



DEER PARK

newsletter

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2024

ISSUE 8

HEADTEACHER'S HELLO!



Dear Parents,

Another packed two weeks at Deer Park - the careers fair was a great success and we would like to extend our thanks to all of the people who gave up their time to meet with the students and discuss future career opportunities.

I hope you all enjoy reading through the newsletter and do take note of the upcoming Number Day...

Have a great weekend,

Mr Jones



MEET MS WATTS



Hello

My name is Ms Watts and I started at Deer Park just after Christmas as the new Receptionist. I came from another school in Southampton where I provided administration duties to their SEND department and previous to that worked for 16 years in a local independent estate agents running the administration department. I have always enjoyed working within my local community, so I was really pleased when I got appointed as the new receptionist here.

I'm kept very busy in the evenings and weekends with my young family and two dogs and you'll often find me walking my Pug & French bulldog. I have been so impressed with how polite and friendly all of the students have been; they are all a credit to the school.

YEAR 7

Year 7 have their first competitive sporting wins! Well done to the girls Netball Team who absolutely smashed not one, but two, local schools! Congratulations to all involved.

Votes for Schools has also launched as part of our tutor programme, with students having the opportunity to discuss topics in the news which are relevant to their own lives. So far the Year 7 tutors are incredibly impressed with the level of maturity being shown by all students, particularly when it comes to listening to other people's views.

In lessons we have had another successful two weeks, with staff continuing to comment on the brilliant learning produced by members of Team 2028. Keep up the amazing work!

Kind wishes,
Mrs Wilson

YEAR 8

Wednesday 17th January was a busy day for Year 8 as they immersed themselves into the Career's Event. They had an assembly from the NHS covering a wide range of topics, from the jobs available within the health service, to practical advice on how to look after and manage their own physical and mental health. Later in the day they toured around a host of stands set up in the hall highlighting different and exciting careers available for once they leave Deer Park, as well as routes on how to get there.

It was great to hear the amazing feedback our visitors had about how polite and interested our students were, and equally great to see such fantastic support from parents who attended after school.

I know from conversations with students that this has given them a real focus with regards to some of their GCSE pathways starting next year.

Keep up the great work Year 8!
Mr Gregory

YEAR 9

On 17th January, we welcomed Rob Temple, Principal at Barton Peveril, into the assembly to talk to the year group about post-16 options and the courses available to them at BP college. This is the second Post-16 provider we have had in assembly, with a reminder to the year group that it's never too early to start thinking about the future. Following on from the assembly, Year 9 were also a part of the Career's Event, giving them a chance to speak with recruiters and colleges and to get a feel for what certain career paths look like. Feedback from our guests was incredible, and they were particularly impressed with the array of questions they were asked.

Those of the year group lucky enough to be on this year's ski trip have had their first session on the dry slopes recently and I'm pleased to report that all came back with a smile on their faces!

Elsewhere, we have had another successful two weeks within the year group with lots of positive feedback from teachers. Keep it up Year 9!

Mr Smith



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: ENGLISH

It's been a busy time in the English department this year but our focus still remains the same - Communication is our key to success - so how can we make our students the best communicators possible. Whether it's writing letters in year 7, speeches in year 8 or essays in year 9, we are always looking to see what we can do to help our students improve so they can apply their understanding to life beyond education.

YR 7 CURRENT LEARNING

Year 7s had a great first term at Deer Park where our focus was on improving their creative writing skills. Students thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman at the start of each lesson and are now enjoying the weird and wonderful tales of Anthony Horowitz in their fortnightly LRC lessons.

After focusing on creating Epic Hero stories and Beowulf, this half term they are looking at 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare and have been finding out the difference between 'thee', 'thou' and 'thy' as well as acting out some of the opening scenes. So far, they've taken to it really well and I can't wait to see what they can produce as their Shakespeare confidence improves!

YR 8 CURRENT LEARNING

Year 8s have gone from exploring the Romanticism period and learning about the Gothic and Sublime in the Autumn Term to getting their teeth stuck into the politics and persuasion of the Pigs on Animal Farm. So far they have thought about what they would do if they could create their own revolution in school and create their own school rules, like the pig's seven commandments when they drove Mr Jones (the farmer!) out.

Year 8s are going to be working towards writing their own persuasive, political speech to see who will be voted class captain and decide on the rules of the classroom (for one day only!).

YR 9 CURRENT LEARNING

From September, the year 9 focus has been heavily on Literature in preparation for the demands of the GCSE. The year 9s began the year with comparison poetry and engaged most with Wilfred Owen's war poems and John Agard's 'Lessons in History.'

The highlight of the year so far was seeing the engagement in their first modern play, 'DNA'. Students explored the concept of Machiavellian leadership and, now they all know the plot, are looking forward to a production by the year 9 Drama students this term!

For now, it's back to Shakespeare and exploring Othello - their final Shakespeare tragedy before they look at Macbeth in year 10 as their GCSE text. It's great to see students pulling across their knowledge from the plays they have looked at in year 7 and 8 to see common themes and to begin to feel more confident in picking out their own key quotes to explore.



CAREERS FAIR - 17TH JANUARY



A huge thank you to all our providers (many of whom were our parents) who helped support our Year 8 and 9 Careers event last week. The students were incredibly engaged and excited to learn of so many possible career options post-16.

We were also delighted to see so many parents return after school for a walk around with their children; we would be delighted if you could fill in [this quick evaluation form](#) for those parents that attended the event after school.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

Fixtures:

Our Year 7 netball team are off to a great start in the Southampton Schools Netball League. This has been an exciting opportunity for our Year 7's to represent Deer Park against other schools in the Southampton area. On 16/01/23 the team secured two amazing results with a 13-1 win and a 9-2 win. Great job Year 7!



KS3 (Year 7 & 8) Cross Country Team - well done to those selected to represent Deer Park at the Eastleigh & Winchester qualification event. Students should get changed during break 1 on Monday 29th January ready to depart around 12.30.

Rugby Club | Two sessions have now taken place with growing numbers. We hope to see more attending. All students can sign in using the QR code by the sports centre reception desk

GCSE PE |

Quick fire questions to support your child's learning

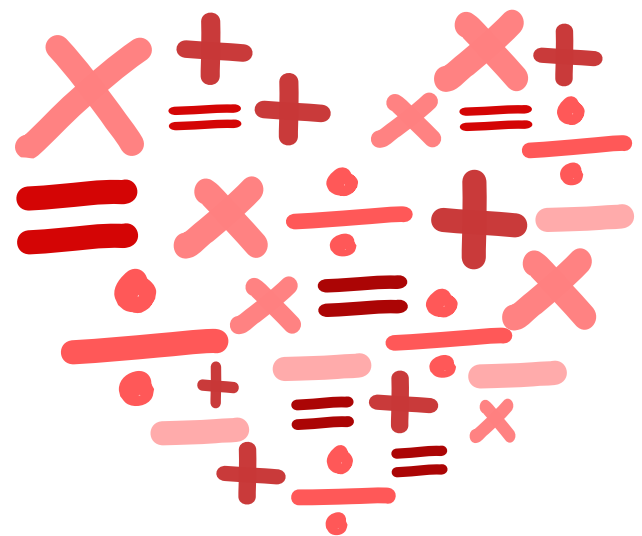
1. What is gaseous exchange?
2. What are the short and long term effects of exercise?



Deer Park's annual celebration of number day is back for a third year!! As well as being non-uniform for all students and staff, there will be a penalty shoot out against members of staff on the 3G pitch, and the ever-popular "Guess the Sweets in the Jar" - all for a small donation to the NSPCC (thank you!). In Maths lessons, students will be helping to crack Miss Braiden's devilishly hard code and solve the case in the first ever Maths Inter-House competition. Staff will have their own case to crack too. Good luck everyone!!

Life is mathematical,
 Art
 Believe me, it's possible.
 Beauty
 In complexity of life's marvels,
 In the paths, in the rocks, in the pebbles.
 In suburbs
 In the country, in the sea,
 In the air we breathe.
 In land, sky
 Even planets, systems and cosmos
 The very universe built from maths, well most.
 Perhaps it isn't, perhaps it's not all about maths,
 Perhaps they're leading us down wrong paths.
 Teachers not teaching, but showing the "importance" of numbers
 But it is
 Important numbers
 But please listen,
 I'm not wrong, I implore. Once you pass
 all the Studying, learning
 that you're great at I'm sure.
 You will
 notice one thing, that
 maths is indeed
 in everything. Don't
 believe me? Sure this'll show 'em. Simply, count
 the words, in
 every line
 Of this poem.

Here at Deer Park we love how diverse and creative our students are, especially when they show off their skills across a range of subjects. This week, I'm fortunate to be able to share with you a mathematical poem written by one of our amazing Year 9's. Thank you Dexter L. for a fantastic and clever piece of creative writing!!

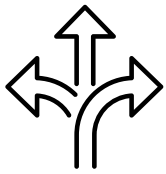


EREFS

We have made some changes to our Eref categories. Fortunately, we do not have to hand out too many negative erefs for poor behaviour but if we do there are now more categories for staff select. This is with a view to giving you as parents more information regarding your child's behaviour. A reminder that all positive and negative erefs can be tracked on your parents INSIGHT app.

PATHWAYS YEAR 8

Thank you to all those who attended our pathways evening last night. If you were unable to attend you can access the online presentation [here](#). The Pathways booklet will be sent home and added to our website at the end of this half term.



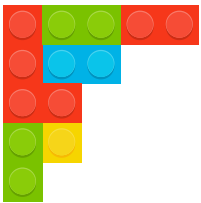
ABSENCES

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

TERM DATES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR
PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW TERM DATES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR (2023-2024).

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Please find attached this half term's Extra Curricular timetable. Students are still welcome to join any club that they haven't already signed up to even if they have already begun



Extra Curricular [Spring Term 1](#)



Lost Property

All lost property is kept in the hygiene room (next to first aid). If your child(ren) has lost anything, please ask them to collect anything that belongs to them. Thank you.



DEER PARK TV & MEDIA FOCUS GROUP

We have started Deer Park TV & Media, an exciting focus group, with the students bringing you the latest notices and information from around the school. It's for all years of the school and we are always working on new projects. Below are some images of our recent group meeting where Owen B and Olivia E and filming Dexter for a Channel 4 project.



Keep an eye out for any new notices and if there is anything YOU would like to see on Deer Park TV & Media let us know!



TECH TRUCK

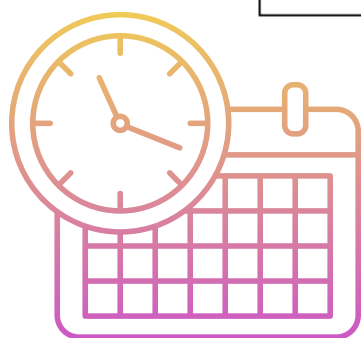
On Thursday the ICT GCSE classes took part in sessions ran by the South Hampshire College Group. They listened to talks on Extended Reality technology where the team discussed possible courses and job opportunities; as well as taking part in quizzes and having a go at using some of the AR and VR technology.

The sessions were great fun and gave a real insight into how the technology is used in the wider world.



UPCOMING DATES

Date	Activity	Year Group
Monday 29th January	Theatre Trip (after school)	Year 9
Thursday 1st & 8th February	Year 8 Parents Evening (virtual)	Year 8
Friday 2nd February	NSPCC Number day (non uniform)	All Years
Monday 5th February	Dance Live!	
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day	All Years
Thursday 8th February	Kidscape anti bullying alliance workshops	Year 8



TOTTON
COLLEGE



APPRENTICESHIP & CAREERS EVENING

Wednesday 6th March 2024

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Totton College, Water Lane,
Totton, Southampton, SO40 3ZX

This event is open to pupils,
parents & carers, Year 9, 10 &
11 New Forest and Eastleigh
Schools



Scan here to register!



Using a mobile phone whilst walking is potentially dangerous. The number of visits to hospitals related to walking and mobile phone usage has doubled in the last decade. Please keep your head up and your phone down whilst walking to help stay safe.

