



The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 22

Winter 2019



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Update from the Head of School



This term has once again been a very busy one for the whole school. There have been a number of trips and events, with students spending a long weekend in Paris, seeing An Inspector Calls at Malvern Theatre, 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, volunteering at local primary schools,

attending the district and county council, and taking a central role in poignant ceremonies of Remembrance in November.

It has also been great to once again 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 Sheila Hankinson and Kath Mountford 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. Both members of staff have been at our school for a long time and have positively impacted the lives of many young people.

Last week it was announced that I will be leaving The Dean Academy at Easter 2020. I feel extremely sad to be leaving the school and want to ensure that it continues to go from strength to strength. It is likely that Ofsted will be inspecting the school during the next term so it is an extremely important time for us and I will be doing everything I can to achieve a positive outcome. The interview process for the new Headteacher will take place in early February and the aim will be to involve as much of the school community as possible in this process.

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**

Restorative Practice: Working to Make Relationships Matter

A further 25 students from across all year groups have been trained this term as Restorative Practice Ambassadors, joining other students to create an Action Plan to help support the underpinning of strong relationships in all areas of school. Students will work from January to help peers discuss issues linked to friendships and social media and are also beginning the process of working for the Stonewall School Champion Bronze Award, which highlights the work we are doing as a school to stamp out homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and prejudice in our community. This will see them raising awareness around school, helping to gauge student opinions on real life experiences as well as working with members of SLT to create a student friendly anti-bullying policy. **Mrs E Smith**



New Focus on Literacy Around School

There has been a real focus on encouraging students to engage with literacy in a new way around school since September, with lots of new extra-curricular clubs and opportunities becoming available for students of all years. Miss Edwards is running a KS3 Book Club, where students have chosen to read JRR Tolkien's "The Hobbit" first. They meet regularly to discuss the plot, characters and themes running through the book and hope to make a trip to the Hay-on-Wye Festival later in the year to explore more aspects of literature.

KS4 students have been busy forming a Debate Club this term, with lively conversations and challenging questioning happening regularly at lunchtime. Students are asked to set topics prior to the meetings, giving them time to research and form opinions before challenging their peers to justify their beliefs and

construct a sound argument. Topics studied so far include film star's salaries and communism!

Developing an increased LIFE LONG LOVE OF READING is a real priority over the coming weeks and we would welcome ideas and involvement from parents and carers. If you have any unwanted books which are in good condition, please consider donating them to the school library. We would like to use tutor time as an opportunity to organise a "Bring and Swap" reading event in the new year, as well as engaging students with competitive elements like spelling bees. If you have any ideas or would like to discuss this further, please email school_info@thedeanacademy.org and keep an eye on Twitter ([@TheDeanAcademy](https://twitter.com/TheDeanAcademy)) for ideas about how you can support your child's literacy at home. **Mrs E Smith**



Christmas Showcase

Talented students put on a magical evening of festive musical treats for friends and family to enjoy at our annual Christmas Showcase.

There were lots of dance and instrumental solos and group performances including music from the school band and choir.

Children from across years 7 to 11 got involved to create a colourful and enjoyable evening for all.

There was even a sneak peek of the upcoming school production 'Little Shop of Horrors.'

Mrs Rodway, Head of Performance, commented "Our annual Christmas showcase was a tremendous success this year. A sold-out theatre, a cast in excess of 60 students, and an array of outstanding performances. The students worked so hard to create, rehearse and perform and they showed the audience what a talented, committed and dedicated group of students they are. I am incredibly proud of them, and our Performing Arts Academy at The Dean Academy."



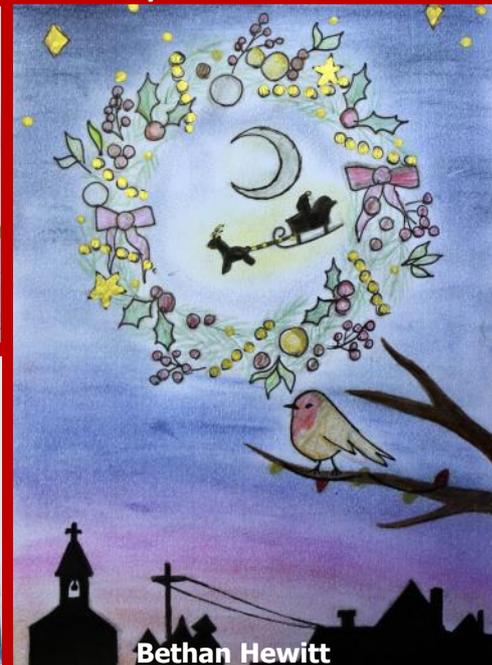
Christmas at The Dean Academy

Christmas Shoebox

Our year 7 students did a fantastic job this year at collecting special treats and essentials to go into shoeboxes which have now been sent out to Eastern Europe. The students generously donated gifts including toys, stationery, sweets and toiletries for children of all ages. We hope that this will hopefully brighten someone's Christmas. **Mr B Grant**



Christmas Card Competition



Our year 7 students created some excellent Christmas card designs this year. The winners from each tutor group were: **Grace Jenkins 7MSP, Bethan Hewitt 7SGJ, Lily Selby 7PMC, Amy Blewitt 7KLC**

Musical Students Spread Christmas Cheer

A group of musicians braved the cold wintery weather to attend a lovely festive event hosted at Taurus Crafts on Saturday 7th December. Taurus Crafts kindly placed us on their main stage so that our students could entertain the guests attending their Christmas Craft Markets. The students were absolutely wonderful, showing their keen desire to learn more about the music industry by setting up a complete PA system to amplify 20 plus performers in the space of 30 minutes! The audience was at least 50 people strong by the end! Students from years 7-11 participated and performed wonderfully and were very well received by their

audience as well as the organisers and managers at Taurus Crafts. They especially appreciated the hot chocolate reward they received once they had finished! Many thanks to all the parents and carers that attended to bring students along to a weekend event and also to staff of the school that came along to make up the audience and see our students in different environments showcasing their skills and talents! It is hugely appreciated by both the staff and students in Performance. Please see our twitter feed [@TDAPerformance](https://twitter.com/TDAPerformance) to catch up on video footage of the event. **Mrs K Rodway**



Christmas at The Dean Academy

Tis the Season to be Jolly

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students took on the Christmas cake challenge to make 3 mini fruit cakes that could be given as gifts.

The cakes were marked on quality of finish and originality of design.

As a Christmas special, our year 9s were challenged once again to whisk up a Yule Log. 45 logs later, we had a real task in choosing the best ones.

My top choices for best sponge, independent working and festive flair went to Issabella Barnett, Ben Nash, Finley Morgan and Fernanda Clare. They did a fantastically festive job!

Mrs S Gittins-Jones



O Christmas Tree

As in past years, we were asked if we would like to decorate a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church in Lydney, so we took a number of very well behaved year 7 and year 10 students and two well behaved members of staff to the church. They really did us proud and did a wonderful job of decorating the Christmas tree.

Thank you to all the students who came. **Ms K McCormick**



The Gift of Music

We are very pleased to have taken delivery of a lovely piano which was kindly donated to the school by St. Mary's Church.

The piano sits pride of place in our Drama Hall ready to be used in any up-coming shows and productions that our pianists will be taking part in.

We are very grateful to the people of St. Mary's Church for considering us as the new home for this lovely instrument, and look forward to many years of playing and performing on it!

The school has also acquired a second piano from Mrs Lynne Williams of Broadwell who was unable to keep it at her new property, so she very kindly donated it to The Dean Academy. The piano now lives in our Music Practice Room and it is already being widely used by our piano students and those that choose to recreationally play piano at lunchtime and after school.

The Performance Department are extremely grateful for this very kind and generous gift.

If you know of anyone who is looking to find a new home for an instrument, and you think it may be suitable for us at the school, please do let us know, or pass on our details. We are always happy to add to our collection, so that our students get a broad range of opportunities. **Mrs K Rodway**



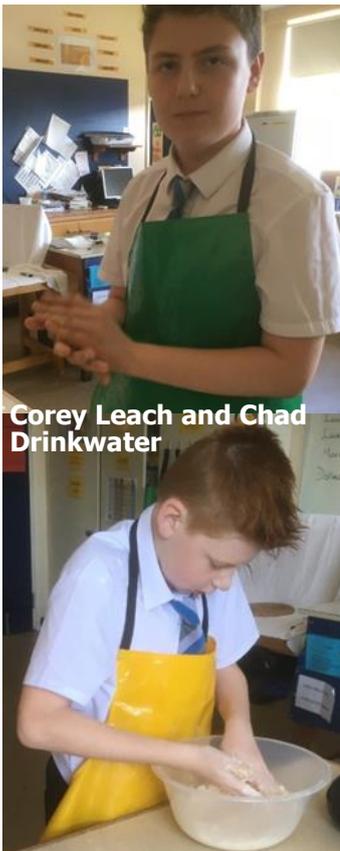
Art, Design and Production

Indian cuisine

As part of the year 9 assessment, students were asked to plan and present a dish that would be suitable as an introduction to Indian food; not too much spice and great presentation. As you can see, we had an amazing range of curry dishes.

The top three dishes for planning, preparation and presentation went to:
 Tommy Davey
 Ayden Le Roux
 Carys Jones

Mrs S Gittins-Jones



Corey Leach and Chad Drinkwater

EPIC Cooking Group

EPIC students have been doing some wonderful things in the cooking and tasting department this term.

In an attempt to encourage healthy eating and to try different foods – which autistic people can often find difficult, we have been cooking a variety of things, ranging from healthy baked chicken nuggets with salsa and sour cream dips to cheese straws. We also helped Mrs McCoy with her Macmillan Cake Sale and created a variety of delicious cakes which helped her to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

When the foods have been cooked, they are presented to the rest of the students in EPIC and they get to judge how good they are and any improvements that could be made. Usually, they're perfect! Most of the students end up requesting copies of the recipes so that they can cook them at home.

I'd like to thank Mr Palmer and Mrs Turley for helping us with our cooking adventures. This is the last newsletter item that I will be doing for EPIC as I am moving on to pastures new but I would like to thank all of the EPIC students that I have worked with over the years for the great experiences I have had.

Mrs S Hankinson

Chefs in the making?

Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students completed their 3 hour practical exam.

The dishes were planned and prepared to suit either a bistro or a holiday complex restaurant, and a range of dishes such as starters, main meals and desserts were presented.

Mrs S Gittins-Jones

Farewell Mrs Hankinson

After many years at The Dean Academy, Epic Co-ordinator, Mrs Sheila Hankinson is moving on.

She will be greatly missed by colleagues and students alike who said goodbye to her in a moving and tearful presentation of cards, flowers and gifts.

Good luck in your new job Sheila!



Mrs Hankinson with Mrs McCoy, Assistant Director of SEN Faculty

Out and About

There has been a wide variety of activities so far this academic year in the Computing/ICT Department.

We have had the opportunity to take a group of year 8 students out for a cyber immersive day at Cyber Security Associates which they really enjoyed and where they learnt about ethical hacking Wi-Fi jamming etc.

We have also taken some year 9 students to the TeenTech conference in Bristol. The visit allowed our students to engage with industry leaders which will hopefully inspire them into the STEM sector. One of the team won the category for Kindest Innovation at the event! **Mr M Warren**



EmPowerCyber Event

In November 24 of our year 8 girls attended the EmPowerCyber event at Gloucester University. The aim of this event is to encourage more girls to take part in the CyberFirst Competition.

There were 20 supporting industries running workshops that cover the different topics in the CyberFirst Competition.

The NCSC will once again be running the CyberFirst Girls Competition in 2020.

The content for each category of the competition is consistent with subjects within the Computer Science syllabus from the National Curriculum. However, the competition will contain some advanced cyber topics that are not covered in traditional education but will seek to stretch the lateral thinking and additional cyber knowledge of the teams.

For the competition itself we will, as a school be looking to enter every girl in year 8 to raise aspirations in the subject.



Microsoft Teams



This academic year the Computing Department have started to integrate the use of both Microsoft Teams and share point in lessons which is proving very valuable to students and staff alike. All work can be saved, uploaded, marked etc. through the school system and through Office 365.

Feedback is generated and assessments are linked back to the mastery language also.

This is being used across KS3 and KS4 and in particular all of year 7 homework is on there as well as class charts. This can also be accessed on multiple devices such as phones tablets and laptop/PCs.

Computing Clubs

Clubs are still running in Y block this year with the PC Build Club on Tuesday (invite only), Gaming/Code Club on a Wednesday (all students) and Girls Only Code Club (Thursday).

There is also a year 11 catch up club on a Monday lunch time every week where they can come and catch up or improve any outstanding coursework they currently have for Creative i Media.



The Bebras Challenge

This year we have also had some of our year 9 and 10 students enter an online competition called the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge.

The Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 40 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. The emphasis is on participation but they also recognise top performing students such as Brandon Moore who did amazingly well and was in the top 10% of his age group! Brandon will now go on to represent The Dean Academy at the next stage which is the 2020 Oxford Computing Challenge. Well done!

Good iDEA

This year we have signed every student up to iDEA

The Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international programme that helps students develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for free.

Through a series of online challenges, students can win career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and, ultimately, gain industry-recognised awards that help them stand out from the crowd.

We have all of year 8 and 9 signed up and they are working through this as homework tasks for the coming year to hopefully achieve Bronze or Silver. Connor in year 10 has already achieved both awards and Tommy in year 9 has applied for his Bronze.



Question Time for General Election Candidates

Year 10 and 11 students were able to hear first hand the political views of three General Election candidates when Chris McFarling (Green Party), Di Martin (Labour Party) and Mark Harper (Conservative Party) took time out of their busy campaign schedules to talk to our students about their policies and to answer their questions in a series of special assemblies.

A mock election was set up for students on the day of the general election so that they could think about the issues presented to them by the three candidates and make their own choice. The results were:

Green Party 44%
Labour Party 38%
Conservative Party 17%
Independent 1%



Mark Harper: Conservative Party

The Conservative Party candidate was impressed by the range of incisive questions asked, ranging from Brexit, health care, and the impact of austerity on education. Year 11 student Kieran Maass asked Mr Harper about how the rights of EU nationals would change after we leave the EU whilst Josh Nash wanted to know how the Conservative Party planned on tackling climate change and Year 10 student Micah Evans raised a question about the 2016 referendum. Mark Harper was keen to make sure the students felt that he had fully answered their questions and returned to some of the topics to make sure that he had been clear. He explained "I have met lots of voters whilst campaigning who I first met when they were at school. Everyone in this room will, at some point, be able to vote in a general election where I may be a candidate, so I believe it is always important to listen to our young voices. I will always listen and take on board the views of our youngsters."



Josh Nash, Kieran Maass and Micah Evans with Mark Harper

Chris McFarling: Green Party

Chris McFarling was very impressed by the intelligent questions that students asked which included national defence, the Hands Off Our Forest campaign and proportional representation. Other issues discussed included climate change, education and child poverty. Chris commented "It was a wonderful opportunity to come and speak to the students at The Dean Academy and explain what the Green Party will do for them. Our policies are for them and for their futures."



Chris McFarling discussed some very important issues with year 10 and 11 students

Di Martin: Labour Party

Di Martin spoke to students about issues such as the NHS, climate change and education. Questions were put to Di about Brexit, racism, Scottish independence and the IRA.

Di commented "I found the discussions very stimulating and really enjoyable. Question and Answer sessions in front of school students can be very challenging but they made me feel at ease.

I am passionate about their futures and the importance of investing in youth services, apprenticeships and higher education. The Labour Party is geared to ensure young people have a successful life."



Tom Billingham, Micah Evans and Summer Pring with Di Martin

World Affairs Drop Down Day

It's been a week full of democracy in action at The Dean Academy, with year 10 students off timetable on Tuesday of election week discussing the question "What would you do if you were Prime Minister for a day?" Topics covered included homelessness, the prevalence of drugs in society, the financial costs of higher education and the place of misogyny in the twenty first century. Students spent an hour debating each of these topics and all staff involved commented on the high level of respect and reflection on show throughout. Well done to everyone involved; there will be small prizes for those who really shone throughout the day in the Celebration Assembly at the end of term. **Mrs E Smith**



Science Enthuse Project

The Dean Academy has been working with local primary schools to raise aspirations and enthusiasm for Science amongst their pupils.

Fun activities have included heart and lung dissections and rockets. There are more fun activities planned throughout the year culminating in a Science Share at the end of the year when children from all of the primary schools come together to demonstrate an experiment that they have been working on.

The Dean Academy provides the primary schools with expertise, equipment and facilities in a dedicated lab. Maggie Beggs is leading this Forest Gateway Partnership project with the support of Mr Firth Edy and Mr Darren Webb. Maggie said "The most rewarding aspect is giving other Science teachers the tools to make the enhanced delivery of the Science curriculum sustainable."



Darren Webb with primary school pupils



Primary school teachers get to grips with the equipment

Maggie Beggs enthuses pupils about Science

Communications: Trip to Paris

Year 8 and 9 students recently enjoyed a three night stay in Paris where they took in the sights and sounds of the capital city and experienced French culture and cuisine first hand.

The trip included a day at Disneyland Paris which ended with a fantastic fireworks display, an evening meal in King Ludwig's Castle, a tour of the Stade de France, a visit to the Montparnasse Tower, and a visit to Parc Astérix. The children had a fabulous time and it was a great opportunity to try out their French language skills. They were a credit to the school.

"I loved Paris and I would absolutely do it again. I recommend this trip so much.

My favourite bit was the Disney illuminations show and, of course, Disneyland. I loved being chased by the chainsaw man at Parc Astérix, I cried because it was both scary and fun.

I loved touring Paris, the Eiffel Tower was beautiful and so was the Champs-Élysées. Our hotel was really nice and I was really sad to leave but the ferry made the end of the trip more enjoyable. I miss Paris so much!"

Ella Williams, Year 9

"It was, by far, the biggest group of students that we have ever taken to Paris and they were all excellent representatives of our school. Many had never been to Paris before and everyone made the most of the opportunity to visit so many famous sights, including a Saturday evening walk down the Champs Elysées!"

Miss J Burns



Movember at The Dean Academy

Movember 2019 - Grow it, show it, support it

Male staff members grew a 'tash' for cash throughout the month of November to help raise funds for the Movember Foundation, a leading charity that addresses some of the biggest male health issues.

Teaching and non-teaching staff members across the school joined in and grew some very impressive moustaches to help raise awareness of male health issues both mental and physical. A variety of activities were organised throughout the month including a special assembly for all boys in years 9, 10 and 11 where male health issues such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health were openly discussed. Fundraising events at the school included a non-uniform day and the sale of a special Movember calendar which features staff who participated in growing a moustache for the month. So far, the school has raised almost £500.

Mr Craig Palmer, the Pastoral Lead at the school who organised the events explained "In 2003 I found out my Dad had cancer, he was lucky enough to catch it early and he made it through his treatment, if he hadn't visited the doctor when he did he might not be here now. Not everybody is as lucky as my Dad and not every man is open to talking about their health issues, so a group of male staff decided to grow moustaches last month to trigger some open conversations about health issues surrounding boys and men. I hope the exposure to this will keep our young men happy, healthy and informed well into adulthood."

Staff organised a wide range of activities throughout the month to help raise awareness including:

Question/worry box

The site team kindly put up a post box outside of the Attendance Office window where students could pop in any questions or worries that they might want answering.

Year 9/10/11 boys Assembly by Mr Child

Mr Child led a hard hitting assembly openly talking about male health.

Lunch time drop in session with Mr Kelley

Mr Kelley ran a drop in session once a week where students of all ages could chat about all things health related. It was great to get our students opening up and talking about stuff that was on their mind.

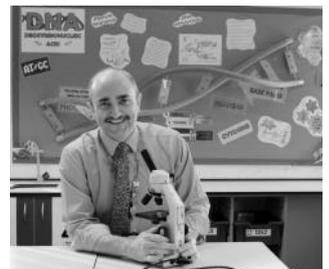
Special Tutor Challenge

A special moustached based tutor challenge was sent to all tutor groups.

Best moustache competition

In the spirit of good fun, at the end of the month all tutor groups voted for the best moustache! And the winner is Andy Brice.

Our fundraising page is
<https://moteam.co/the-dean-academy?mc=1>



Remembrance

Display of Remembrance

A group of students from The Dean Academy helped the Lydney Branch of The Royal British Legion to kickstart their 2019 Poppy Appeal when they paid a visit to The Dean Heritage Centre in Soudley to create a special display recording their recent school trip to the war cemeteries in Belgium.

Libby Ellison, Ollie Baldwin, Daisy-Lou Fouweather and Toby Vaughan were tasked with creating the

colourful display which includes photos, drawings, watercolours and quotes inspired by their trip where students visited The Menin Gate, Hill 60 and Passchendaele.

One student in Year 10 explained "In Belgium we visited many war cemeteries including Tyne Cot and Langemark. It was an amazing and insightful journey through the history of World War One and was a once in a lifetime opportunity to retrace the footsteps of the soldiers who battled against the invading German army."

Mr Stan Rudge, the Poppy Organiser for the Lydney and District branch of The Royal British Legion commented "I am really pleased with the support that we have received from The Dean Academy, the display looks great and the students have done their school proud."



Year 10 students Libby Ellison, Ollie Baldwin, Daisy-Lou Fouweather and Toby Vaughan

Remembrance Assembly

On the 11th November at 11am our students led a special assembly of Remembrance for the whole school. Year 9 students Sophie Allen, Jessica Geelhoed, Emma Kear and Finley Morgan spoke about World War One and the importance of remembrance. Kieran Maass and Ella Lewis performed the Last Post. The whole school respectfully observed a two-minute silence whilst cadets Warren Sterry, Jake Minchington, Josh Nash, Ayden Le Roux, Willow Nutting and Alysia Minchington stood to attention and overlooked the proceedings.



Chelsea's Choice

Year 9 students watched a hard-hitting production about exploitative relationships when Alter Ego Productions visited the school to perform 'Chelsea's Choice', a drama based on real-life events.

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

The actors discuss ways in which the events of Chelsea's story could have been prevented, "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 as if it is their fault so that they might be too embarrassed or scared to tell anyone. By knowing the dangers you can make safe and healthy choices, unlike Chelsea who felt like she couldn't turn to anyone."



KEEP 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



CLICK CEOP

Internet Safety

Addressing Mental Health Issues Head On

Staff and students at The Dean Academy in Lydney tackled mental health issues head on when they supported the Young Minds' #HelloYellow charity campaign by wearing an item of yellow to school as part of World Mental Health Day.

Mrs Emily Smith, the Deputy Head at the school explained "The colour yellow was chosen by the Young Minds charity as it represents happiness and positivity. We hope this will highlight the importance of acknowledging mental health in school and not shying away from discussing it, so no one feels like they are on their own."

The school also recently invited Manchester based rock band The Hara to talk to year 9 students about mental health. Band members Josh, Zack and Jack addressed important issues surrounding anxiety, depression and the pressures of social media. Frontman Josh commented "For young people today growing up can be really difficult as their lives are constantly on show; there is no escape from it and with that comes the pressure to fit in; to not stand out and draw attention to yourself and avoid becoming a target. However, it is really important to be yourself, the only thing that matters is what you think about yourself and what you want to do." Mrs Linda Bellingham the Deputy Safeguarding Lead at the school said "Our students were really engaged throughout the session. The feedback from students after the performance was positive and they were 'buzzing' about both the music and the discussions. It was a great way to get such an important message across and we are really grateful to the band for visiting our school."

Striking a chord: The Hara band members delivered an important message to year 9 students



Raise money and show your support for young people's mental health.



#HelloYellow

Events

Book Club

As of the beginning of term a number of KS3 students have been reading *The Hobbit* as part of Book Club! Each student is given a copy of the text to read in their own time (alternatively, they can listen to the audiobook on YouTube) and enjoy at their pace. Every Monday, Week B, we meet at lunch time in G6, listen to music, watch clips of *The Hobbit*, discuss the book so far and eat biscuits!

Book Club is a great way to meet people from across the year groups, discuss a mutual interest and develop your literacy skills (without much work!).

Miss A Edwards

Debate Club

KS4 Debate Club has kicked off this year with a passionate and informed discussion on the pros and cons of Communism. Members have practiced thinking on the spot in an Alley Debate as well as a Step-Forward activity in which they consider the impact of the beliefs of others on their own opinion.

At the next meeting, we will be discussing the pros and cons of the Death Penalty in a structured debate; all members have been provided with resources and will be given the opportunity to challenge their opponents thinking! **Miss A Edwards**

D of E Update

Following this year's awesome expeditions in the Brecon Beacons National Park, four Bronze participants and four Silver participants completed their respective awards. As a result of their commitments, our participants contributed 620 hours of time to voluntary activities, including volunteering in local charity shops, care homes, scout centres and local libraries. This is something they can all be very proud of.

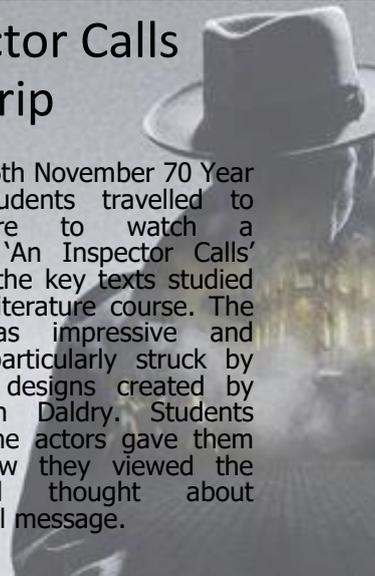
Finally, we would like to congratulate two of our Silver Qualifiers who are already committed to starting their Gold Award.

We wish them all the best on their next Duke of Edinburgh Adventure! **Ms S Paton**

An Inspector Calls Theatre Trip

On Wednesday, 6th November 70 Year 10 and 11 students travelled to Malvern Theatre to watch a performance of 'An Inspector Calls' which is one of the key texts studied for their GCSE Literature course. The performance was impressive and students were particularly struck by the unique set designs created by director Stephen Daldry. Students remarked that the actors gave them insights into how they viewed the characters and thought about Priestley's political message.

Ms S Paton



School Council

The Dean Academy School Council are planning some exciting fundraising activities next term to raise money to buy trees which they will be planting on the school site. Watch this space for more information.



Maths Trust Event

On Thursday 28th November a group of our year 7 students travelled to Bradon Forest School in Wiltshire to attend an Athelstan Trust Maths Challenge event against Bradon Forest and Malmesbury School.

Both of our teams of 5 did really well and finished in joint 4th place. They enjoyed themselves and were a real credit to both themselves and the school. Well done!

Miss J Pitt



**Jacob Connor,
Alyssa Moore,
Sawitta
Aldridge, Oliver
Donoghue,
Muammer
Altinsoy, Megan
Marfell, Keelie
Scotford,
Bethan Hewitt,
Andrew Wood
Abigail Wilson**

No Ordinary Job



Sergeant Thomas Weedall from the RAF visited the school this term to talk with our students who had expressed an interest in a career in the RAF focusing on all the opportunities that are available for young people.

Open Evening

Staff and students worked together to show off the school at our Open Evening giving prospective pupils and parents a chance to meet with teachers, visit classrooms, try out the facilities and sample food in the school restaurant.

History teacher Mr Hole and his students brought history to life by recreating a World War One Casualty Clearing Station where wounded soldiers were assessed by the severity of their injuries.

In Science there was organ dissection, maggot racing and a murder mystery to solve.

In Performance children could look at and make their own musical instruments whilst listening to the harmonious sounds of The Dean Academy Band.

In PE there were lots of fun physical activities on offer for all abilities.

One Year 7 student relayed his experiences to a packed hall of parents, he commented "On my first day here, I was both scared and nervous, I thought I wouldn't make any new friends but then I soon realised that everyone else was feeling the same way as me which made me feel a lot better. My first few weeks here have been really good, and I have made some new friends, I like the freedom that we get walking to and from classes. My favourite subject so far is Spanish as we get to learn about a different culture. I also love the food in the canteen as there are lots of great options to choose from."

Ms Alison Meredith the Primary Transition Lead commented that there were lots of children on the evening who said that they had fun and many parents said they were impressed by the effort the staff had made and how pleasant and kind everyone was at The Dean Academy.

Mr Tom Beveridge added "The event was a fantastic showcase for our school. What was particularly lovely was to see the pride our students took in showing off their school. It was great to welcome so many prospective students and parents and we look forward to working with them soon."

History Teacher Mr Hole recreates a First World War Casualty Clearing Station with the help of students Josh Nash, Jake Wood and Micah Evans, Emily Williams and Tabitha Bryant



Careers Fair

Students at The Dean Academy had a chance to reflect on and make choices for their future at its annual Careers Fair when local businesses, colleges and organisations were on hand to offer advice and guidance. Representatives from the Armed Forces were also available to discuss career options.

Careers Co-ordinator Mrs Lacey Roberts - Marklove who organised the evening commented "It was great to see such a mixture of exhibitors at the Careers Fair this year and for the students to be actively engaging in their next steps. Feedback on running times or potential dates are welcomed to make it accessible to as many students as possible."





MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Students came to school dressed in non-uniform this term to raise money for Children in Need. Students also sported a colourful array of their oddest socks in support of the children's charity. Mrs Fiona Price, a teacher at the school who helped organise the day commented "It is great to be able to support such a great charity and I am pleased to announce that the school have raised over £250 for Children in Need."



Students in 8DC show their support for Children in Need



Staff and students raised over £180 for the cancer charity Macmillan by taking part in their biggest ever coffee morning. Some baked, some faked but many purchased and devoured a selection of scrumptious cakes for the charity. Mrs Anna McCoy who helped to organise the event commented "I would like to thank Sheila Hankinson and Yazmine Alimi and all the EPIC students for their support. But my

biggest thanks of all goes to our students; there was a real community spirit amongst them. We were overwhelmed with the delights they delivered, both baked and faked, their sale alone raised £115! They really proved that when it comes to charity they want to give to and help others.

Emily McCoy, Cerys Edwards, Rosie Day, Zoe Spiller, Jaime Payne, Jake Wood and Josh Nash did a fantastic job helping out and gave up their break and lunch time to raise money for this important charity. Also, well done to Craig Palmer and Amber Douglas who both took the courage to enter the bake off with their yummy treats!"



2020 Nurture Group Calendars

A group of students have worked very hard this term creating some lovely colourful calendars to take home as a special gift. Here are just a few of their designs. **Ms K Buckley**



School Terms and Holidays 2020

TERM 3

BEGINS Monday 6th January (students return)

ENDS Friday 14th February (3.15 p.m.)

HOLIDAY 17th to 21st February

TERM 4

INSET DAY Monday 24th February

BEGINS Tuesday 25th February (students return)

ENDS Friday 3rd April (3.15 p.m.)

HOLIDAY 6th April to 17th April

TERM 5

BEGINS Monday 20th April (students return)

MAY-DAY HOL. Friday 8th May

ENDS Friday 22nd May (3.15 p.m.)

HOLIDAY 25th May to 29th May

TERM 6

BEGINS Monday 1st June

INSET DAY Friday 26th June (staff only – Trust inset day)

ENDS Friday 17th July (12.30 p.m.)

INSET DAY Monday 20th July

HOLIDAY 21st July to 31st August