



The Dean



The Magazine of The Dean Academy

Issue 19

Winter 2018



PUBLISHED POETS
(SEE PAGE 7)

Featured in this edition

Ada Lovelace Day
Page 11

Christmas Showcase
Page 12

Local History Community Project
Page 15

Update from the Head of School



This September we adopted a new school vision and I cannot sum up these last few months in any better way than to start with this vision:

Enjoyment Achievement Community

This term has once again been a very busy one for the whole school. We have introduced a number of changes to our school systems and procedures, and

it has been fantastic to see our students embracing our new values of Responsibility, Readiness and Respect. There have been a number of trips and events, with students spending a long weekend in Madrid, seeing a performance at the Royal Opera House in London, and taking part in trust-wide subject competitions, to name but a few. Our students have also played an important part in a number of community events, attending the district council, and taking a central role in poignant ceremonies to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

It has also been great to see an increased number of students involved in sport and performance this term. Clubs held at lunch and after school have been well

attended, and students have represented the school in a number of sporting fixtures. A highlight of the year so far for me was the amazing Christmas Showcase – to see our talented young people perform was a real privilege.

Whilst the students have been involved in many events this term they have also been working extremely hard in their lessons and it has been fantastic to see students make such good progress with their learning. I want to commend the students for all their hard work and thank parents and carers for their support. I also want to give a mention to all of the staff for their outstanding work throughout this term, their efforts enable our students to fulfil their potential.

Sadly two members of staff will be moving on at the end of term and I know they will be missed by students, staff and parents. I wish Matt Ball and Ellie O'Regan all the very best for their futures and would like to thank them for all their hard work and effort whilst at The Dean Academy. A special mention must go to Matt who has worked at the school for an incredible 17 years. His loyalty and devotion to The Dean Academy and its students is second to none – he has served the school in a number of roles and we are extremely sad to see him go.

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you for the festive season. I sincerely hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. On behalf of all of us at The Dean Academy I would like to thank you for your continuing support.

Tom Beveridge

Year 7s Christmas Shoe Box Collection

With Christmas being a time for giving, our year 7 students have been busy filling festively wrapped shoe boxes with lots of goodies to send abroad to disadvantaged children as part of the Teams4u Christmas shoe box appeal.

The boxes were collected from the school and sent to Belarus for children of all ages to enjoy. The parcels include sweets and treats, teddies and toys as well as useful items such as gloves, hats, stationery and toiletries.

Head of Year, Mr Ben Grant, who helped organise the collection commented "I really hope that on Christmas morning all of our Year 7s will feel really proud that somewhere in the world, other children are enjoying an extra special Christmas thanks to the generosity of The Dean Academy community."



**A time for giving
7BD are hoping to brighten someone's Christmas**



Remembrance

Remembrance Day

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War a group of year 9 students made 100 poppies to go onto a special display board in the school reception. Students Robin Clare, Joe Powell, Bianca Malasincu and Antonia Dafina worked hard making the poppies from tissue paper and buttons. Students across the school observed a two minute silence in a special whole school assembly to remember and honour all those who have fought and lost their lives.



Making poppies with Mr Palmer for the special Remembrance board



The Great Pilgrimage 90 Banner Presentation



A group of students and members of the Senior Leadership Team at The Dean Academy were delighted to be presented with a special GP90 banner by Mr Mel Rudge, the Vice Chairman of the Lydney Royal British Legion.

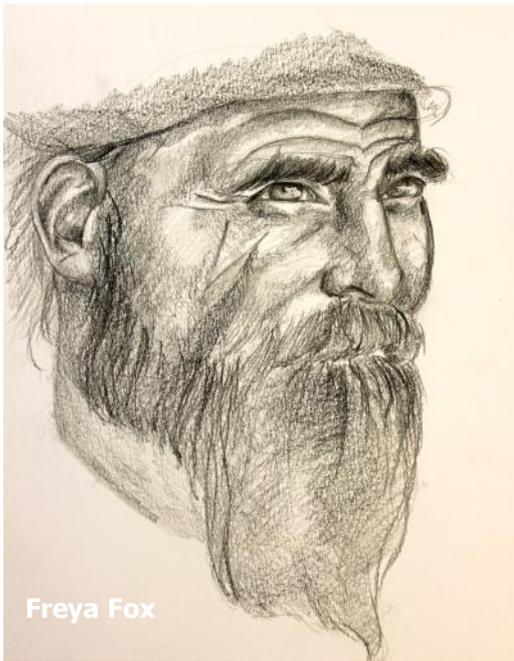
The banner travelled all the way from Ypres in Belgium with Mr Rudge who attended a special ceremony at Menin Gate to mark the 90th anniversary of the Great Pilgrimage when thousands of First World War veterans and war widows visited the battlefields in France and Belgium. Mr Rudge explained "As a Lydney man born and bred, I was extremely proud to be one of the wreath carriers at the Ceremony and to lay the wreath under the Menin Gate in Ypres; it was a great honour and a privilege to represent Lydney. During the pilgrimage we visited many battlefields and went to the Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium where my

initial reaction was 'wow' and then 'why?' as there were so many headstones."

Mrs Lynn Daszko, the Welfare Chair and Senior Caseworker for Lydney Royal British Legion thanked the school for their fundraising efforts, commenting "The money that The Dean Academy raises from selling poppies and bands will help towards the purchase of equipment and care." The Royal British Legion is a charity that provides help and welfare to the serving and ex-service community and their families.

Head of School, Mr Tom Beveridge said "We are extremely grateful to receive this banner from the Royal British Legion. It was fascinating to hear about the commemorative pilgrimage to the battlefields that took place this summer and it was an honour for our students to be able to write a dedication that went onto the Lydney wreath placed at Menin Gate.'

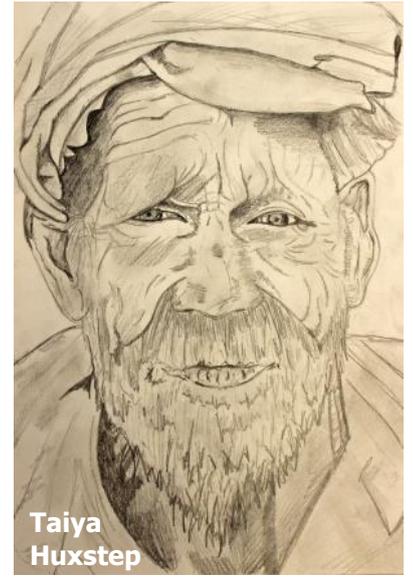
Art, Design and Production Faculty



Freya Fox



Ella James



Taiya Huxstep

Year 11 GCSE Art

Our Year 11 GCSE Art students were set a homework task to draw the face of an older person and I was absolutely blown away by the standard of their work.

Well done.

Well done.

Mrs K Charles



Jessie Seymour



Jude Mullinger



Molly Ashby



Joanne Martin



Blackadder Goes Forth
Pte S. Baldrick (Tony Robinson)
Faye White



Charlie Baldwin



Leia Cole



Libby Beddis



"COURAGEOUS PEOPLE DO NOT FEAR FORGIVING FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE" - NELSON MANDELA

Tilleaque Beaton

Art, Design and Production Faculty

Year 7 Christmas Card Competition

Year 7s got into the Christmas spirit by designing some amazing Christmas cards as part of a school competition.

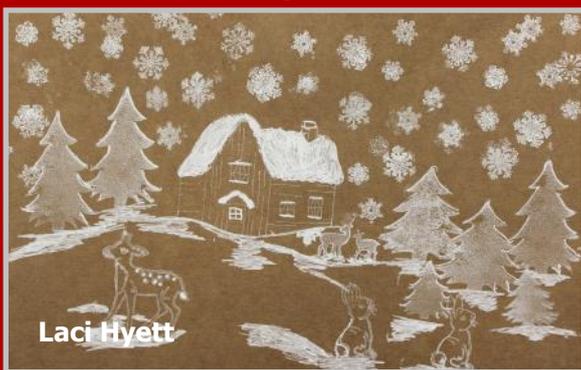
The Head of School, Mr Tom Beveridge had the difficult task of judging the cards and the overall winners from across the year 7 tutor groups were:

Ellie-May Shurmer
Laci Hyett
Will Thomas
Ioan Day

The winners each received a specially printed pack that they could take home to send out to friends and family.



Ellie-May Shurmer



Laci Hyett



Ioan Day

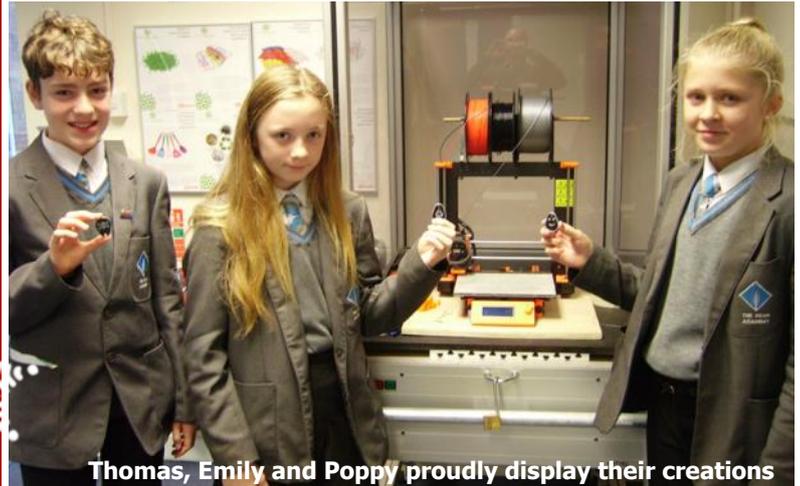


Will Thomas

3D Printing



Year 8 students have brought their designs to life this term thanks to our state of the art 3D printer which was generously donated to the school by Vision Pelton Polymers earlier this year. Our students have been learning how to design in three dimensions using a professional piece of software called Fusion360 which is also accessible to students for free at home. The class have been busy developing models for key tags. Emily Ervig, Poppy Perkins and Thomas Davey worked really hard on their designs and were the first to be ready for printing, well done! **Mr A Winstanley**



Thomas, Emily and Poppy proudly display their creations

Festive Baking



The year 9 Food Technology classes made mince pies as their final cook.

Pastry is a high skill dish. I think from the results you can see they all succeeded with this difficult task. Well done year 9!

Mrs S Sayers

Communications Faculty

A group of year 10 aspiring poets were delighted to discover that their poems have been selected and printed in a special anthology called 'Connect'.

It all started with a visit to the school in the summer from the performance poet and musician Chris Redmond who worked with students in a series of engaging workshops designed to enthuse them about creative writing. The result was a myriad of poems from which a selection was chosen for the anthology. The Dean Academy are one of six schools featured in the collection of poems which is the brain child of First Story, a literacy charity who send professional writers out to secondary schools in order to raise the aspirations of young people and help to transform their lives through the power of creative writing.

During his time at the school the poet Chris commented on how impressed he was with the quality of work produced by the students "They were focussed and worked consistently well. I would like to thank all the students who shared their work with me."

The budding poets were presented with a copy of the book during a special assembly by Assistant Head Teacher Mr Matt Ball in recognition of their hard work, talent and creativity.

Miss Levi White, teacher of English said "We could not be more proud of the fact that we have students in our classrooms and school who are published authors in their own right. What an incredible testimony to their talent and continued hard work."

Published Poets



Kieran, Kai, Alexander, Jaiden, Courtney, Emma, Erin and Freya

Music Farm

Creaky doors, step through, calm,
Moment's, peace, an hour turns a
minute,
Clocks move in odd patterns, now
when you're here,
Heavy metal, not the music cause no
pain in either arm

Sit down, I'm free mouthpiece to my
lips, like a sort of balm,
Not a trouble here,
Don't worry,
No worries on the Music Farm,

Step through the next door, turn left,
all quiet on the music farm,
Endless music, black and white,
This is knowledge,
Imagination,

Power,
Boundless thoughts,
History,
In this music barn
On this Music Farm.

Kieran Maass

The Boxing Ring

Blood and sweat dripping on the floor,
You can't wait to see who walks
through the door.

The music blares out and gives you a
fright then you remember you're
boxing until the end of the night.

The adrenalin kicks in you're in the
square the people in the crowd are
giving you a glare.

The bell rings your opponents in you
hear the bell go 'ding ding ding'

You throw a hit to his face you feel a
relief of overwhelming grace.

I feel so strong I think to myself 'I've
already won'

The fight goes on the night is young
he's starting to give up I think he's
done

I think to myself 'don't give in you're
going to win'

The match has come to an end you've
won you're finally done now let's get
gone.

Courtney Davies

The Beach

When I go to the beach I look around
and see,
A crashing wave that towers over me,
My bare feet standing on the painful
concrete walls,
Seeing families play with colourful
beach balls,

Every time

Every time I knock on the door, and
every time I walk on the floor,
I feel free,
so I can be the person I want to be.
Just me.

Every time I get a hug, and
every time I see that rug.

I know I'm here. My second home,
where I belong, I haven't been here for so
long.
Where I can be me.

When I'm not there, I get stressed and,
when I'm not there I sometimes feel
depressed,
I don't feel as happy,
not the person I know I can be.
I can't be me.

Emma Baldwin

The Farm

The sun beats down on the green grass,
The calming sounds I hear as I pass,
The piercing screech as the train brakes,
The painful sound that makes,
The family nearby resting in their tent,
Wondering if this is what the description
meant,

They sit, smile and absorb the heat,
The exquisite smells of their BBQ you
can't beat,

The winsome wild flower,
That holds so much power,
The vibrant horizon in the distance,

The rows of houses consistent,
The great barn with the crimson roof,

The sneaky gulls looking for proof,
That they are innocent which they
probably are not,

Perched on the old barn which is
beginning to rot,

The yappy sheep dogs howling away,
They can sense the end of the day,
Baby calves yearning for their mothers,

To come back so they can be with one
another,

The tractor chugs along the dusty dirt
track,

I wonder if I'll ever snap back,
Into reality what I actually see,
The dogs, the river, and a girl who is me.

Erin Reeves

I leap off with my knees hitting the hot
sands,
Running to the waves with the wind in
my hands,
The vast blue sea spreads out for miles,
And the hard sea floor feels like ancient
tiles.

Kai Powell

The Graveyard

Raven metal gates,
Creaking in the wind,
Ruff edged graves of forgotten lives,
Faded colours comes with age,
Curley calligraphy overthrown with
weeds,
Dandelion clocks swirling in the
breeze.

The sun faintly shines over the trees,
The air tastes fresh,
And the grass is still covered with
dew,
The dirt path is damp with rain,
And the clouds cover the once blue
sky,
With the veil of dusk.

Decades old names adorn each grave,
I feel the weight of their eternities
upon my shoulders,
Dead flowers lie limp on the hallowed
ground,
Wooden doors scrape open and
closed,
Stained glass windows show year's old
memories,
Bright colours stain the floor with the
sun's rays.

Freya Symonds

A Lament for War

All these soldiers being gunned down,
Without emotions, or even a frown,
In cemeteries where the dead lay,
Where people go to crouch and pray,
Poppies are sold to give us hope,
Will they return? Most say nope,
But for these men if you believe,
It'd be them that you receive,
For the leaders to blame such as
Donald Trump,

These are the ones who don't give a
dump,
Every day with the leaders you blame,
When you should be giving soldier's
fame,
Don't leave them to be alone,
When they are saving your guts and
bones,
Whether your loved ones are now
silent or still loud,
Either way you should be proud,
We miss them more every day,
In the ground they rest and lay.

Jaiden Preest

Tech means TOO much

The last time I saw you,
I was shouting just at you,
I was wearing a shirt,
And so out I blurt,
You are nothing to me,
That will never be,
Off to my phone,
I delve in deep,
Off in my phone,
I get pulled in.

It's morning now,
No sleep at all.
Should try get a break now,
But I can't put it down,

Phone goes off, got to answer it,
Can't even take a break from it.
I need my phone,
But should use it less,
I need my phone,
But it should mean less.

Alexander Roberts

Communications Faculty

Trip to Madrid

A group of Key Stage 4 students recently returned from a three night break to the Spanish capital where they took in the sights of the city and embraced new cultures and experiences.

Some of the highlights of the trip included a visit to the Reina Sofia Modern Art Museum where Picasso's 'Guernica' is on display, a tour of the Bernabeu Football Stadium, an afternoon at a theme park, an Escape Room experience and a guided walking tour of the city where they saw the Royal Palace, Cathedral and Gran Via.

Spanish teacher Miss Jane Burns said "Our students behaved brilliantly and were a real credit to the school. They were willing to try their Spanish out in lots of shops and cafés and having a theme park to ourselves made up for the bad weather that day!"



COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

Josh, Year 10
 "I enjoyed the whole trip, including the travelling, as it was my first time on a plane. I got to try new foods that I have never eaten before such as tapas and octopus. I would definitely go again, it was awesome."

Rose, year 11
 "It was fantastic! I had never been to Spain before so it was a great opportunity to practice my Spanish, especially when shopping and ordering food. I really enjoyed our trip to the Escape Room where we had to work in teams to solve puzzles, it was a lot of fun."



Communications Faculty: Book Club

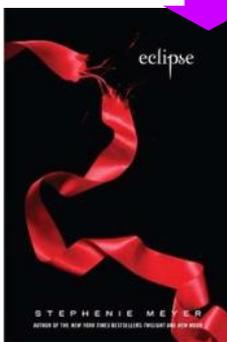
The Dean Academy Book Club meets every Wednesday at 1.40pm in the LRC to discuss the latest and greatest books for young people. Our first book for reading together will be 'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman. Grab a copy, have a read over Christmas, and come along and tell us your feelings about the book in the New Year! Everyone's invited! For this newsletter, we have compiled a list of recommended reading if you are looking for exciting and interesting books.

Mr J Randall

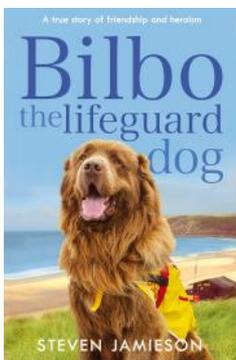


Mr Randall with Emma Kear, Tommy Davey, Simeon Evans, Lucas Byrne and Micah Evans

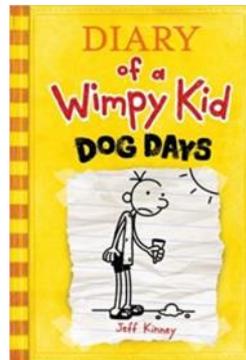
These are the favourite books of The Book Club so far:



Recommended by Emily Byrne
Twilight Eclipse by Stephanie Meyer: Bella is torn between Edward and Jacob - who will she choose?



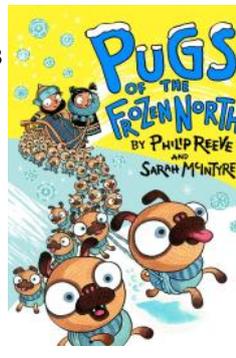
Recommended by Emma Kear
Bilbo The Lifeguard Dog by Alison Bowyer and Steven Jamieson: A true story full of laughs and sad moments, about a lifeguard and his dog.



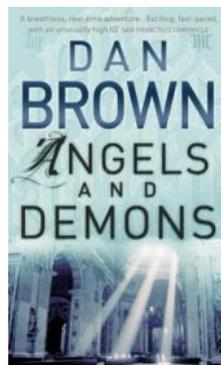
Recommended by Simeon Evans
The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney: A funny series that you can't put down!



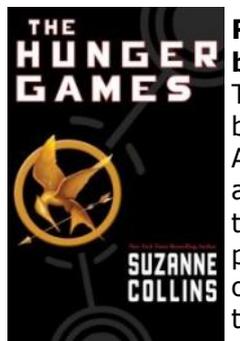
Recommended by Amelia Davies
The Vanishing Game by Katie Kae Myers: Mystery, suspense, romance, heartbreak, all rolled into one novel! A mind-boggling read.



Recommended by Josh Jebb
Pugs of the Frozen North by Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre. These pages are packed with wonderful silliness, from sea monsters to noodle-eating yetis.



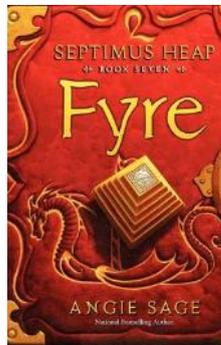
Recommended by Micah Evans
Angels and Demons by Dan Brown: A mystery novel about religion morphing with science, involving anti-matter, the Illuminati and Vatican secrets!



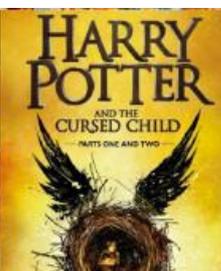
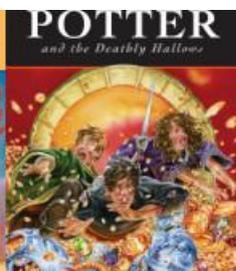
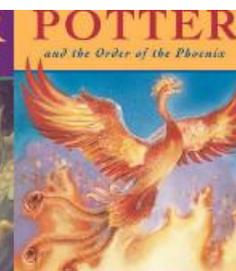
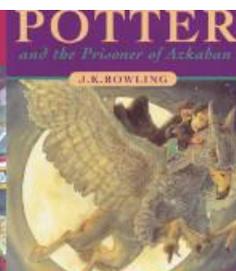
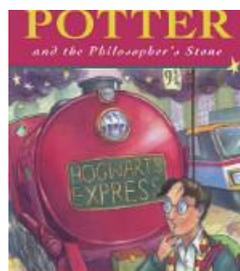
Recommended by Maddie Head
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins: A violent sci-fi adventure in which teenagers are pitted against each other in a battle to the death.



Recommended by Harvey Wylde
The Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare: Imaginative and clever worlds that incorporate every fairy tale creature you can think of.



Recommended by Tommy Davey
Fyre, from The Septimus Heap series by Angie Sage: A series full to the brim with comedy and a story set in a captivating fantasy world.



Recommended by Lucas Byrne
The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling: A fantastic series of books due to their entertaining magical atmosphere.

Maths and Computing Faculty

CyberFirst Competition

The Dean Academy will be entering our year 8 girls in the CyberFirst competition.

The competition is in connection with the National Cyber Security Centre, a part of GCHQ. Their aim is to provide a fun but challenging environment to encourage and inspire the next generation of young women to consider Computer Science as an option with a view to a future career in cyber security. **Mr M Warren**

Maths Trust Event

On the 27th November, 13 of our year 7 students from The Dean Academy visited Bradon Forest School to take part in a Maths Event with two schools from The Athelstan Trust.

They all took part in numerous problem solving activities, working together and competing against the two other schools.

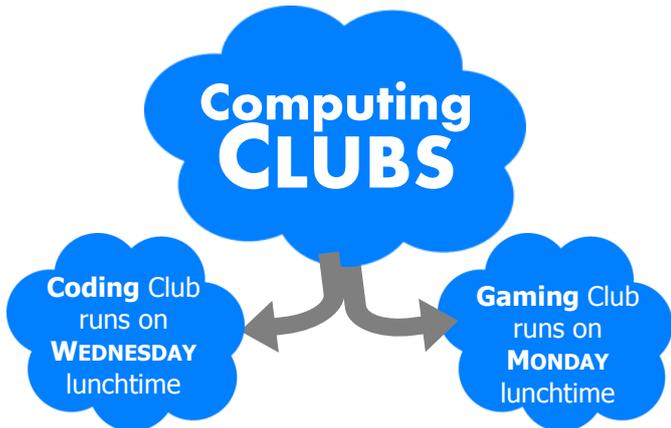
Students had to complete a Maths relay, a tricky cross number puzzle, and some geometrical shape-based problems.

Our students did fantastically and represented the school extremely well. James Hunt (7CH) was a team member in the winning team.

A fun day was had for all! **Miss C Hykin**

The students involved were:

Charlotte Jones 7BD	Bryony Pugh 7CH
Harry Hing 7BD	Glynn Haslam 7CH
Isabelle Kiely 7BD	James Hunt 7CH
Toby Box 7BD	Will Roberts 7CH
Charlie Proctor 7LW	Maddie Wyllie 7LW
Dan Head 7LW	Aiden Stead 7LW
Francis Moffatt 7MW	



PA Raspberry Pi Competition

The Maths and Computing Faculty are hoping to enter our students for the PA Raspberry Pi competition.

Q: What is the PA Raspberry Pi Competition?

A: PA is aiming to inspire more young people to take up computer programming by running a competition using the Raspberry Pi which is an innovative and affordable credit-card sized, single board computer.

Entrants are challenged to invent something using the Raspberry Pi under the theme of 'Transforming travel and transport'.

Watch this space . . .

Mr M Warren



The winning team

Trebuchet Challenge

Back in the summer our new year 7 students were set a challenge at the Summer Fair to see who could launch our trebuchet the furthest distance.

Only when the following mathematical challenges had been completed could they have a go at launching the trebuchet:

- Beat our Key Stage 4 students in a game of 'higher or lower'
- Complete the famous 'Tower of Hanoi' puzzle
- Solve the 'shape puzzle' in under 90 seconds!



The winners with the Director of Maths Faculty Miss Lewis

Our winners are:
Archie Stafford
Daniel Head
Jasmine Brennan-Howard



Science Faculty Competitions

Ultrabot Challenge

As part of the Ada Lovelace Day celebrations our year 7 students were set a challenge to design gender neutral packaging for a new toy on the market, the 'Ultrabot' which is aimed at 9-14 year olds. The Science Faculty received lots of amazing and imaginative entries. Daniel Head was selected as the overall winner because his design was eye catching, gender neutral and contained lots of information. Daniel kept to the brief as his design appealed to both boys and girls. The first prize was a robotics kit.



Above: Winner Daniel receives his prize from the Director of Science, Mrs Rowlands



Left: some of the amazing entries

OVERALL WINNER

Daniel Head

EXCELLENT ENTRY

Andrew Rokotuiveikau

Ben Jebb

Katarina Radojicic

Will Roberts

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Emily Simpson

Daniel Walker

Maddie Wyllie

Riley Baldock

Primary School Science Competition

This term, teachers in the Science Faculty sent out a challenge to all Forest primary schools as part of a competition designed to engage younger pupils with the subject. Their task was to design a new creature for a habitat of their choice, producing models and information posters about their chosen animal.

It was a great opportunity for the schools to visit the Science Faculty and make use of its resources and support. Pupils from Yorkley Primary School rose to the challenge and created some outstanding pieces of work. They provided lots of colourful posters and graphs as well as some amazing models of very imaginative creatures some of whom were called Devil's Duck, Magnam, Vacuus, Mygon, Fluffy Demond, Jellyfin and Jelligon.

Pupils and parents were invited to a special event at The Dean Academy where the winners of the competition were announced. The entries were judged by Andy Torbet, a CBBC presenter, underwater explorer and skydiver who commented "The level of entry was extremely high, it was really difficult to pick a winner. Some of the creatures could actually exist as the science behind them is so accurate." Andy handed out the certificates and prizes to the pupils which was a goodie bag full of scientific bits and bobs.

Mrs Emily Smith, the Assistant Head Teacher at The Dean Academy commented "Those who took part were glowing with pride as they described their creations, with some of their ideas showing a great deal of careful thought." The Science Faculty hope to make this an annual event with more of the primary schools participating.



Yorkley Primary School pupils with CBBC Presenter Andy Torbet



prizes to the pupils which was a goodie bag full of scientific bits and bobs.

Mrs Emily Smith, the Assistant Head Teacher at The Dean Academy commented "Those who took part were glowing with pride as they described their creations, with some of their ideas showing a great deal of careful thought."

The Science Faculty hope to make this an annual event with more of the primary schools participating.

Ada Lovelace Day: A celebration of female scientists



Celebrating women in Science: Director of Faculty Hannah Rowlands with colleagues Dave Child, Darren Webb, Firth Edy and Lee Kelley

Inspirational women who have made an impact in the field of Science were celebrated when the entire Science Faculty dressed up as their favourite female scientists to enthuse students about the subject.

The event was part of Ada Lovelace Day which aims to promote women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The Director of Faculty for Science, Mrs Hannah Rowlands, who dressed up as Ada, explained "This is a day where we celebrate all female scientists and the contribution that they have made. It is about breaking down barriers and gender stereotypes and opening up the wonderful world of STEM to everyone." Ada Lovelace became the first computer programmer at a time when women were not encouraged to participate in Maths or Science.

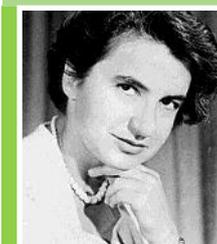
The chemist, Rosalind Franklin, was represented by Mr Child, Mr Kelley

came dressed as the primatologist Jane Goodall, whilst Mr Webb celebrated the work of Florence Nightingale and Mr Edy was Marie Curie.

With women currently representing just under 13% of all the STEM workforce the Science Faculty felt it was important to address these issues head on and throughout the day there were lessons and discussions based around women in STEM. Mrs Rowlands added "It was a fantastic day where some really insightful conversations were had by students about gender equality and the importance of being able to pursue your ambitions, regardless of gender. Staff fully embraced the ethos of the day and the profile and importance of STEM subjects, in particular Science, has been raised."



Ada Lovelace was the first Computer Programmer. In the 1840s Ada saw the potential of the computer and wrote one of the first ever algorithms.



Rosalind Franklin was a renowned chemist who carried out pioneering work in the field of x-ray crystallography which contributed towards the discovery of the structure of DNA.



Florence Nightingale was a social reformer who founded modern nursing. She volunteered to help in the Crimean War to tend to wounded soldiers. Later in life she tried to bring about reforms regarding the hygiene problems of the Army hospitals.



Marie Curie conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman ever to receive a Nobel Prize, first in 1903 for Physics and then in 1911 for Chemistry. She contributed to the discovery of the elements radium and polonium.



Jane Goodall is a primatologist who made the ground breaking discoveries that chimpanzees make and use tools, have a social system, sometimes eat meat and use language to communicate.



Radioactive: Mr Edy (aka Marie Curie)



Monkey business: Mr Kelley (aka Primatologist Jane Goodall) spies a primate in the Science Faculty

Christmas Showcase

Friends and family enjoyed a fabulously festive evening at our annual Christmas Showcase. We showcased all areas of Dance, Drama and Music and had students performing from every year group. The hard work and commitment of students to create, practice and perform was clearly

evident, and they created a wonderful display of festive performances, as well as current performances. We are really proud of how hard they have worked towards the show and it was lovely for us as staff to be able to share this with parents, carers and guests.

Mrs K Rodway



Year 10 Dance performance



Comperer Cj Hudson



Christmas Showcase performers



Kai Powell: 'Angel Down'



Rachel James, Georgia Watson and Sophie Allen perform 'Belle'



Skye Jordan on her ukulele



Emily McCoy



Kieran Maass performs 'Jambouree'



Hannah Coates



Lucy Turner and Melody Beddis sing a duet



Georgia Watson, Ben Jebb and Ella Turner

A Trip to the Ballet

On Tuesday 20th November, Mrs Rodway and Mrs Charman took a group of GCSE Dance, Drama, and BTEC Music students, as well as students in all years who have attended performance clubs this year, to London to The Royal Opera House. We watched a trio of ballets from different Dance companies, with music from the House Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

It was a fantastic experience. We spent time in Covent Garden before the show, students chose places to eat, and walked around the Apple Market browsing the stalls and purchasing various bits of London Memorabilia.

We then went to the Opera House for the performance, taking the opportunity to see the displays within the Opera House, the most fabulous one being the original tutu worn by Margot Fonteyn in Swan Lake! The ballet was superb, all of the students thoroughly enjoyed the performances, and their behaviour throughout was exemplary. **Mrs K Rodway**



Peripatetic Lessons

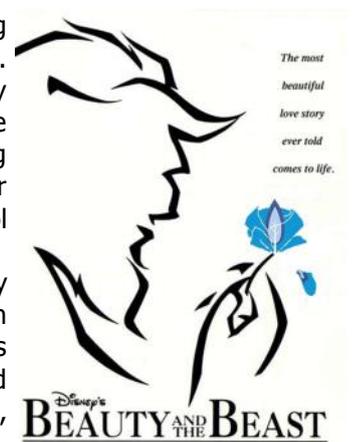
All students in year 7 have started the year with a free taster Music lesson! A wonderful opportunity to experience learning a musical instrument in small groups within school - students have tried out either drums, guitar or piano, and now have the opportunity to take these up long term 1:1 or in paired tuition if they are interested. Lessons cost £15 per half hour, or the cost can be split if students would like to learn as a pair. Please do get in touch if you have not already, or complete a lesson request form which can be found on the letters page of the school website.

School Production

We're pleased to announce we'll be performing 'Beauty and the Beast' in the Summer term. Rehearsals are well underway, and the lucky audience of the Christmas Showcase will be able to catch a sneak peek of the opening number. We are aiming high to rekindle our previous tradition of show-stopping school productions. **Mr P McNeill**

The Performance Department are really looking forward to our Pantomime trip in January to watch 'Beauty and the Beast'. This will be held in May, with further details and ticket information available in the New Year, so please keep an eye out for this!

Mrs K Rodway



Contemporary Dance Workshop

Students in year 9 and GCSE Dance students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a Contemporary Dance workshop with Amy from Swindon Dance. They were taught some phrases and actions and then put together a short routine. The students picked up the repertoire quickly and were able to perform the whole routine at the end of the session. The workshop linked, to a Youth Dance Company that Swindon Dance have created. There is an opportunity for any student from The Dean Academy that is interested to apply to join the Company, with a range of bursaries available to households of any income. Student travel is also completely paid for. Please see Mrs Rodway if you require further information or an application form. A really amazing opportunity!



SEN Faculty

Nurture Group Calendars



Our Nurture Group students have been busy making some lovely, colourful 2019 calendars. Well done!

Ms K Buckley

EPIC Food Tasting

Food is sometimes an uncomfortable issue for children with autism. It can be a subject of high anxiety. Trying new foods can be very difficult so people often avoid them, making their diets very restricted.

To help overcome this issue we have been having food tasting sessions in EPIC. The students have been invited to try a variety of foods that they may not normally get the chance to try. All of the foods are very natural and healthy, ranging from olives to avocado.

The students have loved this, eagerly asking "What are we having this week?" and making suggestions of their own, things that they have never tried before and always wanted to.

We have also found out lots of amazing facts about the things we have tried, for example did you know that in Mexico, the annual Noche de Rabanos (Night of the Radishes) festival takes place 24 hours prior to Christmas Eve. Mexican sculptors create Nativity scenes using very large radishes.

Each week, the students gave feedback about all of the foods that they tried and at the end of term we took a poll to find out what had been the favourite food. The winner was mango, an overwhelming 95% voted for it.

We are hoping that this experience will make the students more inclined to try new foods and hopefully maintain a healthy diet.

Mrs S Hankinson



Hummus: "It was a bit too garlicky" Alfie



Celery: "When I crunched into it, it tasted of stinging nettles!" Jack



Bringing the Community Together

Memories and experiences of a Lydney childhood both past and present were shared and celebrated across the generations at The Dean Academy when they hosted a special community history event where older members of the community met with students to discover shared experiences and connections.

The event was part of a collaborative enterprise from Two Rivers Housing, Soundwork Community Projects and the Barnwood Trust whose aim is to bring the community together by establishing new connections.

Penny Mail, the Community Engagement Advisor for Two Rivers Housing explained "Lydney is growing so much and so quickly that some of the older residents are feeling isolated. Events like these bring people of all ages together and keeps them in touch with their town. We all have stories to tell and this is a great way of making sure that the stories don't get lost. Different generations need to connect; we have a lot to learn from each other."

Mr Keith Wilks, a former pupil of the school, spoke to students about his childhood growing up in Lydney "My favourite place to play in Lydney as a boy was at the Docks with my friends; we would camp in the fields, dive in the canal and play in the mud." He also talked about his experiences serving as a pilot for the RAF during the Second World War. One of his proudest achievements was writing a book, 'Teacher in the Forest', about his time in education.

Penny Hulbert from the Barnwood Trust commented "It's interesting to learn that people still do the same things, children still go to the park, the outdoor pool and the Docks. We continue to enjoy the same basic



things in life, we haven't lost that connection with each other."

Mr Adrian Hole, a History teacher at the school said "It was a really interesting afternoon and hopefully the beginning of a great local history project."



Mr Keith Wilks, former teacher and author shares his memories of Lydney with Eve Jones and Cerys Money

Year 10 Value and Society Day: Tuesday 11th December

Well, the Prime Minister may have postponed the Brexit vote, but that wasn't enough to stop our year 10s cutting their teeth on political debate as part of their Values and Society PSHE drop-down day.

The theme was 'MP for a Week', students spent 5 hours as honorary MPs in order to debate and vote upon a range of topical issues from drugs classification, to police powers, to hate crimes, and much else beyond.

The day aimed to teach students about the core British values of democracy, the rule of law, and individual liberty.

They say a week is a long time in politics - try fitting a week into a day!

Dr L Condon



Mr and Mrs Cooke share their stories with Emily McCoy in year 10

Keeping Safe

Men Talk: Year 10 Football Workshop

Men's health was high on the agenda of a football based workshop for a group of year 10 boys when representatives from Cheltenham Town FC paid a visit to the school.

The 'MENTalk' workshop uses football to initiate discussions about mental and sexual health issues. Coach Alex Parker explained "The session is designed to improve young men's understanding

and awareness. It is done in a laid back manner so that the boys feel comfortable and are free to ask any questions."

One of the activities involved putting on a pair of 'beer goggles' which mimic the effects of alcohol. Students noticed when wearing the goggles that their co-ordination was impaired and their reaction time was slower.

The Head of Year, Mr Alastair Cornish, commented "All the boys really enjoyed the experience and got a lot out of the day. The boys learned about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of having a positive attitude. Thanks must go to

Cheltenham Town FC who we hope to work with again in the future."

The Beer Goggle Effect: one student finds the simplest of tasks tricky



Topics covered:

- Stress, Anxiety and Mental Health
- Body Image and Appearance
- Online, bullying and self-harm
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Testicular Self – Examination
- Safe Sex, STI's and Porn

Alex Parker and Georgina Preswell from Cheltenham Town FC



Chelsea's Choice

Year 9 students watched a special production of 'Chelsea's Choice' earlier this term when actors from Alter Ego Productions visited the school to perform the hard hitting drama which is based on real-life events.

They tell the story of Chelsea, a young teenager who finds herself isolated from friends and family and involved in an exploitative and abusive relationship with an older man.

The actors discuss ways in which the events of Chelsea's story could have been prevented, commenting "These people are groomers, they are good at what they do, they know how to target and exploit the vulnerability in young people. They leave the victim feeling that it is their fault so that they might be too embarrassed or scared to tell anyone. It is important to raise awareness of these issues, knowledge is power! By knowing the dangers you can make safe and healthy choices, unlike Chelsea who felt like she couldn't go to anyone."

At the end of the production leaflets and information were handed to students about child sexual exploitation and there was an opportunity for questions.

Taking Control:
Laura Hawkyard as Chelsea and Rob Barnes as the abusive boyfriend, Gary



Keeping Safe Online

- DON'T give out personal information
- CHECK your privacy settings on all of your social media accounts
- DON'T meet up with people you have only chatted to online
- DON'T assume that who you are talking to is telling the truth
- NEVER text, e-mail or post risky images of yourself or others
- DON'T add people that you don't know - even if you have a mutual friend
- TELL someone if you receive risky or abusive messages



Year 8 Bullying Awareness



A special musical presentation struck a chord with year 8 students when a group of talented young musicians spent the afternoon at the school giving advice on how to deal with different types of bullying.

The event was organised by The Power of Muzik, a collaboration of artists whose aim is to encourage open conversations about bullying and mental health issues through performances of motivational and inspiring songs.

Singer Asher Knight relayed his harrowing experiences of bullying and offered advice to students, he commented "My experience started at primary school where I was verbally abused, children called me all sorts of names which really hurt my feelings. The bullying continued and quickly escalated to physical abuse where I was punched and kicked on a daily basis." Asher told students the three words that changed his life: stop, speak, support. He added

"Speaking about it was hard but I would encourage anyone in the same situation to talk to someone you trust such as a parent, teacher or a carer so that you get the support and help you need." It was through finding his love of music a few years ago that gave him back his confidence "I used to be scared of everything and now I am here performing in front of you incredible people; always remember there is hope."

Mrs Linda Bellingham the Deputy Safeguarding Lead at the school said "Our students were really engaged throughout the session. The feedback from staff after the performance was that they were 'buzzing' about both the music and the discussions. Many joined in and sang along and they were all up dancing to the music. It was a great way to get such an important message across and we are really grateful to them for visiting our school."



Important Message: Musicians Asher Knight, Luena Martinez, Denis Coleman and Michael Rice with year 8 students

School Clubs

Harvesting an Enthusiasm for Gardening

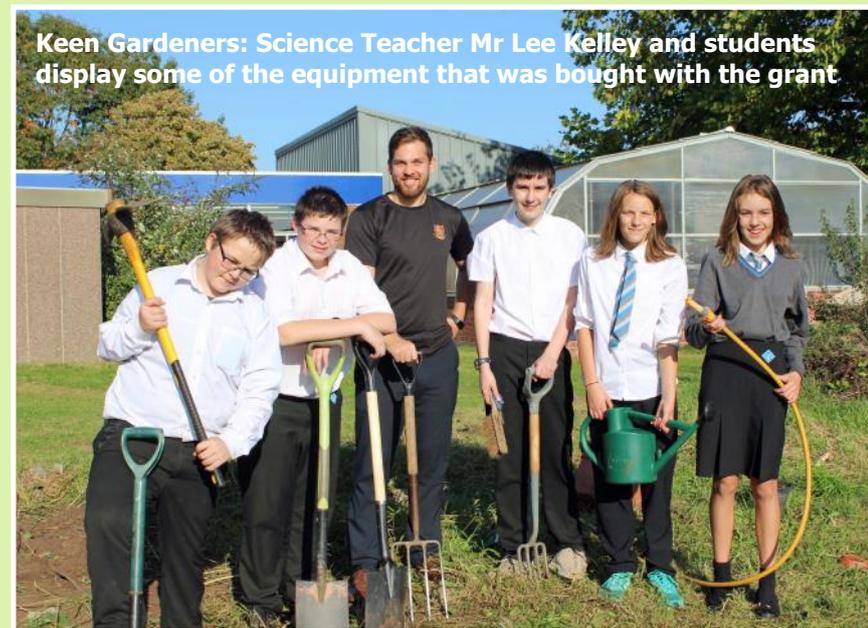
Green fingered Gardening Club members at the school are benefitting from a generous grant which they hope will help to make their after-school club blossom.

The £250 grant was a real boost for the Gardening Club and was given to the school by The Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies, which is a local organisation run by volunteers whose aim is to support gardening and growing in Gloucestershire.

Mr Dennis Sutton who is the Chairman of The Federation, explained "Our aim is to help schools start a Gardening Club or develop an existing club by giving small grants. I have a long involvement in gardening, having helped my mother in the vegetable garden from the age of nine, and

I have always been lucky to live in houses which had gardens. When I retired I took on an allotment so I now grow most of our vegetables and soft fruit. I am a fan of plants, if there were no plants on earth there would be no animals, including humans."

Science Teacher Mr Lee Kelley who runs the school club commented "We are really grateful to Mr Sutton for the grant which we have already used to purchase spades, forks and rakes. We also hope to start making some long term improvements to our vegetable plot. It was great to see our students out harvesting all of the vegetables that they had planted earlier in the year and we have made use of them in our school restaurant."



Keen Gardeners: Science Teacher Mr Lee Kelley and students display some of the equipment that was bought with the grant



Reaping the rewards: KS3 students with the fruits of their labour



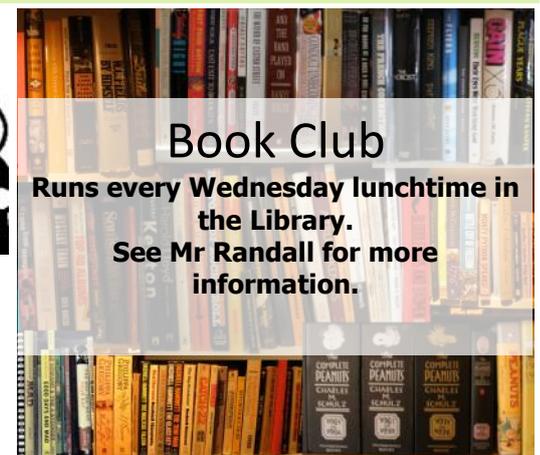
Secret Singing Club

Our Secret Singing Club launched this year, and has seen upwards of 70 students come along at various points since September. We now have a substantial group of singers who have recently performed in our showcase and whole school assembly, ably assisted by the Secret Singers - staff from different faculties throughout the school! It's not too late to enter the secret club!



Just come along to M2 Music classroom on a Wednesday lunchtime and see what the secret is each week!

Mrs K Rodway



Book Club

Runs every Wednesday lunchtime in the Library. See Mr Randall for more information.

Forward Thinking in Science and Maths STEM Club

The Maths and Science Faculty are working together on Shell's Bright Ideas Challenge with a group of year 9 girls to spark their interest in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

The challenge is designed around how we can provide energy, food and clean water to the inhabitants of cities in 2050. The girls will need to research and then design some new and innovative ideas

on how to solve the problem. It is hoped that this project will enable our students to build on their skills in STEM subjects and give them a boost in confidence.

Mr D Webb



Weight Lifting Success

In November, Josh Byett, Libby Ellison, Melody Beddis and Jake Turley attended The British Weightlifting Southern Regional Youth Series in Worcester with The Wild Boar Weightlifting Squad from Fortitude Gym based in Lydney.

Josh Byett came 1st in his category hitting 2 personal bests of 50kg in the Snatch and 56kg in the Clean and Jerk.

Libby Ellison came 2nd in her category hitting personal bests of 21kg in the Snatch and 36kg in the Clean and Jerk.

Jake Turley came 1st in his category hitting personal bests of 60kg in the Snatch and 72kg in the Clean and Jerk. Well done!



Taekwondo Success for Isobelle

Isobelle Jones in year 8 has had a very successful year, her amazing achievements in Taekwondo are listed below:

- Welsh Power 1st place
- British Championships sparring 3rd
- Girls Power Grand Champion (1st Derby)
- South West Championships Sparring 3rd
- Girls Grand Champion
- Midlands Championships 2nd
- Welsh Championships 3rd



Recent Competitions

Sunday 22nd July	Sunday 4th November
World Championships POWER	British Championships POWER
1st – POWER	1ST – POWER
1st – HAND power	3rd – HAND power
2nd – FOOT power	3rd – FOOT power

Well done Isobelle! **Mrs K Jones**

Cross Country Success

Three year 11 students took part in the District Cross Country at Newent School on Wednesday 7th November. Arthur Holt-Beckett, Scarlett Pegler and Mason Cunliffe all finished in the top 10 of their race category qualifying for County Cross Country.

1st: Scarlett
2nd: Mason
3rd: Arthur

Well done!
Mrs K Jones



Arthur Holt-Beckett, Scarlett Pegler and Mason Cunliffe

Porto Fundraisers

27 of our students gave up their time on a Saturday recently to pack bags at Tesco in Lydney to help raise funds for their upcoming sports tour to Porto in the Easter holidays.

They also ran a tombola stall and raised a massive £375!

The students were incredible. Hats off to Aston Jeffs, Jack Stewart and Blake Dewsnip who stayed the whole day.

Mr A Stradling

Charlie the Champion

Former student and Race Running Champion, Charlie Denman paid a visit to The Dean Academy this term to celebrate her recent sporting successes with teachers and friends at the school.

In November, Charlie attended a special awards dinner for disability sports and was nominated for two awards; Disability Sports Personality of the Year and Sports Personality of the Year alongside Paralympic Gold medallist Andy Lewis and other disability sports stars.

Mrs Anna McCoy the Assistant Director of SEN commented "I am pleased to say that Charlie won **both** of the awards! She is an amazing young lady who has worked so hard both in and out of school. Charlie is a real inspiration to us all. This a fantastic achievement for her and her Race running! Well done."



Charlie with her trophies and medals

General

O Christmas Tree!

ASDAN and EPIC students had the privilege of going to St. Mary's Church in Lydney on Thursday 13th December to decorate The Dean Academy's Christmas tree as part of their Christmas Tree Festival.

The trees remain in the church for the whole community to enjoy across the Christmas period as a backdrop to all of their activities and celebrations.

The students involved in putting on the lights, tinsel

and baubles were Seb Churcher, Misha Morse, Tia Mackie, Tom Billingham and Grace Lawrence from the year 10 ASDAN group with the help of Mrs Hankinson, Keira Lynchehaun, Alfie Adams and Jack Keith on behalf of EPIC.

The whole experience made us all feel very festive, the students did a very good job and they were all a credit to the school. **Ms K McCormick**



Child Sexual Exploitation Alert A Guide for Parents and Carers

The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board in partnership with the Gloucestershire CSE Team have produced a leaflet for parents and carers as they play an important part in protecting children from exploitation.

Q: What is child sexual exploitation (CSE)?

A: Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse, in which a person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. Abusers can be anyone of any age or gender. Sexual exploitation affects thousands of children and young people across the UK every year.

There are copies of the leaflet in our school Reception but if you would like to download it the link is:

www.gscb.org.uk/cse



Book Bus

This term the school were delighted to receive a visit from Browns Educational Book Bus.

Our students made the most of the opportunity to browse the shelves on the purple double decker bus which holds more than 4000 titles.



Top Deck:
Hayden Robins,
Alfie Paine,
Harrison Davis,
Kian Screen,
Joe Birch

Year 7s
Harry Hing,
Dylan Osman,
Jake Corner
and Josh Jones



Careers Fair

This year the Careers Fair was moved forward from its usual slot on Options Evening to give students more time to consider their future pathways before choosing their options / applying for post-16 providers. This gave all our students throughout the school the opportunity to attend the event during the school day.

The Careers Fair was followed by a Post-16 evening for our year 10 and 11 students where providers who offer a provision/advice service at specifically post-16 level could stay for a more intimate setting and meet our Key Stage 4 students and their parents.

The Dean Academy is committed to giving our students the opportunity to engage with a wide range of providers and employers. Alongside providers of further and higher education and apprenticeships, this event was open to local businesses who might consider providing work experience for our students, organisations who would like to engage with our students to provide Careers guidance and support and organisations who would like to provide information about career sectors or particular jobs and roles. We are grateful to all of those who attended for giving us their time and talking to our students. **Mrs E O'Regan**



Filming Fun

Three of our year 8 students got some first hand experience of filming when the Creative Director of Unit 1 Films based in Cheltenham, Kishi Allebone, paid the school a visit last month to shoot a video for the University of Gloucestershire.

Assistant Head Teacher Mrs Emily Smith was asked to star in the promotional video ably assisted by Tommy Davey, Emma Kear and Jasmine Chandler-Brown in year 8 who all gave Oscar winning performances! Mrs Smith explained "The film, which promotes post-graduate studies in Educational Leadership, will be used as part of the online prospectus as well as on the university's website. Filming was lots of fun!"



Starring roles: Emma Kear, Tommy Davey and Jasmine Chandler Brown with Assistant Head Emily Smith and the Creative Director for Unit 1 Films, Kishi Allebone



Transition

Transition Day is Food for Thought

A recent Primary School Transition Day got the thumbs up from pupils of Yorkley and Primrose Hill as they spent a fun and educational day at The Dean Academy learning all about food in the Science labs and Food Technology rooms. Children from years 4 and 5 made some very healthy and tasty muffins in Food Technology and then investigated the energy in food in the Science Faculty during their day long visit.

The school is building on past links with local primary schools to support the transition of pupils from primary to secondary education and to deliver lessons with specialist equipment and apparatus. **Mr D Webb**

YORKLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN COMMENTED

"I loved watching the jelly beans explode!" Scarlett

"My favourite part was making the muffins from scratch" Emilie

"We made a ton of muffins - blueberry and carrot - yummy!" Olivia

"The food experiment was fun, we got to set food on fire" Dominic



Open Evening: Fun and Experiments



MFL



Communications



World Affairs



PE



Performance

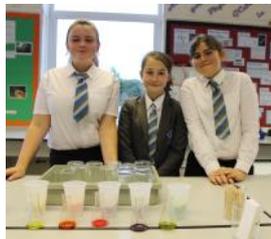
Hair-raising Science experiments, medieval surgery demonstrations and a murder mystery were some of the ways in which staff and students at The Dean Academy were able to show off their school at its Open Evening earlier this term giving prospective pupils and parents the chance to meet teachers, visit classrooms, try out the facilities and sample the school restaurant's menu.

Year 7 students Jasmine and Coby have recently made the transition from primary to secondary school and bravely relayed their experiences and impressions to a packed hall of parents during the Head of School's presentation. Jasmine commented "I have already made lots of new friends here and the teachers are kind and helpful. We are encouraged to keep our dreams big and aim high, and I believe that this school will help me do that."

Head of School Tom Beveridge added "Our challenge is to become a true community school and to be at the centre of the local community so that we can be the best that we can possibly be. We are working hard to improve the school and the quality of teaching so that we can continue to make good progress. We are working with students and parents to create a vision for our school to move forward, focusing on enjoyment, achievement and community. We had a really good turnout for the evening and the feedback was universally positive. To quote one parent, the school looked 'the best it's ever been – a credit to staff and students'."



Science



Art, Design and Production

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Staff joined together to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support by baking lots of delicious homemade treats as part of the charity's nationwide coffee morning.

Finance Manager, Mrs Jayne Barnett who organised the coffee morning thanked everyone who supported the event with donations and raffle prizes "It was very much appreciated and we raised a total of £88 for Macmillan Cancer Support."



Deputy Head Declan Mooney (centre) with admin staff Julie Stephens, Theresa Whatley, Claire Morgan and Jayne Barnett

Music Exam Success

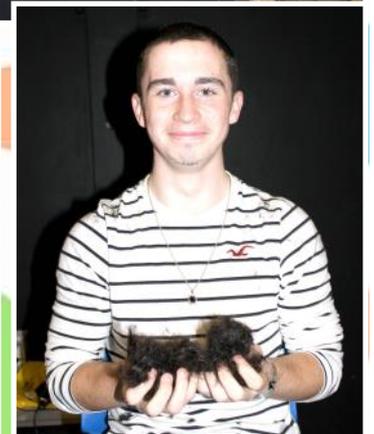
Congratulations to Sam Hunt-Clark in year 7 for passing his Grade 2 B Flat Cornet exam with Distinction.

Mrs E O'Regan



Going Dotty for Children in Need

Students went dotty for Children in Need back in November and embraced the spirit of Pudsey when they held a non-uniform day with a theme of spots and stripes. The Deputy Head Boy, Connor Price in year 11, went the extra mile and bravely volunteered to have his locks shaved off to raise money for the children's charity. The school raised over £630. Mrs Fiona Price who organised the event commented "The highlight of the day was at lunchtime when over 200 students turned up to watch our Deputy Head Boy have his head shaved, the proceeds of which will be split between Children in Need and fundraising for prom."



School Terms and Holidays 2018 - 2019

TERM 3

BEGINS Monday 7th January (students return)
 ENDS Friday 15th February (3.15 p.m.)
 HOLIDAY Monday 18th Feb – Friday 22nd Feb

TERM 4

INSET DAY Monday 25th February (staff only)
 BEGINS Tuesday 26th Feb (students return)
 ENDS Friday 5th April (3.15 p.m.)
 HOLIDAY Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April

TERM 5

BEGINS Tuesday 23rd April (students return)
 MAY-DAY HOL. Monday 6th May
 ENDS Friday 24th May
 HOLIDAY Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

TERM 6

BEGINS Monday 3rd June
INSET DAY Friday 28th June (staff only)
 ENDS Tuesday 23rd July (12.30 p.m.)
 HOLIDAY Weds 24th July – Friday 30th August

