



WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN NO 37 – WEEK B

Week Commencing 6 th July 2026	
Monday 6 th July	Year 6 Stepping Up Day Preparing for Adulthood (Year 9 & 10 EHCP)
Tuesday 7 th July	Year 6 Stepping Up Day 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Athelstan Festival of Speech & Debate 10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. Year 6 Uniform Event (prior booking only) 2.20 p.m. Year 6 Parent Information Session
Wednesday 8 th July	DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition
Thursday 9 th July	DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition
Friday 10 th July	DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition Cross Trust Science Competition – Year 8

Dear TDA families,

As we embark on the penultimate full week of the school year things are remaining busy here at TDA with much to celebrate and look forward to.

Last week saw us invite Year 5 students from some of our feeder primary schools. Students participated in an “average” day at TDA, participating in a range of different lessons. We also welcomed Year 5 parents in for tours and they were able to see TDA in action. It was so lovely to be able to invite prospective members of our school community in to see lessons and meet with some of our brilliant students. Many of our primary colleagues commented upon the exceptional conduct of our student helpers who were wonderful advocates for our school.

This week we are welcoming our Class of 2031 through the gates of TDA for their stepping up days. This is always an incredibly exciting time as the start of a 5-year journey for these students. We hope that they have an enjoyable couple of days with us and we very much look forward to them joining our TDA community.

Last week our Year 7s also participated in their Year 7 Sports Day. We hope that they enjoyed the first of these annual events. We also had our very first “staff games” where colleagues competed against each other! It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together.

As you may be aware, last Monday the DfE introduced new legislation making it now a statutory requirement that schools are “smartphone free” for the entirety of the school day. At present, we have not adjusted our mobile phone procedures – the rules remain that students in Years 7 & 8 must hand their phones in at the beginning of the school day for storage and students in Years 9 & 10 must have them turned off and in their bags. If a student has their phone out, we will confiscate the phone, as has always been our policy. More communication about our plans for next year will be coming out next



week. As always, those students who require their mobile phones on them to support with medical needs will be exempt.

Finally, you will have seen from communication at the end of last week that we have made uniform adjustments for this week in light of the forecast for a return to the hot weather. As a gentle reminder, students are welcome to wear:

- **Normal school uniform** (shirt, tailored trousers/tailored shorts/school skirt) – they will have a choice whether they wish to wear a tie or not
- **School PE Kit** – as a gentle reminder this is our TDA PE T-shirt with black bottoms of either leggings/sports shorts/mid-thigh length cycling shorts. Can we kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child IS NOT wearing crocs/flip flops/sandals, vest style tops or hot pant style shorts (of the Nike pro style). For those students that do come to school wearing these, they will be expected to borrow some of our spare kit or wait for a parent/carer to bring appropriate kit in. Thank you in advance for helping us to reinforce these expectations.

We also advise students to bring in a refillable water bottle, to ensure that they are wearing sunscreen and to wear an appropriate sun hat when in outdoor areas. We will of course continue to monitor the forecast and the guidance given to us.

Wishing you all a lovely (and hopefully not too hot!) week ahead.

Hannah Rowlands
Headteacher

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LETTERS SENT HOME W/C 29th JUNE 2026

Work Experience Letter - <https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Year-10-Work-Experience-Programme-2026-Letter.pdf>

Scientific Calculator Letter - <https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Scientific-Calculators-2026-Letter.pdf>

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

w/c 13 th July	House Trips all week Trip to Krakow (13 th – 15 th)
Thursday 16 th July	Character Awards Evening
Monday 20 th July	Walk in the Woods



Tuesday 21st July

Dean Stock
Term ends at 12.30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION WEEK ENDING 19th JUNE 2026

Group	% Attend
Year 7	90.7
Year 8	88.6
Year 9	88.5
Year 10	87.1
Totals	88.7

YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9		YEAR 10	
7KG	95.7	8PMC	96	9CJB	94	10MRW	93.1
7AU	94.2	8EJB	93.7	9AM	93.1	10MT	91.3
7JP	93.8	8HM	88.9	9APH	91.1	10SCO	87.5
7MR	91.4	8KLC	88.5	9FP	90.6	10NEP	85
7EJW	91.1	8JJ	86.6	9NKM	86.1	10NK	84.3
7BG	78.9	8DRW	76.7	9ER	75.8	10KM	83.3



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Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

Apply online for free school meals



From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit attending maintained schools, academies and free schools will be entitled to receive a free meal. Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/

You can secure a tasty free meal for your child and **save yourself up to £495 per year**.

Plus, schools receive extra funding for each child registered as Targeted FSM – this category relates to children who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. Even if you don't want your child to take a free meal, you should still apply to ensure their school receives all the government funding to which it is entitled, helping them provide your child with the best education and support.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and receives a Universal Infant Free School Meal arranged by their school you should still apply to enable your child's school to get any extra funding to which it is entitled. If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, please speak to your child's school.

For further information, including a list of qualifying benefits, visit our website or speak to your child's school today.

DCC-4124 6/26

Travel Assistance and Free School Meals Team
Education Planning & Infrastructure
Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall,
Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TP

 **Gloucestershire**
COUNTY COUNCIL



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Date: July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM) – 2026/27

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the Department for Education (DfE) will remove all transitional protections for FSM. At the same time, eligibility criteria will be expanded to include **all** children from households receiving Universal Credit.

From September 2026, families will need to meet the updated criteria for their child(ren) to continue receiving FSM.

Eligibility Recheck

In line with these changes, the Local Authority will review all current FSM claims before the start of the new academic year, and annually thereafter. If you remain eligible your school will be informed and your child(ren) will continue to receive FSM.

Under the new criteria, FSM eligibility will fall into two categories:

- **Targeted** – for children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less. These children will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools. Other education entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will be based on targeted free school meals.
- **Expanded** – for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400. This provides FSM only.

If your child(ren) is/are no longer eligible following the review their FSM entitlement will end. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you used for your Family Portal account when you made the FSM application. **As I am sure you can appreciate the FSM Team will be extremely busy during this period so please only contact the team for confirmation if your current email address does not match the one registered on your portal.**

New Claims

We encourage any parents who believe they may now be eligible but have not previously applied or who have had an application rejected previously, to visit our website and apply. The online application process is quick, confidential, and provides an immediate eligibility check.

Apply online: [Apply for free school meals | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Yours sincerely

Lisa Mullis

Admissions & Travel Assistance Manager
Education Planning & Infrastructure