



## Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 13 Week Commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

### A Magical Opening Night: Frozen Jr. Comes Alive!

One of the absolute proudest moments of being a Head Teacher is seeing a school production come alive on opening night, and this week was no exception. Our students have been preparing for this event since before the summer holidays, and their dedication truly shone through.

The level of preparation has been immense. Set designs were drafted, props were painstakingly made, and costumes were found, bought, created from scratch, or creatively repurposed from previous shows to transform Dene Magna School into the magical kingdom of Arendelle as our talented students bring Disney's Frozen Jr. to life on stage. To support this vision, we have upgraded our lighting system and special effects,



The storytelling was captivating from the very start:

- We watched Elsa and Anna grow up, witnessing Elsa struggling to control her magic.
- We felt Anna's loneliness and desperation to be loved, which allowed the villainous Prince Hans to charm and coerce his way into royal life.
- The tension peaked when Elsa lost control, freezing everything in sight!
- On a lighter note, the Wandering Oaken's song was absolutely hilarious, and Olaf was as funny and quirky as you would expect, providing wonderful comedic relief.
- The emotional climax was handled beautifully, with Anna saving the day by sacrificing her life for her sister—an act of true love that restored balance to Arendelle.



This production would not be possible without the tireless work of our staff. A huge thank you to:

- Mr Wynn for his direction.
- Mrs Bendall-Burt and Miss Barker for their musical direction.
- Mrs Edmonds and Mrs Mazelin-Brown for their incredible work behind the scenes, including making all the props and costumes and for fund raising.
- Mr Jones for managing the sound.



Our wonderful cast have risen to the occasion brilliantly, delivering performances that have made everyone involved incredibly proud. Our students have worked tirelessly over many weeks of rehearsals, and their dedication truly shines through in every scene. A huge thank you also goes to the staff, parent volunteers and technical crew who have helped make this production possible.



If you haven't yet had the chance to experience the magic, there's still time! Our final performance takes place this evening and we would love to see as many members of our school community there as possible to cheer on our fantastic young performers. Come and join us in Arendelle for one last adventure! Tickets have nearly sold out, though, so be quick!



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Mock Elections

Year 12 and 13 politics students put on a Mock Election hustings on Friday 5th December. The students had created their own parties and policies and delivered them to the rest of the Sixth Form cohort. All spoke with eloquence and conviction, and fielded tough questions from their rival parties and the floor to put their vision across. The debate ranged from heated, to heartfelt and, at

times, hilarious! All who took part did themselves and the Sixth Form proud, and have set a high bar from next year's elections. After voting, which saw a great turnout, the For the Population Party were successful after winning 44% of the votes.



## Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

We will be holding our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.





# CHRISTMAS FOODBANK COLLECTION

**People in the Forest of Dean need your help!**

We are organising another Christmas Food Bank Appeal.

**Bring your food in to Reception between Monday 15th December and Friday 19th December.**

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

## Sleeps Til Santa



I'm sure you will all love to know that there is only 13 sleeps till Christmas Day and only 5 days left of this term.

The Christmas tree is 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.

## 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.

## STEM visit from the British Aerospace

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December as part of our STEM program, we welcomed the British Aerospace roadshow to the school.

As part of an outreach programme to inspire engineers and developers of the future, year 8s were able to learn about AI and all the potential that it brings. The star of the show was 'Fluffy' the robot dog, who used special sensors and AI to 'see' and interact with the real world. She uses complex motors and sensors to walk, dance, wave and even stand on two legs, balancing perfectly every time.

During the presentation, students were invited to create song lyrics using AI; entering just a few key words and themes and letting the software make rhyming verses and choruses. However, AI then took students' ideas for instruments and musical styles to create a full song, and even a music video was made in less than 10 minutes using student suggestions.



The roadshow not only inspired students to consider engineering careers, but also warned us of 'fake' online material and the dangers of trusting everything you read and see online. To show this in action, a 'deep fake' video was even made using words created by students. The result was totally convincing and quite concerning.

A great time was had by staff and students, and the power and pitfalls of AI was certainly seen clearly. Who knows where AI will take us?

We would like to thank the Royal Air Force and BAE Systems for coming into school and giving us such an interesting insight.



## Year 10 Textiles

As we move into winter, cold nights and frosty mornings our Year 10 students have successfully completed a vital piece of snuggly leisure wear, pyjama bottoms, and don't they look fabulous!

Throughout this project, they have developed key sewing skills, including reading a sewing pattern, adding an inseam pocket, attaching a waistband, and finishing with a neat hem.

We are so proud of their hard work, here are some of our talented students showing off their finished pyjama bottoms!



## Scholastic Book Fair

We welcomed the Scholastic Book Fair ran from 1st-9th December to an enthusiastic reception from students and staff. With support from the student volunteers, it has been another successful year marked, this time, by a wider range of books that students have discovered from old favourites such as 'The Hunger Games' to new releases such as the latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid. It has been fantastic to see students enjoying such a range of reading and I hope everyone enjoys their choices!



## 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	Dessert
<b>Monday</b>	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
<b>Tuesday</b>	Steak & Onion Tuna & Sweetcorn Cheese & Chutney	Bacon & Brie Turnover Coronation Chicken Loaded Naan Loaded Mozzarella sticks	Roast Turkey & all the trimmings.  Wild Mushroom Tart	Xmas Pud Jammie Dodger Cheesecake Fruit Pots
<b>Wednesday</b>	Bacon, Brie & Cranberry Quorn Tikka	Magna Clucker Burger Beef Brisket Bites Mini Asian Bites	Roast Loin of Pork & all the trimmings  Lentil & Goats Cheese Roast	Biscoff Cheesecake Pavlova Fruit Pots
<b>Thursday</b>	Pork & Apple Veggie Meatball Melt	Christmas Pizza Loaded Tater Tots Boa Buns – Veg & Chilli Filled	Roast Chicken & all the trimmings  Butternut Squash Tart	Choc Brownies Xmas Flapjack Fruit Pots

## Celebrating the legacy of an engineering pioneer and the inspiration for Dowty House.

Have you ever wondered about the history behind **Dowty House**? As we walk the halls of Dene Magna, it's easy to overlook the stories attached to the names we see every day. Recently, a fascinating collection of tributes has shed new light on Sir George Dowty—not just as an industrial titan, but as a man of immense character, humility, and courage.

According to a moving tribute by his family, Sir George was a man who "eschewed publicity" and possessed a "remarkable trait of great humility." Despite his quiet nature, his achievements speak loudly even 50 years after his passing. He is described as a "star that shines brighter than in his lifetime," a testament to the enduring impact of his work.

Sir George's career began with a passion for engineering that took him from Worcester Royal Grammar School to the heights of the aviation industry. He founded the Dowty Group, which

became a world leader in hydraulics. The document highlights his invention of the "**internally sprung wheel**" as a pivotal moment that revolutionized aircraft safety.

Canon Hopkins, in a thanksgiving tribute, noted that Sir George's greatest legacy was ensuring "Happy Landings" for thousands of travellers worldwide. His innovations didn't just improve machines; they saved lives—both in the air with landing gear and underground with hydraulic mining machinery.

Beyond his inventions, Sir George is remembered for his "exceptional courage." The document reveals that he faced his final illness with unwavering strength, greeting each day as "a new gift from God." His motto was simple but powerful: "*Still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labour and to wait.*"

It is this spirit of innovation and resilience that we celebrate in **Dowty House**. Sir George had strong ties to our local area, living and working in Gloucestershire, where his company became a major employer and a hub for engineering excellence.

When students in Dowty House wear their Dowty Jumpers, they represent more than just a team; they represent a legacy of "**Stronger Together.**"

Sir George's life teaches us that true success comes from hard work, humility, and a dedication to making the world a safer, better place.

As we continue our term, let us take a page from Sir George Dowty's book: to face our challenges with courage, to remain humble in our successes, and to always strive for our own "happy landings."



## Book Buzz Breakfast

On Wednesday 10th December, the Year 7s got to experience our annual Book Buzz breakfast which was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Having ordered a book of their choice in September (from 16 options), they received their own copy as a gift from the library and celebrated with readings from those books by some incredible Year 8s as well as pastries and drinks. Thanks go to those Year 8 readers for their willingness to stand in front of the whole of Year 7 and share snippets from these books with them: they were amazing and thanks to the Year 7s who made it such a fantastic event.



## Year 11 Trial Results Day

A reminder to all parents that the results morning is on Wednesday 17th December from 8.15am until 8.40am. It will be brilliant to see as many of you as possible to support your son/daughter.

There is an assembly for Year 11 straight after that parents are more than welcome to stay for!

## Year 7 Dream Makers Silent Disco

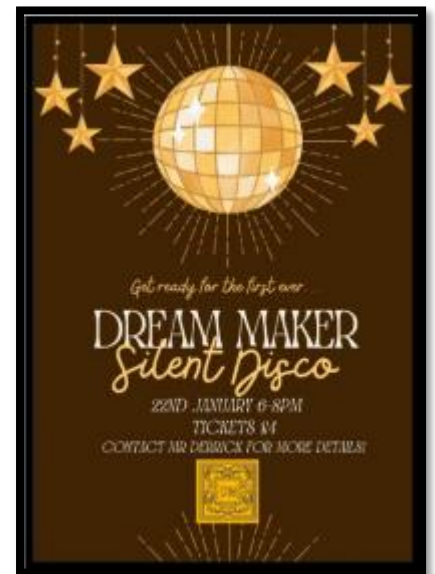
Year 7 get your dancing shoes on and start practicing your moves as Mr Derrick will be organising a Silent Disco for all Year 7 Dream Makers, to be held on Thursday 22nd January from 6pm until 8pm, tickets cost £4.00 and are available to purchase now via Sco Pay.

## Year 7 Dream Builder Challenge

This term's challenge is based around CHARITY.

All tutor groups have chosen a charity and they have until February half term to raise as much money as possible! Some of their ideas are fantastic! The charities chosen are:

- 7D1- Buttercup's Goat Sanctuary
- 7D2- Cancer Research UK
- 7F1- Animal Rescue Cheltenham
- 7J1- Macmillan
- 7W1- Cancer Research UK
- 7W2- Cancer Research UK



## Dream Maker's Team of the Term

The next team of the term will be revealed in the Christmas assembly on the last day of term! There has been more than ever and we cannot wait to hand out this term's trophies. We know some students are trying to collect all 6!!!

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> Form at Cinderford. Please come along and collect them, they are a product of all your hard work! We look forward to seeing you.

## Christmas Catering Goodies

Amazing work and skill shown by Ava J in Year 10, for creating an amazing Biscoff Christmas wreath in her catering lesson.

Some staff were lucky to try some, and it tasted as good as it looks!

## 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).

## Local Drama Workshops

We would like to advertise a local drama company who is running workshops over the Christmas period.

Please look on the Dene Magna Facebook page for the application form or alternatively contact Di Burnett on 07977 147273

A colorful advertisement for a drama workshop. The background is teal with red and white text. At the top left is a logo for 'DI BURNETT THE TRUST'. The main text reads 'PRE CHRISTMAS DRAMA WORKSHOP' in large, bold, red letters. Below that, it says '7 - 12yrs' and 'DEC 22nd &amp; 23rd 9am - 6pm'. There are three small photos showing children in various costumes. At the bottom left, a red starburst contains the text: '£30.00 day / £50.00 2 days £5 reduction daily siblings'. At the bottom right, another red starburst contains the text: 'MORE: CONFIDENCE SKILLS FRIENDS FUN'. At the very bottom, the phone number '07977 147273' is written in large, bold, red letters. On the right side, there is small text: 'Venue: The Ferns Mitcheldean GL17 0BG'.

## 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 Dean Theatre Company

Proudly presents the traditional family pantomime Aladdin at Lydney Town Hall on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January and The Larruperz Centre, Ross-On-Wye on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm and 7.00pm.

Come along and meet Aladdin, Princess Jasmine, the Evil Jafar, Wishee Washy and Widow Twanky.

For more information go to [www.thedeantheatrecompany.com](http://www.thedeantheatrecompany.com).

**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](mailto:katie.hall@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk)**

<b>Ages 5 - 11</b> Wednesdays 10-11:30am 3 <sup>rd</sup> February - 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 <small>For children not currently attending mainstream schooling</small>	<b>Ages 5 - 9</b> Saturdays 10-11:30am 7 <sup>th</sup> February - 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	<b>Ages 10 - 15</b> Saturdays 1-3pm 7 <sup>th</sup> February - 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
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Thank you to the NHS, our local community and business for making this project possible.

**NHS Gloucestershire**  
Registered Charity Number 232580

**The Dean Theatre Company**

# Aladdin

Family

Lydney Town Hall, GL15 5DY  
16th - 18th January 2026

Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7QD  
23rd - 25th January 2026

Tickets from £10 to £14  
[www.thedeantheatrecompany.com](http://www.thedeantheatrecompany.com)

Young Aladdin works with his brother, Wishee Washy and their mother Widow Twanky in Twanky's Laundry. Aladdin dreams of more than his mother's laundry and is always trying one "get rich quick" scheme after another. One day when Aladdin is in the town market he meets the beautiful Princess Jasmine and falls in love. However, Princess Jasmine's mother, the Empress, stops them from meeting. Aladdin is then tricked by the evil Abanazar into retrieving a magic lamp from a cave. Once Aladdin rubs the lamp, a genie appears and grants him three wishes, leading to a series of adventures and ultimately, in true pantomime style, a happy ending.

Come along and see this traditional family pantomime at

Lydney Town Hall, GL15 5DY  
Evenings: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm  
Matinees: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm

The Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7QD

**Don't miss our summer show - July 2026**

**"The Mirror Crack'd"**  
By Agatha Christie

A New Adaptation by Rachel Wagstaff

Tickets on sale now from

Written by Bradford & Webster. This amateur production is by arrangement with NODA Ltd. **NODA**

This amateur production of "The Mirror Crack'd" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

## Celebrating Student Success

We would like to congratulate Phoebe Ballinger and Neve Rimell who have been selected for the U16s Player Development Group festival on 14<sup>th</sup> December at Westbuckland School.



## The Student Standard Magazine is out now!

This is written by our 6th Form student editorial team, Press Club. This issue is packed with creative features, interviews, opinion pieces, reviews and a little look at some key events that have happened at 6th form this term.

Click the link below to explore the magazine and see what our talented Sixth Form writers have put together!

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGta3PKI30/A4Lb5-](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGta3PKI30/A4Lb5-qOysQh1oWpvjdi_g/view?utm_content=DAGta3PKI30&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=unique_links&utm_campaign=h8ede9c062)

[qOysQh1oWpvjdi\\_g/view?utm\\_content=DAGta3PKI30&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=unique\\_links&utm\\_campaign=h8ede9c062](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGta3PKI30/A4Lb5-qOysQh1oWpvjdi_g/view?utm_content=DAGta3PKI30&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=unique_links&utm_campaign=h8ede9c062)

Have a great weekend only one more week to go, we can do it!!!!

Declan Mooney  
Headteacher

## Dates For Your Diary

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 from 8.15am until 8.40am, followed by an assembly.

19.12.25 - Christmas Jumper Day

19.12.25 – End of Term at 12.00 noon

05.01.26 – INSET Day

06.01.26 – New Term Commences

