



WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN NO 26 – WEEK A

Week Commencing 13th April 2026

Monday 13 th April	Term 5 starts
Tuesday 14 th April	Governors in School Day
Wednesday 15 th April	DofE Year 10 Silver Practice Community Awards Evening
Thursday 16 th April	DofE Year 10 Silver Practice
Friday 17 th April	DofE Year 10 Silver Practice

Dear TDA Families,

This last week of term has been an incredibly busy one! As you will see from this newsletter there has been a wealth of extra-curricular activities taking place.

Over 50 students participated in an overnight practice expedition for their bronze Duke of Edinburgh. Feedback from all of the staff who accompanied them is that the students demonstrated excellent responsibility and resilience throughout the expedition and did incredibly well. Well done to all of the students and thank you to Mr Kelley, Miss Joubert, Ms Collier and Miss Wheatstone for accompanying the students and to Mr Webb for his support beforehand and Mrs Price for supporting at the camp.

This week we also had students who participated in the Senior National Reading Championships as part of the National Year of Reading. Our Reading Ambassadors displayed the very best of themselves – thank you to them and Miss Radcliffe for representing TDA so well.

It was also a big week for our Year 11 students as they received their results from their second round of mock exams in an assembly that was well attended by parents and carers – thank you to those who came along! We also had our final Year 11 Progress Evening where we were able to discuss how we can support our young people in these final few weeks before their exams start. A whopping 94 students have signed up for our Easter revision school which is brilliant – we look forward to working with them. Thank you to all staff who are giving up their well-earned holiday time to support our students. We know a lot of our young people are unable to attend because of other commitments but lots of conversations were had at Progress Evening about work these students could be completing over the break – the commitment of our Class of 2026 to their preparation for these exams is hugely admirable.



Remember to intersperse the revision with some well-earned down time to look after your wellbeing too!

Our Year 10s also had a busy week with Mock Interviews taking place. We welcomed local business owners, parents and carers, members of our Local Governing Board and Trustees to TDA over the course of 2 days to support with the process – a huge thank you to these individuals giving up their time. The Year 10s represented themselves incredibly well.

Finally, we wish Mr Jack Peacock a fond farewell as he departs TDA after working here for 6 years. During this time Mr Peacock has transformed the Music department with more students participating in peripatetic and extra-curricular music session than ever before and the number of students engaging in GCSE music at an all time high. I would like to formally thank Mr Peacock wish him all the very best and wish him well in his relocation to the East of England – his new school are very lucky to have him! The Music department is being left in the very safe hands of Dr Matthews and Mr Peacock's tutor group will be taken on by Mr Davis who joins us in the Science department as a new teacher shortly after the Easter break. Mr Kelley will work hard to ensure a smooth pastoral transition for those students in 7JP.

The Easter newsletter has been distributed which celebrates everything that has taken place here at TDA over the last term.

I would like to wish everyone in our TDA community a lovely Easter break and we very much look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 13th April.

Hannah Rowlands
Headteacher

@thedeacademyofficial



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LETTERS SENT HOME W/C 23rd MARCH 2026:

Year 6 Stepping Up To Secondary School 2026

<https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Year-6-Stepping-Up-To-Sec-School-2026-Letter.pdf>

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

23 rd April	Year 9 Progress Evening
24 th April	Year 9 DRP/ccinations
28 th , 29 th April & 1 st May	School Performance



ATTENDANCE RAFFLE

Congratulations to the following weekly winners of our attendance raffle week ending 20th March 2026:

KS3 – Kian J – Year 7
KS4 – Avah N – Year 11

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION WEEK ENDING 20th MARCH

Group	% Attend
Year 7	93.2
Year 8	91.4
Year 9	92.8
Year 10	89.6
Year 11	92.8
Totals	91.9

Year 7

7EJW	97.9
7BG	95.3
7AU	93.5
7KG	92.9
7MR	90.6
7JP	89.3

Year 8

8PMC	96.3
8JJ	94.8
8EJB	92.5
8HM	90.8
8DRW	88.4
8KLC	85.2

Year 9

9AM	95.2
9CJB	94.2
9ER	94
9NKM	91.6
9FP	91
9APH	90.9

Year 10

10MRW	97.1
10MT	92.1
10NEP	90
10SCO	89.3
10NK	88
10KM	83.7

Year 11

11CEM	97
11RT	95.3
11KBB	95
11AW	84.5



'GOOD EGGS'

These are our fantastic 'Good Eggs'. Each student was nominated by their tutor as an all-round 'good egg', contributing in a positive way to our school community. They each received a certificate from the Headteacher, an Easter egg and a hot chocolate in the school restaurant. Well done all!



BRONZE DofE PRACTICE EXPEDITION

Over 50 Bronze DofE students went out this week on their first ever practice expedition around Symonds Yat. They all persevered in the wind and the rain and came together as a group setting up at the campsite and making their own dinner. They should all be really proud of themselves, they demonstrated teamwork, determination, and resilience! We can't wait to see them shine again on their qualifying expedition in June!



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DANCE TRIP TO LONDON

A group of our Year 10 Performing Arts students travelled to London last Friday for the 'Move It' Dance event at the Excel Arena. It was a great day filled with performances from various dance companies, as well as workshops for the students and lots of stalls and information for all things dance!



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SENIOR NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS

On Friday, a group of our wonderful Reading Ambassadors took part in the **Senior National Reading Champions**. They took part in eight rounds of intense and challenging questions - surrounding all genres of texts. This is something they have been revising for and giving up their lunch times to practise!

Both teams were absolute credits to the school - they took part in every small task they were asked - including dancing and thumb drawing!





YEAR 10 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Our Year 10 students stepped confidently into the world of work this week, taking part in mock interviews designed to build their communication skills and self-belief. From answering challenging questions to presenting themselves professionally, they rose to the occasion with maturity and enthusiasm. A fantastic experience helping them prepare for their future pathways. Thank you so much to all our volunteers and to everyone involved!



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Kian



Marlow



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Abigail



Ryan



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YOUNG MATHEMATICAL STORY AUTHORS (YMSA) COMPETITION 2026

We had some fantastic entries for the Young Mathematical Story Authors Competition 2026. The international story writing challenge is a great way for students to develop both mathematical understanding and literacy skills by creating their own mathematical story picture books. Well done!



Zoey R



Raya A

Emily B



The ball shot past, missing player after player. He saw the ball hit the back of the goal. Time stood still and all was silent in the stadium. A low rumble of cheers slowly erupted from the crowd. No one could believe it, they had done it.

Archie ran around the pitch, his eyes swelling with tears. At last he could breathe and relax, knowing full well he had earned the victory. The trophy felt cold and metallic. As he lifted it into the air, he stumbled back, exhausted. He couldn't help but let a smile plaster across his face.

Emily



Raya



Zoey

YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS ASSEMBLY

Yesterday we held our very last Year 11 Mock Results Assembly before they start their GCSEs in the summer. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all of their achievements and successes so far. It was great to see so many parents coming in to celebrate with their child. Congratulations to our top 10 performing students who each received a prize from Mr Fessey. Good luck everyone for the summer exams!



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YEAR 7 RE

This week, in their RE lessons with Mrs Porter, Year 7 students have been studying the life of Jesus and were looking at symbolism in various images of Mary.



Lottie





YEAR 7 ART PROJECT

Year 7s have been exploring Aboriginal art in their Art lessons with Mrs Charles this term and they have just completed their final piece for the project. Mrs Charles was really impressed with the beautiful designs that they have created on their boomerangs! Well done.





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EPIC GARDEN PROJECT

We're working on brightening up the soil area behind our room in EPIC and would really appreciate any help with plants. If you have spare garden plants or seedlings you could



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share, we'd be very grateful. I am more than happy to come and collect should it be needed. Thank you Mrs Horne, EPIC.



MAKE IT TIDY BIKING

The new FREE FoD bike project

Thursday 9th April 10am-4pm @ ArtSpace Cinderford

11-19 years old?

Like bikes (pedal bikes)?

Want to be able to look after/repair your bike?

Want to find out more about riding bikes in the forest?

Come along! Drop in or stay all day

Your bikes, siblings and parents/carers welcome but not required

What is **MiT**B all about?

A community of riders helping you to:

Keep a tidy bike

Bike maintenance support, access to tools and support to source affordable bikes/bike parts

Be a tidy biker

Keeping the forest tidy. "be nice say hi"

Do some tidy biking

Bike riding, safety and set up tips



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27th & 28th May 2026

CSI:
crime scene investigation

A 2 DAY EVENT FOR YEAR 10 STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CRIME BASED COURSES.
VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE, FCH CAMPUS

BOOK NOW VIA
GROWS WEBSITE

GROWSACLK
encouraging higher aspirations

GROWS.AC.UK/CSI

PULSECSI
LEAVE CONTACT LEAVES A TRACE

Mark the date. Bring the detective mindset!

GROWS events are free, fun, & help you make career choices and new friends!

At GROWS we have been providing support, guidance, assemblies, and amazing events for years. We know how hard it can be to link what you like doing to a career or even a subject you can study. Feedback from students and parents / carers is always amazing, we hear of new confidence, a motivation to study, new career choices, new friendship groups and much more. So, take your chance and make your free time work for you. Try new things, make new friends, feel and experience life on campus.

Our two-day CSI experience is a fantastic way to try your hand at solving a crime by investigating a crime scene using a range of forensic techniques to pinpoint the suspect. You also have the opportunity to explore probation, rehabilitation and what happens after being sentenced for a crime.



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When: Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th May (May Half Term)**

Where: University of Gloucestershire, Francis Close Hall Campus, Cheltenham

Why take part: Your chance to see if it is as simple as it seems on TV! Find out about specific courses and careers while building team working skills and extra-curricular experiences for your CV, you might just get the chance to make some new lifelong friends!

How to apply: Apply online at <http://www.grows.ac.uk/csi> *

You can sign up to GROWS and find all our events at www.grows.ac.uk together with our resources, guides and more. We don't spam you, all the information we send is relevant for your year of study and we don't share your data with anyone. You can also join us socially at: **TikTok**

@growsnetwork & Facebook @growsgloucestershire

If you or your young person has any questions or would like further information, do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

GROWS TEAM grows@glos.ac.uk

Both events are completely free of charge and GROWS will cover the cost of food and all activities. If transport is a barrier, let us know as alternative options can be explored. GROWS work hard to meet the needs of all students, if you have any concerns, please give us a call. If your child is not feeling confident in attending, we can arrange for a previous attendee from their school to chat to them or have a conversation directly. We can issue an advance agenda for peace of mind, visits to site etc Please note, priority places will be given to those students who meet certain criteria. ** Students are expected to attend both days of each event*