



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 25 Week Commencing Monday 23 March 2026 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

Letter From Jenner Head of House

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know that, from September, I will be stepping down from my role as Head of Jenner House.

It has been an absolute privilege to work with your children and to support them throughout their time in Jenner. I am incredibly proud of the House and all that our students have achieved.

I have been part of Dene Magna for 29 years, and it has been a real pleasure to see generations of families come through the school. In many cases, I have had the privilege of teaching parents of the students I now teach, which makes this community feel even more special.

From September, the role of Head of Jenner House will be taken on by either Mr Buckley or Miss Malsom. I know they will bring great energy and commitment to the role, and I am confident Jenner House will continue to thrive under their leadership.

I will still be working at the school and will remain involved in supporting Jenner House during the transition period, up until Easter 2027. This will ensure continuity and ongoing support for both students and staff.

Following this, I will be retiring from my role in education. Being the music teacher at Dene Magna for nearly 3 decades has been my life, my purpose and my saviour at times. The children I have taught over these years have lifted my spirit and kept me going. I have also made some lovely friendships across the years and treasure those greatly. It hasn't been an easy decision, but it's time for me to sit back and live a simpler life.

Thank you for your continued support over the years - it has truly meant a great deal.

Yours sincerely

Laura Bendall-Burt
Head of Jenner House

Year 9 Assembly - The Troubles

On Thursday morning, Mr Reid and Mr Mooney kindly spoke to year 9 students about growing up in Ireland during 'The Troubles'. This allowed students to gain insight into the personal experience of what life was like growing up in a period of time with frequent conflict and how it shaped their lives. Mr Reid grew up in Ballycare, just 15 miles from Belfast. In contrast, Mr Mooney grew up in South Armagh on the border of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. These differing contexts allowed for an insightful discussion about their experiences. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions, including 'Have their experiences shaped their religious beliefs?' and 'Did the fear of living in Ireland get normalised?' which encouraged further reflection and discussion.

The assembly ties into the current year 9 scheme of work where students are learning about terrorism and the different motivations behind such events. Students have currently been learning about The Troubles but will also study events such as 9/11 and cyberterrorism.



U14s Girls EDF Cup – From the Forest to Queensholm.

It has been a season of grit, growth, and historic achievements for our U14 Girls Rugby team. After an incredible run that saw them crowned EDF Cup Champions, the squad is now preparing for the biggest stage of their young careers.

On Thursday, 23rd April, the girls will travel to the iconic Kingsholm Stadium in Gloucester the legendary Queensholm to compete in the regional semi-finals.

The team has shown remarkable character to get this far, blending tactical discipline with the relentless work rate that has become the hallmark of Dene Magna rugby. Their EDF Cup victory wasn't just about the trophy; it was a statement that this group belongs among the elite.

The challenge ahead is significant. In the semi-final, they face a formidable opponent in Ribston Hall School. Should they win that fixture, a potential final awaits against Crypt School.

While both opponents carry the prestige of being established grammar schools, our girls have proven time and again that reputations don't win matches, heart and teamwork do. This team doesn't just play for the score line; they play for each other and for the pride of the Dene Magna Family.

The girls have worked tirelessly for this moment. Stepping onto the turf at Kingsholm is a dream for any rugby player, and they have earned every blade of grass they'll run on.

- Date: Thursday, 23rd April
- Venue: Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester
- Match 1: Semi-Final vs. Ribston Hall
- Potential Match 2: Final vs. The Crypt School

We are incredibly proud of how far this team has come. Their journey from the school pitches to a professional stadium is a testament to their dedication and the support of their coaches and families. We are all incredibly excited to watch them represent the school on such a prestigious stage.



Good luck, girls, the whole of Dene Magna is behind you!

We have 26 days remaining until game day, once we have information on how to purchase tickets we will let you know.

Art Update

Year 7 students have been exploring the vibrant work of Keith Haring. Working collaboratively in groups, they created life-sized artworks by drawing around one of their group members and then adding patterns and symbols inspired by Haring's distinctive style.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the creative process, embracing both teamwork and experimentation. The final pieces are full of energy and expression, resulting in a collection of truly eye-catching artworks that reflect both their understanding of Pop Art and their enthusiasm for making art together.



Rosie B from Year 7 made a painting of the northern lights looking at a picture she found online, she tried her best but in her words “I don’t have very good paint brushes” Great effort Rosie and Ms John loves the little people at the bottom.



Year 11 Textiles

Year 11 students have been developing their skills in corsetry, a complex process that demands accuracy, precision, patience, and dedication. Following an initial corsetry workshop day in December, they have been working tirelessly in lessons to refine and complete their pieces.

The results are a testament to their hard work and perseverance. Here are a selection of the finished corsets so far, showcasing the students’ growing technical ability and attention to detail.

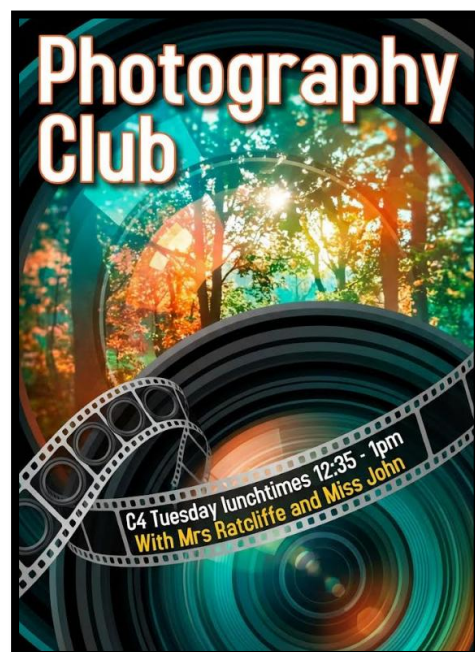


New Club

Ms John and Mrs Ratcliffe will be starting a new club after the Easter Holidays. Photography club is open to all years and will be held in Ms John’s Art Room (C4) at lunchtimes. Go along and have a look!!!

Ski Trip 2026

Today our 2026 Ski Trip leaves for the snowy slopes of Zell am See, Austria, we wish them a safe journey and great time on the slopes. Please have a look at Dene Magna PE on Instagram for daily updates.



Work Experience

Congratulations to Kyra M, Amelia T and Lexie V who all excelled in their recent work placements and have received Work Experience Commendations.

Lexi and Amelia had placements at Ruardean Acorns whilst Kyra completed her placement at The Forest Bakehouse. We would like to share the feedback they received:

Amelia T

'Punctuality and reliability: Excellent. Overall attitude: Excellent, Communication: Excellent, Problem solving: Excellent, Teamwork: Excellent, Independence: Excellent, Strongest skill: Independence: Amelia was able to work independently and shows high levels on communication skills'

Lexi V

'Punctuality and reliability: Excellent, Overall attitude: Excellent, Communication: Excellent, Problem solving: Excellent, Teamwork: Excellent, Independence: Excellent, Strongest skill - Teamwork: Lexie was good when working as a team within the setting, she would share ideas and carry them out'

Kyra M

'Kyra got really stuck in with all aspects of the bakery, was really good at the preshaping of dough, croissant rolling and brilliant at customer service. Was a delight to have in the bakery and very engaging. Punctuality and reliability: Excellent, Overall attitude: Excellent, Communication: Excellent, Problem solving: Excellent, Teamwork: Excellent, Independence: Excellent. Strongest skill - Independence: Kyra was always keen to be a willing hand and offered help whenever she saw the opportunity. We decorated shortbread together but had a few issues with the nuts sticking to the chocolate. Kyra offered a new way around the issue and we went with that. Kyra is very hard working and once she got to know the bakery could see things that needed doing. She was lovely with the customers and the people she was working with in the bakery. She is a very quick learner. Five stars'.

Red Nose Day 2026



Over the last two days, students have been raising money for RND 2026 by donating to watch the Year 11s take on staff in the annual netball and basketball matches

The Year 11 girls kicked things off against a strong staff netball team. They played brilliantly and gave staff a real challenge, but unfortunately it wasn't quite enough, with staff taking the win 24–9. Meanwhile, the Year 11 boys came prepared with an army of a squad and three very well-dressed coaches

Staff, however, were missing the “Welsh Dragon” (aka Griff), which definitely put them on edge from the start! It was a tightly contested game, finishing in a 10–10 draw — the first ever draw in staff matches! A fantastic achievement, and the boys should be really proud of themselves. Whether they got so close due to decreased staff fitness or outstanding teaching... we'll let you decide

A huge thank you and well done to everyone who took part and donated!!

P.S. Year 10s... get practising!!!



Duoleague

Our Duoleague competition has been a huge success this term, with lots of students taking part and practising their language skills daily on Duolingo.

Students have explored a range of languages including French, Spanish, Japanese, Ukrainian, Greek, and Italian, showing great enthusiasm and commitment. Each week, the top three students earn points, which can be used to buy tickets for the prize drawer—adding some friendly competition along the way.

A big congratulations to Jack in Year 9, our overall winner this term, who has won a £20 Amazon voucher - an excellent achievement!

A special thank you to Mme Reid for organising and running the competition.

Well done to everyone involved, and keep up the great work!

Give it a Go Day

On Tuesday, a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students travelled to Newent to take part in a 'Give It a Go Day'. The event was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience a wide range of inclusive activities, and they thoroughly enjoyed exploring everything on offer, including:

- ❖ SEN Golf
- ❖ New Age Kurling
- ❖ Boccia
- ❖ Bowling
- ❖ Reaction boards
- ❖ Powerchair football
- ❖ SEN cycling

We are really proud of all the students who participated. Their positive attitudes, teamwork, and willingness to embrace new experiences were outstanding. It was a fantastic day!

Our thanks go to Mr Beard for organising the event, and to Newent Community School and Hartpury College for providing such dedicated young leaders and coaches.



Year 11 Parents Evening

Thank you to all those parents and students that attended Year 11 Parents Evening last night, there was a positive buzzy around the main hall. We would like to thank all those parents who completed the feedback survey we have included some responses...


'We'd love to say thank you to everyone at Dene Magna who's ensured that our son's experience has been so positive. Mr Underwood has been an outstanding Head of House! We are sure more thanks are to come. We think your school is fantastic.'

'Very grateful for all your support with our son, and previously with my two daughters. Can't Thank You all enough!!'

Our next Parent/Carer's Evening for Year 7 students which will be held on Thursday 28th April from 4pm to 7pm in the Main Hall.

Year 11 Easter Revision Sessions

We will be holding revision sessions for Year 11 students through the Easter Holidays, please see the schedule below:

Date	AM - 9.00am to 12 noon	PM - 1pm - 3pm
1/4/26	French (book 30 min slot) - RT Spanish - CTa	French (book 30 min slot) - RT
2/4/26	Drama (CW), 9:30-11:30am	
3/4/26		
7/4/26	9am - 12noon Maths Groups 1 & 2 - AJ Groups 3 & 4 - SJ Groups 5 & 6 - CH + Supported by other team members Extended Maths - GKe	
8/4/26	Science (9-12)	
9/4/26	English (carousel LMa, LMo, RG)	

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

We would love to unveil this year's Year 11 Leavers Hoodie.

The hoodies this year will be navy blue in colour and are 50% cotton/50% polyester. They will have a Dene Magna logo on the front of the hoodie and Leavers 2026 on the reverse with their names written as the year. They come in sizes as below are pit to pit and will cost £19.00 each. Hoodies must be removed for all lessons.

XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL
19.5	20.5	22	23.5	25	26	28

Garment sizes are approximate and for guidance only.

If you would like to order a hoodie, please do so by **13th April**; using the on-line payment system. If this causes anyone any problems please do not hesitate to contact me directly on t.derrick@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk to discuss.

Please note that once the order has gone in on 13th April I will not be able to reorder.



Summer PE Clubs

Please see below the new PE clubs that will run after the Easter holidays. All clubs are held during lunchtimes, all students to meet at (hall side) changing rooms at the start of lunchtime!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Softball Y7 & Y8 (PG/AU/SA)	Softball Y9 & Y10 (PG/AU)	Cricket Nets All Years (AU/PG)	Athletics Y9 & Y10 (DH/PG/BJa/AU)	Athletics Y7 & Y8 (SA/PG/LG)
Rounders Y7 & Y8 (DH/BJa/MP/LG)	Rounders Y9 & Y10 (BJa/DH/LG)		Tennis Y7 & Y8 (JDe/SA/LG)	Tennis Y9 & Y10 (BJa)
				Girls Rugby Club ALL YEARS JDe

Year 11 & 13 Tempest Photos Reminder

Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Sunday 12th April 2026. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 5).

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.



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.

- ❖ Callidus Roe Ltd
- ❖ JBH Associates Ltd
- ❖ Virtual Running Events Ltd
- ❖ Beard & Tandy Developments Ltd
- ❖ BASF, Cinderford.



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, rounder's 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.

The Masked Singer Competition 2026

Today “The Masked Singer” competition will take place, we have some fantastic masks, choreography and musical performances awaiting and cryptic clues to help unmask our competitors.

If you want to play along please see the clues below to help you guess the identity of our Masked Singers 2026.

Answers will be released in the first bulletin after half term.

Competitor No 1 – Monkey – this person plays golf and is a keen rugby supporter, especially Lydney Rugby Football Club??

Competitor No 2 – Poodle – this person works with wood and shavings and loves sailing??

Competitor No 3 – Parrot – this person plays rugby and always gets injured??

Competitor No 4 – Frog – this person carries a brief case every day and is good at counting and adding together amounts money??

Competitor No 5 – Lion – loves “Belgium” waffles and loves a bit of Salsa dancing???



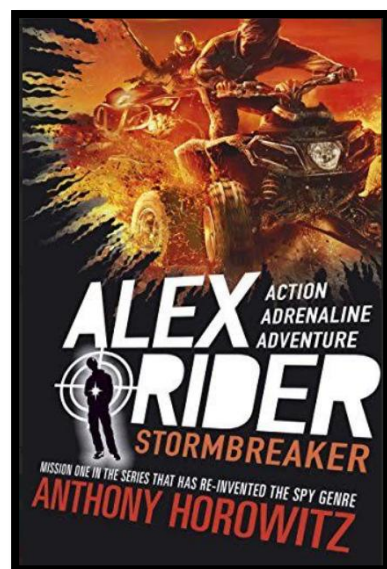
Literacy Matters

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.

This week the focus is on Miss Adams and 8D1 who are reading ‘Stormbreaker’ by Anthony Horowitz. Alex Rider’s life gets turned upside down when his uncle (who is also his guardian) goes missing



and Alex discovers that not only was he a spy but that Alex is now being recruited into MI6 at the age of 14 to complete his uncle's last mission. Packed with thrills, twists and secret gadgets, we learn how Alex will cope with the changes to his life and the high-stakes mission he has now inherited.

Term highlights:

We've had a busy literacy term here since January, so we thought we'd share a few of the highlights from the past weeks.

Reading mentor training: with both groups having undertaken their training they have been hard at work supporting and encouraging their buddies with some great partnerships formed.

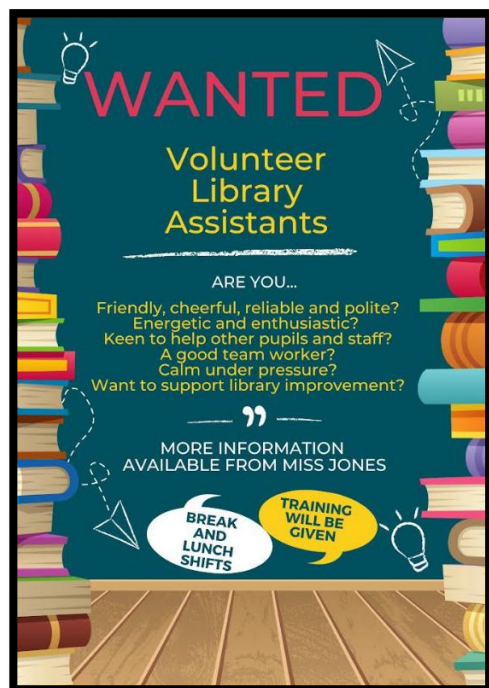
Reading buddies: building upon the training for the mentors, we have been fortunate to have some amazing buddies whose dedication to their own progress has been inspiring to observe. We wish them continuing success with their progress!

World Book Day: was a whirlwind of costumes and competitions and such a great celebration by the school of reading and stories. With 8D1 winning the form quiz and the incredible staff and student winners of the costume competition, we hope the rest of the school enjoyed it as much as we did.

We hope that everyone enjoys the break and we look forward to hearing what you've been reading in the new term!

Library thanks:

Miss Jones would like to say a huge thank you to all the library volunteers whose hard work and training has been so appreciated this term! The team has grown considerably and the new recruits have been working hard to learn the systems and to help make the library ever better and more helpful to the school. Thank you all.



6th Form Updates

The One Health Society at our sixth form have started a series of peer teaching sessions with unusual dissections.

This week Ella, Miruna, Elise and Emily lead a great session on the squid. They showed lots of courage and they're building their independent research and public speaking skills. There were lots of squeals of delight as they revealed the donut shaped brain and pen full of squid ink.



Lessons from Auschwitz Project 2026

Please see the write-up from Ella and Sky who took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project this term. Ella and Sky will continue to the final stage of the project after the Easter term where they will come up with a method of sharing what they have learnt with other students throughout the sixth form and main school.

'We visited Auschwitz-Birkenau on the 17th March and it was unbelievable. The whole experience was. This is a day that neither of us will ever forget. To see the site in real life, knowing what happened to all of those individual people is so saddening and almost sickening. I think that it is very important that people are educated on the Holocaust because it teaches how something so small, the rise in anti-semitism, can turn into something so large and tragic. I also think it's important to visit sites like these because you get a feel of what it was like for the people there at the time (I understand that nobody can fully feel and understand what happened there or what it was like but it allowed us to have a deeper understanding of the atrocities that were committed there), and what they may have been feeling; if enough people acknowledge this tragedy it can help us to prevent another tragedy like this to occur again. Did they know what was happening? How scared were they? Did many of them see any of their friends and family again?

When we arrived we met our tour guide, Szymon, and we were given headphones so that we could hear him talk to us about the sights we were seeing. Once we got our headphones, there was a walkway to the main entrance to Auschwitz 1. This walkway had a speaker which was saying identified names of the people that unfortunately lost their lives in Auschwitz. This made me feel deeply for the individuals and I also considered it respectful to ensure that they are not forgotten after they were stripped of their identities upon arrival at the camp. Once we had walked round to the entrance, we walked under the infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei", I found this chilling knowing that many people walked through this entrance, brainwashed into thinking that work would 'set them free'. We walked around the camp, going into different blocks. Each of them had different exhibitions which contained personal belongings, pictures, drawings done by prisoners, we saw videos of Jewish communities before the war and we saw the book of life. We saw the belongings of people including their shoes, glasses, suitcases. We were given a chance to separate the statistics of the holocaust and give names to the victims who sadly lost their lives. We learnt that the book containing the list of the victims of Auschwitz was incomplete - sadly records were destroyed, in an attempt to remove evidence of their existence completely. We also had the chance to walk into a model of the gas chamber, which was just a life-changing experience. It really was both eye-opening and hard to comprehend at the same time.

In Auschwitz 2, we were given more of an insight into the conditions the victims lived and worked in. One thing I could not wrap my head around was how big it was. There is no way of describing the vastness of the camp and the fact they wanted to make it bigger is beyond me. We first looked at the wooden barracks but they were almost like stables, mainly because horses were originally kept there. We saw where the toilets were which was actually really sad to see how dehumanising it was because it was so open and unsanitary. We also heard some of the witness testimonies of their experiences working in the Scheissekommando (someone who would clean the mess caused by the unsanitary conditions in the toilet) and how it was one of the better jobs in the camp because guards and officers wouldn't dare to go in there. We also saw the bunk beds which they would have slept on, which looked extremely uncomfortable; they were all so close together, it was sad to imagine everyone cramped in one space as hundreds would be kept in one barrack. After seeing this we walked to the end of the camp where we saw the ruins of the gas chamber and crematoria, which had grave stones dedicated to the men, women and children who sadly lost their lives, making me feel so deeply for each individual. We then had the chance at the end to hold a service, which allowed us to commemorate the lives of those who passed away. There was a rabbi who gave a speech at the end of the ceremony and something she said that really stuck with me was "think of how lucky you are to get to leave and go home to your warm beds because most people who came here never got to do that again". This sentence alone was really impactful because it made me realise how lucky I am and it made me have a different view on what we take for granted. Overall, we are both so grateful to have been given the chance to visit the memorial sights. We left with changed perspectives of the event and we will carry this experience with us, ensuring we can do everything we can to give it the recognition it deserves.

The Sunday after our visit, there was an online seminar which allowed us to properly reflect on our visit and discuss with our peers who also joined us on the trip. We split off into our separate groups with our educator and he asked us questions about what our initial thoughts were when we first arrived at Auschwitz and Birkenau, and what we felt was the most important part of the memorial and museum. I said that the videos of the Jewish communities were the most emotional because it was so saddening to see families so happy could be brought into something so tragic all because somebody didn't like what religion or race they were. We also talked about if we thought it was important to visit places like Auschwitz-Birkenau and we both said yes because it allows people to get a better understanding of what happened here during WW2 and to see the book of like is extremely important because it allows us to look past the statistics and put a name a story to each individual, which rehumanises the people who were unlawfully stripped of every possession they owned, even their own name, their identity. It was also good to hear everyone else's opinion of what they thought of the site, which opened our own understanding because some people may have interpreted something differently to us.

Overall, we are so incredibly grateful to have been able to visit this site and pay tribute to those who were unfortunately involved when they did not deserve to be. I now have a better understanding of the Holocaust and I encourage people to visit Auschwitz so that they can help us to humanise the innocent people who lost their lives'.

6TH Form Easter Raffle

Has been drawn and the winner was **Hazel P**, who shared her prize with students, what a good egg!!!



Attendance Prize

Was given to Shannon D in Year 12 and Azariah P in Year 13 who both have 100% attendance, well done to them.

Goodbye to **Henry M** in Year 12 who is leaving today and moving to Yorkshire.

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!

Have you applied to Dene Magna Sixth Form?

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

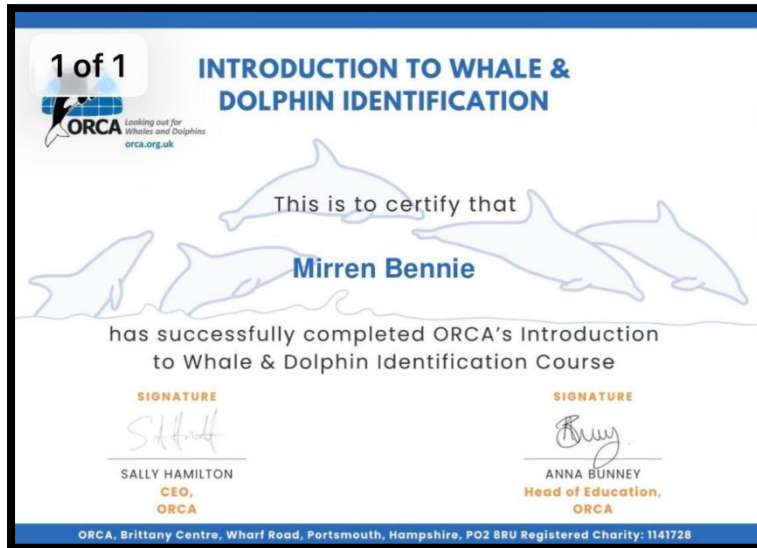
These letters have been sent to the address supplied on application forms. If you have changed your address recently or do not receive your letter by the end of next week (20 March), please get in touch with us at 6thform@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk.



Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Mirren B as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze she has been raising awareness for the conservation of UK Whales and Dolphins. As part of this project she has completed training with ORCA.org which focuses on whale and dolphin conservation. This training involved learning how to identify different species of whales, dolphins and porpoises found in the north Atlantic, as well as understanding their behaviour and habitats.

Mirren has successfully passed the exam and course assessment and is now certified to take part as a citizen scientist. This means she is able to contribute to real conservation work by helping to identify and cross reference whale and dolphin sightings submitted through the ORCA app, supporting data collection used in marine research and protection efforts.



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.

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. The app will now be used to book parent/career evening appointments.

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/3o1Jc>



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.

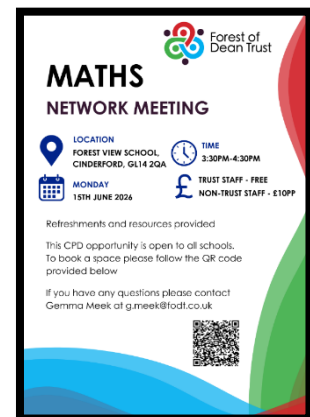
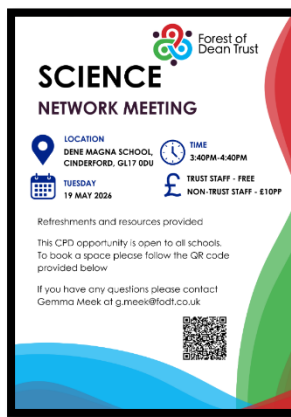
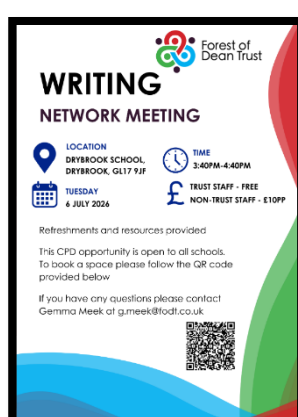
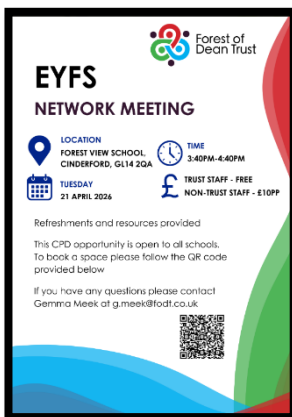
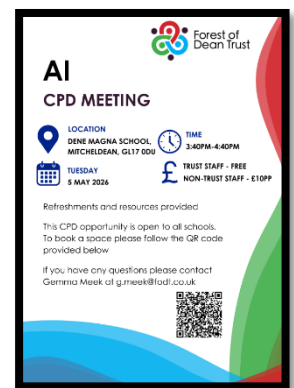
If you would like support in discussing any of these topics at home, please visit the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning website. <https://www.ghll.org.uk/advice-for-parents-exams-money-parents-helpline/>

Forest of Dean Trust - Network and CPD events

Please see details of our upcoming Forest of Dean Trust network and CPD events. All schools are welcome to attend and collaborate on various subject areas from our ongoing work to create a transition unit in writing, to our discussion on a more consistent approach to mathematical language across the key stages.

We also have our first Science network event and shortly after Easter, we have an opportunity for EYFS collaboration and some CPD on AI and its uses within education. I have included details of our FODT website below with all events listed and I have also included the flyers with QR codes to sign up to our events.

If you have any questions, please contact Gemma Meek at g.meek@fodt.co.uk.



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>

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>

We are seeking **exam invigilators** for the upcoming exam season! Please take a look at the full job description here: <https://zurl.co/f4SLn> or share to anyone who may be interested in applying.



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 (5.5hrs/yr)

START DATE ASAP



Dene Magna School
EXAM INVIGILATORS REQUIRED
Pay: £12.66 per hour, rising with minimum wage on 1st April
Days: 18c, but you must be available for exam dates

YOU WILL:

- Ensure the fair and proper conduct of examinations, in an environment that enables a student to perform at their best
- Conduct examinations in accordance with the awarding body and Dene Magna's regulations and instructions
- Have a key role in upholding the integrity and security of the examinations/assessment process

Careers Update:

T-Level Courses @ Cheltenham Campus

We just wanted to make you aware that there are two new T-Level courses available at Cheltenham Campus:

- ❖ Education and Childcare- [Course Details | Gloucestershire College](#)
- ❖ Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction - [Course Details | Gloucestershire College](#)

For further information please contact Gloucestershire College.

Apprenticeship Course

We're pleased to let you know that we currently have an apprenticeship opportunity available at Reds Hair Company in Ross on Wye for a September start. This is a great chance for a school leaver who is passionate about hairdressing and eager to gain hands-on experience while working towards a professional qualification. We offer a supportive, friendly environment with full training provided.

If you have any students who may be interested, we would be grateful if you could share this opportunity with them. Anyone interested can send their CV to info@redshaircompany.co.uk and we'll be in touch to discuss the next steps.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like more information.

Boomsatsuma

Boomsatsuma have just announced their next set of short courses for young people aged 11-16. Each course runs over three days, costs **£200**, and is led by practising industry professionals in a proper hands-on environment. Small groups, real outcomes.

Full details and booking are at boomsatsuma.com/short-courses.

Filmmaking: Shoot and edit your own Music Video

14-16 April · Portland Square, Bristol · £200

Game Design: Build your own level

13-15 April · Leadworks, Bristol · £200

AUGUST 2026

Photography: Shoot and produce your own magazine

25-27 August · Tobacco Factory, Bristol · £200

Game Design: Sculpting and 3D printing your own character

24-26 August · Tobacco Factory, Bristol · £200

Forest Music Centre

We will be hosting an open rehearsal on Tuesday 14th April from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at St Whites School Cinderford, go along and join the fun, you can participate or just watch it's up to you. All ages welcome, adults and children. For more information contact Gloucestershire music on www.glooucestershiremusic.co.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!

Junior Sailing Opportunity – Frampton on Severn

Frampton on Severn Sailing Club is running a series of friendly, affordable sailing courses for young people this spring, perfect for beginners and those looking to build confidence on the water. No boat or buoyancy aid needed, we'll provide those, just a wetsuit and the ability to swim! Our RYA qualified instructors teach in small groups, so you know you'll get the attention you need.



These sessions lead into the club's popular Junior Week during the summer holidays – a fun 5 days of sailing and outdoor activities for 10-17 year olds, keeping them off their devices and active, while building skills and confidence, safely.

If you've been seeking something for your teenager/family to do - sailing is a brilliant option. It's unusual in that 7 year olds, 37 year olds, and 77 year olds can all compete on an equal footing!

Our junior and family programme runs all year round, blending structured training, fun social sailing, friendly racing, and big annual events that bring the whole club together. We're a close-knit, volunteer-run club, and families are always welcome - to sail, to support, or simply to enjoy the atmosphere. Family annual membership (2 adults and all dependent children up to age 18) is just £12 more than single adult membership - or juniors can join by themselves for £51. Beginner courses for junior members are £90/£80 (for 5 full day/7 half day sessions). Training begins soon, and places are limited, so early booking is recommended.

Find out more:
<https://www.fossc.org.uk/sailing/frampton-juniors>



Junior Sail Training 2026

Learn to sail safely & with confidence
Ages 7 - 17
Covers all the skills needed to use club facilities and sign up for Junior Week!

✓ RYA Qualified
Instructors teaching in small groups (6:1)

Optimist Course (IOCA) - £80
Ages 7-12
Sunday mornings 10th May - 28th June

RYA Stage 1 & 2 - £90
Ages 10-17
All-day Saturdays 18th April - 16th May
Advanced courses also available, see website for info)

ONBOARD
RYA

QR code:  www.fossc.org.uk/training-courses/rya-youth-sailing-courses-ys

← **Sign Up Here!**

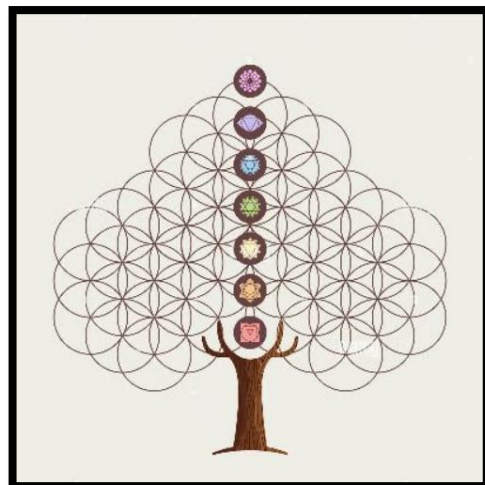
Creative Saturday Workshops at ArtSpace

The Tree in Yoga and Art, with Aileen Wright. **Saturday 25th April from 10:30am – 4:30pm (at Artspace Cinderford). Cost: £60/ *£45 concessions including materials**

Join Aileen for a nourishing day of yoga, breath-work, and art inspired by the timeless symbol of the Tree. In the morning, we'll root ourselves through mindful movement and breath — exploring balance, strength, and connection with the living world.

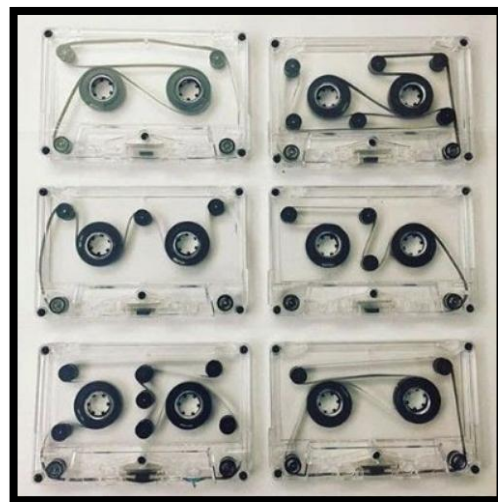
In the afternoon, we'll turn to creative play, letting our hands express what our bodies have felt. Drawing on the tree's symbolism across yoga and world mythologies, we'll explore themes of rootedness, growth, and transformation through paint, ink, and natural materials. We'll also look at how the tree has been represented in art throughout history, taking inspiration from artists such as Klint and Mondrian. This workshop welcomes all levels of experience — in both yoga and art — and invites a day of gentle discovery, connection, and creative renewal.

Lo-Fi Loop Collages, with Heather Hughes. On **Saturday 25th April from 10:30am – 1:30pm (at Artspace Cinderford). Cost: £40/ *£30 concessions including materials**



On this one-day workshop you'll explore the art of creating tape loop collages. A creative, hands-on process combining sound, memory, and visual art. Using recycled cassette tapes, you'll learn how to cut, splice and loop magnetic tape to create your own sonic artwork. You'll be encouraged to record sounds, voices or ambient textures to develop your own concept, and experiment with collaging the tape itself into tactile visual pieces.

This workshop celebrates the beauty of lo-fi sound and the poetry of reuse; where old media becomes something entirely new. Each participant will take home a unique looping cassette, alongside the skills to keep experimenting. All materials provided (you're welcome to bring an old tape to collage if you wish).



Join The Forest of Dean Wellbeing Choir at Artspace Cinderford!

Looking for a fun, friendly way to boost your wellbeing and connect with others? Our community choir welcomes everyone. No previous experience is necessary, no auditions, no reading music and all of our songs are learnt by ear. Emphasis is on singing from the heart, having fun and using the voice for an increased sense of wellbeing.

The choir is a friendly, inclusive group which can help build confidence, form friendships, improve teamwork and learn performance skills. We engage in community events across the Forest of Dean, including local festivals and events and we have a growing set, including a wide and varied mix of songs.

If you would like to come along and see if it is for you, please do join us at one of our rehearsals – you will have a warm welcome and free refreshments are available.

We're especially hoping to attract more Alto and male voices to enrich our sound, so if you fall into those categories, we'd love to hear from you!

Rehearsals take place at Artspace Cinderford, The New Mercury, 3 Woodside Street, Cinderford, GL14 2NL.

Join us on Mondays 7pm-9pm – £5 per session (starting 13th April with half-term break) or Thursdays 11am-1pm – £5 per session (starting 16th April with half-term break) or come both days for £8 per week

To book use the link below, email info@artspacecinderford.org or call 01594 825111.

Choir sessions at Artspace will take a half-term break between 25th and 29th May and we will not run on May bank holiday.

FREE Youth Bike Event at Artspace Cinderford

FREE event for young people aged 11 to 19, hosted by Make It Tidy Biking at Artspace Cinderford. This is a great opportunity for young people to learn how to maintain their bike and learn more about riding bikes in the Forest area.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, 9th April

Time: 10am – 4pm (Drop in anytime or stay all day)

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

Parents and carers are welcome to join, though their attendance is not mandatory

Easter Activities

Books for Bugs in Mitcheldean will be open during the Easter holidays for different activities, please see poster below:

Eggsplore Live 2026 being held at Ow Bist Forest Community Centre on Tuesday 31st March, please see poster below:

South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026

Entries are open for South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026. An opportunity for young cooks, aged 11-16 to demonstrate their culinary skills, meet like-minded young people and learn from some of the region's leading chefs.

Young cooks are invited to send us their recipe for a main course dish, using principally locally-produced ingredients. Our judges will be looking for recipes that demonstrate skill and creativity. After assessing all recipes entered, our judges will select the entrants they would like to invite to a final in their own county initially. Here they will be asked to prepare their dish for our judges and each of the county winners will then meet at the overall South West final.

Gloucestershire County final

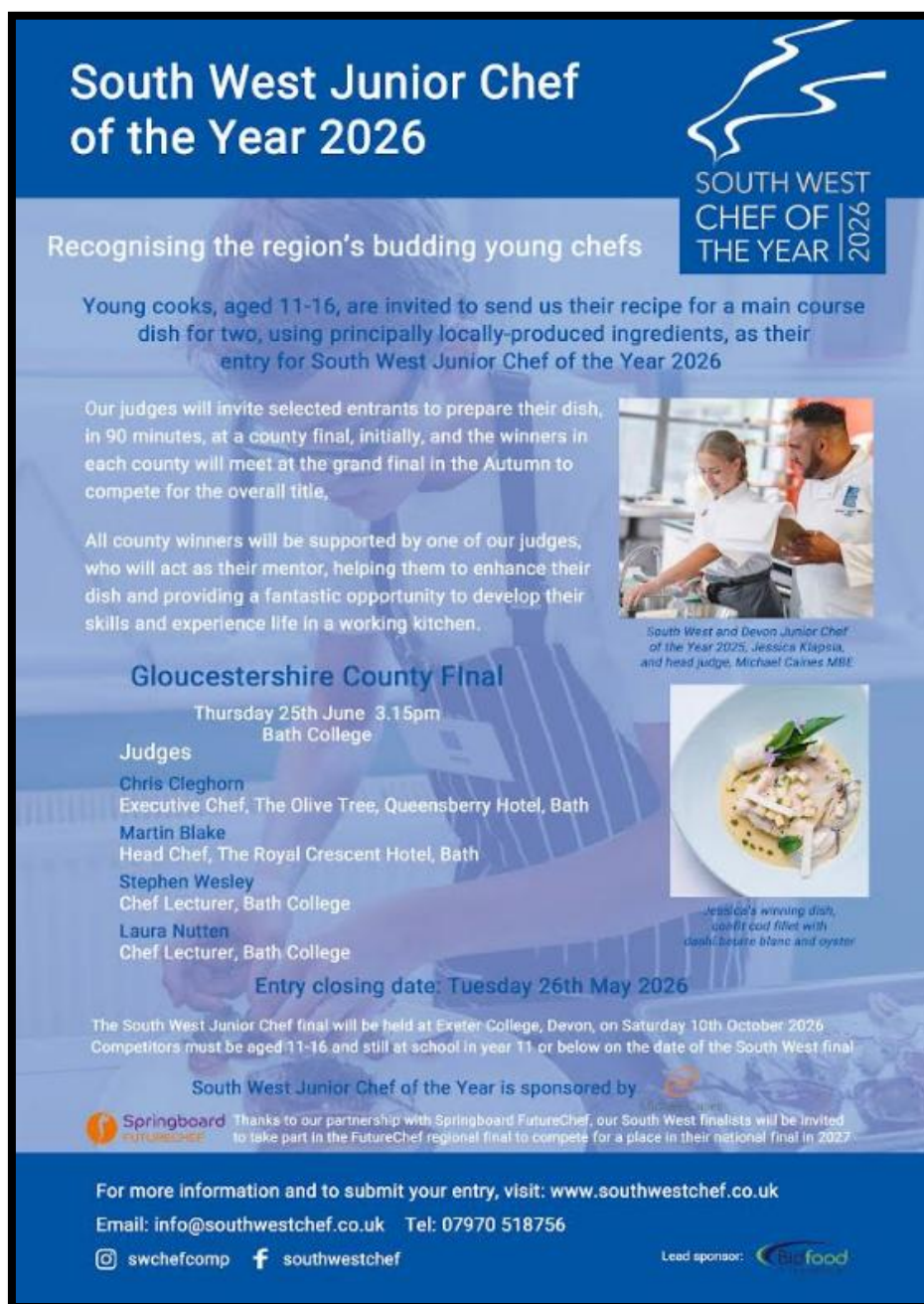
The Gloucestershire county final will be held on Thursday 25th June at Bath College at 3.15pm, when competitors will be given 90 minutes to prepare two portions of their dish.

Overall South West final

Before meeting at the grand final, all county winners will be offered mentoring with one of our esteemed judges, to help them to prepare and elevate their dish for the final, which will take place on Saturday 10th October at Exeter College in Devon. The mentoring process also provides finalists with an opportunity to further develop their skills and gain valuable experience of a commercial kitchen.

How to enter

Full details can be found in the attached file, which can easily be circulated among students who you feel may be interested in entering. You will also find further information and an entry form on our website at <https://www.southwestchef.co.uk/the-competition/junior-chef>. Entrants must submit their recipe with their entry form. Photographs of the dish may also be sent but this is optional.



South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026

Recognising the region's budding young chefs

Young cooks, aged 11-16, are invited to send us their recipe for a main course dish for two, using principally locally-produced ingredients, as their entry for South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026

Our judges will invite selected entrants to prepare their dish, in 90 minutes, at a county final, initially, and the winners in each county will meet at the grand final in the Autumn to compete for the overall title.


All county winners will be supported by one of our judges, who will act as their mentor, helping them to enhance their dish and providing a fantastic opportunity to develop their skills and experience life in a working kitchen.


Gloucestershire County Final
Thursday 25th June 3.15pm
Bath College

Judges
Chris Cleghorn
Executive Chef, The Olive Tree, Queensberry Hotel, Bath
Martin Blake
Head Chef, The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath
Stephen Wesley
Chef Lecturer, Bath College
Laura Nutten
Chef Lecturer, Bath College



Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026


The South West Junior Chef final will be held at Exeter College, Devon, on Saturday 10th October 2026. Competitors must be aged 11-16 and still at school in year 11 or below on the date of the South West final.


South West Junior Chef of the Year is sponsored by 


 Thanks to our partnership with Springboard FutureChef, our South West finalists will be invited to take part in the FutureChef regional final to compete for a place in their national final in 2027.

For more information and to submit your entry, visit: www.southwestchef.co.uk
Email: info@southwestchef.co.uk Tel: 07970 518756

 [swchefcomp](https://www.instagram.com/swchefcomp)  [southwestchef](https://www.facebook.com/southwestchef)

Lead sponsor: 


South West and Devon Junior Chef of the Year 2025, Jessica Klappa, and head judge, Michael Cairns MBE


Jessica's winning dish, lamb cut fillet with dashibatare blanc and oyster

For a taster of the types of dishes prepared in last year's final, information and photographs can be found at <https://www.southwestchef.co.uk/the-2025-results/>

Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026

Springboard FutureChef

Thanks to our partnership with the Springboard FutureChef competition, all South West Junior Chef finalists will also be invited to take part in the regional final of the [Springboard FutureChef competition](#), bypassing the school and county heats, to compete for a place in their national final. (As long as they meet the FutureChef's slightly different age criteria– FutureChef competitors must be in years 9-11).

About South West Chef of the Year

South West Chef of the Year was established 22 years ago and is run by renowned Michelin-starred chef, Michael Caines MBE DL, chef patron of Lympstone Manor in Devon, and me, to provide a platform through which professional, student and amateur chefs can demonstrate and further develop their skills and creativity and build on their culinary interest and ambitions. The Junior Chef award was launched in 2013 and we are delighted to have highlighted the skills of young chefs ever since.

Have a great weekend and I wish you a relaxing break and hope the Easter bunny is kind to you!!!!

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

27.03.26 – 5th instalment of £52.00 for the Year 8 London Trip
27.03.26 – Ski Trip Departs
27.03.26 – End of Term
01.04.26 – 9th Instalment of £200.00 for the Okinawa Trip
04.04.26 – Ski Trip Returns
13.04.26 – New Term Starts
16.04.26 – Dene Magna Science Fair