



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 23 Week Commencing Monday 9 March 2026 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

FameLab Academy Final

This past Wednesday, we saw the thrilling conclusion of FameLab Academy. While this is an international science communication competition for adults, our students have the unique opportunity to participate in their own local version.

After winning our internal school heat, Chloe stepped up to represent us at the grand final. Her presentation focused on hearing impairment and cochlear implants, explaining the intricate science of how they work.

Before the event at Tewkesbury Theatre, Chloe attended an intensive masterclass at Hartpury University to hone her public speaking skills. That hard work certainly paid off, she was incredible on stage, presenting with confidence in front of over 100 people, including her very proud parents and grandparents.

While Chloe didn't take home the top prize among the 11 talented contestants, the spirit of the event was the real highlight. It was wonderful to see students from different schools supporting one another and celebrating their collective achievements. We are so proud of Chloe for taking on this challenge and gaining an experience she will likely never forget.



Absolutely Fantastic

Wow, amazing, great what more can we say! Between the two of them, Lily and Elin in Year 13 have already secured SEVEN offers to study Medicine at highly-regarded universities. We are so proud of their hard work throughout their time at Dene Magna Sixth Form, there's not long to go now and we wish them both the best of luck for their exams in the summer!



SEND Policy Update: "Every Child Achieving and Thriving"

We would like to provide some reassurance regarding the government's recent "Every Child Achieving and Thriving" White Paper. These reforms are designed to provide faster, more integrated support for students with additional needs.

Please rest assured that all existing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) remain legally protected. No immediate changes to your child's provision will occur without a full and transparent consultation. We are already working diligently behind the scenes to ensure these improvements are implemented smoothly and benefit our entire school community over the next 10 years.

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!!

Erica R

"I was introduced to rugby through my friends. I play at flanker which is in the back row. My friends inspired me to take up rugby as it was fun. I am feeling happy and excited to play at Kingsholm. What I love about rugby is playing with team mates and making new friends".



Florence J

"I got into rugby through school and my friends. I play at centre which is number 12. I am inspired by my friend Lexie because she is really good. I am really excited to be playing at Kingholm. What I love about rugby is that you can be aggressive on field and it's all forgotten off the field".



Phoebe M

"I became interested in playing rugby through my friends and by playing in school in my PE lessons. I play on the wing. My friends inspired me to take up rugby by talking about it a lot and they also help me understand the game. I am feeling very nervous about playing at Kingsholm but also excited. The thing I love about rugby is the adrenaline rush I get and being part of a team and how we all work together".



We have 40 days remaining until game day. Come on the girls.

Art News

Year 9 are making wonderful progress with their studies of eyes inspired by the artist Marion Bolognesi. In these final stages they are refining details on the iris and eyelashes and presenting their work in their sketchbooks in their own individual ways. Well done to Amelia and Evie for your consistent, hard work and wonderful efforts!



AccXel Ladies Lunch

Did you know that only 15% of the construction sector is made up of women? AccXel Construction College in Cinderford are aiming to buck this trend and are already industry leaders with 27% of their apprentices being female. Their level 2, 3 and 4 qualifications lead to a huge range of roles in this sector:

A group of our Year 10 girls were invited to a ladies lunch at AccXel last Friday to celebrate women in construction as part of International Women's Day. Thank you for a truly inspiring event!! We had such a brilliant afternoon from listening to the talented panellists about their career paths, to the PPE catwalk competition, which the girls won, to the design a vest competition which our very own **Ellie W** won!! What an exciting, interesting and thought provoking afternoon.



University of Gloucestershire Year 10 Summer Residential

A big thank you to Jen Lewis, Student Recruitment and Outreach Officer, from the University of Gloucestershire who delivered a really interesting and informative assembly on their Year 10 Summer Residential programme being run from Tuesday 14th to Friday 17th July 2026.

A number of students have shown an interest in this exciting experience. For anyone interested they can sign up using the link below.



<https://www.glos.ac.uk/outreach/summer-residentials/>

Inspiring Women of the Forest Event

The Forest of Dean is often unfairly labelled as a place of limited opportunity—but we know the truth is far more exciting. To prove it, the Forest Economic Partnership launched the "Inspiring Women of the Forest" project to showcase the industry-leading businesses and the variety of career paths right here on our doorstep. In honour of International Women's Day, our Year 9 students sat down with two local leaders to bridge the gap between education and aspiration:



- Lauren Greening: Youth Development Project Manager at FVAF.
- Chloe Watts: Junior Project Manager at BT Group and Community Relations Coordinator at Her Game Too.

Our students didn't hold back, asking questions about whether these are "forever careers," whether there are disadvantages to being a woman in their industry, and how they've navigated challenges like inequality in the workplace.

It was a powerful reminder that our young women should aim high and that our young men can support and lift up the women in their lives. When we champion each other, the entire Forest community thrives

Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Award

Our latest group of Bronze DofE students took to the fields, woods & hills around Dene Magna to move towards getting themselves ready for their expedition section of the DofE award.

Still lots of work to do with a training day to come in April. Thanks to Mrs Pope, Mrs Clark & Mr Beard for supporting them along the way.



Dream Makers Update

This term's Dream Makers celebration assembly was a fantastic occasion!

We celebrated the 42 (yes...42!!!!) members of the team of the term! A huge well done to all of them and well done to all those students who have been in team of the term this year!!!

We also celebrated **7J1** winning the Charity Challenge! They managed to raise a fantastic amount of £382.34. In total Year 7 tutors groups have raised a staggering £1286.61, to raise this much is a fantastic achievement and we will be presenting the money to the charities next term!

The next Dream Maker challenge is **LEARNING**. Mr Derrick will be doing a memory and learning workshop with each tutor group and they will be going away and learning about something new!

They will then be presenting it back to their peers!

Well done to all my Dream Makers!



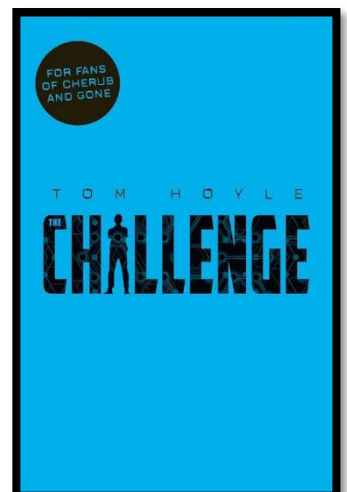
Literacy Matters

Tutor Reading Programme:

We are back this week with further updates on our Tutor Reading Programme.

As a teacher reads to their tutor group, students are developing greater vocabulary and comprehension through a variety of interesting texts that expand their worldview and improve their literacy.

Featured this week is Mr Hinchey and 8F2 who have just finished 'The Challenge' by Tom Hoyle. Set in the North of England, Ben has still not recovered from the disappearance and discovery of his friend Will but the new school year brings new students in the form of twins Sam and Jack.



The twins quickly become popular within the school and draw Ben into their world of bets and dares but as the dares become darker, Ben is forced to question the friendship and whether these seemingly new arrivals could have had any link to what happened to Will. As they move on to their next book, we hope this one provided plenty of food for thought!



6th Form Updates

Youth Parliament

On Friday 6th March we hosted the third session of the Forest of Dean Youth Parliament at the Cinderford site. Schools from Newent and Five Acres attended, and Wydean and Forest High connected virtually. The team practiced debating as it would be in the real House of Commons, presided over by Speaker for the Day Matt Bishop MP. They debated restricting social media, a real current issue for Parliament. There were great speeches, questions and a lot of cheering and booing! We have one more session to go before the main event on the 23rd April at the Council Chambers.



Lessons From Auschwitz Project 2026

The first part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project began on Monday with year 12 students Ella and Sky visiting Bristol to discuss pre-war Jewish life and gain an understanding of the events of the Holocaust. Below is what the students got up to and their reflections:

“We attended the orientation seminar in Bristol on Monday 9th March in preparation for our visit to Auschwitz. We found the seminar extremely useful and interesting, it was lovely to meet our group and educator that will be with us on the day.

We had 2 workshops with our groups, the first one we were numbered and then asked to swap seats with anyone close to you that had the same number so that we could get to know the other people in our group which we hadn't met before so that we got to know them and work with them a bit better. We were then given a map of Europe before 1933 and it showed us the population of Jewish people living in that country and we talked about what the community of Jewish citizens would have been like in those countries. Once we had done that we then looked at photographs of Jewish people and their families before the war and we discussed what the picture was about and who was in the photo. An important lesson we learned was to remember that even though numbers like '6 million' can be daunting, we must not acknowledge them as a number or statistic but rather as individual people, who experienced their own hardships and should be valued individually. This lasted for about an hour before we went back into the main room where we met John Dobai.

For our second workshop after our talk with John and the Q and A with him, we went back to the room we were in for the previous workshop and we spoke about our reflections with John and what we thought about his story. We then looked at the old photos we had seen before but this time we found out about what had actually happened to the people in them. It was quite sad to see people in the photographs look really happy to then find out what happened to them especially when some were just children.

Our talk from John was really impactful, to hear his story is a privilege which we are both extremely grateful for. His speech gave us a closer insight into what he may have been feeling during the difficult times he was in and what he went through with his family members and friends. He spoke about the early rise of anti-Semitic laws and how Jewish people in Hungary were treated. He said that he wasn't aware of it until a boy insulted him. A very impactful moment was when John was asked if he was scared about the rising antisemitism in today's society, to which he told us he wasn't. He said that “when you are scared, you do not fight”, which I think makes us more inclined to fight against rising prejudices in today's society”.

Ella and Sky continue their project on Tuesday 17th March with a day trip to Poland where they will visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. Whilst a long and tiring day, they are looking forward to the experience and learning from such an important historical site.

6th Form Applications

Have you applied to Dene Magna Sixth Form?

Letters are being sent out this week confirming places with us for September 2026.

These letters have been sent to the address supplied on application forms. If you have changed your address recently or do not receive your letter by the end of next week (20 March), please get in touch with us at 6thform@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk.



6th Form Easter Raffle

6th Form has an Easter Raffle running at the moment. Tickets can be purchased from the 6th Form office with cash. Raffle tickets cost £1 per strip. You can win this beautiful Easter Hamper which is full to the brim with springtime goodies and chocolate - good luck to all who enter!



Year 13 Leavers Celebration

Don't forget, if you have purchased a ticket for the Year 13 Leavers Celebration, we need your menu orders by the end of term.

If you have paid a deposit, we'll also need the rest of your payment by the end of term. Thankyou everyone!

A Big Thank You

We would like to say a very big thank you to the following companies for their generous donation towards this year's Timetable Suspension activities.

- ❖ **Dean Electrical Wholesale**
- ❖ **MTP Services**
- ❖ **MVS (Export) Ltd**



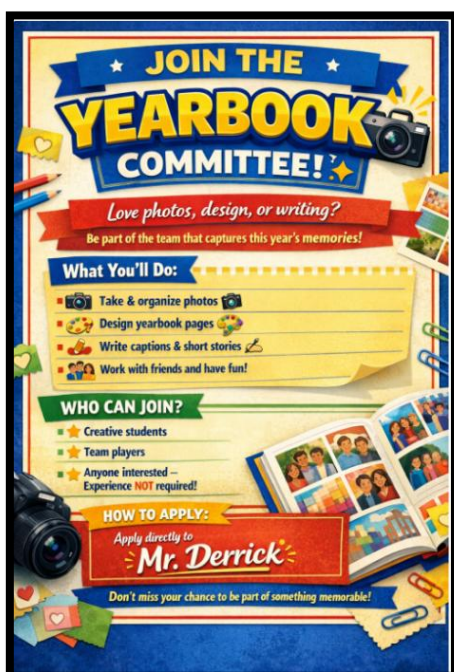
Timetable suspension is held from Wednesday 1 July to Friday 3 July 2026 and is three days of extra-curricular activities for those students that have not been successful in gaining a place on the Year 7 Normandy trip, Year 8 London trip and Year 9 Camp trip.

This year students will be participating in a visit to **Drayton Manor Park**, an outdoor experience with **Progressive Sports**, who will deliver Glow in the Dark Dodgeball, Battlefield Archery, Nerf Wars and Tchoukball/Ultimate Frisbee as well as inflatables, rounders match and tug of war competition and lastly a **carousel of events**, including Dance/Circus Skills, Drumming workshop, ICT gaming and a movie.

If there are any other companies or individuals who would like to donate to this event, please contact the school.

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.



Celebrating Success

Huge congratulations to **Macy R** former head girl of Dene Magna School 3 years ago who has just completed her initial 6 months of police training.

She is now onto her tutorship and out on response, alongside this she is working towards her policing degree.

On Friday last week she had her passing out parade and is now **PC Macy Redding**.



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.



The poster is red with white and black text. At the top left is the 'COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY' logo. In the center, it says 'RED NOSE DAY 2026' in large white letters. Below this is the question 'How can you donate?'. On the right, there is a small image of a man with a red nose and a basketball. Below the main text, there are two columns of information. The left column says 'Thursday 19th March: Y11 Girls Netball vs Staff @ 12:40-1:10pm in the Sportshall' and includes a photo of a netball team. The right column says 'Friday 20th March: Y11 Boys Basketball vs Staff @ 12:40-1:10pm in the Sportshall' and includes a photo of a basketball team. At the bottom, it says 'Please bring £1 to watch the students vs staff games - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!!'. There is also a 'GILBERT' logo on the left side.

MacMillan Cancer Support

Our wonderful counsellor Mara is running the London Marathon in April, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support! She's trying to raise as much money as she can to help fund continued research into finding cures and providing the best available medicines to people diagnosed with cancer.

If you would like to support Mara's incredible effort, here is her fundraising page: <https://zurl.co/3oJc>

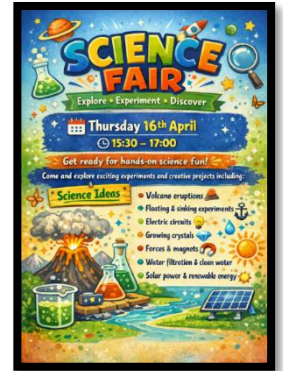


Science Fair

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.



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.

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

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



CYBER AND DIGITAL LAUNCHPAD 2026

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME AND REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE LEARNER EVENT

18 MARCH 2026 | 16.30-18.30 | PARK CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE



glos.ac.uk/launchpad



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



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY OPEN MORNING

AERIAL WORKSHOPS
FOR ADULTS & FAMILIES

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH
WORKSHOP 1 - 10:00AM - 11:30AM
WORKSHOP 2 - 12:00AM - 1:30PM

AT ARTSPACE CINDERFORD,
3 WOODSIDE STREET,
CINDERFORD, GL14 2NL

£5 PER PERSON
Booking essential. To book or for more info, use the link below, call 01594 825111 or email circus@artspacecinderford.org

ARTSPACE



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

Become A Teacher!!!

Thinking of becoming a teacher? This event is for you!

Please share to anyone who may be interested.

Vacancies at Dene Magna

We are seeking an inspirational and strategic leader to head our **Science Department**. This is a pivotal role for an outstanding practitioner who possesses the vision to build upon our established success and the drive to champion Sciences across the school and the Forest of Dean Trust.

The full job description may be accessed here: <https://zurl.co/wAvbj>

Dene Magna are currently seeking a **Cover Supervisor**.

Please take a look at the job pack online and share with anyone who may be interested in this role.
<https://zurl.co/3F6AX>

Balcarras Teaching School Hub

Odyssey Teaching School Hub

TRAIN TO TEACH
IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Wednesday
22nd April 2026

5pm - 7pm

Pate's Grammar School
Cheltenham,
GL51 0HG

Visit us to meet local Schools and Providers
of Primary and Secondary Teacher Training
in Gloucestershire

To book, email admin@odysseytsh.org or call 01242 538 240

Teach in Gloucestershire

We have a new part-time administrative vacancy: **Clerk to the Local Governing Board**. Take a look at the job pack online for full information, and please share to anyone who might be interested in this role! <https://zurl.co/NYzqy>

Dene Magna School
HEAD OF SCIENCE REQUIRED
Hours: Full time, permanent contract
Start date: 1st September 2026
Pay: TLR 1A

Please see the full job description and candidate information pack online at denemagna.co.uk

Dene Magna School
REQUIRED: COVER SUPERVISOR
Pay: Dependent on qualifications
Hours: Ad-hoc, casual basis

Please see the full job description and candidate information pack online at denemagna.co.uk

Dene Magna School
REQUIRED: CLERK TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD
Salary: Grade 6, point 15 (pro rata, £900.72/annum)
Hours: Part time, permanent (58hrs/yr)

START DATE ASAP

Please see the full job description and candidate information pack online at denemagna.co.uk

On a funny note, Friday eventually came and Reception staff lost their heads literally!!!!



Have a great weekend.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

- 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