



# Dene Magnifier



Clear views of school news....

## News from the Headteacher

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I am so excited to be able to show you this edition of the Magnifier.

As you can see, we have had another very busy term and it is great to showcase the wider school curriculum at Dene Magna as well as our usual reports of academic successes.

We are passionate about being able to offer a wide range of opportunities to our students so that they can achieve a balance between subject learning and life learning. I would like to say a very big thank you to all the students, staff, parents, carers and volunteers who make these possible.

Enjoy reading and I hope you are inspired to try something new!



*Mr Stephen Brady  
Headteacher*

## Ski Hoodies—Sponsorship Needed

The annual Dene Magna Ski Trip is once again heading out to Austria in April. One of the great features of this trip is the uniformity of the hoodies that the students wear. It really helps us to identify the students on the journey and around the resort.

In the past we have been very fortunate to have a sponsor for these hoodies and we are very grateful to our past sponsors. We have yet to find a sponsor for the hoodies this year and, as such, we are currently unable to order

hoodies for the group.

Please can you help us to get the message out there? If someone knows of a local business who would like to sponsor our ski hoodies, please could you ask them to contact Mr Griffiths in the PE Department on 01594542370 or email him on the email address below to discuss the options.

[p.griffiths@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:p.griffiths@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)

Thank you, in advance, for your help.

# MARY POPPINS JR.

DENE MAGNA  presents

# MARY POPPINS JR.



**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 –  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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

## Rehearsal and performance dates

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

Please note that the rehearsal schedule may be subject to change.

**Tickets will be on sale from Reception from  
27 February 2020:**

**£8 adults &  
£5 concessions**

**Curtain goes up @ 7pm on  
Wednesday 25 March  
Thursday 26 March &  
Friday 27 March**

## Year 11...

"So Year 11 how are we doing...pretty well actually..."

These were the words that Mr Brady greeted Year 11 students with as we reflected on their Trial Exam results. Each year we work on preparing each and every Year 11 student for the exam series in May and June. The aim is that there are no surprises. The Trial Exams are set up as a dress rehearsal. An opportunity to learn the cues and to find out where the gaps in our learning and revision are.

It also allows students to get into the rhythm of an exam series. Ensuring they get the basics right: sleep, equipment, food, arriving on time, how to pace themselves through an exam so that they do not run out of time... or rush the exam unnecessarily. Throughout their Trial Exams they practise their revision. They find out what works and what doesn't work. They see what gets in the way: social media, part time work, thinking that everything will be alright, but not doing anything to make it alright; as well as finding out what makes a difference: revising in small chunks, using past papers, setting aside time to revise, using techniques that work.

So how did they do? The trials are not a destination, they are a resting point on the journey. We were delighted with the place we are currently at. All students had something that showed what was possible in the summer and all students could see where they can make further improvements. All were asked to reflect on what they must do now. As Mr Brady said, 'no matter how well, or how badly, any one has done, no-one has yet passed and no-one has yet failed.' As a year group all the metrics are positive. Students are taking their work seriously, they are turning up to revision sessions, they are getting their coursework done. Of course there is always more to be done and we have the highest hopes for this amazing group of students.

As we approach the last half term before the exams start properly, final pieces of course work are coming in (work hard to get these as complete and to as high a standard as possible), some exams are starting early, Business and ICT have already happened, then Language Speaking and Art exams are before the main series, which kicks off with Computer Science on 11 May. The last day of exams is marked by a contingency day on 24 June; parents/carers please ensure that your daughter/son is available up until this day. Mr Adams will be getting more precise Exam Timetables out in March.

We have a couple of events for parents/ carers next half term:

**Thursday 5 March** is our final Parent/Carer Information Evening. This evening focuses on final preparations and revision. The usual nibbles will be available from 5.30pm and we will be finished by 7pm.

**Thursday 3 April** is our final Subject Evening. This is such a vital evening, where can really fine tune the last few weeks of revision.

So Year 11, or 'Team Year us', as one of the students referred to you recently, it is time for you to rise to the challenge that you have set yourself. You are making fantastic progress and are superbly placed to 'achieve your maximum potential'. 'Enjoying the process' is now focused on making sure that we have a job well done and each and every one of you has what you need for your next step in your learning journey.

Fred Mitchell  
Deputy Headteacher

**“THE HARDER  
YOU WORK  
FOR SOMETHING,  
THE GREATER  
YOU’LL FEEL  
WHEN YOU  
ACHIEVE IT.”**

## Sixth Form Update

The first week back after Christmas saw the Sixth Form Campus host the first Forest of Dean Post-18 Careers Fair. Higher education providers from a range of Universities were joined by a variety of employers who offer higher apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. The students who attended took away plenty of useful information - from local vets, solicitors, NHS providers, chemical engineers and even ethical hackers. The event was open to all the young people of the Forest area and was well attended. Look out for another fair next year.



A-Level students are busy with their EPQs - the independent project that they choose and which enables them to develop the study skills required by Universities. There is a wide range of topics currently being researched: from the effect of Sixteenth Century witchcraft accusations on the women of the period to the impact Brexit will have on small local businesses in the Forest. A large number of students have decided to make their EPQ a work-based project and these students are now in the process of securing their placements for this.

Well done to Natasha Read who has completed the first part of her corsetry course to create a beautiful artefact for her project - all the work is to her own design; the pattern and the quality is stunning.

## Clubs at Dene Magna

Are you interested in joining a lunchtime club? We currently have various sporting clubs run by the PE department and for those who are not "sporty" by nature there are a multitude of other things to get involved in from Lego, music and art to Psychology, Chemistry, gardening and even Harry Potter!

For a full list of the clubs running at the moment, please visit our Clubs 2019-2020 page on the website.



Finally, as the days begin to lengthen we start to look forward towards the summer term. This will be a vital term for the Year 12 students, not only because it will culminate in their first set of trial A-Level exams, but also because they'll be starting the process of applying for University. With this in mind there are a series of talks on the horizon from some key Universities: Worcester will be talking to the students about the HE experience and how to make the most of the UCAS process; UWE will be giving talks on Healthcare related degrees; Aberystwyth will also be talking about the application procedure and how to manage the move away from home and Oxford University continue their support with tailored subject lectures.

For those students looking to join us in September 2020, we have a series of Taster sessions in March. If you have completed an application with us, you should expect an invitation in the post soon. Please get in contact with the sixth form team if you need further information.

Liz Balmer  
Head of Sixth Form

## Chinese Visitors

Early in January Dene Magna has been host to around thirty students and their teachers from across northern China. For most of these students, it was their first time to the UK and indeed their first time out of China.

The purpose of their visit was to experience not only life in England but life as a Dene Magna student. Each Chinese student was paired up with a Dene Magna student with whom they went to lessons, lunch, clubs, in fact, anything a Dene Magna student does as part of their normal school day.

All of the students British and Chinese were amazed at how different schools in the UK and China are from one another, with many subjects being completely new to our visitors. Our Chinese students particularly excelled in Mathematics and really enjoyed practical subjects such as Art, Food Technology and Child Development.

The most enjoyable thing about the visits were the number of smiling faces as groups of students got to know one another with many friendships made and contacts exchanged. The biggest challenge for the visiting students was getting to grips with the British weather, even though this year there was no snow to deal with!



## 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!*

## The Mighty Deers

We are delighted to announce our new Captain and Vice Captain of the Mighty Deers Sports' Team. Well done Callum and Izzy, never have I seen two prouder faces!



## Chinese New Year

In the MFL Department we celebrated Chinese New Year from January 27th to January 31st. We had a relaxing start to the week with Chinese New Year themed mindful colouring, as well as the opportunity to watch the film Mulan. We sent a quiz to all tutor groups and the two winning tutor groups were 10F1 and 10J2. On Tuesday we sold fortune cookies for 10p each and sold more than any of the previous years! On Thursday, at breaktime, we made Chinese lanterns and at lunchtime there were chopstick games.

All the events were well-attended and were a huge success, so thank you to our wonderful language ambassadors who organised such an enjoyable week!

By Jessica Gates and Olivia Pitcher-Leigh



## Rugby U15s

Huge congratulations to Alisha Smith who has made it into the County Rugby U15 Squad and will now be playing three matches for Gloucestershire in February and March.

Alisha has done an amazing job and we are very proud of her. This is a great opportunity as there will be lots of scouts at these games!

## Food Bank

Thank to you everyone who donated food to the Local Food Bank at the end of last term. We received a lovely letter from the Forest Foodbank telling us that Dene Magna had donated an incredible 612.4kg of food which is an all time record for a school donation! The food donated supplied up to 1458 meals for local people in crisis.

Well done everyone and thank you.

## Running Club

Dene Magna students have caught the running bug!

Last Friday, almost 40 eager students swapped their school shoes for their trainers for Dene Magna Running Club's first outing. On Friday lunchtimes students are encouraged to get a little fresh air and stretch their legs as they jog through the Mitcheldean countryside. After so much interest, the club is now looking to divide into two groups with plenty of staff volunteering to lead the troops. Running is a great way to build fitness and will help students who already play team sports to develop more endurance on the pitch. Hopefully the club will continue to flourish as the days get brighter and warmer! If any students are interested in joining the club, please see Mrs Roderick in E1 for more details.



## Graphic Novels and Manga

DO YOU ENJOY GRAPHIC NOVELS AND MANGA?  
If the answer to this is **“Yes”** then read on...

The LRC (Library) is shadowing the Excelsior Award 2020, the **ONLY** Graphic Novel/Manga Award where the winner is chosen by YOU, the students!

Come and join our Graphic Novels Club. Please come and see Mrs Goodwin for more details.

*Read Them, Rate Them, NO Reviews to write!*

## U13 Butterfly Table Tennis

After winning the District and County finals in Gloucestershire, our U13 girls represented the County at the Butterfly Table Tennis Championships at Wood Green Academy, Birmingham this term.

The girls played incredibly well, coming 4th overall! Which is an amazing achievement for themselves and the school. Well done girls—super proud!



## Malvern Skills Show

Some of our Year 8 and 9 students visited the Careers Show at Malvern Show ground on 23 January. They were able to talk to exhibitors from the armed forces, local colleges and Universities. There were lots of apprenticeship opportunities from local employers too as the event covered Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Some students 'had a go' on a first aid dummy, tasting the apple juice used for cider making in Herefordshire and handled animals from a veterinary practice.

The aim was to give those students making a decision on their options a wider idea of careers that they might like to follow. We hope to revisit the show next year (Years 8 and 9).

We also visit the National Apprenticeship Show with our Year 10 and both Year 10 and 11 are invited to attend the National Skills show.

Please look out for news of these events on our website.



## Business Studies

Some of the Year 10 GCSE Business Studies students have been taking part in a national student investor challenge competition (London Institute of Banking and Finance).

We are absolutely delighted that two of the groups have now qualified for the semi-finals!

One group is positioned 89 overall and the other 243 out of 6,985 groups that are taking part in England. Proud isn't the word!



## FDMA News & Forthcoming Events

We need you! The FDMA are looking for new members.

Unfortunately, several members of the team will be leaving us this year. We wish to say a BIG BIG thank you to them for all their help and support, over the years they have been members.

So we are now looking for any friends, family or staff from the school to join us. We are a friendly team, who meet up 3 to 4 times a year to arrange events such as quiz nights, bingo nights and the Christmas raffle. If you could give a small amount of time, or have new suggests/ ideas we would love to hear from you.

All FDMA proceeds go directly to the school and benefits the students by enhancing their learning process within the school. The money raised is used to provide lots of extra equipment, activities and events which helps each learning topic to be more varied and interesting.

If you would like to join us please email us at

[fdma@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:fdma@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk)

Following the FDMA's AGM on Monday 4 February we would like to extend a huge thank you to the following committee members who stepped down:

Jan Ray as Treasurer (served 5 years),  
Pete Adams as Secretary (served 14 years) and  
Jane Foot, Committee Member (served 4 years).

The new committee currently comprises of:

Louise Clifford - Chairperson  
Mary Pope - Secretary  
Sam Gardner - Treasurer  
Nic Hacker  
Kevin Hacker  
Sarah Cook  
Lorna  
Laura Martin

The next event is the BINGO Night on Friday 28 February, working with the Okinawa Exchange student group, doors open at 7pm for "eyes down" at 7.30pm.

We hope to see you all there.

## Young Carers Awareness Day

We have been championing our Young Carers in school and celebrated Young Carers Awareness Day on Thursday 29th January.

We had a number of events such as assemblies, PSHE lessons and a student forum. During the forum students had the opportunity to play some team building games and then a discussion about what caring for a family member is like for them and how we could improve school support for those who have a caring role at home.

A huge thanks to Bethan from Gloucestershire Young Carers who supported the running of these events in school and we are looking forward to working with her again in the future.



*Stronger Together*

*Aspire, Achieve Together*

*Perseverance*

*Nil Satis Nisi Optimum*

# 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 showing both year groups and Houses can be seen here. These figures are up to 7th February.

Whilst we realise that some absence is unavoidable, please try and book any medical appointments outside of school hours and where possible make sure that your child returns following their appointment as soon as possible.

Like many schools at this time of year, you can see the impact of bugs!

**Well done to Foley House who have reclaimed the lead.**

Week 21		
	Year to Date	Weekly
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>94.26%</b>
<b>Year Groups</b>		
Year 7	97.22	96.61
Year 8	96.10	95.25
Year 9	95.47	85.42
Year 10	95.98	94.37
Year 11	95.59	96.55
Year 12	96.38	97.39
<b>Houses</b>		
F	96.60	94.31
W	96.02	94.04
D	95.87	93.79
J	95.67	92.34



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## 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.***

# 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'.

# Student of the Month

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

The focus for **December** was for:

## Contribution to House Activities



7D1	Keira Daugreilh
7D1	Ollie Cook
8D1	Jake Brice
9D1	Ben Didcote
10D1	Daisy Whitson
11D1	Callum Kibble
11D2	Lydia Rudge



7F1	Max Henson
8F1	Charlotte Rankin
8F2	Macey Phillips
9F1	Liv Bennett
10F1	Ollie Snook
10F2	Izzy Whittington
11F1	Hannah Kibble



7J1	Savannah Dunn-Hale
8J1	Kieran Ballinger
8J2	Leo Powell
9J1	Ryan Morgan
10J1	Harri Thompson
10J2	Josie Scott
11J1	Hannah Evenson



7W1	Joseph Horrobin
7W2	Ruby Blackwell
8W1	Poppy Poole
9W1	Olivia Retsis
9W2	Ione James
10W1	Callum Cole
11W1	James York
11W2	Bea Molyneux

# Student Voice

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

Hi Guys,

This term has been very busy for all, especially the Year 11 students who have recently collected their mock exam results.

The morning was a very tense affair, however, there were some very proud faces from both students and teachers. Of course there were some less pleased faces but all is not lost, it's not too late to turn things around. With a second round of trial exams on the near horizon students are knuckling down for what feels like the final stretch into the summer exam season. We are especially proud to say that this year group has had the best mock results the school has ever seen! This is definitely an achievement we hope is reflected in our GCSE results too.

This term Year 9 have been considering their options and with this decision looming some tricky conversations are occurring. Many teachers fighting for the attention of potential GCSE students, all excited for their futures.

Year 9 have also had the pleasure of enjoying a Languages for Life day. They were visited by a variety of guest speakers who showed them the value of MFL and have inspired the students to continue their language journeys which will help open doors in their futures.

Students fundraising for the Okinawa trip have been working really hard to raise a considerable amount of money to fund their adventures in Japan in the summer and their recent cake sale was no exception. We want to wish them an amazing time when it comes around as they truly do deserve it.

Finally, we'd like to wish a Happy Chinese New Year to everyone in our Dene Magna community, including our Chinese visitors who have recently departed following a fantastic visit. We know their student 'buddies' are missing them already.

Good luck to all of the Year 11s that are sitting any early exams and thank you for such a brilliant term!

Maisy & Cobi

# Dowty House News

Happy New Year to you all!

Dowty students and staff have been using the STEP (Smile, Thank you, Excuse me, Please) approach much more extensively this term. This really helps to make the school feel a nicer place to be and has certainly helped to lift spirits during January. It really is lovely to have students saying 'good morning' and raising a smile to add to their day and yours.

I have great pleasure in informing you that as I type we are clawing our way up the Attendance table. We are now just 0.8% behind Foley. Currently we are at 95.98%. We must be at 97% by the end of the year; be here and be the best you. This year is ours for the taking Dowty; aim high!

Students of the Month for January have been awarded to those that have shown the largest progress improvements. Our congratulations go to:

7D1 Keira Daly  
7D2 Brooke Murrell  
8D1 William Keene  
9D1 Leah Murrell  
9D2 Katie Beard  
10D1 Kelsey James  
11D1 Elena Keene  
11D2 Caitlyn Keeble

Students that have shown improvement in the most recent Assessments and have been rewarded with a 2 Dowty Voucher! They can use this at the Snack Shack or in the Canteen. After

Easter we will look to rewarding other improving students.

The key to receiving one of these rewards, is for the students to know the subjects where progress has slowed and target for improvement. If your daughter/son is unaware of where improvement can be made, then please email their tutor or myself.

We can all do something, is the key message in our House assembly this term. Students have been encouraged to make use of the recycling facilities at school and encouraged to do this at home and in their communities. The Eco Club group gave a summary of their achievements and future plans. I was immensely encouraged at the positive responses from the students in Dowty House. We can all do something.



As promised, House Netball and Table Tennis competitions have produced some superb results. Year 11 girls won the Netball and the Year 11 boys came second, well done. Year 10 and 9 didn't fair so well, so better luck next year. Year 8 came 2nd for girls and boys. Year 7 girls came 4th but the boys came 1st in the Table Tennis; bravo. Good results. We are looking forward to the trophies being awarded soon.

My thanks to the Sports Captains, tutors and all those that took part.

Go Dowty with the Talent Show; don't forget the auditions are soon.

We are looking to assist Year 11 students with our in House staff mentoring. Initially we have identified those in most need and are linking them with Dowty House staff. They will get together fairly regularly to discuss progress and provide strategies for improvement. Later in the term we hope to have a friendly face for all of 11D1 and 2 to know they can link and gain support.

Have a restful February half term break. We look forward to seeing you all again in the second half of the Spring term.

Heath Adams  
Head of Dowty House



# Foley House News

## House Champions 2018 -19

Hi Everyone

### HOUSE CUP

This consists mainly of the following areas:

Attendance  
Progress  
Approach to Learning  
Sports  
Merits  
Ready for learning

It is obviously a bit of fun, but it is in place for a reason, this is so that your child achieves their best progress and gets the most out of their life and school.

During the end of term Christmas assembly, an update was issued as to the current standings in each of the above areas. These for us in Foley, were as follows:

Attendance 1st  
Progress 1st  
Approach to learning 3rd  
Sports equal 1st  
Merits 2nd  
Ready for learning 1st

This means that the year to date we lead the way in the House Cup!! A great effort here by all of team Foley, and you as parents/carers are very much part of this team.

As a result of this, and their superb performance, the following tutor groups received a pizza and chips plus cake reward:

7F1 – Top attendance in school of all the tutor groups

9F1 – Top progress and Approach to Learning in Year 9

10F1/F2 – Top progress and Approach to learning in Year 10.

From the overall results, you can see that the area we need to work on is Approach to Learning, and myself and our tutors are on the case here! Please keep an eye on your son's/daughter's reports as they arrive, and check carefully their Approach to Learning, if they try their best, there is no doubt this will have a positive impact on their progress, and this is obviously vital in impacting on their final Year 11 exam grades.

### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (December)

This time, it was based on commitment and support to House activities and competitions, the award winners were:

7F1 – Max Henson  
8F1 - Charlotte Rankin  
8F2 – Macey Phillips  
9F1 – Liv Bennett  
10F1 – Ollie Snook  
10F2 – Izzie Whittington  
11F1 – Hannah Kibble

Congratulations to you all.

### INTERHOUSE SPORTS

This time the boys played table tennis and the girls played net ball. Overall, as always, we were very competitive and came joint first.

The following were our winners:

Year 8 girls and boys (the Year 8 girls are unbeaten so far in school life in sports!)

Year 10 boys

There were some notably good efforts also by Year 7 and Year 9

girls coming second.

Carrying on with the sports theme, the PE department is running a termly winners wall, based on endeavour, progress and attitude. This term we have the following students who are the winners here:

Harry Clark (11F1)  
Ollie Robinson (9F1)  
Will Heal (7F1)

Well done chaps.

That's enough from me, as always please feel free to contact me (email is the best way), if you need to discuss anything regarding school life, I want to and will help as always in the best way I can.

Thanks for your support and efforts.

Ashley James  
Head of Foley House



# Jenner House News

Welcome back everyone to a new term - Happy 2020!

Congratulations to Jake Fowler in 8J2 for passing his first Dan in Tae Kwon Do and gaining a black belt.



Joel Brown, in 10J2, obtained a Silver medal in Boxing at a recent competition in Birmingham.

Charlotte Farmer, in 7J1, has been awarded a certificate of merit for Creative Writing which was published in a Young Writers Anthology.

Lola Newman, in 7J1, has also gained a Bronze medal in Gymnastics at a recent competition.

Well done also to Lexi Barrington, in 7J1, for obtaining 5th place in Trampolining and 10th in Double Mini Trampolining at the recent South West Regional Competition.

If you have any other achievements then please let us know and we can announce it in the next issue of the newsletter.

Well done to everyone!

The Autumn term proved quite challenging to Jenner House, but we did have some pleasing tutor groups who need a mention:

7J1 - gained the best attendance in Y7 for the Autumn Term and they

received free pizza for their efforts.

11J1 - obtained the most progression in Y11 for the Autumn term and they received a box of chocolates as a reward. Keep it up Y11 - it will be worth it in the end.

The Student of the Month for January is given to the student with the best AtL's or the most improved AtL's in their latest reports. So well done to the following:

7J1 - Alana Haroun & Amelia Phillips

8J1 - Leon Nunn

8J2 - Luna Kelly

9J1 - Hazel Carpenter

10J1 - Martha Hampson

10J2 - Brett Tolbert

11J1 - Reuben Jones

I hope we all have a great Spring Term and let's see what we can win in 2020!

Anthony Tolley  
Head of Jenner House



**WINNING**  
ISN'T EVERYTHING,  
**BUT WANTING**  
**TO WIN IS.**

— VINCE LOMBARDI



# Wilson House News

## Attendance

Our attendance still remains positive. We have a target of 97%+ and we are currently at 96%. We need to try really hard to improve this as we are 2nd on the leader board and I would love to WIN this, this year.

In an attempt to encourage better attendance we have initiated a number of Attendance Awards.

The "Perfect Week". A perfect week not only includes attendance, but also behaviour. Students who get a 'perfect week' will be put into a raffle and will be able to jump the very long queue at lunch times.

The tutor group with the best attendance/merits/ATL, etc. for the Spring Term will also get an American themed dinner - will that be you? Let's have a major push over the next term to try and boost our position in the attendance table from 2nd to 1st!

## Merits

I am so excited and extremely proud to announce that, once again, Wilson are top of the leader board with our merits! We have achieved 9110 merits since September, which is fantastic. We are not only at the top of the leader board, but we are at the top by an astounding 841 merits! PROUD is an understatement! Huge congratulations to all the Wilson students who are contributing to school life in such a posi-

tive way! Keep up the amazing work!

## House Competitions

We have our annual TALENT SHOW coming up on Thursday 13 February and I am looking forward to seeing all our students taking part and supporting each other.



## Students of the Month

Student of the Month for December were chosen by tutors and the criteria for this was 'Contribution to Interhouse Competition'.

11W1 - James York  
11W2 - Bea Molyneux  
10W1 - Callum Cole  
9W1 - Olivia Retsis  
9W2 - Ione James  
8W1 - Poppy Poole  
7W2 - Joseph Horribin  
7W1 - Ruby Blackwell

Student of the Month for January were chosen by tutors and the criteria for this was 'Students working hard and showing great ATL scores or those students who have improved their ATL scores':

11W2 - Josh Freeman  
11W1 - Araya Smith  
10W1 - Dominic Greer  
9W2 - Amelia Stanton  
9W1 - Harry Stanton

8W1 - Sam Drew  
7W2 - Scott Townsend  
7W1 - Caitlin Hall

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

For February, tutors will be looking at students who always work really hard no matter what...students who GET IT RIGHT!

I am extremely proud of all the students in Wilson who consistently 'GET IT RIGHT'! I don't think I say it enough as sometimes the day can be caught up with other things and for this, I apologise!

**So a... MAHOOSIVE WELL DONE to all of you!**

Laura Burt  
Head of Wilson House



# Key Dates For Next Term

## Students return to Week B on Monday 24 February 2020

Thursday 27 February:	Y10 Parent/Carer Evening, from 4pm
Friday 28 February:	FDMA Bingo Night
Monday 2 March:	Y11 Photos
Thursday 5 March:	Y11 Information Evening, 5.30pm
Friday 6 March:	Y10 Prefect launch Y8 HPV vaccination (boys and girls) Y8,8 9 and 11 reports home
Monday 9 March:	House matches
Friday 13 March:	Netball Tour (returns 15 March)
Monday 23 March:	School production—Mary Poppins
Tuesday 24 March:	School production—Mary Poppins
Wednesday 25 March:	School production—Mary Poppins
Thursday 2 April:	Y11 Parent/Carer Evening, 4pm
Friday 3 April:	Prefect application deadline
Monday 6—Friday 17 April:	Easter Break



### Term Dates 2019 - 2020

Term Dates 2019 - 2020	
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:	<b>Wednesday 2 September – Friday 23 October 2020</b> Inset Days - Tuesday 1 September and Friday 25 September 2020 (Half term Monday 26 – Friday 30 October 2020)
Term 2:	<b>Monday 2 November – 18 December 2020</b> Inset Day – 27 November 2020 (Christmas break – Monday 21 December 2020 – Friday 1 January 2021) Inset Day Monday 4 January 2021
Term 3:	<b>Tuesday 5 January – 12 February 2021</b> (Half term – Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2021)
Term 4:	<b>Monday 22 February – Thursday 1 April 2021</b> (Easter break – Friday 2 April – Friday 16 April 2021)
Term 5:	<b>Monday 19 April – Friday 28 May 2021</b> (Half term – Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021)
Term 6:	<b>Monday 7 June – Friday 16 July 2021</b>

# Forest of Dean Trust

Please find below an important letter to Parents/Carers regarding a consultation process which will be in place from 7 February to 13 March. More details about the sponsorship is available on our website ([www.denemagna.co.uk/Our School/FODT Consultation](http://www.denemagna.co.uk/Our%20School/FODT%20Consultation)). We look forward to receiving your comments.

## DENE MAGNA



SJB/JRu  
7 February 2020

Leading • Learning • Training • Technology  
Headteacher: **Stephen Brady** BSc(Hons)

Dear Parent/Carer

You may well know that over the years Dene Magna School has continued to support schools who are in need of help in developing their teaching and learning, curriculum or other areas of leadership. Whilst this has gone on, standards at Dene Magna have never slipped and the school has continued to go from strength to strength in both the breadth of curriculum we offer and the outcomes for our students.

As the lead school in our teaching school alliance, we have led or co-ordinated intensive support and development programmes, all of which have benefited the Forest of Dean. In April 2019 we were approached by the Regional Schools Commissioner to ask if we would consider formalising this support by sponsoring a school. In order to do this, we would have to form what is called a Multi Academy Trust (an umbrella term for a group of schools who work together under shared aims and values).

After much research by the Governing Body, we applied to become a sponsor school and thus began the journey toward us forming our own Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Our MAT mirrors the values and ethos of Dene Magna and seeks to work closely with others within the Forest of Dean to secure the highest standards of education and opportunities for young people and staff. It is perhaps fitting that our MAT will be called the Forest of Dean Trust.

You may be aware that since April 2018 Drybrook Primary School has been in Special Measures. The school was issued with an academy order and the search for a sponsor began. We are delighted to announce that following a long period of due diligence, the Forest of Dean Trust is planning on becoming the sponsor for Drybrook Primary School. We aim for this to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April and from that date, the leadership of Drybrook Primary School will transfer to the Forest of Dean Trust.

The next step for us is to undertake a four week consultation to gauge your views on the formation of the Multi Academy Trust. More information can be found on our website and you can submit any comments to us at [MAT@denemagna.org.uk](mailto:MAT@denemagna.org.uk). The consultation will close on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March and any views will be taken into consideration.

As parents/carers/stakeholders in Dene Magna, we can reassure you that there will be no adverse impact on life at Dene Magna. Our plans for support will utilise experienced, high quality primary school leaders as well as key staff at Dene Magna who have always been involved in school to school support. It is our belief that the day to day life at Dene Magna will not change. The uniform and routines will remain the same, the staff will remain the same and our passion for everything Dene Magna will continue! There will be no changes to contact numbers or names and your interaction with us will be just as it was before.

We feel that this is the right action to take. One of our partner primary schools was in trouble and we believe that our desire for the best for our community meant that we could not sit back and do nothing.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Brady  
Headteacher

Dr Paul Weiss  
Chair of Governors

# Community School Games

## Sports Hall Athletics

We held our Sports Hall Athletics at Forest High on Thursday 12th December. We had 25 schools taking part all day and teams were split into small and large schools. There was a fantastic spirit in the hall from all the teams who took part.

Alan Beard, the Forest of Dean SGO, would like to thank Forest High School & Freedom Leisure and also Adam from Sports Hall Athletics. These events could not be run without the leaders so Alan would like to thank Hartpury College & the Dene Magna

students who worked so hard over the whole day to keep the event as smooth as possible.

Coalway will go through to the School Games finals to represent Large Schools from the district.

All the teams represented their schools superbly.

For more results and photos from the day, please go to our Community Games page on the Dene Magna Website.



## Individual Forest of Dean Primary Cross Country

We held the Forest of Dean Primary Cross Country Race to select 40 runners who will go through to the County finals in March.

The course was set up at Newent School and on Wednesday 22nd January, with the support of marshalling from Newent students, we held 4 races with 10 runners being selected from each

in the Y5 & Y6 Boys' and Girls' races. We had over 180 students attend from 18 Primary Schools!

It was very competitive lively afternoon, but the ground was very muddy which was a real challenge for the runners.

The runners who advance from this race will join this year's Primary

Cross Country County Championships at Katherine Lady Berkeley's School, Wotton-under-Edge on Saturday 29th February where Alan Beard, our School Games Organiser, will be the FOD Team Manager.



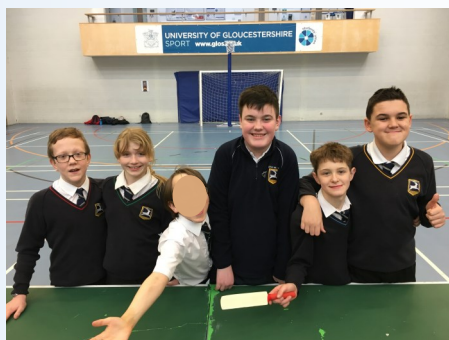
## Secondary Table Cricket Finals

Dene Magna sent a team to the County Table Cricket Championships at the University of Gloucestershire on Monday 20th January.

The team not only played well together but also encouraged each other to play well against other schools across Gloucestershire. It was a close run result and Dene Magna came out on

top! They were worthy winners with most runs scored as they now go forward to the regional finals at Edgbaston Cricket Centre in April.

Special thanks should go out to the students who took part for the school and the following staff, Mrs Berry, Mrs Greene, Miss Watkins, Miss Dews and Mr Sherwood & Mr Beard who supported them throughout.



## New Age Kurling 2020

We held a Primary New Age Kurling event at Newent School on Thursday 9th January. Many thanks for all the teams taking part. We had lots of teams, and lots of games, but everyone seemed to have fun along the way.

I wish we did not have to have winners for this type of event, however, it is a pathway School Games event.

Thank you to all the people who made the event happen and thanks goes to the Hartpury College and Newent School students and Andy Wheeler for the Table Cricket.

Well done to the 3 winners from the 3 groups. Full results and more photos can be seen on the Community Games page of the website.



## Wheelchair Rugby

On Wednesday 29th January Matt Lydiard, the Wheelchair Rugby Coordinator from Gloucester Rugby, came into Dene Magna bringing a van full of Wheelchair Rugby chairs after being invited in by our School Games Organiser. Our Sports GCSE students and a few other lucky students took part in the engagement sessions with the PE department to try this former Paralympic sport.

Our students really enjoyed the game and the whole experience and we look forward to having them return in the near future.



## Community School Games continued

### Primary South Gymnastics

We ran a South Area Primary Gymnastics on Wednesday 29th January at St Johns on the Hill for beginner Gymnasts. Big thanks goes to the PE team at St Johns and Tracey from Welsh Gymnastics who offered their support so that good School Games event in the south area went ahead. The scores were close this year with Yorkley and St Johns battling it out at the front.

My thanks to all the students who took part and all the help that was offered throughout the morning.

The young Gymnast's showcase routine was outstanding. Results and more photos can be seen on the Community Games page of the website.



### KS2 Girls' Indoor Football

We held a North area KS2 Girls' Indoor Football event at Newent School for the Forest Games.

Our thanks goes out to Steve Edgell, Head of PE and his Newent leaders Josie, Toby and Ruby who supported the event. We saw some very good football.

Well done to Mitcheldean & Highnam, worthy finalists who now go through to the Forest Finals against 2 teams from the south Forest area on Thursday 26th March.

