



Dene Magnifier



Clear views of school news....



News from the Headteacher

Points of Interest:

Girls Empower—page 3

Oxford University visit—page 6

Design in Action—page 7

Joffre White visit—Page 11

Student Voice—page 13

House News—page 14-17

Key dates for next term—page 18

Mary Poppins rehearsal schedule—page 20

I cannot believe that Christmas is upon us already and we are looking toward 2020 in our planning.

As you will see, we have had another busy term and Dene Magna has been buzzing with excitement over the different experiences our students have had. Thank you to all the staff who have organised these events and thank you to parents/carers who have managed to get the students

in at some very unsocial times for trips and visits.

Please enjoy reading this edition of The Magnifier and have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



Mr Stephen Brady
Headteacher

Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to the following students who won this year's Christmas Card Competition. The competition was fierce and choosing the winners was extremely difficult. The winners all received a prize and get copies of their cards to send out to their families.

Molly Savidge 7F1
Olivia Dunton 7W2
Tallie Barker 7D1
Shannon Wozencroft 12C
Kaitlin Cooper 12A

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition, all the entries were fabulous.



Sixth Form Update

The focus for the second term has been preparing for academic success. Most subjects have had in-term assessments and students have received their first academic reports, with grades based on their achievement so far. It has been really impressive to see how hard so many of our Sixth Form students are working, there's a real sense of drive and determination within the student body. Our attendance stands impressively over 97% and everyone has maintained their focus on their lessons and study, despite the onset of coughs and colds.

Six students have been elected to represent Year 12 who now meet regularly with me, the staff and student reps at Gloscol too. Sav and Spencer are our social reps and have already begun preparations for a summer event, as well as ensuring that we celebrate our first Christmas together in style. We have al-

ready enjoyed a Christmas shopping and sightseeing trip to London, a Halloween Horror Film night and a series of impromptu concerts around the baby grand piano in the central area. Our other reps are Harriet and Iris who work on communications. Check out our new Instagram pages, and Shannon and Ollie are our wellbeing reps.

We recently had a talk from Infobuzz on staying safe with alcohol and drugs which provided us with some shocking and disturbing facts about the impact that both can have on young people. The talk was well-received and gave everyone pause for thought about the risks we face, particularly as the Christmas party season begins. PSHE talks in the New Year will focus on driving and road safety as well as student finance.

The applications process for Year 11 students across the Forest to join us at the Sixth Form is now underway.

The Open Evening that was held in November was a huge success and feedback from visiting students and their parents/carers was overwhelmingly positive. Year 11 students from Dene Magna have already had an opportunity to visit the campus during the working day and the same will be offered to other local schools in the New Year.

Our Post 18 Careers Event will take place on January 16th from 5pm to 7pm and among the many providers in attendance will be a range of Universities and local business and employers. This event is for everyone in the Forest of Dean who is beginning to think about their next steps from Year 9 students who are beginning to think about their options, to Year 12 and 13 students who are applying to move on.

Liz Balmer
Head of Sixth Form

Election Fever



Students at the Sixth Form held their very own election-eve debate, with five candidates representing the five main English parties. For an hour, topics such as Brexit, the economy and anti-Semitism were hotly debated. Questions from the floor included "Has Labour lost touch with its working-class voters?" and "How can we trust the Tories with our NHS?". All the speakers demonstrated their excellent knowledge of each party's manifesto pledges; they all spoke with real conviction (despite not having chosen the party they were asked to represent) and they all managed to raise cheers and boos from the audience. Ultimately the result of the vote isn't what's important -

what really matters is the students' becoming politically aware as they reach voting age. But for those who are interested - The Green Party, fronted by James Chambers, was the outright winner and with just over 50% of the votes won't need to form a coalition government!



Girls EmPower Cyber Event 2019

On Friday 22 November, 45 Year 8 girls attended the first ever EmPower Cyber Event hosted by the Cyber Schools Hub.



This was a girls' only event that took place at Oxtalls Tennis Centre. The centre was filled with representatives from a range of different STEM focused industries. Each industry promoted their field with engaging and interesting activities for the girls to take part in. They ranged from drone flying, code breaking, robotics and hacking WiFi networks.

The girls were excellent ambassadors for the school and really showed off their computational thinking skills and team work to win lots of goodies.

To find more photos and information about the EmPower event and to keep up to date with future computing activities. Check out our new Computing Twitter Page.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2019

Thank you for making a difference...

Last year saw a record number of boxes filled by Dene Magna students and staff... an amazing 55!

At the start of November representatives from Teams4U launched the Shoebox Appeal for 2019. I concluded the assembly with a challenge, this challenge was to fill at least 60 shoeboxes this year. Making 60 vulnerable children in Eastern Europe very happy this Christmas!

The students rose to the challenge to put in the effort and to take the time to fill shoe boxes with items such as toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves, sweets and toys.

To support me this year I had a fantastic team of Year 9 girls; Abi Reid, Alena Jones, Amiee Lancett, Hanna Dearing and Gemma Brace. The girls help during break times and lunchtimes to wrap shoe boxes and make sure that every shoebox was filled to the brim with items suitable for the children.

I am very pleased to have counted an amazing 65 shoeboxes this year!

Thank you to all who donated filled boxes or donated any items to the appeal, you will truly make a difference to a child's life this Christmas.

Miss Gardner



Cinderella

Year 7 students trooped off to the annual Pantomime at the Courtyard Theatre on Wednesday 11 December. This year it was Cinderella with a real eco theme running through it. The ugly sisters were hilarious and Prince Charming and Cinderella had beautiful singing voices. Mix this with slapstick, jokes and dancing and a happy ever after ending, the students certainly saw the perfect panto!

The students relished in singing their hearts out throughout the performance (we can say without reservation that they were the loudest ones there!) and they all said that had they enjoyed themselves.

As usual, our Year 7s did Dene Magna proud.



Spanish Play

On Wednesday 20 November Year 8 and 9 Spanish students watched a play all about a first date between a boy and a girl. It was very interesting and many of us were surprised at how much we could understand. They spoke in Spanish for the whole play, but slowly, which meant it was easier for us to tell what they were saying. Their hand gestures were very helpful and they were very good actors. We liked the way they interacted with us all, they brought people onto the stage to get us more involved with the play and also asked us for our opinions on their outfits. The play was really funny and we are so glad we were able to watch it.

We enjoyed the play because it was appropriate for our age and was very amusing! It was easy to understand because of what we have been learning, and also because of the actions and over-exaggeration. We found that it was relatable to children of our age because of the theme, props and overall story. It made many of us laugh. It was great how they included us as an audience, it made the experience more fun and less tiring to watch. It is very memorable (we can still remember it and are talking about it a few weeks later!) Ultimately, it was a very entertaining play and we hope that many other students get the chance to watch it.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Dene Magna for giving us the amazing opportunity to watch the play so that we could develop our learning skills and widen our use of Spanish vocabulary. We would also like to say thank you to the actors for being so great and easy to watch!

Thank you!

Written by Poppy Poole, Megan Farnell, Macy Redding and Ruby-Sue Collins-Norris.



STEM visit to Hinkley Point C



During December, as part of our STEM program, nine students from Years 9 to 12 accompanied Mr Jones and Mrs McCarthy on a site tour of the nuclear power station being constructed in Somerset. Hinkley Point C will be the third power station on the site which is located on the Bristol Channel and will house two nuclear islands (reactors) that will together supply 7% of the country's electricity generation needs. The site is being built by EDF Energy in order to generate sustainable electricity without relying on fossil fuels, and the sheer scale of the £22 Billion investment and construction effort was staggering. The site is 4 years into a 10 year build, and in addition to the power station itself, they have constructed a 1500 room hotel, sports and health facilities, new roads and roundabouts, a docking jetty and a new sea wall that stretches over 750 metres in length.

The site is so big (245 football pitches) that it has 3 park and ride services just for construction workers, an 800 seater canteen and they have their own fleet of buses that transport workers around the site. Excavators have completed several 'deep digs' which have buried pipework and concrete far beneath ground level. Some of this pipework contains pipes large enough for cars to drive through, and recently three

tunnelling machines have arrived on site that will drill for more than 3km out into the channel. We saw that a good portion of the construction site houses a specialist concrete factory, with two full time Doctors of Concrete employed to formulate the precise chemistry of materials needed to house the nuclear elements of the site. The construction of the reactor foundations required 76 hours of continuous pouring of concrete.

On site, quality control is so important that many items are built above ground in purpose-built bunkers before being inspected and eventually dropped into position using 'Big Carl' – the world's biggest crane which is now resident on site for the next 4 years.

This crane has its own rail track so it can move using its 94 wheels! The whole site has a 'right first time' attitude.

We learned that huge consideration has been made with regard to local residents too as £20 million has been set aside to improve roads, cycle paths, schools and playgrounds, and more than 60% of the construction contracts were awarded to local businesses. It was also good to hear that the local 'Nuclear College' has also received investment in order to train some of the 900 staff who will eventually work in and around the power station. Currently there are 400 apprentices on site (with their own building and facilities too) and they are looking to recruit 600 more over the next few years.

Overall it was a spectacular visit, and one that we will make again to inspire students who want to work in Physics, Electronics or power generation.

Mr S Jones



Somerville College

On Wednesday 4 December, Mrs Balmer took myself and eight other Sixth Form students to visit Somerville College which is part of Oxford University.

On arrival, we were greeted by a former student who talked to us about what university is like and in particular how Oxford University works. This talk was very informative and she answered any concerns and questions we had.

Following on from this, we then had a brief tour of the quads of Somerville College. We were shown the Library and Chapel (which was inclusive of everyone's beliefs/religion) and saw the extensive accommodation available to the students. Our tour guide, who is a current student, also gave us some background history of Somerville. It was one of the first universities to accept women, and is proudly a very accepting community now.

After this, we visited the canteen

for lunch. There was a variety of delicious food for everyone and we ate in the wood panelled dining hall which was very large and accommodated everyone. The atmosphere was very relaxed and accepting. Once we had finished we took a trip to the natural history museum, which is actually part of the University as many of their science and history lectures take place there. This is just one of the many amazing resources Oxford offers, along with facilities such as College libraries, sports facilities and numerous clubs and societies.

To finish the day we had a taster session with one of the University lecturers, who specialised in medicine and worked with us on the imaging of the heart for cancer research. Although completely different to the style of teaching we are all used to, it was definitely very refreshing to experience what university will be like for us. Overall, the day was very interesting and



allowed us to see all the opportunities that come with university, and it has encouraged us to aim high!

Geography in the News

The Geography in the News Club's annual 'Bake with a Difference', went fabulously this year raising £60.00 for the FairTrade Foundation. Well done to all involved and everyone who kindly donated.



Snack Shack

Hot food and drinks are now being sold at lunchtimes from the snack shack. Items on sale vary from day to day, all at very reasonable prices. Come and have a look!



Remembrance Day

A very proud moment for a few of our students at their Remembrance Sunday Parade in Ross-on-Weye on 11/11/19.



Design in Action

This year we had our first ever Year 9 trip to Birmingham to look into the application of design in the different areas of design technology—fashion, food, graphics, resistant materials and technology.

The students had set tasks to carry out during the trip and fed back their answers when they returned.

In food they had the experience of eating in different eateries as well as visiting the food hall in Selfridges that was buzzing with Christmas ideas. The presentation and flavours of food was a great experience for them.

In Textiles they had a wide selection of shops to visit and research current trends, window displays, and current events as well as future trends.

In Resistant materials the students researched into window displays, location of shops and proximity, products on sale as well as shop fronts.

In graphics the students explored different materials used in construction, the transport system as well as access to different shops eg disabled transport.

The students were exceptionally well behaved and had a fab time. They thoroughly enjoyed the visit and carried out the set tasks superbly.



Options

Making choices and driving your own studies is a vital part of the education process. Our Year 9 students are about to undertake their KS4 options and it is vital that they are prepared and supported through the process.

Below is a timeline of events:

- Year 9 Options' Evening: Thursday 9 January 2020, 6pm-8pm

This evening will include a talk by Mr Mitchell, as well as the opportunity to meet and talk to subject teachers and a Careers' Advisor.

- Year 9 Subject Evening: Thursday 23 January 2020, 4pm-7pm

This is our normal Parents'/Carers' Evening. Appointments will be available to book online.

- Deadline for preference forms: Thursday 30 January 2020.

Preference forms must be returned to Mr Mitchell, via Tutors.

- Students and Parents/Carers informed of options: Summer Term 2020.

Letters have gone home to all Year 9 students about the Options Evening and parents/carers are asked to confirm their attendance via the Parents Evening System on the School Website.

- All documents will be handed out on Options Evening; however they are also available on the website.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 9 January and thank you in advance for the support and guidance that you give to your daughters/sons.

Mr Mitchell
Deputy Headteacher

Table Tennis U13s

During November, Dene Magna's Table Tennis Teams played so well they managed to get through to the County School Games Finals in Cheltenham!

The school, especially the PE Department, are really proud of all the students who participated.



Skills Show (GMe)

In November some of our Key Stage 4 and 5 students attended the World Skills Show at the NEC. They had the opportunity to talk to Universities, Employers and Apprenticeship providers. They were able to see various occupations that sparked their interest like the NHS operating theatre, the Police Academy, BBC presenting, horticulture opportunities and many many more.

This is an event that is run annually so if your child would like to come next year put it on your new year calendar.

We also have a visit to a smaller careers event at the Malvern Showground in January. This visit is for Year 8 & 9 students. A letter will be sent out when we get back in January or watch the website for more details.

PE Success

A quick update on the student success within PE this week (2—6 December).

On Tuesday we took 4 teams to the County Table Tennis Finals. We were the only school to have a team in every category of the tournament and every member of every team won a medal! The pick of the lot was the Under 13 girls who won the gold medal and will now be the Gloucestershire representatives at the Zone Finals in Birmingham in January.

Other notable successes were Jake Brice who didn't lose a game despite playing national standard team players. He was so chuffed! His reaction to beating the Crypt seed 1 3-2 having been 0-2 down at one point was absolutely fabulous.

Other highlights this week were the Year 9 boys who played Cotswold School in the 3rd round of the County Cup. Despite a very valiant effort



they were comfortably beaten in the end and so their cup run for this year comes to an end. We would like to congratulate these boys on what has been a fantastic cup run and seen them beat some very good rugby schools along the way. With the correct approach to training there is no reason why they can't have a good run in the national cup next year!

Talking of the National Cup, the Year 10 boys' cup run came to an end last week as they narrowly lost out to RGS Worcester in the 4th round of the National Cup. Again, congratulations go to the boys involved in that cup run.

We are punching way above our weight at the moment and long may this continue!



Bookbuzz 2019

Each year we take part in Bookbuzz, a scheme run by The Book Trust and sponsored by children's book publishers. The aim of the scheme is to encourage and inspire children to enjoy reading, by giving them a book of their own, and introducing them to new authors and genres. Every Year 7 student makes their own choice from a core selection of 15 titles which have been carefully chosen by a group of librarians and teachers.

After looking at the Bookbuzz website to read first chapters, and looking at the core collection in the Library, our students made their choices by 4 October, and then had to wait (some quite impatiently!) for delivery.

On Friday 15 November the wait was over, and books were distributed with a special treat, the Year 7 Bookbuzz Breakfast. Instead of their English lessons that morning, students came to the Hall for pastries and drink, then listened to Year 8 students reading extracts from some of the books. We hope this will have encouraged students to read more than their own book!

All the books in the collection will be available to borrow from the Library. The students can do Accelerated Reader quizzes on the books, earning double points for quizzes passed! Plus extra House points for students who read and pass quizzes on more than three of the books!

They can also do reviews on the Bookbuzz website www.booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz as well on Dene Magna's Library website, Oliver, accessed via Student Quicklinks.

Many thanks are due to the Year 8 students who read their extracts so well: Elliot King, Sophia Benatar, Charlotte Rankin, Alexander Pitcher-Leigh, Caitlin Bennett and George Jarvis.

Most importantly, we really do hope that the Year 7 students will enjoy reading the book they chose and will be encouraged to read on.



Ballet

A huge well done to Ella Kaye (8D1) for being selected to perform at Her Majesty's Theatre in London. After lots of rehearsals Ella, along with 21 others from her Ballet School, performed on Sunday 1st December.

What a truly amazing thing to do, we are very proud and I'm sure you will agree Ella looks simply amazing.



Continued development of skills at home

It is impressive to see our students taking skills learnt in school and trialling recipe ideas at home for friends and family.

Callum Holman - Hathaway made some lovely cakes, scones and a chocolate cake for his family. He called this his baking weekend .



Profiteroles by Evie BAYLISS



Finlay Snowdon made some lovely Oatie biscuits.



Charlotte Cotterell made some lovely cookies for her Japanese visitor.



Pizza by Amy and Reece



Impressive chocolate cake by Elliot King. Yummy!



Lovely naan bread by Jack Markey.



Christmas Wreaths

The Year 10 catering students got into the festive season and made some lovely iced bread wreaths.

The recipe is on the curriculum/ catering page of the website for anyone who wishes to have a go too.



Community Programme

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!

Venue Hire

Are you looking to hire a room or sporting venue?

Dene Magna can help! Please contact Mr Alan Beard on 01594 542370 or send an email to:

a.beard@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk to check availability.

Joffre White

On Tuesday 22 October Joffre White, Author, UK Patron of Reading, and an Ambassador for Achievement For All, visited for the day. His talk to KS3, 'The Power of Words', covered his journey from how he got into reading as a child, to eventually becoming an author. He talked about how reading can open up so many worlds to students, and how words have the power to give so much knowledge and entertainment as well as to hurt, giving students lots to think about and reflect on. He also encouraged them to follow their dreams and to be the best they can be. Comments from students the following day, and from Y7 thankyou letters sent to Joffre included:

"It was really good!" *"I really enjoyed the workshop"*
"He was really interesting, funny as well." *"The workshop has given me lots of ideas"*
"Your assembly inspired me to read more books about my dream job."
"Your assembly inspired me to follow my dreams and work hard for it."
"You have inspired me to read more and to try harder in my work at school. So thank you for reassuring me and reminding me to never give up on my dreams, no matter what anyone says."

Joffre also led a creative writing workshop with 30 keen writers drawn from Y7, 8 & 9. He particularly talked about using objects to help inspire writing, and using mindmaps to make links. Following this session, a number of the group wrote stories, of which four have been chosen to be sent to Joffre to be published on his website. Congratulations and well done to the four students, Ella Kaye (Y8), and three students from Y7 - Caitlin Hall, Alana Haroun and Charlie Williams.



FDMA News & Forthcoming Events

Thinking of New Years Resolutions... why not join our FDMA team? It's a great way to help the school, have fun, and meet new people.

Why not come along to our next meeting and see what we are all about. We are a small group of school staff and parents that meet up a three or four times a year to organise events, such as our well loved quiz nights. We always love to see new members and your ideas/suggestions are always welcome. Our next event is a quiz night on 31st January, and our next meeting is on February 3rd. Please make a note in your diary's and come along to one or both, you will be greatly appreciated and made most welcome.

If you would like to get involved with FDMA please

email fdma@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk. Or 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 "Friend 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.

FDMA forthcoming events to watch out for are:

31st Jan 2020– Quiz night.

3rd February – AGM followed by meeting (5pm).

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 13 October 2019. We would be delighted to see so many more tutor groups achieve above 97% over the coming months.

Well done to Wilson House who have taken the lead.

TG	YTD	Wk 13
7D1	97.81	96.81
7D2	96.99	94.42
8D1	95.96	95.9
9D1	95.62	91.63
9D2	96.48	95.42
10D1	96.15	96.02
11D1	96.2	93.36
11D2	97.02	96.96

96.53

TG	YTD	Wk 13
7W1	96.89	95.04
7W2	97.68	99.24
8W1	97.27	90.94
9W1	96.69	89.07
9W2	95.88	94.12
10W1	96.63	97.85
11W1	96.13	93.67
11W2	97.77	89.81

96.87

TG	YTD	Wk 13
7F1	96.93	95.08
8F1	96.47	88.1
8F2	95.82	97.18
9F1	96.07	98.47
10F1	96.76	97.17
10F2	96.63	94.62
11F1	97.15	96.44

96.55

TG	YTD	Wk 13
7J1	97.45	94.46
8J1	95.63	86.36
8J2	95.72	91.43
9J1	96.34	93.9
10J1	95.97	94.87
10J2	96.17	98.12
11J1	95.57	98.02

96.12

TG	YTD
Y7	97.3
Y8	95.5
Y9	94.4
Y10	95.8
Y11	95.7
Y12	96.9

ALL 95.8



Japanese Calligraphy

During November the 10B1 GCSE art students had the pleasure to take part in Japanese Calligraphy, this lesson was taught by the Okinawan Exchange teachers, Wakana and Tomomi.

They showed us the techniques and skills required for calligraphy and helped the class get to grips with it. Most of us started with writing our names and we found out what they meant in Japanese. For example, Amy's name means dearly beloved and my name means life. We carried on practicing calligraphy with various phrases. We all thoroughly enjoyed the class as it was really good fun.

By Evie Llewellyn



Stronger Together

Aspire, Achieve Together

Perseverance

Nil Satis Nisi Optimum

Student of the Month

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

The focus for **November** was for:

Acts of Kindness



7D1	Chloe Woods
7D2	Jessica Farbowski
8D1	Pearl Smith
8D1	Lily-Mae Hopkins
9D1	Rhone Barcoe
9D2	Sofia Bradshaw
10D1	Finley Kettle
11D1	Megan Ward-Kear
11D2	Caitlin Keeble



7F1	William Heal
8F1	Hattie Fellows
8F2	Charlie Snook
9F1	Callum Holman-Hathaway
10F1	Ethan Virgo
10F2	Riley Stewart
11F1	Ben Sparks



7J1	Kai Richards
8J1	Demi Minchin
8J2	Corey Harris
9J1	Damian Jones
10J	Isabel Suehr
10J	Vicky Harvey
11J	Katie Newcombe



7W1	Maria Shaporto
7W2	Scott Townsend
8W1	James Hadfield
9W1	Lois Terry-Lush
9W2	Tamzin Blackwell
10W1	Ingrid Zimcenco
11W1	Harriet Cramp
11W1	Lily James
11W2	Maddie Jones

Student Voice

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

Hi Everyone,

We hope all is going well!

Over the last 2 weeks Year 11 have been completing their first set of Trial Exams ready for the summer, and although very challenging, they have taken it all in their stride and we're sure we will come out with the grades we deserve and also see the areas for improvement.

The 13th November saw the Dene Magna's 6th Form open its doors to prospective students for next year, applications flooded in and the night was an impressive success. Students from across the forest filed in to witness the brilliance going on at the new campus and we can't wait to begin to take full advantage of the opportunities this will bring us.

The last term also brought back our friends from Okinawa, Japan, via the exchange programme. They seemed to have had a fantastic time and will be greatly missed by their hosts, until their visit to the island in the summer.

With Christmas right around the corner, we wish you all the very best for the festive season, stay safe, wrap up warm and come back refreshed and relaxed in the new year!

Head Boy and Girl
Cobi and Maisy



Dowty House News



With Christmas around the corner, Dowty students have again, made a phenomenal contribution to the Shoe Box Appeal. The appeal, superbly coordinated by Ms Gardner, has a huge impact on underprivileged children in Eastern Europe. The students in Year 7, were told about the journey taken by the shoe boxes that Dene Magna donated last year. To see the lovely reactions from the children receiving the boxes is truly what Christmas is all about. Dowty students rose to the Care, Courtesy and Commitment challenge, purchasing and gifting simple, useful gifts to fill shoe boxes with items such as toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves, sweets and toys.

Thank you to all our students in 7D1 and 7D2 who donated filled boxes or donated any items to the appeal, you will truly make a difference to a child's life this Christmas.

Earlier in December Mr. Griffiths took 4 teams to the County Table Tennis Finals. Dene Magna were the only school to have a team in every category of the tournament. Every member of every team won a medal. The pick of the lot was the Under 13 girls who won the gold medal and will now be the Gloucestershire representatives at the Zone Finals in Birmingham in January. For more on this story and for a photo of the team, please see page 8 of this newsletter.

Congratulations to Jake, Wyatt

Gwynne and Katie Foot representing Dowty so brilliantly.

In the next newsletter, I hope to bring you favourable news of Interhouse Netball success for the girls and Table Tennis triumphs the boys. Go Dowty!

Year 9 have been offered the opportunity to receive training to support Y7s as a mentor. I am immensely proud of the large number of Dowty students who have volunteered to support others. So far the positive responses from all involved have been heart-warming and will add another level of support that only students can offer. If you are the parent/carer of one of these Y9 students then please congratulate your child, as they are caring and at the same time developing great interpersonal skills.

The Dowty Student Council has met a couple of times this term. It is chaired by Cobi Gaston, Lydia Rudge and Joe Stephens, our Head Boy and House Captains. Each tutor group has a representative and they are encouraged to share their thoughts and those of their groups. We have been discussing rewards and how best to celebrate success, an entrepreneurial project and matters arising that are of concern. I am very proud of the efforts that all involved put in to ensure that the students have a 'voice' and this leads to improvements. Further news in the next edition.

We received thank you letters, which were shared during assem-

bly, from The Midland Air Ambulance and The NSPCC, praising the students' charity efforts and outlining how the money will be used to support their vital work. Each charity was sent £186, much of this coming from the sponsored walk. Another charity that we wholeheartedly support is the Forest Food Bank. Please get behind the Food Bank Appeal and support your children in helping this worthy cause this Christmas. Tutors have been encouraging student involvement. I know that many tutor groups have been collecting for our annual delivery on the last day of term. Thank you if you have already donated.

If you are fortunate enough to receive one of the Dene Magna Christmas cards, then you may see the handy work of Tallie Barker 7D1, who has created a stylised Christmas tree design (photo on the cover). Well done Tallie; keep drawing and having fun creating.

In the meantime my thanks to the students, particularly Y11, who have worked really hard in their trial exams and the Staff in Dowty House for their dedication and being great people to know. Have yourselves a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. **Stronger Together.**

Best wishes
Heath Adams
Head of Dowty House



Foley House News

House Champions 2018 -19

I would like to give a big welcome to Amelia Seal who has recently joined us going into 7F1, and also to Evie Truman-Stokes who has joined us in 9F1.

It's always slightly daunting joining a new school, but I must really thank all of the Year 7 Foley girls for the fantastic support they've given to Amelia to ensure she has settled really quickly. Evie has also been superbly looked after in 9F1, shadowing Lydia Saunders who has been nothing short of great.

Another win for team Foley has just been achieved, this time in the Christmas card design competition. It was won by 7F1's Molly Savidge, this young lady has made a fantastic start to life at Dene Magna, congratulations Molly!



I would also like to send team Foley's congratulations to 9F1's Olivia (sorry Liv!) Bennett for being selected and playing for the Gloucestershire under 14 football team. Well done Liv!

Team Foley seem to be excelling on the sporting front recently; Dene Magna won the Year 8 Interscholar table tennis tournament, in a four aside competition, three of the team were from Team Foley.



Congratulations to Zara Clifford, Robyn Fiddler, Caitlyn Scott-Murphy and Talia Scott (Jenner House)!! Brill well done girls.

Staying on the sporting front, the first Interhouse is about to start, the girls will be playing netball and the boys table tennis. Our Sports Captains will soon be busy going around sorting out the team sheets for these events. We are always competitive in Interhouse, and no doubt we will be this year, we had better be!!

PE department do a winners wall, based on all things sport related. It is great to see that in October we had the following students on this wall:

Caitlyn Scott-Murphy
Oscar Baggs
Lyla Freeman

ATTENDANCE

We are still in the lead for attendance but it is mighty close between us and a House in green colours! We have won this cup for the last 3 three years and there is no way I am going to allow us not to keep pressing on this subject.

It is so so important for the progress of your child, hence the importance I place in this. There are so many students in Foley still with 100% attendance, so thanks

for your efforts in achieving this, I do appreciate that sometimes it is very difficult to ensure this is achieved.

I accept illness does happen, however, I am also well aware that on occasions our students sometimes try to pull the wool over our eyes!! If there is any reason stopping your child from wanting to come to school, because they are unhappy in any way, then please please contact me so we can chat about it, and I will do everything possible to help.

REWARDS SYSTEM

I am about to set up within Foley a new rewards system competition within our House. I will be getting students from each of our tutor groups to form a committee so that we can take this forward. Please let me know if you have any ideas or comments that you would like to make, as you are all very much part of team Foley.

Students of the Month

Our students of the month can be seen on page 14 of this newsletter, they have been selected by their tutors based on effort and kindness within the last month, so well done to you. In recent months the students of the month have been dominated by the girls, so it is nice to see the lads fighting back a bit here!

That's it from me for the moment, as stated previously do not hesitate to contact me via email (the most efficient way of contacting me!), if you need to discuss anything with me.

Happy Christmas
Ashley James
Head of Foley House



Jenner House News

Happy Christmas to everyone in Jenner House!

Student of the Month for November was awarded for their Anti-Bullying work or random acts of kindness. The following students were awarded:

Kai Richards 7J1
Demi Minchin 8J1
Corey Harris 8J2
Damian Jones 9J1
Isabelle Suehr 10J1
Vicky Harvey 10J2
Katie Newcombe 11J1

Well done to everyone - will you be mentioned next time?

This term is always difficult because it is so long and many students suffer with illness. So, in an attempt to encourage better attendance we have initiated a number of Attendance Awards. The "Golden Ticket" for 100% attendance for the week seems to be very popular as it gets you to the front of the dinner queue for

the following week. The tutor group with the best attendance for the Autumn Term will also get free pizza - will that be you? Let's have a major push over the next term to try and boost our position in the attendance table!

Congratulations to Ellis Titcombe who passed his Grade 3 Singing exam recently. Could we be seeing you on X Factor soon Ellis? Any other achievements in or out of school then please let us know and we can mention it in the next newsletter.

Good luck to the girls playing in the Interhouse Netball and the boys in the Interhouse Table Tennis competitions coming up - let's see if we can win a few more trophies to fill our trophy cabinet!

Lastly, it is with great regret that Mrs Carolyn Freeman has decided to retire due to ill health. She has been the life and soul of Jenner House over a number of years and she will be sadly missed by myself and everyone else who she has sup-

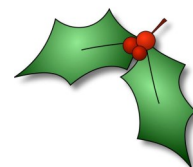
ported over the years. I'm sure you would like to wish her all the best and thank her for her endless support over the years. Mrs Rachel Beard has kindly offered to step in and help Jenner House for the foreseeable future and I'm sure you will welcome her to Jenner House.

Have a good break and come back raring to go in January!!

Anthony Tolley
Head of Jenner House



Wilson House News



My first term as Head of Wilson House is nearly over and I would like to thank all my Wilson staff and students for being so supportive. I am thoroughly enjoying my new role and looking forward to the New Year with zest and determination. It really has been wonderful getting to know all my Wilson students in a different capacity as Head of House and not just as their Music teacher.

Attendance

Our attendance remains positive, and up until the dreaded winter bugs hit us, we were in FIRST PLACE. Our attendance has dropped slightly and I am hopeful that in the new year, when everyone is rested after the Christmas break, we will get back up there and show all the other Houses we are a House to be reckoned with. Come on Wilson, I know you can do it!

Merits

I am so excited and extremely proud to announce that, once again, Wilson are top of the leaderboard with our merits! We have achieved 7379 merits since September, which is fantastic. We are not only at the top of the leaderboard, but we are at the top by an astounding 804 merits! PROUD is an understatement! Huge congratulations to all the Wilson students who are contributing to school life in such a positive way! Keep up the amazing work!

House Competitions

House matches start on 9 December 2019 and I am so excited

to see how everyone gets on. At the moment we are, once again, in the lead with our House points, but it's extremely close. Good luck to all my Wilson students who are taking part in any of the House matches....you can do it!!

Exciting News

The lovely Mrs Hill gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on Tuesday 19 November and has named him, Evan Tomos Hill. He was 9lbs 3oz of absolute perfection. We wish Mrs Hill and family a wonderful maternity leave and we can't wait to meet the new bundle of joy.

Charities

In the last Newsletter, Mrs Hill announced that we as a House would be supporting MIND as our National Charity. Since that announcement, Wilson students have also made the decision to support a local charity, which is Great Oaks Hospice. This is a local hospice that offers respite to terminally ill people and their families.

Students of the Month

Students of the Month for November were chosen by tutors and the criteria for this was 'Acts of Kindness'.

Maria Shaporto - 7W1
 Scott Townsend - 7W2
 James Hadfield - 8W1
 Lois Terry-Lush - 9W1
 Tamzin Blackwell - 9W2
 Ingrid Zimncenco - 10W1
 Harriet Cramp - 11W1
 Lily James - 11W1

Maddy Jones - 11W2

Huge congratulations to all of these students. I am so proud of you all!

For December, tutors will be looking at students that have contributed in House events. Interhouse matches, will play a big part in this. So, make sure you get involved.

More Good News

I am over the moon to announce that Olivia Dunton in 7W2 is one of the winners in the Art Christmas Card Competition...more House points to be awarded and the Christmas Card will be used this year. Huge congratulations Olivia!!

Comments from Tutors

Miss Adams is VERY impressed with how Y11 are handling their mock exams. Students have conducted themselves with a new level of maturity and thoughtfulness. Wishing them a well deserved rest over Christmas.

Have a very happy Christmas and a relaxing break.

Miss Burt
 Head of Wilson House



Key Dates For Next Term

Students return to Week B on
Monday 6 January 2020

Thursday 9 January:	Y9 Options' Evening, 6pm
Friday 10 January:	Trial Exam Results day
Thursday 16 January:	Y12 Open Evening at 6th Form, 5pm
Friday 17 January:	Y7 and Y10 reports home
Thursday 23 January:	Y9 Parents'/Carers' Evening, from 4pm
Thursday 23 January:	Malvern Careers Event (Y8 and Y9)
Friday 31 January:	FDMA Quiz Night
Monday 3 February:	FDMA meeting and AGM, 5pm
Thursday 6 February:	Y7 and Y8 Disco, 6.30—8.30pm
Thursday 13 February:	House Talent Show
Thursday 13 February:	Y12 Parent/Carer Evening at 6th Form, from 4.30pm
Friday 14 February:	INSET Day
Monday 15—Friday 21 February:	Half term
Thursday 27 February:	Y10 Parent/Carer Evening, from 4pm



Term Dates 2019 - 2020

Term Dates 2019 - 2020	
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)

Term Dates 2020 - 2021

Term Dates 2020 - 2021	
Term 1:	Wednesday 2 September – Friday 23 October 2020 Inset Days - Tuesday 1 September and Friday 25 September 2020 (Half term Monday 26 – Friday 30 October 2020)
Term 2:	Monday 2 November – 18 December 2020 Inset Day – 27 November 2020 (Christmas break – Monday 21 December 2020 – Friday 1 January 2021) Inset Day Monday 4 January 2021
Term 3:	Tuesday 5 January – 12 February 2021 (Half term – Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2021)
Term 4:	Monday 22 February – Thursday 1 April 2021 (Easter break – Friday 2 April – Friday 16 April 2021)
Term 5:	Monday 19 April – Friday 28 May 2021 (Half term – Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021)
Term 6:	Monday 7 June – Friday 16 July 2021

Community School Games

Boccia School Games District Tournament

We held a School Games District Boccia Competition at the Heart of the Forest School with our Dene Magna Students taking part.

Well done to all the teams and especially Dene Magna who came in 2nd place on the day with a good performance.

The School Games Mainstream Schools Boccia Competition results were:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1: Five Acres | 27 pts |
| 2: Dene Magna | 18 pts |
| 3: Newent B | 16 pts |
| 4: Newent A | 15 pts |
| 5: Five Acres A | 11 pts |

Thanks to Kath Greene, Sue Berry & Naomi Watkins for supporting the teams throughout.



Quick Sticks Hockey

We held the North Area School Games Primary Quick Sticks Hockey Finals on Tuesday 12 November at Newent School.

My thanks goes out to the Newent School Leaders who did an outstanding job, it is not easy to see everything on the pitches and they looked after 43 matches during the event.

We were supported by Newent Hockey Club, especially Jane Price who helped the leaders, and the standard of hockey improved as we progressed across the 17 rounds.

We got the eventual winners for the Lions Winners: Tibberton School who overcame Forest View in the Lions A teams finals 2-1.

The Tigers B teams were in 2 different pools with the pool winners St Whites B beating St Whites C team in a penalty shoot out.

Well done to the winning teams who go through to the School Games County finals next year.

Hope Brook School came 3rd on points in both the Lions & Tigers combined groups.

For more results and photos from this event please see the School Games pages on our website.



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

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	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

Please note that this schedule may be subject to change.





SalTMINE Theatre Company presents

Hark!

A Nativity Story




Saturday 21st December 2019 at 6pm
Dene Magna School, Mitcheldean (GL17 0DU)
Tickets: £3
Email lucy@forestgatechurch.org

Come & Sing Mozart Requiem

With celebrated singer,
conductor and
radio presenter
Brian Kay
Accompanied by
Robin Baggs




Saturday, March 7th 2020
10.00am - 4.30pm
Dene Magna School
Abenhall Road, Mitcheldean
Gloucestershire, GL17 0DU.
**Tickets: Adult £20
Student £10**
(Includes music hire and light refreshments)
Further details from Choir members, on
01594 516207 and tanhousesingers.org



The Tan House Singers are affiliated to 'MakingMusic'.

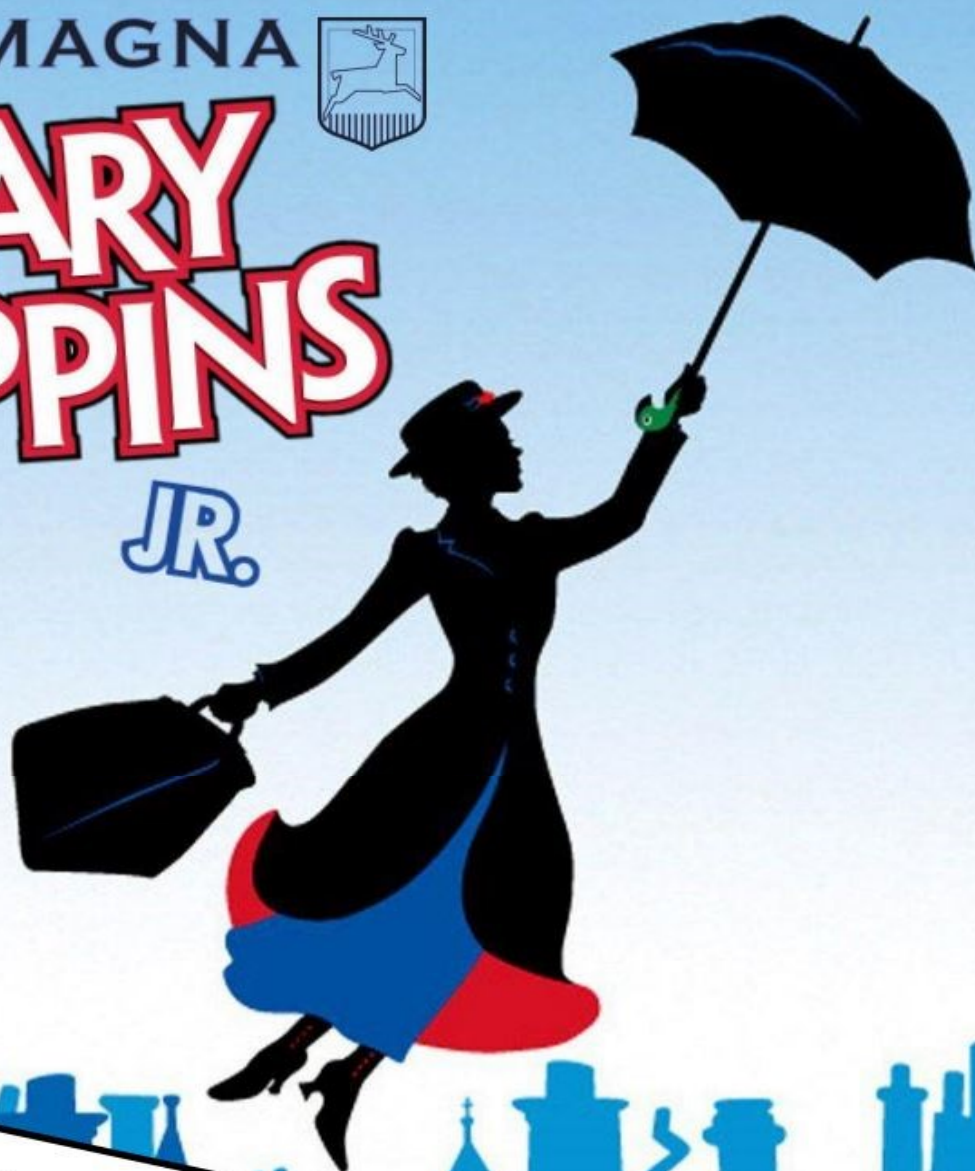
For more information of either of the above events, please contact:
a.beard@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk



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