



## Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 16 Week Commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

### Future Choices: A Fantastic Options Evening

It was truly an amazing evening last night, and it was a pleasure to see so many families gathered to discuss the future education choices of our students. The atmosphere was buzzing with ambition and thoughtful conversation. We know that those conversations will have continued at home and will be ongoing over the next week.

Earlier this week, Mr. Mitchell held an assembly with the Year 9 students to discuss this pivotal moment. His message was clear: **choose subjects that you are passionate about.** We believe this is the most important aspect of the options process. When a student is genuinely passionate about a subject, it creates a natural drive to work hard and succeed.

Thank you to each and every teacher who spoke so passionately about their subjects and for giving such a clear outline of what learning in Year 10 and 11 will be like in their subjects and lessons.

To help us build a timetable that accommodates as many students as possible, we are asking everyone to select five subjects they are eager to study. This data allows us to construct a curriculum that reflects the genuine interests of our cohort.

### Next Steps & Support:

- All options forms must be completed by **29th January.**
- Access the form via the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app. Within the app, you will find links to the "Options" section of our website, which contains detailed information on every subject. A reminder that the booklet is available on the website: <https://www.denemagna.co.uk/page/?title=KS4+Options&pid=79>
- Don't worry if you make a mistake. You can simply redo the form with the correct information. We use a time-stamp system and will always take the most recent entry as your final choice.
- If you have any lingering questions about a specific subject or need general advice, please contact Reception. They will ensure the right member of staff gets in touch to support you.

## Year 7 Assembly and Drama Workshop with “Found in the Forest Theatre”

On Tuesday, our Year 7 students were treated to a fun, interactive assembly led by Chez from Found in the Forest Theatre. The session was engaging and energetic, giving students a wonderful introduction to the work of the local youth theatre.



Later that afternoon, Chez ran a brilliant drama workshop for students from across the school, with participants ranging from Year 7 all the way through to Year 12. The workshop was packed with creativity and energy, and it was fantastic to see such a diverse group of students working together and exploring new performance techniques.



**Workshop Participants:** Marley G, Shannon D, Kiri W, Clementine G, Freya S-R, Hester D-G, Libby N, Sandy S, Kimberley-Rose B, Grace M, Chloe B, Annabelle L, Mia J, Erin D, Amelia J, Amelia E, Darcey G, Molly N, Angel O, Yona M, Jack E, Isaac E, Kian R, Carter R, Kelsa J, Zeta M, Sophie A, Evie B, Miri P, and Sophia O'B-P.

A huge thank you to Chez and Found in the Forest Theatre for providing such an inspiring opportunity for our students!

Found in the Forest run Youth Theatre classes on a Thursday during term time and holiday projects at The Wesley Centre, Cinderford. For further information please contact [youththeatre@airing.co.uk](mailto:youththeatre@airing.co.uk).

STEP ONTO A STAGE. LEARN SKILLS & PERFORM WITH CONFIDENCE WITH THE FOREST OF DEANS

### Youth Theatre Thursday Classes

Term time and holiday projects  
The Wesley Centre, Cinderford  
Juniors 8-12 yrs 4pm-5.45pm **£5 PER WEEK**  
Seniors 13-18 yrs 6pm-7.45pm  
Contact Abi, Theatre Director  
e youththeatre@airing.co.uk  
f Found in the Forest Youth Theatre  
foundintheforest\_youththeatre

Found n the forest  
A Youth Theatre for the Forest of Dean

AIR S  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

## Year 11 Science

Mrs Brown's Year 11 classes have been getting hands on in Science by dissecting sheep hearts!

During the lesson students identified and explored the key structures of the heart. A great mix of curiosity and courage display by all the students.

Whilst most of them put on a brave face, there were definitely some "ewws" along the way.



## Dream Makers Challenge 2026

7F1 today kicked off Mr Derrick's first Dream Makers challenge of 2026 in the sweetest way possible!

Their cake sale was a huge hit, raising an amazing **£112** for their chosen charity - Cheltenham Animal Shelter — and even more impressive, they sold out in just 20 minutes!

A massive well done to 7F1!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Updates

On Wednesday, the Enrichment Press Team were delighted to welcome Mark Elson, Senior Reporter for The Forester (Tindle News) to 6th Form.

Mark gave students a fascinating insight into life as a local journalist, the realities of working in media and the importance of having curiosity, resilience and strong writing skills.

Our students had the opportunity to ask questions and received valuable guidance on spotting newsworthy stories, developing their writing skills and building experience for future careers in journalism.

The session was both practical and inspiring and we are very grateful to Mark for taking the time to support and encourage our students.





## Year 13 Leavers Celebration & Awards Night

Tickets for the Year 13 leaver's celebration night are still available to buy but hurry as they are selling fast! This will take place at Hatherley Manor on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, commencing at 7.00pm at a cost of £40 per person.

For any Year 13's who haven't yet bought a ticket, you can purchase yours from the 6th Form Office or via Sco Pay - we look forward to seeing you all there!

**YEAR 13 LEAVERS  
CELEBRATION AND AWARDS NIGHT**

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT TO REMEMBER WITH A 3 COURSE MEAL,  
MUSIC & DANCING!

📅 FRIDAY 19TH JUNE  
📍 HATHERLEY MANOR  
🕒 19:00 - LATE!  
💰 COST: £40PP

**TICKETS SELLING FAST!**

## Year 12 Environmental Science

The Year 12 Environmental Science students spent a fascinating afternoon with Forestry England at the site of the Beaver Introduction Project at Greathough Brook. They learnt about how amazing these 'environmental engineers' are and how Forestry England monitors the changes that take place to the biodiversity, habitats, water quality and flow rates in the area. Entering the enclosure and looking at the dams close up were definitely a highlight.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Cyber Success

A Group of Y12 Cyber EPQ and Computer Science students (Ed, Theo, Dylan and Jamie) took part in the ACE Cyber Security Competition in December. In the qualifying round they had to complete a series of problem solving questions and brain teasers related to the field of Cyber Security. After a lot of debate and head scratching the team submitted their answers and we are delighted that they have made it through to the Regional live final at the University of Wales on the 27th February. A great achievement, the computing team are very proud and wish you good luck for the final



## Year 11 Catering Exam Update from Mrs Kitonga and Mrs Witts

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students, who are currently sitting their four-hour practical examination, worth 40% of their overall qualification. This demanding exam requires students to work independently under timed conditions, producing two dishes entirely from scratch that could realistically be served from a food truck setting.



The standard of work so far has been exceptional. Students have produced an impressive range of dishes, including millionaire shortbread, beef Wellington, puff pastry items, chocolate fondants and sweet tarts. Every element is homemade — from perfect pastry to creamy mayonnaise prepared from scratch for coleslaws — demonstrating both technical skill and attention to detail. We have also seen some beautifully made brioche bread, a notoriously challenging skill, mastered on the day!



The students have demonstrated high levels of accuracy and technical competence in executing practical tasks with an independence that is impressive and commendable. The excellent results reflect the hard work, resilience and creativity of our students, and it has been a pleasure to watch them rise to the challenge.



Next

week, the exams continue, and we are very much looking forward to seeing what the next group of students can produce. A huge well done to everyone involved — their achievements should make both them and their families very proud.



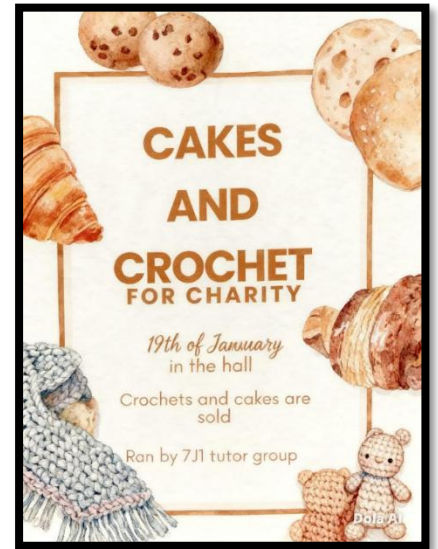
## Cake and Crochet Sale

7J1 will be holding a Cake and Crochet Sale on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January in the Main Hall for their chosen charity, items will be sold at 50p or £1.00. 7J1 would like to ask if all students could bring in a small amount of money to support their charity. Thank you to Lydia P for designing the poster.

## Sponsorship for the Ski Trip – Your School Needs You!

We are looking for sponsorship for this year's Ski Trip which leaves on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March travelling to Austria. We are looking for at least £1,400 in sponsorship, which will enable us to buy hoodies and have them printed with the sponsoring company's logo.

If any businesses would like to support this event please email Mr Griffiths on [p.griffiths@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:p.griffiths@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk) for further details.



## Year 11 Period 6 Interventions

Period 6 Interventions have recommenced after the Christmas break, all students should be attending these sessions as we are now only 12 weeks from exams!

## Year 11 Mock Interviews

Every Year our Year 11's are given the opportunity to practice their interview skills and meet local employers at our mock interview event which this year will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January from 9.00am until 2.00pm.

We are lucky to have secured the services of many volunteers and employers from various sectors, AccXel, Apex Architecture, BAE Systems, Connected Kerb, Dowty (GE Aerospace), DWP, Forest Of Dean District Council, Forest Sports Education, Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, Griffiths Marshall, Hartpury University, Hazelwoods, Hereford Contract Canning, Malvern Special Families, Police, SGS College, STEM Ambassador, The Woodlands Nursery Group, Wesleyan Assurance Company, WPP Enterprise Technology, Wye Valley NHS Trust and would like to extend our thanks to them.

If any parents/carers have interview experience and would like to help out at this event please email our Careers Lead Jo Rich: [j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk).

## RSHE Update

This 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.

## Post 18 Careers Fair 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> February from 3pm – 6pm

We hold this event annually at our Sixth Form for our Year 12 and 13 students and usually have approximately 30 exhibitors. Our Year 11's also attend this event during school time and a letter will be sent home with further details shortly.

All students and their parents/carers from any year group are welcome to attend from 3pm - 6pm from both inside and outside the school community. Please help spread the word!

Current confirmed exhibitors are Amazon, Bath Spa University, Boom Satsuma, Bristol School of Acting, CACI, Cardiff University, Crowe LLP, Forest Sports Education, GET, GITEP, Hereford College of Arts (HCA), Institute of Chemical Engineers, University of Exeter, University of Gloucestershire, University of South Wales, University of Worcester and Oxford Brookes

If any local employers would like to attend please email our Careers Lead, Jo Rich: [j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:j.rich@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)

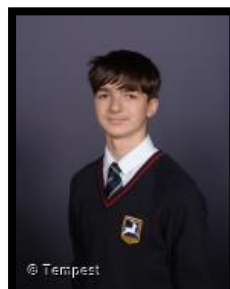
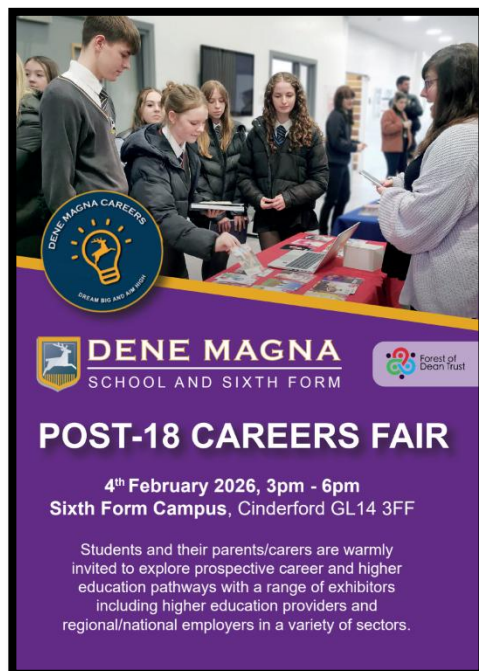
## My Child at School App

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

## Celebrating Success

We would like to congratulate **Iona M** and **Soraia**, who played key roles with both bat and ball in helping Ruardean Hill Revels beat Newent by 3 runs in a thrilling opening match of the Gloucester Women's Indoor Cricket League season.

We would like to wish good luck to **Florence G, Florence L, Penelope T and Thomas R** who are all members of the Forest of Dean Swimming Club who will be taking part in the Gloucester County Swimming Championships. These are held at Hengrove in Bristol and those taking part have to achieve qualifying times to be able to take part.



Congratulations to **Noah C who** was presented with the “Most Improved Player” award at Parkend Silver Band awards evening held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 20

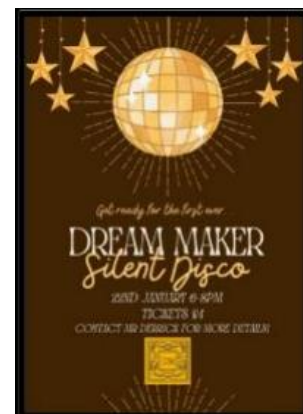


## Outside Achievements

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).

## Year 7 Dream Makers Silent Disco

Year 7 don't forget your Silent Disco, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 6pm until 8pm, tickets cost £4.00 and are available to purchase now via Sco Pay



## Winter Clubs

Please see below the sports clubs that are on offer this term:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Y10 Football AU/SA Field</b></p> <p><b>Y9, 10, 11 NETBALL (DH/BJ/MP) Sports Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Y7 Football AU/PG Field</b></p> <p><b>Y7 &amp; 8 NETBALL (DH/BJ) Sports Hall</b></p>	<p><b>ALL YEARS GIRLS FOOTBALL (BJ) Field</b></p> <p><b>Ski Fitness SA Gym</b></p>	<p><b>Y11 5 a side Football AU/SA Sports Hall</b></p> <p><b>Y7 Rugby PG Field</b></p>	<p><b>ALL YEARS GIRLS RUGBY (JDE/LH) Field</b></p> <p><b>Y7, Y8 &amp; Y9 Handball PG Sports Hall</b></p> <p><b>Y8 Football AU Field</b></p> <p><b>Y9 Football SA Field</b></p>

## 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).

## 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.

## Internship Launch Pack

Undergraduate summer internships are now open for applications! If you're an undergraduate (2nd year or above) or a Masters student interested in teaching, the 3 week summer teaching internship, based in schools in Gloucestershire, could be just for you!

To apply, you'll need to be studying one of the following subjects:

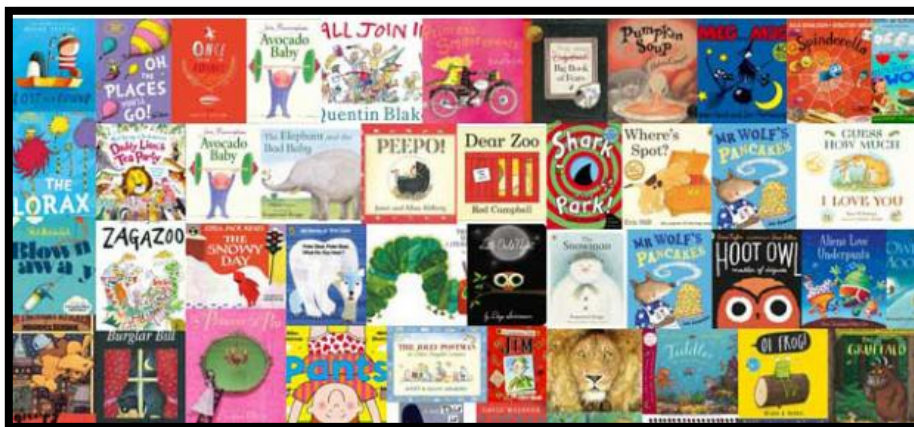
- Maths
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Modern Languages
- Physics
- Design Technology

Check out our website to find out more or to apply now: <https://www.odysseytsh.org/undergraduate-internship>

## Artspace Workshops

Artspace are holding a workshop titled "Writing Picture Books for Children" with Fiona Harding on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



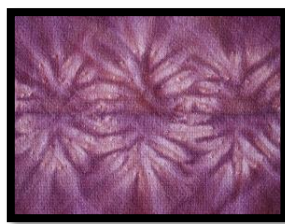
**£40/ \*£30** concessions including materials

\*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](mailto:dan@artspacecinderford.org)

Book Your Spot on **The Art of Natural Colour' Workshop** with Lizzie Godden on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30am – 4:30pm at Artspace, The New Mercury, 3 Woodside St, Cinderford, GL14 2NL.

Discover the beautiful art of natural dyeing in this hands-on workshop with Lizzie Golden.



On this one day workshop you'll be able to dye fabric using plant materials. You'll see how we can obtain several colours and a range of tones from one dye bath. We'll go on to over dye previously dyed fabric, and we'll use the exciting technique of shibori to create patterns on our dyed fabric. Shibori refers to creating resist in fabric by, for example, pinching, clamping, wrapping it, before

dyeing it, you probably know about tie-dyeing – the creative potential is huge. By the end of the day you'll be really keen to do more!

Cost: £75/ \*£55 concessions including materials

To book email [dan@artspacecinderford.org](mailto:dan@artspacecinderford.org), or call on 01594 825111 or drop into the Artspace building.

Hope you have a well-deserved rest.

Declan Mooney  
Headteacher

## **Dates For Your Diary**

18.01.26 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment of £40 for the Camp Trip  
20.01.26 – GSCE Textiles Day  
21.01.26 – Year 11 Mock Interviews  
22.01.26 – Year 10 Mentoring/Leadership Session  
22.01.26 – Year 9 & 10 Boys Football v Forest High @ home  
26.01.26 – GSCE Textiles Day  
28.01.26 - U14 Girls EDF Rugby @ Cheltenham Tigers  
29.01.26 – Year 12 Parents Evening  
01.02.26 – 7<sup>th</sup> Instalment of £200 for the Okinawa Visit  
01.02.26 - 4th Instalment of £200 for the Barcelona Visit  
03.02.26 – RS Visit to Glos Cathedral & Mosque  
06.02.26 – Famelab School Final