



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

Fully Qualified ELSA

Congratulations go to Mrs Hoult who this week completed the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) course and is now a fully qualified school ELSA.



ELSA is a national programme that trains staff to support children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs through developing their emotional literacy and overall resilience. It promotes stable, nurturing adult-child relationships and provides practitioners with the knowledge and skills to be a confident and effective 'key adult' for vulnerable children and young people.

Mrs Hoult has already made a positive impact on the emotional wellbeing of all those that have completed the ELSA programme with her so far. Students at Dene Magna enjoy their sessions in a dedicated ELSA room that is relaxing, safe and calm. They especially like the bean bags and the Lego that are resources used in a number of her sessions!

Over the next year the school's ELSA offer will continue to grow as Mrs Hoult will develop her role with the support of the Gloucestershire Educational Psychology Service and through meeting and sharing great practice with other ELSAs within the Forest of Dean.

Congratulations Mrs Hoult!



Dene Magna Football Match

What a fantastic afternoon of football in the sunshine! We started the session with some warm-up drills to get everyone focused and ready for the game. Teams were picked. Yellows versus Blues.

The first quarter was closely contested, ending 1–1. In the second quarter, it was goal for goal once again, with the score tied at 2–2 by halftime. During the third quarter, the Blues managed to score again, taking the lead at 3–2.

In the final quarter, both teams gave it their all. The Blues scored once more before the Yellows fought back, bringing the score to 4–3. In the final few minutes, the Blues found another level and scored twice more, securing a confident 6–3 victory.

High fives and smiles were shared by all, a successful and enjoyable game of football for everyone involved!



Year 8 Boys County Quarter Final

Year 8 travelled to Cleeve School on Tuesday afternoon for their County Cup 1/4 Final fixture after winning the district tournament in the winter term. Up against a very physical team, the boys started well, playing some neat football and creating early chances. Cleeve took the lead shortly after this but Dene Magna hit back almost instantly through an excellent finish by Oscar R after being played in by Rueben H.

Cleeve then gained a foothold in the game, using the pace of their wingers to get in behind our defence and score a quick fire 4 goals to leave them 5-1 to the good at half time, with Hugo P pulling off some great



saves in goal to just about keep Cleeve in touching distance going into the second half. After making 4 changes at half time, we looked much better in the second half, having more possession and creating many more chances. Adrian P pounced on a mistake by a Cleeve defender and cleverly chipped the goalkeeper to make it 5-2. Cleeve hit back from a deep cross which found its way into the far corner of the goal to make it 6-2 before a clever ball from George J played in Oscar R again who made it 6-3 with 2 minutes to play. Cleeve managed another goal just before the final whistle with the final score a 7-3 loss.

We would like to congratulate all the team who played with determination and a great team spirit, unfortunately it was not our day.

Year 9 Girls District Rounders

Congratulations to our Year 9 Girls Rounder's team who have been crowned District Champions. They played some fantastic matches and brought home another sporting accolade for the school.



Athletics @ Blackbridge Community & Sports Hub

Our students are currently competing in an Athletics event at Blackbridge Community & Sport Hub in Gloucester. Reports are we are doing well, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in abundance, good luck to all our competitors, a full report will appear in next week's newsletter.



Pasta!!!!

This week, our Year 10 students have thoroughly enjoyed making fresh pasta from scratch! Using just flour, eggs, and olive oil, they crafted beautiful dough before rolling and shaping it into lasagne sheets, tagliatelle, and spaghetti. From classic carbonara to filled ravioli and a firm favourite—spaghetti Bolognese - the results were fantastic. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, creativity, and skill on display.



Literacy Matters

Tutor Reading Programme:

This week we have more to share on the 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.

8J2 and Mrs Witts began the year by reading 'The Dog Runner' by Bren MacDibble. Set in a future Australia where the crops have failed and the residents of cities are starving to death, siblings Elle and Emery take the dangerous decision to seek out Emery's mother up-country. What follows is a tale of what desperate people will do to survive and the question becomes whether the children and their dog-sled team will survive the journey. The book makes you question what we all take for granted, and what you would do if the world seemed to be ending and one question that pre-occupied the group as they read was: can children and dogs all survive?

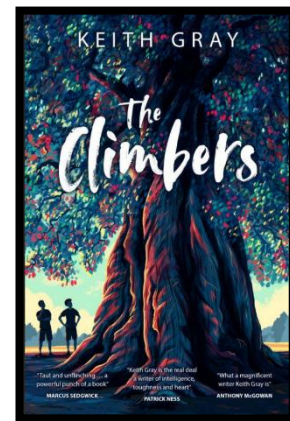
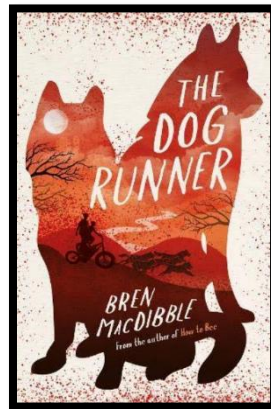
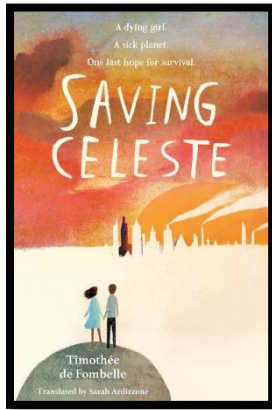


Staff Book Club:

After an interesting discussion of 'Welcome to Trashland' by Steve Cole and 'Journey Back to Freedom' by Catherine Johnson, the group has selected 'The Climbers' by Keith Gray and 'Saving Celeste' by Timothee de Fombelle.

We look forward to enjoying an equally open discussion about these.

Please do explore these books for yourself and let us know what you think of them!



D&T

Our Year 9 students have been demonstrating fantastic creativity and craftsmanship in their jewellery project this term. Students have designed and created an individual piece of jewellery, showcasing their personal ideas, style, and developing technical skills.



Good Luck

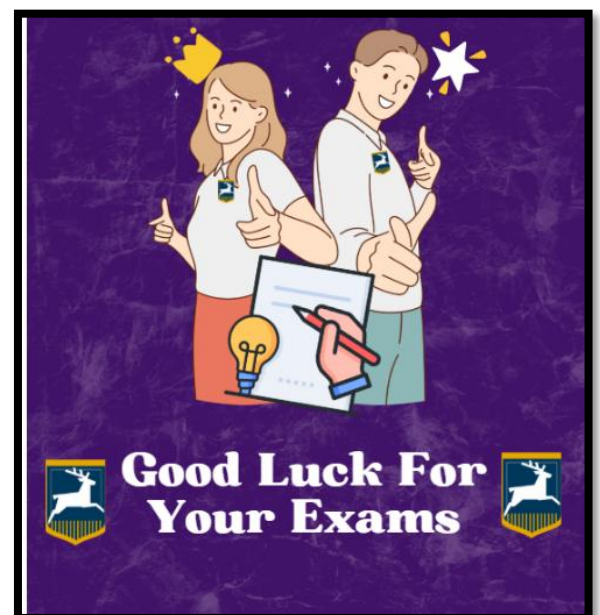
Our 6th Formers and Year 11 students are about to take their A Levels and GCSE's and we want to wish you all the very best of luck!

Over the past months, you have shown incredible determination, resilience, and hard work. You have all been working so hard and we are really impressed with your commitment. We can all see the effort you have put in, and you should be proud of everything you have already achieved.

As exams begin, remember to believe in yourselves and trust the preparation you have done.

Everyone in Dene Magna is behind you and cheering you on. Take each exam one step at a time, look after yourselves, and do your best.

Good luck to every student sitting exams this year — you've got this!



Year 11 & 13 Exam Important Info

Your exams will take place in the Sports Hall, unless you have access arrangements, then you will be in the Gym, unless told differently.

During your exams:

- ❖ You must not have your mobile phone/watch on or any internet enabled devices.
- ❖ You can take a water bottle into the exam room as long as it is clear and free of labels/logos.
- ❖ As soon as you walk into the exam room, you are under formal exam conditions, so no talking.
- ❖ Leave your bags, coats outside the exam room.
- ❖ You must stay until the end of each exam.
- ❖ You will be supervised by invigilators. They are the only people you can talk to in the exam room.

Stationary Allowed in the Exam Room:

- ❖ Black pens not Gel pens (at least 2)
- ❖ HP pencils (at least 2)
- ❖ Protractor
- ❖ Compass
- ❖ Eraser (wrapper removed)
- ❖ Pencil sharpener
- ❖ Ruler
- ❖ Highlighter pens
- ❖ Scientific Calculator (no lid)
- ❖ If using a pencil case it must be transparent.
- ❖ Water bottle (clear no labels)

What You Need To Do Whilst In The Exam:

- ❖ Make sure you sit at the correct desk (look at the seating plan)
- ❖ Check you have the correct exam paper in front of you. Do not write on it until told you can.
- ❖ Place your water bottle on the floor and place the correct equipment on your desk.
- ❖ Read the instructions on the front of the exam paper but do not open it until told you can.
- ❖ Put your hand up if you need to speak to an invigilator
- ❖ Check the time and keep an eye on how long you have left.

Seating Plans in the Sports Hall:

There will be a seating plan for every exam. You will sit in alphabetical order by surname, grouped by exam or by class, so for example:

In Science Biology, there will be 3 groups:

	B	A	C	K
COMBINED AND TRIPLE SCIENCE				
HIGHER		FOUNDATION		TRIPLE
Olive Yew				Augusta Wind
Constance Noring		Rod Knee		Paige Turner
Allie Grater		Saul Goodmate		Karen Onnabit
Liz End		Neil Down		Peg Legge
Rita Book		Hank R Chief		Teri Dactyl
F	R	O	N	T
Each square represents a seat and table.				

- ❖ Triple Higher
- ❖ Combined Science Higher
- ❖ Combined Science Foundation

A small name card will be on your desk, to help you identify where you will sit each time.

What Happens at the End of Each Exam?

- ❖ The invigilator will ask you to place all lined paper inside the exam booklet, so please make sure your name is on every additional sheet of paper.
- ❖ You cannot leave until all papers are handed in, so please be patient.
- ❖ You will be dismissed in silence a row at a time and asked to leave through the same door you entered.
- ❖ Exams finish at different times so please be mindful that others could still be working.
- ❖ You must not talk until you have left the room.

From our school website you can access all of the official exam board documents.



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:

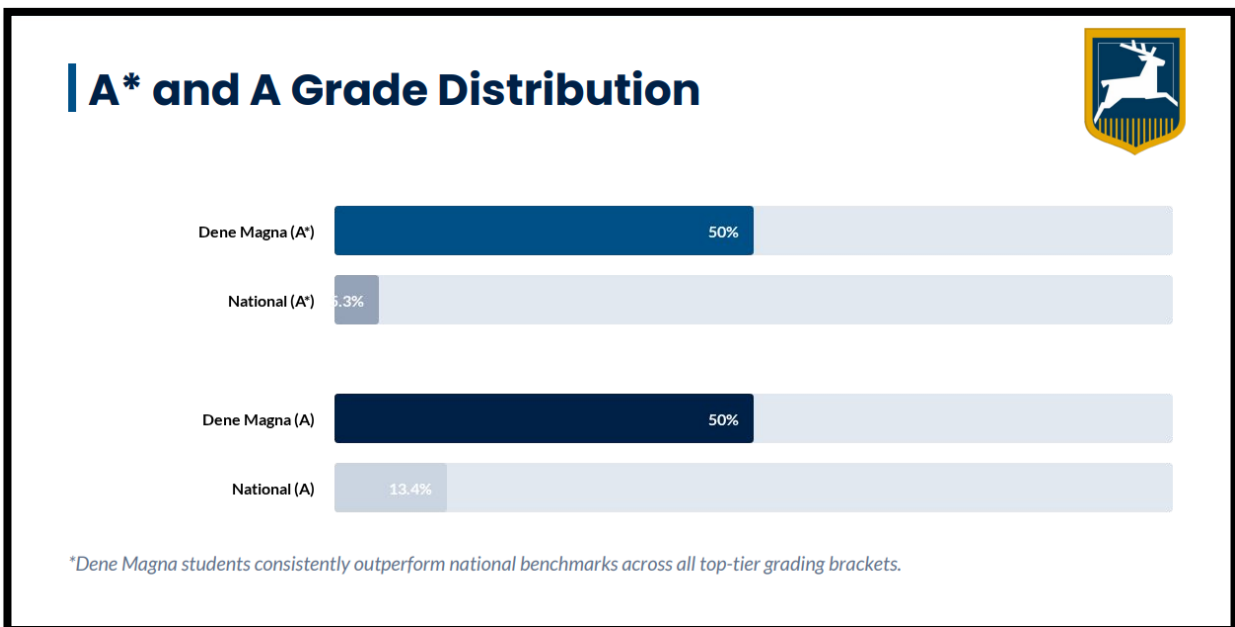
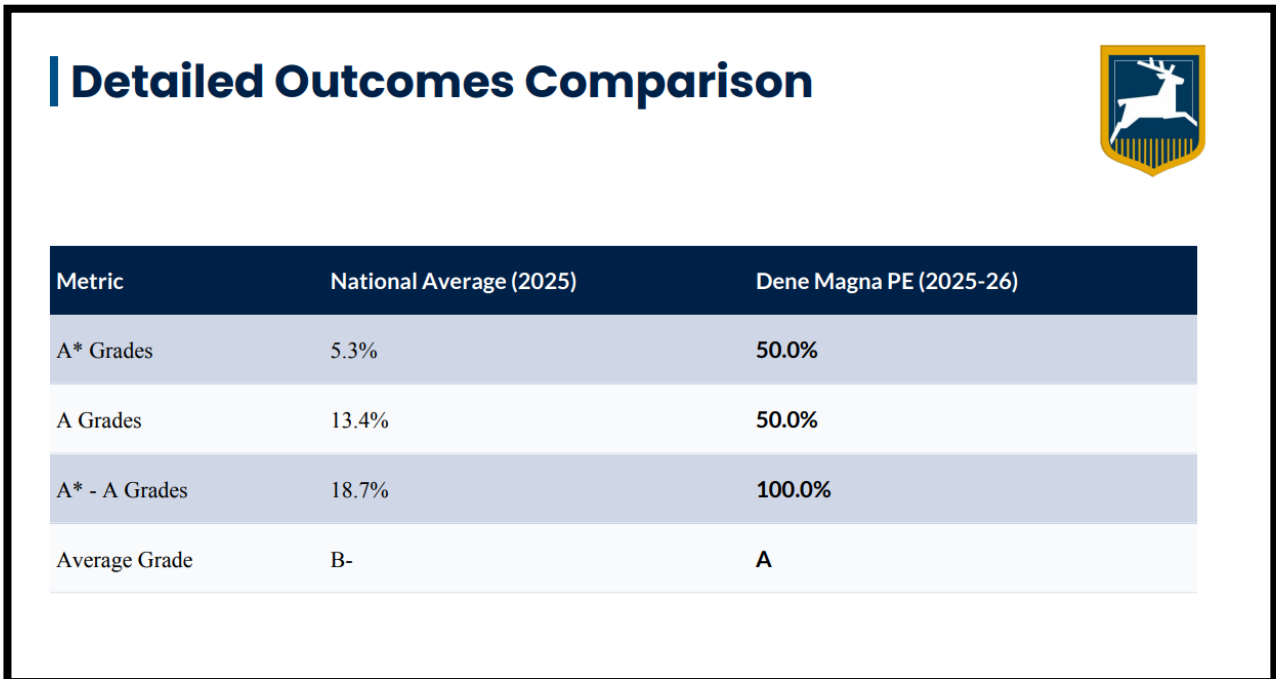
- The logos can be individual or grouped together.
- There must be a Dene Magna 'feel' to the designs.
- The logos should appeal across the school from Y7 to Y13.
- Preferably, avoid the use of the House logos and colours.
- Make use of a small range of colours.
- Think about how you can use objects, 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**.

Excel in PE after GCSE at Dene Magna 6th Form

Evaluating Dene Magna results against the National Average 2025:



Every student in the 2025-2026 cohort achieved an A or A* grade, demonstrating the effectiveness of our specialized teaching methods and student support systems.

Why Choose Dene Magna?

- ❖ Superior Results – grades significantly higher than the national average provide you with a competitive edge for university applications.
- ❖ Excellent Teaching – our PE department is renowned for its high standards and personalized instructional quality.

- ❖ Proven Standards – benefit from staff you already know and trust, who understand your potential and how to push you further.
- ❖ Strategic Exam Management – our unique course structure is designed to support student mental health and academic performance:
 - ❖ Year 12 – complete 2 exams early
 - ❖ Year 13 – zero exams scheduled (coursework)
 - ❖ Impact – dedicated time for coursework and other A-Level subjects.

Curriculum Breakdown

Year 12 Focus (Exams):

- ❖ Body Systems – in-depth study of physiological anatomy.
- ❖ Sports Organisation – development and governance in sport

Year 13 Focus (Coursework)

- ❖ Injuries & Rehab – prevention and recovery strategies
- ❖ Coaching & Leadership – mastering professional leadership roles
- ❖ Sporting Events – planning and leading live events.

Dene Magna provide the tools and results necessary to progress seamlessly to university or into your chosen professional career.

Dene Magna student's average UCAS point achievement for 2026 is 52 points

Any questions please contact Mr P Griffiths, Head of PE on p.griffiths@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk.

Year 7 & 10 Parents Evening

We held our Year 7 Parents evening on Thursday 30th April and our Year 10 Parents evening on Thursday 7th May. It was great to see so many families in attendance, the room was abuzz with positive supportive conversations.

We would like to share with you some feedback that we received:

'Mr Wynn has been an excellent tutor for Ellyn, any concerns have been dealt with quickly. Thank you for supporting Ellyn.'

Great start to secondary- thank you!

We cannot thank the school enough for the change in our daughter, her confidence has grown. She is happier than ever and wants to be at school.'

Thank You Dene Magna

Following on from our charity donations we have received thank you letters from the Royal British Legion, Cancer Research UK, Brody's Trust and Great Oaks Hospice.

'I am writing with an enormous thank you for Brodys Trust to Jenner House for their amazing donation of £1211.12 from their sponsored walk.'



Every penny raised will go to help children with additional needs.

We do have a large mock cheque that we use for Presentations if any of the pupils were available to have their photograph taken with it at the Hub.

Once again, many thanks

Lynn, Nikki and the Team at Brodys Trust'



Your School Needs You.

To try and reduce the cost of additional items for the ski trip, Italy 2027, Mr Griffiths is asking for donations of good quality second hand ski clothing. Any queries please email p.griffiths@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk.

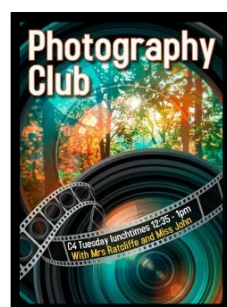
6th Form Festival Week

It's been Festival Week at the Sixth Form clothes swap, and the rail is filled with all sorts of colourful and crazy items which have been kindly donated - lots of students have already found something to brighten up their summer wardrobe!

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/>

Careers

Our Careers Department would like to share with you a free quarterly newsletter full of useful Labour Market Information (LMI), which gives expert tips on careers choices, the latest apprenticeship and job updates and exclusive insights from industry experts. Please go to "getmyfirstjob.co.uk"

First Job
Parents' Evening:
The Newsletter That Helps You Support Your Child's Future

Worried about exams?
 Confused about career options?
 Wondering what comes next?

We've got your back.

Get free, quarterly updates full of expert advice, tips, and guidance to help your child make confident decisions about their future.

- Exam stress & study tips
- Uni vs apprenticeship advice
- Application & interview help
- Soft skills made simple
- SEND support for parents
- Real success stories
- Live job opportunities

Sign Up Today!

Get practical, no-nonsense advice straight to your inbox – plus your free guide: "10 Tips to Help Your Child Find Their Career Path"

getmyfirstjob.co.uk

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

Photographer

Former student Tyler Willis (formerly Evans) has started her own photography business in January this year and is looking for any chance to extend her portfolio!

Please contact her on "WhatsApp" on 07473555891 or via Facebook @tvphotographs or Instagram @tvphotograph5

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**.

University of Gloucestershire

Are holding Open Days on Saturday 13 June, Saturday 17 October and Saturday 22 November.



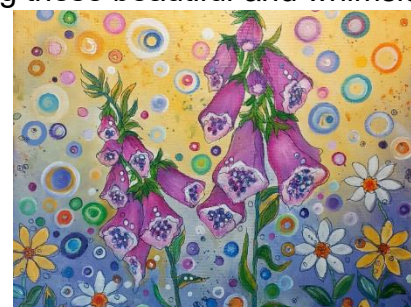
Creative Courses at Artspace

Join Artspace for a Beautiful Foxglove Paint Along with Yvonne Featherstone on Saturday 23rd May, 10:30am – 4:30pm at Artspace Cinderford. **Cost: £60/ *£45 concessions including materials**

Come and join us in this paint along session where we'll be creating these beautiful and whimsical Foxgloves.

Using acrylic paints and ink pens, we will take you through a step-by-step lesson to help you produce your very own A3 masterpiece which is yours to take home at the end of the day.

All materials are provided. You just need to bring yourself, a smile and lots of enthusiasm.



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

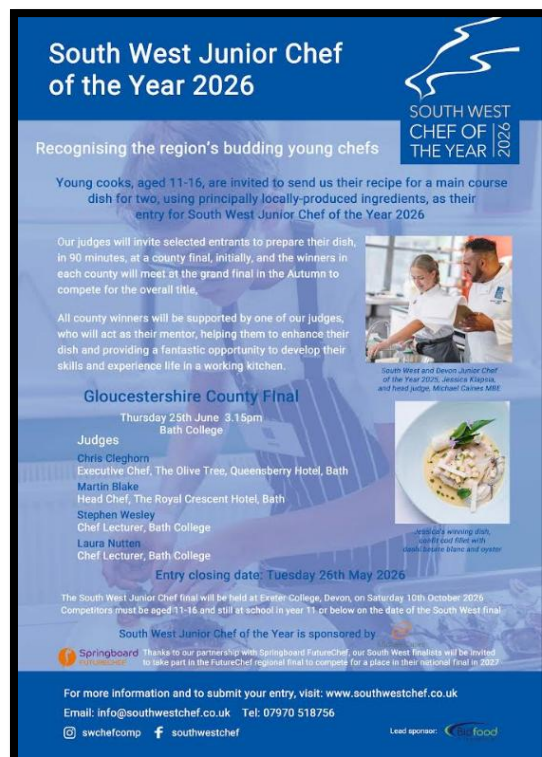
The Gloucestershire county final will be held on Thursday 25th June at Bath College at 3.15pm, when competitors will be given 90 minutes to prepare two portions of their dish.

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 Clegghorn
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
@swchefcomp f southwestchef

Lead sponsor:  The Food

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.

Vacancies At Dene Magna

We are seeking a new Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead to support the Designated Safeguarding Lead in all areas of safeguarding and child protection across the school. This is a fantastic opportunity for the right candidate to join Dene Magna and the Forest of Dean Trust community.

Please see our website for further information: <https://zurl.co/JrRlq>



Dene Magna School

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD REQUIRED

Pay: Points 26-30 (£37,280-£40,724, pay rise pending)
Hours: term time only, FTE 0.87
Starting 1st September 2026

TRAINING TECHNOLOGY

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

Have a restful weekend.

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary:

12th May – Year 9 TDP/Men ACWY Vaccinations
13th May – Yr 10 Boys Basketball @ University of Gloucester
13th May – Yr 8 Girls District Rounders @ Dene Magna
13th May – U14 Girls Rugby Tournament @ Cotswold School
14th May – 4th instalment of £200.00 for the Berlin Trip
20th May – Yr 7 Girls District Rounders @ Dean Academy
20th May – Yr 7, 8 & 9/10 Girls Rugby @ Churchdown School
22nd May – End of Term
1st June – Start of New Term