

“Discovering and Learning Together, so all can Flourish”.

‘A tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season’ (Psalm 1:3)

Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 9

March 2024



The Deanery Way

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter for March. As the signs of spring begin to emerge, we're excited to share with you the latest updates and happenings from around our school.

In this edition, you'll find a mix of news, highlights, and upcoming events that showcase the diverse talents and achievements of our school community. From academic accomplishments to extracurricular activities, there's something here for everyone to enjoy.

We invite you to take a moment to catch up on what's been going on and to join us in celebrating the successes of our students. As always, we appreciate your continued support and involvement in making our school a great place to learn and grow.

As we approach Easter, we are looking forward to celebrating with services led by Rev. Green for our students. We hope you are able to enjoy a peaceful, Easter break.

Ms Sarah Parry

Assistant Head teacher

Follow us on X!

Art department: @Art_deanery
DCEA: @deaneryacademy
DT department: @DT_deanery
English department: @Englishdeanery
Lettings: @LettingsW
MFL department: @mfl_deanery
PE & Sports: @PE_deanery
RE department: @RE_deanery
Science department: @science_deanery
Worship at DCEA: @worship_deanery



Absence reporting

If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, please call: **01793 236611** and leave a message, clearly stating your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence.

Important notice

This is a polite reminder that we are a **nut and tuna free school.**

Students should not be bringing in food that contain either ingredient, as this puts other students at significant risk. We ask for your cooperation in this matter to ensure all our students and community are kept safe.

Por favor, note que os produtos que contenham atum e produtos que contenham nozes são proibidos para proteger aqueles que sofrem de alergias graves.

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FACULTY FOCUS: *MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL)*

Welcome – bienvenue – bienvenidos – bem-vindo- to Modern Foreign Languages! My name is Matthew Oldroyd and I have been teaching at The Deanery since September 2019. I have always loved languages, but like many of us, I first started to learn a language- in my case French- in Year 7 which I took to A-Level, alongside an AS in Spanish and an A-level in Japanese. I then went on to study French and Japanese at Cardiff University as well as Belgium and Japan, before teaching English in Quebec afterwards.

I love languages because they allow us to discover so much about the world and about ourselves! That's why our faculty tagline is 1 Corinthians 14:10: *'There are, it may be, so many kinds of language in the world, and none of them is without significance'*. To me, this says that all languages are beautiful and should be a joy to learn and discover. Language is, after all, one of the things that make us human!



We believe that MFL is an opportunity for students to explore the world around them, and the world beyond through the prism of language. Students won't leave secondary school fluent, but they will have learned invaluable lifelong skills in communication, empathy, logic, and problem solving. It's no wonder that according to language-specific recruitment agency, Euro London, employees who speak at least 1 foreign language earn between 10-15% more than those who don't!

In my spare time, I love gardening and cycling, but with the arrival of a new addition at home- Charlie, a 12-week old miniature schnauzer- most of free-time is spent playing with a puppy. It may also come as no surprise, but I love learning languages too, and I'm currently trying to find time to squeeze in learning some Italian and Portuguese.

Mr Matthew Oldroyd - Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Meet the team...

Miss Katia Esposito- Teacher of MFL and Head of Year 9



In my role, I am responsible for the pastoral care of all students and strive to maintain high standards within the year group. I also teach Modern Foreign languages, which is my true passion as I feel that language learning opens students up to the wider world. I have recently completed my degree in Spanish and Italian where I lived in both countries to refine my language skills. This has helped me to develop a wide range of teaching strategies, which enable students to experience the language through their own learning styles. I truly believe that their success begins with creating a safe learning environment and I am there to help develop their interests and guide their learning of languages.

In my spare time I like to keep active I love sport, specifically kickboxing. I also enjoy going on trips away to learn about new cultures and practice my language skills.

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Mrs Irena Stanea– Teacher of MFL



My name is Irena Stanea and I am a dedicated MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) teacher with a wealth of experience in education. Having embarked on my journey at The Deanery, I bring with me a diverse background in teaching and a passion for nurturing young minds.

My teaching journey began 15 years ago when I graduated with my first bachelor's degree in modern foreign Languages. My passion for languages, cultures, and traveling has continued to drive me forward, leading me to pursue a master's in education and another bachelor's degree in Translation and Interpretation. These qualifications have afforded me the opportunity to work and travel as a Translator and Interpreter. Over the years, I've honed my craft in various educational settings in Wiltshire and Gloucester. These experiences have equipped me with a robust toolkit to engage, motivate, and inspire students across different age groups and abilities.

At the core of my teaching philosophy is the belief in fostering a positive learning environment built on mutual respect and high expectations. I'm committed to instilling in my students a sense of purpose, resilience, and determination, guiding them towards academic success while nurturing their individual strengths and talents.

My passion for languages extends beyond the classroom. With a background in French and Spanish, acquired through both academic study and immersive experiences abroad, I bring a unique perspective to language instruction. Whether it's adaptation or incorporating innovative teaching methodologies such as Rosenshein Principles and Conti and Smith EPI methods, I'm dedicated to making language learning a rewarding communicative experience for my students.

Miss Lilou Robert- French Language Assistant



Hey! My name is Lilou, and I come from Caen, in France. I love roller-skating, running, writing and a lot more. I am here to help pupils improving their speaking skills, but I do whatever you would like me to do. My role is to discover how English students learn French, bring them self-confidence, and give resources and reassurance.

I did a three years diploma in France, in which all my lessons were in English, so when I came in England I thought I was fluent, but obviously I am not! I love seeing my skills improve. I have the opportunity to be a little teacher for six months and it is absolutely delightful doing it while working with the kind people who are listed here.

Merci 😊

Celebrating successes and sharing resources on social media!

X – Follow @MFL_Deanery updates on what's happening in class as well as celebrating individual student's successes.

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Our curriculum

The curriculum we provide is rich in skills and knowledge. Through our curriculum, we aim to provide students with an experience that is exciting and to ensure that our students are able to express their thoughts and opinions about the world around them and beyond.

Our subjects naturally lend themselves to socializing, collaboration, and conversation so we endeavor to help students develop their inter-personal skills. With that in mind, we have begun the lengthy process of changing our curriculum to EPI. In a nutshell, it's about applying how we learned our first language to how we would learn a second language in a classroom setting. After all, for the first few years of our lives we only listened to and spoke language- we don't really start reading and writing until at least the age of 4! Think lots of interaction, games, and phonics, rather than the traditional rote grammar lessons of the past! We are very fortunate at The Deanery to have a team of teachers who speak 5 foreign languages so we will be looking into how we can offer more languages in the future- *watch this space!*

Key Stage 4

At KS4 we currently follow the AQA specification for French and Spanish. Following changes to the GCSE qualification in Modern Foreign Languages, we will be changing to Pearson Edexcel from September 2024 onwards, which means that the current Y9s and below will follow a slightly different KS4 curriculum to the one in place.

Home learning

We have recently invested in 'Language Gym', which is a great online platform for students to practice their reading, writing, and listening skills across all the topics they study. Keep an eye out for new assignments from your teachers. Students will mainly be using the platform for the language that they study in school, however there are other languages offered such as Malay, Mandarin, German, Italian, and Welsh. Feel free to have a dabble in any of them- you never know where it might lead to!

Year 11 leavers' hoodies

We are excited to offer our Year 11 students the opportunity to buy a Year 11 Leavers' Hoodie. We are working with **School Leavers Company** and orders for hoodies are placed directly through their online shop. A letter has been sent out with the log in details that you need.

Please note that the hoodies will be delivered directly to the school and these will be issued to students on their last day at school before their exams begin.

<https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/leavers-hoodies-login>

The cost of these hoodies will be **£22.25** each, which includes the school name on the front and the Year of leaving with student names on the back.

We can't wait to see you all in them!

The Year 11 team

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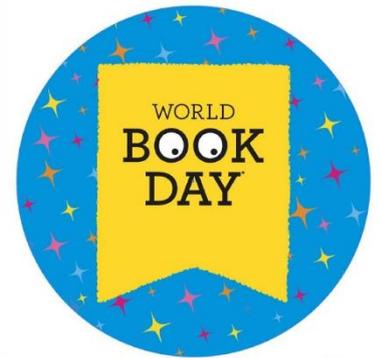
Wisdom

"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding"

World Book Day

To mark World Book Day on 7th March 2024, tutor groups were invited to decorate their tutor base doors to look like a book cover. The final results were incredible. Students (and staff) got into the spirit of the competition. The photos show the winning entries this year.

	Teacher	Book
Whole School winner	Amelia Price	Horrible Histories
Whole School runner up	Abi Case	The Jungle Book
Year 7 winner	Luana Godwin	Harry Potter
Year 8 winner	Jemima Douglas	Noughts and Crosses
Year 9 winner	Emily Wright	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Year 10 winner	Katie Phillips	Dr Seuss
Year 11 winner	Emma Pickles	Alice in Wonderland



**Year 7
Miss Godwin
Harry Potter**

**Year 8
Miss Douglas
Noughts and Crosses**

**Year 9
Miss Wright
Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland**



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**Year 10
Miss Phillips**

Dr. Seuss



**Year 11
Miss Pickles**

Alice in Wonderland



BSL week

This week is British Sign Language week, and our students have been participating in an online lesson to learn the basics of sign language. A great opportunity to explore to diversity of our community and raise awareness of the challenges those with hearing difficulties face on a daily basis.



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Service

"... in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others"



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Instrumental and vocal lessons from ages 4 to 80
It's never too late to learn!



Instrumental
Lessons



Music Theory



Curriculum Support



Ensemble Direction



Accompanist
Services

A number of students have been asking about instrumental lessons in class. If you would like your child to have instrumental music lessons, you can contact our providers - The Swindon Music Co-operative; they send in the peripatetic teachers to the Deanery. We currently have guitar, piano, singing, saxophone, flute, violin and drum lessons but please ask the Co-operative if you would like your child to have lessons on a different instrument.

You can contact them at info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk or on the website or apply directly for lesson here <https://swindonmusiccoop.co.uk/apply-for-music-lessons/>



On Thursday afternoons our Young Leaders continue to work on their Archbishop Young Leaders Awards with Miss Price, who has temporarily taken over leading the award in Mrs Gallagher's absence. **A big thank you to her for this.** Our young leaders are now preparing to plan and complete their personal volunteering projects over the Easter holidays. We can't wait to see what they get up to and see the fruits of their work in the local community.

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Resilience

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me"

After the Easter break we continue to develop our personal development programme across the school and a part of this is our Values in Practice (ViP) curriculum. In term 5, in their ViP lessons, our students will be learning about:

- ✓ **Year 7 – Building relationships** (*How to develop self-worth; positive relationships; unhealthy relationships; Media stereotypes; expectations in relationships*)
- ✓ **Year 8 – Identity and relationships** (*Gender identity; Sexual orientation; Consent; Sexting; Contraception*)
- ✓ **Year 9 – Intimate relationships** (*Readiness for sex; Consent; STIs; Pregnancy*)
- ✓ **Year 10 – Addressing extremism and radicalisation** (*Communities and respect; Extremism and radicalisation*)
- ✓ **Year 11 – Families** (*Different types of families; Parenthood; Adoption and fostering; Pregnancy and pregnancy options*)

Further information about our personal development programme, including links to careers, trips, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, enrichment and other personal development opportunities at The Deanery CE Academy is now live on our school website here:

<https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/personal-development/>



Viewing, analysing, reviewing, comparing theatre and musical performance is an element of the GCSE music and drama curriculum and we have taken Year 10 and 11 students out recently to see Shrek in Cheltenham, and will, after half term, will accompany GCSE music students to a local G and S performance of Ruddigore at the Arts Centre.

With regards to our in-house productions we would like to thank you for all the support for High School Musical production. The cast have been amazing in terms of preparation, enthusiasm and dedication to the cause! This is written just a couple of days before curtain up and all the Performing Arts staff just want to say *Break A Leg!*



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Hope

"I have come so that you may have life in all its fullness"

Rewards

This term alone, students have been rewarded with more than 70000 house points! Year 7 are top of the leader board with nearly 23000 house points, but are being closely chased by Year 9.

Within the year group, the top tutor groups for house points this term are:

Year 7 = 7MXL (Mrs Loxley)
Year 8 = 8MXE (Mrs Ebenezer)
Year 9 = 9NXB (Mr Bryars)
Year 10 = 10BXM (Mrs Mills)
Year 11 = 11DZH (Mr Harmer)



Don't forget, there will be a reward trip in Term 6 to Thorpe Park - more information to follow

After half term we will also be involved in a concert in the theatre with two fantastic organisations – Brunel Brass and Swindon Spotlight Choir. Entitled 'Another Moment in Time' it's destined to be a fantastic evening – last year's efforts raised the roof and a lot of money to support all three organisations. Tickets are available on TicketSource.

Another Moment In Time

Brunel Brass Academy



The Spotlight Choir and Guest Singers



The Deanery Academy



Saturday 20th April - The Deanery Theatre

Tickets - £10

Children (under 16) £5.50

Hot drinks and snacks available
Cabaret performances from 3pm
Theatre performance starts at 4pm

50p online booking fee



Tickets available on [TicketSource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/brunelbrass/t-lnmdymn)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/brunelbrass/t-lnmdymn>

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The Deanery DofE Practice expedition

On Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th March, 70 year 10 and 11 students took to the Wiltshire hills to complete their training expedition.

8.30am Saturday morning pupils were prepped and ready to go after arriving at Barbury Castle. The weather held until the groups were returning from their 13km (often very muddy) hikes.



Now ready for some well-earned food, all planned and prepared by each group..... and putting up tents.

A successful Saturday, though we did lose two shoes and a phone (temporarily)..... Ready for Sunday! The weather was not too great at the beginning of Sunday; however, the Sun came out and everyone was well on their way, solo.



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.... except group 9... who after a 3-hour detour, finally made their way to their first checkpoint!

Though there was a little disappointment that bad weather had cancelled our overnight stay, most pupils were happy to sleep in their own beds after an eventful two days. The pupils did themselves and the Deanery proud.



**Until next
time, Year 9,
watch this
space!
Miss Phillips.**



Chaplaincy update

Jesus spoke to a group who didn't really understand him, so he tried using imagery they'd be familiar with, sheep, shepherds, sheepfolds and pasture. Unless you're from farming stock this can seem a little alien to us now, but this paraphrase of the Bible puts it fairly straightforwardly;

'I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.' (The Message)

Finding pasture! For shepherds in Israel used to dry and arid land finding a way to good pasture would be living the dream! Jesus taps into that desire to say he's the gate to a life of abundance, a life better than you've ever dreamed of.

With Easter approaching the invitation still holds true. In Jesus death and resurrection he opens the gate to eternal life, like the lushest of pasture to sheep, a life better than you've ever dreamed of, and hope for all.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you are exploring faith and what you believe.

Owen.green@dbat.org.uk

Wild, our after school club on Tuesday's exploring what it means to follow Jesus will continue after Easter. Look out for it in the enrichment options!

Also on Tuesday we have a new session of sung worship, in the chapel from 12:45 – 1:15p.m. Pupils are welcome to bring their lunch.

The next 'Generals' hour of prayer – for parents and others committed to praying for the campus is on Wednesday 17th April from 3:30 – 4:30p.m where we will join with the Wild after school group.

Owen Green

WTLC Chaplain.



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Attendance

The aim of the attendance team is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers

We have now sent a total of 130 letters this term to parents / carers of students where attendance falls below 90% as a reminder that attendance which falls below 90% is considered 'persistently' absent from school. If attendance does not improve we will take advice from the local authority and they may pursue a fixed penalty notice.

Please be advised that holiday taken in term time will not be authorised and is likely to incur a fixed penalty fine from the local authority. Attendance is extremely important, please consider this when making any arrangements during term time. Term Dates are available on the school website.

Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge.

We will have an attendance assembly next term which will focus on students own responsibility regarding attendance and involve them with future initiatives for September 2024.



Welcome to the Careers section

Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme



Help your child to explore their future.

As part of our commitment to prepare our students for a rapidly changing world, we are delighted to announce that at the Deanery, our staff and students are signed up to **Start** – an innovative digital careers platform.

Start will help your child to explore and prepare for their future career as well as develop their personal profile that will support their transition through education and in to employment.

The Year 8s, 9s & 11s have all accessed **START** as part of the dedicated Careers Module within their ViP lessons. After the Easter break, it will be the turn of our Year 7 & 10 students will be issued with their login details and participate in Careers lessons. However, as a reminder, the students can also access the START Programme platform outside of school hours from their own personal devices.

The Careers Programme focuses on 7 main themes:

- ❖ Career Basics,
- ❖ Self-awareness,
- ❖ moments of choice,
- ❖ work experience
- ❖ skills,
- ❖ exploring the labour market,
- ❖ applying for jobs

Through exploring these themes and timetabling other school activities, we, as a school, will strive to achieve the eight Gatsby Benchmarks, which are a strong indicator of Good Career Guidance.

Although numerous Careers activities and events have taken place throughout the year, a specific term has been allocated for each year group to receive Careers Education sessions.

Careers Education lessons have & will be taking place as follows:

Year 7: Term 5 or 6

Year 8: Term 4

Year 9: Term 3

Year 10: Term 5 & 6

Year 11: Term 2&3

We encourage you to use **Start** with your child at home. Parents and carers can access the platform without the need to login but you can also create yourself an account for free.

To get started, please visit careers.startprofile.com/page/parents

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Careers events

Year 9 Army Engagement Day

The Southwest Regional Army Engagement Team spent Tuesday 5th March with all our Year 9 students, focusing on developing the skills of leadership, team building, STEM, and decision-making. The activities & schedule for the day were:

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
		8.55-9.55	10.15-11.15	11.15-12.15	1.15-2.20	2.20-3.25
Army Careers Presentation.	Sgt Stuart Fice	Group A	Group E	Group D	Group C	Group B
Between The Lines (News Media Challenge).	AT.Pr Georgie Hallam	Group B	Group A	Group E	Group D	Group C
Enigma Code.	L.Cpl Chloe Dixon	Group C	Group B	Group A	Group E	Group D
Bridge to Far / Walking planks.	L.Cpl Kyle Slaymaker	Group D	Group C	Group B	Group A	Group E
START Careers	Mr Ouldrige & staff	Group E	Group D	Group C	Group B	Group A

Many thanks to the HQSW Army Engagement Team from Tidworth for running the day and for the Deanery teachers for supporting them.



For more information on Army Apprenticeships and Army Careers, click on the image:



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Apprent-T-Fest

Last month a group of year 11 students who wish to follow an Apprenticeship pathway at Post-16, were invited to the Apprent-T-Fest event at STEAM.

This event gave our students an opportunity to meet potential employers, local and national apprenticeship providers as well as to find out all they needed to know about apprenticeships.

The logo for 'Apprent-T-Fest' features the word 'Apprent' in a multi-colored font (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple), followed by a large blue 'T', and 'Fest' in a green-to-yellow gradient font.

Celebrating
Apprenticeships
& Technical Education
in Swindon & Wiltshire

Powered by
Swindon & Wiltshire
Careers Hub

The logo for 'Amazing Apprenticeships' features a rainbow-colored arch of stars above the word 'Amazing' in a multi-colored font and 'Apprenticeships' in a blue-to-purple gradient font.

For more information on Apprenticeships, visit:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices>

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Important notice: We understand that sometimes face to face meetings will be required between staff and parents/guardians. However, we respectfully request that these are pre-arranged and booked in with the relevant staff, and that parents/guardians **do not just arrive at the Academy** and expect staff to be available for a meeting. Please contact the members of staff via the academy email: admin@dcea.org.uk in the first instance to arrange an appointment.

Thank you for your support with this.

Dates for the diary

A copy of the term dates calendar is available on our website: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/school-information/term-dates/>

- 28th March** - Year 10 parents' evening
- 28th March** – End of term 4
- 17th April** - Year 11 parent exam information evening
- 16th April** – Term 5 begins (*15th April is an INSET day*)
- 18th April** - Year 7 parents' evening
- 23rd – 25th April** – Year 11 GCSE ART exams
- 25th April** – Year 8 parents' evening
- 29th April – 2nd May** – GCSE French speaking exams
- 7th and 8th May** – GCSE Spanish speaking exams
- 24th May** – End of term 5

A reminder: For queries, please use the main Academy email address: admin@dcea.org.uk and your email will be *forwarded* to the appropriate person.

We aim to acknowledge all emails **within 2 working days**, and to respond in full (*or arrange a meeting or phone call if appropriate*) within 5 working days.

If you feel your query requires an urgent response, please call the academy.

Our communication policy can be found here: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/important-information/policies/>

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