



17 January 2022

# Year 11 Special! Dene Magna



*Clear views of ~~school~~ Y11 news....*

## Trial Outcomes... What are the Next Steps?

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022! It goes without saying that Year 11 is the pinnacle of a student's learning journey at the main Dene Magna site before, potentially, continuing onto the Sixth Form.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of the current Year 11. They are on track to achieve Dene Magna's best ever set of results at GCSE and to show that the Dene Magna spirit can overcome what ever disruptions are put in their way!

The Trial results give us a forensic ability to support each and every learner. Our aim is to make sure that each and every learner is on the appropriate path Post 16. Of course, students still need support and challenge as we approach the final exams. This support now really comes to life and you will see this coming into focus as we ensure that each student is aware of the possibilities for them.

Please see below how we are going to be using Period 6 time after school. We also have interventions running in school and, of course, have a range of resources available via Google Classroom and also revision resources that the school has bought in for each student.

The key message here though is about revision. These interventions are not a replacement for revision. Revision must be starting now. Many students have learnt through their Trial exams that if they did not revise then they did not get the grade that they are capable of achieving.

Thank you to each parent/carer for your support in ensuring that your daughter/son is revising and making sure they are prepared for the up-coming exams...they will arrive sooner than you think!

Linked to this hard work is our 'Wednesday Enrichment'. This is designed to give each student the chance to learn new skills, relax and develop their self esteem. Climbing, Golf, Skiing, as well as a range of activities in school are available. Please see the website for more detail and get your son/daughter signed up!

## Period 6s and Progress Interventions

As a response to the Covid 19 pandemic we decided that it would be in the best interests of Y11 students to run a Period 6 from September - December 2021. This enabled the whole Year group to participate in additional lessons. The focus moving into the new year is on interventions - small group, personalised teaching for specific students. It is to this effect that we will be running subject specific interventions on a Week A and B, Monday to Thursday. Sessions will run from 15:30 until 16:15. There will also be lunchtime sessions available from 12:45 until 13:15.

Please note that there will not be a second running of the buses at 16:15. Your child will need to arrange collection from school. If this will be an issue then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Students have recently received their Trial exams and it is with this data in mind that teachers will now be targeting certain students to attend subject interventions. If your son/daughter has been chosen to attend a session they will receive a letter from their teacher.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that a subject intervention session does not replace revision. If your child does not receive a letter please assume that they do not require a specific intervention, it will mean that they are still required to be completing ILT and revision at home. Mr Derrick will be running workshops with Y11 students on how to revise, as well as Y11 tutors helping students to create revision timetables (see over).

These sessions are not compulsory, however it is strongly recommended that your son/daughter attends. It is the opportunity to plug any gaps in their knowledge and perfect exam technique, allowing them to have the best possible chance of achieving their target grade and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding these sessions.

## **Dene Magna Sixth Form and Post 16 Options**

### **A Levels**

Applications for the Sixth Form are coming in. We are now oversubscribed for places and this includes 50 applications for schools other than Dene Magna from across the Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Monmouth, Hereford and beyond!

We will be sending offer letters from the end of this week and please be aware that the initial deadline for places closes at half term (18 February).

If you have any questions about Sixth Form applications please see Mrs Balmer or Mr Mitchell. The application form is on the school website here:

<https://www.denemagna.co.uk/form/?pid=9&form=17> and is completed on-line.

### **Other Options**

Applications for apprenticeships and College Courses are also open now (see the appropriate websites for more details). A few students, when asked about their plans next year, answer 'I'm doing an apprenticeship'. This is a great option and involves a lot of research and hard work to make happen.

Apprenticeships start at both 16 and 18. For some students the option of completing A Levels or a Level 3 course and going on to a Advanced Apprenticeship at 18 is worth exploring. If you are not sure what this involves or whether it could work for you, please see your tutor in the first instance. We have great pathways through A Levels that lead directly into careers or into degree apprenticeships (which have the advantage of paying you while you study as well as covering University Fees).



## **Revision tips and advice session**

On Friday Mr Derrick is going to run a session with Year 11 students looking at revision skills and techniques. This is an issue that all students struggle with. They often say 'I don't know how to revise'.

The objectives of Mr Derrick's session is that each student:

- knows the impact that revision has (why do we revise?)
- has a number of strategies that work for them and in different subjects (not all subjects are the same)
- knows the difference between revision for exams and exam practice (we can learn how to **do** exams)
- is able to use available resources for both revision and exam practice (including online resources)
- can organise their time and resources to create the maximum impact (the more efficient, the more effective)
- is inspired and confident that they can achieve their maximum potential and ensure that the maximum number of possibilities are open to them post 16

We will also share resources with parents/carers.

### **After School Revision Room**

Very soon we will open a room after school where students can come along after school and revise. This will be a silent working space.

We will let Year 11 students know where and when this is available.