



Weekly Parent Bulletin No: 29 Week Commencing Monday 4 May 2026 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

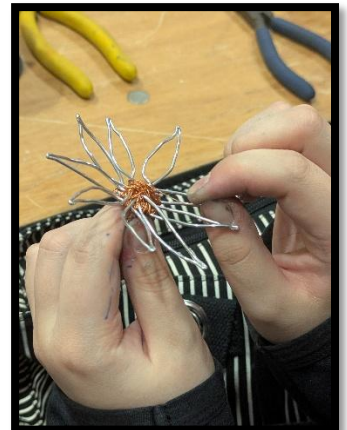
Fresh Art Trip

Last Friday we were very kindly invited to visit Cheltenham race course to see the Fresh Art Fair by one of our student's mum, Becky Friend who works for Paragon Gallery. It was a great chance for our students to see such a range of artwork represented by many UK galleries. They were able to observe art work showcasing different media and styles, we also had the chance to make wire flowers in the workshop led by Robert Fogell.

Here are some of the comments by our year 10 and 12 students who attended the trip:

"We saw lots of paintings and sculptures, especially lots of landscapes. We made wire sculptures of flowers, which was fun :)" Chloe, Emily, Dasha.

"I saw an array of beautiful paintings and sculptures all with varied techniques and styles. The trip was very fun and informative! :)" –Cora



Year 10 District Rounders Champions!!

A fantastic evening of rounders fixtures took place at Five Acres School on Wednesday evening. Dene Magna started strongly against Wyedean, showing excellent batting and tight fielding skills to get numerous players out. A dominant performance saw Dene Magna win 13–1.

Next, Dene Magna faced Five Acres. Once again, the team demonstrated secure fielding, limiting the opposition's scoring opportunities. Powerful batting and big hits helped secure a close 6.5–5 victory.

In the final match against Dean Academy, Dene Magna continued their unbeaten run with a convincing 5–2 win.

Remaining unbeaten throughout the evening, Dene Magna were crowned Year 10 District Rounders Champions.



Yoga Ambassadors Coaching.

Our Yoga Ambassadors had a fantastic time coaching Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 boys at Drybrook Primary School on Thursday.

The ambassadors confidently taught the Sun Salutation routine, impressing everyone with their knowledge, leadership and excellent yoga skills. Each session finished with a calming relaxation and breathing exercise, helping the students feel focused and refreshed.

The students at Drybrook were incredibly enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are delighted to hear they are keen for us to return again very soon!



Food Technology

This week, our Year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to take part in a free choice practical, focusing on international cuisine while putting into practice the skills they have developed this term.

The results were truly impressive, with a wonderful variety of dishes on display. Students created everything from American-style burgers and homemade onion rings to chilli con carne, spaghetti bolognese, pasta Alfredo, ratatouille, and spring rolls. The range of flavours and techniques showcased the creativity and confidence growing within the group.

Throughout the practical, students demonstrated strong culinary skills, including making roux-based sauces from scratch, shallow frying, coating techniques, and creating reductions. It was fantastic to see such independence and attention to detail in their work.

Looking ahead, students have chosen to revisit filled and enriched breads for their next practical session. We are very much looking forward to seeing the imaginative and delicious ideas they will bring to life.

Well done to all of our Year 9 students for their hard work and we hope that they were enjoyed at home!



History Update

GCSE History Berlin Trip Review

The History Department has recently had an article published on their travel company's website to show the value of educational residential trips to students' understanding of the curriculum and the wider world. With the 2026 planning well underway, those students booked on should have a read of what to expect in October. For those in Y8 and Y9, have a read to see what you could experience at GCSE History.

Please view the link below to read the article written by our very own Mr Harrington.

<https://www.travelbound.co.uk/blog/how-history-still-moves-students-today-a-berlin-history-school-trip-with-dene-magna/>

More History News..

Miss Adams has been shortlisted for the 'Inspiring History Teaching Award' putting her in the top 5% of History teachers. Amazing achievement.



Wellbeing News

On Friday 24th April the Year 11's had an assembly with Laura and Lauren from Young Minds Matter, on how to manage exam stress and how to prepare for exams.

The students seemed very engaged in the assembly and had an opportunity to ask questions.

This was followed by a workshop on Monday 27th April which Year 11's were invited to sign up to if they needed any further support on managing exam stress.

For more support on exam stress: <https://www.ticplus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/A4-exam-stress-leaflet-v00r01-002.pdf>

Celebrating Student success

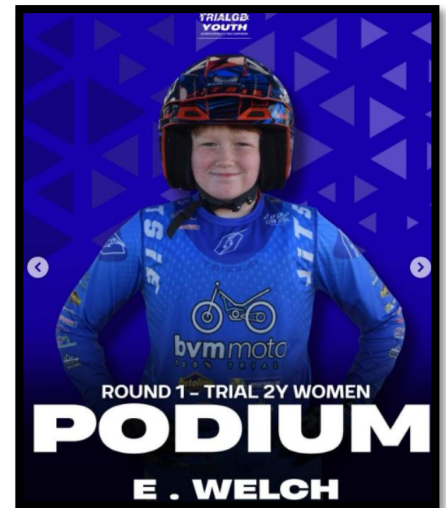
On Sunday Ella took part in her first team chase. She was the youngest there with the smallest pony. They managed to get round the whole course safely and can't wait to go again!



Ellyn's Trials

Trials is a sport where motorbikes are ridden through a series of obstacles and given a mark based on how many times their feet touch the ground. A 5 given for a fall or stop and a clean or 0 if no stops or feet placed on the ground. 1-3 given depending on how many times feet are placed on the ground. The aim is to have cleans and a low overall score.

Ellyn W (Year 7) did excellent riding in the ACU British Championship during the first rounds on the 4th and 5th April. In round 1, she came second with only 32 marks dropped. In round 2, she came third with only 39 marks dropped. In the first round she had 15 marks on the first lap, 8 on the second and 9 on the third. In the second round she had 9 marks on the first lap, 12 on the second lap and 18 on the third. Overall, she is third in the championship right now! Well done Ellyn! She has improved immensely over the years with her skill and has achieved many good results. Last year, she won the AMCA British Championship and came 4th in ACU British Championship due to injury.



Celebrating Staff success

Midnight Saturday, 8 of our members of staff took part in the Reverse London Marathon. Only 1% of people complete a marathon.

Following this weekend where Miss Pattinson, Mrs Ray, Mrs Turley, Miss Eade, Miss Beard, Mrs Moverley, Mrs Hoare and Ms Kitonga finished the London Marathon (at midnight), 6% of Dene Magna staff are now in that 1% club! Well done to you all!

If you wish to donate please use the link below.

<https://2026tcslondonmarathonmyway.enthuse.com/pf/maddy-pattinson#qrCode>



Character Curriculum Update

You may remember a while ago we told you that we had been working on our values of courage, respect and independence. We are now moving to the next phase of our character curriculum roll out – branding, and we are looking for students to help us. Mr Adams has launched a competition for students to use their creative skills to help with the design. There is one week left to be in with a chance to not only have your design featured across the school but also to win a £20 amazon voucher. We look forward seeing your designs...

Character Curriculum Branding Competition

Next year we will all be talking about 3 virtues that will encourage us to develop our character, whilst we are at school and beyond into further education, your careers and your personal lives.

To promote these 3 virtues, there is an opportunity for you to create simple logos. They will be launched and displayed across the school community in September. The virtues are:

Respect
Independence
Courage



Logo Specification:

- The logos can be individual or grouped together.
- There must be a Dene Magna 'feel' to the designs.
- The logos should appeal across the school from Y7 to Y13.
- Preferably, avoid the use of the House logos and colours.
- Make use of a small range of colours.
- Think about how you can use objects, animals or themes that you could associate with the Forest of Dean.
- Keep the designs simple and the virtues recognisable.

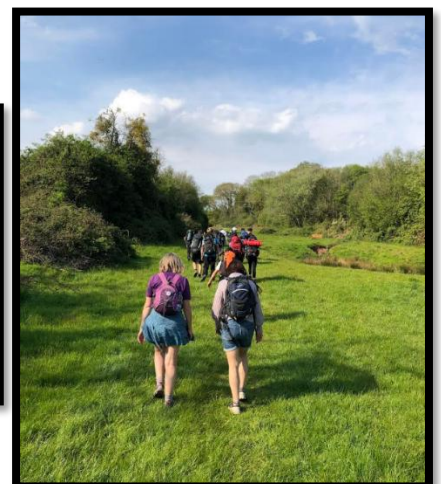
Timescale: Two weeks on Monday (11th May) for completed digital or paper entries. Send to Mr.Adams h_adams@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk or hand to Mr. A personally.

Prize: See your design across the school and a **£20 Amazon Voucher**.

DofE Bronze

We took the Bronze & Silver DofE group out for a final map session before the Bronze do their overnight practice in early May.

Blessed with good weather the students took turns to guide the whole group as we step up their training. Many thanks to Mrs Clarke, Mrs Pope & Mr Beard for supporting their journey.



Hall of Fame

Celebrating our legacy! 🎓

We are thrilled with our new additions to the Dene Magna Alumni Hall of Fame. Our school hall is shining a little brighter with the stories of our former students' success.

Think you belong on the wall? We are always looking to showcase the incredible diverse career paths of our alumni to inspire the next generation. If you've built a career you're proud of and want to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.



Sixth Form

Y12 Academic Mentoring - Mock Preparation

Y12s have started to build up their revision in preparation for their Mock Exams which take place between Monday 8th May and Wednesday 17th May. In their Academic Mentoring sessions they have been playing 'Teacher' and 'Student', teaching each other about unfamiliar subjects. Studies show that teaching someone else is one of the best revision strategies so they are well on their way to success!



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.

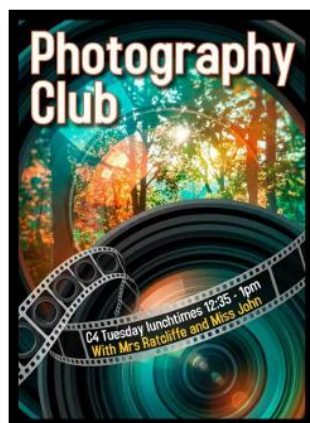
Please can you make sure that your student has all the necessary equipment as we move towards the exams.

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

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/>

6th Form Update

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.

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

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

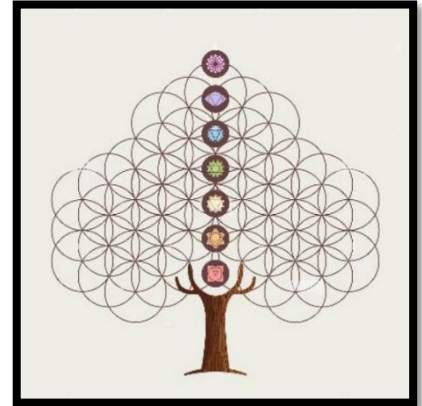
- Camps are open to young people **aged 12-16** living in England or Wales.
- Our camps are completely **FREE!**
- Where: **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park**
- When: **27th-31st July OR 17th-21st August** (*Applicants may choose*)
- What: Campers take part in exciting activities like stargazing, learn 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

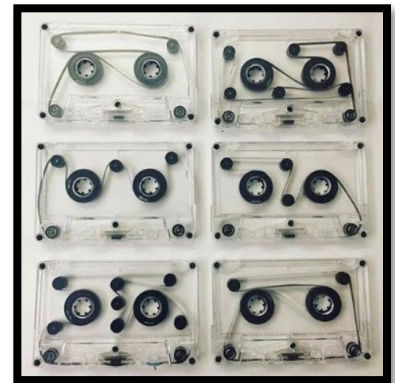
Join Aileen for a nourishing day of yoga, breath-work, and art inspired by the timeless symbol of the Tree. In the morning, we'll root ourselves through mindful movement and breath — exploring balance, strength, and connection with the living world.

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).

Sensory needs and behaviour webinar

"Sensory needs and behaviours: strategies for everyday success" and it will focus on helping adults understand behaviour and emotions from sensory point of view. We will also be looking at some strategies to meet children's sensory needs and thus reduce challenges.

Webinar will take place line on the 6th of May at 1pm. As usual, it will be recorded. All parents and carers need to do to register and receive the recording is follow this link: Sensory needs and behaviour webinar:

<https://www.move-more.org/events/parent-webinar-sensory-needs-and-behaviours/>



MOVE MORE
OVER CHINA TRADING

Sensory Needs and Behaviours: Strategies for Everyday Success

WEBINAR

FREE WEBINAR

When: 6th of May at 1pm
Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

All children make sense of the world through their senses. For many, this happens fairly smoothly - they might notice when a place feels crowded or noisy, or when a piece of clothing feels a bit scratchy, but they can still join in and enjoy what's happening around them.

For other children, the sensory information coming in can feel confusing, overwhelming, unpredictable, or even painful. Their sensory experiences are often much more intense which can lead to meltdowns, aggression, lack of concentration or what looks like defiance when in reality they are struggling to cope. If this sounds like your child and you'd like to find out more about how senses can impact behaviour, emotions and learning, our next webinar is the right place for you. This webinar will help you understand another piece of the puzzle that contributes to your child's behaviour and give you practical tools to use straight away.

To help you answer these questions, our next session will be focusing on:

- The different sensory systems and how they shape your child's daily experiences
- Sensory seeking and sensory avoidant behaviours - what they look like and why they happen
- The difference between sensory needs and preferences and why this distinction matters
- Everyday, realistic strategies to support regulation, reduce overwhelm, and help your child feel safe, supported and able to enjoy activities.

This webinar will be delivered by Marijana Filipovic-Carter, Head of Family Support and Sensory Needs Practitioner from Move-More. You'll leave with a clearer understanding of your child's sensory world and a toolkit of simple, effective approaches you can use at home, in school, and out in the community.

How do you sign up for the online session?
To register for this online session, please follow this link:

<https://www.move-more.org/events/parent-webinar-sensory-needs-and-behaviours/>

It will take you to our website where you will be asked to answer a few simple questions. We would encourage you to register even though you might not be able to attend the session live, as all registered participants will receive a recording of the session to watch in their own time.

I've signed up: what happens next?
Once you complete our short registration form, you will be registered for the online session. You will automatically receive an invitation for the zoom session. If you don't hear from us by the 27th of April, don't hesitate to contact Marijana on marijana@move-more.org. Please make sure you check your junk/spam folders.

WWW.MOVE-MORE.ORG/FAMILY-ZONE

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.

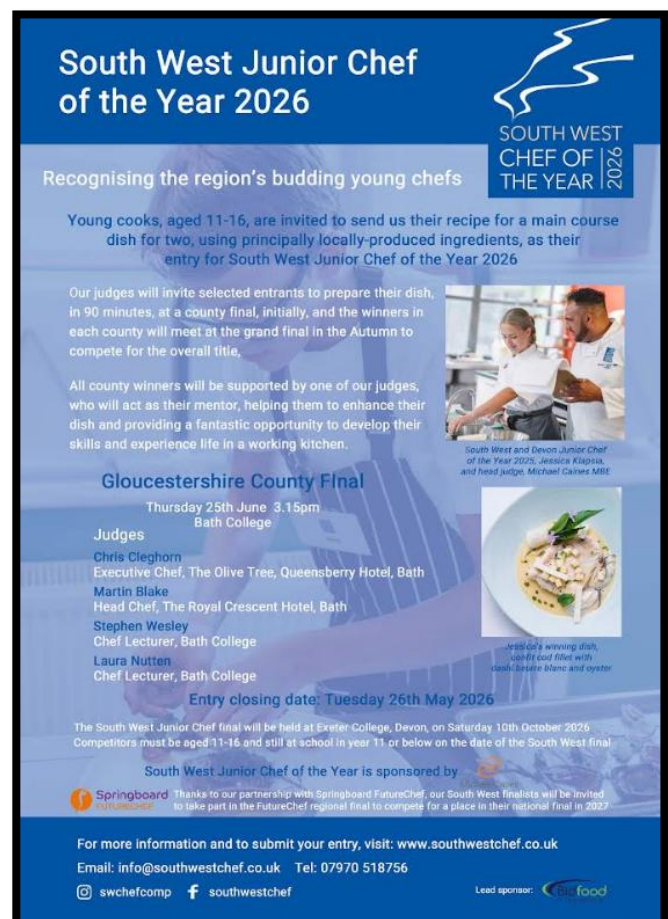
For a taster of the types of dishes prepared in last year's final, information and photographs can be found at <https://www.southwestchef.co.uk/the-2025-results/>

Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026

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 2026 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
 swchefcomp  southwestchef

Lead sponsor:  The Food

South West and Devon Junior Chef of the Year 2025: Jessica Kipova and head judge, Michael Caines MBE

Jessica's winning dish, cod fillet with stock, porcini, leeks and oyster

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>



Have a great Bank Holiday weekend.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

4th May – May Day – School Closed
7th May Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening
14th May – 4th instalment of £200.00 for the Berlin Trip