



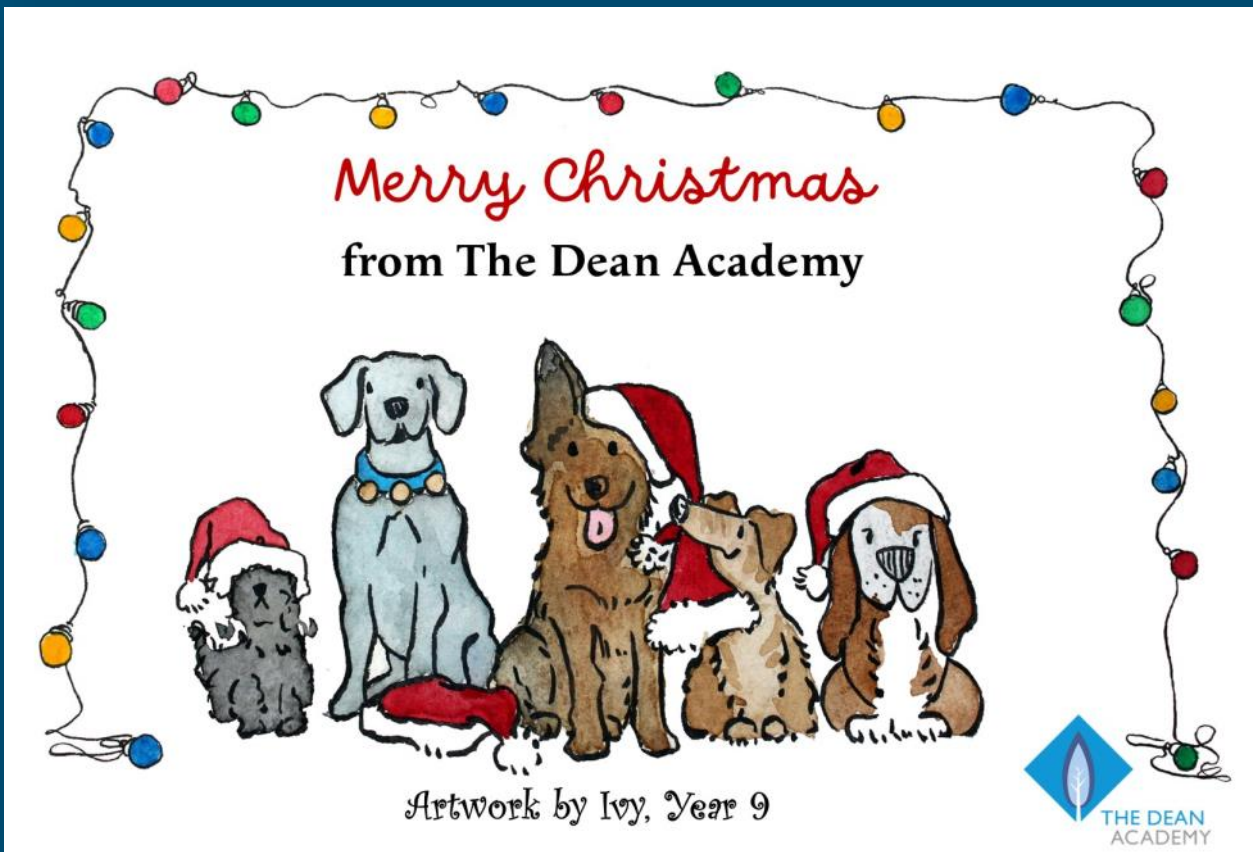
The Dean

The Magazine of The Dean Academy



Issue 39

Winter 2025



**Featured in
this edition:**

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Update from the Headteacher

Dear TDA Families,

What a brilliant two terms we have had here at The Dean Academy. It is incredibly impressive to see all of the fabulous things that have been taking place since the school year started in September. One of the best parts of my job is being able to take visitors to the school on tours and it is so lovely to walk in to lessons and see focused students, working hard and proud of all the brilliant work that they are doing under the expert teaching of our staff.

In addition to the excellent academic work that has been taking place in school, I have been so impressed by all of the activities that students have been getting involved in outside of the classroom as part of our extensive extra-curricular programme; from Dance Club to Photography Club to Zoology Club to Basketball Club to Karaoke Club ... our staff have gone above and beyond to provide these additional opportunities for our students.

It has also been so lovely to extend our links with the local community with our students visiting some of the local care homes and performing some festive songs and readings as well as participation in events at the local church. This, alongside some of the trips and visits opportunities to places such as Jamie's Farm, Bristol Zoo Project, Oxstalls Arena CyberFirst Empowerment event, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and visits to other schools in The Athelstan Trust. It all really does go to show what a wonderful community of students, parents/carers, governors and staff we are here at The Dean Academy.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable break and for those that celebrate Christmas a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher



The Dean Academy is one of ten schools that form The Athelstan Trust. Together, we share expertise, resources, and a commitment to delivering the very best education. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of Trustees and Governors - all volunteers - work tirelessly to ensure

our schools are well-run and ready to embrace both challenges and opportunities.

We're looking for new voices to join us. Could that be you?

We need individuals to support our Trustee Resources Committee, and we're especially keen to hear from those with financial management experience or an accountancy qualification. You don't need a background in education - just a desire to make a real difference. By sharing your skills, you'll help shape the future of thousands of young people across our Trust. Meetings take place approximately 5 times a year and you will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

For an initial chat or to find out more, please contact Kate Bashford, Governance Professional on admin@theathelstantrust.org

School Terms & Holidays 2025 - 2026

TERM 3	BEGINS ENDS	Monday 5 th January Friday 13 th February (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February
TERM 4	BEGINS INSET DAY ENDS	Monday 23 rd February Monday 9 th March Friday 27 th March (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April
TERM 5	BEGINS MAY-DAY HOL ENDS	Monday 13 th April Monday 4 th May Friday 22 nd May (3.15 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May
TERM 6	BEGINS TRUST INSET DAY ENDS	Monday 1 st June Friday 26 th June Tuesday 21 st July (12.30 p.m.)
	HOLIDAY	Wednesday 22nd July – Monday 31st August

Version 1-2025 – 2026 holidays

You can read the full Ofsted report here: www.thedeanacademy.org/ofsted/



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Remembrance

To mark Remembrance Day there was a special assembly in tutor time and at 11am the whole school gathered outside to observe a two minute silence to remember all those who lost their lives. Students from each year group read out the Remembrance exhortation and April, in Year 11, played the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'. A huge thank you to Mr Rudge, the Standard Bearer for the Royal British Legion in Lydney, for joining us this morning to observe the two minute silence.



Abi, in Year 11, has been busy giving up her spare time, once again, selling poppies in the local community. Abi was recently recognised for her amazing work for The Poppy Appeal and was presented with a Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Review Local Community Hero Award!



On Remembrance Sunday, our Head students, Alfie and Ava-Lily, did a fantastic job proudly representing The Dean Academy at the Remembrance Service in Lydney.



Year 11s

Year 11 Wellbeing Fortnight

To reward our wonderful Year 11 students for their hard work in the recent mock exams, Assistant Headteacher Mr Fessey organised a wellbeing fortnight for them packed with lots of fun activities in tutor time. They enjoyed a tug of war event on the Astroturf, a quiz and a cinema afternoon.



Year 11 Mock Results Assembly



It was great to see so many parents at our Year 11 mock results assembly. We hope they all found it helpful in the countdown to the GCSE exams in the summer. It was a great opportunity to celebrate our top 10 students for progress in the mocks, they each received a festive prize. Names were also pulled out of our 'Embrace the Geek' raffle, well done to the prize winners who were entered for their hard work!



Our top 10 students for progress in the mocks



DofE Awards and Information Evening

It was great to celebrate the success of our wonderful silver and bronze DofE students at our Awards Evening where they each received their certificates for completing their DofE Award. Well done all!



Grade 5 Singing

Massive congratulations to April and Tallulah in Year 11 who received their Grade 5 Singing for Musical Theatre Performance certificate. Well done!



Bursary Winner

Congratulations to our amazing Evan in Year 10! In October, Evan won the Drybrook District & Ladies Choirs Margaret Rose Bursary and received £1000 to go towards his future career in Music and Performance.

Evan performed 'Faint' on drums by Linkin Park and rapped 'Alphabet Aerobics' by Blackalicious. Well done. **Mr J Peacock**



Celebration Breakfast



Over the term, students have been invited to celebration breakfasts with the headteacher in recognition of their hard work and achievements.



Scholar Awards Evening

We held our inaugural Scholar Awards Evening which was a wonderful celebration of all the hard work and successes of our fantastic students.

There were some great musical performances from Tilly, Alfie, Evan, Tallulah and April, and we welcomed back students who left in the summer to collect their awards.

Huge congratulations to Kara who was The Dean Academy's Overall Scholar, she collected her trophy from Ben Horton, an alumni of the school, who gave an inspirational speech.

Since leaving the school in 2010, Ben has gone on to do some amazing things including studying at Oxford, travelling and enjoying a successful career in International Affairs and Communication. A former Head Boy at the school, Ben has some wonderful memories of his time here and said that many of his experiences at the school were building blocks for his future.



Congratulations to Kara who was The Dean Academy's Overall Scholar



Former student, Ben's advice to our students was "to go out there, do something that feels meaningful to you, say yes to opportunities and meet lots of new people".



Christmas at The Dean Academy

Our Restaurant staff worked incredibly hard serving up Christmas dinners with all the trimmings for our students. The school restaurant looked very festive with its beautiful Christmas tree and table decorations.



Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Ivy in Year 9 who created this stunning Christmas card design!



Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert was a wonderful evening and a great musical showcase for our talented students. There were performances from the school choir, the school band as well as piano, singing and guitar solos. The packed audience were also treated to a song from our upcoming school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. A big well done to Tilly in Year 11 for raising money for her charity 'Grief Encounter' and to Toby in Year 10 for selling some delicious mince pies!



Carols in the Community

Members of our school choir visited the residents of the retirement home Goode Court in Lydney this week for a festive performance of Christmas carols. It was a great afternoon and they all enjoyed a lovely mince pie after with Revd Nina Summerfield!



Beyond Words Reading

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.



Year 10 GROWS Session

Year 10s enjoyed a fun session with GROWS where they played the 'Uni Game of Life' board game which was a great way for them to think about the various challenges and realities of life at university.

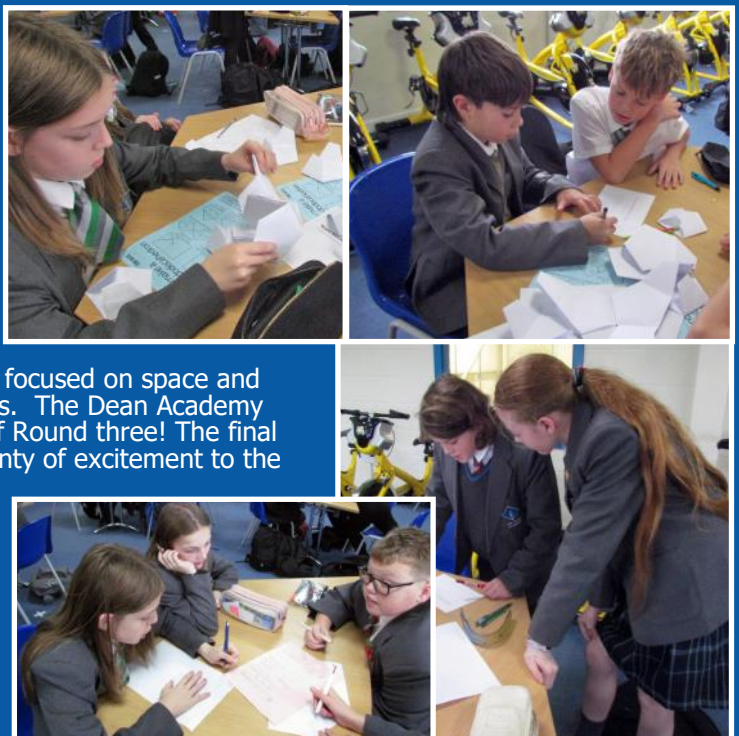


Year 7 Maths Challenge

This term, twelve enthusiastic Year 7 students travelled to Bradon Forest school to take part in this year's Maths Challenge, forming three teams of four. We were privileged to be included in the host school's Remembrance Day parade, where students observed the two-minute silence with respect and maturity.

Afterward, everyone headed to the sports gallery for the competition. Round one tested quick thinking with multiple-choice problems, followed by a tricky Maths crossword in Round two. Round three focused on space and shape, including a challenge involving dodecahedrons. The Dean Academy excelled in this round and emerged as the winners of Round three! The final round was an energetic Maths relay that brought plenty of excitement to the competition. Although we didn't bring home a prize this time, every student gave their best and showcased excellent teamwork and resilience.

The trip offered far more than just mathematical problem-solving. Students enjoyed meeting peers from another school, building confidence, strengthening friendships, and experiencing a new environment. Fun was had by all, and the group represented both themselves and the school wonderfully; they really did us proud! **Mrs L Wells**



Out & About

CyberFirst Empower Trip

A group of our Year 8 and 9 students travelled to the University of Gloucestershire, Oxstalls Campus for a special CyberFirst Empower event. They took part in some exciting workshops from companies such as BT, IBM and many more. They worked on their cybersecurity skills and did some code breaking and programming whilst earning prizes along the way. The key aim of the event was to educate and inspire them about cyber security and highlight the opportunities available.



Bristol Zoo Project

A group of our Year 8 SPARK Science students enjoyed a fantastic day at The Bristol Zoo Project. They attended an informative session on the biodiverse country of Madagascar, learning about some of the endemic species which reside there, such as the Madagascar hissing cockroach. They were able to hold and look at biofacts that had been confiscated from customs, and they played an interactive game about the importance of conservation to endangered species. Students also visited the enclosures of many animals including bears, giraffes and lemurs, where they were able to observe and speak to dedicated volunteers about their behaviours and feeding habits.

Miss M Wheatstone



Jamie's Farm Residential

A group of students stepped out of their comfort zone for a 'life swap' on Jamie's Farm. They got stuck in looking after all of the animals including lots of young calves, pigs, sheep and horses. We were extremely proud of them all. They were focused, supportive to their peers, very hardworking and up for every challenge. They climbed a Welsh mountain, went on the wettest walk ever experienced on Jamie's Farm before and did everything with brilliant humour and massive smiles on their faces. **Miss K Musto**



Year 10 Music Trip to Gloucester Cathedral

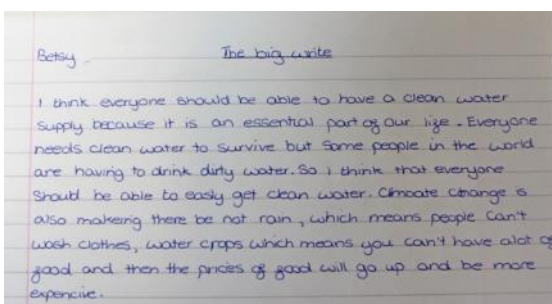
Our Year 10 GCSE Music students had an amazing time in Gloucester for the annual Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra set works performance. Students listened to amazing live performances of Bach, Beethoven and many more. They also gained some excellent knowledge to help them with their GCSE compositions.

Mr J Peacock



The Big Write Challenge

Students across all year groups took part in the 'Big Write' challenge, an extended writing task on the theme of climate change and sustainability. The challenge was designed to help improve writing skills, enhance creativity and develop critical thinking. Our students rose to the challenge admirably and produced some fantastic pieces of work! Well done.



Clubs

Chess Club

Some friendly competition in Chess Club. The club runs every Monday and Friday lunchtime in P1.



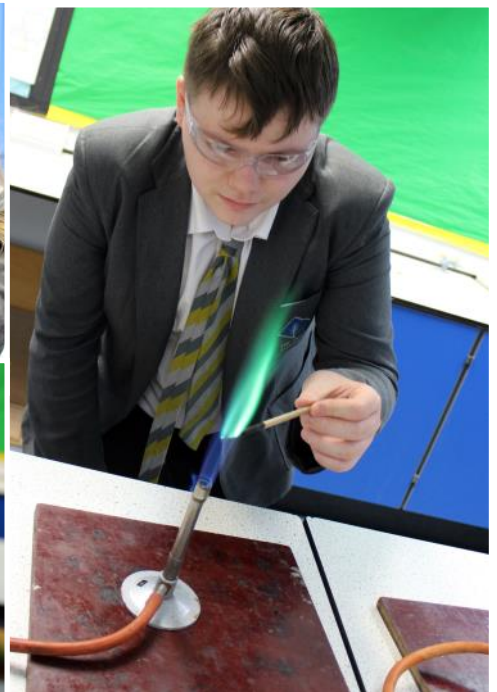
Minecraft Club

In their lunch breaks, Year 7 students are enjoying Minecraft Club in the Computing rooms with Miss Joubert. In the club, they play Minecraft Education, which allows them all to join the same world and play together in groups.



Science Arts and Crafts Club

Members of the Science Arts and Crafts Club had great festive fun this term learning about fireworks, carving pumpkins, making colourful salt crystal Christmas decorations, as well as many more fun activities! The club runs afterschool every Wednesday with Miss Wheatstone.



Crochet Club

Crochet Club, with Miss Holt, is proving popular with our crafty students. It's 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.



Photography Club



Photography Club members had fun playing with perspective and creating these brilliant images!



Art Sessions

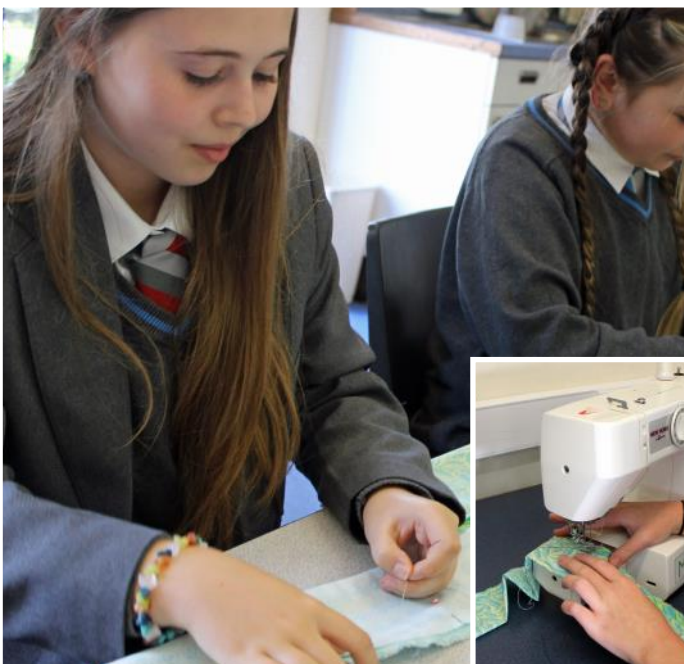
We hope that the Year 5 pupils from Clearwell Primary School enjoyed their Art session with Mrs Barnes.

They created some wonderful portraits using pictures of fruit and vegetables collaged together.



Textiles Club

In Textiles Club students have been developing their sewing skills. They made some lovely scrunchies and Christmas stockings!



Open Evening 2025

It was wonderful to welcome so many families to our school for our annual Open Evening. There were lots of fun Science experiments in the labs, there was a murder mystery to solve in MFL and a desert island dilemma in Philosophy. There were various musical performances from our talented students and a talk from our Head students Alfie and Ava.

In the Food Technology rooms there was an opportunity to get hands on and make some delicious chocolate cup cakes and in the school canteen families could sample food from the menu.

Our DofE students set up camp and were toasting marshmallows for all to enjoy.

Once again, it was our wonderful students who made the event a great success, from helping out in departments and acting as tour guides, they were all a real credit to the school and are incredible role models!



Student Council

We held our first School Council meeting, 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. **Mrs T Adams**



Book Fair

Our fantastic Reading Ambassadors did a brilliant job organising the Book Fair this term. They not only assisted with the running of the fair but they also organised some fun literary activities for students to enjoy in their lunchbreaks.



Fantastic Fundraisers

We are incredibly proud of Lily-Sienna in Year 10 who ran 15km recently to celebrate her 15th birthday and raise money for Cancer Research UK. She wanted to use the milestone as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer. Lily-Sienna was supported by her fantastic friends Bella and Molly who completed the challenge with her. We applaud you all! Well done.



Well done Toby, in Year 10, who set himself an incredible fundraising challenge, to run 3k every day throughout October. He was out and about running in the mornings and evenings come rain or shine to raise awareness and money for the charity Fowlers Syndrome UK, which is something very close to his heart. Toby raised an incredible £675 for the charity, well done!



OUR
HELLO YELLOW DAY
RAISED
£327.44 !!
#HelloYellow



The Dean Academy Community

Visit from Local MP

This term, we received a visit from Matt Bishop MP who is visiting many of the schools in the Forest of Dean. Matt met with some of our senior students and students applying to be part of our shadow Year 8 senior student body. They had the opportunity to ask questions on what it is like to be an MP and his journey into politics. They also shared with him what they feel are the issues facing young people in Lydney and the surrounding areas and were very confident in vocalising what they think can be done. Mrs Rowlands commented "We were incredibly proud that our young people felt self-assured enough to be able to speak up and share their thoughts in such a respectful and eloquent manner."

Matt Bishop MP said "It was great to visit The Dean Academy and meet with Headteacher Mrs Rowlands and a group of students. I really appreciated having the chance for a proper chat with them and hearing their thoughts on the issues that matter most to young people. They asked me questions about both local and national topics, and it was brilliant to see their enthusiasm and interest. I'm looking forward to working with secondary schools to create more opportunities that help young people feel confident and supported as they make decisions about their future. Their voices matter, and ensuring they feel empowered to use them is so important. The Dean Academy is doing exactly that - creating an environment where students can openly share their views on the issues that matter most to them."



Local Heroes

We are super proud of Kenzie and Riley in Year 9, who helped a member of the public and their dog, who were in distress. They were awarded a special certificate by our Headteacher, Mrs Rowlands, for their outstanding contribution and support to the local community!



Therapy Dog

This term, we were delighted to welcome therapy dog, Pan, into our school community. Pan is a trained therapy dog who has been working in schools for 4 years supporting young people. Pan will be visiting us once a week working with a select group of students to support with confidence and resilience. He will also be listening to students reading aloud and will help our Year 11s with their revision!



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