



# The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 35

Summer 2024

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**WALK IN THE WOODS**  
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# Update from the Headteacher



As we come to the end of another academic year I am always amazed to look back over the pages of this newsletter and see everything we have achieved. The opportunities, events, trips and visits make up the special moments that our students remember and we're grateful to the wonderful staff who work here making all of these opportunities possible for our students.

I would like to wish our Year 11s farewell as they take on new challenges. They have been a fantastic year group to work with and we hope they will all look back with pride on their achievements and successes. We look forward to seeing many of them on their results day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August as they open their results. The school will continue to grow next year as we say farewell to our Year 11s and they are replaced with another large group made up of 185 new Year 7s. This is great news for the school community and is a reflection of all the hard work of our staff and students in making this a school which continues to go from strength to strength.

I also want to say a huge well done to the new members of staff who joined us last year and our Year 7 cohort for completing their first year as part of our community. The first year is an important milestone and it is lovely to see many of their wonderful achievements reflected in this newsletter!

We have some staff moving on at the end of this academic year – I would like to thank them all for everything they have done and wish them all the best for the future. Colleagues leaving this term are Ms J McGrath, Ms N Longman and Mr D Mooney. Whilst we are sad to see these colleagues leave it is always a sign of a strong organisation when staff are moving on for promotions. I will also be moving on this summer and am delighted to be handing over to Mrs H Rowlands as the new Headteacher of the school. I am certain that Hannah will be tremendous in the role and she has a deep sense of what makes this school so special.

I would like to thank all parents, carers and the wider school community for your continued support during my time as Headteacher – it has been a privilege to serve this community. I wish you all a very restful and well earned summer break.

**Richard Brand, Headteacher**

## School Terms & Holidays 2024 - 2025

<b>TERM 1</b>	<b>INSET DAY BEGINS</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
		Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September (students in Y7 & 11 return)
		Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September (All students return)
	<b>INSET DAY ENDS</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September
		Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
<b>TERM 2</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
	<b>TRUST INSET DAY</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
<b>TERM 3</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
<b>TERM 4</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
	<b>INSET DAY</b>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>TERM 5</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
	<b>MAY-DAY HOL</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>TERM 6</b>	<b>BEGINS</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
	<b>TRUST INSET DAY</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June
	<b>ENDS</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July
	<b>*INSET DAY</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August

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

  
**Ofsted**  
 Good  
 Provider

# Appointment of New Headteacher from September 2024

Staff and students at The Dean Academy are looking forward to September when Mrs Hannah Rowlands will take up the post as the new Headteacher.

Hannah, who is currently a Deputy Headteacher at the school, has worked at The Dean Academy since 2017 and has been involved in a large number of initiatives that have seen the school grow and thrive in recent years.

Looking towards the new academic year, Hannah said "I am absolutely thrilled to have been appointed Headteacher at The Dean Academy, a school which is very close to my heart and within a community that I feel passionate about serving. The school has been on such a rapid journey of improvement in recent years and I am extremely proud to be part of the next chapter as it goes from strength to strength."

In her role, Hannah will encourage students to raise their aspirations through ensuring that they have access to the highest quality of teaching and learning within the classroom, alongside a broad range of opportunities and experiences outside of the classroom. She said "None of this would be possible without the truly dedicated and



hard-working team of staff that work within the school and without the steadfast support from parents, carers, The Athelstan Trust and all other stakeholders. It is through such collaborative efforts that a culture of excellence is created and the transformative power of education can truly be discovered for every single one of our students. I am very excited about building upon the successes of recent years and for what the future holds for The Dean Academy."

The Chair of Governors, Amanda Deeks, said "I am delighted that Hannah has been appointed as our new Headteacher. She is an outstanding teacher and leader and will continue to drive our journey of improvement. I know Hannah is committed to making sure that every student achieves their full potential and I am looking forward to working with her over the coming years."

## The Athelstan Trust Festival of Speech and Debate

The Dean Academy were delighted to host the Athelstan Trust Speech and Debate Festival this term. There was a fantastic range of speeches, poems and dramatic readings from students all across the Trust. They also had the opportunity to debate the topic of whether 'AI should be allowed in schools.'

The English department were so impressed with all the students who took part - their dedication and effort throughout the year has been absolutely outstanding. A special mention to Evan in Year 8 for winning his dramatic reading recital. A massive thank you to Roger Deeks, Vice Lord Lieutenant DL and Dame Janet Trotter who had the difficult task of judging the event.

**Miss E Radcliffe**



## Bronze Award Winners

Here are some of our many Bronze Award winners this term. They have been working really hard towards achieving all of the four bronze house badges for:

- **Community**
- **Kindness**
- **Above & Beyond**
- **Resilience & Excellence**



## Volunteering

A massive shoutout to our fabulous students Elsie, Holly, Rhys, and Jamii-Leigh, who recently volunteered with Dr Matthews at Jamie's Farm! They did an incredible job giving tours, preparing food and organising a cake sale for the community, which included local councillors and teachers from other schools.

Their hard work and dedication brought everyone together and made the day extra special.

Also, well done to Jamii-Leigh for her inspiring talk about her experiences at Jamie's Farm. We're so proud of our students and their commitment to giving back!



## Reward Trips

At the end of term our students enjoyed a variety of House Reward Days which were organised for them in recognition of their hard work and fantastic effort that they have put in this academic year. Trips out included a visit to a climbing park, a shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway, paintballing, AquaVenture and Drayton Manor. We also had a Roller Disco experience on site at the school.



A group of students visited Graft in Bristol with Mrs Charles where they enjoyed a hands on graffiti workshop run by professional mural artists. They had a great time and produced some brilliant work!



# Awards & Competition Winners

## Gloucestershire Young Photographer

Photography Club members submitted entries to the Gloucestershire Young Photographer competition and Olivia in Year 7 was delighted when she found out that her photo had been selected, from over 800 photographers from 59 Gloucestershire schools, for a special display. She was presented with her certificate by Mr Brand.



## Published Writers

Our talented writers in Year 7 and Year 8 who entered a story competition last term were thrilled to finally receive a copy of the anthology containing their work! The competition was called 'The Glitch' and they were tasked with writing a 100 word story about something that changes or ends the world and five of our students were selected. Well done to you all!



## Published Poets

We are extremely proud of these nine students who recently entered a Young Writers poetry competition called 'Through Your Eyes' for 11-18 year olds. We are delighted that their work was chosen to be published in an upcoming book. Fantastic!



## Top Ten Year 10

A massive congratulations and well done to our top 10 progress performers in Year 10, they all did brilliantly in the recent mock exams. These amazing students were treated to a free breakfast in the school restaurant with Mr Fessey and Mr Brand!



## Community Award for Alesha

Congratulations to Alesha in Year 11 who was praised and recognised for her outstanding contribution to the school and wider community by Lydney Town Council and was presented with a special Community Award by the Lydney Mayor, Tasha Saunders. Alesha was delighted to receive the award for being a positive and incredibly hardworking student despite facing various challenges. Well done Alesha!



# Sports Day: Year 7

## Year 7: Girls Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Molly H	Ivy E	Lexi B
100m	Mia S	Mobo O	Lexi B
Long Jump	Ivy E	Angela A	Ava L
High Jump	Molly H	Angela A	Jasmine K
Javelin	Nellie-Jo B	Rosemary T	Maisie B
Shot Putt	Maisie B	Ivy E	Isla-Rae P

## Year 7: Boys Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Noah M	Charlie V	Noah Y
100m	Charlie V	George C	Jayden P
Long Jump	Charlie V	Jack G	Arthur TG
High Jump	Parker R	Charlie V	Harry V
Javelin	Oscar M	Max T	Jack K
Shot Putt	Jayden HB	Jayden P	George C



## Our fabulous Year 10 helpers!



# Sports Day: Year 8



## Year 8: Girls Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Lily-Sienna LH	Bella S	Darcy T
100m	Willow NL	Bella S	Daisy C
Long Jump	Bella S	Darcy T	Lily-Sienna LH
High Jump	Lily-Sienna LH	Darcy T	Bella S
Javelin	Ava W	Evelyn B	Emily H
Shot Putt	Isla M	Willow NL	Niamh W



## Year 8: Boys Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Oscar A	Ethan NL	Kyann S
100m	Oscar A	Kyann S	Ethan NL/Riley P
Long Jump	Oscar A	Ethan NL	Tobias B
High Jump	Oscar A	Brodie A	Tobias B
Javelin	Ruben D	Oscar A	Toby N
Shot Putt	Oscar A	Tobias B	Kyann S



# Sports Day: Year 9



## Year 9: Girls Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Emily T	Miley C	Miley T
100m	Erin W	April D	Izabelle B
Long Jump	April D	Miley C	Lucy SP
High Jump	Miley C	Lucy SP	April D
Javelin	April D	Lucy SP	Emily T
Shot Putt	Miley C	Emily T	Tallulah M



## Year 9: Boys Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Fynley B	Freddie S	Louie C
100m	Fynley B	Louie C	Freddie S
Long Jump	Louie C	Oscar P	Charlie R
High Jump	Charlie R	Louie C	Oscar P
Javelin	Louie C	Bradley L	Toby G
Shot Putt	Oscar P	Freddie S	Louie C



# Sports Day: Year 10



## Year 10: Girls Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Freya C	Ellie C	Bailey W
100m	Lacie E	Freya C	Kara S
Long Jump	Freya C	Ellie C	Sofi B
High Jump	Freya C	Ellie C	Bailey W
Javelin	Katelyn B	Bailey W	Sofi B
Shot Putt	Freya C	Bailey W	Katelyn B



## Year 10: Boys Individual Events

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
800m	Ollie T	Harry T	Alfie D
100m	Lucas H	Ollie T	Alfie D
Long Jump	Ollie T	Lucas H	Alfie D
High Jump	Leo W	Jake R	Josh R
Javelin	Cooper W	Aidyn W	Ollie T
Shot Putt	Cooper W	Aidyn W	Ollie T



# House Events: Tug of War

It was brilliant to see our students competing and supporting their house in the Tug of War event. These are the moments when we come together as a school and build on relationships which are all so important. Well done to Cadora who were House Tug of War Champions for 2024 (and incidentally had the best supporters!)

**Mr R Brand**



# Sponsored Walk

This term we had our annual 'Walk in the Woods'. This is such a brilliant event where the entire school walk the 10+ mile route from Speech House back to school. It is always my favourite day of the year and one where we celebrate the uniqueness of our local area and get to do something special to raise money for some deserving causes. When students and staff arrived back at school they were treated to our first ever 'The Big Gig'. We had performances from bands and singers and it was an amazing way to round off the day! Well done everyone! I would particularly like to say a special thank you to Mr Palmer for organising the Walk in the Woods and also to Mr Peacock/Dr Matthews for organising the 'The Big Gig'. **Mr R Brand**



# The Little Mermaid School Production



Packed audiences were transported to an undersea extravaganza when students showcased their colourful production of 'The Little Mermaid'. The talented performers delighted spectators with the love story of Ariel, a mermaid played by Tilly, who falls in love with the human Prince Eric, played by Alfie. Their path to true love however does

not run smooth thanks to Ursula, the scheming evil sea witch, played by Willow. Mr McNeill, the production's Creative Director for Drama said "Once again, our students have pulled out all the stops for this year's whole school production. They've worked incredibly hard and have attended weekly rehearsals as well as giving up their own free time on weekends and school holidays." Students from across all year groups at the school got involved in all aspects of the performance not just on stage but front of house and backstage including props, scenery, costumes, lighting and sound. Mr McNeill added "The teamwork and camaraderie of a project like this will form lifelong friendships and give our students an experience they will never forget. We are all incredibly proud of their achievements and they have yet again shown what Performance at The Dean Academy means." Head of Performance, Mrs Rodway commented "What a phenomenal two nights from our talented students at The Dean Academy, proving that the school continues to move from strength to strength. We are incredibly proud of them and can't wait to work on our next Performance project."





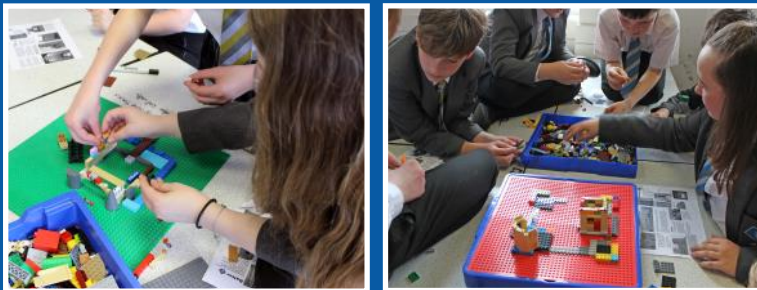
Mr Brand said "The show was fantastic and it was so impressive to see the cast sing, dance and act over two nights to fully packed crowds. Every parent I spoke to was blown away by the standard and confidence of our young people. It was lovely to see new cast members taking part for the first time but also students taking on bigger roles having been in Grease last year too. Well done everyone! Truly amazing."



# In the Classroom

## Bringing History to Life

In their History lesson with Mr Hughes Year 7 students worked in teams to create a castle from Lego with as many features of a castle as possible such as a moat, drawbridge, round towers, arrow loops, portcullis etc. They had great fun bringing history to life!



## Discussions in English

Year 10 students are currently studying 'An Inspector Calls' in their English lessons with Mrs Berry. They had a very lively debate on which character they feel is responsible for the death of a young woman in the play. There were some very interesting discussions!



## Lasagne

Year 9s demonstrated some great cooking skills creating some very tasty looking lasagnes in their Food Technology lesson this term with Mrs Gittins-Jones!



## Quiche Lorraine

Year 9s have baked some delicious looking Quiche Lorraines this term.



## Silver DofE Practice Expedition

Our fantastic DofE students have just completed a gruelling silver practice expedition in the Brecon Beacons where they planned and completed a self-supporting three day trek carrying everything they need in their backpack. We were incredibly proud of their physical effort, cooking skills and map reading. Well done! **Mr L Kelley**



## Bronze DofE Practice Expedition

A massive well done to our Year 9 DofE students who completed their Bronze practice expedition this term along the beautiful River Wye. During the 2 day and 1 night expedition all teams displayed excellent resilience and have strengthened their skills in planning, teamwork communication and navigation. A fantastic achievement that they should all be proud of. Roll on the Bronze DofE qualifying expedition!  
**Miss M Wheatstone**



## Fieldwork

Our Year 10 Geography students have been busy this term gathering data for their GCSE Geography fieldwork. They visited Wenford to research the depth, width and speed of the river and the difference in pebble sizes and they travelled to Cardiff to conduct various environmental surveys.



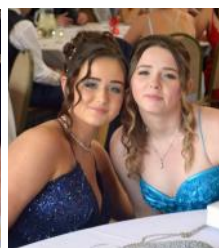
# Prom

Our Year 11 students arrived in style to their Prom at The Speech House Hotel to celebrate their time at The Dean Academy.

Prom King – Dexter W  
 Prom Queen – Susan S K  
 Prom Princess – Shaun W  
 Prom Prince – Wesley M



# Prom



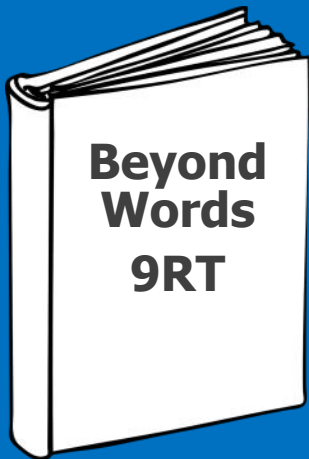
# Leaver's Day 2024

It was an emotional day for our Year 11 leavers as we bid them a fond and final farewell and celebrated their time with us here at The Dean Academy. They enjoyed a special leavers assembly with Mr Swain, shirt signing, ice creams and a whole school guard of honour.

We wish them all the very best for the future. You have been amazing - you will be missed!

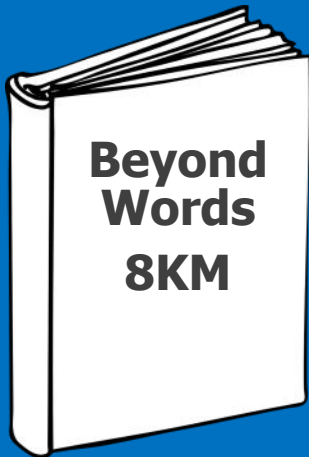


# Beyond Words Reading Programme



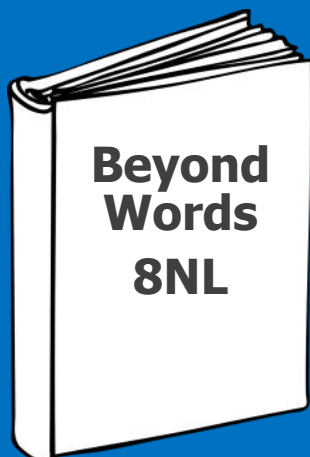
9RT are reading the science-fiction novel 'The War of the Worlds' by HG Wells in tutor time with Mr Thomas. They are enjoying the thrilling tale of a Martian invasion of Earth and the character's attempt to survive and escape the ruthless alien attackers.

A quote from the book: "And before we judge of them too harshly we must remember what ruthless and utter destruction our own species has wrought"



Students in 8KM are reading 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman in their tutor time with Miss Musto. The story focuses on the relationship between Callum and Sephy who are on different sides of a divided population. The book explores important issues of discrimination, prejudice and racism which the tutor group are finding very thought-provoking.

A quote from the book: "What was it about the differences in others that scared some people so much?"



In tutor time, Miss Longman's tutor group have been reading 'Anita and Me' by Meera Syal. It's a semi-autobiographical novel which tells the story of nine-year-old Meena, growing up in the only Punjabi family in the Black Country mining village of Tollington. The group are finding the book really interesting, especially finding out about Meena's life and the differences between lifestyles from different cultures living in the same village.



# Year 5 Primary Transition Days



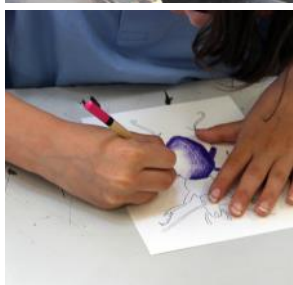
We have had lots of great feedback from our Year 5 Taster days where primary school pupils from across The Forest of Dean participated in lots of fun sessions!

They were busy:

- Learning about rockets and explosions in Science
- Blending colours in Art to create some beautiful bug images
- Problem solving and hacking in Computing,
- Making key tags in the D&T workshops
- Baking blueberry muffins in the Food rooms
- Learning Japanese numbers in MFL
- Learning about castles and creating a battle plan to capture St Briavels castle
- Learning chords on the ukulele and playing along to 'Stay With Me' by Sam Smith
- Creating scenes and acting out action words in Drama
- Attending special sessions in English, Geography and PE.

An important part of our Year 5 Taster Day is the opportunity for pupils to meet with the Headteacher to ask questions or express concerns that they may have about starting secondary school to help reassure them and boost their confidence.

We hope they all had a lovely time with us learning some new skills, meeting our teachers and having a good look around our school and its facilities.



We would like to thank our fantastic student helpers who have been instrumental in the smooth running of the Taster days and have been brilliant role models for the Year 5s!



# Year 6 Stepping Up Days

Year 6 pupils were 'Stepping Up' to The Dean Academy this term. We hope they enjoyed their two days with us, it was a great opportunity for them all to meet with their tutors and Head of Year as well as participate in lessons such as Science, Drama and Computing and enjoy a tour of the school, whilst making new friends!



## THE DEAN ACADEMY'S

# GOT TALENT



Talented performers from all year groups participated in a special 'The Dean Academy's Got Talent' competition yesterday. Year 6 pupils were thrilled to watch the talent show and voted for their favourite acts. The overall winners were band members Afie, Alfie, Leo, Ben and Joe who performed 'Come As You Are' by Nirvana, well done! The runners up were the fabulous Year 8 dancers and Tilly and Alfie who performed a beautiful duet. Congratulations to the Year 6 Performance competition winners - six lucky pupils have each won a choice of a free taster lesson on a brass instrument or 2 free tickets to an upcoming school performance!



# Getting Creative

## Year 7 Boomerang Project



Year 7s in Miss Hinchey's Art class finished their Boomerang art project this term. They created some wonderful, colourful designs and very much enjoyed testing the boomerangs outside! Well done.

## African Art Project

Year 8s have finished their African Art project with Mrs Charles. They have created some wonderful, colourful mixed media pieces based on African art and patterns. Well done!



## Photography Club

Students in Photography Club had lots of fun playing with perspective to create some rather unusual photographs! Great work.



They also explored different ways to frame photographs. Cameron in Year 7 took this great photo using a fisheye lens. Fantastic!

## Year 7 Shield Project

Year 7s have worked hard on their shield project with Mr Winstanley in D&T. They demonstrated some great wood working skills to make the shield and brilliant CAD skills to design the plaque which was then cut on the CAM laser machine. They were also required to accurately mark out the plastic stand to bend and cool it at the correct angle in a jig before assembling all of the components. Mr Winstanley was really impressed with the overall quality of their finished shield. Well done!



## Science Arts & Crafts

Science Arts and Crafts Club members have been busy this term building model rocket cars as practice for the 'Race To The Line' competition for Year 7s. This involved using scalpels to carve out the shape of the car and then sandpaper to smoothen and streamline it before determining the position of the wheels.



They also made structures from marshmallows, sweets and spaghetti – the aim was to make an earthquake proof structure, the tallest wins. Well done to Oscar in Year 7 who won the challenge!



## Zoology Club

Zoology Club members are doing a fantastic job looking after all of our amazing animals in Science including Celine, the Giant African Snail and Bob the Leopard Gecko!



## Trip to the Cheltenham Science Festival

A group of our Year 9 students enjoyed a trip to the Cheltenham Science Festival last week where they attended a presentation from Professor Michael Wooldridge who gave a fascinating talk on the development of AI technology. They also enjoyed participating in the Discovery Zone and Arcade area of the festival where they investigated water usage, drawing robots and using Minecraft to build structures for tackling inner city issues! They were a real credit to the school – well done!



# MFL Department



## #Smile in any Language

This term our MFL Department highlighted the importance of positive mental and physical health.

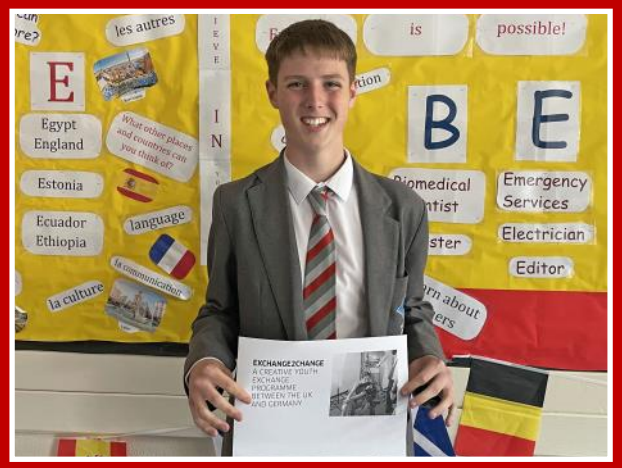
To support and celebrate National Smile Month they launched a campaign called #smileinanylanguage in recognition that it is vitally important for everybody, in every country, to have positive mental and physical

health and that the world must unite together to support one another to live positive, healthy and happy lives. To achieve this they invited students to write and share a message (in any language) that makes them and others smile so that we can all stand together to support everyone with their mental and physical health.



## Exchange Programme Success for Alfie

Wow und wunderbar! In April, we encouraged our students to take part in a highly competitive exchange programme called Exchange2Change which enables young people to spend five days in London and five days in Berlin to collaborate on a creative project. The project is fully funded and enables participants to further develop their language skills, cultural awareness and creative arts skills, as well as many others! We are absolutely delighted to have found out that one of our Year 9 students has been awarded a place on this highly prestigious programme and will now be meeting lots of new people in London and Berlin in the autumn! This is an absolutely outstanding achievement and we are so proud of you. Congratulations! **Miss I Eddy**



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