



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 14 **Week Commencing Monday 15th December 2025** **Celebrating Student Achievements and Events**

End of Term Review: A Fantastic Finish

What a fantastic end to an amazing term! It has been wonderful to see our students so keen and eager to get up and try all the opportunities we have had this year.

Term Highlights

- Cultural Exchange: We were delighted to welcome visitors from Japan, who shared their culture and traditions with our students, broadening our global perspective.
- Trips and Tradition: Our students enjoyed various residential trips before half term, and we successfully brought the whole school together to traverse the forest for our annual sponsored walk.
- Competitions: Students have been busy competing both locally and nationally in a diverse range of activities, spanning from cake making to ice skating.
- New Beginnings: Our Year 7 and Year 12 cohorts have settled brilliantly into their new surroundings and are truly thriving.
- Dream Makers: This initiative has seen students in year 7 develop vital public speaking and charity-raising skills this term. It has been lovely to see students spending their rewards on Dream Maker merchandise.

Academic Updates

Year 11 Trials: The mock exams for Year 11 have gone very well, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them for the hard work they have put in so far. They have developed good study habits that we will be building on for the summer exams to come.

Year 13: Our Year 13 students will be undertaking their trials after Christmas, and we wish them the very best of luck with their revision over the break.

Staff Farewells

With the end of the term, we sadly say goodbye to two valued members of our school community:

- Mr. Chris Pike: One of our dedicated Science teachers, Mr. Pike is moving on to work at John Kyrle High School. We wish him all the best in his new role.
- Mr. Tony Phelps: A key member of our site team, Mr. Phelps is retiring. He is looking forward to relaxing and chilling out with his family.

I want to thank both of them for all their hard work and dedication in supporting our students and our school.

I want to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Shoe Box Appeal

We are delighted to say that all the shoeboxes that were donated by our Year 7 students have been loaded onto a lorry at Evesham last Saturday and are now on their way to Ukraine. The lorry leaving Evesham at lunchtime on Saturday and it will take at least a week before it arrives in Ukraine.

Keith and Sandy Jones from Teams4You Forest of Dean would like to thank all at Dene Magna for their support and for sharing joy and hope with disadvantaged families in Ukraine.



Sleeps Til Santa

I'm sure you will all love to know that there is only 6 sleeps till Christmas Day.

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.



Christmas Festivities

Students sat down on Tuesday to a traditional Christmas dinner, as well as a street food alternative. Christmas songs boomed out over the sound system, crackers were pulled and hats worn. All food was prepared and cooked by our Catering Team and served by members of staff.



Child Development

As part of the Child Development course the students get to take baby Ava home for the weekend, deal with the day to day struggles of looking after an infant. Below is Bethany L's feedback after Ava went to stay.

"My experience of looking after baby Ava for the weekend began as challenging and tested my limits. However as time went on I began to understand the needs of a baby and how much care and supervision they need on a constant basis. I did enjoy my time with baby Ava as it taught me a lot and I was able to grasp the troubles and joys of parenthood, even if for a short while. One of the most interesting things to see for me was how other children (as shown in photos above) reacted and interacted with a baby who could cry and act like a real one. As you can see she enjoyed playing with baby Ava as well as her own and having some responsibility doing tasks such as putting her in her car seat. This helped me greatly with the understanding of all aspects of social development in my coursework. Furthermore, looking after baby Ava gave me many opportunities as well as the joy of succeeding in parenthood and feeling confident for future tasks that may be difficult or like baby Ava require much time and effort. Overall my experience was challenging but most importantly fun as I was able to learn from this time and carry it with me into the future".

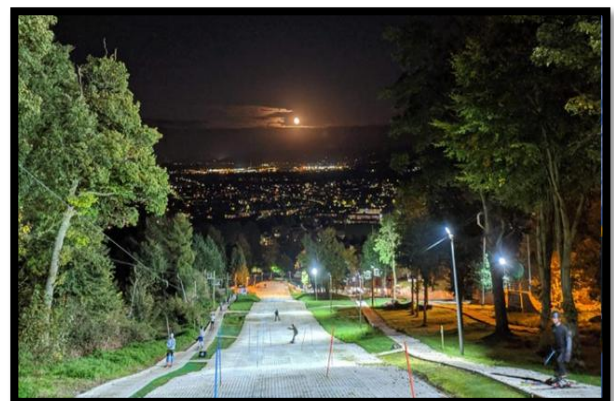


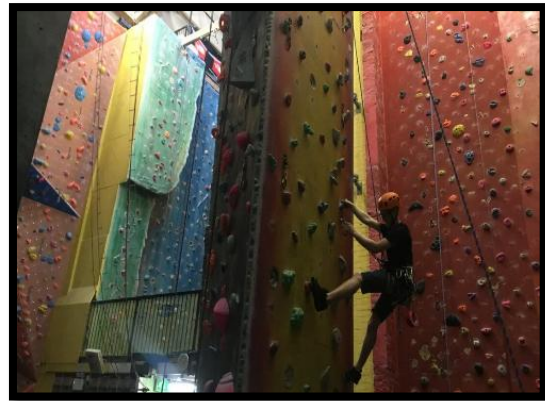
Enrichment Programme

The enrichment programme has had a highly successful first term, providing students with a wide range of valuable experiences that support both personal development and employability skills.

Students have taken part in a variety of off-site enrichment activities, including climbing, skiing, padel and kickboxing. These activities have been extremely well received and have helped students to build confidence, resilience and teamwork. Many students have demonstrated increased self-belief and a willingness to challenge themselves by stepping outside their comfort zones.

In addition to the off-site activities, Year 12 and Year 13 students have completed coaching placements at Forest View Primary School and Drybrook Primary School. These placements have given students meaningful, real-world experience of working with younger children in a professional setting. Students have developed key skills such as communication, leadership, organisation, and adaptability, while gaining a clearer understanding of coaching and teaching roles.





Message from Mr Griffiths and Team PE

We have had a fantastic first term in the PE Department. Our Year 7 students have settled in extremely well and have been exceptional in representing the school across a wide range of sporting events.

Across all year groups, the girls have enjoyed a hugely successful start to the year, achieving multiple wins in rugby, netball, and football. The boys have also performed superbly, with excellent results in rugby, basketball, and table tennis.

We have also just received the results from the district cross-country competition at Newent, and I am incredibly proud to share that we won overall, with multiple students progressing to represent the Forest of Dean at the county championships.

We look forward to another successful term when we return in January, and I would encourage anyone who has not yet represented the school to get involved next year — everyone is welcome.

Modern Foreign Languages Department

We have had a fantastic term in the Modern Foreign Languages department, full of energy, creativity, and enthusiasm.

Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed a French breakfast and loved sending letters to their pen pals, while many pupils across the school got involved in baking cakes and learning Danish, Welsh, and Makaton as part of our European Day of Languages celebrations. Year 7 students have made an excellent start to their language learning at Dene Magna, and Year 10 and Year 12 have begun their GCSE and A Level courses with confidence and commitment. Well done to Year 11 for all their hard work this term and during their trial exams — we wish you every success in the final run-up to your GCSE exams.

Many students have also continued to make a huge effort in our Duoleague competition, and we hope this enthusiasm continues over the festive period. We are looking forward to our Year 9 *Languages for Life* event in the first week of next term, featuring guest speakers, including a linguist from the RAF and a former student, who will share how languages have enriched their lives.

Finally, we wish Year 13 the very best in their forthcoming exams and send everyone warm festive greetings: *Joyeux Noël / Feliz Navidad!*



Performing Arts

It's been a whirlwind term in the Performing Arts department, with students across all year groups throwing themselves into practical work, performances and creative exploration!



Spotlight on Drama



Our Year 11 and Year 13 Drama students have been working with tremendous focus as they put the finishing touches to their scripted and devised performance pieces. The level of commitment and creativity on display has been impressive, and we're looking forward to seeing all their hard work come to fruition next term! As well as this, attention has recently been on the written exam, where students have shown dedicated preparation for the trial exams.

In Year 10 and 12, students have been exploring the texts for the written exam and beginning to look at the practical elements of the course. Some very exciting choices have been made already and will no doubt turn into some excellent pieces of theatre!

In Key Stage 3, students have journeyed through an exciting range of theatrical styles and practitioners. From the political techniques of Bertolt Brecht to the psychological realism of Konstantin Stanislavski, and from the breath-taking storytelling of *War Horse* to developing their own devising skills, our younger students have built a rich toolkit of performance techniques.



A Festive Flourish from the Music Department



There has been a wonderful buzz of music around school as we head towards the end of term. Choir are rehearsing every Friday and are putting the finishing touches on their performance for the Final Assembly – one not to be missed!

Looking ahead, we are delighted to announce a Musical Soirée concert taking place at school in the New Year, showcasing the talent and hard work of our musicians. More information coming soon.

Year 11 students have successfully recorded their solo and ensemble performances and will now be turning their attention to the exciting challenge of developing their compositions.

Meanwhile, Year 10 have truly embraced the festive spirit by composing their own Christmas song, led brilliantly by Lois Compton. Their performance at the Final Assembly will be a real highlight, and we are incredibly proud of their creativity, teamwork and confidence.



Frozen Jr.



The undoubted highlight of the term was our whole school production of *Frozen Jr.* Every single student involved rose magnificently to the occasion: their dedication throughout the rehearsal process was outstanding and, when the lights went up, they absolutely shone. A huge well done to our wonderful cast and crew!



A fantastic end to the term for Performing Arts!

Science

This term, the Science Department has been buzzing with hands on learning and curiosity driven exploration. The students across all classes have been building practical skills through experiments and investigations, while strengthening their understanding of key scientific concepts.

In Miss Clark's Year 7 class, students created detailed models of cells to help them visualise cell structure and function, while Mrs Brown's Year 7 class have been studying light and practising drawing ray diagrams for reflection and refraction. Meanwhile, Year 11 students have been revising hard for their mock exams, have now received their results, and are beginning to look carefully at their next steps as they prepare for the future."



The Science Department champions Sally Ride's quote that "Science is fun. Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity. Science is a process of investigating. It's posing questions and coming up with a method. It's delving in".

Maths

This year the maths department joined an exciting programme organised by "Axiom Maths". Eight Year 7 students joined a maths circle, in which they weekly tackle challenging maths problems.

Teddy K, Max B, Oliver R, Josh L, Erin B, Clara G, Ben H and Ben H have done an amazing job completing their first block of circle sessions. They've learnt to be **adventurous** in their thinking, **accepting** of different methods and **articulate** with their maths vocabulary.



Our circle is looking forward to starting the new block of challenges in the New Year!

All year groups have just completed their end of term Maths assessments, with most years using standardised tests so that results can be compared across the many teaching groups. We issued a challenge for students to exceed their targets, and many students did! By revising (using provided topic lists), many students have smashed their targets already, with staff predicting them great success in their future GCSEs. For those that didn't do so well, there's still time to practice those revision skills so that every minute of revision in year 11 is effective and will directly boost their final grade.

Chess club also continues to be popular on Fridays in Maths, with groups of friends simply challenging each other in this game of strategy. All ages are welcome, and students are improving their chess skills significantly. Maybe in future we'll start a league?



History

GCSE Historians had another fantastic trip to Berlin back in October and we have already launched next year's visit with our current Year 10 and prospective Year 9 GCSE students - the itinerary is almost complete and we are looking forward to another visit to a fabulous city.

More trips coming up - Miss Adams and Miss Eldridge are looking forward to their trip with Year 12 to London to get in-depth with The Tudors at The Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace (as well as a little sing along at Six, The Musical!)

Year 7 will hear shortly about a trip to Goodrich Castle and Year 8 will be heading up to the Black Country again this year for those ever-so important chips.

It will soon be time for Year 9 to make their GCSE choices and we look forward to many of you opting for History.

Religious Studies

Big changes are coming to GCSE RS as we make the switch not just of exam provider, but also of choice of religions studied - we will maintain our unit on Christianity, but students will now study Judaism as their alternate religion. We feel this is a timely transition with current news items. Current GCSE students will be visiting a cathedral and mosque early in the New Year to get a sense of how Christianity and Islam are practised in Modern Britain.

KS3 students have covered topics as diverse as the nature of God, Christianity and Buddhism. They have been honing their listening and debating skills, and have been superb in being inquisitive and considerate about a wide range of worldviews.

In this last week of term, Miss Barker completed a 'create your own Nativity' lesson with 7D; the whole class came up with some wonderful ideas, some of which have been shared below. She also asked students to discuss what they believed the 'true meaning' of Christmas was, and whether it had been lost in today's busy world. Our finishing words will be from Ruby Virgo, who said this:

"I think that the true meaning of Christmas has gone for some people. Even if you aren't Christian, the true meaning is spending time with the people you love. So it doesn't matter about the presents, spending time with your family is what matters the most.

I feel like some older and younger people forget this true meaning, and just worry about the presents.'

Geography

This term in Geography has seen a tectonics focus across KS3, 4 and 5.

In KS3, Year 7 have been glancing back over the last 4.6 billion years of Earth's geographical history culminating in the understanding of how the Forest of Dean has transformed from a shallow

tropical ocean to a coal rich geological depression. Year 8 were focussing on the movement of plate tectonics and the destructive power of earthquakes understanding how the slow grind of the Earth's crust has led to some of the most deadly natural disasters. And finally Year 9 have studied how volcanoes in different parts of the world operate and bring with them some unique challenges. Year 9 have particularly enjoyed lessons on the 2023 volcanic tsunami in Tonga.

In KS4 Year 10 continue to follow the AQA GCSE specification and have been looking at a variety of hazards both tectonic and atmospheric from a variety of scales. Following on from a successful mock period, Year 11 are getting ever closer to completing the content ready for their next set of mock exams in the New Year. They have most recently been studying the challenges of providing food sustainably in the future.

Finally our Y12 and Y13 continue to work hard in all their lessons making good progress.

We want to wish our Y13 students the best of luck during their mock exams which they will be sitting in the first two weeks back.

Politics

A-Level Politics students have had a great start to the school year; Y13 strengthening their skills in the run up to their mock exams, and Y12 immersing themselves in the course. Both years have fully engaged themselves in political events at home and globally, and are vocal in class discussion about these matters! We have also held a very successful Mock Election where the whole of the Sixth Form engaged with the policies put forward by the three parties - congratulations to the For the Population Party who secured the mandate. We have also met with Matt Bishop MP to discuss a Forest wide Youth Parliament starting in the New Year, and are planning to visit the real Houses of Parliament in the Summer Term. The lower school have had an introduction to UK Politics during UK Parliament Week where they watched an assembly on how the UK government works and how they can make their voice heard. More to come next year on why politics is such an important topic to get involved in.

ICT

This term all KS3 students took part in the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Competition. The puzzles and challenges are designed to help students explore their talents and passion for informatics and computational thinking.

The results are only just in and we are pleased to announce the following students who were the best in year: Year7 - Hannah H, Year 8 - Hugo P and Year 9 - Jacob D. A big well done from the Computing Department.

Over in the 6th form a group of 4 Year 12 students (Jamie H, Dylan D, Theo J B and Ed M) have been testing their cyber security skills in the national ACE-CSE Cyber Security Competition run by the University of South Wales. They have just submitted their answers to a set of problem-solving questions and brain teasers and keenly await the results in January. We are keeping our fingers crossed for them.

English

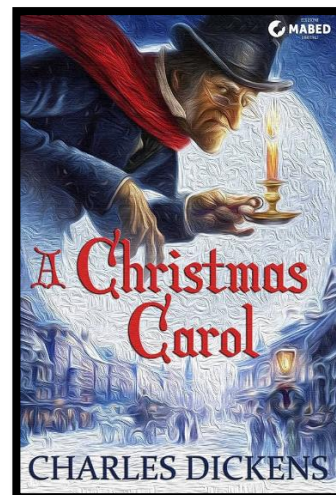
This term, the English department has seen students across all year groups engaging enthusiastically with a wide range of literature. Year 7 have delved into the world of Shakespeare and enjoyed receiving free books through the Book Buzz scheme. Year 8 have been busy creating their own dystopian stories while also exploring myths and legends. Year 9, after analysing a variety of war poems during the Remembrance period, have been developing their skills through high-level narrative writing.

In the older year groups, Year 10 have kicked off their GCSE Literature course with a focus on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Year 11 meanwhile have shown great dedication in revising and successfully completing their mock exams, with Year 13 ready to follow suit. Year 12 have been fantastic in mastering new literary terms and approaches, with highlights including their study of *Frankenstein*.

Hospitality & Catering

It has been a busy term in the catering department where our students have been practising their cookery skills.

Below is a snapshot of some of the delicious recipes they have produced in their first cooking rotation of this year.



Year 7

- ❖ Shortbread (rubbing in method)
- ❖ Sweet and savoury scones (cutting and rolling/ flavour combinations)
- ❖ Pasta salad (knife skills and using the hob)
- ❖ Fudge

Year 8

- ❖ Bread rolls (proving and shaping)
- ❖ Chelsea buns (proving and filling)
- ❖ Scotch eggs (handling raw meat and bread crumbing/shaping)



Year 9

- ❖ Pizza (Dough making)
- ❖ Stir fry (Knife Skills)
- ❖ Mac and cheese (Roux sauce)

Year 10 have started their GCSE skills and have been working hard to perfect their high level skills. They have so far completed puff pastry, sugar work for brandy snaps, sweet pastry tarts and Victoria sponge cakes for their decorated cake challenge.

They have done a fantastic job and learnt so much already!

Year 11 have been working hard to prepare for their final 4 hour practical exams which are taking place in January where they have to produce a 2 course meal! We will have lots of pictures to show in the New Year and are confident they are all going to achieve wonderful results.

We have also had the pleasure of the lovely team from The Meat Hut who came and visited our students and gave a full demonstration on sausage making! The students got involved and had some wonderful produce to take home and sample.



RSHE Update

We have really enjoyed introducing our relational curriculum this term as part of RSHE. The children have engaged thoughtfully with discussions about relationships, feelings, and respect for one another.

We regularly use circle time as a safe and supportive space where pupils can share how they are feeling, talk about what they are looking forward to, and discuss important topics together.

As one child explained, "During circle time, we talk about our feelings, what we are looking forward to, and discuss things together." Another pupil summed up their experience by saying, "In RSHE, we do a lot of fun things," reflecting the positive and enjoyable approach we take to learning in this area.

Next term the topics we will be studying are:

Year 7 - Conflict Resolution, Healthy Living & Puberty, Substance Misuse

Year 8 - Future Me, Knife Crime, Role Models & Stereotyping, Online Safety

Year 9 - Conflict Resolution, Finance, Fake News, Online Safety

Year 10 - Sexism & Misogyny, Independent Living, County Lines, Peer on Peer Abuse

Year 11 - Independent Living, Fake News, Body Image

Art News

We have had a wonderful start to the year in the Art Department and it has been a pleasure getting to know our new Year 7 students. They have already shown fantastic skill and enthusiasm in both painting and drawing. This term, Year 7 have taken part in a range of creative activities exploring colour theory. Our year 8 students have been learning about art from different cultures, exploring symbols, patterns, and motifs from around the world. They have produced thoughtful and imaginative outcomes inspired by global artistic traditions. Year 9 have continued developing their work on expressive landscapes, focusing on atmosphere, texture, and personal interpretation. Their growing confidence with materials and techniques is evident in their creative outcomes.

Year 10 and Year 12 students have begun their new examination courses this term. They have been exploring a variety of artistic techniques and processes, responding to different themes through drawing, painting, mixed media, and experimentation. This strong start has set a positive foundation for their coursework.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have recently completed their trial examinations and have produced some amazing outcomes. This has helped to prepare them for the ESA which will be launched in the New Year. While a number of our KS3 lessons have been temporarily rearranged to support the exam process, students have continued to show creativity and teamwork.

A highlight has been the fantastic collaborative murals of Harry Potter characters, which are now decorating our art corridors.



Design & Technology

As ever, a very busy term in the Design & Technology department. In KS3 Year 7 have been getting used to safely working, using new technology and materials in creative design solutions. A couple of groups have completed a USB multi-colour night light and the other textiles groups have completed the colourful decoration of their DT aprons with an 'Interstellar' theme.

The Year 8 projects enhance the basic knowledge of the previous year with more creative design opportunities. Students have been challenged to make use of the large variety of technologies to design and make an Art Deco themed clock and a cosy 'cultural' cushion.

Year 9 have honed their skills with an introduction to metals in the jewellery project and designed and created a multi part textile bag using applique and super accurate use of the sewing machine. Our new team of Engineers in Year 10 have manufactured parts and assembled a mild steel bottle and can opener (very useful at this time of year) and are now learning how to communicate effectively the technical drawings and develop their use of CAD. The Textiles students have made PJ's ready for the festive holiday and one group has completed the high level Corsetry design and make day, the other will be experiencing that in early January.

All year 11 students have been fully immersed in completing coursework. They have been very dedicated to this and we are immensely proud of their resolve. The Engineers are coming to the end of their manufacturing unit, where they have had to plan and make all of the 19 delicate parts, for a craft slip roller. Meanwhile the Textiles group has been investigating, designing and now making their response to contexts set by the exam board.

Product Design and Fashion & Textiles is our KS5 offer and similarly to the Textiles Students Year 13 have been working hard to develop and prototype their designs for their own developed project briefs. We have a tools and goods trolley for a garden landscaper and a Boxercise machine underdevelopment! Year 12 have been testing their creative boundaries with an Origami passive speaker mini project and are now disassembling an existing design to learn as much as possible about it, before making their own slightly customised version. They also did a fab job adapting doors onto castors for the school production of Frozen.

It was such a pleasure too, to welcome Engineers from Dowty propellers to the sixth form. This was a great opportunity for our KS4&5 STEM students to find out about this fascinating company and gain career opportunity insight.

From us all in Design & Technology, have yourselves a 'creative' happy Christmas.

Business Studies

It has been another great term in the history of Business Studies at Dene Magna.

Our Year 11 students are grasping the nettle and knuckling down to some great work in preparation for their GCSE exams in May 2026 with a fantastic set of mock results proving that working 'little and often' really does reap rewards.

Our year 10 students have started their new subject with vigour, commitment and a strong desire to do well.

Some Year 11 students had a fabulous experience with the opportunity to visit an Amazon fulfilment centre in Bristol and see first-hand Business in action and how all the theory we look at in class actually translates into a business doing its job and meeting the expectations of customers and all it entails to do so. We are all looking forward to the festive period for some well-earned rest, but an opportunity to keep up the study momentum 'little and often' which will result in great rewards.



See you all on 6 January 2026 for what will be another exciting and fulfilling New Year with the determination to achieve and exceed all our goals.

Library News

It's been a busy few months in the library beginning with welcoming our New Year 7 students to the school and gifting them a book in the recent Book Buzz breakfast to start their journey at Dene Magna as well as getting to know them and their reading habits.

We have celebrated reading many times over including with a trip to Cheltenham Literature Festival to see the amazing Jonathan Stroud and the Scholastic Book Fair. There has been such a buzz about these events and it has been fantastic to see so many of our students engaging with these opportunities and their excitement and enjoyment of reading.

The book clubs have also been active with the Battle of the Books group sensational in their commitment to shortlisting, speech writing and defending their choices of the 'Most Villainous Human Character' in a book: in case you have forgotten the Year 7 judging panel found Count Olaf

from the 'Series of Unfortunate Events' the winner. We've also had our KS3 book club meeting regularly and welcoming in new members this year. With a range of events from book discussions, scene creations and genre meetings, I hope they've enjoyed their recent Christmas crafting recycling old books!

A huge thanks must go to the student library volunteers who have kept the library going this term - both returning volunteers and new recruits. They do an incredible amount to keep the library looking its best and consistently updated with new titles as well as the practical side of shelving returns and tidying the space.

All of this is in addition to the students who regularly make use of the library for reading, book borrowing, homework and as a place they want to spend their time. It is great to see the library used so well outside lessons as well as in support of the curriculum and I look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Don't forget we have World Book Day coming up on Thursday 5th March and many other things are planned so the next year promises to be as exciting.

Book club members Summer, Emily James, Erin, Lydia, Sandy, Hamish, Hester and Sophia have been making Christmas decorations



Christmas Life Skills

This term, Cameron, Jake, Jimmy, Lola and Mia have been learning about Life Skills with Mr Houlton and Mrs Turley. In the lead up to Christmas, they have been looking at what this celebration period means to different people, how they can help and support others, and have practiced skills in writing thoughtful cards and wrapping presents - including a wrapping challenge!

We are extremely proud of each student and how they have shown thoughtfulness towards others.



Running Club

Thank you to all those who have taken part in running club this term - we are so proud of the progress you have made!

See you in January!



Pizza Party

Mrs Vandorpe and Mr Reid treated some students from their tutor group, 9J1 to a little end of term pizza party! Zack, Freya, Leo, Gabi, Jinghan, Levi and Chloe had an amazing first term and managed to complete 11 or more "perfect weeks". (A perfect week is when a student completes the school week with 100% attendance and no demerits) Freya S-R even managed a perfect term with 13 perfect weeks!

We clearly have some of the best students in Jenner House!!!!

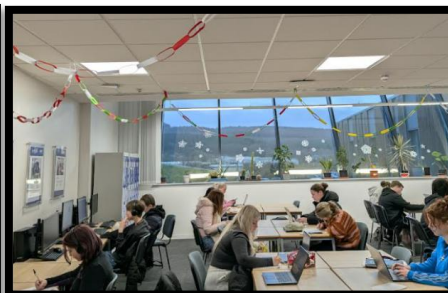


6th Form News

On Wednesday our Sixth Form students welcomed MP Matt Bishop to 6th Form, who came in to launch a Forest wide Youth Parliament Programme that we will be involved with in the New Year. Matt spent some time talking to them about his role in Parliament, current issues affecting young people and the importance of getting involved in Politics. The students asked thoughtful questions and engaged in a really interesting discussion. Politics has been particularly prominent at Sixth Form this term, following on from a successful student-led mock election event and has had us reflecting on the importance of Politics for everyone - staff and students alike.



Sixth Form has been full of festive spirit. Alongside celebrating Christmas with a mince pie tasting competition and some impressively creative Christmas door decorating we've been supporting well-being during this busy time, with a jigsaw available in the common area which the students have enjoyed working on - and it's nearly complete!



6th Form Mince Pie Competition

The Sixth Form had a little Mince Pie Bake Off this week. Charlie and Tim (self-professed mince pie connoisseurs) had the difficult job of judging the fantastic entries.

All of the pies were delicious, from the traditional to modern twists.
Congratulations to Mrs Salisbury for winning with Heidi and Annika coming close runners up.



One Health Society

Our One Health Society had a visit from Libby Timney today...an Operating Department Practitioner. They got to experience "gowning up" in a sterile manner, learnt about what her job entails and got to play with lots of surgical equipment. A fun way to end the year.



6th Form Christmas Raffle

Well done to Arthur Ross-Collins and Summer Burrows in Year 13 who were winners of the 6th Form Christmas Raffle.

We also held an attendance prize draw, in which all Sixth Form students with 100% lesson attendance were entered for the chance to win a £25 Amazon voucher. Our three well-deserving winners were Lewis James and Isla Jones in Y12, and Scott Townsend in Y13. Well done all and keep it up!



School Reports

Just to let you know that your son/daughters Progress Report, (year 7-13) are available to view via your MCAS app.

School Uniform Reminder

We would like to remind you that the following items are not part of the Dene Magna uniform, **hoodies, leggings and trainers**, please can we ask that all students return in the correct uniform in January, please see below for details

- Jumper: Dene Magna branded jumper

Shirt/Blouse: Plain white

- Trousers/Skirt:
 - ❖ Trousers: Plain black, tailored (not denim, leggings, or skin-tight)
 - ❖ Tailored Shorts: Tailored black trouser material shorts, not sport shorts.
 - ❖ Skirt: Black “Banner” style only — pencil skirts not permitted
- Tie: Official Dene Magna tie
- Shoes: Plain black leather (no canvas, trainers, and no sports branded shoes, suede or boots)
- Coat: Plain coat
- Socks/Tights: Plain black, grey, or white socks; plain black tights (no patterns or fishnet)



PE Kit

- Navy shorts, polo top, quarter-zip top, socks (with white stripe), trainers (no flat daps), football/rugby boots

Appearance Guidelines

- No makeup permitted
- Hair must be natural colour and style
- Limited jewellery: one stud per ear; no nose piercings
- Clear labelling of all uniform and kit is essential (use name labels)

To see all of our uniform please visit the Dene Magna website (new starter section).

Christmas Jumper Day

School is full of festive cheer and colour this morning for our annual Christmas Jumper Day. Students have been donating food throughout the week for the Forest of Dean Food Bank, we have received lots of food, which will be collected to help families across the Forest.



LAMDA Results

We would like to congratulate Scarlett H-K who has passed her LAMDA Acting Grade 7 solo silver medal **with distinction**



Celebrating Student Success

Congratulations to **Mirren B**, who this weekend, at the Cinderford Taekwondo end of year awards, was awarded the trophy for 2025's Most Promising Student. This award recognizes her as a student who has shown exceptional potential for the future of the sport, not just through technical ability, but also through her attitude, discipline, focus, and commitment to training. Considering she hasn't yet completed a full year of martial arts, we are incredibly proud of her hard work and dedication, and excited to see where her future in the sport leads.



The school are really proud of two of our senior students who were part of the Gloucestershire PDG rugby team who took on Devon on the weekend. **Neve R** captained the side which also included **Phoebe B**. We are looking forward to watching their on-going journey.

Well done to three of our students who are members of Ruardean Hill Cricket Club's league-winning U15s squad have been selected for county talent pathway programmes this winter! 🏏



Iona M and **Becca H**, opening bowlers for both our U15s and women's teams, are in the Zonal Girls Colts squad, while top-scoring batter/Saturday 2nd XI keeper **Zach W** has been called up for MCC Hub North Glos Boys.

Congratulations and good luck to these brilliant, talented young guns as they take the next exciting step on their cricketing journey!



A big round of applause goes to **Holly D-R** who performed in The Music Works End of Year Show this week. Singing Tate McRae's "Don't Come Back", Holly really enjoyed her first show and is looking forward to the next one. After engaging in their "Have a Go" days back in the summer, Holly has found a love of performing, attending their club each week and was on the stage for the first time.



Also performing on the same stage was **Lois C**, whose performance was outstanding. W

Thank You from the Royal British Legion

A big thank you to all staff and students who donated towards this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, the school raised £72.68.



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.

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

The Dean Theatre Company

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

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.

Forest Food Bank Opening Times

During the Christmas holidays the Coleford distribution centre at the Salvation Army in Broadwell GL16 7BX will be open on Wednesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period.

Lydney distribution centre at the River Family and children's centre, Naas Lane Lydney GL15 5AU opens after Christmas on 6th January 2026, Coleford opens on 7th January 2026 and Cinderford at The Forest Community church will be open on 8th January 2026.

To get help look on our website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

Music Holiday One Day Programme

'Have a Go' is an inclusive school holiday programme in association with Gloucestershire County Council HAF (Holiday Activities and Food programme). Lunch is provided daily for all those attending. Young people will gain experience learning through multiple music activities such as:

- ❖ Singing
- ❖ Songwriting
- ❖ Rapping
- ❖ DJ'ing
- ❖ Music Production
- ❖ Playing instruments
- ❖ Jam as a band whilst having fun and making new friends

They will spend time learning how to set up/use equipment as well as creating new music/songs, working as a team and collaborating with other young people. Through these sessions, young people will develop social and musical skills, whilst building on their knowledge and self-confidence.

Location: Forest Hub, 6 Market St, Cinderford, GL14 2RX
Monday 22nd December 2025, 11am-3pm
Ages 11-16, FREE ENTRY, places must be booked.

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 Wednesdays 10:15-11:30am 3 rd February - 24 th March 2026	Ages 5 - 9 Saturdays 10:15-11:30am 7 th February - 28 th March 2026	Ages 10 - 15 Saturdays 1-3pm 7 th February - 28 th March 2026
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For children not currently attending school/college/uni

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

Gloucestershire NHS

Registered Charity Number 202086

Places Where Kids Eat Free (Or For £1) Over Christmas



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) CHRISTMAS 2025



moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BILLS

2 Kids Eat Free on Boxing day 2025

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat FREE from Fri 19th Dec - Sun 6th Jan 2026

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARSTONS PUBS

from 29th Dec - Jan 9th 2026 in selected locations

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

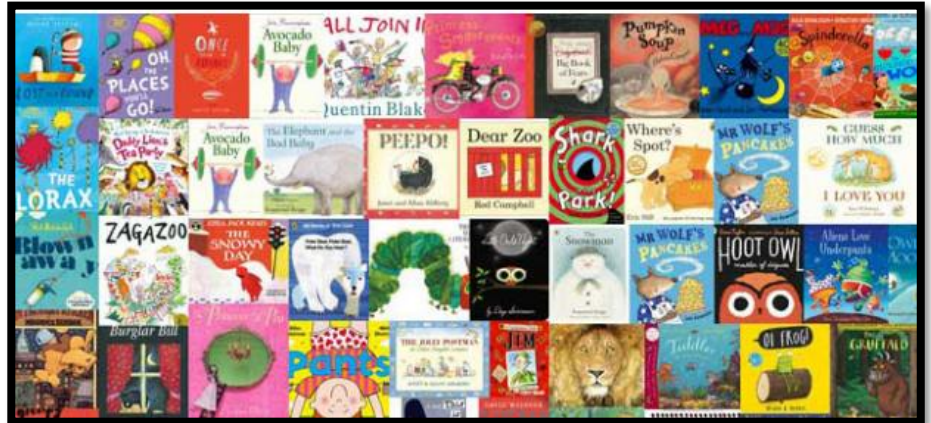
Artspace Workshop

Artspace are holding a workshop titled "Writing Picture Books for Children" with Fiona Harding on Saturday 7th February from 10.30am until 1.30pm at Artspace, The New Mercury, 3 Woodside Street, Cinderford, GL14 2NL.

We will look at what makes a great picture book, generating ideas, creating great characters, how to plot your story and picture book top tips.

£40/ *£30 concessions including materials

*Concessionary rates are available for those with a disability or who are on means tested benefits.



To book or for more info, follow the link below, call us on **01594 825111** or email dan@artspacecinderford.org

Dene Magna Christmas Elves would like you wish you all parents and students a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

- 05.01.26 – INSET Day
- 06.01.26 – New Term Commences
- 06.01.26 – Languages For Life Day
- 06.01.26 - Triple Science Students – Taster Day at 6th Form
- 06 - 16.01.26 – Year 13 Trial Exams
- 15.01.26 – Year 9 Options/Parents Evening