



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 22 Week Commencing Monday 2 March 2026 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

World Book Day

Staff and students alike celebrated 'World Book Day' on Thursday 5th March with activities throughout the day including a second hand book sale and book bingo. It was fantastic to see so many enjoying the day and embracing the love of books (and costumes) and the school had a real buzz about it.

Congratulations to the following winners, we hope you all enjoy your prizes:

Costume Competition.

The student winners where: **Elena** who came as Lyra from His Dark Materials and **Lily** who dressed up as Paddington Bear and the student group who came as characters from Alice in Wonderland.



The staff winners where **Miss Mazelin-Brown** who came as the Mad Hatter and the **Science Department** who dressed up as characters from The Wizard of Oz.



Tutor Time Book Quiz was won by 8D1.

The whole school participate in “Murdle” which is a logic puzzle game.

Students had to work out the killer, weapon and location from a set of clues. Congratulation to our winners who were Hannah and Annabelle.

Just to let everyone know the killer was Monsieur Langué, in the Library with the Book.



Students hosted a second hand book sale, all proceeds and donations will go to the reading charity “**Book Aid International**”. The book sale will be going up to the 6th form next week so please look out for it.



If any student would like a **free World Book Day book**, these are available from Miss Jones in the library, or as we now call her “Miss Marple”;

The library will be soon be launching “**Battle of the Books**”, the category will be the “Most underappreciated side character in a book”. Please keep an eye out for upcoming information.

Stagebound Theatre Props Club: Behind the Scenes!

Our wonderful students have taken "homemade" to a new level! The team separated into smaller groups and have been working on:

The opening song will have that authentic market feel as our students have been.

- Mastering Salt Dough: Our makers have "baked" a wide assortment of realistic bread loaves and rolls for the Baker's cart using salt dough techniques, next week they will add paint to give them a fresh out of the oven appeal.
- The Butcher's Tray: Students have been sculpting, ready to paint a variety of "meat" products. From strings of sausages to chunky salami, and a pile of bacon, (luckily, all are completely odourless, so as not to distract the actors!).

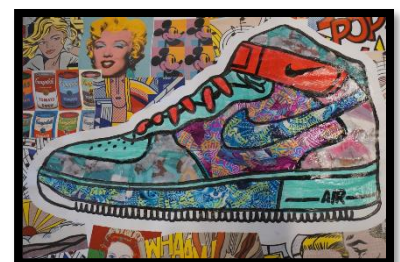
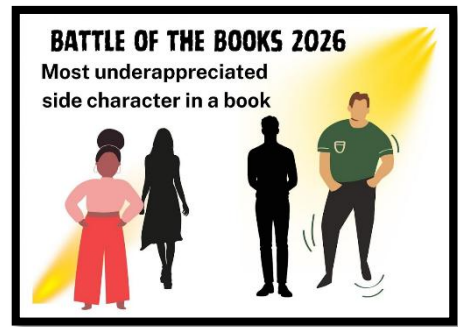
"Be Our Guest"

This requires a massive volume of magical props. The students have just begun the design phase for oversized cutlery. Next week, moving on to dancing plates, and maybe a few napkin head dresses.

Character in focus: Babette, a flirtatious maid who has become a feather duster. Babette's fabulous feather skirt has been cut out, ready to swing next week. She will be FABULOUS thanks to our costume department.

Art News

Some more fantastic work from our Year 7 students! For homework, they have been completing their own Pop Art inspired trainers. The results have been impressive, full of bold, vibrant colours, patterns, and imaginative designs. It's wonderful to see such vibrant creations that truly capture the fun, energetic style of Pop Art.



Here is another fantastic selection of work from another Year 7 class who have been working on their Pop Art self-portraits inspired by the works of Keith Haring. The students explored bold colours, strong outlines, and creative compositions inspired by the Pop Art movement.



Upcoming Art Trips

Year 8 have the opportunity to visit Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, on Friday 5 June, where they will participate in drawing and sketchbook workshops, students have received letters this week and we ask that all those that are interested hand in reply slips at the latest by Thursday 12th March.

Year 7 have the opportunity to visit Nature in Art in Gloucester, on Thursday 21st May where they will be able to participate Batik and lino printing workshops, view the exhibitions in the gallery, visit the sculpture garden and meet the artist in residence. Letters were sent out this week. For all of those that are interested please hand in reply slips to Reception at the latest by Friday 13th March.



7J1 Update

A lovely effort from some members from 7J1 for World book day

- James- Ford Prefect from Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy
- Angel - Lala the Telly tubby
- Elena - Lyra Belacqua from His Dark Materials
- Clara - Red Riding Hood



Sporting Update

Year 10 boys gave an incredible team performance against a strong Newent side on Thursday evening. Newent went ahead with an early goal and the Dene Magna boys showed resilience to get level at the break.

Under heavy pressure from Newent in the second half, the boys dug in and kept the line cleared. They managed to sneak a winning goal 10 minutes from the end and then weathered the storm from a very skilful and passionate Newent side.

Well done to all the boys involved. This was a proper Team performance. Good preparation for the district tournament in the coming weeks.



U14s Girls EDF Cup

As you are aware the U14s Girls Rugby Team have progressed to the EDF Finals day to be held at Kingsholm on Thursday 23rd April.

Dene Magna will play Ribston Hall at 3.45pm in the first of two semi-finals, the final will be played at 6.00pm.

The girls would love your support from the side lines. Mr Mooney has said that any student wishing to watch can be picked up from 3.00pm from Reception. Please can parents ring reception stating name of student being picked up.

The event is ticketed, once we have more information on price and how to purchase tickets we will let you know, so keep a watchful eye on the newsletter and our social media posts.

Over the next couple of weeks leading up to the game we are going to introduce to you all the girls that are going to lift the cup!!

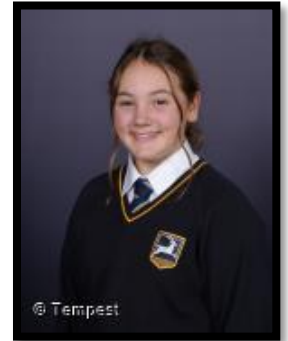
Ellie P

“My dad inspired me to take up Rugby. I play 12 or 13 which is centre or outside centre. I would like to thank my dad for being my inspiration and supporting me. I have been inspired by Mo Hunt because she played for Drybrook when she was younger and I hope I can be like her. I’m very excited to be playing at Kingsholm and it will be an amazing experience. I love rugby and I get to meet new people, playing rugby makes me happy and put me in a good mood especially if I’ve had a bad day.”



Lucy T

“My dad got me into rugby as he is a former player and now president of Drybrook RFC. I play at 2 which is hooker. I was inspired to get into rugby by my brother and dad. I am feeling very excited and happy to be playing at Kingsholm. I love rugby as I am part of a team, I have great supportive team mates”.



Kelsa J

“A rugby coach came to my old school and did some coaching with us, I enjoyed it so I joined Drybrook RFC. I play on the wing I am a winger, number 14. I have been inspired by my family, mum, dad, granny Sue and grandad Robert who played Rugby 7s in the army and of course my friend Leah. I am really happy to be playing at Kingsholm, I think it is a huge opportunity and privilege but I am also a little nervous. I love the friendships I have made through rugby, what happens on the pitch stays on the pitch”.



We have 47 days remaining until game day. Come on the girls.

A Big Thank You

The school would like to say a huge thank you to Grails Engineering for donating a beautifully laser cut fire pit. It is massively appreciated and will make a big difference to our students and help to widen our curriculum offer within the school as part of the schools ongoing development of outdoor experiences.



Year 10 Committees

Mr Derrick is launching Prom and Year Book Committees for the current Year 10. If any Year 10 would like to be part of either or both of these committees and be part of the decision making, please apply by Friday 6th March by sending an email to Mr Derrick, or speak to him in person.



Dream Makers Award's Evening

We would like to invite all Year 7 students to attend the inaugural Dream Maker Awards to be held on Thursday 9th July from 6pm until 8pm. This is a celebration of the first year of Dream Makers and the successes of the programme. There will be something for everyone and special awards given out for exceptional performance across the year to both staff and students!

Due to venue constraints, only one adult will be able to attend with each student.

Please RSVP to Mr Derrick if you are able to attend and who is coming, dreammakers@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk. Dress code is smart.

Year 10 Punctuality

Mr Derrick will be monitoring Year 10 students punctuality to lessons, those that are late to lesson will incur a detention either at break, lunchtime or after school.



Year 8 Parent's Evening

We will be holding the Year 8 Parent's Evening on Thursday 19th March, from 4pm until 7pm in the Main Hall. Appointments are made through the "My Child School At School" app. If you are finding problems in doing this, please contact the school Reception who will be able to help you.

Celebrating Success

Big congratulations to Elyn W, who achieved a 2nd place in the inaugural ACU Kick-start Motorbike Women & Girls trial event last weekend in Devon.

Well done to **George W**, who is a member of the Forest of Dean Swimming Club who participated in the County Championships over the last couple of weekends. George qualified for the 50m butterfly and did really well to qualify as the times needed get harder as the children get older. While he didn't win a medal, he worked really hard to be there and it's a fantastic achievement.



6th Form Updates - Bake Sale

6th Form students held a Bake Sale at school main site on Thursday which was a great success, raising a fantastic £105 for the Sixth Form.

A big thank you to everyone who baked, donated and supported the sale. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help contribute towards events and opportunities for our 6th Form students.

A special thanks also to Summer B, Mae W, Kiera D, Alana H and Anja D who organised this event and made it happen - well done!



Latest Edition of The DM Student Standard - Now Available!

We are excited to share the latest edition of The DM Student Standard, a magazine created by our talented Sixth Form students.

This edition offers insights into Sixth Form life, student experiences and much more.

You can read it

here: https://www.canva.com/design/DAHCH96G1Xw/zzFyWFqI3gYMAfsZvtf4Sg/view?utm_content=DAHCH96G1Xw&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utllid=hf9b5f1c313

We hope you enjoy the student's hard work and creativity.

Science Fair

Year 7 and year 8 will be taking part in a Science fair competition before half term.

The students will use their own curiosity to develop an experiment to present to the class and winners will present to parents/carers after school on April Thursday 16th April from 15:30pm - 17:00pm.



The Science teachers are excited to see what ideas and creations the students have.

MacMillan Cancer Support

Our school counsellor Mara McMaster is running the London Landmarks Half Marathon in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. Please find a link to her Just Giving page below, which highlights her story and the reason why she is doing this. Any donation you would like to give would be greatly appreciated.



https://www.justgiving.com/page/mg-mcmaster-1?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_donation_received_-_nth_donation&utm_content=ce4782b5-7dd4-4220-9678-6c4cb945c8a3&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1770200771616

RED NOSE DAY - STAFF Vs STUDENTS BASKETBALL & NETBALL GAMES

On Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March 2026 we will be raising money for RED NOSE day by putting on our annual Staff vs Year 11 student games.

Thursday 19th March - Female Staff vs Year 11 girls in Netball @12:40pm - 1:10pm in the Sports Hall.

Friday 20th March - Male Staff vs Year 11 boys in Basketball @ 12:40pm -1:10pm in the Sports Hall.

We are asking for a £1.00 donation from any student who would like to watch the matches, this can be paid on the day before entering the sports hall.

Staff have never lost, so hopefully this winning streak will continue.

COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY

RED NOSE DAY 2026

How can you donate?

Thursday 19th March: Y11 Girls Netball vs Staff @ 12:40-1:10pm in the Sportshall

Friday 20th March: Y11 Boys Basketball vs Staff @ 12:40-1:10pm in the Sportshall

Please bring £1 to watch the students vs staff games - YOU DONT WANT TO MISS IT!!

SEN/PP Year 5 Open Morning

Our SEN/PP Department will be holding a Year 5 Open Morning on Tuesday 24th March from 9.00am until 11.00am. This is an opportunity to tour the school and meeting the SEN team.

For more information please email sen@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk or ring 01594



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

RSHE Update

This term the topics we will be studying are:

- ❖ Year 7 - Substance Misuse, Online Safety, 7 Senses, Intentional Stillness & Sleep.
- ❖ Year 8 - Online Safety, Sexting, Understanding Periods, Sustainability.
- ❖ Year 9 - Online Safety, Hate Crime, Equality & Diversity, Health Checks.
- ❖ Year 10 - Peer on Peer Abuse, Laws around Pornography, FGM & Forced Marriage, Coercive Control.
- ❖ Year 11 - Body Image, Healthy Relationships, Sexual Health, Pornography - laws around revenge porn.

If you would like support in discussing any of these topics at home, please visit the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning website. <https://www.ghll.org.uk/advice-for-parents-exams-money-parents-helpline/>

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.

Apprenticeship Roadshow at AccXel Construction School

The event will take place on Tuesday, March 10 running from 5pm to 7.15pm at Whimsey Industrial Estate, Steam Mills Rd, Cinderford GL14 3JA. The roadshow is open to students, parents and anyone considering a career change, with advisers on hand to explain how apprenticeships work and what support is available.

AccXel Construction School is the UK's first industry-created and industry-led private training provider, designed by employers to meet the changing needs of the construction sector. The roadshow will showcase how its apprenticeships are tailored to give learners both practical skills and wider life experience.



Junior Netball Sessions

We're thrilled to announce new junior netball sessions in the Forest of Dean with Newent Panthers! Our sessions are designed to grow the sport locally and keep kids active, engaged, and learning in a supportive environment.

- ❖ Sessions run by qualified coaches registered with England Netball.
- ❖ First aid trained and DBS checked for your peace of mind.
- ❖ Age groups aligned to September 2026 intake.

Contact us for more information and to reserve your child's place. Please share with friends and help us build the netball community in our area!

NEWENT PANTHERS
Netball

NEW SESSIONS

Starting 3rd June 2026

Wednesdays
U12'S/U13'S
5.00 PM - 6:00 PM
U14'S/U16'S
6.00 PM - 7:00 PM
• AGES AS OF SEPT 2026

Dene Magna School
Abenhall Rd, Mitcheldean

CONTACT US TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE OR FOR MORE INFO!

EN ENGLAND NETBALL

newentpanthers.co.uk info@newentpanthers.co.uk

Ruardean Hill Cricket Club Needs You.

Ruardean Hill Cricket Club are looking for new players! If you'd like to give cricket a go, or are looking for a new team, you're invited to attend their preseason training sessions for FREE!

The club's junior section comprises of mixed U11s, U13s and U15s teams (open to both boys and girls from Year 4 to Year 10 inclusive). Training for the junior section is at Dene Magna School sports hall from 6pm to 7pm every Wednesday throughout March and April.

Ruardean Hill also run a women's section, which offers both hardball and softball cricket and is open to any female aged 13 or older. Women-only training sessions will be held at Dene Magna School sports hall from 7pm to 8pm every Wednesday throughout March and April.

With three senior teams competing in the Gloucestershire Cricket League, there are also plenty of opportunities for teenagers and adults to play Saturday afternoon cricket for Ruardean Hill. Senior training takes place at 22 Yards Cricket Centre, Gloucester, from 6pm to 7:30pm every Tuesday throughout March and April.

No experience necessary, all abilities welcome!

GET READY TO BOWL 'EM OVER IN 2026

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ...
EXERCISE?
FRIENDS AND FUN?
A CHALLENGE?
SOMETHING TO DO AS A FAMILY?

WHY NOT JOIN RUARDEAN HILL CRICKET CLUB?
WE HAVE A WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM
WOMEN'S HARBALL TEAM
JUNIOR TEAMS
SEVERAL SENIOR TEAMS
AND WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
REGULAR TRAINING PROVIDED
EVERYONE GETS A GAME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING WHEN AND WHERE WE TRAIN AND ASSOCIATED COSTS, PLEASE CONTACT RUARDEANHILLCRICKETCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Internship Launch Pack

Odyssey Teaching School Hub is delighted to be offering the government teaching internships programme in the summer, and your family and friends could be eligible.

If you are or know a super curious undergrad or Masters' students in one of the following subjects, and they'd like to spend time in school to discover more about life as a teacher, this could be the internship for you and them!

To be eligible you must be studying one of the following subjects (or something very closely related):

- Maths
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish) or
- Design Technology

During the 3 week programme, you'll experience a structured programme to gain a real experience of teaching, including the chance to shadow teachers, plan lessons and coach students, visit other local schools, and receive career guidance on how to enter the teaching profession along with true stories of how a teaching career can progress.

And not only that, the interns also receive £455 per week for coming!

The programme will start on Monday 8th June 2025 – Friday 26th June and is open to 2nd year students (or above) undergraduates (of the above subjects) who are interested in a career in Teaching, not just our school alumni, so if you know anyone, please spread the word! If you'd like to find out more, see the website here or email admin@odysseytsh.org



Higher level Apprenticeship roles in Cyber at the University of Gloucestershire with Sept 2026 start

The University of Gloucestershire are holding a Cyber and Digital Learner event on Wednesday 18th March 2026 from 16.30pm – 18.30pm at Park Campus

A promotional banner for the 'CYBER AND DIGITAL LAUNCHPAD 2026' event. The background is bright yellow. On the left, the text reads: 'CYBER AND DIGITAL LAUNCHPAD 2026', 'SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME AND REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE LEARNER EVENT', and '18 MARCH 2026 | 16.30-18.30 | PARK CAMPUS'. In the center is a large QR code. To the right of the QR code is the URL 'glos.ac.uk/launchpad'. On the far right is the University of Gloucestershire logo and a photograph of a man wearing a VR headset and holding controllers. The University of Gloucestershire logo is in the top right corner.

Launchpad session on 18th March will help Learners understand if it's the right opportunity for them. Sophie Burch our Lead is happy to visit or organise a Teams call. It is certainly a wonderful opportunity for the right candidates to go straight into an exciting career and learn while they earn.

Art Space Workshops

Ariel Workshop For Adults and Families

Artspace invite you to our FAMILY AND COMMUNITY OPEN MORNING where they are offering 2 fantastic AERIAL WORKSHOPS, including warm-up sessions and introductions to static trapeze, aerial hammock, and aerial hoop, being held on Saturday 14th March

Whether you're a beginner or just curious, come explore the amazing world of aerial arts!

- Aerial Workshop 1 – 10.00am – 11.30am
- Aerial Workshop 2 – 12.00am – 1.30pm

At Artspace Cinderford, The New Mercury, 3 Woodside Street, Cinderford, GL14 2NL

£5 per person. Booking for aerial workshops essential.

To book or for more info, use the links below, call 01594 825111 or email circus@artspacecinderford.org

Discover Creativity: Join Our Community Threads Social Group

Due to overwhelming demand and the incredible success of our previous Community Threads course, we're excited to announce that we're running another 4 week course!



Hosted by experienced artists, this is the perfect place to bring your own textiles and crafting projects, or get involved in our exciting Arts Trail. Use our facilities and materials to bring your ideas to life! Plus, enjoy refreshments while you create and connect with fellow art lovers! All skill levels welcome — let's make, share, and inspire together!

MONDAYS – STARTS 23RD FEBRUARY for 4 weeks / 10am – 12pm at Artspace Cinderford, The New Mercury, 3 Woodside St, Cinderford, GL14 2NL. £5 PER WEEK or £18 for 4 weeks

To book, follow the link below, call 01594 825111 or email dan@artspacecinderford.org

Cinderford Community Support Market – Wednesday 11 March – 4pm-6pm Drop In Session.

Come and find out what clubs are available for children and young people in Cinderford.

Have a great weekend let's hope for some more sunshine.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

- 11.03.26 – Famelab Final @ Tewkesbury
- 12.03.26 – 3rd Instalment of £200.00 for the Berlin Trip
- 12.03.26 – Year 9 & 10 Boys Football versus Forest High School @ home
- 13.03.26 – Year 11 Netball Tour Leaves
- 17.3.26 – Year 7 & 9 Boys District Football Tournament @ home.
- 19.03.26 – Year 8 Parents Evening
- 20.03.25 – Final payment of £100 for the Year 7 Normandy Trip
- 24.03.26 – Year 5 SEN/PP Open Morning – 9.00am – 11.00am
- 26.03.26 – Year 11 Parents Evening
- 27.003.26 – 5th instalment of £52.00 for the Year 8 London Trip
- 27.03.26 – End of Term
- 01.04.26 – 9th Instalment of £200.00 for the Okinawa Trip

Gloucestershire Gateway Trust Early Help YOUTH

NOTHING TO DO IN CINDERFORD?
Yeah, right!

Come and find out what's on in Cinderford!

57% responded "No" or "Maybe" in a recent survey when asked if they were aware of clubs in the community, available to children and young people.

FREE pizza and drinks!

Community Support Market
WEDNESDAY
11 MAR, 2026
4PM - 6PM
DROP IN

Hilltop Children and Family Centre, GL14 2QA

Contact Us
hi.ya@fvaf.org.uk