



## WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN NO 15 – WEEK B

Week Commencing 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Term 3 starts
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Young Minds Matter Assembly

Dear TDA Families

We have made it to the end of the longest term of the academic year! And what a fabulous week it has been to end our term on. TDA has been a real hive of activity and excitement this week, whilst still ensuring that lots of hard work is taking place in lessons and this bumper edition of the bulletin showcases this!

It has been so lovely for our students to be participating in the many community events. This week a group of students visited Nodens Manor Care Home to sing some festive songs and also deliver some Christmas readings; for our young people to give back to the local community a lovely social thing to be able to do. Some of our "Little Shop of Horrors" cast were also in Tesco this week bag packing to raise money for the production – thank you so much to our local community for being so very generous and for the many lovely comments we had including "the kids are a delight", "they are a credit to the school" and "amazingly helpful"!

We have also been celebrating those students who have been embodying our core values of respect, responsibility and readiness with year group rewards assemblies, celebration breakfasts and a Christmas movie morning. On the last day we ended the term on a high with our annual Christmas whole school assembly, with staff and students wearing their Christmas jumpers and festive accessories, including performances from some of our exceptionally talented students. Huge congratulations to our House winners for this term, Cadora House!

This week we held our first Parent Forum meeting – many thanks to those parents/carers who were able to attend and for all of your constructive feedback. One of the suggestions made was to include letters from the previous week in the newsletter so please find included here all letter communication that has been sent out this week. This will be a standing item from now on.

As the term ends, we bid farewell to Mr Hope-Bell, Teaching Assistant, and Mrs Alison Powell, ADP Technician. I'd like to thank them for all of their hard work and contributions during their time at TDA and wish them all the very best for their next steps.



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Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

We will be welcoming students back on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Please can I ask for your support in ensuring that students are arriving punctually and dressed in complete school uniform – we have seen a slight increase in the number of students wearing leggings, trainers and non-school uniform jumpers/hoodies in the lead up to the end of term and it is really important that we start in January as we mean to go on. Please note, that for those students not in full school uniform, we will be contacting home immediately for uniform to be brought in. I very much appreciate your support with this. If you require support with purchasing uniform, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. On this first day back, we will also be spending some time focusing on our core values to ensure that our students are off to the most positive start for the term.

All that is left for me to say is a HUGE thank you to all members of our TDA community for your support this term. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break and, for those of us that celebrate it, a very Merry Christmas. I am very much looking forward to what 2026 holds for this wonderful school of ours!

With warmest festive greetings.

Hannah Rowlands  
Headteacher

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We appreciate that Christmas can be a difficult time for some members of our community – a reminder that the following services are available to everyone should you need any additional support over the holiday period:

\*Talk well: Text: 07520634063 call: 01594372777.

\*Childline: call 0800 1111 or chat online via their webpage

\*Young minds matter: Text 07480635723.

\*Kooth App (wellbeing and mental health) and website: <https://www.kooth.com>

\*Mindful: <https://www.mindful.org>

\*Gloucestershire self-harm helpline: (5-10pm daily) 0808 801 0606. Text: 07537410022

\*Samaritans: call 116123

\*Crimestoppers: 0800555111

\*Hope house sexual assault referral <http://www.hopehouse.nhs.uk/>

\*Gloucestershire rape and sexual abuse support: <http://www.glosrasac.org/>

\*Be well Gloucestershire: email [www.bewellglos.org.uk](http://www.bewellglos.org.uk)

\*Gloucestershire domestic abuse support service: Phone: 01452 726 570 Email: [support@gdass.org.uk](mailto:support@gdass.org.uk)



## LETTERS WHICH HAVE GONE HOME 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

### Year 11 Exam and Revision Information Evening

<https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Year-11-Exam-and-Revision-Info-Evening-2026-Letter.pdf>

### KS3 Mid-Year Report Dec 2025

<https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/KS3-Mid-Year-Report-Dec-2025-Letter.pdf>

### Chroming Letter

<https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Chroming-Letter-Dec-2025.pdf>

## FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

14 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 7 Data Reports to Parents
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Exam Stress Workshop
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 7 Progress Evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 8 Progress Evening

Congratulations to the following weekly winners of our attendance raffle week ending 12<sup>th</sup> December:

KS3 – Ewan M – Year 7

KS4 – Ryan W – Year 10



## SCHOOL PRODUCTION FUNDRAISING

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, cast members of our upcoming school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' went to Tesco in Lydney for some fundraising bag packing sessions. A massive thank you to everyone in the community who has kindly donated, we are so grateful for your generosity and the money raised will go towards props and costumes.



## CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

Students enjoyed a celebration breakfast this morning with Mr Fessey in recognition of having the most positive points (from character awards and participation in extra-curricular clubs) from Terms 1 & 2 in their year group alongside ZERO negatives...a brilliant achievement!





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## YEAR 7 REWARDS & VALUES ASSEMBLY

This week, Year 7s had a special end of term awards assembly with Mr Kelley. Students across the year group were rewarded for Above & Beyond, Community, Kindness, and Resilience and Excellence. Other categories included 100% attendance, Spark and a Tutor Award. Well done all!





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## CAROLS IN THE COMMUNITY

A group of our talented students from our school choir visited the residents of Nodens Manor Care Home in Lydney this week for a special carol concert. There were readings in between each song and April and Tallulah in Year 11 performed 'Walking in the Air'. It was a great festive afternoon, we hope everyone enjoyed the carols!





## SCIENCE CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Thank you to all the students who entered the Science Christmas competition, designing brilliant individual posters explaining scientific phenomena behind the festivities. Well done to Lydia J-B in Year 9 for winning the competition with her creative and detailed entry on Christmas spirit!





## YEAR 8 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Today, our newly appointed Year 8 Student Leadership Team led a special assembly for their year group outlining their plans for 2026. Here they are with our Year 11 Head students. We look forward to working with them in the New Year.





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## EPP

Our Elite Performance Pathway (EPP) students have been training hard across term one and two. This week, they had a break from training and enjoyed some Christmas fun playing winter warriors during their sessions before school.



## YEAR 10 ARCHERY TWINS

Ava and Amber recently competed in the Junior National Indoor Championships and Home Nations Cup. Ava and Amber shot in the U15 Women's Recurve category. Sadly, Ava experienced an injury with 15 arrows to shoot and due to this dropped some points but battled on to finish with Silver and Amber in 5<sup>th</sup> in what was a very close-run battle. Ava's determination to finish gave England enough points to take the Gold for the U21 Women's Recurve and England took home Gold overall. Fantastic, well done!







Betsy :

Big writes Music

I would compose a piece about climate change that sounds like the rain forest. The main instruments I would choose are a triangle, and maybe a shaker. The ~~prog~~ performance could be powered by wind, which shows the wind in the rain forest. Music can help people care about the environment by listening to the sounds that sound like nature.

10y -

I think that we should preserve the heritage of the forest of dean for future generations.

Bringing back mining to the forest of dean would damage the local environment and wouldn't be worth the time. This is because burning coal is a non-renewable energy source leading to an increase in CO<sub>2</sub>, therefore, this will contribute to climate change.

Also, restoring mining areas wouldn't be worth the money of the time. This is because it would cost a lot of money to restore old mines to their former glory and the part of the reason mining stopped in the first place was because coal is a finite energy source and it was running out.

Keeping recreation and conservation is the best option because the natural environment and abundance of wildlife is what the Forest of Dean is best known for. This is because the Forest of Dean has been one of the largest ancient forests in the world. Therefore if we took that away it would take away our main source of income. However, this would lead to a damage to the local economy.

In conclusion, keeping recreation and conservation in the forest of dean is the best option for the local economy, and the forest itself.



Diamond...

### Big Write: Music

The main instruments I would choose to play the piano because it's fun to play and it's peaceful for music and climate change. I would compose a piece about climate change that sounds slow and steady and not too fast. I would set the tempo to be mid because the listener feel calm, relaxed and easy to understand because they wouldn't if the song was too fast. The performance could be powered by wind and nature noises because it's about peace with climate change too make the world a better place for the atmosphere and environment.

Zoe  
10KM

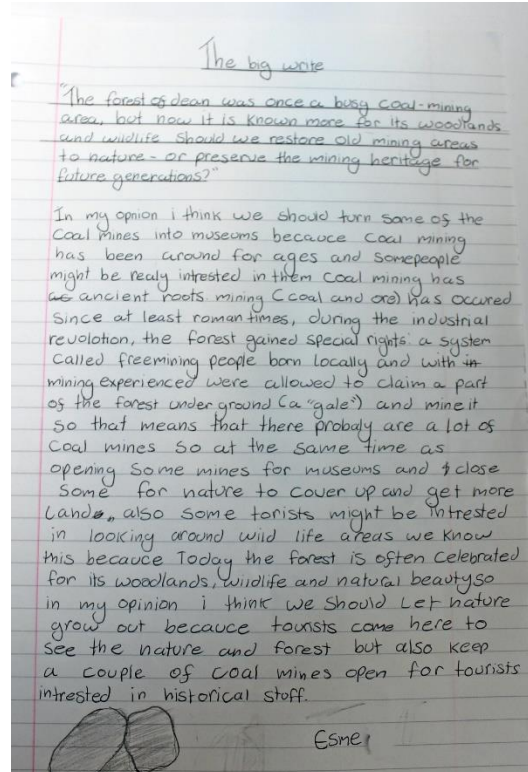
### The big write:

"the impact of climate change on endangered species:  
who is responsible for their survival?"

Climate change threatens endangered species by taking away their habitat and their food. Most animals nowadays are endangered, and species are dropping one by one. This is also a big chain, this is because if a species are endangered, and become extinct, and a predator preys on that certain species, that's their food completely gone. This cycle will most likely repeat and repeat.

Humans have a responsibility to protect wildlife because no animal can control what is happening to them and put a stop to this themselves. Humans have caused climate change, meaning they can stop it too. Humans are the most responsible and independent species and right now aren't showing it. We have the most control over this, and we are killing innocent animals.

I think that if the public cannot do this themselves, which most likely they can't, then the government should help. The government now don't do a lot to protect animals, meaning they could do a lot more. The government have the most control over this and choose not to help.





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## YEAR 8 ART

Year 8s have been working hard this term on their African mask project in their Art lessons with Mrs Charles and have created these stunning designs using watercolour, oil pastels and pencil. Well Done!





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## NURTURE GROUP

Students in Nurture Group have made some lovely festive cards and calendars. Great work!

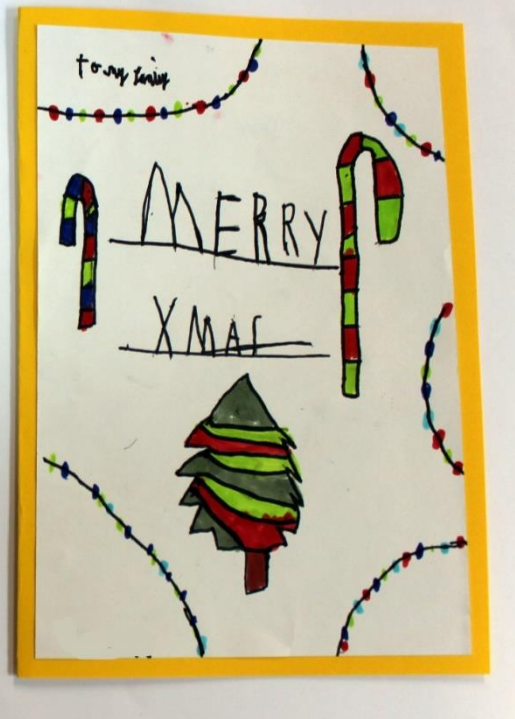




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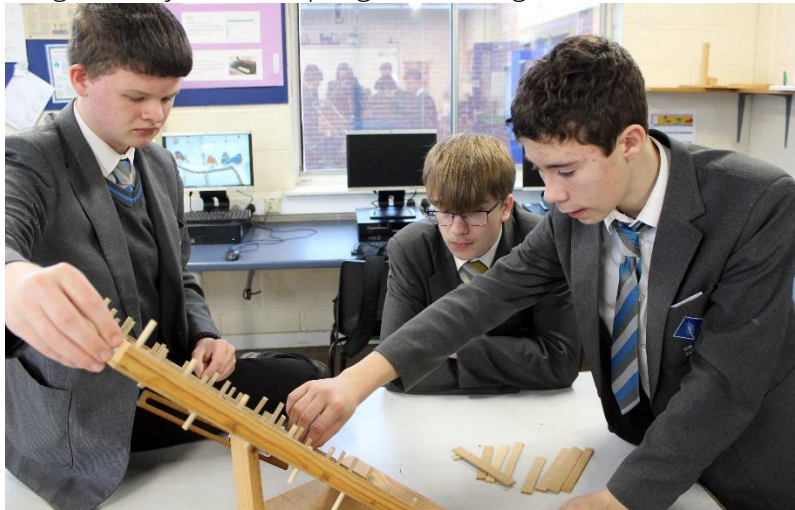
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## YEAR 10 MARBLE RUN CHALLENGE

Year 10s have been enjoying a Marble Run Challenge in their Engineering lessons with Ms Collier this week, a great way to develop logical thinking skills.

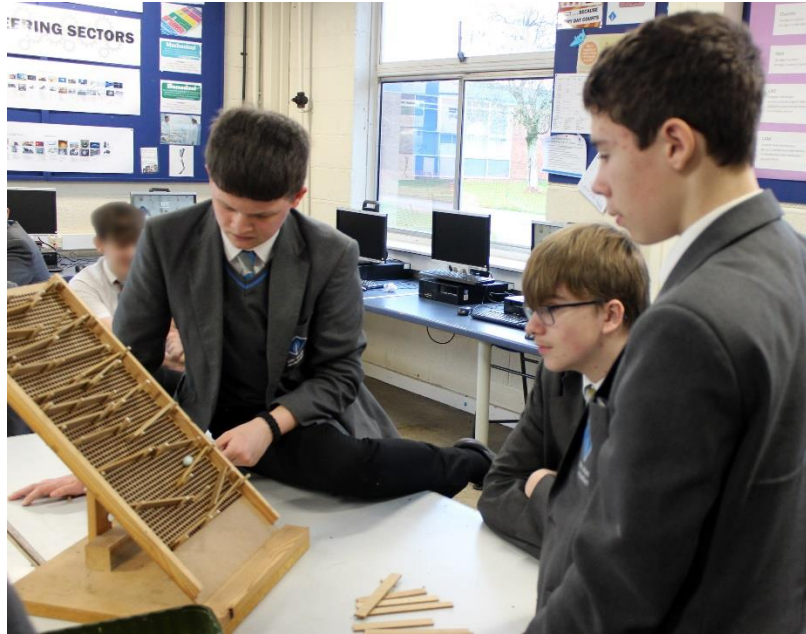




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## YEAR 9 AUTOMATA PROJECT

Year 9s have been making some fantastic automata in their D&T lessons this term with Mr Winstanley.





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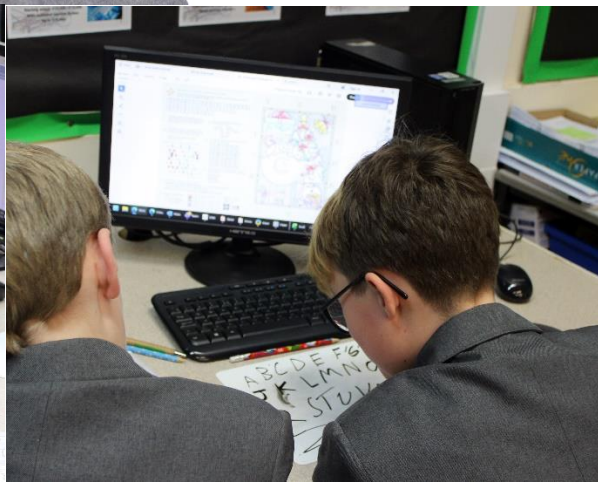
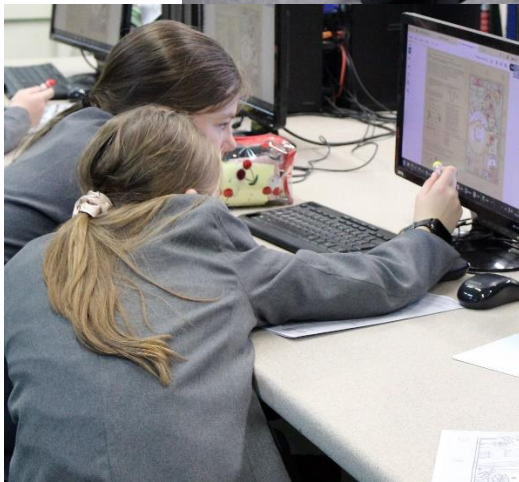
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## GCHQ CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

This week, in Computing, our students have been taking part in the GCHQ annual Christmas Challenge. They have been busy code breaking and solving puzzles to unlock a secret message.





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## SCIENCE CLUB

To wrap up a fun term of Science Club, the Science stars took part in the annual chocolate reindeer drop! The aim was to creatively craft protection from 3 different materials so their reindeer could survive the forces and shock from a large fall. We can happily report that no chocolate reindeers (surviving and not surviving) were wasted in the process.

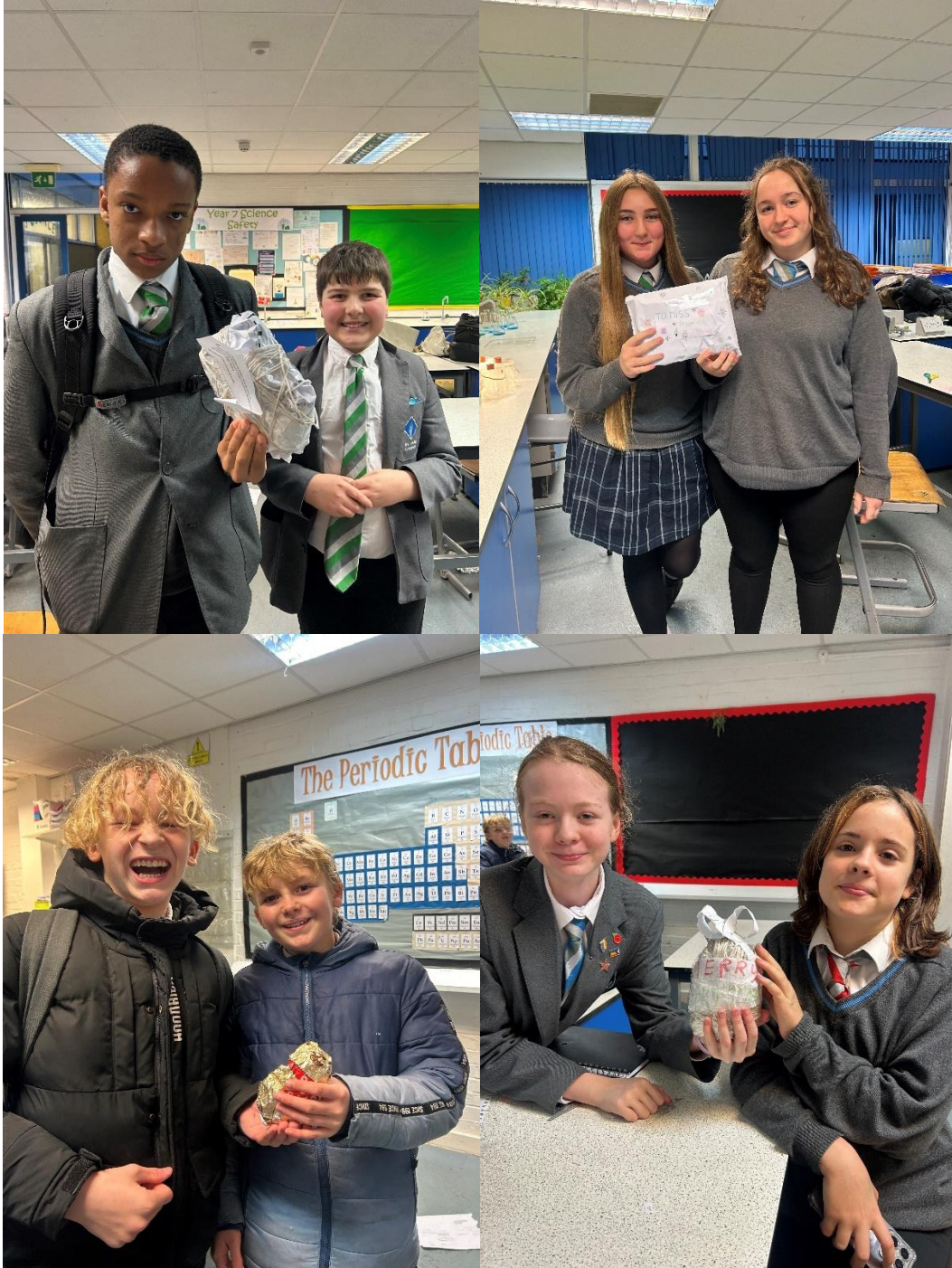
A big thank you from Miss Wheatstone to all those who attended this term. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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## YEAR 11 FOOD TECHNOLOGY ROLE MODEL

A group of our Year 7s enjoyed watching Josh in Year 11 cooking churros in the Food Technology rooms. Josh is officially their new role model; they were totally in awe of his cooking skills.

