



# The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 30

Winter 2022



## Featured in this edition

High Sheriff Visit

Page 3

Remembrance

Page 4

Christmas Concert

Page 10 & 11



# Update from the Headteacher

As we close in on the end of this term and we think back and reflect on all we have achieved, it's impressive to see how far we have come since September.

It has been brilliant to watch our extra-curricular programme grow and go from strength to strength alongside our flourishing house system. These parts of school life are what, I think, makes The Dean Academy such a special place to be. Whether it be through Zoology club, house chess or an aspirations trip to Rolls Royce we hope there has been something which has captured your child's interests. We know that school life is about far more than academics and seeing our young people engage brilliantly both inside and outside of the classroom this term has been wonderful. I certainly know that students have enjoyed seeing a return to more normal elements of school life – such as clubs, trips, visits and house competitions. All of this going on with so many challenges facing the sector is testament to the hard work and determination of students and staff.

A real highlight for me was this term's Christmas concert where we saw our very best musicians and performers put on a truly brilliant show for all of our guests! Well done to everyone involved!

It will have been hard to miss that maintaining good attendance has been a school wide priority since September and we are also pleased to see that attendance seems to have snapped-back to near pre-pandemic levels. For me this is a good indicator that students get a good deal, and are proud of their school, and want to be here!

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, Headteacher**



## School Terms and Holidays 2023

<b>TERM 3</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January (students return)
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February (3.15 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>TERM 4</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February (students return)
	<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March (3.15 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>TERM 5</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April (students return)
	<b>MAY-DAY HOL</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May (3.15 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>
<b>TERM 6</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June (students return)
	<b>TRUST INSET DAY</b>	<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July (12.30 p.m.)



You can read the full Ofsted report by clicking [here](https://www.thedeanacademy.org/ofsted/)

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# A Visit from the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire

Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller KBE visited our school to meet with a group of students for a truly inspirational talk about his career and his work with local charities for young people.

Sir Dusty Miller joined the Royal Air Force in 1967 as an apprentice, he went on to become a pilot flying the Jet Provost, Hunter, Jaguar and Tornado; he was also a flying instructor and a weapons instructor. After an amazing career spanning some 40 years he retired from the RAF in 2008.

As High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, he now spends his time working with local charities supporting young people, "There's a lot of people in our county, who through reasons not of their own making, struggle through their teenage years which makes them vulnerable. I work with charities who look after people who fall into that category and help them to become resilient, reliable and responsible adults. It's hard work but great fun. I am in awe of those who have dedicated their entire life to helping others. They are a great example. Helping others is the most satisfying thing you can do."

Sir Dusty Miller offered some great aspirational advice to our students "Find something that really inspires you. Don't be afraid to try new things, even if you find it

scary, you might just surprise yourself. If you work hard, apply yourself you can get to the top."



Some inspirational words from the High Sheriff



With Mr Brand



Visiting classes and meeting teachers



Meeting our students

# Remembrance Day 2022



Students have been busy making poppies for a special school display to mark Remembrance Day.



Abi in Year 8 gave up her spare time to sell poppies for the Poppy Appeal which supports serving and ex-serving men and women, and their families.



After a special Remembrance Day assembly, students gathered outside at 11am to observe a two-minute silence remembering those who have fought and lost their lives. The Last Post was performed by Oliver in Year 10 and April in Year 8.



Army, Sea and Air Cadets



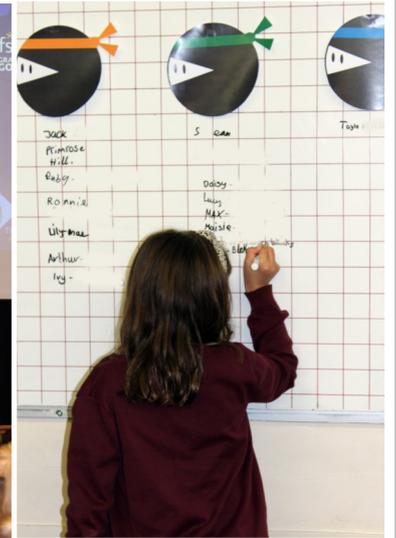
# Open Evening

Open Evening was a big success this year, it was great to welcome so many families to the school to look around the school and hear all about the special things that are happening at the school and staff put on some great activities to showcase all of the wonderful subjects that we deliver.

In World Affairs, Mr Hole and his students demonstrated a very graphic re-enactment of early 19th Century medicine, in Maths there was a special Ninja activity with Mr Swain and in PE there were lots of very energetic challenges for children to complete in the Sports Hall.

In the new Food rooms our Hospitality and Catering students baked some very tasty chocolate brownies and in the canteen there were sample dishes from the school menu for families to taste.

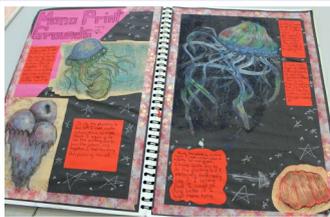
Headteacher Mr Brand said "The real stars of the evening were our students - a number of parents stopped to tell me how impressed they were with the tour guides who talked so positively and maturely about their school and about the subject helpers who were also excellent! We are confident that even more families will choose The Dean Academy for 2023 building on our record Year 7 intake this September!"



# Art, Design & Production

## Year 10 Art Aquatic Life Project

Our Year 10 Art students have really impressed their teacher, Mrs Charles, with these amazing paintings which will form part of their GCSE Life Aquatic Natural Form project. They have been studying the work of artist Mike Savlen and creating their own piece of work in his style.



## Hospitality & Catering

We were delighted to welcome back former student, Sherry, to our Food Technology classroom this term.

It was great that she could spend some time with our Year 10 and 11 Hospitality and Catering students sharing some expert cooking tips and advice.

Since leaving school nine years ago, Sherry has worked on cruise liners and is now a chef de partie with P&O. She answered lots of questions from the class about work and life onboard a cruise ship as well as highlighting all the career opportunities available.

Students enjoyed the cooking demonstrations where Sherry made salmon with hollandaise sauce and a vegan chocolate (and avocado) cheesecake which they got to sample!



# Primary Transition Sessions

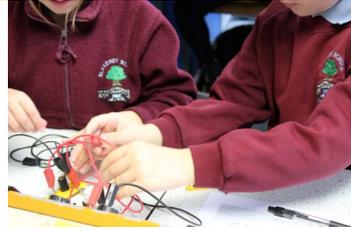
## Transition Sessions in Science

Lydney C of E pupils were really engaged in their session investigating changing states and conducted their own experiment using the lab equipment with Miss Wheatstone.

Primrose Hill School pupils conducted a very noisy experiment with Mr Webb where they investigated the increase in force on levers, using party poppers!

Year 6 pupils from Severnbanks Primary spent a morning in the Science labs with Mr Webb looking at the lungs, trachea and heart of a pig. They also had an opportunity to dissect a heart and they did a fantastic job!

Blakeney pupils in Year 5 and 6 did some great work learning about circuits in Science with Miss Musto.



## Computing

Year 4 and 5 pupils from Bream Primary School were busy in a special Computing session with Mrs Mehrotra-Hughes.



## Design & Technology

Year 5 and 6 pupils from Aylburton Primary visited The Dean Academy to make some fantastic pencil boats with Mr Edy.

We hope the pupils from Pillowell Primary School enjoyed their session with Mrs Gittins Jones in Textiles. They made some lovely Christmas tree decorations from offcuts of material and learnt about how fabrics are woven.



# Christmas at The Dean Academy

## Christmas Dinner

The catering staff were very busy serving up lots of delicious, free Christmas dinners in the last week of term. Students really enjoyed their turkey, with all the trimmings and the festively decorated tables, with crackers!



## Reverse Advent Calendar

This term we have been collecting items for Lydney Food Bank and are very grateful for the many generous donations that we have received of food and toiletries.

All donated items will be sent to the foodbank to help local families who are struggling this Christmas.



## Nurture Group Calendars

Year 7 students in Nurture Group with Mrs Buckley have made some lovely colourful 2023 calendars to take home and give as a special Christmas present!



# Christmas Card Competition



Winning design:  
Sophie H, Year 7

We had some stunning entries for our annual Christmas card competition this year. It was a very difficult task for Mr Brand to decide on a winner.

Well done Sophie H who was the overall winner and Lexie L and April D who were the runners up. **Mrs K Charles**



Runner up:  
Lexie L, Year 7



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Runner up:  
April D, Year 8



## Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2022

Our Year 7 students did a great job collecting items for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

They generously donated gifts including toys, stationery, sweets and toiletries for children of all ages which have now been sent out to vulnerable children across the globe including the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

We hope that this will brighten a young child's Christmas this year!

**Mr B Grant**



# Christmas Concert

It was great to showcase the fantastic musical talent of our amazing students at our Christmas Concert. A massive thank you to all the staff and students who worked really hard behind the scenes to make the evening such a great success!

Roll on 'Grease' in 2023!



There were some great musical performances which included piano solos and violin solos



Our Head Girl and Boy did a fantastic job as comperes for the evening

# Christmas Concert

Audiences were entertained with 'The Dean Academy Twelve Days of Christmas'!



Fantastic festive vocal performances



Staff and students worked really hard behind the scenes to make the evening a great success!



The Dean Academy Band performed four festive pieces



## Comments

"It was a fantastic concert! Well done everyone. You are amazing."

"It was a lovely, festive concert. Lots of talented students."

"Fabulous concert, well done everyone."

"I really enjoyed this, it was excellent."

# Performance

## BIMM Music Trip

A group of students had the pleasure of visiting BIMM (British Institute of Modern Music) in Bristol this term. They participated in a live performance workshop in which the BIMM tutors taught them how to play 'Don't Stop Believing' which they performed on stage as a proper rock band! The singers sounded amazing and all the instrumentalists worked really hard to put on a great show. Even Mr Palmer and Mr Peacock had a chance to perform!

Students also enjoyed a lyric writing workshop and a tour of the new BIMM campus. They absolutely loved the trip and were inspired by the state-of-the-art technology and instruments.

We hope to return in 2023! **Mr J Peacock**



# Maths

## Trust Maths Challenge

A group of Year 7 students visited Bradon Forest School this term to take part in an Athelstan Trust Maths Challenge.

The challenge is a series of interactive activities aimed to test problem-solving and teamwork skills. Our students not only enjoyed themselves, but they even managed to win the competition! An amazing achievement against some excellent teams from strong schools in our Trust.

A really good day for all involved. We look forward to hosting the next one! **Mr T Fessey**



# Engineering and Construction

## Rolls-Royce

Our Year 11 Engineering students enjoyed a morning at Rolls Royce in Bristol this term.

They toured the site and learnt about the different career opportunities and apprenticeships available within the industry.

It was a really interesting visit and an incredible experience for the group, many of whom are now considering an engineering apprenticeship.



## Construction Building Site Visit

Year 10 Construction students visited a construction site in Lydney. Many thanks to Mr Holford of Farmland and Property Income Ltd for giving up his time to give our students an in-depth site tour. We saw a variety of trades and stages of the construction process, including the brickwork of a gable end, joinery of a 'cut roof' as well as a stud wall and first fix electrics to mention a few.

It was very informative and gave the students a real understanding of what various trades do, the working environment and visual knowledge of how a house is built, stage by stage.

The students' attitude and behaviour were first rate, with many asking mature and in-depth questions, one even linking it to his Business course, asking about how capital is released from the bank to purchase building materials and its impact on credit ratings, well done. **Mr Winstanley**



## Visit to Airbus, Bristol

Our Engineering students enjoyed a visit to Airbus in Bristol this week which they all found really inspiring.

They watched the live testing of an A320 wing using pneumatic cylinders to simulate 150,000 take offs and landings. They also saw the testing of landing gears and the control instrumentation of the onboard computer systems of the aircraft. They then toured the R&D department where they saw 'Additive Manufacture'.

Students were informed about the various routes for a rewarding career at a highly prestigious engineering company including apprenticeships and post degree options.

Many thanks to Airbus for arranging such a stimulating and engaging site visit. An amazing opportunity! **Mr A Winstanley**



# Modern Foreign Languages

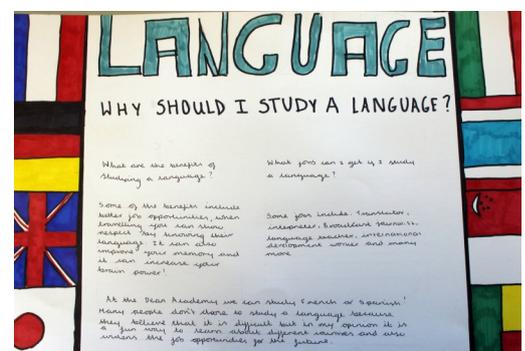
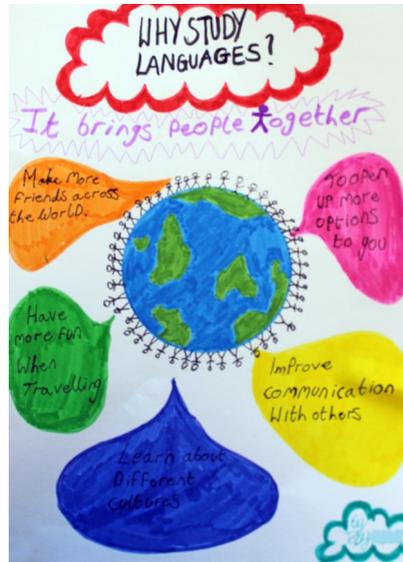
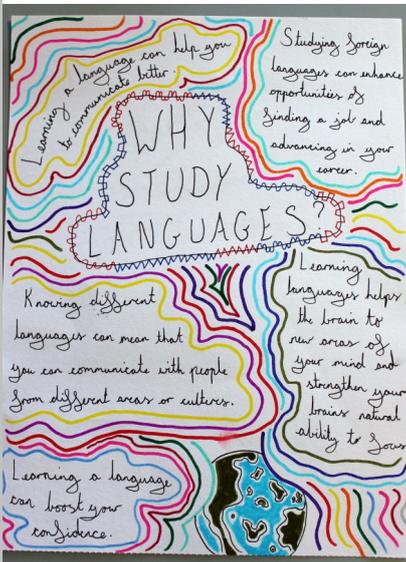
## European Day of Languages

### 'BAKE OFF' COMPETITION

European Day of Languages is an important day that celebrates the diversity of language and culture, and to mark it at the school Miss Eddy, the Head of MFL, organised lots of fun activities including a 'Bake Off' competition where students designed/baked a cake to celebrate MFL.

It was a tricky job for the judges to decide the winning entries as they were really impressed with all of the bakes!

Well done to Toby, April and Bailey who were the overall winners. Here are just some of their tasty creations!



**POSTER COMPETITION** Students designed some fantastic posters entitled 'Why Study Languages?'

**OTHER EVENTS** MFL based careers events were held after school, there were special Q&A sessions with professionals from dentistry, marketing, law and investment banking. The sessions explored the role that languages play in these professions and how languages will make your job applications shine.

## Limitless Languages

This term, MFL launched their Limitless Languages project which aims to play a role in creating a united, school-wide approach to developing lifelong linguists who have the cultural capital and awareness to be international, ambitious and responsible citizens who are at the forefront of creating a united global community.

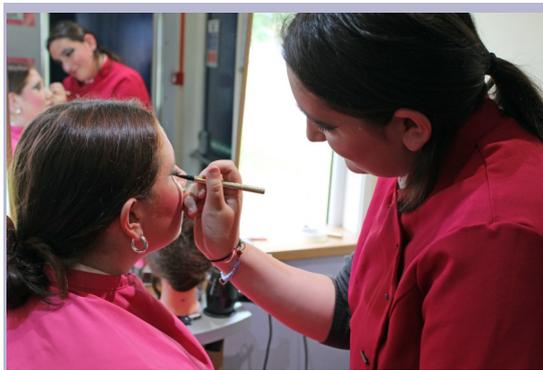
### How The Project Works:

- This academic year, our word will be **'DISCOVERY.'** Every month (November-July) will be allocated a letter, e.g. November= D, December= I, January= S etc.
- Depending on the letter for that month, students and staff will be invited to learn a language/explore the culture of a country starting with that letter. For example, in November, students could learn Dutch, Deutsch, Danish etc.
- At the beginning of each month students will be reminded in tutor time of the monthly letter and will be given an idea of languages and cultures that they could explore. There will also be suggested strategies to explore and demonstrate their language skills and cultural awareness (such as reading a bilingual book/ completing language apps/reading online newspapers/watching a film with subtitles/providing a synopsis of a poem/song in the different language).
- There will be 5 House points up for grabs for students who can demonstrate that they have learnt some of a language/explored the culture of a country starting with the appropriate letter.

Year 10 Hair and Beauty students have been busy this term looking at different styles and cultures past and present:

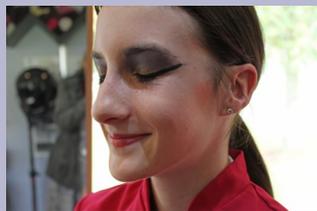
## THE BEEHIVE

Ms Arnold was really impressed with these Beehive hairstyles created by her Year 10 Hair and Beauty students, great work!



## ANCIENT EGYPTIANS

Year 10 Hair and Beauty students have been learning about the make-up of the Ancient Egyptians and have demonstrated some skilful use of eyeliner techniques!



## HENNA DESIGNS

Year 10s have created some fantastic henna designs in their Hair & Beauty class this term!



## 80's HAIR STYLES

Our Year 10 Hair and Beauty students really impressed with their brief to create a prom or 80s hairstyle - they demonstrated some fantastic barrel curls and skilful use of the curling wand. Well done!




Please ensure that all items of uniform and equipment are labelled with your child's name so that it can easily be returned if lost.

Many thanks

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# Raising Aspirations

## Wydean Sixth Form Taster Day

A group of our Year 11s enjoyed a taster day at Wydean Sixth Form Centre this term.

Students selected subjects of their choice and attended a taster lesson in these subjects. Forensics proved very popular where students were tasked to investigate and take pictures of a crime scene!

It was a great day with students developing a greater understanding about their post 16 options.



## Year 10s Visit Oxford

Our Year 10 students on the Scholar's Programme attended Keble College, Oxford, which is ranked the official number 1 university in the UK, for a launch event to the aspirational programme.

They enjoyed a tour of the beautiful campus, learnt about university life and were exposed to useful graduate style study skills which will be useful for their GCSEs and beyond.

The group have been tasked with writing a university style assignment with the help from a PhD tutor before attending a graduation ceremony next year to celebrate their achievements.

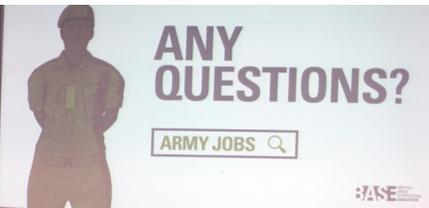


# Raising Aspirations

## Army Careers

Year 9s were visited by British Army Outreach Team Leaders who discussed career opportunities in the army. Students learnt about the different pathways and routes into the army, the places around the world the army can take you, the different roles of the army (not just fighting but peacekeeping, research etc) and they got to participate in lots of fun, practical activities which are designed to improve communication, foster teamwork and build self-confidence. They even got to try on all the kit!

It was great to see some fantastic displays of organisation and teamwork from our Year 9s.



# D of E Silver Expedition

Year 10 and 11 students went out on their D of E Silver practice and qualifying expedition. It was a great success, our students were amazing and a real credit to the school.

## DAY ONE

Day 1 started at Pontsticill Reservoir and ended at Llwyn-on Reservoir.



## DAY TWO



On day 2 of the DofE Silver expedition our students were up early cooking bacon sandwiches and making hot drinks. They left the camp site in bright sunshine, a welcome change to the heavy rain of the previous day. They made great progress and admired the beautiful waterfalls at Ystradfellte. After a long day, which included rescuing a kitten, the group cooked some pasta demonstrating their fantastic camp craft skills. Mr Edy has now given the kitten a home and they have called him Duke!

## DAY THREE

On the final day of the DofE Silver expedition, after breakfast and another very proficient break of camp the group were off through the woods at a great pace to take in the sights of the beautiful waterfalls on the River Nedd Fechan. Keen to finish, they made great time through the woods and out onto the Roman road which allowed them time to tuck into emergency rations before getting on the minibus for their journey home and a well-deserved rest!

### Mr F Edy



# Workshops and Residentials

## Jamie's Farm

A group of students spent a busy but enjoyable week at Jamie's Farm in Hereford this term.

It was a great opportunity for them to see how a real working farm operates and they all did a fantastic job carrying out all their duties which included cleaning out the pigs and chickens, milking the cows, chopping wood and cooking pancakes for a well earned breakfast. They also found time to go on a hike!

Jamie's Farm is a great place for students to build relationships and boost their confidence.

Miss Musto said "It was the hardest, but also the best week ever! I have never been prouder of our students."

The students really blossomed on this trip and hopefully they will have created memories that will last a lifetime!



## Knife Crime Awareness

This term, our KS3 students participated in knife crime awareness workshops as part of our PHSE/safeguarding curriculum.

Gemma from Crime Stoppers visited the school to discuss this very important issue highlighting the risks, dangers and consequences of knife crime including ways to stay safe, how to report incidents anonymously and "make good choices that minimise harm."

Reporting anonymously through Fearless makes a big difference, "speak up, stay safe, make a difference in your community and keep people safe."



## Progressive Masculinity

Mike from the Progressive Masculinity Programme visited the school this term to run a series of workshops with a group of our Year 10 & 11 male students.

There were lots of meaningful discussions on topics around the theme of masculinity. Our students were brilliant throughout and really engaged with the sessions! **Mrs K Jones**



# Extra-Curricular

## Clubs

There is currently a varied selection of extra-curricular activities on offer for all students during their lunch break and after school at The Dean Academy. From Lego to basketball, photography to chess and karaoke to philosophy there is something here for everyone. It's a great chance to try new things, make new friends and have some fun.

**Basketball Club**



**Lego Club**



**Chess Club**



**Karaoke Club**



**Zoology**



**Hockey Club**



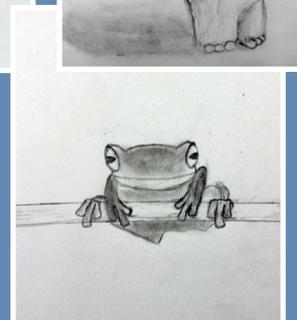
**Photography Club**

## Crafty Students

We have some very crafty students at The Dean Academy who like to get creative in their spare time!



Ruby E in Year 10 crocheted all of these incredible items that she sold at a local Christmas Craft Fayres. Well done, great work!



Ruben D in Year 7 produced these amazing drawings!

Kathryn M in Year 10 created these colourful Manga inspired images!

