



WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN NO 12 – WEEK A

Week Commencing 1st December 2025

Monday 1 st December	Jamie's Farm Residential all week
Tuesday 2 nd December	
Wednesday 3 rd December	Trust Inset Day – no students in school
Thursday 4 th December	Period 1 - Year 10 x band University of Life Workshop (GROWS)
Friday 5 th December	

Dear TDA Families

We are certainly starting to feel festive here at TDA. A gentle reminder that we have our Christmas lunches taking place week commencing 8th December for those students that wish to participate and these can still be purchased via ParentPay.

Last week continued to be a very busy week for our Year 11 students following their mock examinations with visits to Gloucestershire College and an assembly from Dene Magna 6th Form. In recognition of their hard work the students have enjoyed the first week of their "Wellbeing Fortnight" coordinated by Mr Fessey. Years 7-10 also had their first "Wellbeing Wednesday" last week where we looked at the importance of kindness and the positive impact it has on everyone's wellbeing. We look forward to these becoming a monthly event where we really focus on connecting with each other and looking after our mental health.

Our student council met for the first time last week – during UK Parliament Week – and have already got lots of ideas that they are taking back to their tutor groups to work on over the coming weeks to ensure that students have a voice in further improving our school community.

Last week I took the opportunity to visit some of the extra-curricular activities that take place at lunch time and after school; it was so lovely to see so many of our students from all year groups working with our staff and together to participate and engage in such a vast range of activities. I recently conducted some analysis of the participation of our students in clubs last academic year and I am proud to say that 43% of our students last year engaged in extra-curricular activities on a regular basis. All evidence shows the positive impact that engagement in these activities can have on students' academic progress and aspirations, so we are thrilled that so many of our students participate. Thank you to all the staff who give up their lunch times and after school time – and occasionally weekends and school holidays – to provide these opportunities for our young people.

Over the past fortnight the Senior Leadership Team have been conducting Subject Reviews where we have focused heavily on popping into lessons to observe the teaching and learning that is taking place. It has been a privilege to see our students being cognitively challenged yet supported by our teaching



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Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

staff and teaching assistants and for us to observe our young people working so hard and to have the confidence to articulate their views and thoughts.

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to complete our most recent parent voice, focussing on curriculum information and homework. One thread that came out of that was that parents/carers are not aware of the curriculum information that can be found on our website. For those of you that are interested, curriculum summaries for each subject for each year group can be found on our website under the curriculum tab. Students can also access subject specific work as well as resources on exam anxiety support, revision techniques and Post-16 information via our "Revision Hub" – the link for which is on the top right hand side of our home page. We hope that you find these additional sources of information useful.



Also, as a follow up from the parent voice, I will be changing the hours of the parent forum slightly to accommodate people's working commitments. There will be a Parent Forum on Wednesday 17th December at 5.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. If you wish to attend, please contact info@thedeanacademy.org.

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

Finally, from me, we will be having a big focus on uniform and standards for these last 3 weeks of term. It is really important that students are coming to school wearing appropriate school trousers (absolutely no leggings), or the school skirt and are wearing their blazer. Please note that hoodies – zipped and jumper style - are not allowed and will be confiscated if students are seen wearing them. Students have the option to wear the school jumper under their blazer in these colder months and we also encourage them to wear outdoor coats whilst walking around the site. Your support in maintaining these standards is much appreciated.

With warmest wishes for a lovely week.

Hannah Rowlands
Headteacher

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FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

8 th December	Year 7, 9 & 10 Christmas Lunches
9 th December	Deep Learning Morning for KS3
9 th December	Year 8 & 11 Christmas Lunches Year 11 Mock Results Assembly – parents/carers invited 5.30 – 7.20 p.m. Winter Concert
10 th December	Year 7, 9 & 10 Christmas Lunches
11 th December	Year 8 & 11 Christmas Lunches 4.00 – 7.30 p.m. Year 11 Progress Evening
19 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Term ends at 12.30 p.m.

Congratulations to the following weekly winners of our attendance raffle week ending 21st November 2025:

KS3 – Ellie May A – Year 7
KS4 – Fynley B – Year 11

CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

Last Friday was a fantastic day with over 60 students representing The Dean Academy at the District Cross Country event.

We had winners in 4/6 races:

Inter Girls- Lily Sienna L-H
Junior Girls- Molly H
Minor Girls- Ruby L
Minor Boys- Dexter N

The Dean Academy came a fantastic 3rd position overall.



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YEAR 11 WELLBEING FORTNIGHT

To reward our wonderful Year 11 students for their hard work in the recent mock exams, Assistant Headteacher Mr Fessey has organised a wellbeing fortnight for them packed with lots of fun activities in tutor time. This morning, there was a tug of war event on the astroturf, there will also be a quiz and a cinema afternoon on Friday afternoon in the drama hall with popcorn and hot drinks.





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BEYOND WORDS

As part of our Beyond Words reading programme, 7MR are currently reading the time travelling story, 'A Wrinkle in Time' by Madeleine L'Engle with their tutor Mr Reed. Initially, they found the sci-fi concepts in the book a challenge but they have grown in confidence with their reading and are really enjoying the story. Beyond Words is a great opportunity for our students, from Years 7 to 10, to read some great quality books together and develop a love of reading.





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Joshua B



Keegan B



Myles I



Wade H



STUDENT COUNCIL

Our first School Council Meeting was held this week, in time for UK Parliament Week. They looked at Student Voice on a range of topics and will be taking it back to their tutors to discuss further.



CROCHET CLUB

Crochet Club with Miss Holt is proving popular with our crafty students. It is for all to enjoy, from beginners to pros and everyone in-between! It runs every Wednesday lunchtime for Years 7, 9 and 10 and every Thursday lunchtime for Years 8 and 11 in P4.



Evie H



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Evie, Skye & Penny



Penny E



SCIENCE CLUB

This week's Science stars got into the Christmas spirit crafting snowflake decorations and constructing mini malted milk biscuit lodges (with the benefit of being able to eat them after).





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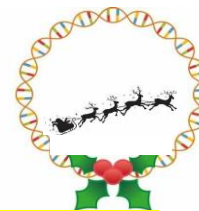
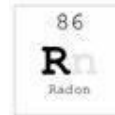
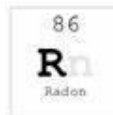
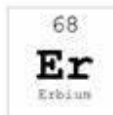
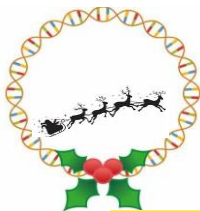
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**CALL FOR SCIENCE,
ENGINEERING OR TECHNOLOGY
SPEAKERS**
11th – 13th March 2026

**If you are willing to talk to our
students and inspire the next
generation of scientists, then
please get in touch today**



KS3 Science Competition!

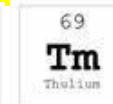
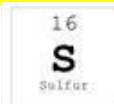
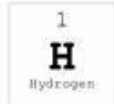
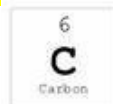
Create an A4 poster explaining the science behind a Christmas phenomenon of your choice!

Some ideas to research may include:

- What is the science responsible for the happy Christmas spirit?
- Which forces help Santa's sleigh flight – how should the sleigh be designed?
 - How do snowflakes and icicles form?
- What is the science behind Santa's Christmas Eve flight?
 - How are the northern lights formed?

Posters are due to Miss Wheatstone Monday the 15th December.

Prizes will be available for the top 3 posters and 30 house points for every entry!





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LOST PROPERTY

LOST PROPERTY ITEMS



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