



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 12 Week Commencing Monday 1st December 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

Sleeps Til Santa



I'm sure you will all love to know that there is only 20 sleeps till Christmas Day and only 10 days left of this term.

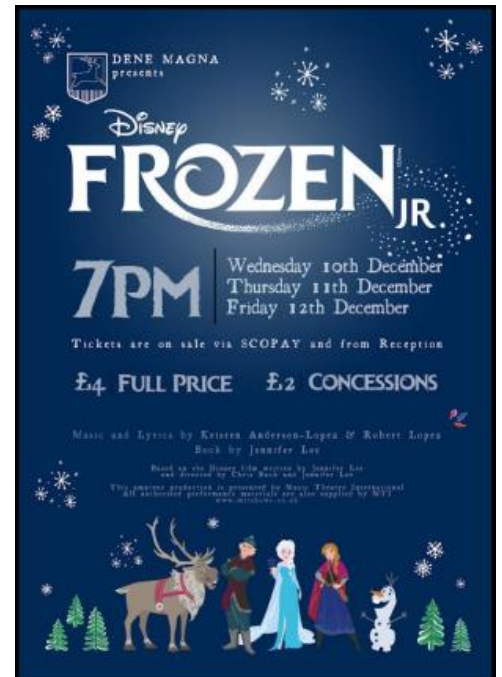
The Christmas trees are up and looking lovely.

We would like to say a very very big Dene Magna **THANK YOU** to **Slabs2U/Cinderford Garden Centre** for kindly donating a lovely real Christmas tree for the Foyer.

Frozen the Musical: One Week to Go!

Our production of Frozen the Musical starts next week, and excitement is building.

Tickets have been selling very fast! If you haven't secured yours yet, you can purchase them through Scopay or directly from reception.



Lights and sound checks have been occurring all week. We have purchased some new lights that Mr Wynn is currently learning how to program. We are all looking forward to seeing them in action, especially combined with his new smoke machine!

Christmas Card Competition Results

An amazing effort was shown by students across the school who entered this year's Christmas Card Competition. We received 359 designs in total, offering a range of fantastic creations that showcased impressive artistic skill and creativity.

The winning designs have now been professionally printed and look incredible! A special congratulations to tutor groups 7J1, 9W1, and 10W1, who submitted the most entries and have won the chocolate hampers.

The results are finally in!

Congratulations to our winners:

- Livvy R and Paisley: For their design featuring a beautiful deer.
- Amelie M: For her creative image of a Dene Magna car taking a Christmas tree home.
- Ava-Lily: For her spirited drawing of a deer galloping towards its presents.

I want to say a huge thank you to all the students that entered and to Miss John for organizing the competition. Each winner will receive a pack of cards featuring their design. Furthermore, the school will be using these specific cards to send season's greetings to the schools and businesses that have supported us throughout the year.



Work Experience with the British Army

Well done to Archie W and Heath R for completing a 4 day residential work experience with the British Army which included a 5 mile and 10 mile run and swimming in a freezing lake! Both boys were presented with a British Army Work Experience Certificate.

Well done, it looks as though it was great experience which gave you a very real insight into what it would be like to be in the armed forces.



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.



Year 10 Crown Court Visit

A group of our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Gloucester Crown Court last week, gaining a first-hand look at how the justice system works. During the visit, they observed real cases in session, allowing them to see the formal procedures of the court and the important roles played by judges, barristers, and court staff.

Our students represented the school exceptionally well throughout the visit, showing maturity, respect, and genuine curiosity. It was an inspiring and informative experience that gave them a deeper understanding of the legal world and its impact on society.



Christmas Themed Food Week

This year the Dene Magna Canteen have decided to promote a Christmas Themed Food Week, commencing Monday 15 December. All food will be purchased via the students Cashless Catering account, so please make sure your son/daughter has enough money on their account to purchase this festive fare. Menu is below.

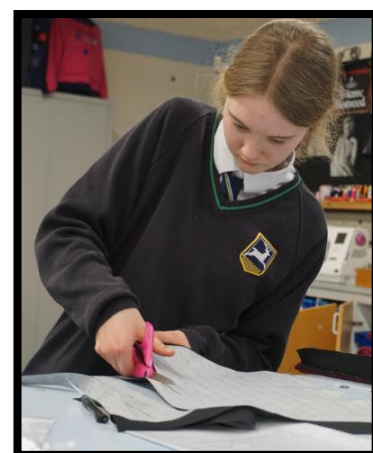
Day	Baguettes	Street Food	Main	Desert
Monday	Turkey & Bacon Cheese & Hash Brown	Corn Dogs Vege Stacker Burger Carbonara Bites	Roast Beef & all the trimmings Sweet Potato, spinach & chick pea korma	Chocolate Fudge Cake Shortbread Fruit Pots
Tuesday	Steak & Onion Tuna & Sweetcorn Cheese & Chutney	Bacon & Brie Turnover Coronation Chicken Loaded Naan Loaded Moizzerella sticks	Roast Turkey & all the trimmings. Wild Mushroom Tart	Xmas Pud Jammie Dodger Cheesecake Fruit Pots
Wednesday	Bacon, Brie & Cranberry Quorn Ticka	Magna Clucker Burger Beef Brisket Bites Mini Asian Bites	Roast Loin of Pork & all the trimmings Lential & Goats Cheese Roast	Biscoff Cheesecake Pavlova Fruit Pots
Thursday	Pork & Apple Veggie Meatball Melt	Christmas Pizza Loaded Tater Tots Bao Buns – Veg & Chilli Filled	Roast Chicken & all the trimmings Butternut Squash Tart	Choc Brownies Xmas Flapjack Fruit Pots

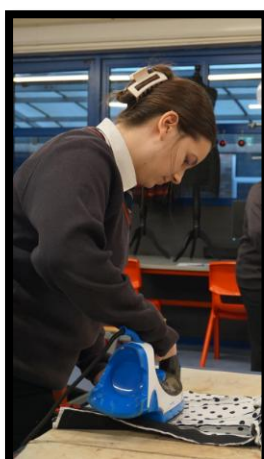
Textiles – Corsetry Course

Some of our Year 10 Textiles students have absolutely shone this week as they completed an intensive corsetry course. Their progress has been nothing short of exceptional, demonstrating high-level skill, impressive precision, and a genuine passion for the craft.

Fully engaged from start to finish, they brought enthusiasm, creativity, and a fantastic work ethic. They were a real pleasure to teach, and we couldn't be prouder of them.

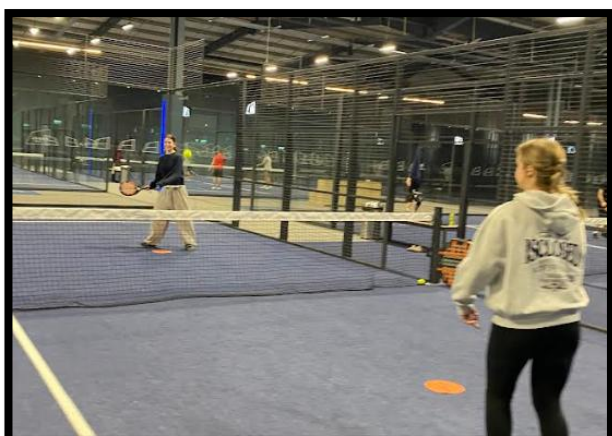
These students will continue refining and completing their corsets during lesson time, and we are incredibly excited to see their beautifully crafted final pieces take shape!





Enrichment Visit

Some of our Year 11 students had the pleasure of trying a new sport for enrichment this Wednesday at the 'Gloucester Paddle Club'. Students had an experienced coach to teach them the techniques, tactics and rules. Once they learnt the basics they had the opportunity to have a couple of matches. A great experience for the students.



Sporting Success

The success of our sports teams continues.

Our Year 7 Girls Football Team travelled to Five Acres on Wednesday afternoon, they showed excellent team work and skills to win 2 -1 in a well fought match. Dene Magna player of the match was Gracie M.

Well done girls keep up the good work!!



6th Form Bake Sale

Our Sixth Formers held a brilliant Bake Sale last Friday to raise funds for their Leaver Awards Ceremony and it was a huge success raising £110.! Their stand was packed with delicious, home baked Christmas treats and we are so impressed with the standard of Baking - Mary Berry would be proud! A massive well done to everyone involved for their hard work and teamwork and a huge thank you to everyone who donated and bought something from their stand, we're so grateful to you for your support!



Operation Encompass

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our school/educational setting is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school/educational setting we have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

On 24 May 2024 Royal Assent was granted to The Victims and Prisoners Act. The Act placed Operation Encompass into Law.

This places a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools/educational settings.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and through Operation Encompass we will be able to provide the best possible support to our children.

Signed

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Celebrating Student Success

Congratulation to **Nancy S** has spent the last few months halter training and preparing a limousin cross steer which she named Clifford for Ross Auction Centre " Prime Stock Show and Sale" on Monday 1st December 2025. Nancy received a trophy for hard work with Clifford.



Ocre M-K continues her ice skating journey, participating in a performance of Dick Whittington on Ice.

Well done to **Max B**, who attended his karate grading on Saturday. Not only did he achieve his purple belt but he won gold medals in kata and bag work, and a trophy for outstanding performance in bag work. Congratulations Max



Hats off to **Isabelle B** in year 11 who was awarded a blue belt in kickboxing last week, this is for refinement of skills and understanding of advanced concepts and her hard work.

Kimberley B has been awarded a received an award for outstanding problem-solving skills and dedication in mathematics during the 2024/2025 school year at her previous school.



Sixth Form Political Showdown: Students Debate Key Issues

Sixth Form students recently immersed themselves in the world of politics by creating and campaigning for their own political parties! This exciting project culminated in a live debate for the entire Sixth Form, followed by an election.

Three distinct parties were formed, each with a unique platform and vision:

- The Forward Conservative Party: Likely focusing on traditional conservative principles, such as free-market economics and individual responsibility.
- The For the People Party: Suggests a platform centered on social justice, community support, and broad public welfare.
- The W.O.K.E. (Workers of the Kingdom of England) Party: With a name indicating a focus on labour rights, equality, and progressive social change.

The student politicians were tasked with producing detailed manifestos, tackling some of the most pressing national issues. Key policy areas they had to address included:

- Economy: Plans for growth, taxation, and national spending.
- Education: Strategies for improving schools, curriculum, and university access.
- Transport: Policies on infrastructure, public transit, and road networks.
- Employment: Ideas for job creation, wage support, and workers' rights.
- Environmental Issues: Commitments to sustainability, climate change, and conservation.

The campaign reached its climax with a high-stakes debate. Each party leader had the opportunity to deliver a compelling opening statement outlining their core message.

This was followed by a dynamic session where candidates challenged each other on their policies, highlighting potential flaws and contrasting their solutions.

The event concluded by opening the floor to the rest of the Sixth Form, allowing students to question the politicians directly on their manifestos and vision for the country.

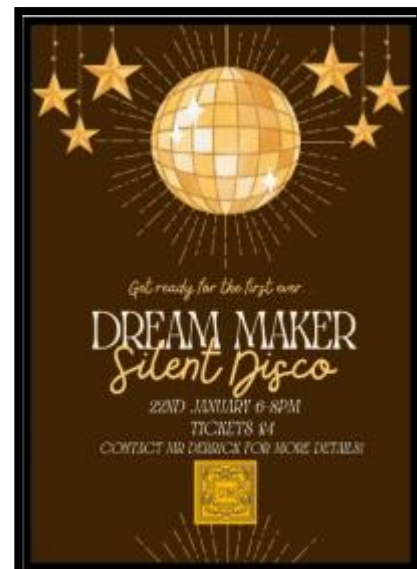
Following the spirited debate, all Sixth Form students cast their votes to determine which party's platform resonated the most.

The results of the election will follow soon! Stay tuned to see which party was elected by their peers to lead the hypothetical government



Year 7 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 cost £4.00 and are available to purchase now via Sco Pay



Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 19th December

We will be holding our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 19th December, students can wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper on this day.

We are asking for donations of food for The Forest Food Bank which can be brought into Reception from Monday 15th December. Below is a list of items that the Forest Food Bank is desperate to receive but they do not need festive items as these will not make it into the boxes for clients to collect before Christmas.

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. Year 11 Certificates can be collected from Reception at Dene Magna School and Year 13 Certificates can be collected from the 6th Form at Cinderford. 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.

Biscuits	Tea/Coffee	Cereal
Pasta	Rice	Tinned Fish
Beans	Spaghetti in Sauce	Tinned Fruit
Fruit Juice	UHT of Powdered Milk	Instant Mash
Tinned Custard	Sponge Pudding	Tinned Meat
Tin or Packet Soup	Tinned Tomatoes	Tinned Veg
Jam	Noodles/Pasta/Rice Meals	Snacks

Supporting Mental Health

Nature Nurtures is a program at Gloucestershire Wildlife which aims to support young people who are struggling with their mental health. The activities across the 8 weeks focus on improving their confidence and connection to nature. This is a free series of sessions that families can sign up for individually, running in The Forest of Dean. The sessions begin at the start of February, and places have started book up already so sign up ASAP if you'd like a space!

Sessions are as follows:

Ages 5 to 11 on Wednesdays from 10am to 11.30am, from 3 Feb – 26 March.

Ages 5 – 9 on Saturdays from 10am to 11.30am, from 7 Feb – 24 March

Ages 10 – 15 on Saturdays from 1pm to 3pm, from 7 Feb – 24 March.



The poster for 'Nature Nurtures' features the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust logo at the top left and a bee illustration at the top right. The title 'Nature Nurtures' is in large green letters, with the subtitle 'Free nature sessions in the Forest of Dean' below it. Three photographs show children and adults participating in nature activities. A green box contains the text: 'Join our FREE sessions, running for 8 weeks in The Forest of Dean. The sessions are designed to get children struggling with their mental health, learning about nature and building confidence.' Below this, contact information for Katie is provided. Three yellow boxes list session details for different age groups, and a butterfly illustration is placed between them. At the bottom, a thank you message to the NHS is accompanied by the NHS Gloucestershire logo and the charity number 232580.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Nature Nurtures

Free nature sessions in the Forest of Dean

Join our FREE sessions, running for 8 weeks in The Forest of Dean. The sessions are designed to get children struggling with their mental health, learning about nature and building confidence.

Contact Katie at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to find out more and sign up: katie.hall@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Ages 5 - 11	Ages 5 - 9	Ages 10 - 15
Wednesdays 10-11:30am 3 rd February - 24 th March 2026 <small>For children not currently attending mainstream schooling</small>	Saturdays 10-11:30am 7 th February - 28 th March 2026	Saturdays 1-3pm 7 th February - 28 th March 2026

Thank you to the NHS, our local community and business for making this project possible.

NHS Gloucestershire
Registered Charity Number 232580

End of Term - Transport

School will end at 12 noon on Friday 19th December, all buses will collect students at this time **EXCEPT THE STAGECOACH BUS WHICH PICKS UP AND DROPS OFF AT BOX BUSH TO HUNTLEY RED LION.** If your son/daughter travels on this bus please can we ask that you make alternative arrangements for their collection.

AND FINALLY – NOT ALL HERO’S WEAR CAPES!!!

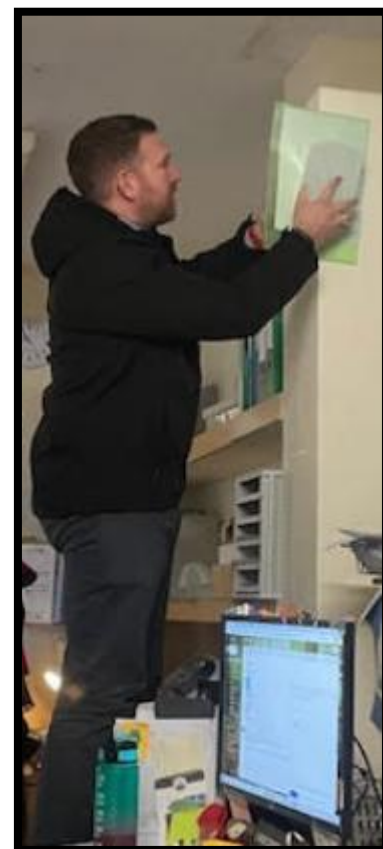
The Reception Team would like to thank Mr Harrington who saved the day by removing a very very very large hairy spider, who had made his home in the corner of the office. Said spider was captured and released back into the wild.

Have a great weekend.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

9.12.25 - Yr 7 & 8 Table Tennis @ home



10.12.25 - Year 7 Book Buzz Breakfast - 9am - 10am - Main Hall
10, 11 & 12.12.25 - School Production- Frozen curtain up at 7.00pm
15-18.12.25 - Year 11 & 13 Trial Art Exams
15 - 19.12.25 - Food Donations for the Food Bank
17.12.25 - Year 11 Trial Exam Results Morning
19.12.25 - Christmas Jumper Day
19.12.25 – End of Term at 12.00 noon
06.01.26 – New Term Commences