



The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 33

Winter 2023

Featured in this edition:

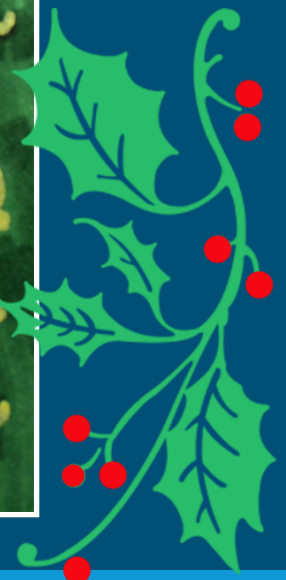
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ARTWORK BY SOPHIE H, YEAR 8



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 Clay Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Zoology Club, House Chess or one of many aspirations trips and speakers 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 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!

You'll be aware that attendance has been a school wide priority since September and we are also pleased to see that attendance seems to be climbing again. For me, this is a good indicator that students get a good deal, and are proud of their school, and want to be here!

As Christmas approaches, I know everyone is feeling ready for a break. I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you for the festive season and I 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 & Holidays 2024

TERM 3	BEGINS *INSET DAY ENDS	Monday 8 th January (students return) Friday 26th January Friday 9 th February (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February
TERM 4	BEGINS INSET DAY ENDS	Monday 19 th February (students return) Monday 11th March Friday 22 nd March (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April
TERM 5	BEGINS MAY-DAY HOL ENDS	Monday 8 th April (students return) Monday 6th May Friday 24 th May (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May
TERM 6	BEGINS TRUST INSET DAY ENDS	Monday 3 rd June (students return) Friday 5th July Friday 19 th July (12.30 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 22nd July – Friday 30th August

Version 2-2023-2024 holidays
*staff not in school on this date


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You can read the full Ofsted report here:
www.thedeanacademy.org/ofsted/

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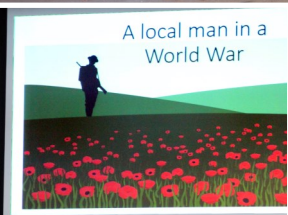
Remembrance



This year, to mark Remembrance Day at The Dean Academy, Mr Grant held a special Remembrance assembly for each year group.

The poignant assembly was about 'A Local Man in a World War' and looked at the conditions that the incredibly brave Angus Buchanan (VC) from Coleford would have endured throughout his time serving his country during the First World War.

On Friday the whole school assembled to observe a two minute silence with Last Post played by April and Oliver.



Poppies



We are very proud of Abi in Year 9 who gave up her spare time both in the half term holidays and after school to sell poppies at Tesco and Lidl in Lydney. Abi was honoured to be selected by the Poppy Appeal in Lydney to lay a wreath on the war memorial at St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday. She has also written this beautiful poem.

Poppy poppy what do you say?
Wear me with pride on Remembrance Day

Poppy poppy what do you tell?
The soldiers that fought and fell

Poppy poppy what should we know?
That in Flanders Field the poppies blow
between the crosses row on row

Poppy poppy what have we learnt?
To wear our poppy with pride for the soldiers
that fought many years ago

By Abi, Year 9



Memorial Service Lydney

Rhys and Amy, our Head boy and girl, were a real credit to the school when they represented The Dean Academy on Armistice Day at St Mary's Church in Lydney.



MFL: European Day of Languages 2023

To celebrate European Day of Languages, our MFL Department organised various fun activities and competitions to highlight the importance of learning languages.

Students took part in the MFL MasterChef challenge creating colourful dishes from different cultures, they also designed local postcards and created a poster about why languages are important.

Our students responded fantastically to the challenges, we were stunned with the quality, creativity and range of entries from students across the year groups.

Head of MFL, Miss Eddy commented, "We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the incredible entries and enthusiasm for all events that we ran to celebrate The European Day of Languages, which acknowledges the incredible diversity that exists in our world. We are extremely proud of all students who really embodied our departmental phrase, 'Modern Foreign Languages Make Future Leaders.' We would like to thank everybody for all of their support with all the phenomenal entries and we truly recognise the incredible amount of time and effort that has gone into each and every entry. Muchas gracias and merci beaucoup!"



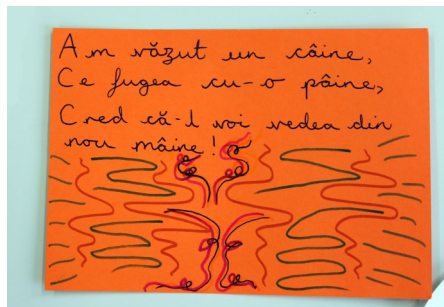
Sophie created this beautiful postcard from Lydney.



Toby's fantastic 'Around the World in Six Dishes' which included treats from Spain, Italy, France,



Wilf made this Greek chicken pasta dish from the Mediterranean island of Andross. It is made from home-grown tomatoes, macaroni, chicken, celery, onions and carrots, and halloumi cheese. Poly kala!



Isla in Year 8 wrote a poem in Romanian



Oliver in Year 7 cooked a very tasty paella dish



Jasmine and Eliza in Year 7 with their colourful posters



MFL Ambassadors

We would like to say an enormous 'congratulations' to our MFL Ambassadors 2023/2024. We were blown away by the incredible applications from across all year groups and are so excited to see the projects that they will lead this year to spread a love for learning other languages across our school and

community! So far, current plans include launching our very own Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) where we will donate all the money raised to the British Heart Foundation and The Salvation Army. We will also be launching a student led MFL Magazine! **Miss Eddy**



Year 9 Spanish Football

This term, our Year 9 students have had the amazing opportunity to apply and develop their Spanish language skills with Steve Eadon from the organisation Mingalaba. Amongst a plethora of amazing experiences, Steve has worked with a range of football clubs, including Arsenal, and has shared how languages open doors to incredible global opportunities and make individuals stand out!

Students took part in an assembly and Spanish football practical sessions as they explored why languages are so incredibly important.

We have been amazed at their fantastic football and language skills! **Miss Eddy**



Weihnachtsmarkt

It's been a busy end of term for our wonderful MFL Ambassadors who are running The Dean Academy Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) 2023 in their lunchtimes! We've been absolutely blown away by the incredible items that they have made and sold, all whilst using their fabulous language skills. They have baked spectacular German gingerbread creations, festive cakes and mince pies, and have also made jewellery and Christmas cards. Year 10 Product Design students generously helped out by making lots of fabulous tea light holders and tree decorations. We are so proud of all our students and would like to say an enormous 'danke schön' (thank you very much) to everybody who has supported them. Money raised from the event will go to the British Heart Foundation and The Salvation Army.

From all of us, we wish you all Frohe Weihnachten, Feliz Navidad et Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année 2024!



Christmas Creations 2023

Christmas Card Competition

We had some stunning entries in our Christmas card competition this year and are delighted to announce the overall winner was Sophie in Year 8 with her colourful picture of Father Christmas.

Congratulations also to April and Lexie who were our runners up. They will each receive a printed pack of Christmas cards with their designs. Well done!



Festive Baking

Year 9s have been busy baking some very delicious shortcrust pastry mince pies with Mrs Gittins-Jones whilst Year 8s have baked and decorated some beautiful Christmas cakes!



Christmas Dinner



"Christmas Dinner at The Dean Academy has become an annual tradition, and it has been so lovely to see staff sitting to have lunch with students. I want to say a huge thank you to our in-school catering team lead by Mrs Harris who have done a fabulous job of feeding us all, thank you!" Mr R Brand



Year 7s



Year 8s



Year 9s



Year 11s enjoyed their last ever Christmas dinner at The Dean Academy!



Year 10s



School Clubs

Photography Club

Students learned how to replenish the chemicals in the developing trays and they printed some test images from film! They have also been busy studying and taking portraits of staff and students. There are some great examples below:



Elite Performance Pathway (EPP)

Over the last term our EPP members have been busy training every Tuesday and Thursday before school in our Fitness Hub. The EPP sessions, which are run by Mr Glynn, helps support our students who are involved in, or who are aspiring to be involved in, elite sport or physical activity ranging from football, rugby and netball to gymnastics, weightlifting and equestrian. As well as improving their physical progress, the sessions also gives members an understanding of how to maximise performance and provides academic support for studies alongside their pathway in elite sport or physical activity. They are all settling in well and making great progress!



Zoology Club

Zoology Club members had a fun session afterschool yesterday with Miss Musto. They carved out little pumpkins for some of the animals to enjoy. They also designed and iced a biscuit - animal themed of course!



School Clubs

Primary Transition

Dungeons & Dragons Club

This term has seen the start of a Dungeons & Dragons club with Mr Hughes, allowing our students to venture into the fantasy world of Astaria, drawing on many of the myths and legends of the South Pacific. This has been so popular that two sessions a week have been created to accommodate all our interested students.

They have really enjoyed designing their characters including a sea elf, with magical powers granted by a mysterious being of the deep, and a thief who has already caused the group trouble. We are excited to see what develops in the future as students build their confidence interacting in often unusual scenarios!



Primary Transition Sessions

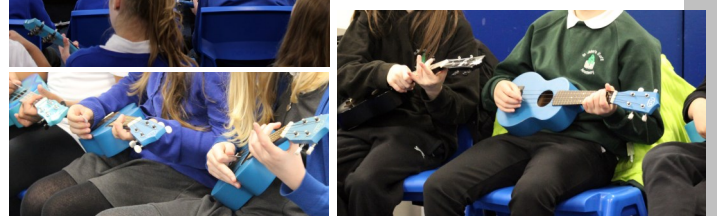
We have run lots of fun and educational primary transition sessions both at The Dean Academy and at local primary schools over the last term. Sessions delivered are from across many different subjects such as PE, Music, Computing, Art, MFL and Design and Technology. Primary pupils have been:

- Making wooden pencil boxes in D&T with Mr Thomas using our specialist equipment, including pin hammers, nails and drills
- Learning to play the ukulele with Mr Peacock and Mr Matthews in our new music rooms
- Enjoying special computing sessions with Mrs Mehrotra-Hughes
- Attending an indoor athletics festival and completing a circuit of athletic challenges



Boxing Club

Mr Baker runs Boxing Club for students in the Gym after school on Mondays where students get a chance to work on their fitness and technique. All years are welcome.



AccXel Construction School Visit

As part of The Dean Academy Careers programme, a small group of our Year 11 students from Construction and Engineering enjoyed a special tour of the newly built post 16 provider AccXel Construction School in Cinderford, being built and managed by KW Bell Group.

Louise from AccXel gave a presentation to students, testing their knowledge and understanding of the industry and explained about the 4 specific apprenticeships they offer, including Bricklaying, Groundworks and JCB Plant Operations.

Students had a fantastic opportunity to use the JCB simulators; Tracked Excavator, Telehandler or Cabbed Dumper. They then toured the practical outside training zones. Some apprentices were actually driving excavators and dumpers whilst others were bricklaying a band course.

The visit finished with a tour of GET, Gloucestershire Engineering Training facility which is next door.

Mr Winstanley



Year 9 Army Careers Day

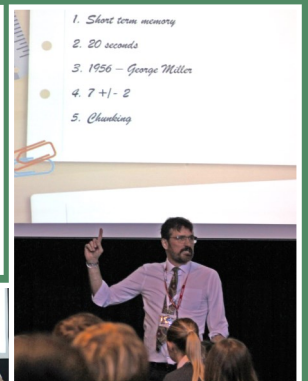
Our Year 9s enjoyed an informative and engaging afternoon with the Army learning about career opportunities and life in the Army. They participated in lots of fun, teambuilding exercises and even tried on some of the uniform and kit, including a bomb disposal suit - some of it was rather heavy!



MADE Training

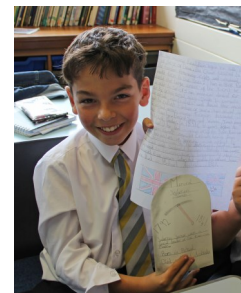
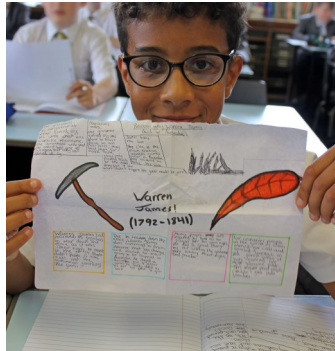
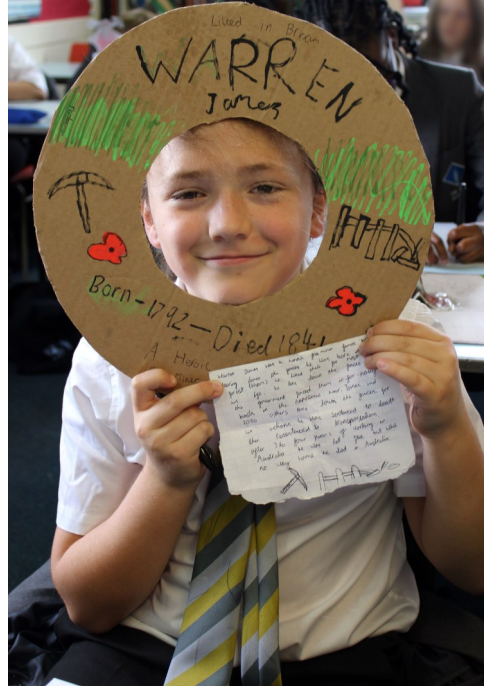
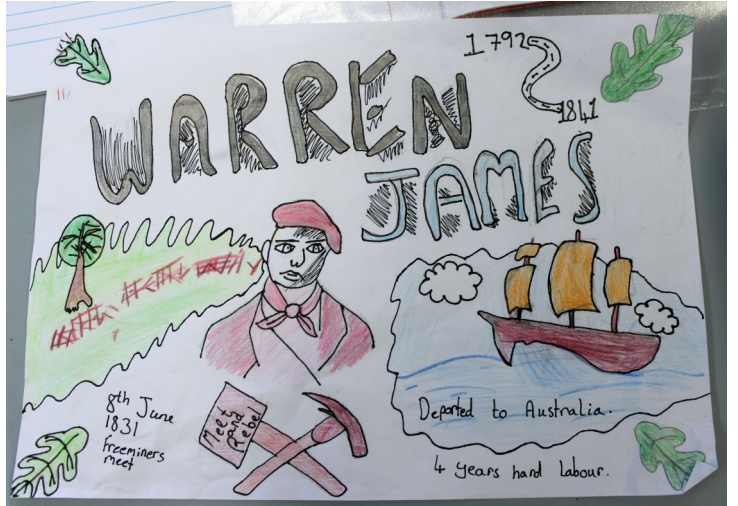
Thank you to Matt and Danny from MADE Training who visited our Year 10 and 11 students for some informative 'Marginal Gains' sessions which are designed to inspire young people to focus, work hard and achieve their full potential. They explored useful and positive revision habits and rapid revision skills.

Miss K Musto



History: Warren James Memorial

Year 7s have created some fantastic memorials to Warren James (1792-1841 a miners' leader who led the Foresters to action against the Crown in 1831) as part of their History topic with Mr Hole. He was really impressed with the effort and creativity that went into their work.



Open Evening

It was great to welcome so many families to our Open Evening. Once again, our wonderful students were the stars of the event, welcoming families to the site, leading tours around the school and helping out in departments with various demonstrations and activities.

Mr Brand commented "It was a great event with nearly 200 families coming through our doors to see and hear about the great things happening at our school. It was lovely to hear such positive feedback from our visitors who were incredibly complimentary about the pride with which our wonderful students talked about our school when taking them on tours. I'd like to say a huge, huge thank you to all of the students who helped, you did a brilliant job in showcasing our school!"



Oscar and Tilly showcase their musical talents



A warm welcome to the school from the Student Leadership Team



Our helpers in ADP



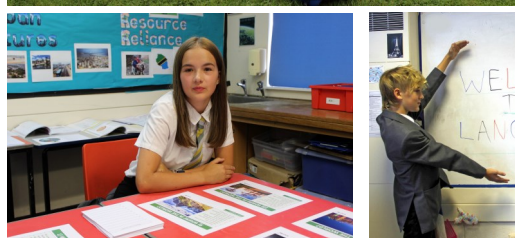
Student helpers in the PE Dept



DofE participants



Students led demonstrations and activities in Science



DPS Donation to ADP Faculty

Former students Jamie Chapman and John Rees from DPS Design Ltd in Coleford recently contacted Mr Winstanley, our Head of Art, Design and Production (ADP) at The Dean Academy, with a generous offer to donate professional grade modelling material to the school.

The modelling material can be used for a number of applications including mould making, prototyping and specific design jobs being easily machined, milled and cut by machine or hand. The material will be incredibly useful in many projects across all our year groups and will expand the opportunities and experience for our students.



School Allotment

A massive well done to James in Year 9 for successfully ticking off the first (of many) jobs on our school allotment to do list. James really enjoyed constructing his first compost bin. Fabulous!

Mr C Palmer



Computing Challenge

This term, all of our Key Stage 3 students and our GCSE Computer Science students have put their computing skills to the test by taking part in a special Bebras Computing Challenge which is a competition aimed at raising awareness of Computer Science. The challenge, which is run by the University of Oxford, involves solving puzzles and problems using computational thinking skills. High scorers will be invited to the next round which is the Oxford University Computing Challenge. We wish them lots of luck!



Book Fair - Encouraging Reading

Our Key Stage 3 students have really enjoyed browsing the Scholastic Book Fair in our school library - the books were flying off the shelves! It was a brilliant opportunity to purchase some great books across all genres at a reduced price! A massive thank you to our amazing students and the generosity of their parents. It was so popular and successful that Mrs Williams in the school library has now received some fantastic new books, free of charge, which will go on the shelves for all of our students to enjoy!



Year 11s Embrace the Geek

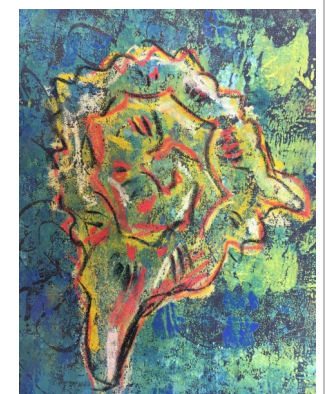
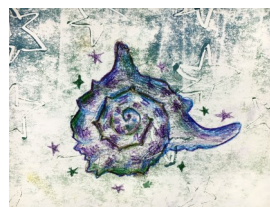
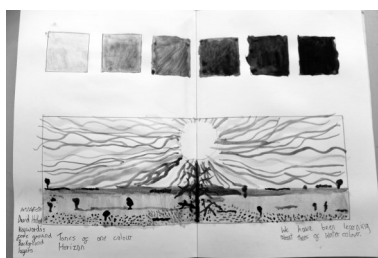
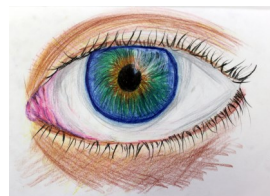
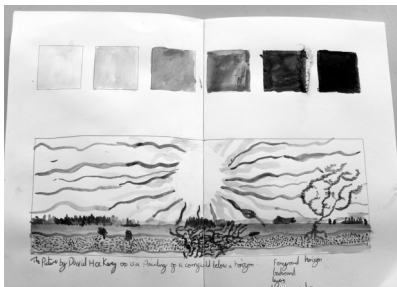
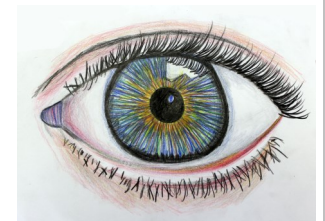
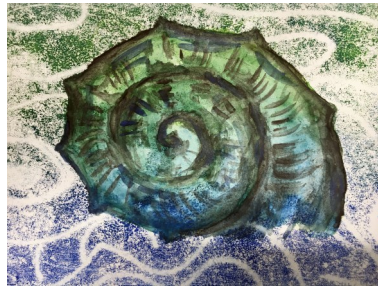
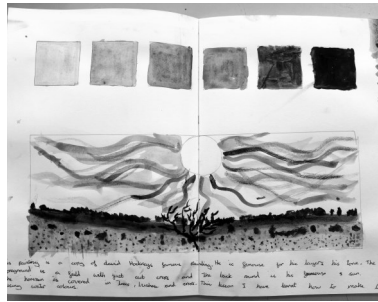
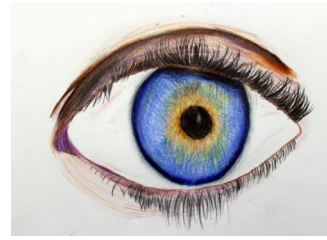


Our Year 11s have been really enthused with our 'Embrace the Geek' initiative. Our hard working students, who have been nominated by a teacher for outstanding work, are entered into a prize draw. There are some great prizes up for grabs including a Nandos voucher, a breakfast for two in our school restaurant, tea and biscuits with the Head and some fabulous school merchandise! Keep up the good work Year 11s!



Amazing Art

This term, our students have really impressed their Art teachers with their fabulous creative skills. Here are just some examples of their work:



Christmas Concert



So proud of all our students who were involved in the Christmas Concert last night. Whether they were back stage, on stage or front of house they all worked tirelessly to provide an evening of festive entertainment. The packed audience enjoyed some beautiful piano solos, superb singing solos, a selection of music from our school band, a fun Christmas themed poetry reading, fabulous dance routines from Y10s, Y11s and Dance Club, there was even a cracking Christmas Mince Pie rap from the Tinsel Tims trio!

Mrs Rodway commented "What a celebration of talent! It was a delight to see so many performers on our stage, representing Music, Drama and Dance, as well as an abundance of students so keen to participate in the technical element of a production, whether that was designing the lighting and operating it, or managing the backstage area and performance changeovers. With over 80 students involved in our show, this was a hugely successful community event and we can't wait to keep bringing these students together to perform."

