



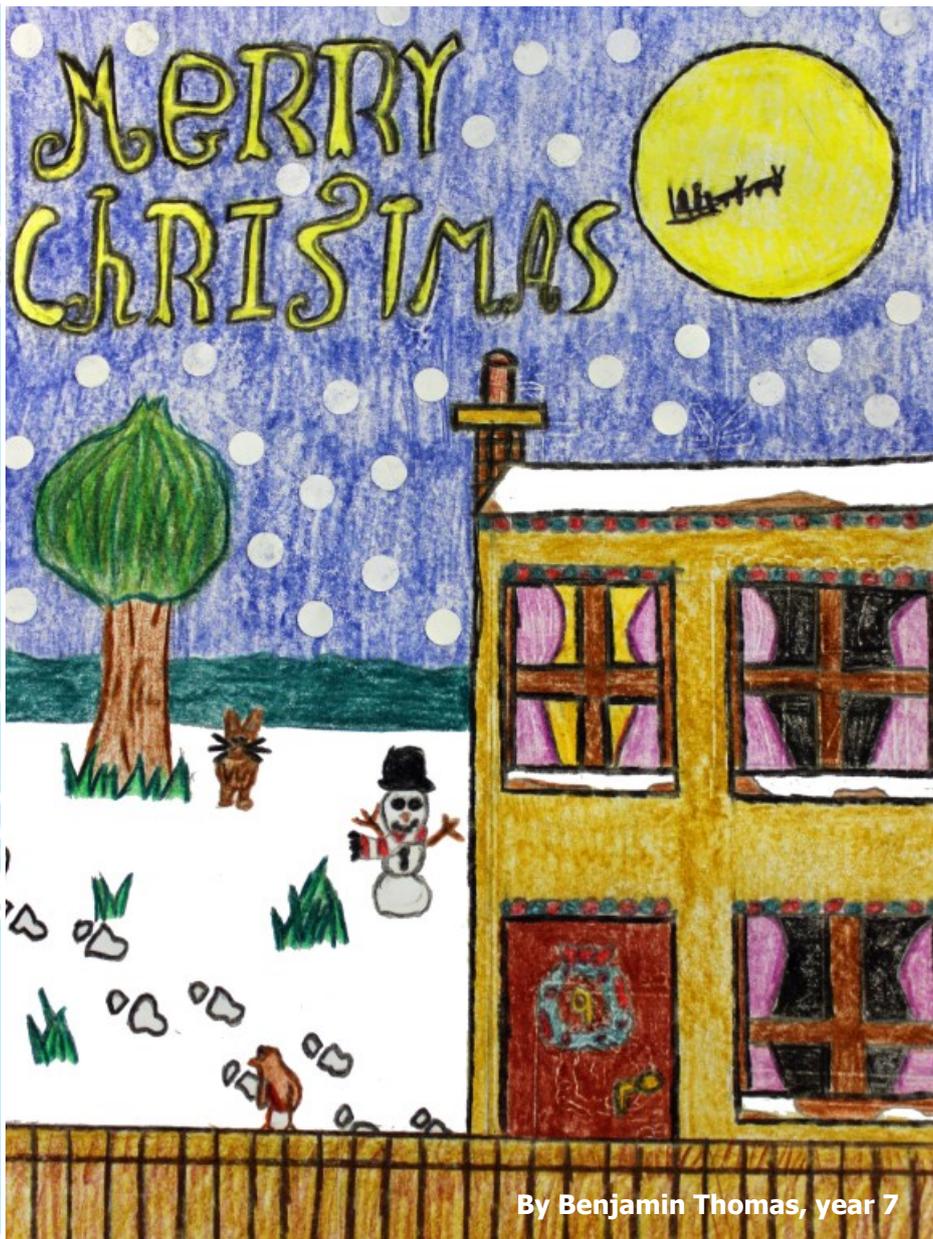
The Dean



The Magazine of The Dean Academy

Issue 13

Winter 2016



By Benjamin Thomas, year 7

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Update from the Head of School



I can't believe we have already reached Christmas. It has been a very busy term and the students have achieved so much.

I have spent as much time as possible since September in lessons talking and working with the students. It is clear that they take a lot of pride in their achievements in and out of lessons and that they value their education. It has been a pleasure to celebrate some of their successes with

the students, and the celebration assemblies have given every year group the opportunity to congratulate each other. Our young people are extremely talented, and their exploits on the sports field, in musical performances and on the stage have been excellent. I must also mention how humbling it is to see so many of our young people taking an

active part in the local community – their involvement in the Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Andy Lewis homecoming, Harvest celebrations, Christmas Showcase & Craft Fayre, to name but a few, was lovely to see.

Our Ofsted visit on 15th-16th November was an important hurdle for us to cross this term and it is credit to the staff and students that the inspectors found we had made significant progress. Of particular importance is their recognition that 'the culture of the school has improved significantly'. If you have not yet read the report I would encourage you to do so.

We must not of course get complacent and there is a lot of hard work still to do before the school reaches the stability, success and status that Lydney deserves.

I would like to thank the students, staff and wider community for making me feel so welcome since September. I wish you all a very merry and restful Christmas. **Tom Beveridge**

Christmas Dinner Raffle

The winners of the student Christmas Raffle draw are:

Wiktor Jarosz
Faye White
Benjamin Thomas



Terms & Holidays 2016 - 2017

TERM 3 BEGINS Tuesday 3rd January
ENDS Friday 10th February (3.15 p.m.)
HOLIDAY Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February

TERM 4 INSET DAY Monday 20th February (Staff only)
BEGINS Tuesday 21st February (Students return)
ENDS Friday 7th April (3.15 p.m.)
HOLIDAY Monday 10th April – Friday 21st April

TERM 5 BEGINS Monday 24th April (Students return)
MAY-DAY HOL. Monday 1st May
ENDS Friday 26th May (3.15 p.m.)
HOLIDAY Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

TERM 6 BEGINS Monday 5th June
INSET Friday 30th June (Staff only)
ENDS Friday 21st July (3.15 p.m.)
INSET DAY Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th July (Staff only)

Year 11 Mock Exams

Mock exams for year 11 students will take place on Monday 9th January to Friday 13th January 2017. Please note that individual exam timetables have been posted home.

The Severnsiders
LYDNEY RFC

**COME AND PLAY
JUNIOR RUGBY
AT AN AMBITIOUS CLUB
WITH A PROUD
HISTORY**

**PLAYERS OF ALL AGE GROUPS
REQUIRED FROM UNDER 7'S TO THE
UNDER 18 DEVELOPMENT SQUAD**

Contact: Gareth Williams – 07786 393389
Email: lydneyjuniorrugby@hotmail.co.uk



Christmas Showcase and Craft Fayre



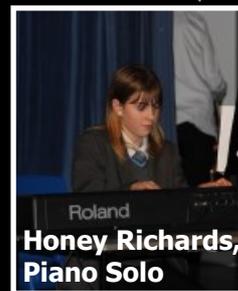
Family and friends were invited to a Christmas themed event at The Dean Academy as students hosted a special, musical evening of festive song and dance. The evening was also combined with an opportunity to purchase locally made gifts at its Christmas Craft Fayre.

Georgia Watson, Alfie Paine and Betty Hughes sang Christmas carol solos whilst Chloe Watts treated the audience to a contemporary dance performance. There was also a brass duet from Chris Taylor and Tianna Gwynne and a piano recital of 'O Holy Night' from Honey Richards. The academy's drama club performed a thought provoking piece entitled 'The Christmas Truce 1914'.

Year 11 student Lily Shilston organised a Craft Fayre for the evening where local businesses and artists were able

to support the academy by participating in the well-attended event.

Mrs Kathryn Rodway, Director of Performance, commented "The evening was a great success with lots of guests including the Mayor Bob Berryman in attendance. Lily Shilston did a great job of organising the fayre. Students both front and backstage worked really hard to ensure a smooth running and successful event."



**Honey Richards,
Piano Solo**



Mayor Bob Berryman and stall holders with performers Georgia Watson, Lily Shilston and Chloe Watts



**Betty Hughes sings
'Winter Wonderland'**



Drama Club



Hosts Caitlin Turner and Olivia Davis



Drama Club perform 'The Christmas Truce 1914'



Alfie Paine



Chloe Watts performs



Chris Taylor and Tianna Gwynne



Ukulele Club



Georgia Watson



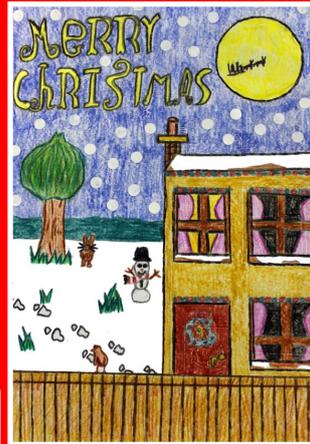
Performers and back stage crew

Art, Design and Production Faculty

Christmas Card Competition

Year 7 students in Art were given the challenge to design and make a Christmas card for a Christmas competition.

The winners have been picked and were professionally printed for use by The Dean Academy this Christmas. Well done to Ben Thomas, Ashton Davis and Carrie Horrocks-Waskett. Mrs K Charles



Ben Thomas



Carrie Horrocks-Waskett

Christmas Cakes for Cancer Charity



Year 10 Jamie Oliver students Charlotte Crote and Charlie Denman made miniature Christmas cakes for a Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning which was held at the academy on Friday 9th December. They decorated the cakes and wrapped them ready for the sale.

Charlotte and Charlie really enjoyed the whole process

and I think you'll agree they look very professional. Well done girls!

Mrs S Sayers, Mrs S Gittins-Jones



WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



Ashton Davis

KS3 Healthy Eating



Luke Tomley



Charlie Baldwin



Georgia Watson

As always, there is excellence in Food Technology! Healthy eating and a balanced diet has always been our focus. These excellent examples of dishes made by our students reflect the importance of vegetables in the diet (veg soup), eating a range of food groups (pizza) and why protein is essential for growth and repair (curry). Just a few amazing dishes made in KS3. Mrs S Gittins-Jones

Healthy and Fun Nutrition

This term our Key Stage 4 Child Development students have had to consider fussy eaters. How can you get children to eat a wider variety of nutritious foods? By making it FUN! Whilst our Food and Nutrition students have been under pressure to create, plan and prepare two healthy and nutritious dishes in 2 hours for their GCSE coursework. The standard of skills and presentation has been high. Well done, keep it up! Mrs S Gittins-Jones



Denzil Key



Charlotte Bayliss



Megan Jones



Scott Minchington



Caitlin Turner



Kaia Long

Art, Design & Production Faculty

Year 7 STEM Day

What a wonderful start to a cold wet Wednesday - an exciting, interesting and stimulating STEM day (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for our year 7 students.

Mr Chris Beer, the Business and Activities Lead for STEMworks, visited the academy to set the year group a challenge to design, cost and build a 'wind' powered vehicle which had to carry an 'egg' passenger with a budget of just £100.

Year 7s worked in teams of five to create their designs and build their vehicle before competing against each other in a speed race!

Ms K Westgate



Team work



Winning team with Mr Beer



Speed race



End product



Designing and creating

"It was fun and really good to work as a team."

Hannah Mae

"It was good fun, especially working with other people and using different skills to make our own designs."

Declan, Ellie and Ashleigh

Year 10 Lydney Construction Visit



On the 5th December a group of year 10 students had an enlightening trip to the new development at the top of Lydney. Civil Engineers, Blackwell, gave students a real insight into civil engineering including an introduction to the roles of a QS (Quantity Surveyor) and tour of the site. We saw a range of activities such as sewage drain system, flood prevention lake, roads and services which all need to be in place before Redrow Building company starts work on Phase 1, the building of 300 new homes.

Mr A Winstanley

Here's what the students thought:

Harley Summers "I enjoyed the visit very much. I learnt about the jobs and what they do and how they do it. I also learnt how drains are laid and the rules about laying them (you can't go deeper in soil than your knees without a trench support system, this surprised me). I was surprised also by the amount of houses that are going to be built and ready by Christmas 2017."

Josh Turley "I loved the experience to drive and work a digger and see how workers do their jobs. I learnt how hard it is and how long they work. I found it surprising how dangerous it is to work on a construction site and the risks they take to do their jobs."

Luke Hudson "I thought the trip was very interesting and good for us! I think it was good for us to see the real life work. I also really enjoyed using the digger which involved using the dead mans handle and the controls and also just seeing the workers using them!"

Reilly Scriven "I thought the visit was good and has given us an opportunity, which most people would not normally have and has showed us the different stages of the building and land process."

Art, Design and Production Faculty

Clothes Show 2016

Years 8 and 9 had a great day out at The Clothes Show Live in Birmingham recently.

As well as watching an amazing catwalk show from top designers, gorgeous models and fabulous dancers, there was plenty of inspiration for the students to consider for future careers, with a few celebrity faces thrown in as well!

Mrs S Gittins-Jones



Night Feeds and Nappies

Our year 10 Child Development students had the opportunity to be parents for the weekend . . . to Virtual Babies. The babies are programmed to behave as normal human babies. They need to be fed, changed

and cared for just like human babies. The students didn't get a lot of sleep over the weekend but all found it a valuable experience in parenthood and a chance to see their own parents in a much more favourable light! **Mrs S Sayers**



Adventures in Spain

A group of students from The Dean Academy enjoyed a four day trip to the city of Barcelona where they experienced its vibrant culture and brushed up on their Spanish skills.

Miss Jane Burns, Assistant Director of Communications at the academy who organised the visit commented "The trip was an amazing experience for our students. It was great to hear them practising their Spanish. They all gained so much confidence in the short time we were there."

Students enjoyed a visit to Nou Camp Stadium, the home of FC Barcelona and admired its enormous collection of trophies. They experienced the sights of Gaudi's architecture including Park Güell and the unfinished cathedral Sagrada Familia. A trip to the aquarium and science museum were also on the agenda as well as dinner at the Hard Rock Café and watching a colourful display at the Magic Fountain. Miss Burns added "All of this was broken up with lots of shopping and learning how to master the Barcelona Metro System." Year 11 GCSE Spanish student Lottie Hughes commented "The trip was a great way to experience the language and culture of the city, I had an amazing time." Other students recommended Barcelona as a beautiful place to visit and well worth all of the walking!



BENVINGUTS
BIENVENIDOS WELCOME



Maths and Computing Faculty

STEM Workshop

On the 9th November a group of girls from year 8 and 9 went on a STEM trip which was sponsored by EDF Energy. The students had the opportunity to experience different types of technologies and appliances throughout the day.

Alexa the Smart House Robot was an inquisitive appliance which helps to control the lights in your house. It can also play music, answer questions and tell jokes.

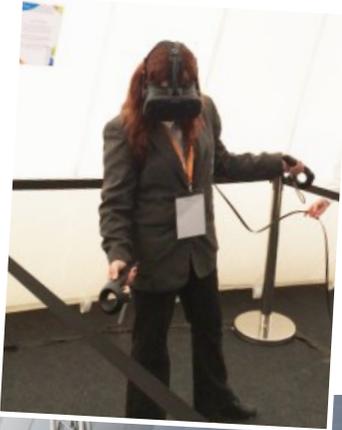
Another interesting experience was the virtual reality zone. One person was wearing 3D goggles whilst the group were given a set of instructions on how to build a nuclear reactor. The group were able to see the virtual reality on a monitor and then had to guide the individual to build the reactor out of a number of parts.

The girls competed to create a new piece of technology. They all worked very hard and had many great ideas. They had a number of resources including a kit of electrical components. They were all able to connect them to build a range of circuits such as lights, alarms, fans and switches.

One student commented "It was very fun and educational."

They were all a credit to the school and were the only school to know what an oesophagus is!

Mrs N Cook



National Cipher Challenge

The Dean Academy's Cipher Club have been taking part in the National Cipher Challenge which is a nationwide, online codebreaking competition.

The project is organised by the University of Southampton and is a fantastic way for students to learn new skills. Each week our budding codebreakers have to tackle a new challenge.

The Cipher Club meet every Thursday at 3.15pm in the Maths and Computing Faculty and is open to all Key Stage 3 students. If you would like to have a go at cracking some codes then please come along. **Mrs A Ball**



Super sleuths: William James, Thomas Walker, Jamie Chapman, Connor Toogood and Ben Hughes



Cross Country 2016

Dean Academy students attended the District Cross Country Championships at Newent School again this year, producing some outstanding performances from individual students.

Athlete of the day for The Dean Academy, had to go to Chloe Ervig, year 7, who came first in the Minor Girls race, beating every other Forest school contender.

Mrs K Rodway



Chloe Ervig



Aleisha Maguire-Toombs, Scarlet Pegler and Jessie Seymour



Performance Faculty

Rugby

Students have enjoyed a term of rugby activities and fixtures, with the assistance of Gloucester Rugby Club Community Coaches, Lydney RFC and Berry Hill RFC.

The girls have benefitted hugely from Bianca and Megan at Gloucester RFC coming into school and taking classes. They have worked on their skills in order to prepare for tournaments taking place early next year.

Lydney RFC have also brought coaches into school and have run a successful girls rugby after school club on a Monday evening. It's been fantastic to create club links and to be able to utilise the expertise of the club coaches in engaging girls in the sport. The girls have also been well supported by Berry Hill RFC.

From January, Lydney RFC will continue to run the after school club for all girls, and will also continue boys rugby for year 7 on a Monday after school, starting from the 9th January, 3:30-4:30.

Congratulations to Lucy Moore, Daisy Turner and Lily-Mae Walker who were selected this term to represent Gloucestershire at U19 and U17 level.

Boys rugby has continued this term, with training on a Monday and matches throughout the term. The year 9 boys ended the term in spectacular fashion, with a 48-0 win over Newent!

Boys training for year 7 will continue in the New Year on Monday from 3:30-4:30, with Lydney RFC offering club training and fixtures for boys in all year groups, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Training days and times for Lydney RFC are below, with contact details for the coaches, if you wish to find out more about both boys and girls rugby training.

Boys

Years 7 -9

Training is on Thursday evenings 6-7.30

(Games on Sunday from 10am)

Years 10 and above

Training on Wednesday evenings 6.30-7.30

(Games on Sunday from 10am)

Girls

Sunday 12.30pm - 2pm

Contact for ALL BOYS

Gareth Williams tel: 07786393389 email - lydneyjunior-rugby@hotmail.co.uk or gar.w@hotmail.co.uk

Contact for ALL GIRLS

Dave Beddis tel: 07453 319883
email dave.beddis@hotmail.co.uk



Lydney RFC girls side in their first match for the club, against Kingswood, Bristol.

College Matches

College Matches have been revitalised this year, with every single student in years 7-10 taking part in netball and rugby College matches since September. This will continue into the Spring Term, where we will hold further matches for years 7-10 in football and hockey and hope to see the competitive spirit and team work continue within tutor groups and colleges! **Mrs K Rodway**



Basketball

Congratulations to the year 10 basketball team who convincingly beat both Dene Magna and Newent to qualify for the County Basketball finals in the New Year, good luck in the next round boys!

Football, ESFA Cup

A talented year 9 football team travelled to Stonehenge to play Stonehenge school in the 3rd round of the National Schools Cup. The horrendous weather conditions played a massive part in deciding the game, where our team eventually lost the game 5 - 1. This was not a fair reflection of the game as the team played some lovely flowing football with Daunte Billingham and Drew Roberts causing the opposition huge problems out wide. With 3 wind assisted crosses, we found ourselves with a real mountain to climb in the second half, and it proved too much of an up hill (WIND!!) struggle. After the game one of the Stonehenge students emailed the school and had this to say; 'I would like to congratulate you for getting as far as you did in the National Cup, you have a bright bunch of lads in year 9 who put up a great performance. I would like to say that the respect and their attitude to the officials was outstanding.'

All years boys football club will be starting after school with Mr Stradling (more information to follow). **Mrs K Rodway**

Science

Primary visits

Pupils in years 4, 5 and 6 from Lydney C of E primary visited the Science Faculty on two consecutive Mondays earlier this term as part of the schools enrichment programme.

The pupils experienced some hands on Science experiments in the first session with Mrs Tall, investigating physical and chemical changes culminating with the pupils making sparklers.

The second session was with Mr Webb who used magic as a way of explaining some scientific ideas, pupils wrote secret messages and produced a rainbow in a test tube.

This is part of the Science Faculty's program to build links between ourselves and our partner primary schools.

Blakeney Primary School have been using the schools dedicated primary Science laboratory every Wednesday since the start of term using the faculty's equipment and utilising the experience of our staff. **Mr D Webb**

Science Club

Science Club has continued this term and attendees have taken part in a number of projects, ranging from a 'practical action' problem solving task to the best design for a paper aeroplane. Future projects will include the chance to work towards a Science Crest award.

The Science Club has also been helping with re-invigorating the school's greenhouse and garden area. It is hoped that a gardening club will be set up in the spring.

Science Club is open to all year 7 and 8 students and is held on Wednesdays 3.15 until 4.15 in S6.

Mr D Webb



Chemical changes

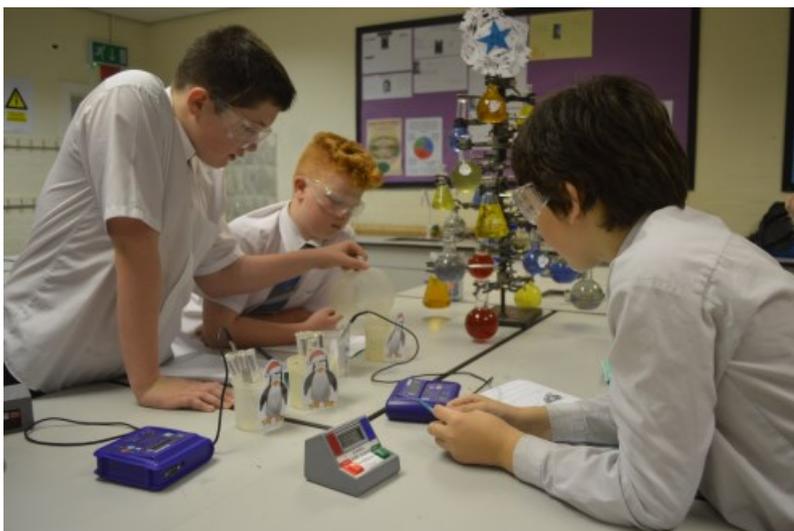


With Director of Faculty Mrs Tall



Experimenting with Science

Science Christmas Event



Students and parents were invited to have some tea and refreshments with the Science Faculty and this was followed by a hands-on master class in the important aspects of school Science. Mr Darren Webb, Acting Assistant Director of the Faculty organised the evening with all of the practical experiments with a Christmas theme.

Students investigated how penguins keep warm in the North Pole and measuring the speed of Santa's sleigh.

Mrs Katie Tall, Director of Science at the academy commented "This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience a range of different Science subjects whilst having lots of fun. It was lovely to see parents working alongside their children to solve Christmas based problems."

Mr D Webb



Year 9 History

The realities of trench warfare through novels and war poetry.

As part of their unit of learning on World War 1, year 9 have been studying life on the Western Front and the effectiveness of the weaponry used.

One way this was brought to life was through the works of 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo and 'Dulce et Decorum est' by Wilfred Owen.

Students developed their understanding about the terrors of experiencing a gas attack through the analysis of similes and metaphors before using the extracts as a basis for their own independent work. This was achieved by either creating an illustrated snapshot of key parts of 'Dulce et Decorum est', writing their own poem about life on the Western Front or creating a word cloud.

The students have produced some excellent work with stand out pieces submitted from Ella James, Jude Mullinger, Freya Fox and Tilleque Beaton.

Year 9 will now go on to study whether the Battle of the Somme could be seen as a success or failure for the British and assess whether General Haig could be defined as a 'butcher'.

Miss Rosbrook



Jude Mullinger, 9B1



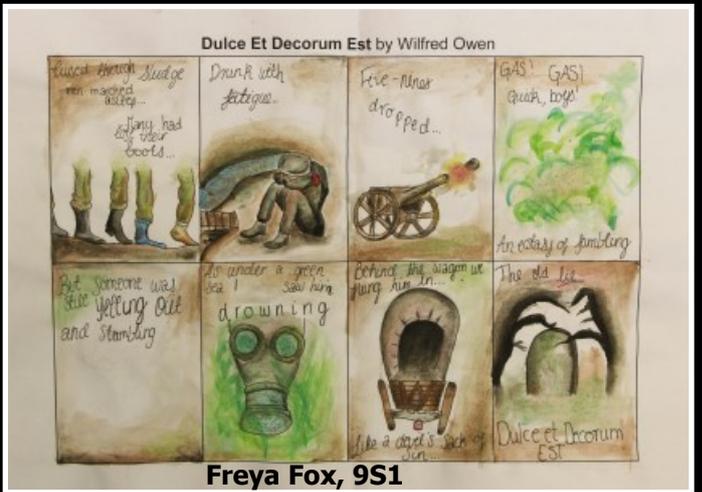
Ella James, 9B2

Remembrance Assembly

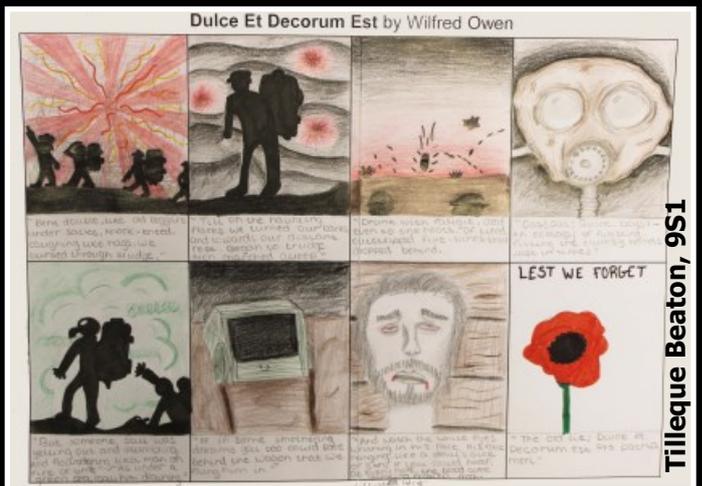


Students observed a two minute silence in a special and moving assembly to remember and honour all those who have fought and lost their lives in service of their country.

Key Stage 3 students Ryleigh Turley, Paige Osborne, Chloe Teague, Maisie James and Carrie Horrocks-Waskett addressed the whole school about the importance of Remembrance Day and why we should never forget. Year 11 student Rebecca Jessop who is in the Air Training Corps performed The Last Post whilst Sea Cadets Kieran Morgan, Elliott Allen, Zac Arnold, Summer Elliott, Tristan Nutting and Josh Nash were in attendance as Guards of Honour.



Freya Fox, 9S1



Tilleque Beaton, 9S1

Beau's Board of Inspiration

In an effort to improve resilience in the whole school Beau Timmins in year 9 was asked to create a special display full of pictures and quotes that inspire and motivate him. Rather than cutting and pasting from the internet Beau decided he wanted to create his own display using pictures of his friend's pets and various members of staff. We think he did a brilliant job! **Mrs S Hankinson**



Gloucester Race Dragons Success



Congratulations to Charlie Denman in year 9 who has been running with Gloucester Race Running Dragons.

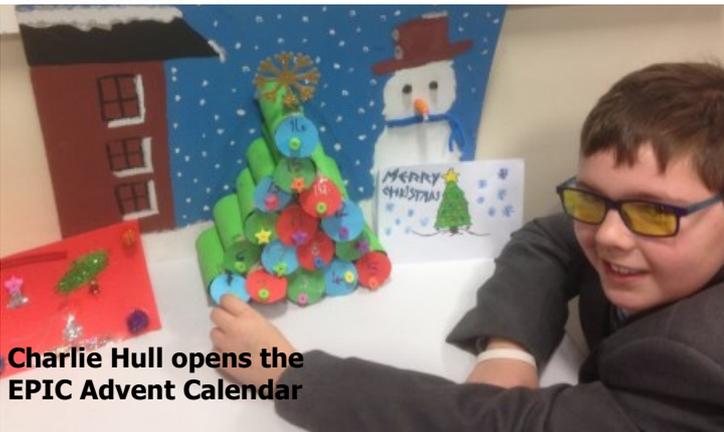
In November Charlie won the 400m race with a personal best of 2 mins 10 secs, shaving 30 seconds off her previous PB, well done Charlie!

Mrs S Hankinson

An EPIC Christmas

Everyone in EPIC is getting festive and looking forward to the Christmas break. The Advent Calendar made by our students has been filled and each student waits to see if they are the lucky prize winner of the day.

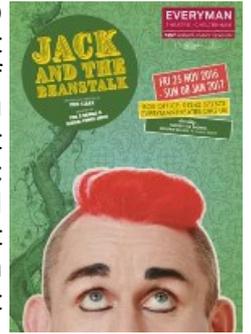
Mrs S Hankinson



Charlie Hull opens the EPIC Advent Calendar

Christmas Fun for All

If you have children at home who can be a bit nervous or react badly to loud noises, as some of the students in EPIC do, you might be interested to know that there will be a special 'autistic friendly' pantomime of Jack and the Beanstalk taking place at Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham on Saturday 17th December at 2pm.



You will be given a family pack on arrival to see the show which will inform you when to expect all of the noisy, scary parts so that anyone who is easily frightened will know in advance.

What a brilliant idea! Oh yes it is! **Mrs S Hankinson**

Amazing African Adventure

Q: Where did you go in the school holidays?

A: Zimbabwe in Southern Africa where my mother was born.

Q: Where did you stay?

A: First we spent four days on a houseboat on Lake Kariba which is the largest man-made dam in the world. We spent time game watching and fishing.

We then went to Chirundu which is on the Zambezi River and is the main border crossing between Zimbabwe and its neighbour Zambia. We went on a motorboat trip on the river and saw some kudu and impala, as well as bush buck. We also had a very close encounter with two young elephant bulls.

Q: Did you go anywhere else?

A: Yes, we went to the Motobo Hills in Matabeleland (the south west) and saw the grave of Cecil John Rhodes who was a British pioneer and gold-miner. We also saw cave paintings which date back over 200,000 years. After that we went to Nyanga, the highest part of the country which is a bit like Scotland!

Q: What animals did you see?

A: Not as many animals as I had hoped; around 25 different ones but we saw more than 150 different types of birds from the biggest fish eagles to the tiniest humming birds. **Ella Fidler, year 10**



Fishing with friends & family



Zimbabwe sunset

Open Evening

The academy opened its doors earlier in the term to prospective students and their parents at its Open Evening giving them a taste of what the academy can offer.

Teachers brought their subjects to life through various fun and interactive activities such as castle building and gruesome surgery demonstrations in History and making instruments in Music. In Maths there were origami and string art activities as well as many exciting experiments in Science, including maggot racing, slime making, and organ dissection. There were also demonstrations of woodworking and cooking in the Technology workshops.

One parent of a year 6 child at Lydney C of E commented "My son has really enjoyed the evening, particularly the activities and sampling the food in the school restaurant. It's a great way to introduce him to the academy and also for parents to meet the teachers and see the facilities that are available here."



Workshop

Musical Message for Students



Year 8 students at The Dean Academy were visited by singer and songwriter Carys Selvey who delivered an important message about online safety and cyber bullying.

Carys spoke from personal experience about the effects of cyberbullying, commenting "When I was at school a girl took her own life because she was being bullied online. It was horrible to think that she was in a place and could see no other way out. I saw the effects that this had on her family, friends and on the whole school." Carys offered advice to students about staying safe online and for others to think twice about what they are posting, adding "Words are powerful, use them wisely."

Mrs Linda Bellingham, the Deputy Safeguarding Lead at the academy who organised the event said "We are very grateful to Carys for visiting our year 8 students and sharing her experiences of the effects of cyber bullying. She is an amazing singer and really connected well with our students."

Carys performed a selection of songs including 'Burning Bridges' which she wrote herself and is due to be released on her first EP later this year and students sang along to covers of 'Love Yourself' and 'Rip Tide'.

The visit was part of a Prime Agency campaign to raise awareness of issues affecting young people.



Looking Ahead to the Future

The Dean Academy hosted a special post-16 advice evening in November aimed at students in their final year at the academy to help them consider the many opportunities that are available to them and to give them an informed choice about their future beyond secondary school. Head of Careers, Mrs Ellie O'Regan who organised the evening explained "The event was aimed at supporting our year 11s in making decisions about their next educational step."

Representatives from Gloucestershire College, Wydean Sixth Form Centre, Denmark Road High School and Hartpury College were on hand to offer advice on apprenticeships and further education. The Armed Forces were also in attendance alongside a range of other independent careers advisors.



Assistant Principal of the Royal Forest of Dean Campus Gloucestershire College offers guidance

Careers Resources



A careers information and guidance website has been made available to students. eCLIPS is an easy-to-use online careers resource that provides regularly updated information on over 1,000 jobs and careers. The site also offers advice on topics relating to options at key stages, education and training, employability skills, job seeking and lifestyle choices. **Mrs E O'Regan**

Primary Outreach

Year 11 BTEC Sport students Connor, Scott, Kerr, Harry and Keaton have been completing outreach work this term with students from Severnbanks Primary School, as part of their course. The boys have been visiting the school fortnightly, working with students in reception, year 1 and 2 classes, assisting in the teaching of multi skills and body management activities. Through their coaching, demonstrating and organising of activities, the boys have learned a huge amount in a short space of time, about how different activity is for a younger class, and how much coaching, encouragement and attention the younger children need in order to achieve and be successful.

The BTEC group have been busy planning and practicing their own sports session to deliver in January and are preparing now for the Severnbanks pupils to visit the academy in order to carry out the coaching sessions that they have planned for the younger students! Thanks must go to Severnbanks, and Mr Tomley for allowing our students to attend regularly. **Mrs K Rodway**

Let Them Eat Cake for Macmillan

Mrs Anna McCoy, the Assistant Director of Learning Support has been busy raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mrs McCoy has organised a Bake Off, two staff coffee mornings and a CD/DVD sale whilst her daughter, Emily in year 8 raised money from a sponsored silence.

Their combined efforts have raised almost **£500** for the charity. Anna commented "The Bake Off was a huge success; the entries were amazing. The student leadership team had a very difficult task of judging the delicious bakes. Thanks to staff who donated, baked or ate cake for Macmillan Cancer Support. I am very thankful to my friends, family and colleagues for their generous contributions. I am also extremely proud of my daughter Emily for being silent for the whole day (one mean feat!) and all the money she has raised to help this worthwhile charity!"



Student Leadership Team sample and judge the delicious bakes



Fundraisers: Mrs Anna McCoy with Emily



Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform



7G2 get in the festive spirit

Students arrived at the academy on the last day of term wearing a vast array of fun and festive jumpers to help raise money for the children's charity Save the Children. The day raised over £500 for the charity and will help provide essential healthcare, education and protection to millions of children around the world giving them a chance for a healthy and happy future.

Harvesting Goodwill for the Community

In September, year 7 students were busy collecting food for the local community as part of St Mary's Church Harvest Festival celebrations. The school ran a competition between the tutor groups, with one year 7 group winning after amassing almost one hundred items between them in a week. The donations will help support local charity Christians Against Poverty, who work with families and individuals in the local area struggling with debt.

Emily Smith, Assistant Head Teacher, said "We have been overwhelmed by the huge number of donations

made by students across the school in the past few weeks. They have worked tirelessly to show the local community in Lydney how much they want to support charity events like this and we are very proud of all their efforts."

The food was taken to St Mary's Church before their weekend of celebrations. The school was represented by staff and students at the service with Head of School Tom Beveridge and senior students from year 11 attending, alongside readers from across the school.



Assistant Head Emily Smith with Mr Grant and his year 7 tutor group

Families Day

Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and siblings of year 7 students were invited to a special morning that gave them a chance to tour the school with their child and see what they have been working on since they joined the school in September.

Mrs Ellie O'Regan a teacher of Music who organised the event explained "As a school, engagement with our wider community is a key priority. This is a fantastic chance for extended family members to gain an understanding of life at the academy and experience some of the opportunities on offer to our students."

Elliott Wrigley's Grandma, Pat Edwards, said "I am really impressed with the facilities at The Dean Academy. My grandson has shown me all around the school including the Library which is fantastic. I am amazed at the amount of different things that are on offer here; my grandson has cooked in Food Technology and is now studying Textiles as well as Drama and Music. I don't know how they keep track of all the things they do!"

Relatives were treated to a special Christmas performance from students and festive refreshments were enjoyed by all.



Georgia Watson in year 8 entertains

Micah Evans with his mum and brothers



Lauren Eltringham with Great Gran Mrs Beryl Burford



Elsbeth Price with her Nan and parents

Inspirational Visit from Andy Lewis



Staff and students at the academy were thrilled to receive an inspirational visit from local hero and Paralympic gold medallist Andy Lewis.

Andy, who is a Paratriathlete, lost his leg when he was 16 years old following a serious road accident. Andy refused to let the accident prevent him from succeeding and he has gone on to become a European, World and Paralympic champion.

Andy Lewis addressed the whole school in a special motivational assembly telling them "You get out of life what you put into it. When I was told after my accident that I wouldn't be able to do certain things I was determined to prove people wrong. I realised that there was no magic wand for me and that it was down to me to change my life. If you believe in yourself you can do great things."

Following a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet staff and students Andy took part in a PE lesson with year 9 students.

Head of School Mr Tom Beveridge commented "Today we welcomed Andy Lewis into the school. Andy generously spent the whole morning in the school, giving an assembly and speaking to students and staff. It has been a truly inspiring experience for our young people to meet someone who used to go to their own school and who has achieved so much.

Andy spoke to the students about his own struggles at school and showed them how far they can go if they strive to achieve their goals. On behalf of the whole school community we would like to thank Andy for giving up his time to be here."

Andy Lewis receives his gold medal in Rio



Back to School: With Head of School Tom Beveridge and students Leo Loew, Emily McCoy, Izzy Byrne, Nathan Allen and Zac Arnold



With Bradley Hodgson in year 9

