



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 27 **Week Commencing Monday 20 April 2026** **Celebrating Student Achievements and Events**

At Dene Magna, we are consistently filled with pride by the way our students conduct themselves, both within our walls and out in the wider community. They represent themselves with integrity and show what it truly means to be a part of our school family. This week, we witnessed two standout examples of this spirit in action.

Victory at “Queensholm”

Last night, I had the pleasure of attending “Queensholm” to watch our Under 14 Girls compete in the first-ever EDF Cup competition.

It was a momentous occasion, seeing our students’ transition from grassroots rugby to the very heart of Gloucester rugby. The girls played with incredible heart and determination, ultimately bringing home the Cup. A huge thank you to the many staff members and parents who turned out to cheer them on. Your support made a world of difference in such a high-energy environment.

Forest of Dean Youth Parliament

After the final whistle at Queensholm, I travelled to the Coleford Council Chambers for the first youth Parliament with six schools. This event brought together representatives from every secondary school in the Forest of Dean for a Ministerial debate and vote.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Matt Bishop MP and his team for their hard work over the last several months in organizing this series of events.

During the evening, I was approached by several other Headteachers who were eager to praise our Sixth Form students. They noted how supportive and encouraging our seniors were toward younger students from other schools, helping them find their confidence and voice. To hear parents and visitors singing the high praises of our students' leadership and self-assurance was a truly proud moment for Dene Magna.

Managing Exam Stress Tips For Parents And Students

Manage the Environment – your goal is to reduce the "friction" of daily life so they can focus their mental energy on studying and resting.

- If possible, temporarily lower your expectations for chores and part-time jobs. Let the messy bedroom slide for a few weeks.
- High-protein, slow-release energy foods (nuts, yogurt, and fruit) are better than sugar crashes. Sometimes, just silently placing a glass of water and a snack on their desk is more supportive than asking, "Are you hungry?"

- Keep the house a "low-stress zone." This might mean keeping younger siblings quiet or turning down the TV during peak study hours.

Emotional Support - A thermometer simply reflects the temperature (if the child is stressed, the parent gets stressed). A thermostat sets the temperature.

- Validate their feelings without overreacting. If they say, "I'm going to fail," don't just say, "No you won't." Try: "It's completely normal to feel overwhelmed right now. You've put in the work, and we can only do our best."
- You don't always need to ask, "How is the revision going?" (which can feel like pressure). Instead, ask, "Do you need a 10-minute break for a walk/tea?"
- Remind them and yourself that while exams are important, they do not define their value or their entire future.

Practical Help – Only step in with "solutions" if they are open to it.

- If they struggle with focus, offer to be the "timer" for them.
- Offer to hold their flashcards or listen while they explain a concept to you. Teaching someone else is one of the best ways to learn.
- Help them pack their bag (spare pens, water) so they don't panic in the morning.

Look After Yourself – Parental stress is contagious. If you are pacing the hallway or obsessively checking the syllabus, they will feel it.

- Go to the gym, see your friends, and keep your own life moving.
- Don't talk about how much the neighbour's kid is studying. Every student has a different rhythm.

EDF Cup Champions

Well what can we say about this incredible group of girls? Stepping out onto the prestigious Kingsholm Stadium, transformed in that moment into "Queensholm", the U14 Girls from Dene Magna rose to the occasion in spectacular fashion, delivering a phenomenal performance built on unity, passion, and determination.



Facing Crypt Grammar School, Dene Magna proudly representing a comprehensive school had everything to prove. And prove it they did. The game exploded into life with a try in the opening two minutes, followed by another within the first five a breath-taking start that set the tone.



Crypt responded with determination, bringing the score back to 10–5, but Dene Magna refused to let up. With relentless drive and teamwork, they pushed forward again, extending their lead to 20–10 and showcasing the strength of their spirit and skill.



The final minutes were intense. Crypt fought back to 20–15, but Dene Magna stood tall, showing incredible resilience and composure to defend their lead right through to the final whistle.



Huge congratulations to Lucy T, Ava J, Amber W, Polly B, Maci T, Erica R, Lexi C, Mirren B, Boe H, Kelsa J, Florence J, Ellie P, Phoebe M and Kyriee C you are champions. A special mention must go to their inspirational team captain, Lexie, whose outstanding leadership kept the team focused, composed, and with heads held high throughout every moment of the match.

And with that final whistle, the underdogs became champions.



A huge congratulations to the Dene Magna U14 Girls your courage, teamwork, and unwavering belief have made you deserved winners of the EDF Cup. You have done yourselves, your school, and your community immensely proud.



A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our supporters. To the Dene Magna staff, parents, carers, and family members, your energy, encouragement, and belief lifted this team every step of the way. From the side-lines to behind the scenes, this victory belongs to all of you too. It's all part of the Dene Magna Family.



A big thank you to Bidfood who sponsored the rugby shirts, we had lots of compliments on how great the girls looked.



A big big thank you to Maci's Nan Hayley Taylor for allowing us to use her photos.

Champions.



Netball Superleague Trip

On Friday night, 50 girls had the fantastic opportunity to attend a Netball Superleague Match in Worcester, between Nottingham Forest and Birmingham Panthers. The girls brought all the spirit and were loving the opportunity to watch a live professional sports match.



We had face paints, live interviews and a lot of shouting for Panthers, we even had an expert dive and catch from Mrs Jarvis to win a free towel!

The match was incredibly close until the last quarter where Forest pulled away, but the girls learnt a huge amount about professional Netball and hopefully we inspired a few more girls to want to pursue a career within professional sport! Watch out for more opportunities next season to go again!

Year 10 Boys District Football

The Year 10 boys took part in a District Football tournament on Monday and played well and grew in confidence as the tournament went on. They played 4, lost 2 and drew 2. The thing that really stood out was how they played as a team and were positive and encouraging of each other. A big improvement from losing all games last year.

Year 7 Girls District Football

The Year 7 girls played in a District Football Tournament on Tuesday against Wydean and Dean Academy. The girls played fantastically well but they unfortunately narrowly lost both games 0-1 to Dean Academy and 2-3 to Wydean. Well done to Darcey who made some fantastic saves in goal!



Duke of Edinburgh Training Day

Last Friday our DofE Bronze award students participated in a training day with Mr Beard & Phil & Carole from AtoZ Expeditions.



The students went through a check list of activities to ready them for their Expedition section. This included more map work, tent work, cooking & what to fit into their rucksacks amongst other things.

They have two more practice walks in April & May before the qualifying expedition in July.

Well done to those students & thanks to AtoZ Expeditions for their continued guidance.

Stagebound: Behind the Scenes!

The energy in the workshop over the last Fortnight has been super productive. Here's a look at what's been cooking (literally and figuratively) in the studio.

On the Workbench: A Feast for the Eyes

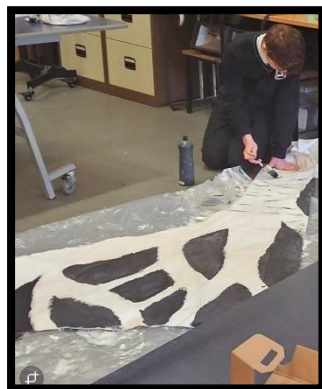
The Baker's Tray: A huge shout out to the students who sculpted a mountain of salt dough rolls, baguettes, and pastries. This week, the "bakery" was open for painting. Using many techniques to bring even more realism to their delicious delights, nearly there now! Next up, a bit of varnish for longevity. Don't they look good enough to eat?



Meaty Challenge: Creating a spread of cured meats that looks authentic from the back row but remains lightweight for the actor. What our boys have achieved: Faux cardboard Bacon: starting to paint mimicking that perfect fatty marble. Salami & Sausages: Using pillow stuffing and nylon tights, tied off for realistic links.

The Dancing Plates: Our ensemble will look spectacular. The students have begun the intricate process of decorating the giant plate costumes. We are balancing bold, stage-ready patterns with lightweight materials to ensure our dancers can actually move without feeling like a stack of fine china!

Into The Woods: Our scenic crew is working to transform our stage curtains using canvas and paint to mimic the hauntingly beautiful texture of silver birch.



Character in Focus: Cogsworth - A nervous, English butler who has become a clock. As the master of the schedule. Our Costume team has been working hard to design an outfit to match his rigid and timely personality with a little added sparkle. Don't you love the creativity of Isla K and Emily B adding three tiny world clocks to the design? Well done, girls!



Digital Education Records

We will be issuing digital education records to Year 11 pupils this term.

Education records are part of a new service from the Department for Education (DfE) to provide pupils with their education information and help them share this information as part of their post-16 journey.

Education records contain unique education information for each pupil, including:

- their name, address and date of birth
- the schools they have attended
- their qualifications (after results are released)
- any support needs

Education records will be issued on the DfE education record app. Pupils must download the app onto their phones from the Apple or Google App Stores. The rest of the issuing process will take place in school.

The Apple version of the app requires iOS version 15 or newer and the Android version requires 8.1 or newer.

After the issuing process, pupils will have their education information on their phones. They can then use the app to share this information digitally with sixth forms or colleges when they enrol.

Please contact us if you have any questions or do not wish your son/daughter to be part of the government initiative.

Dream Makers 2030

Here are our Team of The Term from Feb- Easter.

What a term! It is fantastic to see so many students once again being in the team, but also to students who have made it for the first time! Well done!



This year group is fantastic. I am so pleased they all enjoyed the masked singer as their reward for a fantastic term's efforts!

Tutor Challenge

The tutor challenge will be learning about something new! They can present it however they want, presentation, poster, the medium of dance! I don't mind!

They will have a workshop this fortnight on how to learn and then they will put their new skills to practice!

I can't wait to see what they come up with

Year 7 Parents Evening (30th April)

I can't wait for parents' evening next week and to hear and see all the fantastic feedback that the teachers will be giving. I will be there too, so feel free to pop and say hello!

Dream Maker Awards

If there is anyone still to RSVP to the Dream maker awards, please could you email Mr Derrick ASAP so I can get you on the guest list!

House Charities

We would like to update you on payments that we have made to our chosen house charities.

Dowty House have donated £554.41 to the Royal British Legion and Dementia UK.

Wilson House have donated £1,786.99 to Cancer Research UK

Jenner House have donated £1,211.12 to Brodys Trust

Foley House have donated £739.74 to Young Minds

Year 11 Important Info

As we move closer to the exams I want to thank you as parents and carers for your hard work supporting the students. It is great to see so many working so hard. If you are worried about your son/daughter and would like to chat. Feel free to email.

One thing that students will need to be aware of is that the timetable will change during exams. This is due to students needing to be in front of the right teachers as they prepare for their exams. For example, if they have their biology exam in the afternoon, they will spend p2 and 3 with their biology teachers. The daily timetable will be shared each day with you and the students.

As in previous years, students do not go on study leave and we keep them in school to get the maximum level on impact from their teachers. It is vital that students attend every lesson.

Please can you make sure that your student has all the necessary equipment as we move towards the exams.

Clear pencil case, black pens, pencils, calculator, protractor, ruler, and compass

Art News

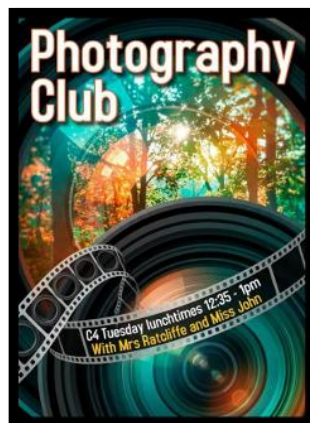
Ms John, Mrs Witts and students have arrived at Cheltenham Race course to view the Fresh Air Art Fair. They are having a great time already. Getting some ideas for decorating the school. We will have more pictures on their day in next week's newsletter.



New Clubs

Join our brand-new Screen Printing Club, running every Wednesday lunch time with Miss Davies from D&T! All skill levels are welcome.

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!!!



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

RSHE Update

This term the topics we will be studying are:



- Year 7 - Intentional Stillness & Sleep, Equality & Diversity, Finance
- Year 8 - Understanding Periods, Sustainability, Finance
- Year 9 - Health Checks, Addiction, County Lines
- Year 10 - Parenting, Personal Safety, Body Image
- Year 11 - Personal Safety, County Lines, Addiction

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/>

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 we have Miss Barker with 9W2 and Mr Greenslade and 7D2.

Miss Barker has been reading 'On Midnight Beach' by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick. Set in Ireland in the 1970s, this book is loosely inspired by the Irish myth of Cuchulain and explores old town rivalries and jealousies that re-emerge when a dolphin arrives in Carrig Cove bringing waves of tourists to the small town. For Emer and her friends it is a summer that will have life-long

consequences as the heightened tensions impact their own lives and relationships, romances and families testing everyone in ways they had never imagined.

Mr Greenslade has been enjoying 'Black Beauty' by Anna Sewell with his tutor group. As impactful as 'On Midnight Beach', 'Black Beauty' views late Victorian Britain through the eyes of a horse as he goes from an idyllic life as a foal through a series of different owners and circumstances. Packed with emotion, we follow Beauty through moments of friendship, grief and endurance with not a clue until the end on his ultimate fate.

Battle of the Books

This week, we announced the shortlisted books to the first meeting of our Battle of the Books book club.

For this year's theme of the most underappreciated side character in a book, the shortlist is:

- ❖ Carlos from 'Ghost Boys' by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- ❖ Christina from 'Divergent' by Veronica Roth
- ❖ George Cubbins from 'Lockwood and Co' by Jonathan Stroud
- ❖ Grover from 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' by Rick Riordan
- ❖ Isaac from 'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green
- ❖ Prim from 'Mockingjay' by Suzanne Collins
- ❖ Samwise Gamgee from 'The Return of the King' by J.R.R. Tolkien

The group meets on Wednesdays at 12:45 in the library and anyone from Years 7-10 who would like to join is welcome!



6th Form Update

Forest of Dean Youth Parliament 2026

On Thursday evening our budding Sixth Form politicians took to the Forest of Dean Council Chambers for the finale of their Youth Parliament programme. Observed by friends, parents, teachers and the press they enacted a Parliament style debate over the future of AI with their peers from all of the Forest schools. There were passionate speeches, effective (and non-effective!) interventions, points of order being made, and even the crossing of the floor from one opposition Minister to the surprise of everyone in attendance. After a slightly quiet and slow start, all the students grew into the occasion and the cheering and booing became so like the real Parliament it was hard to tell the difference! Our students took leading roles in the session, with the Government, led by PM Harrison W, successfully getting their Bill passed despite commendable scrutiny from the Opposition, led by Jack B.

It has been a very valuable programme which has seen our students grow in their confidence and leadership skills. Additionally it has given a great opportunity for all students from the Forest of Dean to work together and form friendships over an interest in politics. We are already looking towards the future with the Youth Parliament 2027 and will be looking for more aspiring politicians at Dene Magna to continue what this great group of students have started. We are incredibly proud of the students involved, so if you see them then please congratulate them on their efforts.



Environmental Science

Year 12 Environmental Science students have been actively engaged in hands-on learning this term, carrying out detailed case studies in the stream at the Sixth Form campus. Through fieldwork and data collection, students have been developing their understanding of aquatic ecosystems, water quality, and environmental monitoring techniques.

In addition to their practical work, students had the opportunity to meet with Piers Cardiff from FODCAP, who visited to gather their views and opinions on climate change issues. The discussion formed part of an initiative to help establish a new youth climate change group, giving young people a stronger voice in local environmental action.

The session was a valuable chance for students to share their perspectives, contribute ideas, and see how their knowledge can make a real impact beyond the classroom.



Exam Prep

As exams are fast approaching, all 6th Form students have now been issued with their exam timetables. Please make sure you check your schedule carefully so you are fully aware of the date, time and location of each of your exams.

It is important that you plan ahead and consider how you will travel to your exam venue, allowing enough time to arrive promptly. Please ensure you are well prepared and organised for the exam period.

DofE Gold Award

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Sixth Form Students could not have picked a better April day for a kitted up practice walk around the Wye Valley.

They navigated the route with little guidance from Mr Beard through villages, woods, paths & historic sites. Exceptional work by all the students involved.



Good Luck

We would like to wish good luck to Mrs Beard, Mrs Hoare, Mrs Moverley, Mrs Ray, Miss Pattinson, Miss Eade, Ms Kitonga and Mrs Turley who are taking part in the reverse London Marathon which commences at midnight on Saturday. See you bright and breezy Monday morning!!!!

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

A Big Thank You from Mara - MacMillan Cancer Support

Mara would like to say a **big thank you** to all those people who donated to her just giving page in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, she complete the run in 2hrs 10mins and raised £2,600. The just giving page is still open should anyone wish to still donate which will be extremely appreciated. If you would like to support Mara's incredible effort, here is her fundraising page: <https://zurl.co/3oJc>



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.

- ❖ S Reid Haulage Ltd
- ❖ Gooch Sport of Newent



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.

Animal University Experience Day – Hartpury College

Hartpury College are running an **Animal University Experience Day** during the May half term which includes **animal specific workshops** and an opportunity for students to **learn about our animal courses** here at Hartpury

This event will be **subject to an application process**, and those **students who meet our WP criteria** (are eligible for free school meals or are from a postcode which is IMD 1 or 2) will get **priority places**. We kindly ask you offer this opportunity to those students first.

Students can apply here: <https://gck.fm/xosfc>

Date: 27th May 2026

Event times: 09:30 - 3:00pm

Additional information: Students should wear comfortable clothing and footwear, and bring plenty to drink. Lunch will be provided

AFC Free Summer Camp

My name is Jacob and I am a Programme Coordinator at [Action for Conservation \(AFC\)](#) - a UK environmental action charity that works with young people across the UK to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders.

I'm extending an exciting opportunity for young people taking place this summer – AFC's Free Summer Camps for all 12-16-year-olds.

ABOUT OUR SUMMER CAMPS

- Camps are open to young people **aged 12-16** living in England or Wales.
- Our camps are completely **FREE!**
- Where: **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park**
- When: **27th-31st July OR 17th-21st August** (*Applicants may choose*)
- What: Campers take part in exciting activities like stargazing, learn about environmental issues and solutions, and get the opportunity to create amazing friendships.
- Find out how to apply [here!](#)
- The application deadline is **4th May 2026**.

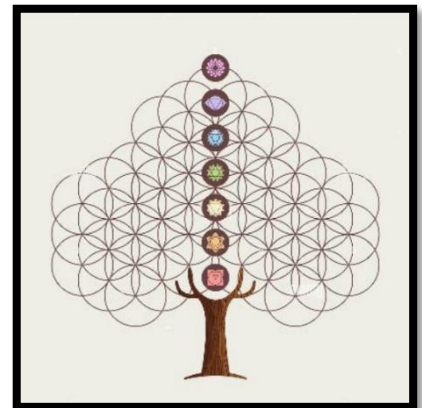
Creative Saturday Workshops at ArtSpace

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).

Creative Courses at Artspace

Artspace Cinderford are delighted to offer FREE creative courses for eligible adults in Gloucestershire, at our fully equipped studios in Cinderford and online.

Drawn In- Playful Drawing with Nicky Payne

Starts Tuesday 28th April / 9 weeks with half-term break
1:15pm – 2:45pm (at Artspace Cinderford)

*FREE for eligible learners

Cost: £55/ *£35 concessions

An inclusive course for creatives of all abilities to develop individual styles and skills at their own pace.



In this class we will explore drawing and a wide range of materials and techniques, making connections with artists that use similar materials. Join in with group discussion and set tasks alongside supported independent work with experienced artists/tutors.

Be ready to have fun, share ideas and join a little creative community.

FREE spaces for Gloucestershire adults that...

- do not have full level 2 qualifications (5 GCSE's at level 4+) and...
- are in low wage brackets/not in employment and...

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.

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.

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/>

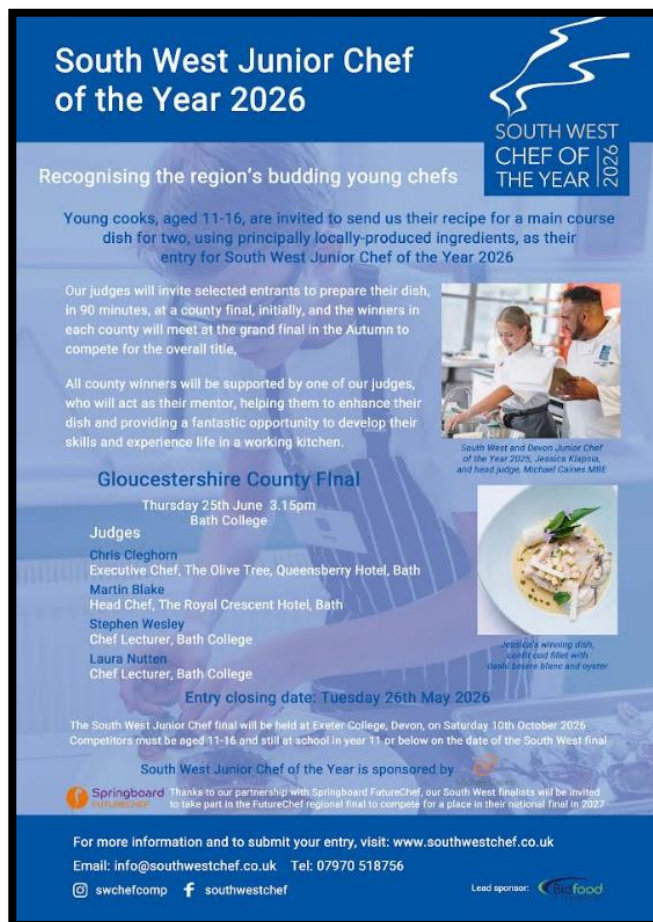
Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026

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.



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

Springboard FutureChef: 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
Instagram: [swchefcomp](#) Facebook: [southwestchef](#)

Lead sponsor: [The Food](#)

Vacancies At Dene Magna

We are recruiting for an enthusiastic and committed teacher to join our Art and Design department! This would be an ideal position for a newly qualified or early career teacher who is seeking to join a collaborative department committed to delivering a broad, engaging and skills-driven curriculum. Please see the job pack for further information: <https://zurl.co/JrDVM>



Dene Magna School

ART TEACHER REQUIRED

Suitable for ECTS
Hours: Full time, permanent
Starting September 2026

For more information and to submit your entry, visit: <https://zurl.co/JrDVM>

Lead sponsor: [The Food](#)

Have a great weekend, enjoy the sun.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

27th – 30th A Level Art Exams

27th – 28th April – GCSE French Speaking Exams

29th April – A Level French Speaking Exams

30th April – 1st May – GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams

30th April – Year 7 Parent/Carer Evening

1st May – Final Payment of £200.00 for the Okinawa Visit

4th May – May Day – School Closed

7th May Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening

14th May – 4th instalment of £200.00 for the Berlin Trip