



The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 24

Winter 2020



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Update from the Headteacher



I don't know if we'll ever see another term like this but I feel so proud with the way that staff and students have rallied together and risen above the circumstances. I cannot sum up these last few months in any better way than by sharing the words which underpin our vision:

Enjoyment, Achievement, Community.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful staff who have needed to get to grips with a whole new style of COVID-safe teaching from behind the yellow tape. They've also clocked a huge amount of steps rushing between classrooms as students stay in one place (20,000 steps seems to be the average!) I've been overwhelmed with how supportive and positive our staff have been – whether it be by covering lessons, supervising wet breaks with an umbrella or pitching in for absent colleagues - but always doing it with a smile!

Most inspiring has been the way our students have conducted themselves. They have had lots to adapt to and a number of new systems and rules to follow. It has been so refreshing to see our students simply get on with it! Our young people have been resilient and responsible and made tremendous progress in their learning, having taken to the unfamiliar restrictions with agility.

There have been so many highlights this term (far too many to list) but most notably I want to recognise the positive, happy community feel the school has developed as we have all worked together –

managing to negotiate this tricky period with largely disruption-free on site schooling with excellent attendance!! Thank you all for your support and efforts to achieve this!

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.

Richard Brand

School Terms & Holidays 2021

TERM 3	BEGINS ENDS	Monday 4 th January (students return) Friday 12 th February (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February
TERM 4	INSET DAY BEGINS ENDS	Monday 22 nd February Tuesday 23 rd February (students return) Thursday 1 st April (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Friday 2 nd April – Friday 16 th April
TERM 5	BEGINS MAY-DAY HOL. ENDS	Monday 19 th April (students return) Monday 3 rd May Friday 28 th May (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June
TERM 6	BEGINS TRUST INSET DAY ENDS	Monday 7 th June Friday 2 nd July Wednesday 21 st July (12.30 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Thursday 22 nd July – Tuesday 31 st August

Message from the Chair of Governors



I'm writing on behalf of the Governing Body to extend our sincere thanks to all members of our school community for your tremendous efforts this year. Through the regular Governor meetings and visits to the school we have all seen and heard how hard all staff, teaching and support, have been working to keep our students safe, happy and able to continue learning through this incredibly difficult year.

Their dedication to our community has been exceptional and truly inspiring. I know many have given up their own time to provide care, education and support to our students, their families and each other and have seen so many examples of staff from all areas of our school going above and beyond for our children and would like to thank you all for your continued commitment.

The Governors would also like to extend our gratitude to the parents and carers of our students for supporting the school this year - it's been a really tough time for everyone, and the additional work of home-schooling for so much of the year has been a huge burden for so many families. Since the return to school we're really grateful for your help in ensuring our young people are prepared to learn and adhere to the Covid-secure requirements.

Finally a HUGE thank you to all of our students - your resilience, good humour, hard work, and care for each other has been wonderful to see. I've never been more proud to be Chair of the Governors.

We hope you all find time to rest and recharge over the Christmas break and wish you and your loved ones all a very Happy Christmas.

With warm regards,
Janine Fox - on behalf of all Governors at The Dean Academy

Remembrance Day 2020 - Lest We Forget



HUGH JONES, M.C.,
Capt., Gloucestershire Regt.

Students at The Dean Academy observed Remembrance Day with a special assembly all about a former Lydney resident and local war hero, Captain Hugh Jones.

Mr Ben Grant, Head of Year 7, explained "As a History teacher I think it is really important to add both a local and personal dimension to Remembrance Day. We wanted to bring World War One to life by studying a local hero and

the response from our students about the assembly has been incredible."



Students learned about the

life of the soldier who signed up to the Gloucester Regiment (13th Battalion Forest of Dean) to fight for his country during World War One. Hugh Jones travelled to the Western Front in 1915 where he was soon promoted to Captain. In 1916 Hugh was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery during the Battle of the Somme. He was wounded on two occasions and in 1918, exhausted from his wounds and years of fighting on the front line, he was sent to a military hospital where he sadly died of pneumonia on the final day of the war.

Captain Hugh Jones is commemorated on Lydney's War Memorial Cross.

The whole school gathered outside to observe a two-minute silence to remember and honour all those, like Captain Hugh Jones, who fought and lost their lives.

Students Ella and Oliver played the Last Post.



El Día de los Muertos - Day of the Dead

Year 7 Spanish

This term Year 7s have spent some time studying how El Día de los Muertos is celebrated in Mexico. We looked at how the festival compared to Halloween in the UK and talked about the differences between the two festivals. Students learnt key Spanish vocabulary about the festival and watched videos of celebrations taking place in Mexico. We even watched Coco or The Book of Life (El Libro de la Vida) in Spanish to see how the Fiesta was depicted in these films.

All of Year 7 were set the challenge of designing a Sugar Skull which is one of the most famous images of Día de los Muertos. We had lots of impressive entries and some students showed some real creativity with the materials used for their skulls.

Mr Brand was asked to judge the winners.

- 1st **Connie - 7DW** for her beautiful mask
- 2nd **Oliver - 7JP** for his hand painted mask
- 3rd **Ryan - 7DW** for his skull sugar sculpture

¡Felicitaciones a todos! **Miss J Burns**

WHAT IS DAY OF THE DEAD?

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a celebration of life and death. While the holiday originated in Mexico, it is celebrated all over Latin America with colourful calaveras (skulls) and calacas (skeletons).



Computing - Putting Cyber Skills First



National Cyber Security Centre

a part of GCHQ

and has helped to raise the aspirations of our students. The programme has allowed us to connect with the local Cyber Security sector via various virtual events, trips and after school events. Our students over the past few years have fully engaged with these opportunities and this summer one of our Year 11 students embarked on a prestigious summer internship at a Cyber based company in London. We have bespoke equipment in school which aids Computing lessons and clubs. Our aim now is to become a Gold standard school and continue to show what the sector has to offer our young people."

The Dean Academy has become one of just 13 trailblazing schools across Wales and Gloucestershire to be awarded a CyberFirst Schools status by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) as part of a new initiative which recognises excellence in cyber security education.

The NCSC, which is a part of GCHQ, acknowledged the dedication of the school in addressing the cyber skills gap and its passion to inspire young people from all backgrounds to pursue a career in the field.

The Computing Department at the school were thrilled to learn that they had been awarded silver status, the Computing teacher Mr Martin Warren explained "This has been a great opportunity for our school

"I congratulate these schools on achieving CyberFirst Schools status, they are the first to do so and their award is thoroughly merited. It was great to see the innovative work going on in these schools. The programme will help us set a consistent standard for cyber security education as we continue to develop a diverse and talented next generation of cyber experts."

Chris Ensor, the NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth

"I am very proud that The Dean Academy has been awarded the Silver CyberFirst School award, the first such award in The Athelstan Trust for Computing. This is in recognition of the excellent work Martin Warren and the team have put in over the last two years growing a small subject into one of the popular options subjects in the school. They have managed to produce a rich curriculum with a range of industry led opportunities in the Cyber arena and are preparing students for careers in an ever-growing area."

Richard Wells, Trust Lead for Computing

"We are delighted to be awarded Silver recognition with the CyberFirst programme, and we aim to further enhance our provision and engagement with industry, so that we become a Gold standard school. This programme has helped us raise awareness of how important the Cyber/Computing sector has now become in our local area, and allowed us to make our young people aware of the full range of opportunities that are available within this sector in Gloucestershire."

Richard Brand, Headteacher



Congratulations to all our KS3 students who entered CyberVibe, a cyber security writing competition from Cygenta, an industry supporter of CyberFirst. Students were tasked with writing a 300-500 word blog post on what cyber security means to them. With over 600 entries our students did exceptionally well! The following students picked up awards and have each received a certificate:

- Poppy (8PM) Honourable Mention Avengers Category**
- Willow (7KBW) Honourable Mention Avengers Category**
- Alicia (9MW) RUNNER UP Legends Category**

Well done! **Mr M Warren**



Ada Lovelace Day

Raising the Profile of Women in Science



Celebrating women in science was the theme of the day as the Science Department came to school dressed as various scientific discoveries made by female scientists both past and present.

Mrs Hannah Rowlands, Associate Assistant Headteacher, explained "Ada Lovelace Day has become an annual event in The Dean Academy Science Faculty calendar where we raise the profile and importance of discoveries made by women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The students this year were very enthusiastic in trying to work out who the scientist was, based upon the fancy dress clues about their discoveries."

Science teacher Mr David Child recognised the achievements of Hollywood actress Hedy Lamarr, a prolific inventor and innovator who is considered to be the 'mother of Wi-Fi'. Mr Darren Webb acknowledged the significant achievements of geneticist Nettie Stevens who discovered XY chromosomes. Mr Firth Edy highlighted the importance of Marie Curie's pioneering research on radioactivity. Mr Lee Kelley wore Kevlar in honour of Stephanie Kwolek, the chemist who invented the lifesaving industrial fibre and Mrs Hannah Rowlands educated students about the palaeontologist Mary Anning.

Ada Lovelace Day aims to increase the visibility of these pioneering STEM champions so that future generations of young women will be inspired to pursue careers in these areas. Mrs Rowlands added "Breaking down the gender barriers in STEM is something that we feel passionately about at The Dean Academy and we have ensured that our curriculum reflects this, with regular opportunities to address the issue."



Chemist Marie Curie



Chemist Stephanie Kwolek



Inventor Hedy Lamarr



Geneticist Nettie Stevens



Palaeontologist Mary Anning



Inspiring future generations: Mr Child, Mrs Rowlands, Mr Kelley, Mr Webb and Mr Edy

Year 10 Science Club

Year 10 Science Club have been busy making preparations to welcome in some very exciting new members in the Science Faculty.

This term, they have made a start on creating suitable habitats to house creatures such as geckos, lizards and frogs and are currently raising funds to carry out the project.

Mr Kelley, who runs the club explained "The students are working independently and taking the initiative in deciding what they want to do. It has been a real pleasure to see the club grow into a student led project."

The students are currently busy building and preparing their terrariums ready for planting after Christmas. The school has received lots of support from the local

community with generous donations of fish tanks and small terrariums.

They have also received a grant from the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies to put towards the project and Monmouth Houseplants have generously provided donations of plants and given expert advice for the group.

Mr Kelley added "Chilli Rogues have given us some seeds that we are currently growing in Science Club and the sale of these will help us to raise funds. It has been great to receive so much support."

Mr Kelley currently has 7 white tree frogs and 1 red eyed tree frog in his Science lab that the Science Club members are responsible for looking after.

Ashton said "I'm preparing this terrarium for a Crested Gecko." Ashton keeps toads at home so he is used to looking after and feeding animals.



Adam said "We are all doing our own little projects making terrariums for different animals. I'm hoping to get a Leopard Gecko."

Max is hoping to get an Emerald Swift Lizard, he said "We will have to look after them and take them home in the holidays."



Members of the Science Club are responsible for looking after the frogs which reside in Mr Kelley's Science lab.

The boys get advice from the expert



Some of the colourful frogs in Mr Kelley's Science Lab



Jago, Ben, Ashton, Adam, Syrus and Max with Mr Kelley, Mr Brand and Abi Banks from Monmouth Houseplants



Gloucestershire Music Workshops

Well done to our Year 7, 8 and 9 students who gave it their best during this term's Music lessons, developing their Ukulele and Brass playing skills! Students were lucky enough to receive expert tuition from Mr May on behalf of the Gloucestershire Music Service. The five-week project was a great experience for our students and a real positive for the Performance Department during a challenging time for the Arts. It was amazing to see every student proud to have their own instrument and be part of a classroom ensemble. **Mr J Peacock**



Mr May from Gloucestershire Music



YEAR 7

"One student was so inspired by the workshops that they're going to ask for a ukulele for Christmas!"

YEAR 8



YEAR 9



HO HO . . . Hospitality and Catering!

Merry Mince Pies and Cool Yule Logs

In the run up to Christmas we have been busy making mince pies, Yule logs and cinnamon swirl wreaths. The standard has been excellent as usual, especially the Year 11 wreaths. Well done Megan (see below).



Year 11 Hospitality and Catering Challenge

Our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students have been practicing dishes for their exam. The focus being beautifully presented food prepared to industry standard. The dessert practice as you can see was an excuse to make luxury treats! Mrs Sayers and myself would like to extend the challenge to those of you who enjoy creating in the kitchen. We will issue some Christmas

break challenges - send your photos to Sam.GittinsJones@thedeacademy.org
Have a safe Merry Christmas
Mrs Sayers and Mrs Gittins Jones





Year 7 Christmas Card Competition

This year, local artist Tom Cousins kindly judged our annual Year 7 Christmas Card Competition. Tom had a very difficult task to select his favourite design from each Year 7 tutor group. Art teacher, Mrs Charles, also picked her favourite design from across the groups. The winners will each receive a pack of cards printed with their stunning, festive designs.



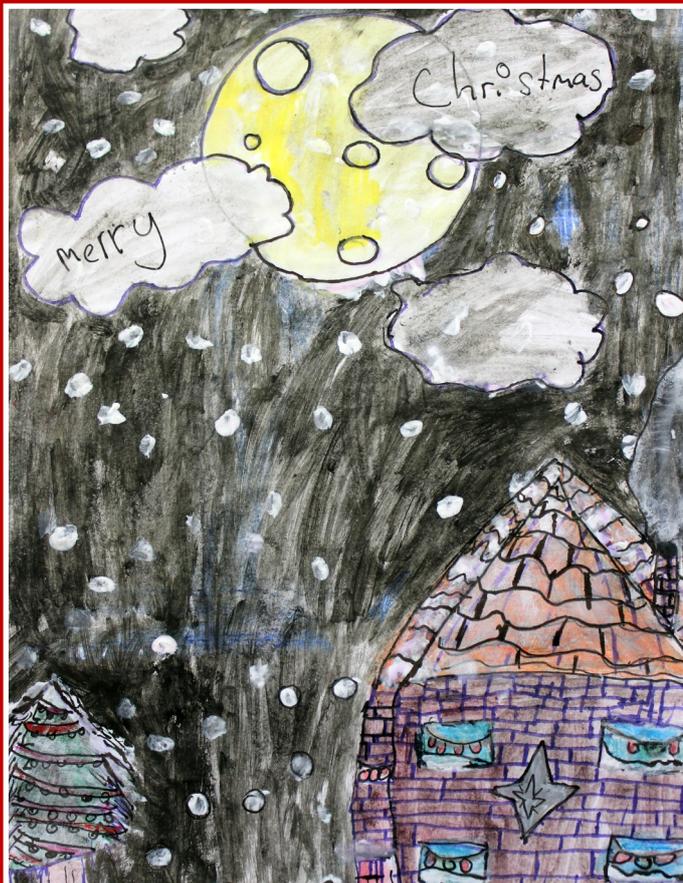
7DW Winning entry from Maya

Tom Cousins said "I like the solid blue sky, the repeating reindeer, the way all the objects fit quite nicely with each other"



7AM Winning entry from Katelyn

Tom Cousins said "The reindeer has personality"



7JP Winning entry from Lilly

Tom Cousins said "I like the heavy black which is unusual in a Christmas card"



Mrs Charles winning Year 7 design from Jaimee

Mrs Charles said "I selected Jaimee's card because it was bold, eye catching and I really like the animals she has included on the bus"



Year 8 Fun at the Farm

Artist Tom Cousin's message to our talented Year 7 students:



"I love to make and receive hand made cards, and I would really like to receive all of these cards more than a card bought from a shop.

My favourites that I have chosen say more about me than whose picture is 'best'. Everyone who has finished a picture is a winner.

When I make cards, I create the picture on A5 or A4 paper, but then shrink it down smaller, unless I'm sticking things on them so it's like 3D which I notice several of you have done, which I like very much.

For tutor group 7AM my favourite is Katelyn's. For me, the reindeer has personality, I find the decorations hanging off the horns unexpected but nice, and I like the way it's framed.

For 7DW my favourite is Maya's. I like the solid blue sky, the repeating reindeer, the way all the objects fit nicely with each other, the skyline heading in the direction of the window and the snowman's hat pushing up the skyline while Santa Claus just breaks the circle of the moon.

7KBW was a really difficult group to pick my favourite from. I liked Skye's landscape because I like the paint texture, the shiny stars and the cut out wave edge. I might also have chosen Kara's because it makes me laugh (sad cat saying "Happy Christmas" and SpongeBob hanging from the line). I also liked Oliver's Santa stuck in a chimney because it's really worked a theme, a landing mat for Santa coming down the chimney with a bottle of Tizer to lure him into the room. But I've chosen Lilly's dark, snowy sky. It surprised me. I like the heavy black which is unusual in a Christmas card, you can see the moon even though there is heavy snow. I like the black texture with blue showing through and I like the purple and yellow.

I hope everyone manages to have a very Merry Christmas."

Tom Cousins, local artist and mural painter

Fun at the Farm

A group of Year 8 students spent a week visiting Jamie's Farm in Monmouth recently where they took part in various hands on activities such as splitting logs, mucking out, catching chickens, and feeding pigs! Krystal said the best bit was feeding the pigs when she, "dropped the food on the ground and they gobbled it up!" We think they might need a restful Christmas break after a hard week of work at the Farm!

A group of Year 10s will be visiting in January to learn some important skills to help support their learning at school.

Mr C Palmer



Maths Faculty

Year 10 Code Breakers



"Our students have demonstrated an incredible amount of determination and resilience in the most difficult and unusual of circumstances."

Historically, The Dean Academy has always enjoyed success in the National Cypher Challenge, where some of the brightest young minds work to crack codes set by the University of Southampton. However, due to various circumstances, it has been several years since we have been able to enter a team.

Understandably, we thought 2020 would be another one of those years, until our crack team of four Year 10 students Tommy, Simeon, Alice and Joshua, got on the case. To quote Simeon, 'Covid's not getting in our way,' and a truer sentiment could not be shown as, instead of the usual after school sessions, the students, aptly calling themselves 'The High Ground', have been meeting remotely in order to tackle the puzzles.

The National Cypher Challenge has been running for 19 years and features a gruelling gauntlet of 7 missions. Participants must decode secret messages, find clues, and solve puzzles in a test joint sponsored by IBM and GCHQ, among others.

At the time of writing, 'The High Ground' are on the final mission, and based on the scores so far, they are placed joint first nationally for both difficulty levels. This goes to show the incredible amount of determination and resilience our students have demonstrated, in the most difficult and unusual of circumstances. We have every confidence that their dedication will lead them to victory in the final challenge, but one thing is certain: win or lose, our intrepid codebreakers have shared an experience that will stick with them for years to come, and that has furnished them with skills that they can carry into any number of bright and promising futures.

Mr M Swain

hegartymaths

A student and parent visual guide to making the most of Hegarty Maths

The key to success in Maths is belief, hard work and support. Our online platform provides the best support. We expect it be used for at least 30 minutes per week.

<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BELIEF AND MINDSET</p> <p>Everyone, given the right amount of time, support and effort, can learn maths. No one tells you you'll never be able to drive a car. We learn, practise and keep trying until we pass.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EFFORT IS KEY TO SUCCESS</p> <p>Students will be set quizzes every week to practise the skills they have been learning in class. Effort is considered good when students have watched the videos and re-tried the quiz if they don't achieve at least 80%.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VIDEOS ARE A MUST WATCH</p> <p>Each quiz is supported by a video that has been carefully scaffolded so that everything that is tested in the quiz has been taught in the video.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAKE NOTES</p> <p>We encourage students to copy examples into their homework book and write their working out for quizzes so that they get used to setting out their work properly. You can then revisit these when studying.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">USE BUILDING BLOCKS</p> <p>Quizzes are sequenced so that they build on prior knowledge. If students are struggling to get 80% on a quiz, maybe they are missing a skill. They can use the building blocks to fill skill gaps using the videos and quizzes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AIM FOR 100%</p> <p>Each self-marking quiz will prompt once if a mistake is made on a question. A second incorrect attempt will be marked as wrong. Aim for 100% but 70% or above is still good.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; padding: 5px 10px; border-radius: 5px;">70%</div> <div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 5px 10px; border-radius: 5px;">100% </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIX UP 5 WEAK TOPICS</p> <p>By selecting Fix Up 5, the system will find 5 questions that students have previously answered incorrectly and serve them up again so students can improve on their weakest areas.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMRI FOR MEMORY</p> <p>All correct answers are recorded. Students can now click "revise" at the top of the screen and this will create a 10 question quiz using questions they have answered correctly in the past to aid recall.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>Your teacher can see all of your answers and correct typing</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px dashed #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>There is a get help button that takes you to the part of the video you</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px dashed #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <p>Your teacher knows</p> </div>

Student Support Centre: United Against Bullying

Anti-bullying week: Promoting individuality

Students at The Dean Academy expressed their individuality by wearing odd socks to school during the national Anti-Bullying Week in November.

The event was part of an initiative by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) to help tackle the issues of bullying and to raise awareness of the impact it can have on those who experience and witness it.

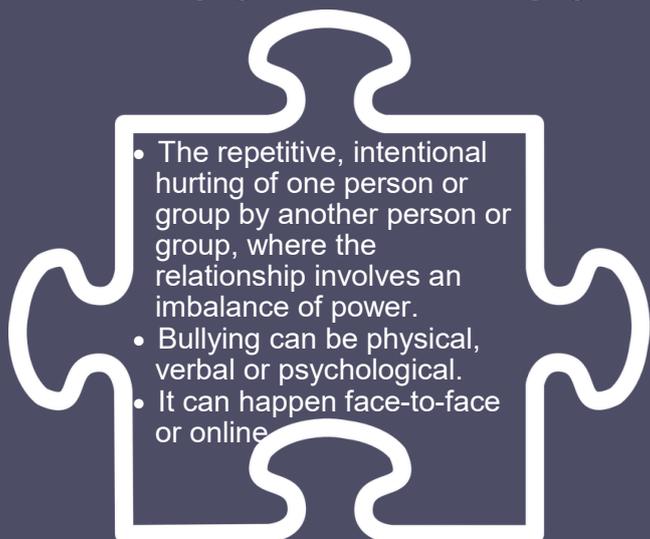
The ABA believe that bullying can be reduced by channelling the collective and positive power of society through its shared efforts and ambitions. They state that "We all have our part to play in coming together to make a difference. We are all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we are united against bullying."

WHAT IS ODD SOCK DAY?

Odd Sock Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!



The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as:



- The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.
- Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological.
- It can happen face-to-face or online

How to find support in school

We want you to feel that school is a place where you feel safe, listened to and supported.

Where can you find help through the school day?

- ⇒ Before the start of the day you can find a member of the pastoral team in SSC.
- ⇒ At break and lunch time you can tell the teacher who is on duty or ask to go over to SSC.
- ⇒ During lessons you can ask to have a conversation with a teacher (they may ask for you to wait for a convenient time).
- ⇒ Your tutor.

There are wellbeing boxes placed around the school for anyone who would like help with any worries they may have. The boxes have been placed in each year group bubble, SSC and in the canteen.

Mr L Kelley

YOUR PASTORAL SUPPORT TEAM

HEADS OF YEAR

Mr B Grant
Mr A Stradling
Mr L Kelley
Ms K Wilkes
Mrs K Jones

"We are here to support your learning and progress in school and make sure you are safe and able to learn."

STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

Mr C Palmer - Pastoral Lead
Mrs J Dance - Pastoral Support Worker
Mrs L Bellingham - Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mr D Mooney - Deputy Head, Designated Safeguarding Lead

"Friendship problems? Worried about something? Just fancy a chat? Come and find us in Student Services."



From left to right:
Mrs Dance, Mr Grant, Mr Palmer, Mr Kelley, Mrs Bellingham, Mrs Jones and Mr Stradling

Children in Need Fundraising

On Friday 13th November staff and students took part in the 40th celebrations of Children in Need and raised money for the charity by dressing in non-uniform.

'Bubble Bake Sales' were organised so that children could enjoy some delicious treats whilst raising money for the charity and the English Department organised a 'Poem for Pudsey' mini-project (see below).

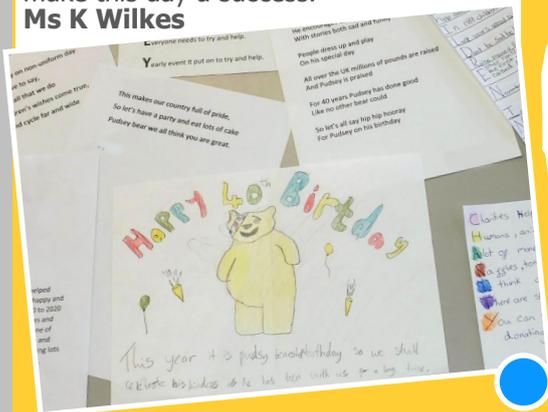
Ms Wilkes, Head of Year 8, who organised the day commented "The Dean Academy have fully supported Children in Need and marked its 40th anniversary with a variety of activities. Being mindful of keeping students in their year group bubbles each year group has raised money in different ways including cake sales and wearing non-uniform. The Dean Academy has pulled together to support the message of this charity whilst continuing our focus on student achievement." The school raised over **£480!**



Poems for Pudsey

Year 8 and 9 students have produced some wonderful, creative poems as part of our Children in Need celebrations. Here are some of the great poems from Ms Paton's classes, ready for display. Thank you to all students who helped to make this day a success.

Ms K Wilkes



40 Years of Pudsey Bear

Lets celebrate and say hooray Pudsey bear is 40 today!
 Pudsey bear is always there showing you his love and care
 Lets celebrate and say hooray Pudsey bear is 40 today!
 Raising money and all the rest, for Children in Need he's the best
 Lets celebrate and say hooray Pudsey bear is 40 today!
 "Stop crying your heart out" we all play, cuz Pudsey Bear is here to stay!

Lets celebrate and say hooray Pudsey bear is 40 today!
 Dress up or dress down the teachers say and buy a cake we made ... ok

Lets celebrate and say hooray Pudsey bear is 40 today!
 We've chosen our duck to race away, don't forget to donate your way....

Lets celebrate and say hooray Pudsey bear is 40 today!
 He's changing lives across the UK, raising more money day by day

Lets celebrate and say hooray Pudsey bear is 40 today!

By Aliyah, Year 8



Pudsey Bear Hits 40

For Children in Need
 He does a good deed

With only one eye
 He makes us laugh and cry

He encourages us to give money
 With stories both sad and funny

People dress up and play
 On his special day

All over the UK millions of pounds
 are raised
 And Pudsey is praised

For 40 years Pudsey has done
 good
 Like no other bear could

So let's all say "hip hip hooray"
 For Pudsey on his birthday.

By Oliver, Year 7

Pudsey Bear.

Unhealthy kids needing
 help.

Donate to help.

Suffering children needing
 help.

Everyone needs to try and
 help.

Yearly event it put
 on to try and help.

Jessie, Year 7

Happy Birthday Pudsey 40

It's Pudsey day and he is 40
 I switch on my TV for him to be
 their shortly

For many years he has been raising
 money
 With his spotty bandana that looks kind
 of funny,

My school raised money on non-
 uniform day

It was pretty good I have to say,
 Pudsey is thankful for all that we do
 Helping to make children's wishes
 come true.

People bake cakes and cycle far and
 wide

This makes our country full of pride,
 So let's have a party and eat lots of
 cake

Pudsey Bear we all think you are great.

By Cole, Year 7

Merry Christmas from the EPIC Centre



It has been a busy term in the EPIC Centre and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas. It has been great to see our EPIC students enjoying so many lessons this term and making progress with their learning. We are excited about 2021 already! **Ms H Thayer**

Nurture Group 2021 Calendars



Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have created some amazing, colourful 2021 calendars in Nurture Group this term. Here are just some of their creations! Well done. **Miss K Buckley**



Whole School Reading Programme

Beyond Words

Reading really is the key to success. The most recent National Literacy Trust research highlights the link between enjoyment of reading and attainment. The longer children are able to keep an enjoyment of reading going, the greater the benefits in the classroom. Twelve year olds who enjoy reading have a reading age 2.1 years higher than their peers who don't enjoy reading and this rises to a gap of 3.3 years for 14 year olds.

Evidence also shows that by age 3, a gap of 30 million words can exist between children based on their early years experiences (Hart & Risley, 1995) and that while language variation in children is difficult to attribute to a single cause, low levels of vocabulary set limits on literacy, understanding, learning the curriculum and can create a downward spiral of poor language which affects all aspects of life (Nation, 2018).

We know that young people and adults with literacy difficulties are at risk of being unemployed for longer periods of time than their peers and will have lower life expectancy, including increased chances of poor mental health and wellbeing, than those without literacy difficulties.

As a school, we are passionate that all students develop

confidence, skills and a keen interest in reading and we are excited to launch our 'Beyond Words' reading programme in January. Students in Years 7 to 10 will be tackling challenging, age-appropriate books (see below) which will provide them with a variety of literary experiences.

The 3 key aims of Beyond Words are:

- To improve student's word knowledge through direct vocabulary instruction.
- To improve student's world knowledge. Research suggests that when you read about an experience you feel it is as if it happened to you, not just the character you are reading about.
- To foster a love of reading, whatever the genre!

You can find guidance on how to support your child's literacy development at home, plus year group book recommendations, on the Beyond Words section of our website: <https://thedeacademy.org/beyond-words/>
Ms J Rosbrook

YEAR 7

- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll
- Boy 87 - Ele Fountain
- The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson
- Wonder - R.J. Palacio

YEAR 8

- Kick - Mitch Johnson
- The Diary of a Young Girl - Anne Frank
- Ruby in the Smoke - Philip Pullman
- Oliver Twist - Charles Dickens
- Nothings & Crosses - Malorie Blackman
- Chinese Cinderella - Adeline Yen Mah

YEAR 9

- The House of Silk - Anthony Horowitz
- Welcome to Nowhere - Elizabeth Laird
- Life of Pi - Yann Martel
- Trash - Andy Mulligan

YEAR 10

- The Book Thief - Markus Zusak
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon
- Lies We Tell Ourselves - Robin Talley

The Year 10 Asdan students were challenged to write an original poem on a topic of their choice. They looked at poems that already existed then created a spider diagram of all the words that related to their chosen topic to help them create their poems and these are the

Farming Rocks

The alarm goes off at 3 o'clock, got to get up to feed the stock

Kicking cows out ready to be milked

Scraping yards, hobbing beds, on to the next shed

Farming is hard not as easy as people think

Finishing all the morning jobs, time to get on to the tractors

Slurry Tanking away watching all the birds fly over the top of me

Next day another earlier start feeding the stock

Kicking out cows ready to be milked

Scraping yards, hobbing beds, on to the next shed

Finishing all the morning jobs, time to get on to the tractors

Ploughing away, watching the sunrise and the birds swooping in and out of the trees

I love farming!!

By Kieran, Year 10

Easter Egg-cellent!

Easter is the best,
It's on the third month of the year called April,
Easter is the best,
The Easter Bunny is a bunny who, however, hides eggs with yellow squishy stuff
Easter is the best,
He decorates the eggs on a Good Friday because it's a tradition that happens every year,
Easter is the best,
Then, he delivers to all the holy people of the world,
Easter is the best,
The next morning, people wake up to find their egg that is 'eggcellent'
Easter is the best
People go egg hunting
Easter is the best
Eggs are made of melted chocolate
Easter is the best
People hiding eggs
Easter is the best
Jesus on a holy cross to die
Easter is the best
He is dead but he is risen
Easter is the best
He eats a holy carrot and goes bonkers
Easter is the best
Holy people bring baskets for an egg hunt to hunt for bunnies
But this story ends peacefully

By Alfie, Year 10

results.

The plan will be to read out their poems to a small audience, which will help them complete another challenge. **Ms K McKormick**

The Nine Letters of Christmas

Cosy nights by the fireplace.

Hope for the new year ahead.

Reindeer trekking through the night sky.

Ice covering the pavements.

Sleigh bells ringing.

Trees decorated with ornaments.

Mistletoe hung up in doorways.

Angels blessing the atmosphere.

Snowmen with carrot noses.

by Lucas, Year 10

Pastry Talk

I love pastries
I eat them every day
I love pastries
The meat is so intense
I love pastries
The gravy tastes so great
I love pastries
I've ate them now for years
I love pastries
When they are so hot
I love pastries
I would eat the Flippin lot
I love pastries
When they are homemade
I love pastries.....Because I do

By Maddox, Year 10

The World

It moves and moves around the sun

It is a giver of life and death

But is different to u or me

I love the world and all the people on it

It is full of fun and colour unlike you or me

Is never wrong is just big and strong

It's just better than you or me

I love the world and all the people on it

I love the world

By Josh, Year 10

Achievement

Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Jake, Ayden and Josh with their certificates

No expeditions, libraries shut, sports centres shut ... the list of Lockdown limitations goes on! Yet many young people have pushed through and still managed to complete their Duke of Edinburgh challenges. They have supported their families and helped their neighbours; they have learnt new tricks – on their mountain bikes and in the kitchen!

Our Bronze and Silver Participants should be very proud of all they have achieved. In particular, I would like to congratulate our students who have been awarded their Bronze Certificate of Achievement. This means they have completed all their sections except the Expedition – which we are all looking forward to getting on with later this year.
Ms Paton

Virtual Open Evening

The Dean Academy opened its virtual doors to the public for a very different Open Evening which was created so that parents and Year 6 pupils did not miss out on the opportunity to tour the school and get an insight into life at the academy.

Covid restrictions meant that the Open Evening could not go ahead as normal so the school arranged a special virtual online tour which included an interactive map with a welcome from the Headteacher and videos about all the different faculties. A group of Year 7 students also relayed their experiences of life at secondary school, including Liam, who said "My first week was amazing, my tutor is really nice and you make lots of new friends. I really enjoy Science, it is a fun subject and you get to learn about new things."

Headteacher, Mr Richard Brand explained "Open Evening at The Dean Academy is normally a very popular event but this year we've needed to do things differently. Through our virtual open evening we've aimed to share a sense of the ambition we have for the school and the scale of opportunities on offer."

Socially distanced open mornings have also been organised during the school day giving parents the chance to visit classrooms whilst teaching is in progress. Ms Jo Rosbrook, Associate Assistant Headteacher at the school who helped organise the tours commented "Our open mornings have proven incredibly popular. The feedback has been great, both Year 6 pupils and parents have praised the wide range of subjects on offer and the excellent facilities at the school."



"Amazing" first week



"Enjoyed Technology"



"The teachers are really nice"



"Teachers helped us settle in"

Accelerated Reading

Congratulations to Katie (9MW) for becoming The Dean Academy's first Word Millionaire! **Ms S Paton**



Year 6 Taster Days

Fruit batteries and spaghetti towers were some of the fun challenges that faced local pupils from primary schools across the Forest when Year 6 classes accepted an invitation to spend a Taster day in The Dean Academy's Science Faculty.

The children spent the day in the Science labs to learn about Science and use their specialist equipment. It also gave them a chance to meet with teachers, have a tour of the school and sample food from the canteen who had prepared a specially packed lunch for the children. They all enjoyed their day and primary school staff commented that their pupils had found the experience both 'explorative and exciting'.

Lydney C of E teacher Mrs Roser said "It was great to be made so welcome by the staff at The Dean Academy who went out of their way to ensure that our Year 6 children had a taste of what the school has to offer. The children enjoyed the challenges set, learnt some new, interesting things and were engaged throughout. On our return, the children spoke highly of the day and commented especially about the kind and welcoming teachers. Some of the children were feeling a little anxious about secondary school but are now feeling far more relaxed."

Mr Firth Edy, Head of Science KS4 at The Dean Academy who helped to organise the event commented "We have been delighted to host a range of our local feeder primary schools in our STEM themed Taster day. The positive response from the pupils and teachers has been fantastic, giving the children a taste of secondary school to help ease their transition into the secondary environment. They have all enjoyed the calm and purposeful atmosphere at the school and we look forward to inviting them back in Year 7."



Yorckley School comments:

"The science was great, really enjoyed doing experiments."

"Very impressed, the school was huge and so much to do."

"I thought the teachers were great and the towers challenges was the best."





Christmas Dinner



Catering staff were busy this term serving up some delicious festive dinners to our students. Headteacher, Mr Brand commented "After a year which has been up and down to say the least it was so nice to see students have a lovely Christmas meal, talking and being with their friends, and enjoying the occasion. Huge thanks to Nikki Harris, Catering Manager, and her team for preparing and cooking such a wonderful meal for all of those students – what an effort from them!"



The Real McCoy of Fundraising

Mrs McCoy, the Assistant Director of SEN, has been busy raising money for two great charities. Earlier in the term Mrs McCoy organised a Macmillan Coffee morning selling lots of scrumptious cakes and raised £48 for the cancer charity. Mrs McCoy has also organised a Christmas raffle in aid of the local charity Great Oaks Hospice, she explained "The Hospice do some fantastic work in the Forest with those who are terminally ill and their families. Offering support and advice, respite care and community activities."



Reverse Advent Calendar

We re-opened the annual 'Reverse Advent Calendar' this year to collect non-perishable food, toiletries and sanitary items for the local foodbank in Lydney. We received many generous donations this year; it's great to work in a school where the local community matters so much.

Mrs E Smith



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