



DEER PARK

newsletter

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

ISSUE 4

HEADTEACHER'S HELLO



This is our final newsletter of the first half term and I'm delighted to share that it's been a truly fantastic and hugely successful time at Deer Park School. It has been a pleasure getting to know our new students, working alongside new colleagues, and immersing myself into this wonderful school community. This newsletter is full of the ambition and energy our students have shown across all year groups; from Year 8 enjoying a fascinating Cipher Day and a trip to Bletchley Park while immersing themselves in the world of code-breaking to our Diversity and RRC Focus Group enjoying a brilliant trip to the Houses of Parliament. We have celebrated huge sporting success as well and a particular well done to Max in Year 11 for being crowned county golf champion and earning selection for the England U18 team. I wish everyone a very restful and well-deserved half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back refreshed and ready for an equally successful Autumn Term 2.

Regards,

Mr Jones



MEET MRS ENGLISH

Hello everyone, my name is Mrs English and I am so happy to have joined the Deer Park team as a new Maths teacher. It has been wonderful to see so many students enjoying the ironic side of my name, and I'm already having a great time getting to know everyone.

I have a genuine passion to help students reach their potential, and a passion for Maths – I want your children to look forward to coming to their lesson and to feel confident in their abilities. Before I became a teacher, I worked at Southampton Football Club, based at their training ground. Going from organising people there to teaching in a classroom is a little different day-to-day, but watching children thrive and grow to love Maths is the very reason I made the career change.

In my free time, I enjoy watching sports, baking (unfortunately, I'll never make it to the Bake Off!), going for long walks, and spending as much time as possible doing various activities with my two children.

It has been a fantastic first half term, and I have really enjoyed getting to know the students, working alongside new colleagues, and immersing myself into the school community.



YEAR 7

Team 2030 are coming to the end of their very first half term at Deer Park School, and what a half term it's been!

We've been so impressed with how they've settled in and really started to find their feet. As a year group, they have truly embodied our values of resilience, ambition, and kindness. It's been fantastic to see so many of them throwing themselves into everything Deer Park has to offer, from the huge range of extra-curricular activities to applying for student leadership roles.

On that note, I want to say a massive well done to the students who have been selected to be Head of their House this year. This is a huge honour, and hopefully something they are all very excited about! Mr. Miller was absolutely blown away by the amazing quality of all the applications he received, so a huge congratulations to everyone who took the time to apply. I also have to mention our enormous contribution to the shoebox appeal. The response was incredible! A huge thank you to everybody who was able to support this brilliant cause.

We're really looking forward to seeing many of you at our parent/student breakfast this Friday – it should be a lovely way to finish the term.

Beyond that, on behalf of the entire Year 7 tutor team and myself, I want to wish you all a very restful and well-deserved half-term break. They've certainly earned it! Get ready for what I'm sure will be another very busy half term when we return.

All the best,
Mr Colley

YEAR 8

As we approach the end of the first half-term of the school year I would like to thank the vast majority of students who have made a flying start to the Year. Uniform, attendance and punctuality have all been impressive and lessons that I visit are calm, purposeful and respectful.

Extra-curricular continues to go from strength to strength and we are a very well-represented year group in terms of participation and performance. Can I also thank all of those students who applied for the role of house leader and say a big congratulations to those who were successful – it's fabulous to see you getting involved in the running of the school.

Cipher Day was a huge success and the trip to Bletchley Park enabled students to get a real-life experience of the content examined on the day.

During the final assembly of the half-term, I rewarded those students who are on either '0' or '1' behaviour points so far this year. As I emphasised to the cohort, these students have maintained consistently high standards since the start of the year and are an example of the power of 'good habits' inside and outside of the classroom. Well done to them!

Have a restful break and thank you for your continued support.

Mr Parnell



YEAR 9

As we reach the end of a busy and bustling first half term, Miss Andrews and I would like to extend a huge well done and thank you to all our fantastic Year 9 students.

It has been a busy period packed with new challenges and learning, and we have been incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm and positivity, especially faced with new subjects in their pathway options. It's been a genuine pleasure to see them engaging so well in their lessons and demonstrating a growing maturity as they settle into the year.

A special thank you must also go out to all our parents and carers for your invaluable support from home – it truly makes all the difference.

Wishing you all a very restful and well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed for another successful term!

Best wishes,
Mrs Nelhams and Miss Andrews

YEAR 10

Another half term completed, and this one has been particularly busy for Year 10!

Firstly, I wanted to say a massive well done to the cohort, who eclipsed all other Year Groups in producing the most amount of shoe boxes across the school. A special shout out must go to Isabella D, who propelled Mr Denman's tutor group to the top of the rankings bringing in 74 items!

The final day of this half term marked the closing date for prefect applications. A large number of students have applied, and I know the Senior Leadership Team are looking forward to reading their letters. Interviews for the positions of Head Boy, Head Girl, and their deputies will be taking place after the half term break.

Students also received information in assembly this week regarding Work Experience, which will take place from 13th-17th July. I am sure many parents reading this will remember their own Work Experience week, please discuss it with your children at home! I would encourage students to start investigating their placements early on to avoid disappointment.

Finally, with the days getting darker and colder, please take the time to rest up ahead of another busy half term.

Enjoy the break,
Mr Gregory

YEAR 11

As the first ½ term of Year 11 draws to a close, I wanted to give a big well done and thank you to Year 11 for their efforts so far. It's been a good (and busy!) start to the year for Year 11.

In assemblies this ½ term we have focused on small wins that students can complete in order to give themselves a better chance with their GCSEs. These have included 1% gains such as a strict sleep schedule, starting small chunks of revision at this stage and keeping hydrated. Above all else, attendance will be the number 1 contributing factor to success with exams, so keeping that aim of 100% attendance is important.

I have been really pleased with the start of the Prepare to Perform program and the numbers of students turning up for these each evening. This extra hour at 3pm is giving students a 1% gain for each session they attend, so a really big well done to those who have attended multiple sessions.

Whilst it's important that students use the ½ term break to get some rest, I have challenged them to consider what their view looks like over the break, and where they want to be in 12 months time. Having a clear view of where they want to be will undoubtedly help them to see what work needs to be done in order to achieve these goals.

Take care Year 11, and enjoy your well-earned break.

Mr. Smith

EVERY ASSEMBLIES AWARD

Congratulations to the students below for this fortnights assembly awards

Year 7 Rewards!

TUTOR OF THE WEEK: Taylor F

STUDENT OF THE WEEK: 7 Follow 2

ATTENDANCE AWARD: Olivia B

SLT PRAISE AWARD: Kyla C

Year 8 Rewards!

TUTOR OF THE WEEK: Madison P

STUDENT OF THE WEEK: 8 Sika I

ATTENDANCE AWARD: Louis G

SLT PRAISE AWARD: Canon D

Year 9 Rewards!

TUTOR OF THE WEEK: Daphne O

STUDENT OF THE WEEK: 9 Elk I

ATTENDANCE AWARD: Isla T-D

SLT PRAISE AWARD: Ethan F

Year 10 Rewards!

TUTOR OF THE WEEK: Isabella D

STUDENT OF THE WEEK: 10 Elk I

ATTENDANCE AWARD: Taliya T

SLT PRAISE AWARD: Toby G

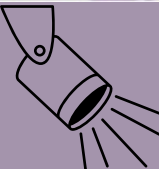
Year 11 Rewards!

TUTOR OF THE WEEK: Emily J

STUDENT OF THE WEEK: 11 Follow

ATTENDANCE AWARD: Oliver B

SLT PRAISE AWARD: Lola W



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: ENGLISH



YEAR 7: CURRENT CURRICULUM

It has been such a pleasure to welcome our new year 7s to Deer Park and to see what they are capable of this half term!

Our focus has been on 'Becoming a Writer' and students loved the talk from Ele Fountain, a local author whose book, 'FAKE' they have been reading at the start of lessons. As the half term has come to a close, teachers have loved seeing how they can apply some of their skills of Show Not Tell to their characters and Pathetic Fallacy to their settings. Next half term, we are so excited to introduce students to a new scheme of work, exploring The Odyssey and poetry through the form of a musical and we can't wait to see their creativity flourish! .

YEAR 8: CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 8s have been exploring an entirely new way of looking at Poetry this half term- ready for the National 'Poetry by Heart' competition. Mrs Lewington and Mrs Walters have been popping into lots of lessons and have really enjoyed seeing students recite their poems with pride. This is a great foundation for them to become more confident public speakers as well as to prepare them for learning poetry quotes for their GCSEs. Next half term, students will be going back to the more traditional poetry exploration and looking at the romantics and gothic period - it's all Lake District and barren landscapes!

YEAR 9: CURRENT CURRICULUM

In year 9 English, we lay the foundations for what they need to know for their GCSEs and content through modern Literature. Students seemed to have really enjoyed the play, 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly and exploring the dynamics of the teenage characters as they navigate problem solving. Their knowledge from the Animal Farm scheme in year 8 about social hierarchy has been built on to explore Machiavellian leadership which will assist their understanding of Macbeth in year 10. I'm really impressed at the maturity year 9 have applied themselves to their first 'GCSE essay' on DNA and am excited to see what they produce next half term as they explore modern protest poetry before their Spoken Language Component of their GCSE in the New Year.

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: ENGLISH

YEAR 10: CURRENT CURRICULUM

Year 10s have come back and impressed the English Department and Mr Gregory no end as they begin their GCSE text exploration – Macbeth. It has been such a pleasure to walk around the classrooms and see them so engaged in the story – let alone the amazing students running up to Mr Theobald reciting ‘fair is foul, and foul is fair’ and other quotes in order to get them that Gold Value Point!

After half term, we are really excited to be able to offer students a production and workshop of Macbeth on 1st December. This is perfectly timed for when they finish the play and to look at applying students’ knowledge to an essay in preparation for their mocks.

Keep up the great work, year 10!

YEAR 11: CURRENT CURRICULUM

While year 10 are just starting their Literature journey, year 11 have just completed all of the content after finishing reading, ‘A Christmas Carol’ this half term. Far from a ‘humbug’ we have been proud of how students have taken to it and explored the themes, even if it is a bit early for Christmas! Over half term, we are expecting students to take time to learn some of the quotes we have explored in class ready for a closed book exam on the first week back. This is to prepare them for their mocks which will be on Macbeth and A Christmas Carol.

After half term, year 11 have only one more element to learn for their two GCSEs, question 2 and 4 of Language Paper 2. Then it’s all revision from there on in.

We have been really pleased with the turnout to the English Prepare to Perform sessions and will be hosting the next one on ‘The realities of war – Power and Conflict Anthology’ on the first day back! We look forward to seeing the students there!



CAREERS INFORMATION



ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP JOBS FAIR



10 February 2026 5-7pm

**Thinking of an apprenticeship in engineering?
Come along and meet employers recruiting
engineering apprentices for Sept '26**

Who should attend?

- Anyone that is thinking of a career in engineering, giving you "skills for life".
- Whether you'll be a school or college leaver in 2026, or just thinking about a change in your career, this event is for you!

Why attend?

- The evening will provide the ideal opportunity to meet and chat to local employers about some of the amazing apprenticeship opportunities available
- Find out about apprenticeship vacancies for September 2026 and how to apply
- Speak to current apprentices about what life is like at SETA
- Speak to SETA staff about your options
- It's FREE to attend!
- Parking is available on a first come first serve basis

#AskAnEmployer

Where is it taking place?

Southampton Engineering Training Association (SETA)
First Avenue, Millbrook, Southampton, SO15 0LJ

When is it happening?

Tuesday 10th February 2026

There are 2 bookable arrival times: 5pm or 6pm

BOOK ONLINE:



https://www.setatraining.co.uk/seta/events/open_evenings.html



Supporting Tomorrow's Engineers

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

CLICK HERE





CHILDCARE WORK THAT FITS AROUND COLLEGE



Wraparound childcare is care that fits around the school day and can be run by schools or childcare providers.

WHY IS IT GREAT FOR STUDENTS?

- Flexible hours that fit around college or university timetables
- Great experience if you're studying or interested in working with children, health, education or social care
- Build transferable skills and boost your CV
- Extra hours available during school holidays
- Make a real difference in children's lives

WHEN WOULD I WORK?

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Many wraparound providers are in easy reach of college.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Holiday clubs may offer even more hours!



**SEARCH
FIND A JOB**



Hampshire
County Council



CAREERS INFORMATION



Inspiring Events for Schools 2026

Get Inspired

Get Inspired events bring businesses together from all industries to inspire young people to work in their sector through hands-on interactive activities that encourage young people to engage with businesses. The events are a great way for students to learn about career options in their local areas from a diverse range of businesses. Attending these events can help schools meet Gatsby Benchmarks and CDI Framework areas.



Get Inspired Portsmouth, Portsmouth Guildhall - 15th January 2026

Get Inspired Basingstoke, The Apollo Hotel - 4th and 5th February 2026

Get Inspired Southampton and New Forest, O2 Guildhall Southampton - 6th May 2026

"A really great event. Employers were knowledgeable and made it interesting. Lots of activities which were engaging and kept the students' attention."

Liam Gallagher, Priory School

"Really positive event supported well by local and regional companies as well as the armed forces. Our students will take away more more than they realise."

Paddy Padfield, Moyles Court School

"Inspiring - you have made our children think outside the box. It's been thought provoking about technology and the way industries are always moving forward. With innovative ideas, these are children of the future."

Sue Street, Peel Common Junior School

Primary Schools' STEM Fair

The Primary Schools' STEM Fairs allow young people to take part in interactive STEM activities with local businesses. This helps educate them about different career options and challenges perceptions about different roles. The aim is for young people to have fun, take part in a STEM activity and at the end, link the STEM activity to future careers.



CEMAST, Fareham College - 5th and 6th March 2026

Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke - TBC March 2026

Inspiring STEM

Our Inspiring STEM event is new for 2023.

This event allows young people to take part in interactive STEM activities with businesses from across Hampshire. This helps educate them about different career options and challenges perceptions about different roles. Taking place at the National Oceanography Centre, this event combines activities provided by businesses with lab activities, talks and a tour of the centre.



The Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke - 12th November 2025

National Oceanography Centre, Southampton - 24th June 2026

"Great event with a wide range of activities and a quick turn around to keep the pace up!"
Bishop Challoner School

To sign up visit <https://www.ebpsouth.co.uk/for-schools/large-scale-events/events@ebpsouth.co.uk>
02392 283400

Company Number: 3352250
Charity Commission no. 1146880



EXAM RESULTS 2025



98%
PASS RATE
IN 2025 AT A LEVEL


1837
STUDENTS ACCEPTED
UNIVERSITY
PLACES IN 2025

★
1044
STUDENTS WERE
ACCEPTED INTO
THE SUTTON 30,
★ THE UK'S 30 MOST
COMPETITIVE
★ UNIVERSITIES

57

MEDAL WINNERS
AT THE AOC
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

45

OXBRIDGE
PLACES ACCEPTED
IN 2025

863
STUDENTS WENT TO
RUSSELL GROUP
UNIVERSITIES IN 2025


225
STUDENTS
INVOLVED
IN MUSIC



60%
OF A LEVEL GRADES
IN 2025 WERE
A*–B

20

YEARS AS AN
OFSTED
'OUTSTANDING'
PROVIDER



Peter Symonds College
Owens Road,
Winchester, Hampshire
SO22 6RX.

01962 857555
admissions@psc.ac.uk
www.psc.ac.uk



CAREERS INFORMATION



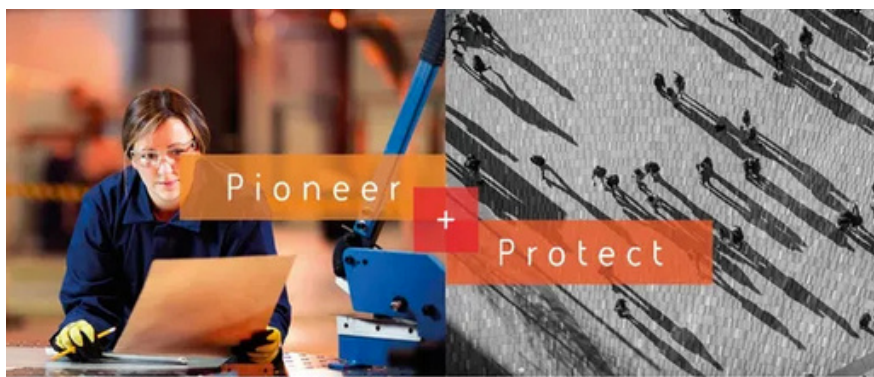
Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire Achieves



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

CLICK HERE



BAE Systems Apprentice open evening Portsmouth Naval Base

Monday 3 November 2025, 18:00 – 20:00

Tuesday 4 November 2025, 18:00 – 20:00

Do you want to work on world-leading technology? As an apprentice with BAE Systems, you'll help us provide a vital advantage for our customers to protect what really matters. You could work across diverse roles, from supporting business development and radar technology, to identifying manufacturing solutions and maintaining ships.

Our Open Evenings are your opportunity to visit our site at Portsmouth Naval Base and explore the range of apprenticeship opportunities we offer in maritime security and defence.

Speak with BAE Systems apprentices, business and planning professionals, digital technologists and engineers. Learn about the work they do and how you could join the team.

Portsmouth Naval Base is a working defence establishment, so you'll need to register in advance to attend.

Places are limited to two places per booking and offered on a first come, first served basis. If you are under 18, you'll need to attend with one accompanying adult. Valid photo ID (i.e. passport or driver's license) will be required to gain entry and access is subject to pre-event security clearance. Due to the nature of our site, bag checks may be conducted.

Please specify how many places you require (1 or 2) and whether you have a preferred date to attend (Monday 3 or Tuesday 4 November). Deadline for registration is noon Friday 17 October 2025, although registration will close sooner if events are fully booked.

Are you ready to influence the future?

To register, please contact
skillscentre.admin@baesystems.com

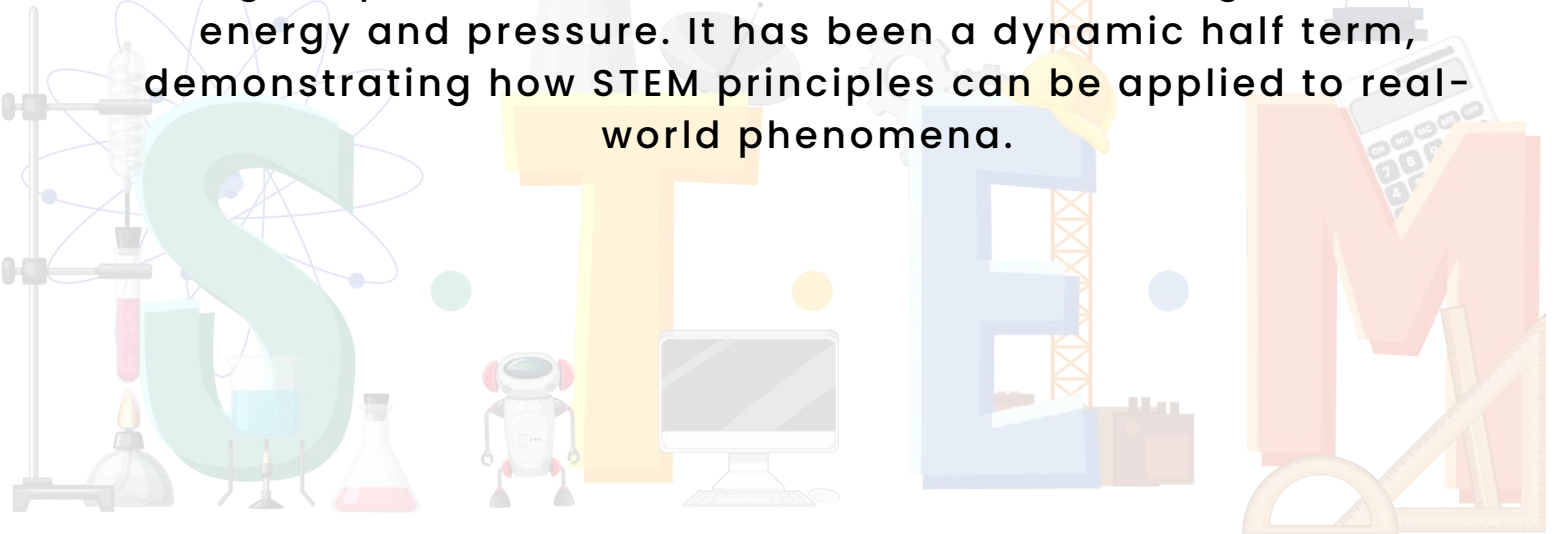
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BAE SYSTEMS

STEM UPDATE

This half term, STEM club has explored extreme weather through a series of exciting projects. Students made their own tornadoes in a beaker, visually demonstrating the powerful forces with different kinds of debris. They also put their engineering skills to the test - designing earthquake-resistant spaghetti houses, which were then thoroughly tested to see if they could withstand the tremors. STEM club also created model geysers, using simple chemical reactions to understand geothermal energy and pressure. It has been a dynamic half term, demonstrating how STEM principles can be applied to real-world phenomena.



PSP - LOVE LANGUAGES

It was lovely to see you during our Parent Support Programme for Languages and really nice to meet you all. Me and Miss Baron were excited to talk to you about what languages look like here at Deer Park and how you can support your child at home.

If you were not able to attend the meeting, please use [this link](#) to access the presentation:



"Love Languages"

At Deer Park we celebrate and encourage languages learning



Mrs Brazao & Miss Baron



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our London trip!

Our trip to the Houses of Parliament was an incredible experience, offering a unique insight into the heart of UK democracy. We went because we are part of the Diversity and RRC Focus Group and we wanted to see the diversity and development of the UK and the plans for our future across the country.

We started our tour in Westminster Hall, a space steeped in centuries of history, where Guy Fawkes was tried and monarchs have laid in state. It was a fascinating start to our day.

We walked through some of the corridors, taking in the statues of former prime ministers and significant historical figures.

One of our first major stops was the House of Lords. The atmosphere was formal yet engaging, it developed our understanding of the debates and the respectfulness of the parties.

Next, we went to the Parliamentary Archives. This was a true highlight for us as the architecture was so inspiring. Our meeting with Paul Holmes explained what is inside the archives and what knowledge it holds. Our tour guide was incredibly knowledgeable and brought the stories behind parliament to life, telling us the political system and development.

After lunch, we participated in an educational workshop. This session was focused on how young people can effectively communicate their concerns and points of view to their elected representatives. It was an empowering workshop, teaching us about different campaigning strategies, the importance of clear communication, and how to effectively write to our MPs., which was a lot of fun. We learned that our voices really do matter and even from a young age our opinions are important.

The absolute highlight of the day was meeting Paul Holmes, our local MP. He took time out of his incredibly busy schedule to speak with our group, and it was an invaluable opportunity to ask questions and gain an insider's perspective on the life of a Member of Parliament. He spoke passionately about his work, the challenges of representing a constituency, and the importance of engaging with young people. We asked him about the biggest challenges facing young people today, and his thoughtful response made us feel truly listened to. It was inspiring to hear directly from someone who is actively involved in shaping the future of the local area.

After our trip to parliament, we went on the London Eye. This was an incredible experience as we got to see the landscape and architecture of London from up high. It was fun looking at all the famous buildings that look much bigger on the ground than up high.

Overall, the trip to Parliament and going to the London Eye was an unforgettable experience and we'd love to go there again.



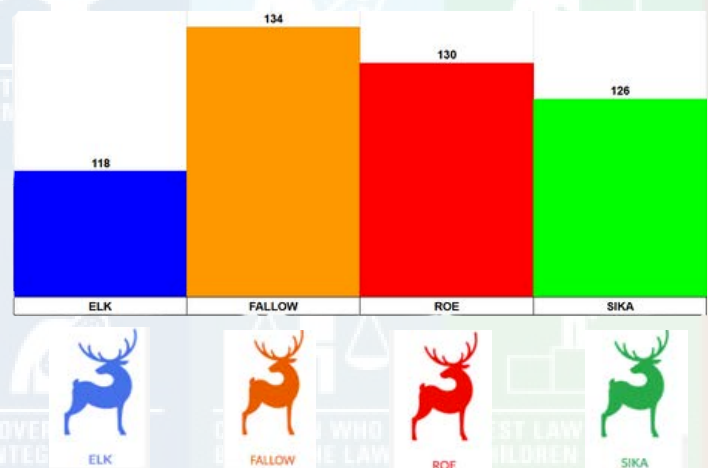
DEER PARK RRC - THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Article 34: Protection From Sexual Abuse.

This week, we are exploring Article 34, which states that every child has the right to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse. This right applies to every child, everywhere. But what does this truly mean? Imagine a world where children feel safe, supported, and empowered to speak out. Where adults take responsibility for creating environments that protect children from harm - online, in schools, in communities, and beyond.

So, whether you're a child or an adult, let's commit to building a culture of safety and respect. Let's encourage open conversations, educate ourselves and others, and ensure that every child knows they have the right to be protected - and the power to seek help when they need it.

END OF HALF TERM HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS





Numeracy updates

Maths at Home: Tackling Time! 17

Continuing our focus on measures, this week we're talking about time. Unlike length or mass, time units are not based on powers of ten; we convert using factors like 60 (seconds to minutes) and 24 (hours to days). Understanding these irregular conversions is a practical skill that connects maths to scheduling, travel, history, and science.

Helping your child navigate units like **seconds, minutes, hours, and days** shows them how flexible maths is and prepares them for real-world logistical challenges. Below are simple, practical ideas to help them become "bilingual" in time measurement at home.

For Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8)

At this stage, the goal is to build an intuitive sense of the relationship between common time units and master basic conversions (e.g., minutes to hours).

The Chronometer Challenge (Seconds & Minutes)

Find a TV schedule, a sports stopwatch, or a train timetable. Challenge your child to convert the total duration of an event from minutes to hours and vice versa.

Challenge: The total running time of a movie is 165 minutes. How long is that in hours and minutes?

(Hint: 1 hour = 60 minutes).

Discussion: Why do we often use 24-hour time (e.g., 18:30) for timetables but 12-hour time (e.g. 6:30 pm) for daily conversation?

★ Family Challenge: The Holiday Planner

A flight time is listed as 8.5 hours. If the flight departs at 11:45 am, what time will it land? (Don't worry about time zones yet!)

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 rates, and conversions across different magnitudes (e.g., seconds to days).

The Rate Converter Detective (Time & Speed)

Many scientific and practical problems involve converting a rate where time is a key component, such as speed or flow rate.

Challenge: A water tap is dripping at a rate of 120 millilitres per hour. If the tap drips continuously for 5 full days, how many litres of water will be wasted?

(Hint: 1 L = 1000 ml. Convert days to hours first). This highlights the need for consistent units across a calculation.

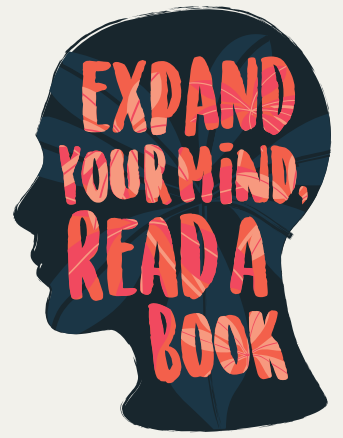
★ Family Challenge: The Marathon Pace

A runner completes a marathon (42.2 km) in a time of 3 hours, 50 minutes, and 15 seconds. What was the runner's average speed in metres per second?

(Hint: Convert the total distance to metres and the total time to seconds before calculating speed).

We hope these ideas help you demonstrate that time conversion isn't just a classroom exercise—it's the fundamental way we organise our lives and solve real-world logistical problems!

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 **conduct**.

For something a little different, our Weird and Wonderful Word of the week was **matutolypea**, which is an obscure English dialect word that means "extreme grumpiness in the morning."

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; Sober October

Influential People; Matthew Perry

This week in history; The Cuban Missile Crisis

Have you ever wondered; Why do trees lose their leaves in Autumn?

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!

Vocabulary Updates

Please remember to check 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 9

Year 11

Year 8

Year 10

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

Please prepare students with extra layers of clothing for after half term. Base layers are encouraged.

Fixtures

County champion alert! Congratulations Max B (Yr 11) who was crowned county champion at Hockley golf club on Monday 13th October. Max hit one under par 70 to win the gross score and bring home a county trophy, the first ever golfing trophy in Deer Park history. Furthermore a huge congratulations and good luck following your England U18 golf selection. We wish you best of success in upcoming events.

House Rugby: Well done all those who took part in our first House sporting event.



GCSE PE

Quick fire questions to support your child's learning

Year 9 - Name three muscles and three connecting bones?

Year 10 - Name three types of coaching guidance?

Year 11 - which lever has a mechanical advantage?

Go for gold - what is the difference between an artery and a vein?

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES

Fearless is part of the charity Crimestoppers, providing a platform for young people to speak up about crime 100% anonymously. If you have information about a crime and want to keep your friends, family and community safe, then speak to Fearless 24/7, 365 days a year. They will never ask for personal details and you will not have to talk to the police. Visit fearless.org or call 0800555111.



0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Give information anonymously

[What is Fearless?](#)

[More Info](#)

[News](#)

[Parents/Guardians](#)

[Professionals](#)

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What is Fearless?

Fearless enables young people to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously

Pass on information without giving any personal details.

Give information anonymously

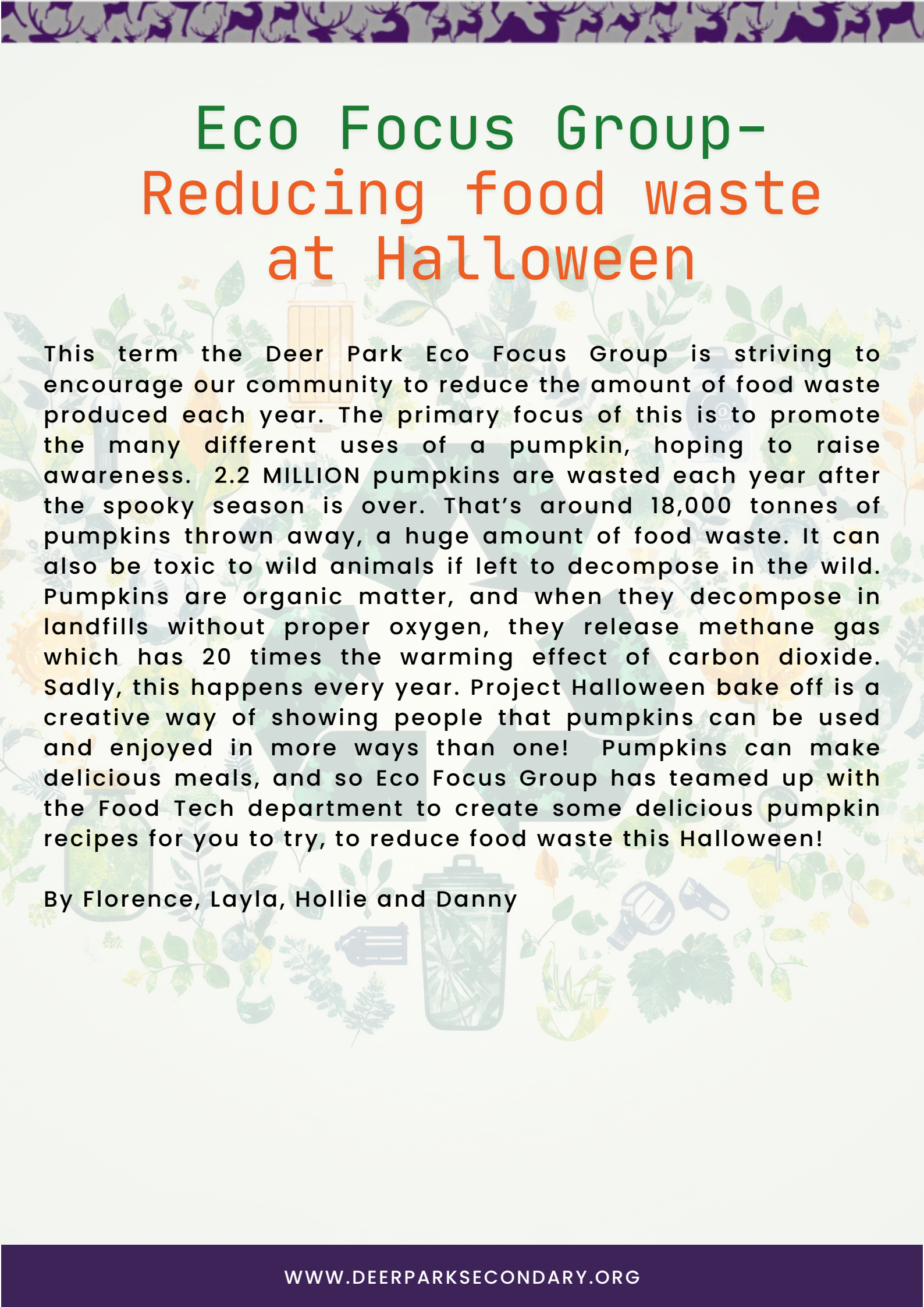
Quick Exit



YEAR 9 FOOD TECH & GARDENING CLUB- FROM THE GARDEN PATCH TO THE PLATE! 🥬

Our green-fingered Gardening Club has had a fantastic half term! They've successfully grown a wonderful crop of cabbages, peppers, and tomatoes. This homegrown harvest was recently picked and used by Year 9 students in their Food Tech lesson to create delicious, fresh spring rolls. Well done to everyone involved!





Eco Focus Group- Reducing food waste at Halloween

This term the Deer Park Eco Focus Group is striving to encourage our community to reduce the amount of food waste produced each year. The primary focus of this is to promote the many different uses of a pumpkin, hoping to raise awareness. 2.2 MILLION pumpkins are wasted each year after the spooky season is over. That's around 18,000 tonnes of pumpkins thrown away, a huge amount of food waste. It can also be toxic to wild animals if left to decompose in the wild. Pumpkins are organic matter, and when they decompose in landfills without proper oxygen, they release methane gas which has 20 times the warming effect of carbon dioxide. Sadly, this happens every year. Project Halloween bake off is a creative way of showing people that pumpkins can be used and enjoyed in more ways than one! Pumpkins can make delicious meals, and so Eco Focus Group has teamed up with the Food Tech department to create some delicious pumpkin recipes for you to try, to reduce food waste this Halloween!

By Florence, Layla, Hollie and Danny

Pumpkin Pie Recipe

Ingredients

750 grams of pumpkin, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunks

350g of shortcrust pastry. Plain flour (for dusting)

140g of caster sugar.

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of salt. $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of nutmeg. 1 tsp of cinnamon. 2 eggs beaten. 25g butter, melted.

175 ml of milk. 1 tbsp of icing sugar

Method

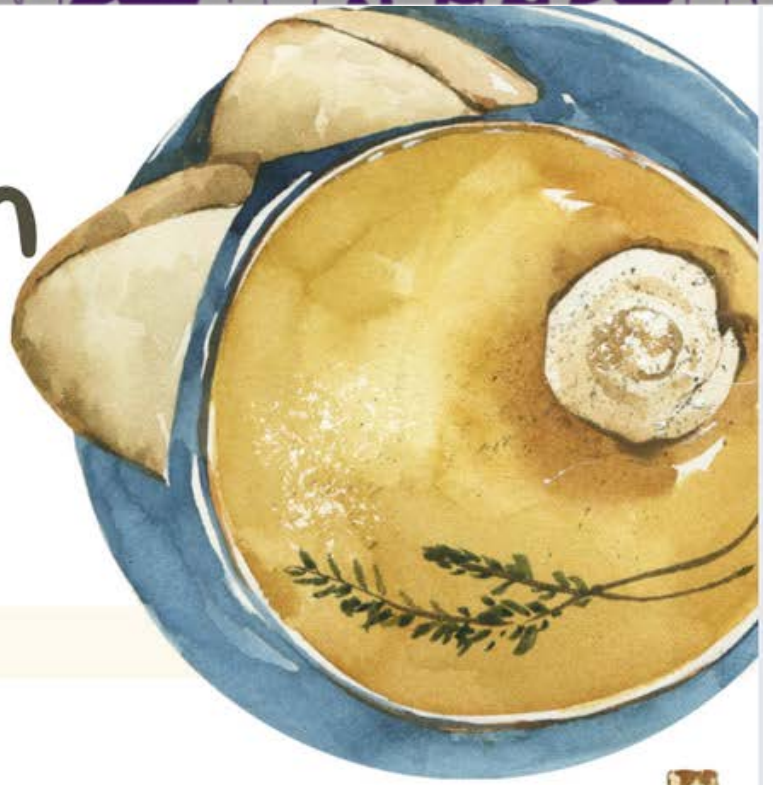
1. Place pumpkin in large saucepan, cover with water and bring to the boil, cover with the lid and simmer for 15 minutes or until tender, drain and leave to cool.

2. Heat oven to 180 degrees C (160 degrees C fan gas 4) Roll out pastry on lightly floured surface and use it to line a 22cm loose-bottomed tart tin. Chill for 15 mins. Line pastry with baking parchment and baking beans then bake for 15 mins. Remove beans and paper. Cook for 10 mins until base is pale golden. Leave to cool.

3. Increase oven to 220 degrees C (200 degrees C fan, gas 7. Push pumpkin through a sieve into a large bowl. In a separate bowl combine sugar, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon. Mix in eggs, butter and milk. Add to pumpkin puree and stir to combine. Pour into tart shell and cook for 10 mins then reduce temperature to 180 degrees C (160 degrees C, gas 4). Bake for 35-40 mins until the filling has just set.

4. Leave to cool, then remove pie from the tin. Mix remaining cinnamon with icing sugar and dust over the pie. Serve chilled.

Pumpkin Soup



Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 (1-pound) pumpkin, peeled, seeded, and chopped
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste



Instructions:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for about 5 minutes.
2. Add the garlic powder, ginger, and pumpkin to the pot and cook for 5 minutes more.
3. Add the broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes.
4. Puree the soup in a blender or food processor until smooth.
5. Stir in the heavy cream and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Tips:

- For a richer flavor, roast the pumpkin before pureeing it.
- To make a vegan pumpkin soup, use vegetable broth and omit the heavy cream.
- Garnish the soup with chopped fresh herbs, such as parsley or chives.

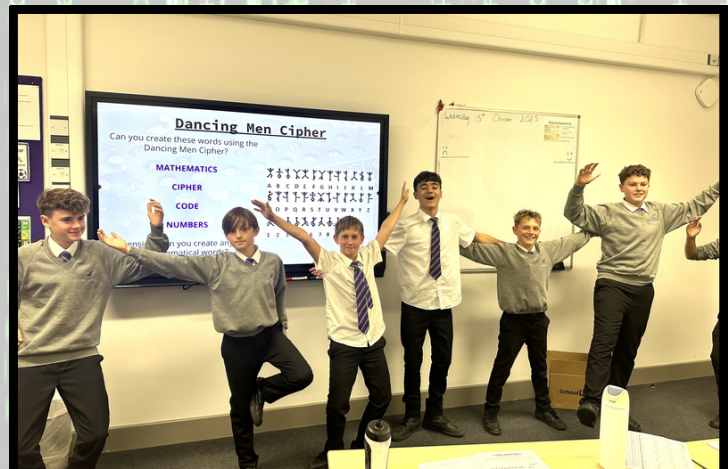
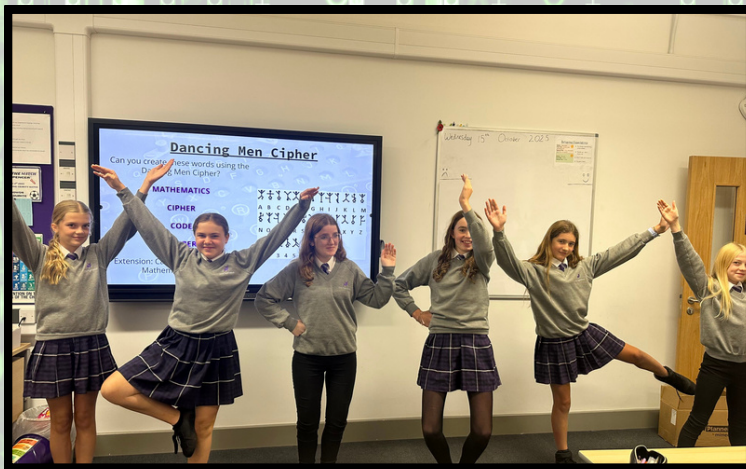


Cipher Day

Year 8 took part in Deer Park's annual Cipher Day on October 15th.

Students spent the day in their Houses, where they listened to Mr Smith and Miss Outhwaite explain the importance of code breaking at Bletchley Park, and how the Enigma machine was cracked. They were then taught a variety of different ciphers, including the Pigpen Cipher, Caesar Cipher, and Dancing Man Cipher. Students were then informed that their new mascot had been kidnapped, and they needed to use their newfound code breaking skills to solve the crime! Year 8 came together at the end of the day to present their work on codes. A fantastic day all round!

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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) *Young Reporter (103) Years 10/11	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 8 *Chess (114) All Year Groups *Art Intervention (203) KS4 *Gardening Club Meet by Bike Sheds	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 9 *Dominoes Club (Additional Support) *KS4 Intervention (117) (Maths/Science/English) *KS3 English Self Study Drop in (007)	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 10 *Ukulele Club (008) *Books and Biscuits (007)	*Get Active (Sports Hall) Year 11 *Drama Club (006) *KS4 Art Intervention (203)
BREAK 2	*Quotation Club (004) Year 11 *Computing Drop in (101) KS4	*Computing Club (102) All Year Groups	*Debate Club (103) KS4	*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) *Year 9 Statistics Club (max 20, sign up essential 117)	*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)	*Self Study Club (LRC) *Mathletes (Years 8-11) 116 *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) *Axiom Maths Circles (118) (Year 7 Invite Only)	*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
3rd Nov 2025	Start of Autumn Term 2	Whole School
3rd Nov 2025	Dance Trip - Bournemouth Uni	GCSE Dance ☐
4th Nov 2025	Portrait Gallery Trip	Year 10 GCSE Art
6th Nov 2025	PSP - Data & Assessments	All parents
7th Nov 2025	Apprentice's vs Dragon Den Trip	Careers Trip
11th Nov 2025	Chess Tournament - Winchester College	-
13th Nov 2025	Meet the Tutor Evening	Year 7 Parents
14th Nov 2025	Odd Socks Day	Whole School
28th Nov 2025	Inset Day	Whole School

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

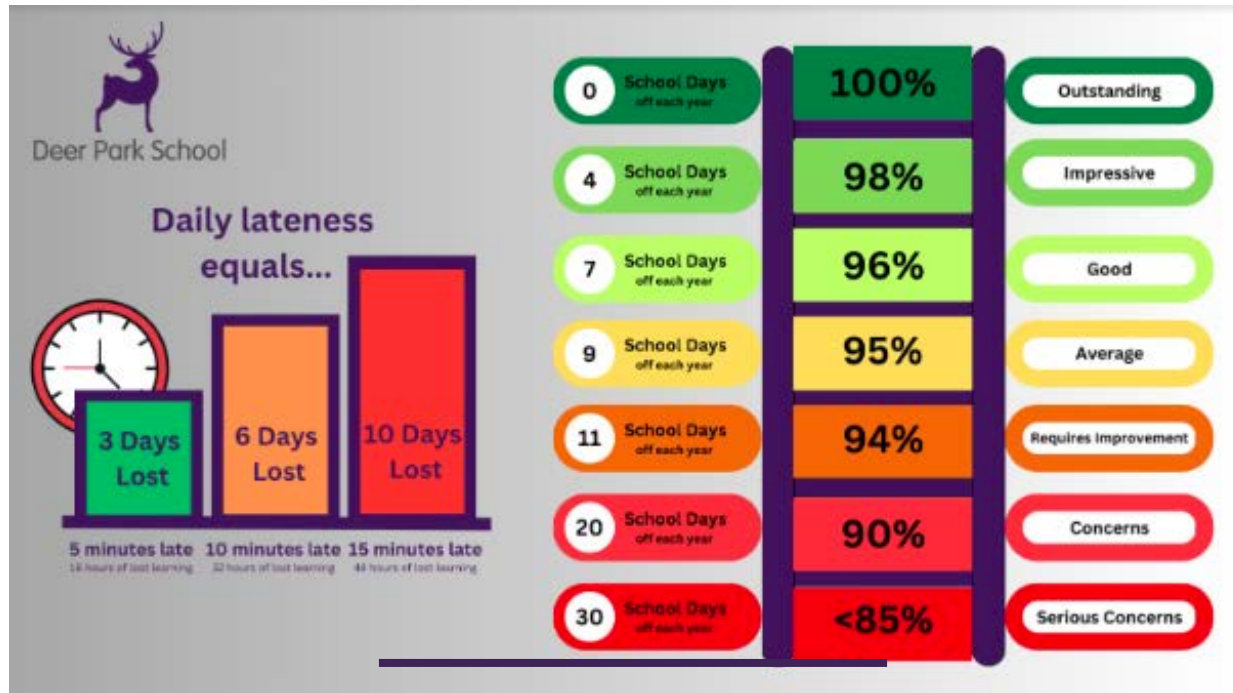
For the safety and security of all students and staff, please be reminded that the school car park is reserved exclusively for those who hold a valid car park pass or a Blue Badge . We kindly request that you do not use the car park for general drop-offs or collections (Unless you are collecting your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





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TOTTSRUGBY@GMAIL.COM**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 6% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA



Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'laugh off' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to online violence can lead to fear and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION



Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DESENSITISATION



Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES



Violent content online may overlap with racist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, this can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT



Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.



KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or a safeguarding matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and social media reporting procedures. A useful resource is reportharmfulcontent.com.



AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.



UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these tools and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.



Our Expert

Ell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert on digital safety, media law, and young people. Her PhD investigates understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit onlinemedialawuk.com for more.



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