



Dene Magnifier



Clear views of school news....

News from the Headteacher

Points of Interest:

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As ever, I am delighted to welcome you to this edition of the Dene Magnifier. I am sure that like me, you will be blown away with everything that is going on at Dene Magna this term.

It allows us to celebrate the excellent results achieved by our Y11s in their GCSEs and also the opening of our Sixth Form. These were both outcomes that were worked hard for, for Dene Magna students and the

Forest of Dean.

The mix of charity events, sporting achievements, subject specific initiatives and the vital information on contact details for support are all inside.

Well done to everyone who gets a mention this time and we look forward to sharing the next edition.



Mr Stephen Brady
Headteacher

Gloucestershire County U14 Team



Well done to Olivia Bennett from 9F1. Olivia was selected recently to attend football trials for the Gloucestershire County Under 14's Team.

Olivia was the only girl that attended from Dene Magna and was successful! In fact, she is the only girl from the Forest of Dean who has made it into the squad!

So far she has played 2 games for the County Team, but we look forward to hearing more about each game played.

This is Olivia in her match kit and her presentation uniform.

Dene Magna, and especially the PE Department, are extremely proud of you!

GCSE Results 2019

Huge congratulations to each and every Y11 student who sat their GCSEs at Dene Magna last term. They worked so hard and have achieved outcomes that they can be so proud of, setting themselves well for the next stage of their learning journey.

GCSE results for 2019 are our strongest ever. There are two themes going on here: consistency over time and continual improvement. This is our headline measure:

Students achieving Grade 4+ in both English and Maths: 73%

Students achieving Grade 5+ in both English and Maths: 44%

Our Progress 8 is currently 0.18, however this does not include nearly 40 regraded results.

There were some superb departmental results. The bedrock of this is a strong performance from the core subjects:

English 82% Grade 4+

Maths 79% Grade 4+

Science 76% Grade 4+.

In addition to this, showing our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum, 11 subjects achieved greater than 80% Grade 4 and above. These outstanding results were across the Arts, Technology, Languages, PE and Humanities.

There are many highlights and superb individual outcomes, at all levels of attainment. We are particularly pleased to see the gap in performance for our disadvantaged students continue to diminish and that our Progress 8 score for our Pupil Premium students was this year 0.00, an amazing achievement.

Tycoon in Schools

Business Studies students are currently taking part in a national competition that is sponsored by none other than Dragon's Den Entrepreneur, Peter Jones CBE. The Peter Jones Foundation, sponsors students to start their own enterprise through the 'Tycoon in Schools' programme. The students from Year 10 and 12 have come up with their own business enterprise and have applied for the grant (start-up capital) from Tycoon to pay for raw materials to get their business underway. Y10s will be sponsored up to a £1,000 and Y12 up to £2,000. Students are hoping to show off their business ideas in school soon.



With the new grading system in place, we are delighted that 49 grade 9s have been awarded, including some students who achieved a number of grade 9s. 276 Grade 7+ were awarded to students and 24 students achieved 5 or more grade 7+. 79 students achieved at least one grade 7+ and all of these are continued improvements on last year.

Below are some highlights from the last two years, demonstrating those twin themes of consistency and continued improvement (the bracketed figure refers to 2018):

15% (15%) students achieved 5+ Grade 7 or above

48% (46%) students achieved at least 1 Grade 7+

49% (51%) students achieved 5+ Grade 5+

79% (72%) students achieved 5+ Grade 4+

53% (53%) grades were 5+

76% (75%) grades were 4+

The average grade for every result was 4.7 (4.7).

Headteacher Steve Brady said 'we are delighted for the students, staff and parents/carers who have worked so hard to ensure that our students are set to take their next steps into adult life. We are a truly comprehensive school and this was a real team effort and shows the strength of the community and curriculum at Dene Magna. We are particularly excited about welcoming the students to our new sixth form in September and congratulate everyone in their role in this success against the backdrop of these new, tougher GCSEs'.

Well done to all!



DENE MAGNA SIXTH FORM



OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 13 November 2019,

5pm—8pm

Forest of Dean Campus,

Cinderford GL14 3FF

01594 838549



**HIGH QUALITY A LEVELS IN THE
HEART OF THE FOREST OF DEAN**

www.denemagnasixth.org.uk

We finally opened the door to our first Dene Magna Sixth Form students this term - a momentous event as it marks the transformation of Dene Magna School into an 11-18 educational provider. Our inaugural Year 12 are studying a range of subjects, from Physics to French, Chemistry to Computing and plenty more, and lessons are well underway.

Student feedback includes comments such as “Everyone has been so friendly”, and “It’s really chilled here and I like feeling so much more grown-up.” The teaching staff have been equally positive “such lovely students” and “I really enjoyed that”, being the common refrain in the staff workroom. So, it’s fair to say that things are off to an excellent start!

Students have begun their Enrichment programmes and are following courses in Italian, Japanese; they are debating or they are continuing with PE.

Part of our ethos is that the Sixth Form plays a vital role in the wider community and with that in mind, students have been heading out to provide support in local schools. Many opted to return to their feeder secondary schools, while others headed back to their former primary schools. They will be offering support to class teachers with reading, writing and maths skills. Some are also hoping to assist within their subject areas: supporting in Science, Art and Music.

Students have already been elected to leadership roles and they have been out and about making a real difference.

It’s been great to see how well the students have settled into life with both studying and socialising at the Sixth Form. Particularly inspiring has been the focused and positive attitude to lessons, with everyone prepared and willing to participate and integrate.



Stronger Together

Aspire, Achieve Together

Perseverance

Nil Satis Nisi Optimum

Duke of Edinburgh—2nd Expedition

We would like to congratulate the students who completed the 2nd Duke of Edinburgh Expedition (part of the Bronze Award) on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 July 2019. Just like the first expedition, we started this extra challenging Bronze Award by taking pictures at Symonds Yat.



Alan Beard and Esther Fransham, our DofE leaders, had guided them to this point, but now was the time for the students to start their unguided paths alone, within their 4 teams.

The 4 teams gave themselves the team names of 'The Hippos', 'Red Hot Chilli Steppers', 'Titanic Swim Team' and 'Searching for Steve Backshall'! Then the students started along their planned routes using their map and teamwork skills, completing their challenge 2 days later!

They all needed to stay focused and motivated, while still having fun and remaining positive as they completed this expedition. All 4 teams were superb and were so committed to complete each task.

Like all trips they had a few issues and challenges along the way. These ranged from poor footpaths, getting a little lost, working together and sorting out their tents, but working together they overcame

them all and triumphed over every obstacle that presented itself.



After a very long and taxing first day, they eventually arrived at their base for the night, the Viney Hill Adventure Centre, and were soon cooking their food on the campfire which was followed by a night under canvas.



On the second day, having packed up their tents and bedding, they then had to find their way down to the River Severn and then return to Viney Hill Church where they had time to rest their feet as they underwent their DofE debriefing session to complete and sign off their expedition.

The students should all be very proud of their achievements, and will now, hopefully, go on to bigger DofE challenges.

All students will fully complete their Bronze Award during November.

As always the students were remarkable and were a true asset to Dene Magna and to themselves.

Mr Beard would like to pass on huge thanks to Esther Fransham, Rob Kebble, Mrs Ray and Mrs Pope for supporting the teams on the expedition along with Mrs Dews who supported the training before the walk.



Prom

On Friday 12 July 2019, 160 staff and students celebrated the end of year 11 with a Prom at The Chase Hotel. As always the outfits were spectacular, the behaviour exemplary and the evening an unqualified success. Sadly it was the last night of the Proms at The Chase, but we are excited to be holding the 2020 Prom at The Hillside Brewery on Friday 10 July 2020.

Thanks to Phil Didcote and Dreamscape photography for the photos.



World Skills Show

An opportunity has arisen for 50 Key Stage 4 students to attend the World Skills Show at the NEC on Friday 22 November. Interested students should collect a letter from Mrs Mellor in the Careers Office. In the event that more students wish to go than we have places, names will be drawn by ballot. More information can be sought from <https://worldskillsuk.org>

Thanks from the Foodbank

We were delighted to receive a letter of thanks from The Forest Foodbank acknowledging and thanking everyone at the school for their very kind donation of £122.

This money will go towards replenishing the stocks in their warehouse.



Did you know that it takes roughly 2.5 tonnes of food a month to keep the food bank running? This is why every donation, no matter the size or content, is greatly appreciated.

World Championships

Well done to Zoe Morley (10J1) who has been selected to compete at the Cheerleading Summit World Championships in Orlando, Florida next year.

Zoe was selected as one of just 20 out of over 150 athletes to take part in the team.

Good luck Zoe; we are looking forward to hearing all about the competition.



Thanks from the NSPCC

We were also delighted to receive a letter of thanks from the NSPCC thanking you all for raising an amazing £244.68 to help their very worthy cause. Well done everyone.

NSPCC

"Everything we do protects children today and prevents abuse tomorrow, to transform society for every childhood."

Trailblazers

We are delighted that our school has been given the opportunity to take part in a new, national programme to help make mental health support for children and young people more available when they need it.

We are one of 72 schools from Cheltenham, Gloucester and the Forest of Dean to work with the NHS in Gloucestershire to introduce mental health support teams into schools.

We hope that these teams will provide valuable support to our students to help them with life's ups and downs, for example, with issues such as anxiety, friendship concerns, exam stress and challenging behaviour. This may involve group work and/or individual, one-to-one support, either at school or elsewhere. Where appropriate, the mental health support team will also link up with the specialist mental health services in Gloucestershire.

They will also support parents/carers and teachers to help children and young people who are experiencing difficulties.

If you have any questions about this scheme please contact Miss Beale or Mrs Evenson.



Mental Health Champions

As a result of our success around the healthy schools award we are now seeking to start work to gain the Mental Health Champions Award.

If you are a student interested in getting involved in this work then please see Mrs Evenson or Miss Beale.



Anti-Bullying Student Council

We have received a great turn out for the anti-bullying student council meetings so far this year, and plans for Anti-bullying week (11-15 November 2019) are well underway. If you would like to get involved in this work please join us on Wednesday Week A at lunchtime in E1 (12.55-1.15pm).



Healthy Schools

It is with great pleasure to announce that we were awarded 'Healthy Schools' status in July. This work encompasses things that takes place across the school and acknowledges a range of areas from our extra-curricular opportunities that we have on offer, to the food served in the canteen, to the work going on in PSHE. It really is a collective whole school effort and we would like to congratulate everyone for the part they have played in securing this prestigious award for our school.



Maths Success

This term Mr Reid has been working in conjunction with the Art Department to organise a Y8 Art competition to design a "Celebrating Progress in Mathematics" postcard (thanks Ms John for running this on behalf of the Maths Team).

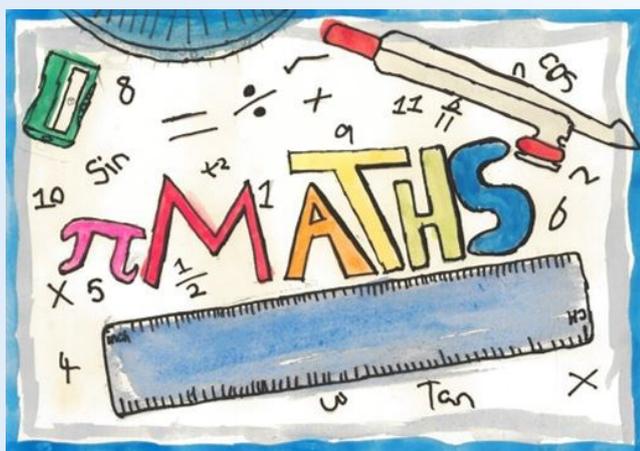
All of the teachers in the department viewed and discussed the entries, which were of an exceptionally high standard. Together we selected a winner and the design was put into print, thanks to the talents of Mr Jones in personalising the design to Dene Magna.

The first "success cards" hot off the press have been awarded to students, hopefully parents/carers have seen these come home. These cards are not easy to achieve, the purpose of them is to reward "above expected performance" in mathematics so students have to have done something that goes above and beyond in order to earn one. For example, students in my class were awarded a postcard for three consecutive homeworks in which they achieved 100%. Very well done if you have already received one from your maths teacher.

There is one little flaw in the plan... we don't know who the winner is! Quite a lot of students didn't put their name on the back of their artwork so if you can claim the design below, please let your maths teacher know, there's a lovely prize waiting for you.

Thank you to everyone who entered; we were very impressed with the standard of entries and merits will be awarded to contribute to the House Competition.

Mrs Turner
Head of Mathematics



UK Senior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 7 November, twenty A-Level mathematics students from Dene Magna's Sixth Form will pit themselves against the best A-Level mathematicians from across the UK!

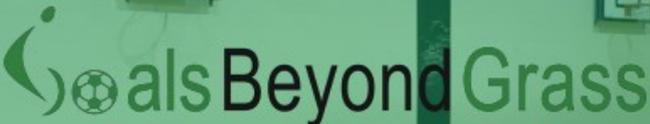
The Senior Maths Challenge is a 90-minute competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems designed to make students think.

To recognise the highest performers in this country-wide maths challenge, students in the top-scoring 60% of participants can achieve a bronze, silver or gold certificate.

In addition, around 1,000 of the very highest performers are invited to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad and around 6,000 to take part in the Senior Kangaroo competition.

Good luck Maths A-Level Sixth Formers - we're all behind you!

Mrs Turner, Head of Mathematics



Goals Beyond Grass
Experience Powerchair Football



Dene Magna
Powerchair Football Sessions

Starts from **16**
September

£3.00 per Session

Active Gloucestershire

Discover Powerchair Football

Monday Evenings
17:00 to 18:00

Contact Alan or Kieran for more info
kieran@goalsbeyondgrass.co.uk
a.beard@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk

Dene Magna School
Mitcheldean
GL17 0DU

Powerchair Football

Fancy trying out for Powerchair Football? Do you think you could score a goal or two from a powerchair—it's not as easy as you think!

Come along to the Dene Magna Sports Hall on Mondays (5.00pm-6.00pm). These sessions are coached Kieran from Goals Beyond Grass.

£3.00 per session

Open to **any** student & the anyone in the wider community.

Just turn up and play...

Careers Advice

We employ an independent careers company to interview our students in order to help them chose a pathway post 16. Should you not wish your son/daughter to have a careers' interview during his/her school life please would you let Mrs Mellor know.

Macmillan Cake Sale

Friday 4 October saw the annual Macmillan sale take place with our lovely Y7s bringing in a variety of delicious homemade and shop bought cakes to sell to staff and the other year groups.

Before the cakes went on sale at break time, the competition for the best decorated cake was undertaken by Mr Brady, the competition was fierce, but he eventually selected the winners as:

Joint First place - Lauren Kear/Nicole Kavanagh and Aurora Evans (both from 7W1)

2nd Place - Abigail Jones (7W2)

3rd Place - Olivia Dunton (7W2)

Well done Wilson—you ran away with it!!

An amazing £431.67 was raised in total with the break down by each House being:

Dowty—£127.95 Foley—£77

Wilson—£151.32 Jenner—£75.40

Well done to everyone who brought cakes in or just bought one to eat!

Joint first place



Second place



Third place



Magna Mighty Hikers—Update

You may remember reading about a gang of crazy ladies who were planning and preparing to hike 26 miles along the Wye Valley to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Well, we did it, we survived and we smashed our fundraising target!!!

On a warm, dry, Saturday morning, back in September, the Magna Mighty Hikers set out bright and early from Chepstow Racecourse. We were enthusiastic, almost joyful, as we strode off on our mighty hike over an undulating, meandering, 26 mile route bound for Monmouth Showground. With the promise of a medal, a glass of champagne and the sponsorship of our supporters, we were ready!

To say the route was challenging would be an understatement, and to say the spirits remained high throughout would be a mis-truth, but the MMHikers traipsed courageously on all day. We were exceptionally supported by Macmillan, with more food and drink than we could possibly consume, or carry, although we tried, and the weather was kinder to us that we could have ever hoped for.

We started this Mighty Magna mission as 18 ladies, sadly, 3 walkers had to step out before we started and painfully, we lost 1 through injury on the day, however, the remaining 14 Magna Mighty Hikers all crossed the finish line and collected their medal - tired and tearful but triumphant!

Thanks to our amazing supporters, we have to date raised over £5,800 and we are quite overwhelmed ... every little helps though and so, if you would like to support us our Just Giving fundraising page can still be found at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/magna-mighty-hikers-team>

Thank you for reading and hopefully supporting us ... who knows, maybe we will be back to bother you again for sponsorship again next year!

The Magna Mighty Hikers



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Perseverance

Nil Satis Nisi Optimum

European Week of Languages

We'd like to start off by saying a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the European Week of Languages, we had a massive turn out, so thank you so much to everyone who supported the Languages Department and the Languages Ambassadors.

European Day of Languages is a day in which the languages spoken in Europe are celebrated, however, at Dene Magna we extend this celebration over a week, with activities in every single break and lunchtime.

This year our week of languages began on Monday 23 September where we started with an assembly promoting the week to Y7. They won lots of prizes and learnt about different languages and cultures. On the Monday break we kicked off the activities with a Welsh taster

session with Miss Thomas. Some of the activities included watching Spanish and French films with popcorn, a photo booth with French and Spanish themed props as well as karaoke with Miss Fairs. To encourage students to come along, we had a reward card system. After each session that was attended, each student would get a stamp on their card. When the card was full, they won a prize and were entered into the prize draw. This year's winner was Codi Reed who won a subscription to a languages magazine for a year.

During the Open Evening this year we had the pleasure of the MFL choir singing to entertain our visitors and we would like to thank them for all their hard work. We would also like to thank the Language Ambassa-



dors for running the event in their own free time and for coming up with some fantastic ideas for the week!

If you'd like to see some pictures and videos of what we got up to then you can go to the Dene Magna Languages Facebook page or the Languages pages of the school website!

A Midsummer Night's Dream

On Thursday 3 October, 48 of our new Year 7 cohort travelled to The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to see 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' ahead of their Shakespeare study after the October half term. It was an excellent performance and really brought the play to life.

A massive well done to all those who attended as we had a number of compliments from members of the public on their attitude and behaviour throughout the trip!



FoD Baby Bank

We are pleased to announce that Dene Magna, along with several other Forest Schools and organisations, are now a referral agency for the Forest of Dean Baby Bank. The Baby Bank helps families in the Forest of Dean by providing emergency supplies of baby milk, food, nappies and other items of equipment.

If you, or someone you know, needs their support, please feel free to approach Pete Adams at Dene Magna School for a referral.

For more information, including drop off points for donations, please follow them on:

Facebook—@fodbabybank
email them at: yourbabyfood@outlook.com or call them on 07468573176



Battle of the Books: Dystopia

On Wednesday 9 October the Cheltenham Literature Festival held its third Schools' Book Debate. This year's theme being Dystopia to celebrate 70 years of the Festival, and 70 years since George Orwell's 1984 was published. Over 20 Gloucestershire Secondary Schools applied to take part and we were delighted to be selected to be one of the seven schools in the Debate.

Since April this year, a group of our students from across the year groups, have been reading dystopian novels. Then concentrating on the seven selected for the 'Battle of the Books', especially the one we were to champion, 'Slated' by Teri Terry. This has involved meetings during Friday lunchtimes, as well as after school on Tuesdays this term, to prepare their presentation and arguments for why our book is the most relevant dystopian novel for today.

We took a full coach load to the Festival. All the students who had been involved in the Reading Group, plus a number of Year 7 students who had special invites to join us, to support the student who was to represent us on the panel, Jacob Atkinson from Year 9.

It had been quite challenging for the group to prepare a presentation of only one minute to cover an overview of the story plus reasons why they considered it the most relevant dystopia for today. However, Jacob did an excellent job, and particularly in answering some tough questions from the audience and judges.

This schools' competition is only in its third year, but the standard of the contestants has increased tremendously and Jacob faced very strong opposition to get through to the final three, which he did, but unfortunately losing out to Rick Yancey's 'Fifth Wave'.

Well done Jacob, we are all very proud of you!

After the debate, students had a break before listening to the author, William Sutcliffe, being interviewed about writing his dystopian novel 'We See Everything', and his recent humorous novel, 'The Gifted,

the Talented and Me.' Students had so many questions for William, it was a shame there just wasn't more time for him to answer them all. However, many took the opportunity to visit him in the bookshop afterwards and got their books signed.

Feedback from the students has included:

'The debate was intriguing'

'I loved the debate'

'It was a brilliant day, I loved listening to the authors, and I got a book signed'

'The author's talk was really interesting, especially to hear that what we think of as dystopia is actually happening in other countries'

'I loved it all!'; 'Fantastic!'

'Exciting and inspiring!'

'An amazing experience.'



Clubs being run 2019–2020

Languages

Thursday break: French breakfast and ILT Club in L1.

Wednesday (Week A): Spanish Netflix in L4.

Wednesday (Week B): French Netflix in L4.



Flight Simulator Club

Come along to T4 and learn how to make your own Flight Simulator!

Thursday lunchtimes.



MAT Design and Technology Club

MAT Design and Technology Club runs on a **Tuesday lunchtime**. Please bring your lunch along to T2 and work on your own projects.

Full range of facilities available including laser cutter, CNC embroidery machine and sub printer.



Art Club

The Art department is open **every lunchtime** for **KS4** Art students – come along and continue working on that GCSE masterpiece!

KS3 Art Club – **Monday lunchtime**.



Boccia Club

Thursday lunchtime in the Drama Room. Only open for SEND invitation group.

Speak to Miss Watkins or Mr Beard about joining or for more details.



Writing Club

Thursday lunchtime in the E6.

If you enjoy writing short stories and poems. If you want to improve your writing skills or be creative then this is the club for you!



Debate Club

(Y8, 9, 10 and 11)

Come and deliberate over the latest topics and issues in H1 with Miss Adams.

Monday lunchtime.

If you are interested in joining please see Miss Adams.



Well-being Ambassadors

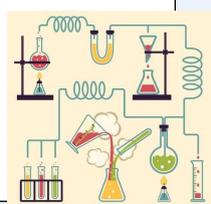
A support/discussion group run by Y11 students in RAIS.

Thursday lunchtime.

Salters Chemistry Club

Do you like chemistry? Well come along to **S3** on a **Tuesday lunchtime** and join Mr Bentley in some chemical fun!

Open to Y7 & 8 only.



Music Clubs

Jazz Band.

Monday, lunchtime.

SWAD (Singing with a Difference). **Wednesday, lunchtime.**

Come over to C2 and sing your heart out!



Kitchen Garden/Eco Club

Come over to **T1 Tuesday lunchtimes** and help tend the young plants, the produce of which will eventually be picked and used in food tech. Find out what you can do to make our school more environmentally friendly.



Chess Club

Have fun whilst improving your memory, problem solving and tactical abilities by joining our Chess Club. Just come along to

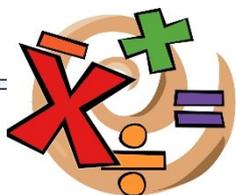
M2 on **Friday lunchtime**.



Clubs being run 2019–2020

Stuck with Maths ILT?

Go to M7 in **Tutor time on Monday and Wednesday**. Mrs McCarthy is there waiting to help you get "unstuck". Take your ILT with you or use a Chrome-book from M7 if the ILT was set online.



Number Buddy Club

Lead Buddy - Are you a supportive Year 9 or Year 10 willing to Buddy-up with another student?

Learning Buddy – Need a fellow student to help show you the way in maths?

Join "Number Buddy Club"

Thursday lunchtime in M7

Please see your teacher for more details.

Geography in the News Club

Would you like to work for a newspaper?

- Do you have aspirations of working as a journalist?
- Do you enjoy learning about the world and what is happening around us?
- Do you have a creative mind and enjoy drawing?
- Do you enjoy researching?



We need enthusiastic students to create and maintain a display in the Geography department about Geography in the News. Whatever your skill there is a place for you in this exciting new club.

Friday lunchtime in H2.

Reading Buddy Club

Are you a supportive Year 9 or Year 10 student willing to Buddy-up with a Y7 student to help them read.



For more details please see Mr Towler.

Psychology Club

Are you a psychopath? Come along and find out!!!

If you are interested in both human and animal behaviour then this is the club for you!

Thursday lunchtime in S6



Harry Potter Club

Thursday lunchtime – Week B only, M3

Come along and be sorted into an appropriate Hogwarts House and then build up your House points by continued attendance!

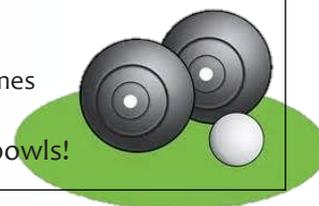
Once sorted, you will then get the opportunity to take part in activities including quizzes, games, trivia and crafts.



Carpet Bowls Club (Y7)

Friday lunchtime in the MUGA.

Come along to the multi-use games area and have relaxing, but competitive game of carpet bowls!



Drama Club

Y8 LAMDA Club (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art)

Selected students by invitation only. If you would like to be considered for this club, please see Mr Wynn.



Computing Club & Lego League

Limited spaces available, so if you are interested in either of these clubs make sure you sign up quickly. Please see Mr Bridgewater in ICT1 for more information.



KS3 Computing Club

Come along to ICT1 and learn computer programming and then design your own games. **Tuesday lunchtimes.**

KS3 Lego League

Come and build Lego robots to complete challenges. The School Team will be selected to compete in the Lego League Tournament! **Thursday lunchtimes in ICT1.**



PE Lunchtime Clubs—Autumn 2019

| DAY | | Y7 | Y8 | Y9 | Y10 | Y11 |
|-----------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| MONDAY | Boys | | Basketball | Basketball | | |
| | Girls | Girls Hockey | Girls Hockey | Girls Hockey | | |
| TUESDAY | Boys | | | Rugby | Basketball | Basketball |
| | Girls | | | | Netball | Netball |
| WEDNESDAY | Boys | Basketball | Rugby | | | |
| | Girls | | Netball | Netball | | |
| THURSDAY | Boys | Rugby | | | | |
| | Girls | Netball | Basketball | Basketball | | |
| FRIDAY | Boys | | | | Rugby | Rugby |
| | Girls | Rugby | Rugby | Rugby | Basketball | Basketball |

FDMA News & Forthcoming Events

FDMA are delighted to announce that our first Quiz Night of the school year, was held in September, was hosted by the new Sixth Form and the FDMA Team, and was a great success. The quiz raised an amazing £500! Money raised from these events will be used by school departments; to enrich and enhance the school experience of students. The Sixth Form will be receiving funding from this event.

Everyone at the quiz had a great evening, and as always, a great quiz was written and presented by Nicola Hacker. Thank you to everyone involved, from those serving refreshments to those competing in the quiz. We hope to see you at the next quiz on Friday 15 November.

Quiz nights are open to anyone over 16 years old, and we would love to see parents/carers, friends, and local residents enjoying a well hosted evening.

FDMA forthcoming events to watch out for are:

15 November, 7pm (Quiz Night) held in the school hall.

3 February, 5pm (meeting) please contact the FDMA Chairman if you are interested in attending.

28 February, 7pm (Bingo Night) held in the school hall.

If you fancy a great night out come along to one of our events. For all details of these events and to keep up to date with FDMA fundraising please like and follow the Facebook page "Friends of Dene Magna Association".

We are always in need of raffle prizes for the events we hold. If you have anything you could donate, please think of us and hand any items into reception. Thankyou in advance.

If you are interested in coming along to any of the FDMA events, or would like to get involved then please contact the FDMA Secretary on her email:

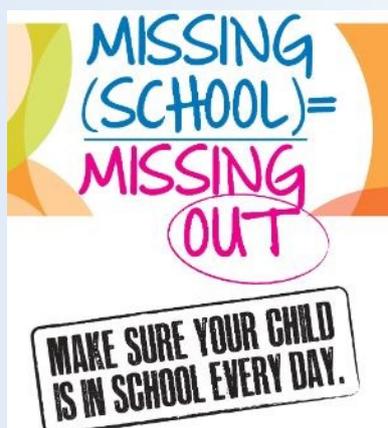
fdma@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk

Attendance Update

Attendance is a key factor in making progress and therefore we strive for 100%. We congratulate all the students that have achieved the 100% to date, a wonderful achievement. The current picture with the tutor groups is shown below, the figures are up to Friday 18 October 2019. We would be delighted to see so many more tutor groups achieve above 97% over the coming months.

Well done to Foley House who continue to lead overall.

| Top tutor groups: Year To Date. | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 7F1 | 98.47% |
| 8W1 | 98.14% |
| 7D1 | 98.1% |
| 7W2 | 97.67% |
| 11D2 | 97.64% |
| Top Tutor groups for week 7: | |
| 8D1 | 100% |
| 9W1 | 99.62% |
| 8W1 | 99.23% |
| 7W2 | 99.18% |
| 7J1 | 98.51% |



| WEEK 7 | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Year to Date | Weekly |
| Whole School | 96.3% | 96.1% |
| | | |
| Year 7 | 97.6% | 96.95% |
| Year 8 | 95.7% | 96.94% |
| Year 9 | 95.1% | 95.26% |
| Year 10 | 95.9% | 95.16% |
| Year 11 | 95.7% | 95.03% |
| Year 12 | 97.8% | 97.59% |
| | | |
| FOLEY | 96.67% | 96.70% |
| WILSON | 96.60% | 96.29% |
| DOWTY | 96.36% | 95.54% |
| JENNER | 96.16% | 94.91% |

Community Programme/Venue Hire

Fancy learning a new skill, attending an evening class or workshop?

Why not start your year in style and join an evening class here at Dene Magna. We have various courses running from Computing to Zumba. If joining a class doesn't appeal, you could always just come along to the Gym and start your keep fit regime.

The Programme is available to download from our website or just pop into reception and ask for the latest edition.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Are you looking to hire a room or sporting venue? Dene Magna can help! Please contact Mr Peter Adams on 01594 545318 or send an email to p.adams@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk to check availability.

Student of the Month

Well done to the following students who were selected to be "Student of the Month" this term.

The focus for **September** was for:

Who has made the best start to the new academic year



| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 7D1 | Jack Bishop |
| 7D2 | Alice Vale |
| 8D1 | Hayley-Jade Knight |
| 9D1 | Ryan Edwards |
| 9D2 | Grace Morgan |
| 10D1 | Lewis Streeton |
| 11D1 | William King |
| 11D2 | Holly Roy |



| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 7F1 | Molly Savidge |
| 8F1 | Jasmine Edginton |
| 8F2 | Ruby Clark |
| 9F1 | Chelsea Burns |
| 10F1 | Izzy Norris |
| 10F2 | Niamh Freeman-Price |
| 11F1 | Jai-Leigh Turner |



| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 7J1 | Josie Brain |
| 8J1 | Shayla Jones |
| 8J2 | Warren Betteridge |
| 9J1 | Freya Warwick |
| 10J | Jaymie Humphries |
| 10J | Charlotte Tuck |
| 11J | Reuben Jones |



| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 7W1 | Bo Collins |
| 7W2 | Abi Jones |
| 8W1 | Leah Walding |
| 9W1 | Izobelle Jones |
| 9W2 | Deacon Shearer |
| 10W1 | Ruby Jayne |
| 11W1 | Louis Green |
| 11W2 | Jamie-Leigh Roberts |

Student Voice

News from our Head Boy & Girl
Maisy Harvey and Cobi Gaston

What a great start to the year.

So far, we've held our Open Day which went extremely well and we hope that all of our students, prospective students and parents/carers enjoyed themselves. Having discovered a good idea of what this school is about we hope to see some of those students joining us at Dene Magna next year.

For Y7 there has been a trip to the Everyman Theatre (a Shakespearean Theatre) which we've been told was a big hit and the Y7s thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We have also had a few parent/carer evenings, for Y11 and Y8, we hope these have gone well for all students and parents/carers. Hopefully, now you have an idea of the subjects that need more work and focus and the subjects that you should be most proud of.

We have established our Student Council system for the year, so we want every student to utilise this and expect to see some (subtle) changes for the better in the near future. This system really does give students a voice and all students will be heard. We have already held a meeting and there are many ideas on the table.

We want to thank everyone in our community for such a good start to the year and hope the positive energy will continue into the next term. We hope you enjoy your well deserved break and we will see you back on Monday 4 of November!

Head Boy and Girl
Cobi and Maisy

Dowty House News

Welcome back and welcome to two new Y7 groups, who are being tutored by two new members of staff—Mrs Mills and Ms Ridler. The impression that these 60 students are showing the school is exemplary; staff have been singing their praises, which is backed up by their commitment to learning.

Hot news is that both the boys and girls won the House Cross Country. I am made up and have let them all know how I feel!

Earlier in the term both tutor groups got involved with the annual Macmillan cake sale.



Dowty raised an impressive total of £127.95. 7D1 raised £65.15 and 7D2 raised £62.80, a great contribution towards the overall total of £431.67. Thank you parents/carers and students for making that effort. I know that it will go to helping a very worthy charity.

It has also been tremendous to welcome Dowty students back into the new Sixth Form. Please remember that you are still part of this great House and we will

support you where we can.

11D1 and 2 are embarking on an incredibly important year and as a House we will do our utmost to support them to achieve their best.

Dowty Senior Students were out in force on Open Day and during the Evening, my sincere thanks to them. I was also really proud to have Y9 students volunteer to get involved and represent Dowty, so thank you to Sam, Madi and Mairwen. Thanks also goes out to parents/carers for allowing your children to help out at this event and then come and pick them up late in the evening.

The 3Cs are our guiding values and permeate all that we do. The new year House Council meetings are very much about fostering all students to get involved and it is with great pleasure that I can tell you that our representatives from our tutor groups this year are: Jack Bishop and Mae Watkins, Bryn Thomas and Tana Hughes, William Keene and Caitlin Bennett, Hope Griffin and Ruby Robertson, Tyler Kibble and Maya Hayes, Ed Britton-Long and Rhys Anderson-Jones, Tegan Bennett and Megan Chappell, Katie Foot and Charlie Hyett.

Also, not to forget Lydia Rudge and Joe Stephens, our very capable House Captains and Cobi Jai-Gaston, Head Boy, who together strongly lead the meetings; thank you.

So far the charities of Midland Air Ambulance, Great Oaks Hospice, NSPCC have been chosen again to

support. Last year we gave £266 to each plus the same amount to the Forest Food Bank. The money was mostly raised from our sponsored walk.

This year I have told the reps that they can have a student loan to develop an idea, preferably one that is entrepreneurial. I hope to bring you news of this in the next edition.

Y9s keen to mentor the Y7s have been taking part in some training to enhance their awareness of interpersonal skills for successful rapport and relationships. It is heart-warming to see a large number of Dowty students who have volunteered to find out more and get involved in caring for others.

Well done to Daisy Whitson who held a little 'scrunchie sale' to help raise money for the Okinawa exchange. It is so good to see students getting involved in any activity, whether that be sporting, charity or just getting out there to help others. Daisy we wish you all the very best of luck in your quest to visit Okinawa.

My congratulations to students who are making a really positive start in the month of September (names on previous page).

Have a restful half term break.

Heath Adams
Head of Dowty House



Foley House News

House Champions 2018 -19

I genuinely cannot believe we are nearly at the end of term 1.

Our Y7s, have settled in brilliantly and I am more than happy to welcome them and their families into team Foley.

A quick update on last year, we managed to retain the House Cup, for the third year in succession... our students are just fantastic!!

The House Cup, is made up mainly of 5 key areas:

- Attendance
- Approach to learning
- Progress
- Merits
- Sports Day

We won the Attendance Cup, we won the Approach to Learning Cup, we won the Progress Cup, we won the Merits Cup and we were second on Sports Day!

I could not believe it when these were announced in the final assembly of the year and I am so proud of all the students in team Foley.

Massive thanks from me to all of your children's tutors who were a big reason why we retained the House Cup once again.

ATTENDANCE

We have made a solid start to this year regarding attendance. As a House we currently lead the way, and I will do all I can to ensure this stays this way throughout the year.

Our new Y7s, superbly led by Mr Underwood and assisted by Miss Malsolm, won the free breakfast competition for the best attend-

ance for any tutor group year to date. A great start by them, and as I write they still have the best attendance throughout the school.

Those of you who know me, will realise the importance I place on attendance. Please do not be upset or worried if I make contact with any of you, if I am concerned in any way about your child's attendance.

We have so many students in Foley who obtained a 100% attendance last year, and we have so many that have made a 100% start to this year, brilliant, well done.

Thanks very much for your support and work on attendance. Any problems in this area please feel free to email me directly.

The league table within Foley currently stands at:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| 1st 7F1 | 2nd 10F1 |
| 3rd 8F1 | 4th 11F1 |
| 5th 10F2 | 6th 8F2 |
| 7th 9F1 | |

MERITS

Again we have made a good start with merits and are currently second in the House League Table.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Focus for September

'Who has made the best start to the new academic year'

- 7F1- Molly Savidge
- 8F1- Jasmine Edginton
- 8F2- Ruby Clark
- 9F1- Chelsea Burns
- 10F1- Izzy Norris
- 10F2- Niamh Freeman-Price
- 11F1- Jai-Leigh Turner

These students led the way at the end of September, but it was very close! Congratulations to you all.

Please can you all keep pushing the uniform, piercings and hair up rules and regulations, this is a vital and important part of life at Dene Magna.

Finally, from everyone within team Foley, I must pass on our congratulations to Aaron Underwood and his partner, on the birth of their second child, Arlo!

That's all for now, if you wish to speak to me regarding anything to do with school life, please feel free to contact me.

Ashley James
House of Foley House



Our House motto:

Nil Nisi Optimum
(only the best will do)...

This isn't about having the best people in our House but us deciding that every morning we are going to get up and be the best we can be; the best sons and daughters, friends, students, human beings...!



Jenner House News

Welcome back to a new half term, I hope everyone had a good Summer.

This term is the longest of all, and we do have Christmas to look forward to at the end of it. We haven't had any House competitions as such, but we did have the annual MacMillan Coffee Morning where we try to raise as much money as possible via a cake sale. A total of £431.67 was raised by all 4 Houses and special congratulations go to 7J1 who managed to raise a magnificent £75.40 on their own. Thank you to everyone who baked/brought a cake in to sell.

This year, I want to try and celebrate our successes inside and outside of school, so if you have achieved anything recently then please inform us in the House Hub so we can include it in the newsletter. The following students have managed just that, so the following students need a deserved round of applause:

Lexi Barrington (7J1) - went all the way to the British Championships in Trampoline last year.

Sam Hardie (7J1) - got 3rd place in a recent Karate competition. He fought against a Black Belt who was two grades higher than him, but still managed a draw!

Alana Herum (7J1) - achieved a grade 1 & 2 in dance and is aiming to take her grade 3 next year.

Sawyer Nash (7J1) - received two medals from the League at Football last season for his team Broadwell who only lost one game all season.

Dylan Allinson (8J1) - came 3rd in a recent swimming competition and will be aiming to be even better next year.

Lunar Kelly (8J2) - achieved her grade 3 in Cornet.

Millie Little (8J2) - has qualified for Crufts as a dog trainer.

11J1 Boys Rugby - won the all County Rugby Finals beating Gloucester, Cheltenham, Bristol and Stroud along the way.

And last but not least Sienna Powell (10J2) who got to name her rowing boat!



Well done to everyone and please keep your achievements coming!

Anthony Tolley
Head of House

Berlin Marathon



Also a huge well done to our very own Mrs Beard (Student Support Mentor for Jenner, in Mrs Freeman's absence). Who ran in the Berlin Marathon at the beginning of October. This was her first ever marathon and Mrs Beard completed it, despite injuries during the training, in a spectacular 4hrs 53mins, raising an amazing £1,128 for the National Autistic Society.

Well done Mrs Beard, we think you deserved that beer!!



Wilson House News

Welcome back to everyone in Wilson House, what a busy start to the year we have had! Welcoming our new Year 7 tutor groups 7W1 and 7W2 and 2 new tutors Miss Graham with 7W1 and Miss Savagar with 9W1. We have most recently elected our House Council for the year, which involved students nominating themselves, running elections and we even had cakes!

Our House Council for this year will be:

7W1 – Oliver Cape / Caitlin Hall
 7W2 – Abi Jones / Rob Behiels
 8W1 – Poppy Poole /
 Alexander Pitcher – Leigh
 9W1 – Niamh Brady / May Kemp
 9W2 – Connor Dix
 10W1 – Raine Clark /
 Annabel Motson
 11W1 – Cora Bady
 11W2 – Olivia Clarke /
 Louise Fransham.

We recently held our first House Council meeting where the team discussed many issues such as litter, merits, attendance, charities and uniform. We selected the following charities as our House charities for the year:



Every year, one in four of us will experience a mental health problem, but hundreds of thousands of people are still struggling. Mind believe that no-one should have to face a mental health problem alone. They'll listen, give support and advice and fight your corner.

Our Local charity is a hotly contested one, and one in which the House Council are still in debate about.....watch this space to see who gets selected!

Our Students of the Month for September were selected based on who has made the best start to the year these can be seen on page 16 of this Newsletter.

Who can get their name in lights for October, November and December?

MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

We held our annual cake sale on Friday 4 October. It was such a fantastic event and there was so much effort put in by all students in 7W1 and 7W2 from baking cakes, to helping to sell and raise as much money as possible! 7W1 raised £82.60 and 7W2 raised £68.72, it was our first House competition and 7W1 were the winners—brilliant! There was also a competition for the best decorated cake and it was with great delight that I can say that our very own Lauren Kear, Nicole Kavanagh and Aurora Evans all from 7W1! Have a look on page 8 of this newsletter for a look at their winning cakes.

ATTENDANCE

What a start to the year we have had and I'm so pleased to say, at the time I'm writing this, that we are currently sitting top of the House Attendance Cup! Our tutor groups are doing brilliantly. We know that there is a direct link between attendance and progress within school, so well done to you all on making a massive effort to be here!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

We have heard about some fantastic achievements by some of our Wilson students recently and we would love to hear lots more, as I know there are so many of you doing wonderful things in your spare time.... please let your tutor, Mrs Hill or Mrs Hoare know about yours!

Well done to:

Cora Brady who is due to complete her Silver Duke of Edinburgh award, a tremendous achievement following Cora completing her Bronze award with Mr Beard at Dene Magna, we wish you every luck in this Cora!

This House news will be my last for a while, as I head off on maternity leave at October half term, I really wish that you all continue your hard work in Wilson House. Keep winning and you never know, that trophy may be ours at the end of year!

I will miss you, Y11 I will see you at Prom and everyone else in a year's time!! Good luck, I know you're in safe hands with your tutors, Mrs Hoare and whoever takes over as Head of Wilson House!

Lots coming up next term with the start of Inter House matches in Rugby and Netball and House Cross Country. Let's keep that trophy cabinet filled up!

Danielle Hill



Key Dates For Next Term

Students return to Week A on Monday 4 November

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Thursday 7 November: | Y8 Parent/Carer Evening, 4pm—7pm |
| Wednesday 13 November: | Y11 Practice Interviews |
| Wednesday 13 November: | Sixth Form Open Evening, 5pm-8pm |
| Thursday 14 November: | Elevate Session for Parents'/Carers' of Y11, 5pm—6pm |
| Friday 15 November: | Languages Live Event, London |
| Friday 15 November: | FDMA Quiz Night |
| Thursday 21 November: | Ex Y11 Exam Certificate Evening—4pm—6pm |
| Friday 22 November: | Skills Show at NEC for Y12 and Y10 students |
| Tuesday 26 November: | Trial exams begin |
| Wednesday 27 November: | Blood Brothers Theatre Trip |
| Friday 29 November: | INSET DAY |
| Wednesday 4 December: | Careers Fayre (Hall 4pm—7pm) all welcome |
| Thursday 5 December: | Y7 and Y8 Disco, 6.30pm—8.30pm |
| Monday 9 December: | Cheltenham Science Festival (Y8 & Y9) |
| Wednesday 11 December: | Y7 Pantomime trip |
| Monday 16 December: | Soiree, 7pm—9pm |
| Tuesday 17 December: | Christmas dinner |
| Friday 20 December: | Christmas assembly. Students leave at midday. |
| Monday 6 January 2020: | Students return to Week B. |



| Term Dates 2019 - 2020 | |
|------------------------|--|
| Term 2: | Monday 4 November—Friday 20 December (Holiday - Monday 23 December—Friday 3 January 2020) |
| Inset Day | Friday 29 November |
| Term 3: | Monday 6 January— Thursday 13 February (Inset Day - Friday 14 February. Holiday - Monday 17—Friday 21 February) |
| Term 4: | Monday 24 February—Friday 3 April (Holiday Monday 6—Friday 17 April) |
| Term 5: | Monday 20 April—Friday 22 May (Holiday - Monday 25 — Friday 29 May) |
| Term 6: | Monday 1 June—Friday 17 July (Inset Day - Monday 20 July and start of summer break) |



Community School Games

Team Cross Country

We had a fairly dry day up until the winner's ceremony to run our Steve Gooch Primary Cross Country Finals on Thursday 3 October on the field at Five Acres School. We had 20 schools sign up for this Forest Games' event and we would like to congratulate over 200 runners who took part in running the 1.2km course. We had some great support from the Five Acres PE Department and their sports leaders, so many thanks to them and for the support from the local District Council, Berry Hill Rugby Club and the teachers and parents/carers who attended.

This was a great event for the students to ready themselves for larger competitive events and hopefully keep that interest in running. We celebrated the highest placed teams with Matt Hatton from Steve Gooch Estate Agents who sponsored the event this

year with Matt coming along to present the trophies and medals.

For the results on the day please visit our Community Page/School Games page on our website.



Active Maths and English CPD Workshop

Our School Games Organiser, Alan Beard, hosted a course for local primary teachers on Thursday 10 October 2019. The course was an introduction on how to engage students in Maths and English utilising physical activity within their lessons to stimulate and further engage student learning.

We had a good turn out of PE coordinators and teachers who attended from the following schools English Bicknor, Highnam, Mitcheldean, Coalway,

Primrose Hill, Lydbrook, Berry Hill, Woolaston, Clearwell, Westbury and Hope Brook.

Big thanks to Active Maths tutor Kevin Barton and the enthusiasm from all staff who attended. It is great to support our Forest Schools with CPD opportunities at Dene Magna.





REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 9 | Wed 6 3:20–5pm | Scenes p. 42–69 | Michael Jane Mary Poppins Miss Smythe Chairman | Von Hussler Northbrook George Mrs. Corry Winifred | |
| | | Choreography <i>Let's Go Fly A Kite</i> | Principal Dancers | | |
| | Thur 14 3:20–5pm | Music <i>Chim Chim Cher-ee</i> <i>Let's Go Fly A Kite</i> <i>Step in Time</i> <i>Anything Can Happen (Finale)</i> <i>Bows</i> | ALL | | |
| | | Choreography <i>Step in Time</i> | Principal Dancers | | |
| Thur 21 3:20–5pm | Scenes p. 70–95 | Mary Poppins Bert Mrs. Brill Jane Winifred | Michael Robertson Ay George Miss Andrew Policeman | | |
| Thur 28 3:20–5pm | Music <i>Playing the Game</i> <i>Chery Tree Lane (Reprise)</i> <i>Brimstone and Treacle (p. 1)</i> <i>Brimstone and Treacle (p. 2)</i> <i>Practically Perfect (Reprise)</i> <i>A Man Has Dreams (Reprise)</i> <i>A Spoonful of Sugar (Reprise)</i> <i>Anything Can Happen (p. 1)</i> <i>Anything Can Happen (p. 2)</i> <i>Give Us the Word</i> <i>Goodbye Then, Mary</i> | George Mrs. Brill Robertson Ay Jane | Michael Winifred Mary Poppins Miss Andrew | | |

Please note that this schedule may be subject to change.

Rehearsal dates for the rest of the year can be seen on the next page.



Stronger Together

Aspire, Achieve Together

Perseverance

Nil Satis Nisi Optimum



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|---|
| D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9 | Thur 5 3:20–5pm | Scenes p. 96–end | Bert George Mary Poppins Winifred Jane Michael Chairman |
| | Thur 12 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 1–13 | ALL |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|------------|
| J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0 | Wed 8 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 13–29 | ALL |
| | Thur 16 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 30–41 | ALL |
| | Wed 22 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 42–54 | ALL |
| | Thur 30 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 55–69 | ALL |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|------------|
| F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 0 | Thur 6 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 70–83 | ALL |
| | Thur 13 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 84–95 | ALL |
| | Wed 26 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 96–112 | ALL |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|------------|
| M A R C H 2 0 2 0 | Wed 4 3:20–5pm | Blocking & Choreography p. 112–end | ALL |
| | Sun 8 1–4pm | Run & Clean p. 1–83 | ALL |
| | Thur 12 3:20–5pm | Run & Clean p. 84–end | ALL |
| | Sun 15 1–4pm | Full Run-through | ALL |
| | Thur 19 3:20–5pm | Dress Rehearsal | ALL |
| | Sun 22 1–4pm | Technical / Dress Rehearsal | ALL |
| | Mon 23 8:50am–5pm | Final Technical / Dress Rehearsal | ALL |
| | Wed 25 Evening | Performance | ALL |
| | Thur 26 Evening | Performance | ALL |
| | Fri 27 Evening | Performance | ALL |

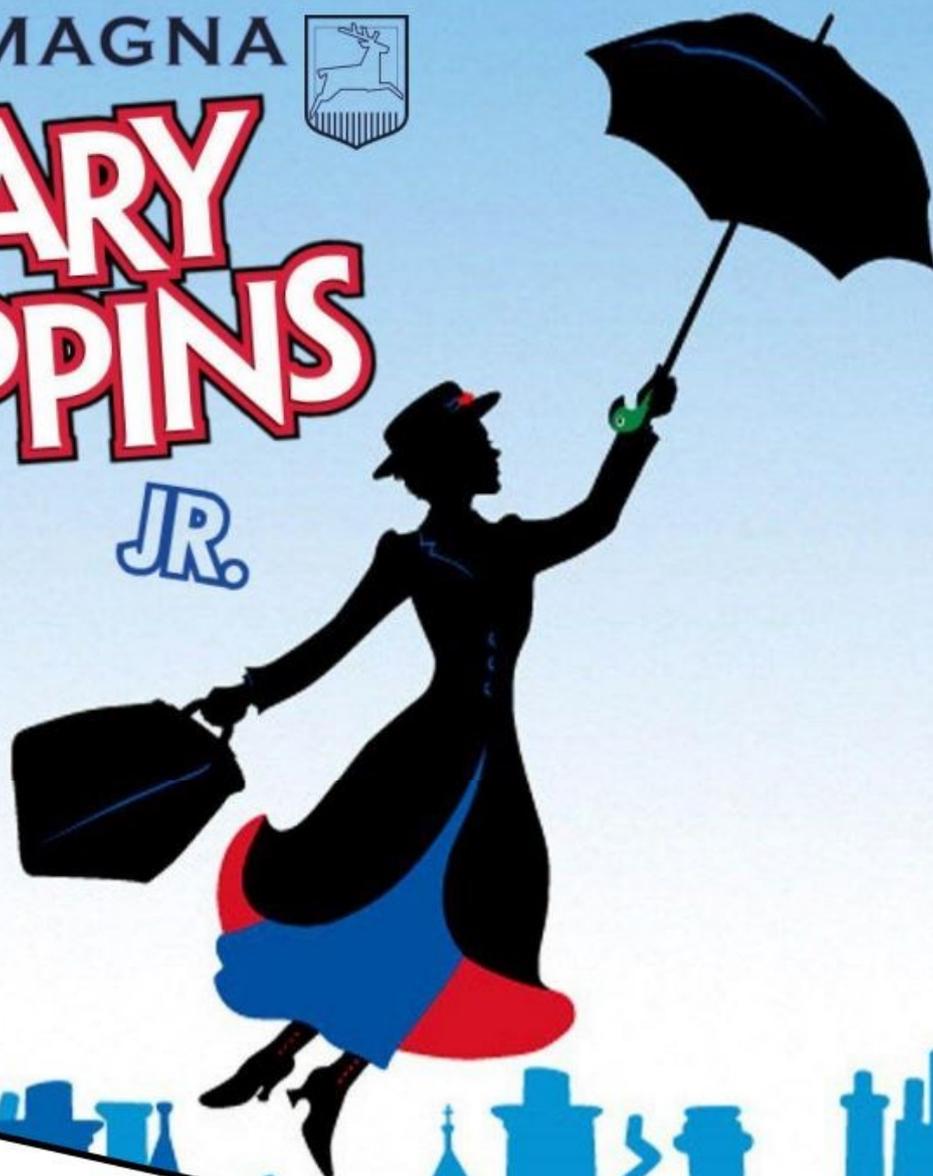


DENE MAGNA
presents



MARY POPPINS

JR.



Wednesday 25th March 2020 –
Friday 27th March 2020

Tickets will be on sale from Reception in January

For more information, please see Mr Wynn or Miss Burt

A Musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film | Original Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman | Book by Julian Fellowes | New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe | Co-Created by Cameron Mackintosh | Adapted by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

Stronger Together

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Perseverance

Nil Satis Nisi Optimum