



DEER PARK

newsletter

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2025

ISSUE 3

HEADTEACHER'S HELLO



I'm delighted to welcome you to our latest edition of the Deer Park newsletter.

It's hard to believe we're already most of the way through this half term. It's been a busy and highly successful start to the academic year, and our students across all year groups have been brilliant.

This issue is packed with updates, including news from each year group, a spotlight on the fantastic work happening in our Science department, and highlights from our recent trips, including the Year 9 Art trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) and the incredible Warner Brothers Studio Tour Creative Careers Fair. (The students and staff were very excited to have made the national press and television!)

Have a restful weekend when it arrives.

Regards,

Mr Jones



MEET MISS COOPER

I'm delighted to introduce myself as a new teaching member of staff, here at Deer Park. I've joined the Science department this term with great enthusiasm and a genuine passion for helping students explore the world around them through curiosity and critical thinking.

Outside the classroom, I enjoy travelling, snowboarding, running and spending time with my two young children.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the students, working alongside my new colleagues, and becoming part of the school community. I'm excited to bring energy and experiences into the classroom and to inspire students not only to learn Science, but to love it.



YEAR 7

I wanted to start by saying how wonderfully the Year 7s have settled in. They continue to impress staff right across the school with their enthusiasm and energy. They've demonstrated a real can-do attitude towards every challenge, which is a true testament to the resilience that we're trying to build as a year group.

It has been a very busy few weeks for them! They've taken their CATs tests in their stride, raised money on Jeans for Genes day, celebrated the European Day of Languages, and most recently, had their introduction to our 'Fit 4 Life' programme.

Just yesterday, Dan from Fit 4 Life spoke to all the students about the importance of physical activity and how this can really help to support their mental health as they move through their time at Deer Park. It was a fantastic session, and some students may also get the opportunity to complete some small group sessions with Dan at various points during their time here. On a final note, I have absolutely loved seeing so many of the students at the many extracurricular activities on offer. If they have not yet signed up for any clubs, please do encourage them to have a look at what's available – it's an amazing way to meet new friends and try something new!

Keep up the hard work, Year 7.

Mr Colley

YEAR 8

As we are now fully back in the swing of things I am very happy with how the Year group have settled back in. Habits are good around the school and students are happy and smiling (most of the time!). I would also like to thank the large number of Year 8 students who helped out at the recent Open Evening and proudly showed their school off to the visitors.

I always remind students of the importance of kindness and teamwork during our assemblies and I am very pleased to report that we have had very few instances of peer conflict this academic year; where this has occurred, it has been resolved swiftly with the cooperation of the students themselves.

Extra-curricular continues to go from strength to strength with outstanding attendance and some impressive results; this is a vital part of a student's journey with us and Deer Park and I strongly urge all students to get involved.

As we move towards the end of the ½ term we have a Cipher Day and a trip to Bletchley Park to look forward to. This will be an opportunity for the students to enrich their learning outside of the classroom.

Regards,

Mr Parnell



YEAR 9

It's been a very positive few weeks for Year 9. Our recent House assemblies were a great success, with students showing fantastic spirit and demonstrating excellent collaboration as they worked together to complete various challenges. We also received wonderful feedback regarding the conduct of our students who attended the recent Art trip—they were exemplary ambassadors for the school! In tutor time, students have been working hard as a team on a charitable initiative, successfully creating shoeboxes for the Rotary Shoebox Appeal. As we move forward, a couple of reminders: please reinforce with your child that social time behaviour needs to be respectful and sensible. Also, students who wish to use the astro-turf to burn off some energy at breaks and lunchtimes must remember to bring the correct footwear. Finally, our biggest push right now is on attendance; we have a lively House-vs-House competition each week, and we urge all parents to help us maintain the best possible attendance records.

Miss Andrews & Miss Nelhams

YEAR 10

Year 10 continue to demonstrate an excellent work ethic in their lessons this year amid what is a busy term for them. It was great to see in assembly this week how many students have already signed up to College Open Events, showing their commitment to their studies once they move on from Deer Park. All dates for College Open evenings have been shared with students via their tutors, and are also on our Year 10 Google Classroom Page, should you want to encourage this at home.

Some other important notices for you to be aware of - Firstly, you will shortly receive your child's first Report Data of the year - this will be specifically based on Behaviour for Learning. Please take the time to discuss this at home, and focus in on the specific areas to improve in each individual subject.

Secondly, next week the cohort will have an assembly launching applications for the Student Leadership Team. This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the life of the school, and will be an excellent addition to future college applications. In addition to prefect applications, students aspiring to be Head Boy or Head Girl will be interviewed by myself and the Senior Leadership Team.

Finally, Year 10 will be completing Work Experience in the summer term. There will be lots more information to follow on this, but it would be an excellent idea to start thinking about this at home and begin considering potential placements.

Thanks,
Mr Gregory

YEAR 11

It's been another busy fortnight for Year 11, with the rolling out of the Prepare to Perform sessions after school. I've been really pleased with the number of students who have attended these sessions, showing they are committed to supporting themselves with their GCSEs.

In this week's assembly, we discussed habits and how it is the perfect time to start to establish good habits in relation to revision. I cited Jerry Seinfeld who uses a habit-creating method known as Don't Break the Chain, with the idea of establishing a daily routine that can be easily marked off on a calendar. Once this is established and the dates are being marked off there is a motivation to not break the chain.

Finally, I introduced the Year group to a new strapline for the year ahead - The best view comes after the hardest climb. This idea will be referred to throughout the academic year. With this in mind, I discussed how this ½ term can be seen as climbers gathering what they will need for their journey to ensure they are fully prepared. I look forward to carrying on the climb with the cohort!

Many thanks,

Mr. Smith

EVERY ASSEMBLIES AWARD

Congratulations to the students below for this fortnights assembly awards

Year 7 Rewards!



Year 8 Rewards!



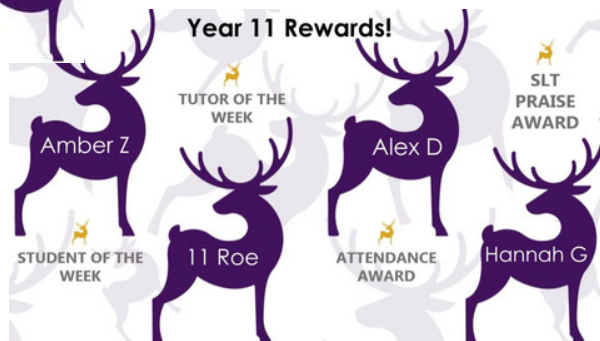
Year 9 Rewards!

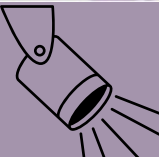


Year 10 Rewards!



Year 11 Rewards!





SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: SCIENCE



In science our philosophy is that fundamental concepts of science are taught consistently across all year groups. They are reviewed and retrieved in order to reinforce forgotten concepts so that new knowledge can be built upon a solid foundation. This will allow students to fulfill their academic potential but also be able to access the natural world that surrounds them.

YEAR 7: CURRENT CURRICULUM

Having successfully completed the transition lessons, as well as obtaining an all important Bunsen Burner licence, students have started the fundamental concepts in science that will form the basis of their 5 year journey through our curriculum. Students are currently looking at Cells, Forces and Particles. As we move towards Christmas students will start broadening their knowledge into Separating Techniques, Plant Life and Energy.

Our human reproduction topic is delivered in the spring term. If you have any queries or concerns regarding this topic please contact your child's science teacher in the first instance

YEAR 8: CURRENT CURRICULUM

Students are building on the topics they learnt in year 7 and deepening their understanding. This year they have looked at the Human Body- including digestion, muscles and the skeleton, Energy Costs- considering energy in the home, energy in our food and energy resources and Chemical Reactions. This term they will move on to Gaseous Exchange, Light and the periodic Table.

YEAR 9: CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 9 have made a positive start to their GCSEs. Students have begun to look at the first Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics this year and have approached the challenging content with a great attitude. Transition self study has suggested a good basis of understanding from KS3 which they will build upon as they move through the syllabus. Before the end of the half term we will give all year 9s a mini test to accurately assess how well they have understood and applied their learning.

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION FOR LIFE

YEAR 10: CURRENT CURRICULUM

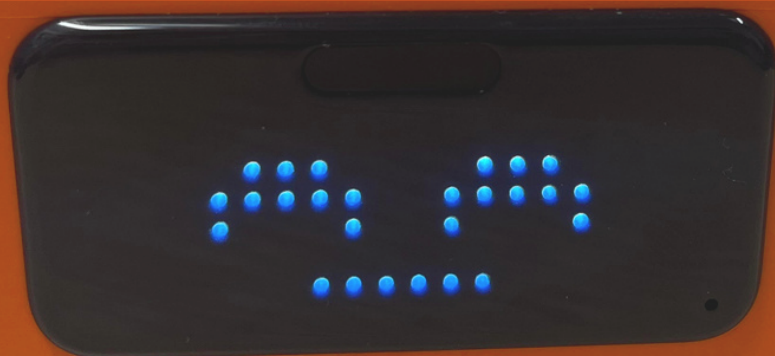
Our Year 10 cohort has now been split into separate scientists who will achieve 3 separate GCSEs by the end of their journey with us and combined scientists who will achieve 2 GCSEs. For combined scientists, the beginning of the year has been incredibly positive with students enjoying tailored challenge but also increased support and recap of previous learning in their new sets. This is allowing them to take time to remember the content from Year 9 and continue to build on it as they make their way through the curriculum. Meanwhile separate scientists have started to learn bespoke content for their course including microbiology and titrations. Shortly after half term we will be assessing students in lessons on the Biology 1 paper to check their progress.

YEAR 11: CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to the year and have exceeded our expectations in terms of their ambition and effort for the subject. We have been so pleased to welcome so many students to our KS4 intervention drop-in on a Wednesday Break 1 as well as a fantastic turnout to our P2P programme. We can see fantastic progress being made in lessons and also at home using the past paper homeworks. As we look ahead to the year combined science students will have completed the course by Christmas when they will move to a targeted revision programme. Meanwhile, separate scientists continue to work exceptionally hard to cover all the content and are projected to finish shortly after the mock exams which are in January.

Computing Club

Computing club is delighted to have so many new Year 7 members! We have started the term with some Programming challenges, and have seen some great results! Gary the Robot is pleased to be out of his box after a long summer!





CAREERS INFORMATION



Open Events

Eastleigh College

Wednesday 22 October
Tuesday 25 November

Fareham College

Tuesday 14 October
Thursday 13 November

Southampton College

Tuesday 21 October
Thursday 20 November

CEMAST & CETC

Wednesday 19 November

All events are from
17:00 – 19:00

Scan here



Your future
starts **here**

 shcg.ac.uk/events

**FOR A FULL LIST OF ALL
OPEN EVENTS**

CLICK HERE



CAREERS INFORMATION

Aged 16-25?

Join the **Team programme**, our 12-week personal development course, for the chance to gain new skills, take a qualification, and meet new people.

TRY SOMETHING NEW



- Take on your own group community project
- Take part in a residential trip
- Get two weeks' work experience
- Develop your English and Maths skills
- Spend some time developing your CV and interview skills

Contact us to book your place:



023 8044 6156



courses@itchen.ac.uk



15th September 2025

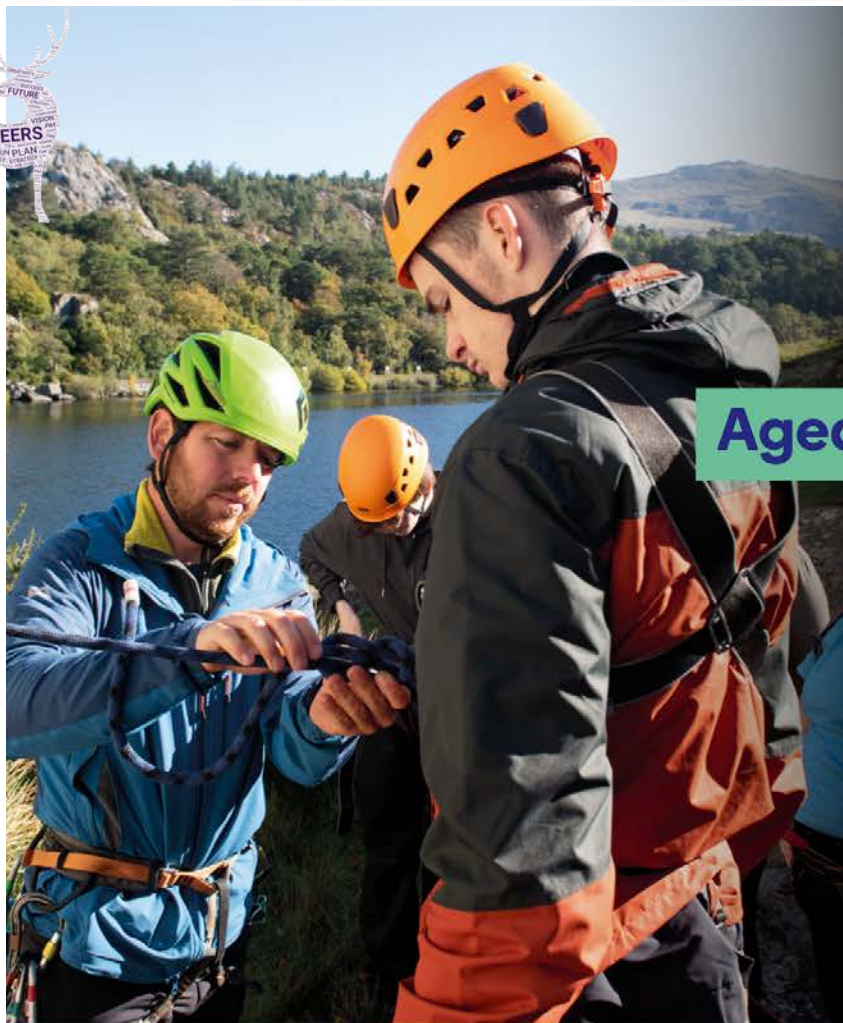


Itchen College, Middle Road, Bitterne, Southampton, SO19 7TB

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15th September 2025



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Warner Brothers Studio Tour - The Making of Harry Potter Careers Fair

Last week, we had the unbelievable privilege of attending the very first creative careers fair at the renowned Warner Brothers Studio Tour. The event consisted of talks from a multitude of industry professionals that worked on the Harry Potter films including Head Creature Sculptor, Set Decorator, Special Effects Supervisor, Art Director, Head Prop Maker, Costume Curator and Chief Hairdresser and Sound Artists. Not to mention an inspirational rally from Professor Flitwick himself, Warwick Davis.

It truly was a magical evening where students not only had the opportunity to meet the very individuals who worked on the films and garner their advice on how to break into the industry but we were lucky enough to have a private tour around the studios, getting to meander along Diagon Alley and the Forbidden Forest completely by ourselves.

Excitingly, the event was heavily publicised and our students even made it onto BBC Breakfast News, Newsround and newspaper websites in the following days.

We could not be prouder of how well our students conducted themselves throughout the evening; they were the perfect representation of Deer Park School and it's moments like these that remind us of how lucky we are to work with and teach such excellent students.

Mischief managed,
Miss Webb & Mr Denman





CAREERS INFORMATION



GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND IN
HAMPSHIRE: PLANNING FOR POST-16 OPTIONS FROM YEAR 9 ONWARDS

CLICK HERE

Vocabulary Updates

We have been busy this month with our first vocabulary newsletter of the school year! Here, you'll find the key vocabulary we're using in our classes this half term. Research shows a strong link between a student's vocabulary knowledge and their academic success. By helping your child learn and use these words, you can make a big difference in their learning journey and consolidate their learning from school.

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

STEM UPDATE



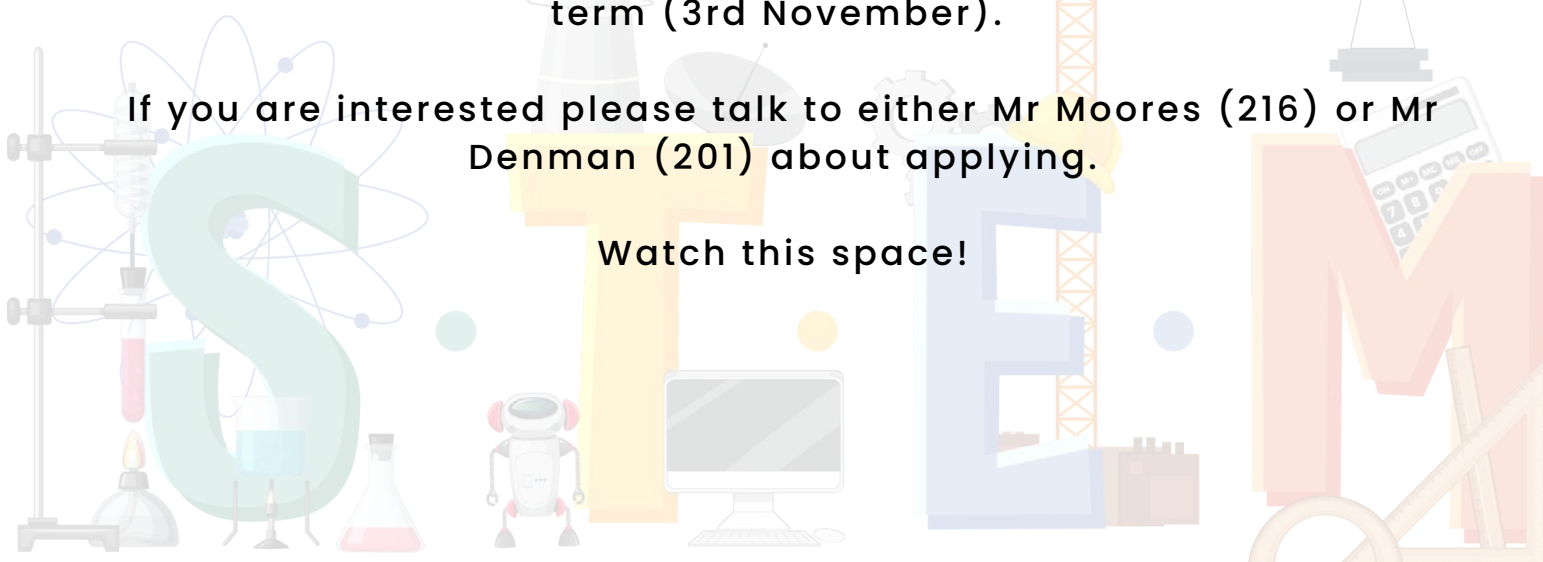
This week we have seen the return of the applications to join the F24 Greenpower Endurance racing team. After a great first season as Team Deer Park we are eager to improve on the lessons learnt from our Dunsfold Park debut.

Successful candidates will be selected for their experience and knowledge with mechanical devices such as bicycles, engineering interests such as with electronics or aerodynamic design, and ability to work well as a team in the high pressure environment of the race track, driving experience is a plus but not required.

We currently are looking for 5 students from Years 8,9 and 10 to join us and will be announcing the new recruits after the October half term (3rd November).

If you are interested please talk to either Mr Moores (216) or Mr Denman (201) about applying.

Watch this space!



VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Last week, our Year 9 Art and Design students enjoyed a fantastic and highly informative trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London! This visit was an invaluable extension of their current classroom studies focusing on the impact of fast fashion and the beauty and complexity of non-Western patterns and textile traditions.

The students engaged directly with the museum's world-class collections, viewing historical garments, diverse textiles, and contemporary fashion pieces. The experience provided a rich, hands-on opportunity to see the craftsmanship and cultural heritage behind global design—a vital counterpoint to the unsustainable practices of fast fashion.

This trip was specifically designed to inspire and influence their upcoming contributions to the Deer Park Fashion Show on November 20th.

We can't wait to see how the incredible designs, patterns, and ethical considerations they explored at the V&A translate into their own unique and thoughtful creations for the runway. Keep an eye on this space for more updates on the Fashion Show!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

DEER PARK RRC - THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Article 30: Minority Culture, Language and Religion

This week, as we continue our series on the UNICEF Convention of the Rights of the Child, we are looking at Article 30. This article states that every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs, and religion of their family, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not. This is especially meaningful as we celebrate Black History Month.

How can we best appreciate different cultures? Think of our community not as a 'melting pot' where everyone is expected to be the same, but as a beautiful 'mosaic'.

In a mosaic, thousands of different, unique tiles are placed together. Each tile keeps its own colour, shape, and texture. It is the combination of all these different pieces that creates a stunning, complete picture. Our society is like that mosaic - every culture is a unique tile, and by celebrating our individual identities, we contribute to a more vibrant and interesting world.

This Black History Month, let's be a community that values every tile in our mosaic. Let's take the time to listen, learn, and share stories that celebrate the diverse cultures that make our world so rich.

DEER PARK RRC - THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

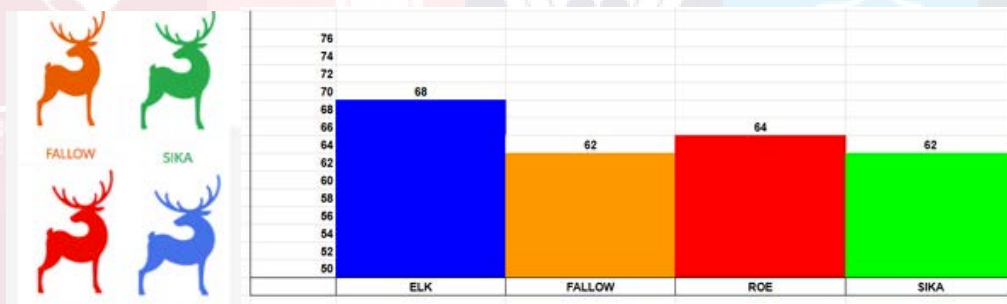
Article 12: Respect for Children's Views

This week, we are exploring Article 12, which states that we should always have respect for children's views. This right applies to every child, everywhere!

But what does this truly mean? Imagine a world where children's ideas, feelings, and opinions are truly listened to and taken seriously. From decisions at home to discussions in school and even policies that affect our communities, children have unique perspectives that can bring about positive change.

So, whether you're a child or an adult, let's commit to fostering environments where young voices are not just heard, but valued and acted upon. Let's encourage open conversations, active listening, and create spaces where every child feels empowered to share their thoughts, knowing that their voice truly matters.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS



Black History Month:

The Diversity and RRC Focus Groups have been busy developing an array of fun, engaging and creative activities to celebrate Black History Month in our school. This year we are collaborating with the Art department in an Inter-house Art competition! We will also be curating tutor activities and be speaking at assemblies in the coming weeks.

Our full list of activities include:

8th October 25- AMW- poetry workshop- 112- break 2

21st October 25- Deadline for art competition

22nd October 25 - Black history quiz- break 1 112

Film screenings: after school from 15:00 in 112- Tickets are £1- snacks will be sold to raise money for Stop Hate UK

8th October 25: The Help
22nd October 25: Hidden Figures.

Book of the week in the LRC

Week 1: The other side of truth- Beverley Naidoo

Week 2: Legendborn- Tracy Deon

Week 3: The Hate U Give- Angie Thomas

Week 4: Noughts and Crosses- Malorie Blackman

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Numeracy updates

 Maths at Home: The Great Unit Debate!   

Continuing our focus on measures, let's tackle the fascinating (and sometimes confusing!) topic of metric and imperial units. Understanding both systems, and how to convert between them, is a practical skill that connects maths to travel, cooking, DIY, and history.

Helping your child navigate units like ounces, pounds, feet, and litres shows them how flexible maths is and prepares them for a world that uses different standards. Below are simple, practical ideas to help them become "bilingual" in measurement at home.

For Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8)

At this stage, the goal is to build an intuitive sense of the size of both metric and imperial units, and master basic conversions (e.g., kilometres to miles).

The Kitchen Converter (Mass & Volume): Find a traditional recipe book (often using imperial) and a modern one (metric). Challenge your child to convert one unit type to the other.

Challenge: If a recipe calls for 8 ounces (oz) of butter, how many grams (g) is that? (Hint: 1 oz $\approx$ 28.35 g).

Discussion: Why do we still sometimes buy milk in pints (pt) but petrol in litres (l)?

★ **Family Challenge:** A road sign says the next town is 15 miles away. If you can cycle at 20 km/h, how many minutes will it take you to get there?

For Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11)

As students prepare for their GCSEs, they can apply their knowledge to more complex, multi-step problems involving conversions of area and volume.

Area Conversion Detective: Metric area (like square metres, m²) and imperial area (like square feet, ft²) are common in property listings or when calculating paint coverage.

Challenge: A room has an area of 12m². What is the area in square feet (ft²)? (Hint: Convert the length and width first, or use 1m² $\approx$ 10.76 ft²). This highlights why units can't just be converted by the linear factor squared.

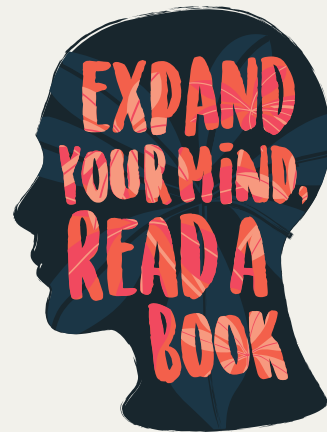
★ **Family Challenge:** You buy a turkey that weighs 16 pounds (lb). If cooking instructions state 45 minutes per kilogram (kg), what is the total cooking time in hours and minutes? (Hint: 1 kg $\approx$ 2.2 lb).

We hope these ideas help you demonstrate that unit conversion isn't just a classroom exercise—it's a necessity for global communication and practical problem-solving!

LITERACY UPDATE

Literacy in Tutor Time: A Word a Week

This term, our focus has been on expanding vocabulary and developing a shared language across the school. Our Word of the Week initiative in tutor time is an easy way for students to learn new words and integrate them into their everyday language. Our most recent word was **convene**.



For something a little different, our Weird and Wonderful Word of the week was **spuddle**, which is an obscure English dialect word that means "to be really busy and achieve absolutely nothing."

The Big Questions

Over the past few weeks, students have also had the opportunity to explore some big questions and fascinating topics. These discussions are designed to broaden students' knowledge and critical thinking skills. We've delved into:

Hot topics from around the world; The Race Relations' Act
Influential People; Horatio Nelson

This week in history; 1829 and the First Metropolitan Police units

Have you ever wondered; Have you ever wondered what happens to your body as you get older?

These short explorations in tutor time help students build their cultural capital and become more engaged and informed citizens. We look forward to more exciting discussions in the coming weeks!

Bookbuzz Update

We launched Bookbuzz last week with over 90 students in years 7 and 8 last week. This popular programme of books and resources has been developed by BookTrust to support you in getting young people excited about reading. Students had the chance to **choose and keep a book they'll love** from 16 fantastic titles, newly selected each year by our expert panel of librarians and teachers. The children that took part should receive their books by the end of October. We currently have copies of all these newly released works for our library and will be able to loan to ALL students in the new future.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

Our Year 7 & 8 students have begun their KS3 PE assessments looking to apply and showcase their skills within their topics

Year 7 - Technique and defending

Year 8 - Decision making and communication

Fixtures

Senior Girls Football:

The Senior Girls Football Team have had a fantastic start to the season, showing great determination and teamwork. They've progressed confidently into the next round of the Hampshire Cup and remain unbeaten in the league, with one win and one hard-fought draw so far. Spirits are high as they prepare for their next league fixture, a home game against Hamble, where they'll be looking to continue their strong run of form.



Year 7 Boys Football:

The Year 7 Boys Football Team have made an excellent start, showing great teamwork and enthusiasm after just a few training sessions together. They've quickly gelled as a team and have impressed with their performances on the pitch. Unbeaten in the league so far, with one win and one draw, the boys are showing real promise. Although their Hampshire Cup run has come to an end, they are more determined than ever to succeed in the league, and I'm excited to see how they continue to develop in the coming games.



GCSE PE

Quick fire questions to support your child's learning

Year 9 - Name three parts of a synovial joint?

Year 10 - Name three types of guidance used when coaching?

Year 11 - Which type of training would you use to support your component of fitness?

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES

This NSPCC guide offers parents and carers practical advice on helping their children to manage anger by understanding common triggers, being a role model and teaching them how to recognise, reflect on and constructively respond to their strong emotions.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/arguments-conflict-family-tension>



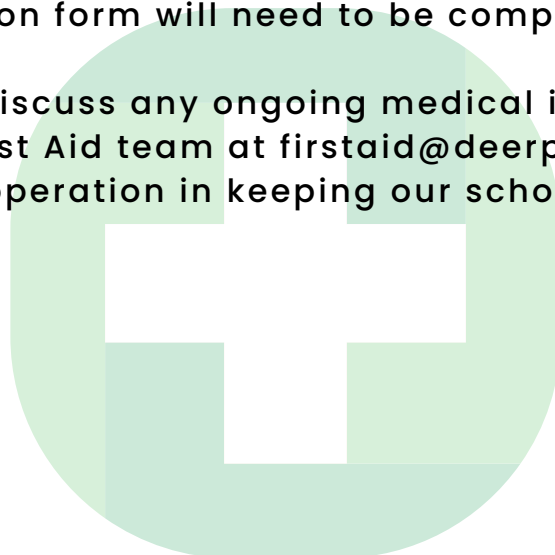
To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students, we'd like to remind parents and carers of our school's medication policy.

General medications (including paracetamol) must not be carried by students in their school bags.

The only exceptions are emergency rescue medications, such as personal inhalers and EpiPens.

All other medications must be kept securely in the First Aid room. A medication form will need to be completed.

To obtain a form or to discuss any ongoing medical issues for your child, please contact our First Aid team at firstaid@deerparksecondary.org. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.



UNIFORM:

We believe that being in the correct uniform helps students get into the right mindset for learning. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child meets the school's high standards.

If a student is wearing incorrect uniform, they will be given a mark on their uniform tracker and will be expected to correct it by the next school day. Repeated uniform breaches will be considered persistent defiance and may result in a meeting with the Head of Year to discuss a solution.



Extra Curricular

TIME TABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK 1	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 7 *Poetry (112)	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 8 *Young Reporter (103) Years 10/11 *Chess (114) All Year Groups *Art Intervention (203) KS4 *Gardening Club Meet by Bike Sheds *Maths Drop in (117)	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 9 *Dominoes Club (Additional Support) *KS4 Intervention (117) (Maths/Science/English)	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 10 *Ukulele Club (008) *Books and Biscuits (007)	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 11 *Drama Club (006) *Puzzle Club (119)
BREAK 2	*Quotation Club (004) Year 11 *Computing Drop in (101) KS4	*Computing Club (102) All Year Groups	*Debate Club (103) All Year Groups	*Computing Drop in (101) KS4	
AFTER SCHOOL	*Self Study Club (LRC) *Girls Football (Astro) All Year Groups *Badminton Club (Sports Hall) All Year Groups *GCSE Dance Club (Dance Studio) Year 11 *Magazine Club (001) All Year Groups *Orchestra (008)	*Self Study Club (LRC) *Outlet Basketball Club External booking (paid sessions) *Percussion Club (008)	*Self Study Club (LRC) *Boys Football (Astro) All Year Groups *Art Club (202) KS3 *Art Intervention (203) KS4 *Dance Live (Dance Studio) *Choir 008 *Dungeons and Dragons club (LRC) *Axiom Maths Circles (118) Year 7 Invite only	*Self Study Club (LRC) *Netball (Courts) All Year Groups *Rugby All Year Groups *History Club (110) *Dance Live (Main Hall) *Shakespeare Drama Club (003) *STEM Club (212) *Magazine Club (001) *Duke of Edinburgh (108) *Mathletes (116) (Year's 8-11)	*Self Study Club (LRC) *F24 Racing (215) Invite only

*LRC is open every break/lunch and after school for students to use and complete self-study should they wish



UPCOMING DATES

Date	Activity	Year Group
13/10/2025	Houses of Parliament Trip	
14/10/2025	Peter Symonds Music Trip	Year 11 GCSE Music Students
15/10/25	Cipher Day	Year 8
16/10/2025	World Restart a Heart Day, Year 7 CPR training	Year 7
16/10/2025	PSP- Love Languages	Parents - Sign up via Edulink
17/10/2025	Year 11 Coffee Morning	Parents - Sign up via Edulink
23/10/2025	Bletchley Park Trip	Year 8
23/10/2025	PSP-Work Experience	Parents - Sign up via Edulink
24/10/2025	Last Day of Term	

TERM DATES FOR THIS
ACADEMIC YEAR CAN BE
FOUND [HERE](#)



Polite reminder: All meal deals are £3.40 and served at break 2. The daily limit to spend is £7.50 unless you have asked us to cap this. Hot food is also available at break 1. If you receive the FSM allowance of £3.40, this does not get reset from break 1 and is to be used across the day. If your child does fall into a negative balance a red slip will be issued at the office and a phone call home will be made to ask to top up the account. We can no longer allow purchases on overdrawn accounts.

Many thanks.

CAR PARK

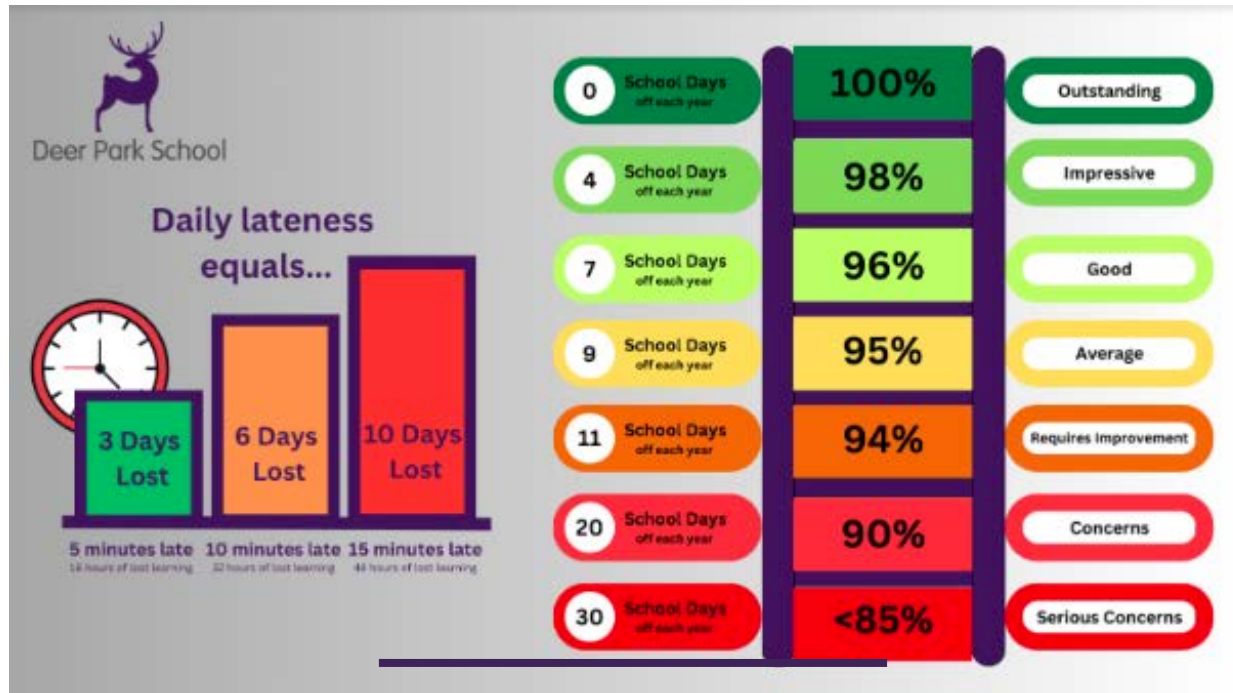
For the safety and security of all students and staff, please be reminded that the school car park is reserved exclusively for those who hold a valid car park pass or a Blue Badge . We kindly request that you do not use the car park for general drop-offs or collections (Unless you are collecting your child during the day for an appointment).

To ensure a smooth and safe drop-off and pick-up process, please utilise the designated drop-off points available on Sika Avenue.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in helping us maintain a secure environment for everyone.

ABSENCES

Please, where possible, could you contact us before 8.30am if your child is unable to attend school. Absences can be recorded via Edulink or by e-mailing absence@deeparksecondary.org. Alternatively please call the school on 01489 351100 and select option 1 to report your child absent.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORMS

If you need to request an absence from school, for exceptional circumstances such as attending family funerals, etc. Parents will need to complete an online Google form. The link for the form is [here](#).

Lost Property

All lost property is kept in the Library (LRC). If your child(ren) has lost anything, please ask them to collect anything that belongs to them. Items will be kept for 3 weeks and then donated. Please help us to get items back to your child by clearly labeling items.

Thank you.



Student Librarians



Student Librarians —— 2025/26 ——

This year at Deer Park the Student Librarian roles are open to every single year group! We've got a wide variety of jobs to be done so I'm very excited to say that we're looking for around 15-20 students to join us in the LRC during break and lunch.

Some of the roles this year include;

- Shelf Monitor
- Desk monitor
- IT monitor
- Display designing/maintaining
- Book organising

This year Student Librarians will also have the opportunity to write for the LRC newsletter! Articles, book reviews, puzzles and short stories are all accepted!



APPLY TODAY!

Feel like giving up a lunch or break once a week to become a Student Librarian? want to try your hand at display making? feel like recommending all your favourite books to others?

Apply below now!

[PRESS HERE FOR THE STUDENT
LIBRARIAN APPLICATION!](#)



New to borrow!



Saffi doesn't want her new home, but this new home is anything but normal: the walls change colour, a face appears in the mirror, and the pantry is suddenly filled with fancy food. When a party of extraordinary visitors arrive at midnight, Saffi begins to realise that her family has a dark, magical secret. It will take all her bravery to discover the truth and find a way into another world.

Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward?

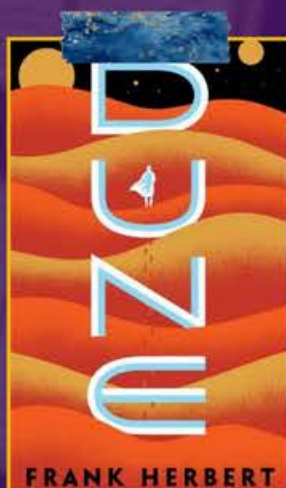


Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least make it out of her neighborhood one day. As the daughter of an underground rap legend who died before he hit big, Bri's got big shoes to fill. But when life gets in the way Bri no longer just wants to make it—she has to make it.

If you liked...



Try →



The sci-fi novel that started it all! Dune is the inspiration for Star Wars, The Matrix, 2001: A Space Odyssey and many many more. It feels a little like reading a space dictionary but it's all worth it for the twisty hero's journey.



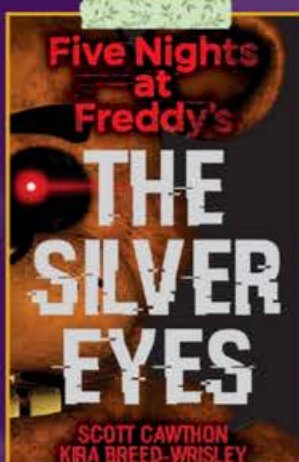
Try →



By day a fierce hockey midfielder, by night an E-sports champion. That's the life of Emilia as she navigates the crazy life of high school. This book has it all; enemies to lovers, secret identities and most importantly a competitive female lead.



Try →



Hor hor hor hor hor. We all know Freddy Fazbear and his pizzeria escapades....or do we? Scott Cawthon's FNAF book series reveals key lore and new character secrets that fans of the game will need to study if they want to stay on top of this bonkers franchise.



RECRUITING SWIMMERS NOW

IS YOUR SWIMMER READY TO JOIN A WELCOMING COMPETITIVE SWIMMING CLUB?

ARE YOU AN ADULT LOOKING FOR A MASTERS SQUAD?

OUR CLUB PROVIDES INCLUSIVE COACHING FOR COMPETITIVE SWIMMERS, TRIATHLETES, AND CASUAL SWIMMERS.

WE OFFER AVAILABILITY ACROSS VARIOUS SQUADS TAILORED FOR EVERYONE.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- **AGE: 6 YEARS AND OLDER**
- **MUST HAVE ACHIEVED LEARN TO SWIM LEVEL 5**



**CONTACT US FOR A FREE TRIAL :
MEMBERSHIP.WILDERNWAVES@GMAIL.COM**



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.



Expert

Written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about being at the heart of every school by integrating mental health into the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, and co-authored their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

