



## WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN NO 13 – WEEK A

Week Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 11 Christmas Lunch KS3 in class assessments
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Trust Inset Day (no students in school)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 10 Christmas Lunch
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Oxford Uni Trip (15 students)

Dear TDA Families

It is starting to feel very festive here at The Dean Academy with lots of preparations for our Christmas celebrations getting underway. This week we see the launch of our Christmas lunches and rehearsals for our Christmas showcase are well underway. There are still tickets available which can be purchased through Mrs Child in resources and proceeds will be going to support the local community impacted by the flooding that affected the town last week. We also have a beautiful tree in our reception area that was kindly donated to us by Lydney Park Christmas Trees for which we would like to say a big thank you.

Last week was an incredibly busy week. We had a number of trips take place; some of our Year 7 students visited Sir William Romney's School in Tetbury to participate in a special Athelstan Trust creative writing and reading workshop and meet author Danny Rurlander who penned the book "Skylark"; and on Thursday some of our Year 11s visited Gloucester College for a taster day to help inform their post-16 choices. In both of these trips, the organisers commented on the exceptional conduct and engagement of our TDA students who stood out from the crowd for all of the right reasons. Well done to all those involved and thanks again to staff who work hard to provide our students with such wonderful opportunities.

It was also a busy week for lots of other extra-curricular events with many students representing the school in a cross-country event, a Year 11 rewards film following a successful mock exam series, our MFL and music ambassadors working hard on various projects and a group of Year 10 students setting up a Year 7 football tournament. It is truly wonderful to see so many students engaging so positively in so many areas of school life here at TDA.

Last week we also invited the Headteacher at The Cotswold School, Will Morgan, to visit our MFL faculty – he was full of praise for the high quality of teaching and learning that he observed and the structure of the curriculum. So, a huge well done to our MFL team – Miss Eddy, Mrs James and Mrs Morris.



On Tuesday and Wednesday, Mr Webb and Mrs Kilburn-Bond led some CPD with staff looking at how we can continue to improve oracy within our lessons, which we know is crucial to aiding students develop greater depth of knowledge and understanding. Already we are seeing this being developed in lessons with students developing their subject specific literacy and using oracy in a number of different ways to progress their learning.

A gentle reminder that school will be closed on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December for The Athelstan Trust inset day, where staff get the opportunity to work with colleagues from across the trust.

Finally, from me, a huge thank you to parents and carers for supporting us with our drive on ensuring students are looking smart and wearing the appropriate uniform; this is something that we will continue to uphold expectations for.

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead.

Hannah Rowlands  
Headteacher

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ENJOYMENT

ACHIEVEMENT

COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the following weekly winners of our attendance raffle week ending 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

KS3 – Keelan W – Year 8

KS4 – Evie M – Year 10

## TERM 2 DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 9 Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Reports to Home & Assembly Year 8 Christmas Lunch Christmas Showcase Rehearsal all day Christmas Showcase 6.00 – 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 7 Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Progress Evening
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Art Mock Exam all day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Term ends at 12.30 p.m.



## Student Council



### The Dean Academy Christmas Appeal

We will be collecting items to donate to the Lydney food bank.

The tutor with the most items collected will win a prize.

We will start collecting from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

The final date to donate items will be tutor time on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

All donated food must be in date and non-perishable (not going to go off e.g. tinned foods).

The list of items they desperately need are:

- Coffee
- Chocolate Spread
- UHT Milk
- Smash
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tinned meats i.e, spam, luncheon meat, corned beef etc.
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Sponge Puddings
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned Fruit
- Deodorant
- Shampoo



## YEAR 11 REWARDS

As a reward for their brilliant behaviour and conduct during the mock exams Year 11s were treated to a showing of 'Home Alone'.





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Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

## YEAR 7 LUNCHTIME FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Super proud of Lucy, Freddie and Cody in Year 10 who have organised a lunchtime football tournament for our Year 7 students. The first one kicked off today and students, whether they were participating or supporting, had a brilliant time!



Jack P, Elliot S, Archer J & Oliver S



Jay



Jay & Oliver



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Cody S, Lucy SP & Freddie S

## CROSS COUNTRY

A huge well done to all those who represented the school last week at the District Cross Country competition. It is an incredible achievement to have so many of our students qualify to represent the Forest of Dean District at the County Championship next month!



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Toby G & Harry W



Josh V, Harley C, Louis C, Toby G, Harry W



Ronnie H & Oscar HC



Evie E & Poppy Rae VH



## MFL AMBASSADORS

We are so proud of our amazing MFL Ambassadors who have been working together to launch our 'Weihnachtsmarkt' (German Christmas Market) this December. They have been designing lots of imaginative activities for the market which will celebrate the wonderful diversity of languages and cultures across the world. We can't wait to collaborate with others across the school, including Mrs Berry, Mrs Charles, Mrs Hinks and Ms Meredith, to launch the Christmas market and fundraise for charities that our students have selected.





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## YEAR 10 HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Our Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students did an impressive job of making choux pastry this week in their lesson with Mrs Gittins-Jones. They made some delicious looking profiteroles.



Fynley B



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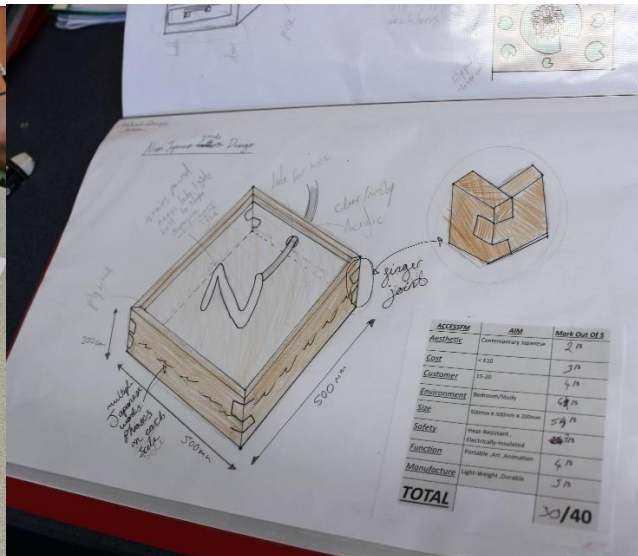
Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher



Tyler K

## YEAR 11 PRODUCT DESIGN

Year 11 Product Design students have been working hard on the design development section of their controlled assessment. Items being designed this year include, a Japanese themed lamp, a bike support frame, a modern cuckoo clock with 3D printed and laser cut components, an artist's light box and a teacher's stationery storage unit! Great work.



Logan C



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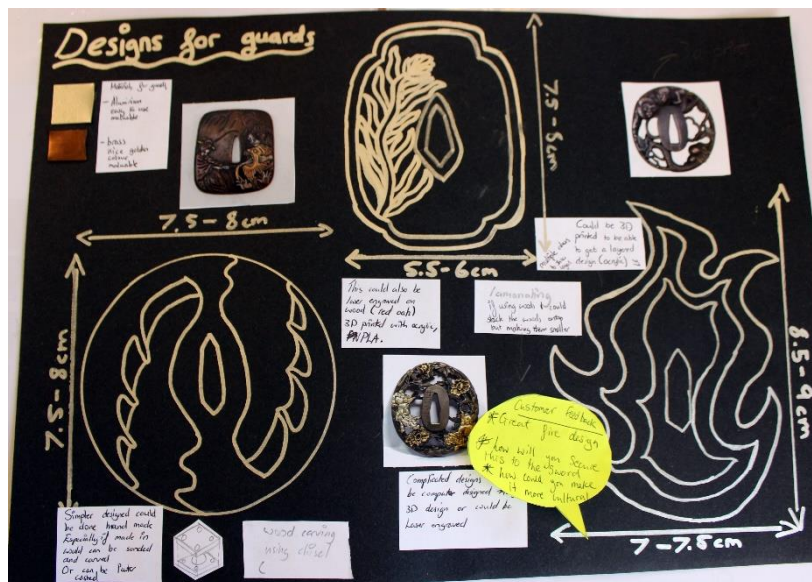
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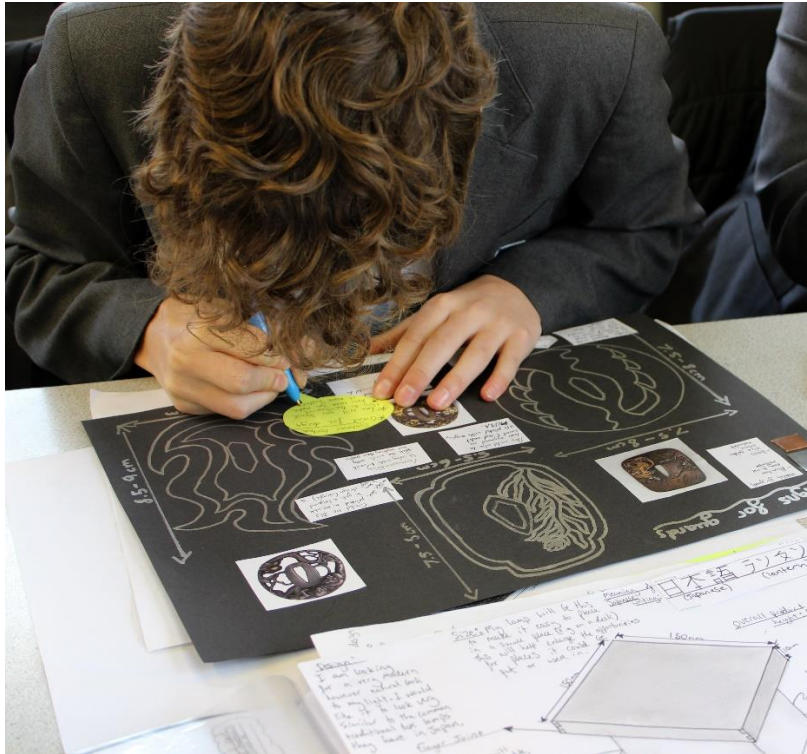


Leyland P & Oliver V



Leyland P & Rhys T

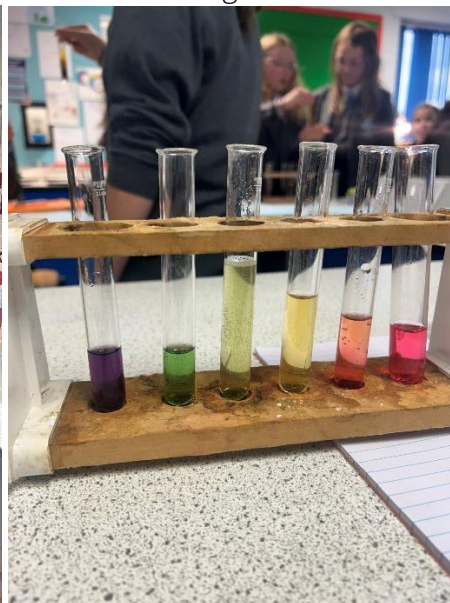




Leyland P

## YEAR 8 NEUTRALISATION

Year 8 have been learning about the process of neutralisation this week and have been experimenting with acids and alkalis to achieve a pH 'rainbow' in Miss Wheatstone's lessons. Well done to those who used their scientific skills to figure it out!





## MUSIC AMBASSADORS

We are delighted that so many of our wonderful students have signed up to be a Music Ambassador this term! It is an exciting new student role for our music enthusiasts who will play an important part in our Music Department. Responsibilities will include, looking after our equipment and practice rooms, playing in school clubs, sharing their musical talents with the school community, and helping to keep our department fresh with new ideas.

Music Ambassadors will actively promote the school's music community by showcasing their creative projects during lunch and after-school hours. Expect to see a lot more of our



dedicated students on social media, sharing the music they love creating and playing. Our first highlight will be our upcoming Christmas concert, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December (tickets £2.50 from Resources), where they will celebrate and share their musical talents



## YEAR 10 ENGINEERING

Year 10 Engineering students have been case hardening their bottle openers to compare and contrast working with mild steel and pewter. They have designed and laser cut an MDF mould to experiment with a closed three-part mould. They have then cast pewter to create a high-quality key fob. Well, done!



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Jack S





Kieran M

## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Earlier this week, a group of Year 7 students travelled to Sir William Romney's School in Tetbury to take part in a special Athelstan Trust creative writing and reading workshop. Students listened to a talk from the author Danny Rurlander about his debut book, 'Spylark', a story about friendship, bravery, terrorism and technology which was shortlisted for The Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition in 2017. Students learned how to include and create characters and settings in their writing, this included a demonstration of a drone; a key device used in the book! They then met with Danny to have their books signed by him. Throughout the trip, our students were exceptional and were a real credit to the school!



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## WRITER OF THE WEEK

THE DEAN ACADEMY WRITER OF THE WEEK IS . . .

### Becca B (Year 9)

#### **To the Other Side**

In the afterlife, a bus was driving to a place of rest or torture, Annabelle rose MACC fell, a wife of a toxic man, who got killed by the hands of her spouse in cold blood.

When she got off the bus a basket appeared, clearly divine intervention, when she opened it a toy robot with her son's name brought tears to her eyes. She took it out of the basket and gently brought it to her chest hugging it tightly for a few seconds. After a while she heard a soft, gentle, quiet voice behind her, as she lowered the toy and as soon as she turned around... The toy fell, hitting the floor with a clatter.

The voice behind her was her sons, Xavier mix fell, a young 7 year old boy whose life ended to an illness called pneumonia, a lung disease. Xavier was standing just outside the godly gates to heaven.

Annabelle immediately ran to him, snatching him up in a tight embrace while sobbing. After a few minutes, they both calmed down and went hand in hand to the safe paradise.



## SCIENCE ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

Science Arts and Crafts Club members are working on a festive project making some salt crystal Christmas decorations. After they had made their saturated salt solution students then shaped some pipe cleaners into festive shapes for the decoration. We are very much looking forward to seeing how they turn out next week after the salt crystals have formed onto the pipe cleaners!



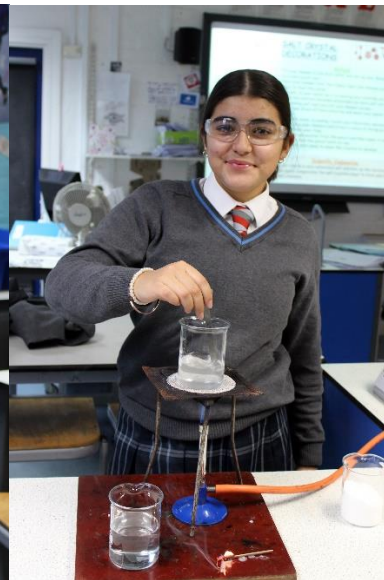
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Percy W



Carolina DSD