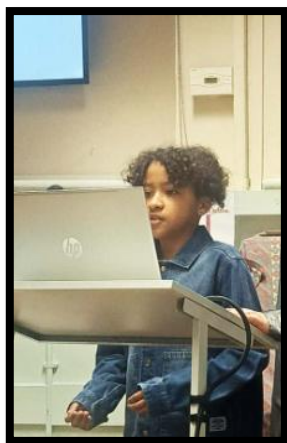
Read the books everyone's talking about!

AND EARN FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL

BE RIGHT BACK
ONCE UPON A HEART
KILL CREATURES
Five Nights at Freddy's: FALLOUT PIZZAZAR

Well done **Noah K** who received his Grey White stripe belt in Jiu Jitsu. Noah started training in February of this year so to be awarded a grey belt so soon is a credit to Noah's hard work and determination.

While at Mitcheldean Primary School **Cole G** entered the Forest of Dean Local History Society schools competition, and won first prize in the written entry. On Saturday, Cole was invited to a History Society meeting, so he could share and talk about his written article with members. We hear that he did a wonderful job speaking professionally to the group - great work Cole!



Congratulations to the Canteen Staff

This week an Environmental Health Officer from the Forest of Dean District Council made an unannounced food safety inspection of our canteen facilities, once again they passed with flying colours, well done ladies!!!



Exam Certificate and Art Work Collection

We have now received the certificates for those students (ex Year 11 and Year 13 students) who sat exams during the Summer of 2025.

Certificates and Art work can be collected from week commencing 17th November 2025 and can be collected from Reception at Dene Magna School.

Please come along and collect them, they are a product of all your hard work! We look forward to seeing you.

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

We Are Hiring

We are currently seeking to recruit both a new Maths teacher, an additional Site Worker and School Cleaners.

Please take a look at the job packs and apply if you think you could be the right candidate.

Please share to anyone who may be interested in these roles, which start ASAP.



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.

Have a great weekend.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

- 25.11.25 - Y7 Boys Rugby Fixture (home)
- 25.11.25 - U13 Girls Football Fixture (home)
- 26.11.25 - U12 Girls Rugby Fixture (away)
- 28.11.25 – Gloucester Court Visit
- 28.11.25 – 6th Form Bake Sale
- 01.12.25 – 5TH Instalment of £200.00 for the Okinawa Exchange Trip
- 02.12.25 - Y10 Boys Table Tennis (away)
- 05.12.25 – 2nd instalment of £150.00 for Year 8 London Visit

