



# The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 34

Easter 2024



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# Update from the Headteacher



It is hard to believe how much we have packed in across such a short five week Spring term!

As we are about to break up for Easter I have been so proud reading back over all of the things that our wonderful students have achieved, supported by our dedicated team of staff.

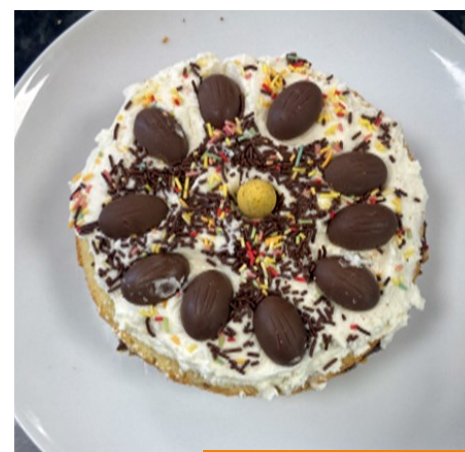
A particular highlight of this term for me was hearing about how all four of our boys football teams were victorious in their district tournaments. We also had a fabulous Music Awards evening which was a brilliant opportunity to see how Music is going from strength to strength at our school.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break with friends and family.

**Richard Brand, Headteacher**

## Eggcellent Easter Baking

Year 7 and 8 students have baked and decorated some fantastic Easter themed cakes in their Food Technology lessons this term with Mrs Gittins-Jones. Here are just a few:



## School Terms & Holidays

<b>TERM 5</b>	BEGINS <b>MAY-DAY HOL</b> ENDS	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April (students return) <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b> Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May (3.15 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>

<b>TERM 6</b>	BEGINS <b>TRUST INSET DAY</b> ENDS	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June (students return) <b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b> Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July (12.30 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>

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

# PE At The Dean Academy

## District Football Quadruple Success

We are incredibly proud of our fantastic football stars who have achieved quadruple success at the Forest of Dean Schools District Football tournaments, winning all four boys events: U12, U13, U14 and U15!

Our Director of Sport, Mr Glynn, was absolutely delighted with this special achievement, "All four teams put in some really memorable performances on route to their victories but most importantly for us, they did so really enjoying their football and having fun with their

friends. We are lucky that so many of our students are involved in football outside of school giving us lots of talent to work with. We have also worked really hard to create a positive and inclusive atmosphere in our PE lessons and clubs. Coupling that with some incredible opportunities like our forthcoming sports tours to Inter Milan and Manchester City it all felt like it all came together, plus a little luck, as we achieved a very special and memorable quadruple."



## Cross Country

A huge well done to Molly in Year 7 and Lily-Sienna in Year 8 who recently represented Gloucestershire at the South West Schools Cross Country Competition. Fantastic!

Also, well done Lily-Sienna for qualifying for the English Schools Cross Country Finals in March, she has been working really hard and we wish her all the best.

**Miss Wilton**



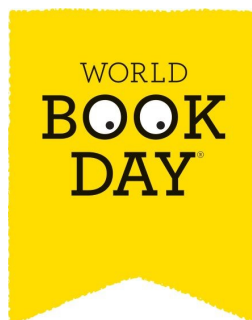
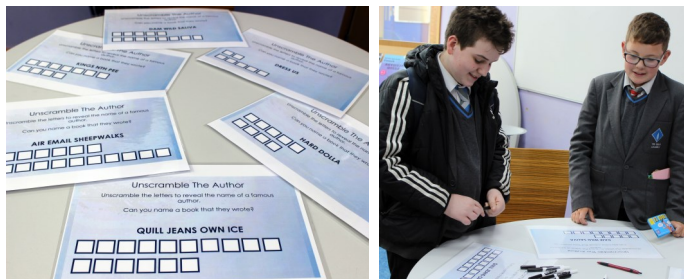
## U12 Netball

Congratulations to our Year 7 Netball team who won the silver medal in the District Netball tournament! The girls didn't lose a single game and everyone put in a great performance! **Vs. Dene Magna 1-0 / Vs. Five Acres 0-0 / Vs. Wydedean 0-0 / Vs. Forest High 2-0**



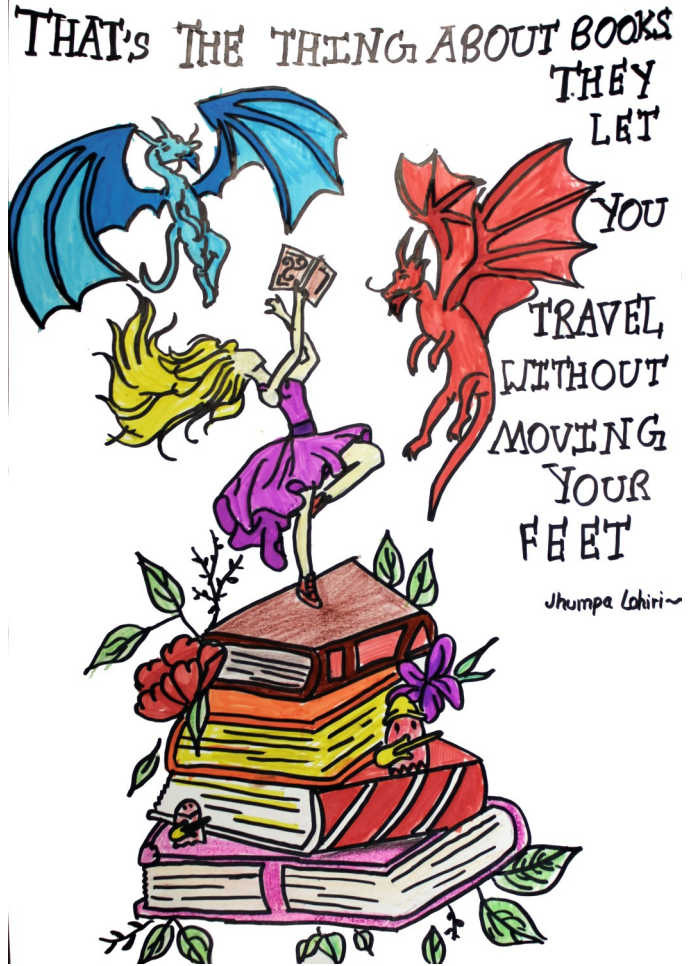
# World Book Day 2024

To celebrate World Book Day, the English Department organised lots of fun activities and competitions for students in the Library throughout their lunch break. There were author anagrams that students were tasked to unscramble, a poetry or song quiz and a match the book to the title competition. It's a great way to promote a love of books and reading!



## Competition Entries

The English Department were really impressed with the World Book Day 2024 competition entries from students on 'Why Are Books Important?' Eliza in Year 7 wrote a fantastic speech, Sakina in Year 10 put together an informative presentation and Ashley in Year 7 created this beautiful poster! Great Work.



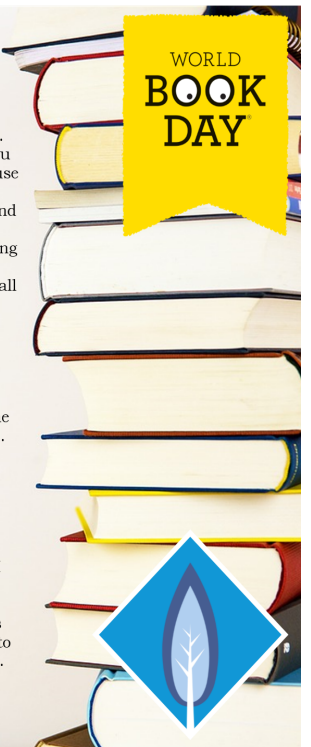
### Why Reading Is Important!

Some people say, "Why do I have to read, it's so boring?" It is those who ask that question who truly don't know how important reading really is. Reading is probably the most important thing you will ever learn. Reading is really important because without reading you might not be able to write. Reading helps improve your writing in English and stories. Reading helps improve your vocabulary. For example, you have the word fast - with reading you would be using even better words for it like rapid, brisk, nimble and sprightly. Now think of all your learning as if it is a tree. Well then reading would be the roots and trunks of your tree, and every time you learn something new your tree would grow and soon would be as big as it possibly can. But if you are someone who never reads, you're basically starting your tree with leaves, but then it would just fall. That is just one way you could think of how important reading is.

Another way of thinking about it is like the stepping stones of life. If you don't read, you're basically trying to miss a step. But that could result in falling.

Reading isn't all about the learning. Sometimes I would read at night to switch my brain off. Reading is sometimes like TV in your head. It doesn't really matter what you read. Whether it's fantasy, horror or humour. It doesn't even have to be that challenging like if you want an easy read. That's why reading really is important!

By Eliza (Year 7), World Book Day 2024



## Year 7 Trip to Bristol Zoo Project

This week 40 of our Year 7 students visited the Bristol Zoo Project. They were able to take part in an engaging 'Amazing Madagascar' workshop, they looked at real fossils and artefacts, as well as learning about the importance of efforts to conserve the biodiverse plant and animal species that are endemic to the island. This included learning about the extinct elephant bird which laid the largest eggs in the world!

For many, the highlight of the day was walking around and seeing the animals in their enclosures, ranging from the mob of meerkats to the giraffes, including Tico the giraffe who was celebrating his 6th birthday on our visit. **Miss Wheatstone**



## Women in Science 2024

International Day of Women and Girls in Science recognises and celebrates the contribution of women around the world to Science. To mark this event students learnt about the important work and discoveries of scientists such as Rosalind Franklin, Jane Goodall, Marie Curie and Dorothy Hodgkin.



## Primary Transition - Science

It was great to have pupils from Lydney C of E visit our Science Department recently for a lesson about the circulatory system with Mr Webb.

We hope that they all enjoyed looking at lungs and participating in a heart dissection. Mr Webb was really impressed with their level of knowledge about the heart!



# Music Awards Evening - March 2024



Our Music Awards evening took place this term and it was a resounding success.

Parents thoroughly enjoyed the performances from our very talented musical students which included singing, solo brass, solo piano, the school band and much more!

We are so proud of all the students that performed, they demonstrated that hard work and practice really does pay off!

A massive thank you to Mrs Rodway, Mr Peacock and Dr Matthews for organising the event and special thanks to all those amazing students and their parents who attended the event. We are already looking forward to the 2025 Music Awards!



## Dance Club

In our after school Dance Club, students have been exploring lifts, leans and tilts with Mrs Rodway. They had lots of fun and really surprised themselves at how capable they were at safely lifting others and they quickly overcame any worries about being lifted! Fantastic work.



## Dance Workshop

A massive thank you to Zoe, a choreographer and teacher from Swindon Dance Centre for Advanced Training, who visited our school to deliver a special dance skills and techniques workshop for a group of our students in Years 8 and 9.

Dance students in Year 10 also took part in a choreography workshop with Zoe which enhanced their choreography skills and they created some really well structured group performances.

It was a valuable insight into Dance education and the opportunities that are available. **Mrs K Rodway**



# Primary Transition: PE Tournament

This term we hosted a special Primary School PE tournament at The Dean Academy as part of our transition programme. It was great to have so many pupils in from local schools getting active and enjoying themselves! A massive thank you to our fabulous Year 10 GCSE PE students who helped run the sessions which included netball, football, basketball, tag rugby and fitness, they were a real credit to our school.



# Art, Design & Production

## Food Technology

There's been lots of cooking in the Food Technology rooms this term. Students have cooked an array of delicious, healthy and creative dishes including lasagne, curry, carrot cake, fruit muffins and much, much more . . .



## Art

Some beautiful pieces of artwork has been produced this term by our talented students, here's just a few examples . . .



# Out & About

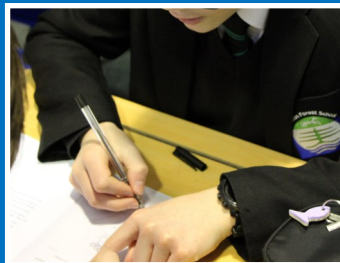
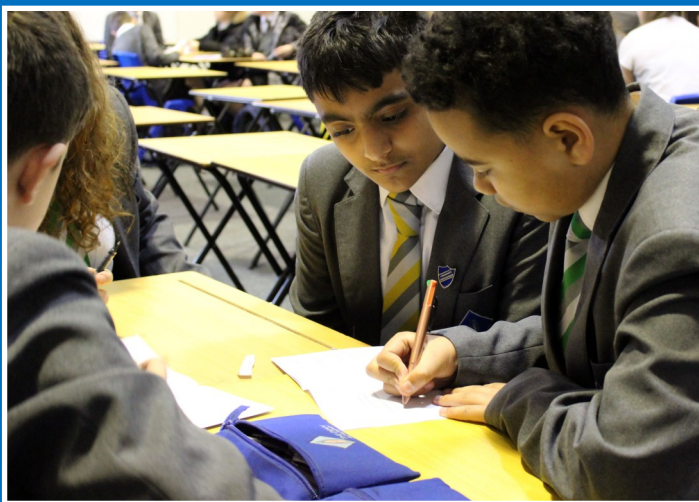
## Trust Maths Challenge

Year 8 students from across The Athelstan Trust gathered together at The Dean Academy for a special Maths Trust Challenge.

They all worked really hard in their teams solving lots of fun mathematical problems and challenges.

Congratulations to the students from Chipping Sodbury School who were on the winning team and the students from Malmesbury who were the winning school!

Many thanks to our Year 10 helpers who were a real credit to the school and were instrumental in ensuring that the event ran as smoothly as possible! **Mr T Fessey**



## Allotment

Our fabulous gardening helpers got stuck in this term making our first raised bed on the school allotment. They are already discussing what they'd like to plant first! **Mr C Palmer**



## Year 8 Visit to Bath University

Year 8 students had a really good time this term exploring Bath University as part of our aspirations programme. They looked at all of the different facilities on offer, found out more about the university and spoke to current students about university life! **Miss N Longman**



## UK - German Connection

We have had the absolute privilege to welcome Frau Klauke, who is an English and MFL specialist at a Grammar School in Germany, to our school this term.

Frau Klauke has spent time in lessons with our students who have had the incredible opportunity to learn more about the German language and culture, such as seeing what life in Frau Klauke's school is like through some amazing videos that her students prepared especially for us!

It has been such a great opportunity for our students and has enabled them to understand why the study of languages is so vitally important.

We are so very grateful to Frau Klauke for everything that she has given us during her time here! From us all at The Dean Academy, we would like to say "vielen herzlichen Dank und bis bald!" **Miss I Eddy**



Students took advantage of a special lunchtime Deutschklub with Frau Klauke. Their questions, focus and dedication was truly fantastisch!



Frau Klauke with our fabulous MFL ambassadors

**UK-German Connection**  
Deutsch-Britische Schul- und Jugendbegegnungen  
bringing young people together

## £14.9 million MFL Hub Partnership News

The role of languages in shaping our current and future world cannot be underestimated and thus the study of foreign languages is of utmost importance to be an international leader who has a positive global impact. As a means of boosting the study of foreign languages within schools across the UK, the UK Government has launched a project worth £14.9 million pounds to invest in, and promote, the study of foreign languages. This project will see the launch of 15 'language hubs': partnerships between schools in different regions across the UK so that teachers can collaborate to share a love of language learning with students across the UK. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have been selected to be part of the 'Isbourne Hub', which is led by Pate's Grammar School and The Cotswold School. We are so excited for what this amazing opportunity will bring to our school and community and feel privileged to collaborate in this national project that will spread a passion for language learning with all. **Miss I Eddy**



Further information about this brilliant opportunity can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-pupils-of-all-ages-to-study-languages>

# After School Clubs

## Zoology Club

This term we are excited to have a new addition to our Zoology club. Meet Terry the Turtle!



Zoology Club members have been learning all about him and helping to look after him. We hope that he is feeling settled and enjoying his new home!

Students have been busy doing a fantastic job looking after all the other animals too!



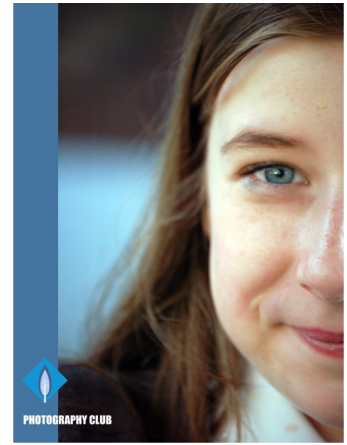
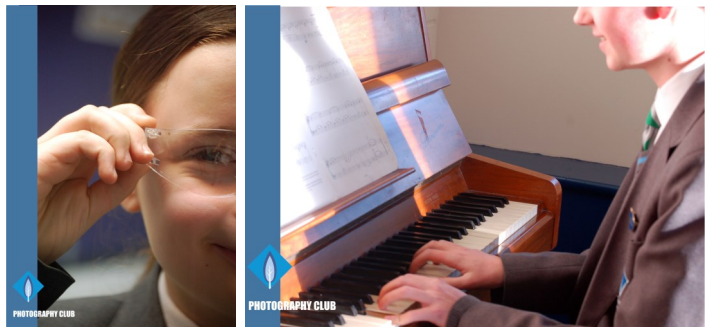
## Photography Club



In Photography Club this term, students took photographs around the school site with a Kodak No 3 camera which is over 100 years old, using 120 film.



The club have also been busy taking and selecting photos for the Headteacher to display in Reception.



## Clay Club

Students were given the opportunity to create 'free style' objects - this is what they produced!

Mrs K Charles



# Our Writer of the Week is . . .

We have had some fantastic entries to our 'Writer of the Week' competition this term. The English Department have been really impressed with the quality of creative writing from across all year groups! Great work, well done.

## THE DEAN ACADEMY WRITER OF THE WEEK

### 'Someone Can Always Stab You in the Back'

By Ellie P (Year8)

She loved him eternally; he loved her so. Once they moved in together, he treasured her, she too made him feel like her light. Getting her flowers every day along with gifts. He started to go out most nights, always coming back late. One night after, he offered to make dinner; wrapping her arms around him, she accepted, happy. She let her guard down, why shouldn't she? She blinks. He slammed the knife into her, sinking into her broken heart. Her pure blood on his dirty hands. The man she loved had stolen her life. A ring means nothing. Be careful.



## THE DEAN ACADEMY WRITER OF THE WEEK

### 'Downtime'

Turn off, shut down and switch off  
Relax it's late,  
Log off. Time for family and friends  
With laughter and chat to resume  
No gaming online, work calls,  
Or meetings on zoom,  
Close your eyes, read a book,  
Go outside.  
Don't stare at screens, press buttons  
Or browse online.  
You only live once so smile and be kind,  
It's not just devices and machines  
That need downtime.

by Olivia in Year 7



## THE DEAN ACADEMY WRITER OF THE WEEK

### A DRAGON'S DEFEAT

Drip, drop, drip, drop,  
Blood trickling down my chest.  
Pouring and pouring.  
The Samurai's sword falls.  
Drip, drop, drip, drop  
Tears fall down their face.  
I fall, blood leaks.  
The Samurai is walking.  
Closer. Closer to my side.  
My face rests.  
My eyes drop.  
The reassurance calms me.  
Samurai's whispers.  
Drip, drop.  
The last few drops of blood fall.  
The mountain left like a pool of red.

By Lexie in Year 8



## The Dean Academy 'Writer of the Week'

When they disagreed, their word seemed to be the first bullet fired. They both wanted the infinite power source - and only one of the two countries could have it. Others teamed up with them - took sides, alliances - and then - the war.

Except, we have no armies to hold up swords and guns, no men to mourn over, no stores or mud to be kissed by the lips of the dead, no, we had the eye to battle for us. I can't remember the name of such a bringer of death, the Sammnwer of remorse and loss. But it didn't kill me. It's told me instead! Being the child of a global General does have its disadvantages.

By Sofia in Year 7



## THE DEAN ACADEMY WRITER OF THE WEEK

### Bang

He was ready to die, his hands ready to fire. In his own head everything rushing back to him as the hand was shaking terrified to shoot.  
Eyes tearing up as friends entered his mind the loneliness of it leaving him empty. A friend screaming as a tank swallows them whole, as he watched like a ghost. The bitterness choking water streaming down the sullen boy as he watched eating him whole as many men run past pushing against the dirt.  
Mud stuck to him like a fly, removing himself, cries for help overlap each other he ran, ran, ran to the enemies wishing to be shot.  
Hunched over into a shed his own gun in his own hand shooting once in the eye still remained alive as another shot hit him smashing him to the ground, BANG. He was dead like a fly squashed on the ground.

By Lily in Year 10



## The Dean Academy 'Writer of the Week'

### 'Death'

Death  
What are you?  
You are the most popular trend at the moment  
You are unselective  
You have no timetable hence you come so suddenly and randomly  
A creature represented by black and darkness  
One that takes from anywhere  
Like a thief in the night, you just  
Come and take  
No matter how much we hate you, it won't work  
The odds of one avoiding you are inevitable  
We have no power over you, sadly  
Although there is no good time to die,  
we pray that you come at the best.

By Wesley, in Year 11



# Out & About

## Jamie's Farm

The trip to Jamie's Farm in Monmouth was a real success and a great opportunity for our students who found the experience to be 'life changing'.

They were tasked with daily chores such as feeding and clearing out the animals, chopping wood and grooming the horses. They also enjoyed some lovely walks up to the White Castle to see Monmouth and on the third day they climbed a mountain enjoying a beautiful sunset and breathtaking views with a well-earned hot chocolate and flapjack!

During the trip students took some time to be reflective and look back on what a week it had been with all the challenges faced and brilliant experiences had. **Miss K Musto**



## Taster Day at Gloucestershire College

Three of our Year 11 students attended a Step Up Taster Day at Gloucestershire College in Cinderford this term. They got to meet their tutor, experience some lessons, meet other students and participate in various team building activities, as well as sample the delights of the campus food! **Mrs A McCoy**



### HERE IS A REVIEW OF THEIR DAY:

"On the 13th March I went with two friends, Josh and Corey, to Glos college in Cinderford to see Mr Risby who is a tutor. We looked around the college and we had a game which we had to build a tower out of paper and Sellotape. We also met some new people at the college. It was fun, insane and amazing. We learnt a lot and we learnt what to do at the college. We found out information about the college, the facilities were nice. We went to school then from school we took the minibus from school to college. Then when we got there, we saw George and he took us to a classroom where we waited for everyone else to arrive. At lunch we went to the canteen and had good food and there were lots of choices. We sat together. When I go to college, I would like to do a course for First Step Employment. Overall it was a fantastic day with lots of fun and I would love to go there again." **Seb in Year 11**



## Knife Crime Awareness

Thank you to Oliver, Liam and Brandon from Narrative Alchemy who visited our Year 7s this term to deliver a hard hitting interactive play dealing with the difficult issue of knife crime called 'Breaking the Chain' which aims to not only raise awareness but to also kick-start conversations and build resilience.

The increasing problem of knife crime is rarely out of the news. Dangers can come from any area of life including the internet and social media platforms but also through friendship groups and people known to the young people themselves.

The best protection we can give to young people is knowledge of the dangers so that they are aware and can protect themselves, as well as letting them know where they can go for help and support if they are worried.

The production was funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Gloucestershire Constabulary and supported by Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership, Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning and all Partner Agencies in the county.



## GROWS: Find Your Future

Representatives from GROWS UK came and spoke to our Year 8s this week to discuss careers and aspirations. They are starting to look at different career options and future education pathways.



## Mental Health Assembly

Year 8s enjoyed a special visit to the school from Zaid, the lead singer of the band 'From Inside', who came and spoke to them about mental health issues.

Our students really took a lot from the session which covered issues including bullying, trolling and insecurities which they found both inspirational and entertaining - hopefully giving them the confidence to open up about any issues that may be affecting them.

The message that Zaid wanted our students to take away with them was:

**YOU ARE ALWAYS ENOUGH!**



# Achievement

## Bronze Awards

Congratulations to all our students who were presented with their Bronze Award badges by Mr Glynn this term.

There are four different badges for students to achieve in school and they are:

- ⇒ COMMUNITY
- ⇒ KINDNESS
- ⇒ ABOVE & BEYOND
- ⇒ RESILIENCE & EXCELLENCE



## Published Writers!

We are thrilled to announce that Rory, Ellie and Lexie in Year 8 and Sofia and Lydia in Year 7, who recently entered a piece of creative writing to the Young Writers Competition, have all been selected for publication in a young writers' anthology called 'The Glitch - Tales From The Quill'. Our budding writers each submitted a 100 word story about a change or a moment that destroys the world and they really impressed the judges. The book is due to be published on the 19th April, we are very much looking forward to seeing their stories in print!



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