



# The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 37

Easter 2025



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# Update from the Headteacher



What a truly wonderful term it has been here at The Dean Academy with so much for our school community to be proud of, both in and out of the classroom.

We have been so impressed by all of the hard work that our students have demonstrated in their lessons and the preparation that students in Years 9, 10 and 11 put in to ensure they were ready for their exams.

We wish our Class of 2025 lots of luck for their GCSEs that will begin the second week back after the Easter break!

Outside of the classroom our dedicated staff have continued to offer a variety of experiences for our young people, including a wide range of trips and visits and the broad extra-curricular programme, many of which this newsletter celebrates – I hope that you enjoy reading all about them!

This term we say farewell to Mrs Rodway who has been at the school since 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Rodway for everything that she has done for our school community during her time here and wish her all the very best in her new role at Archway School.

I hope that everyone in our school community enjoys a restful and enjoyable Easter break and I very much look forward to seeing students back on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher**

The Dean Academy presents . . .



**YEAR 11 YEARBOOKS**  
are now available to order online:  
<https://allyearbooks.co.uk/buy/23211>



## School Terms & Holidays 2025

<b>TERM 5</b>	BEGINS MAY-DAY HOL ENDS	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
	HOLIDAY	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>TERM 6</b>	BEGINS TRUST INSET DAY ENDS *INSET DAY	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
	HOLIDAY	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

## Community Hero

We are so incredibly proud of Zac, in Year 9, who met HRH Princess Anne in Lydney during her recent visit to the town to see the devastation caused by Storm Bert. Zac was praised by the Princess Royal for his actions during the storm where he went above and beyond to help his local community protect their homes and gather items that had been swept away. Well done!



## Community Engagement

We are very grateful to the representatives from the Forest Youth Association who visited our school this term to speak to our students during their lunch break. They brought with them the Forest Volunteer Action Forum (FVAF) Community Engagement Vehicle.

This is part of our ongoing aims to support students regarding key issues which can impact them in the community, in school and from a safeguarding perspective. It was great to see so many of our students engaging with this opportunity.



## Lydney Town Council Community Award for Dina

Congratulations to Dina, in Year 11, who was awarded the Lydney Town Council Community Award today by Lydney Mayor Natasha Saunders. Dina was nominated for the award for her outstanding efforts promoting cultural diversity within the school. Our Headteacher, Mrs Rowlands, praised Dina, who joined The Dean Academy three years ago from Ukraine, "Dina has absolutely flourished in this school and has taken other students under her wing, helping them to integrate into our school community. Dina has shared her wonderful heritage with our students through teaching her language and leading informative assemblies. She is a brilliant advocate for cultural diversity!"



**Dina in Year 11 was presented with the award by Lydney Town Mayor Natasha Saunders**

## Mingalaba

This term, we were delighted to welcome Mr Eadon from Mingalaba, an organisation who promote languages through football themed workshops. Mr Eadon delivered a fun and engaging session designed to help build confidence in using new and existing vocabulary.

It was a great opportunity for all of our Year 9 students to explore the value of studying languages within the sports sphere followed by a chance to master their French language skills in a French football session. We were really impressed with their amazing language and sports skills! Well done. **Miss Eddy**



## UK-German Connection Exchange

This term, we have had the privilege to welcome students and staff from Hans-Geiger-Gymnasium in Germany as part of an amazing exchange project.

We have been collaborating on a range of exciting projects and it has been a phenomenal experience for all of us. We can't wait for this collaboration to continue!

**Miss Eddy**



## Easter Baking

Year 7s have baked and decorated some Easter inspired cupcakes in their Food Technology lesson with Mrs Gittins-Jones this term. Wonderful, well done!



## Trust Maths Challenge



In January, the Trust schools came together to compete in a Year 8 Maths Challenge at The Dean Academy.



This event offered a great opportunity to bring together Year 8 students from across the Trust to celebrate Mathematics and attempt some problem-solving questions.



The students were tasked with a group, relay, and shuttle round; all of which required different activities.

All students performed admirably, with Sir William Romney's School emerging victorious!

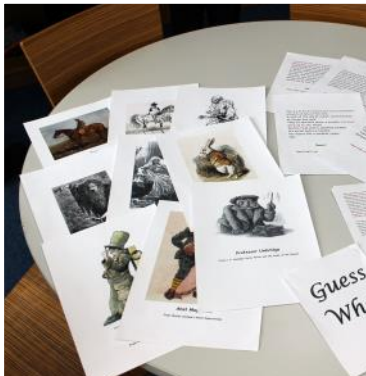
In March, a group of Year 9 students travelled to Sir William Romney's School in Tetbury for a special Athelstan Trust Maths Challenge event where they worked together in groups solving some very tricky Maths questions.



# World Book Day 2025

It was great to see so many of our wonderful students engaging with the World Book Day activities last month, which were organised by Miss Radcliffe and Miss Bater to help promote a love of reading in our school. Activities included a book quiz during tutor time when students were given their book tokens, a literary scavenger hunt across the school at break time to uncover a famous quote, and a book exchange at lunchtime which was very popular, as well as lots of other fun literary challenges.

WORLD  
**BOOK**  
DAY®



# British Science Week 2025

To celebrate British Science Week 2025, the Science Department organised lots of fun activities for students to enjoy based on the theme, 'Change & Adapt'.

Students could watch a BBC Teach Science Live Lesson from the National Space Centre in their lunch break, where they had to complete an astronaut training plan.

They could also take part in a special 'moss safari' animal adaptation practical in their lunchbreak and in Science Club which gave them a chance to look at and learn about organisms that you rarely see that are on your doorstep, it is also a great way to improve microscopy skills, observation, and appreciation of nature.

Students were tasked with creating a poster showing a new idea or invention to improve the health of the air in our buildings.

There were also scientific 'What am I?' riddles throughout the week for students to solve which was aimed at getting them thinking about all the wonderful ways different animals have adapted.



Live lesson from the National Space Centre



# Celebrating World Culture

As part of our 'Celebrating World Culture' events this term, tutor groups were tasked with creating a special display for their tutor room door based on a specific country. Each group worked together as a team to produce some stunning and inspiring displays based on their research of the country. The countries chosen are ones that our school community have links with and the activity has led to some interesting discussions on world culture. We were really impressed with the amazing entries which were incredibly creative, fun and informative.

The winning door was Miss Eddy's tutor group 9IE, which was based on China, one student had even crocheted a snake, with 2025 being the Year of the Snake! Runners up were 8CJB (France), 7KLC (Turkey) and 9KM (Singapore), with 8FP (Ireland), 8APH (Philippines) and 9NEP (Australia) being highly commended – well done, great work!



# Music Awards 2025

Well done to our amazing and talented students who were presented with their certificates at The Dean Academy Music Awards Evening 2025 this term.

The level of performance was outstanding and it was wonderful to celebrate the success of our fantastic musicians! **Mr J Peacock**



# Careers/Raising Aspirations

## Year 8 Grows Session

Thank you to the representatives from GROWS who visited our Year 8 students for some aspirational sessions about possible future careers. They discussed applications for university, apprenticeships and sixth form/college places as well as how to get different jobs. Their aim is to ensure that all young people in Gloucestershire have the information, skills and support to achieve their ambitions.



## Year 9 Grows Session

Another great aspirational Year 9 GROWS session where students were looking at managing money, student loans and budgeting!



## National Careers Week

Congratulations to Cohen and Alex in Year 9 who won our National Careers Week competition.

As part of the week's celebrations, staff dressed up as the profession they wanted to be in when they were younger, and students had to guess what their dream career was.

They had great fun guessing the careers which included, a farmer, a journalist, an Egyptologist, a politician, a Yoga instructor, a carpenter and chef!



- Yazmine Alimi - Social worker
- Emily Radcliffe - Farmer
- Darren Webb - Chef
- Lee Kelley - Rugby player
- Kate Charles - Horse rider
- Jack Peacock - Roadie
- Natasha Porter - Police officer
- Fiona Price - Volcanologist
- Ben Grant - Forester
- Kaydien Gunter- Basketball player
- Isobel Eddy- French politician
- Alex Hughes - Barrister
- Becky Ryan - Crime scene investigator
- Ciara Barnes - Mathematician
- Harry Matthews - Archaeologist
- Anna McCoy - Rugby player
- Maddie Wheatstone - Egyptologist
- Claire Lavender - Forensic investigator
- Michelle Kilburn-Bond - Journalist
- Jeyne Joubert - Yoga/Pilates instructor
- Phil McNeill - Disneyland worker
- Ellie Bater - Camp councillor
- Abbie Jones - Carpenter
- Nicola Hinks - Army
- Andy Winstanley - Robotics engineer
- Laura Morris - Flight attendant



# Science Trip to Paris

A group of students travelled to Paris this term for an exciting trip to Disneyland where they not only enjoyed the activities on the theme park but they also attended a special 'Science Live' conference where guest speakers talked about their routes into Science related jobs. The speakers included a cosmetics company owner who is a chemist, an engineer who has worked on nuclear submarines and the world's only 'thrill scientist' who designs roller coasters. There was a discussion and Q&A at the end where our students asked some really interesting questions! We hope they all had a lovely time and created some wonderful memories!



# Enrichment

## Dance Workshops

Our Year 10 and 11 Dance students enjoyed some fun and educational dance workshops, thanks to Swindon Dance Centre for Advanced Training, who visited our school.

KS3 students were also able to sign up to the workshops where they learned some special dance skills and techniques. It was a valuable insight into Dance education and the opportunities that are available. **Mrs K Rodway**



## Poetry Live

A group of Year 10 students travelled to Bath for the Poetry Live event where they saw some incredible poets performing their work, including John Agard, Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage. There was also a masterclass from the AQA Chief examiner for poetry! It was an incredible day with some really beautiful and thought-provoking performances.



gcse poetry  
**live!**

## Year 9 Aiming Higher

A massive thank you to Kamal for visiting our Year 9 students this term and delivering a fun and motivational session about aiming higher. Our students were really engaged with Kamal who told them that they are in charge of their future and by taking responsibility themselves they can get the tools that they need to realise their ability and aim higher!



# Duke of Edinburgh

## Silver

We were so proud of our Silver DofE participants on their training expedition this term.

Over a three-day period, they walked over 45km and gained over 1200m in altitude in the Brecon Beacons.

Their navigation and cooking skills were excellent and they were rewarded with beautiful weather!

We are all now looking forward to their qualifying expedition. **Mr L Kelley**



## Bronze

Our largest ever Bronze DofE cohort completed their practice expedition in the Wye Valley this term in glorious sunshine. The five groups displayed some fantastic teamwork skills and spirit over the course of two days walking and one night camping.

The students started at Goodrich and finished near Lydbrook. The heavy backpacks were a shock but they handled the physical challenge well. They were brilliant representatives of The Dean Academy values and should be really proud of themselves. Well done!



# Out & About

## Music Trip

Our Year 10 GCSE Music students enjoyed a wonderful afternoon with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Gloucester Guildhall last week where they experienced live performances of renowned works by composers such as Bach and Beethoven. A particular highlight was watching the orchestra transform a student-composed melody into a full orchestral piece, bringing the composition process to life before our very eyes. Under the guidance of BSO Associate Patrick Bailey, students gained valuable insights into musical analysis and composition techniques that will directly support their GCSE studies.



## MFL Spelling Bee

A group of Year 9 students travelled to The Cotswold School to compete in an MFL Spelling Bee where they were given one minute to spell as many words as possible from the new GCSE word lists in that time all whilst using the alphabet in the target language! They did a fantastic job and competed against eight other schools.

### Miss Eddy



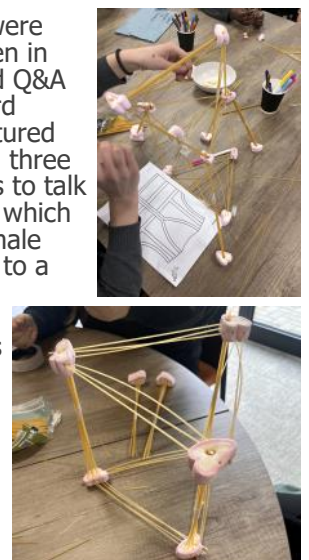
## Gloucestershire College Trip

A group of our Year 11s travelled to the Gloucestershire College Cinderford campus for a special hands-on taster day. It was a great opportunity for our students to experience some of the courses that are on offer to them at post-16 level and to try some of them out, including Barbering, Beauty Therapy as well as making some delicious pasta in Hospitality and Catering!



## Women in Construction Q&A

A group of female students were selected to attend the 'Women in Construction' information and Q&A session at Accxel in Cinderford recently. The main panel featured three female apprentices and three CEOs of their own businesses to talk about careers, in an industry which traditionally has had a high male presence. They were treated to a catwalk of female designed PPE, an engineering challenge with marshmallows and spaghetti and a design costume to create the next Hi-Vis jacket. The female professionals talked about their routes into the industry and took questions on careers.



## Photography Club

Mr Child was really impressed with Charles, in Year 8, who took the lead in training up our new Photography Club members to use the equipment in our dark room. Under the supervision of Mr Child, Charles demonstrated how to mix and prepare the chemicals for developing in the dark room and created some fantastic photos.



They also set up a studio to take portraits using black and white 35mm film. They had to consider various factors that would affect the quality of the image including the lighting and positioning of their subjects.



## Science Club

Over the term, members of the Science Arts & Crafts Club have been busy making and decorating volcanoes. They really enjoyed it when they were finally ready to erupt – with varying degrees of success! Well done. **Miss Wheatstone**



## Clay Club

Students have been learning how to make and decorate slab pots over the last few weeks in Clay Club with Mrs Charles.



They have also been learning how to make coil pots . . .



. . . and these fabulous monster heads!



# The Dean Academy

## Budding Poet Olivia

Congratulations to our budding poet, Olivia in Year 8, who wrote a poem in her spare time called 'Downtime' all about the pressures of technology which she sent to her local library. They were so impressed with her talent that they have put the poem on display in the library and have sent it to the USA where it will appear on a poetry post in Portland, Oregon. The poem has also been published in a Young Writer's Anthology called 'Through Their Eyes, Portraits of the Unspoken'. Well done Olivia, this is fantastic!



### 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 needs downtime.

## Science Trust Event

A group of Year 8 students travelled to Sir William Romney's School in Tetbury to participate in the Athelstan Trust's inaugural cross trust Science competition. Students had to solve the problem of transporting a lighthouse keeper from the lighthouse to the shore. Both of our teams were excellent, finishing 3rd and 5th out of 10 teams. We are looking forward to the next event!



## Year 7 Toilet Block Refurbishment



We are thrilled to announce that our newly refurbished Year 7 toilet block is now open and ready for our wonderful Year 7 students to use. Many thanks to our site staff who have worked really hard on this project and to Lydney Mayor, Tasha Saunders, for visiting The Dean Academy to declare the block open!



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