



# The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 38

Summer 2025



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# Update from the Headteacher



## School Terms & Holidays 2025 - 2026

<b>TERM 1</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b> BEGINS	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September (students in Y7 & 11 return) Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September (All students return)
	<b>INSET DAY</b> ENDS	<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b> Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October (3.15 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>
	<b>TERM 2</b>	<b>BEGINS</b> <b>TRUST INSET DAY</b> ENDS
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>
<b>TERM 3</b>	<b>BEGINS</b> ENDS	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February (3.15 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>
	<b>TERM 4</b>	<b>BEGINS</b> <b>INSET DAY</b> ENDS
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>TERM 5</b>	<b>BEGINS</b> <b>MAY-DAY HOL</b> ENDS	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b> Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May (3.15 p.m.)
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>
	<b>TERM 6</b>	<b>BEGINS</b> <b>TRUST INSET DAY</b> ENDS
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>

Version 1-2025 – 2026 holidays

Dear TDA families,

It is hard to believe that my first year as Headteacher at The Dean Academy is drawing to a close – and what a year it has been! There is so much for us to celebrate and I could not be more proud to work alongside such a wonderful community of students, staff and parents/carers and would like to say thank you to everyone for all of the support that I have received this year.

This summer newsletter is a true testament to the vast array of achievements from this busy term here at TDA; it has been wonderful to see so many students representing TDA with pride and embodying our core values of being respectful, responsible and ready.

As we reflect on the academic year and all of the achievements, it is always bittersweet as we say farewell to some colleagues. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Hole, who is retiring after over 25 years of working at TDA and wish him all the very best for his retirement. Also thank you to Miss Eddy, Mrs Morris and Mrs Barnard as they move on from TDA and I wish them all well in their next steps. In September we look forward to welcoming 12 new members of staff in to our school community as our school continues to grow and flourish.

We also say goodbye and happy retirement to Dr Gilson, CEO of The Athelstan Trust. Dr Gilson has been involved with TDA since The Athelstan Trust was founded and I would like to thank him for everything that he has done over the past decade to support us in our journey of continued improvement.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we will be welcoming Year 7 & Year 11 students back on Tuesday 2nd September, and all other year groups on Wednesday 3rd September. For now though, I wish everyone a wonderful and restful summer break.

Very best wishes,

**Hannah Rowlands,**  
**Headteacher**

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



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# School Community

## Student Leadership Team

Here are our new student leadership team who have now received their ties from their Head of Year Mr Stradling and Headteacher Mrs Rowlands.

As part of the gruelling selection process, each student was interviewed and they addressed their whole year group in a special hustings assembly where they presented their ideas on how to improve the experience of students within the school.

Staff and Year 10 students then voted and we are delighted to announce that Ava-Lily and Alfie were selected as Head Girl and Head Boy. Mrs Rowlands said "All students were so incredibly impressive in all aspects of the selection process, demonstrating exceptional confidence and passion. Well done to all involved and I look forward to working with all of you to continue to make this wonderful school of ours even better."

### Head Student:

Ava-Lily W and Alfie B

### Deputy Head Student:

April D and Cody S

### Sports and Events:

Imogen B & Harry W

### Community:

Abi R, Megan B & Alfie B

### Wellbeing:

Layla E & Alisha R-J

### Environmental:

Tallulah M & Teddy M



## Year 11 Mentors

A massive thank you to our fantastic Year 11 students, Ellie and Freya, who are back in school for some peer mentoring sessions with our Year 10 students about exam anxiety. It's great to see them helping our students with these regular sessions, organised by Mr Fessey, which will help them to cope with the stress of exams.



## MFL Summer Markets

The MFL Department recently ran their Summer Markets during the lunchtimes, which offered students the opportunity to sell and purchase cuisine from across the world using their amazing language skills. Students also took part in a MFL 'Bake Off', they made a delicious Spanish honey cake and some tasty sushi. We would like to say an enormous bravo to all students who took part - your language skills and baking skills were amazing!



# Sport

## County Champions

Here are our fantastic Year 8 Football County Champions! We are so proud of them all. They worked brilliantly together as a team at the finals at Hartpury, beating Abbeywood School 7-4 with goals from Harry, Jack, Harley and George. An outstanding performance, from an outstanding and talented group of individuals.

They enjoyed the breakfast of champions with Mr Stradling, the Headteacher and their Head of Year in the school restaurant. Well done!



## Primary PE Tournament

It was great to have so many Year 5 pupils from local primary schools on site for a special PE tournament. Our fantastic Year 9 and 10 student helpers were a real credit to the school and were instrumental in the smooth running of the event. Not only did they help on the field running the tournament but they also led parents on tours around the school.



## Year 10 Mock Results Assembly

Year 10 students had their mock exam results assembly with Mr Fessey. Massive congratulations to our top 10 students for overall progress in the year group. Well done!



## Year 10 Athelstan Trust Maths Challenge

A group of Year 10 students recently travelled to Malmesbury School in Wiltshire to participate in a special Year 10 Maths Challenge with other students across the Trust. They all did a fantastic job and were impeccably well behaved and participated whole heartedly! Well done.



## Year 10 Trip to Hartpury College

A big well done to all our Year 10s who attended the Sports Therapy and Agriculture workshops at Hartpury College. Miss Ryan and Miss Wheatstone were really impressed with their engagement in the workshop tasks, which included looking at the anatomy and diagnosis of sports injuries within the human body during the Sports Therapy workshop, to then observing the cudding habits and determining the composition of matter within cow feed on the farm, during the Agriculture workshop. The Year 10s then finished up their visit with a quick campus tour with our Hartpury student ambassador Alex, during which they displayed The Dean Academy's value of respect.



# House Event - Tug of War



The annual Tug of War house competition is always one of the highlights of the year and one of the more competitive of our inter-house events (especially with staff!) It was a really lovely afternoon in the sunshine. Huge congratulations to Severn House who were the overall winners.



# The Dean Academy Presents 'Mary Poppins'

Talented students put on a 'practically perfect' production of 'Mary Poppins' delighting audiences with magical performances of some unforgettable songs, including 'A Spoonful of Sugar' and 'Let's Go Fly a Kite'.

April, in Year 10, was outstanding in the lead role as the enigmatic nanny, Mary Poppins, who helps the Banks family by transforming the children, Jane and Michael, played by Isla and Ryan whilst helping Mr Banks, played by Alfie, to overcome his own challenges.

Mr McNeill, the production's Creative Director for Drama said "Staff and students have once again pulled off a show-stopping whole school production. Our students have excelled and proven yet again what a wide variety of talents we have to showcase here at The Dean Academy. The selfless giving of their time, as well as maintaining their studies, just goes to show how dedicated our students are when it comes to a project of this magnitude. We are incredibly proud of our students and the remarkable effort and tenacity they have put in has yielded an exceptional piece of musical theatre."



**Students from across all year groups got involved in every aspect of the performance not just on-stage acting, singing and dancing but also front of house and backstage including set design, props, costumes, lighting and sound.**



# Sports Week 2025 - Year 7s

Despite their first attempt being postponed because of the weather, Year 7s eventually got their chance to participate in their first ever sports day at The Dean Academy! We were really impressed with their fantastic determination and resilience. They supported each other and cheered each other on, perfectly embodying our TDA community character!



# Sports Week 2025 - Year 8s



During our Sports Week, students were able to showcase their talents in a variety of track and field events and earn points for their House. These are always such a wonderful few days where healthy competition between the students is coupled with support and encouragement from their peers and it is so lovely to see.  
**Mrs Rowlands**



# Sports Week 2025 - Year 9s



## Helpers

A massive thank you to our fabulous Year 9 and 10 student helpers who ensured that our Sports Week ran smoothly! From raking sand in the long jump, to moving the podium, measuring distances, adjusting the high jump bar and recording results – you were all amazing!



# Sports Week 2025 - Year 10s



# Primary Transition

## Year 5 Taster Days

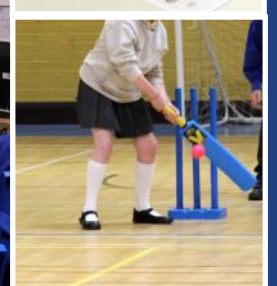
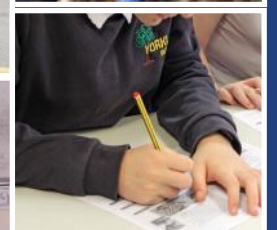
There were lots of fun sessions for the Year 5 pupils who visited The Dean Academy this term for their Taster Day. They have been learning about earthquakes and volcanoes in Geography, producing some fabulous pieces of creative writing in English and learning about explosions in Science. We hope they all got a 'flavour' of our school. A massive thank you to our wonderful student helpers who have ensured the smooth running of these sessions.



## Year 6 Stepping Up Days

We have really enjoyed having all the Year 6 pupils on site at The Dean Academy as part of their 'Stepping Up' days with us.

We look forward to meeting them all again in September as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey!



# The Dean Academy

## Raising Aspirations

Thanks again to Grows UK for visiting our school leading informative workshops for our Year 9 students about university and apprenticeships!



## Royal Institution

We were very lucky to have the Royal Institution for Science in school this term to present a fun and exciting lecture on energy to a group of our Year 7 & Year 8 students. They also presented a special session after school where members of the community and pupils from our primary feeder schools were invited.

Mr D Webb



## University of Gloucestershire

A group of Year 10 students were lucky enough to attend a University Day organised by the lovely ladies at GROWS. The students visited the University of Gloucestershire - Oxstalls Campus, where they took part in two workshops: Money Matters and Higher Education Motivations. They also enjoyed a tour of the campus where they saw some of the state-of-the-art facilities like the purpose-built hospital ward, mock courtroom, and Olympic standard weights room. The students were brilliant and represented the school to the highest standard. **Miss Musto**



# Year 11 Leavers' Day



An emotional day for our Year 11s as they returned to school for their Leavers Assembly and shirt signing. They enjoyed the bouncy castle and ice cream out on the school field and the whole school came out at the end of the day for a special Guard of Honour! Goodbye and good luck to all our wonderful Year 11s, we wish you all the very best for the future. Mrs Rowlands commented "It is always such a bittersweet day; a combination of joy and happiness, celebrating everything that the students have achieved whilst simultaneously sad to see them go!"



# Year 11 Leavers' Day



# Year 11 Prom



Year 11 Prom is such a fabulous way to celebrate the end of our Year 11s journey at The Dean Academy.

For this cohort of students, it was particularly poignant as they missed out on all of their Year 6 leavers events due to Covid.

The night was a wonderful celebration of the Class of 2025 and everyone had a splendid evening.

Thank you to Mrs Price, our prom organiser extraordinaire, for once again making this event something really special for our students.

**Mrs H Rowlands**



# Year 11 Prom



# School Clubs

## Chess Club

Congratulations to our fantastic Chess Club competition winners who received their certificates and trophies from Mrs Meredith. She was really impressed with their participation and competitive spirit throughout the event. Well done!



## Photography Club

Congratulations to our Photography Club members Marlee in Year 8 and Alfie in Year 7 who recently entered the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year Competition 2025. Their entries were selected for a special presentation and they each received a certificate for their achievement. Well done!



## Science Arts & Crafts Club

So far this term, Science Arts and Crafts Club members have been making the most of the glorious weather. This has included building sturdy bug hotels to act as habitats for The Dean Academy insect populations, as well as utilising heat transfer to make vanilla ice cream in a bag! A big thank you from Miss Wheatstone for all the Science superstars who attend - you are fantastic!



## Archery Superstars

Ava and Amber, in Year 9, also known as the 'Archery Twins of Gloucestershire' received their Global Child Prodigy Award this term at the House of Commons in recognition of their extraordinary achievements in the sport of archery.

They were praised for excelling "at every level of competition — from county to international — setting a powerful example of discipline and excellence in sports. With an astounding 12 national records to their name and numerous junior titles, the sisters have become symbols of precision, focus, and unwavering dedication to their craft." Here they are with their awards - we are so incredibly proud of you both. Well done!



## Miles for Refugees

This term, we held our school fundraiser for The British Red Cross and their 'Miles for Refugees' campaign. Students took to the field in their lunch break and jumped 222 star jumps in recognition of the 22 miles that people often have to traverse when crossing the English Channel. We are so proud of our amazing star-jumpers and would like to thank everyone who came to support this event. You are all amazing and it is our privilege to support this wonderful cause. **Miss Eddy**



## South West Chef of the Year Competition

After making it through to the South West Chef of the Year Competition semi-final, Tallulah and Nicole travelled down to Bath College where they had a Masterchef/ Bake off-like experience in the professional kitchens of the college. They both did The Dean Academy proud, there would only be 1 winner - no runners up and although we and 4 others didn't quite make it any further, both students were personally commended on their skills, desire and professionalism of working under pressure and producing "quality products that would easily be placed on a restaurant menu". Congratulations for representing the school so well, your achievement sets you apart. Super proud! **Mrs Gittins-Jones**



Tallulah cooked a Parmesan encrusted venison loin with cauliflower puree and fondant potatoes in a chocolate and red wine jus and seasonal vegetables



Nicole baked wild boar pie with mash and fresh seasonal vegetables



# The Dean Academy

## D of E Silver

Our brilliant silver DofE students on their qualifying expedition this term. They spent three days walking through the Brecon Beacons unsupported! Well done.

Mr L Kelley



## VE Day Celebrations

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, staff and students observed the national two-minute silence at 12pm to remember and thank those who fought for our freedom. There was also a special presentation during tutor time which explored the impact of VE Day and the importance of peace. Students came to school wearing their cadet uniforms and the school restaurant was decorated with bunting.



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