



DEER PARK

newsletter

FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2024

ISSUE 5

HEADTEACHER'S HELLO!



Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoy reading through the newsletter - the students certainly have been busy! The anti-bullying ambassadors at Deer Park School have been working hard - one of their initiatives involves each tutor group designing colourful bricks with anti-bullying pledges written on them. These bricks serve as a visual reminder of the school's commitment to kindness and respect, and they symbolise the collective responsibility to prevent bullying. The ambassadors' dedication to fostering a positive school culture has made a significant difference in the lives of their peers.

I was also lucky enough to work with a range of students during our recent visit to Google headquarters. It was an exciting opportunity for Deer Park School students to get a glimpse into the world of technology and innovation. They got to see firsthand how Google operates, learn about different career paths, and even experience some of the cutting-edge technology Google is developing. The visit sparked curiosity and ambition, with many students now dreaming of becoming "Googlers" themselves one day.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

Mr Jones



MEET MR MILLER

Hello, I am Mr Miller - I have just joined the Science Department here at Deer Park School. I have been teaching Science and Psychology for over 16 years within the 11-18 sector, and I can honestly say, hand on heart, that it has been the best experience so far working at Deer Park - the students are absolutely wonderful, and I have been nothing but impressed with their attitude to learning and Co-Curricular activities. It certainly has a real community feel. One of my major passions over the years has been working with students and local charities - I feel it brings so many positives to everyone involved. I have already had the pleasure of working closely with the Deer Park Rights Respecting Community' Focus Group, who have had a busy start to the year with all things charity.

Outside of school, I am a father of three wonderful children and enjoy spending as much time as possible with them - be that watching them playing sports, enjoying the outdoors or just hanging out together. In my spare time, I enjoy anything fitness related, especially running, and I am also an instructor at Wildern Leisure Centre.

I am thoroughly enjoying making a positive contribution to an already successful and brilliant team here at Deer Park.

YEAR 7

A warm welcome back to the Year 7 community after half-term! I hope that you had a restful time and that you were able to reflect on what has been an overwhelmingly positive start to life at Deer Park for our new cohort.

There is an action packed few weeks ahead in the build up to Christmas with lots of events and activities to get involved with.

Our most recent assemblies have looked at the House system at Deer Park and also a focus on anti-bullying week; on the latter, and as we shared in the assembly, even though there is an anti-bullying week highlighted we agreed that every week is an anti-bullying week as far as we are concerned.

Kind regards,

Mr Parnell



YEAR 8

Welcome back Team 2028! The first two weeks have flown by, and Year 8 continue to impress Deer Park staff. On my classroom rounds I have seen everything from push along toys to pizza pinwheels!

I'd like to congratulate a few of our students on some noticeable achievements since our return. Firstly, to Jayden K on being Deer Park's goal of the week, please head to our social media pages to check out how impressive it was! Secondly, to Franklin N who wrote a beautiful poem in English called 'A Willow's Creek', you have a real talent! Finally, to Sureena P for naming our wonderful new year group mascot 'Steel', which means 'to prepare oneself for a challenge', which I think is rather fitting as we continue to grow and develop as a cohort. Congratulations to these students.

Kind wishes,

Mrs Wilson



YEAR 9

Welcome back to Year 9. I hope you had a chance to rest over the half term period and have come back refreshed and ready to continue the excellent start you have made to your GCSE courses.

I wanted to take the opportunity to formally introduce Miss Hodges, a valued member of the student services team, who is now attached to Year 9. Miss Hodges recently completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology Counselling, and spends her spare time reading. She is also a very keen rugby fan, and supports Bath.

I know how excited she is to be working with the cohort this year, and we are very lucky to have her.

Well done to all of Year 9 on their continued hard work this year,

Keep it up!
Mr Gregory

YEAR 10

Welcome back to Year 10 after the ½ term break - it already seems like a long time back! We have had a bust couple of weeks, including football fixtures and visits to Google HQ. We recently heard from Miss Brazao and Miss Andrews who introduced the new house system at Deer Park, and another opportunity for Year 10 students in becoming House captains. This is another chance for Year 10 to put their name on the wall as a '1st ever' and is another impressive line to add to applications for college or apprenticeships.

Finally, Mr Jones spoke to Year 10 about the importance of applying for roles in the Prefect team. The closing date for applications has been extended until Monday 18th, with students asked to write a supporting paragraph explaining why they would like to be considered, and emailing this to prefects@deerparksecondary.org.

Kind wishes,

Mr. Smith

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION FOR LIFE



Supporting you to be responsible, confident, healthy & respectful young adults prepared for life and work in an ever changing world.

This half term we are focussing on the theme of Relationships. The programme consists of Education for life lessons, tutor sessions and assemblies. Please see below for a brief outline of what each year group will be studying this half term:

YEAR 7 -NO OUTSIDERS - DIVERSITY

In this unit students will be exploring how to promote and protect diversity. Focusing on championing differences and overcoming prejudice. We will explore living in a diverse society, prejudice and discrimination, bullying and how to be an upstander, supporting others. This is linked with our schools ethos on anti bullying and inclusion.



YEAR 8 -NO OUTSIDERS - DISCRIMINATION

In this unit students will explore concepts surrounding different protected characteristics such as same sex relationships, racism and gender. Students will also look at the different types of religious weddings to appreciate and respect their cultural traditions. They will also look into what marriage, arranged marriages and forced marriages are. The aim of the unit is to ensure students have an understanding of their own rights as well as encouraging them to become active global citizens who will promote fairness, equality and cohesion in society.

YEAR 9 - RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

In this unit students will be exploring the concepts of marriage and divorce. Students will begin thinking about what they look for in a partner and the different types of relationships that exist.

An important part of the unit will be exploring different types of family, cohabitation and relationship breakdowns to prepare and educate students for the future.

YEAR 10 - FAMILY MATTERS

In this unit students will explore and discuss issues relating to the family; parenthood; unwanted pregnancy; abortion, adoption and fostering; fertility treatments with a focus on IVF. Students will be encouraged to form their own opinions on the ethical issues discussed whilst also considering the views of others and religious believers. Students will also sensitively explore loss, grief and bereavement as well as topics with a focus on coercive control including domestic abuse, grooming, exploitation and gangs.

CAREERS INFORMATION

JO TESSEM AND ADAM BLACKMORE LIVE AT DEER PARK

Infamous radio duo, Jo Tessem and Adam Blackmore, visited our Year 9 and 10 Media Studies students on Monday 11th November to talk all things airwaves. Our students learnt about how to broadcast a live radio show (all the way from Birmingham), what the preparation for a match day looks like and were even treated to an interviewing masterclass from the wizard himself, Adam Blackmore. Tessem and Blackmore highlighted the importance of hard work but also took time to remind students that, within the Media industry especially, standing out and offering something unique really is key to success. Hopefully our students walked away feeling a sense of empowerment to really let their personalities shine alongside their impressive academic ability.



Inspiring
Careers
Programme

LMI Bulletin

Click [here](#) for the most recent Labour Market Information Bulletin (LMI)

CAREERS INFORMATION

YEAR 9-10 STUDENTS DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF MARITIME & TRANSPORT CAREERS!

This week, a group of our Year 9 and 10 students went to the ABP Cruise Terminal, where they explored the dynamic careers in the Maritime and Transport industry! From navigating high-tech equipment to hopping aboard impressive vehicles, students had the unique chance to roll up their sleeves and get hands-on with the technology that powers the industry.

Not only did they learn about a wide range of career paths—from ship engineering to logistics and environmental sustainability—but they also connected with professionals and gained valuable insights into the skills needed to thrive in these fields. This inspiring day showcased the incredible opportunities awaiting them in the industry.



CAREERS INFORMATION

NHS

University Hospital Southampton
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS CAREERS DAY

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

Are you in Year 10?
Interested in finding out more
about careers in the NHS?


Why not apply to take part in our
NHS Careers day?

On the day you will:

- Take part in a clinical skills session
- Find out about NHS Careers and Apprenticeships
- Take part in activities with staff working in Allied Health & Healthcare Science professions



Apply for a place by
scanning the QR code

careerexperience@uhs.nhs.uk 

Lest We Forget

By Kezia Swain

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Laurence Binyon once said: *'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.'* A verse to live by, to hold close to our chests and let it soak into our hearts, to cherish the brave souls who perilously fought for us. As the poppies flourish in Flanders



Fields, we brandish badges on our shirts and fall into a sincere silence.

Over 1.2 million British soldiers have lost their lives since the start of poignant WW1; over 880,000 were British service men who lost their lives during WW1, over 380,000 passed during WW2 and over 7,000 since WW2 in military operations such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Falklands. We remember these heroic warriors on November 11th at 11am as at this exact sacred moment in 1918, the fighting ceased as a result of the Armistice between The Allies and Germany marking the beginning of the end of four years of anguish. Bloodshed and angst indented itself into our history, the bullets embedded themselves into our minds, never forgotten. Yet the poppies show that through the strife there is hope for a new world, one of unity and an optimism that we can remember and learn from our old conflicts. While war is still immanent in our world today, it is crucial we recall those who sacrificed their lives for their country, for a chance at peace. And we honour them by choosing to respect one another with love, not letting resentment conquer us. May they live forever in our actions and let us carry their glory in our hearts. The valiant heroes who rest in Flanders Fields.

Until next time- Kez



STEM LEADERS

On Friday 18th we welcomed two year 4 classes from Botley Primary School.

They were here to build upon their topic of "Potions" with a masterclass delivered by two of our STEM Leaders. Emily Joyce & Zoe Joyce were confident and inspiring with their introduction to acids & alkalis. The students tested different household substances with universal indicator to determine if they were acidic or alkaline, and then were challenged to make a rainbow with their results. The students from Botley Primary School had a fantastic time, and left enthused with a passion for Science at Deer Park. Our STEM Leaders did a fantastic job, we could not be more proud!



BLOOD BROTHERS TRIP

As part of the GCSE Curriculum, students must study one set text for their exam. Deer Park has chosen Blood Brother to study.

Both Year 9 and Year 10 were taken to Portsmouth Kings Theatre to watch Blood Brothers Live. This was a successful trip that will subsequently aid GCSE students when completing their GCSE exam.



OUR CHESS CHAMPS TAKE ON WINCHESTER COLLEGE!

This week, two teams of six students stepped up to the chessboard for an exciting tournament at Winchester College! Facing off against older, more experienced players with impressive chess ratings, our students played with skill, strategy, and unwavering determination.



For many, this was their very first chess tournament, and they truly held their own—earning respect from their opponents and thoroughly enjoying the competitive atmosphere. A special shout-out goes to Phoenix, who made an incredible impact by winning not once, but twice against a player from King Edward VI!

A fantastic experience for all, and we're so proud of how they represented our school. Well done, team Deer Park!

REMEMBRANCE DAY



As a school to mark Remembrance Day we held a two minute's silence on Monday 11th November at 11.00am. We invited those students that take part in uniformed organisations outside of school (Cadets, Scouts or Guides) to wear the full uniform of their organisation smartly into school for this occasion. All students completed tutor sessions about the importance of this and some represented the school at events within the local community



RIGHTS, RESPECT, COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

Members of the RRC Student Focus Group are thrilled to launch two upcoming events with you.....

BASICS BANK FOOD APPEAL

We are asking Deer Park students to donate items to the Basics Food bank Appeal. These will be collected as a tutor group and brought to room 113 on specific dates listed below.



We are looking for non-perishable items such as:
Toiletries (shower gel, deodorant etc)
Tinned vegetables
Teabags/coffee/squash
Tinned soup
Cereal



The items you collect make a real difference to families in the local community who are struggling to eat this Christmas. Thank You!

Collection Dates - Please bring your items to room 113 on the following days during an registration-
Year 7 - Monday 2nd December
Year 8 - Tuesday 3rd December
Year 9 & 10 - Wednesday 4th December

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

A letter will be shared via edulink with details of our first ever Deer Park Charity Christmas Quiz!

This is set to be a fantastic evening with food, performances and the all important quiz to test those brain cells with all proceeds raised going towards local charity partnerships.

Sign your team up through Parent Pay once you have received the letter!

Deer Park Charity Christmas Quiz



Quiz for parents, friends and staff of Deer Park School.

Food and special performances from students.

Money raised will go towards local charity partnerships.

Save the Date: Thursday 19th December
5.30-7.30pm - more details to follow...



HOUSE CAPTAINS AND VICE-CAPTAINS LAUNCH



Last week and this week, students at Deer Park had their first ever House Assembly where they were introduced to their House Managers (Miss Andrews and Miss Brazao) and to the opportunity to apply as a House Captain or House Vice-Captains. Students with an interest in these roles, should apply through an Application Form which has been posted to the students' House Google Classroom. We look forward to seeing your applications. Good luck!



Many thanks to all parents that have attended some of our PSP events already this year. The feedback has been great! Our PSP events continue this half term giving you the opportunity to find out about key information linked to your child's learning and wellbeing.

A letter with information about each one and a sign up form will be sent to you through Edulink prior to each one but in the meantime here are some save the dates for you and a link to the [Data and Assessments Video](#)

Thursday 5th December

18.00-19.00

Work Experience for Year 10

Parents

Launch of Experience of a Workplace for parents who would like to know more about the virtues of undertaking this programme and the logistics behind it.

Wednesday 11th December

18.00-19.00

Wellbeing

An opportunity to explore a variety of wellbeing and support available for your child both in school and outside of school.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

The theme for this year's Anti-bullying week is "Choose Respect" and this week, students at Deer Park have been exploring the topic in more detail during assemblies, tutor sessions and in lessons.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance have created a toolkit for parents. This is designed to give parents/carers information and tips to help you talk to your child about bullying. You can find the toolkit [here](#)



This **Anti-Bullying Week**
I will

**CHOOSE
RESPECT**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Monday 11th to Friday 15th November

#AntiBullyingWeek #ChooseRespect

The graphic features a white background with purple accents. It includes several hand icons: a hand pointing, a hand holding another, a hand with a plus sign, and a hand with a checkmark. There are also plus signs and a mouse cursor icon scattered around the text.



ICT GOOGLE TRIP

On Thursday we took both year 10 ICT GCSE classes on a trip to the Google Offices in London. They attended expert led talks on generative AI, data, networking and cyber security. They then experienced the excellent food from the Google chefs, before having a tour of the offices and visiting the Accessibility Discovery Centre; where they got to have a go at some of the new tech.

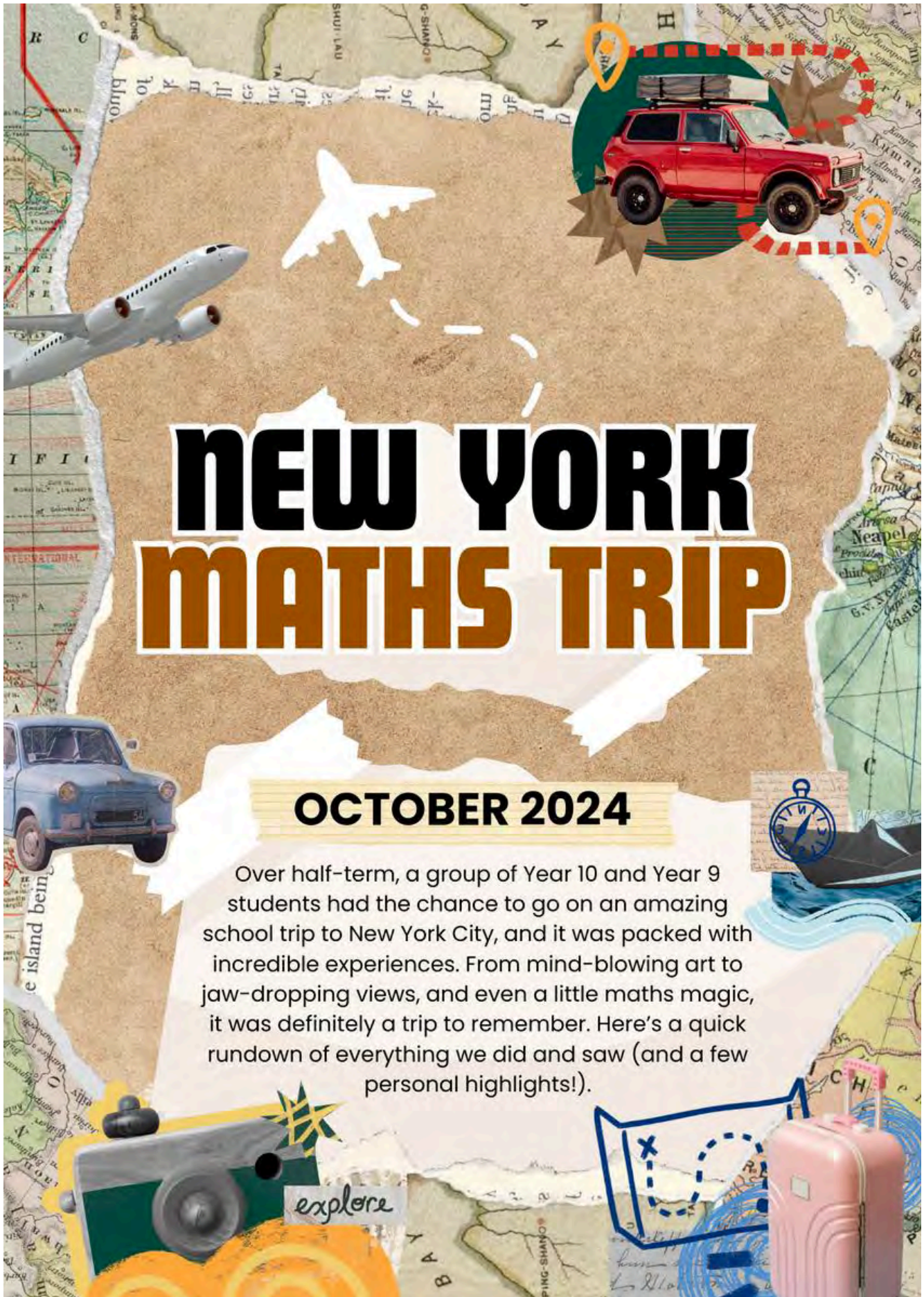
The students impressed us with their confidence when in conversation with the Google team and I think we might have a few potential Google employees amongst the year group! Some have already been asking about apprenticeships.

Well done year 10 - the Google team have already said that they would welcome Deer Park back any time!



NEW YORK NEW YORK!

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD A LINK TO THE FULL JOURNAL



NEW YORK MATHS TRIP

OCTOBER 2024

Over half-term, a group of Year 10 and Year 9 students had the chance to go on an amazing school trip to New York City, and it was packed with incredible experiences. From mind-blowing art to jaw-dropping views, and even a little maths magic, it was definitely a trip to remember. Here's a quick rundown of everything we did and saw (and a few personal highlights!).

LITTON LANE FOUNDATION

We are thrilled to update you on the development of our Litton Lane Foundation and offer you an exciting opportunity to be a part of this.

The Litton Lane Foundation is established to enhance the educational experience of students and support the broader community by securing and managing generous contributions. The Foundation will achieve this by:

Fundraising: Actively seeking and securing financial contributions from a variety of sources, including alumni, parents, corporations, and foundations.

Resource Allocation: Strategically allocating funds to support programs and initiatives that are not fully funded by the school's budget. These may include: enrichment programs in academics, arts, and sports, technology and infrastructure improvements and community outreach programs

Stewardship: Ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of funds, and communicating the impact of donations to stakeholders.

If you would like to be a part of the Parent Group that will work alongside the Student Group in leading the Litton Lane Foundation then please complete the form [here](#) by Friday 29th November.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

FIXTURES

Year 9 Rugby -

The year 9 boys rugby team made history today being the first ever Deer Park rugby team to play a competitive fixture. They conducted themselves excellently throughout the day and competed in 5 fixtures, winning 3, drawing 1 and only losing 1. Player of the day went to Ciaran for some amazing tackles.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

Year 8 Rugby

Year 8 Rugby Team at Deer Park Secondary School made us incredibly proud on Thursday as they took part in their first contact rugby development day at Portsmouth Rugby Club! Playing on a full-sized pitch and experiencing scrums for the first time, the team showcased the core rugby values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, and Sportsmanship every step of the way. It was inspiring to see their growth and dedication to the game, and we're excited to watch them continue developing their skills and love for rugby!



Year 9 Netball



Upcoming Hampshire cup football for our Year 9 Boys and U14 girls is due to be shared with parents shortly.

Congratulations year 10 football team who have finished a tough season in Division 1 this year. We look forward to working with the squad for the final time again in Year 11!

CURRICULUM

Year 8 are making great progress in their new topic Volleyball. It is rewarding to see all students developing skills they have previously not used and discussing similarities and differences between other curriculum topics such as badminton.

Year 7 are exploring their technique in badminton this half term alongside important skills to support attacking and defensive play in netball.

GCSE PE Quick fire questions to support your child's learning

- 1 - Name an immediate effect of exercise
- 2 - Name a short term effect of exercise
- 3 - Name a long term effect of exercise

EXTRA CURRICULAR



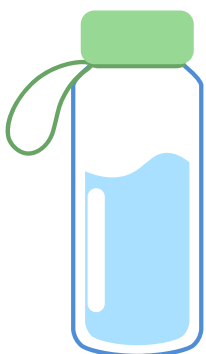
Extra Curricular

TIME TABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK 1	*Poetry (004) *Drama Club (KS3)	*Get Active (SH) Year 7 *Maths Drop-in (117 & 118) *French Support Drop in (103/104/105) *Gardening Club (Meet by Bike Sheds)	*Get Active (SH) Year 8 *Dominoes Club (TBC) *KS4 intervention (Maths/Science) (117)	*Get Active (SH) Year 9 *English Drop In - 007 (EJL) Year 10	*Get Active (SH) Year 10 *ICT Drop in (101 & 102)
BREAK 2	*Global Affairs Club (108)	*IT and Coding Club (102) *French Support Drop in (103/104/105) *Chess club (114) *Bronze Arts Award' Year 8's (121)	*Debate Club (year 9/10) (003) *Fantasy Games Club (107) *Puzzle club (119) *Boys Dance Company (Dance Studio) *Ks4 History Support A week (110)	*ICT Drop In (101 & 102) *Guitar ensemble (008 - all guitarists welcome!)	
AFTER SCHOOL	*Badminton *Girls Football (Astro) *Rugby (Grass Pitches) *Flower Arranging - For Students and Staff *Art Club (203) *Self study club (LRC)	* Outlet Basketball Club External booking (paid sessions) *Percussion ensemble (008) *Staff Meetings *Self study club (LRC)	*Boys Football (Astro) *STEM Club (211) *Dance Live (Dance Studio) *Dance Live Crew (201) *Book Club (002) *History Film Club (109) WEEK A only *Self study club (LRC)	*Staff meetings *Netball (Courts) *Dance Company (Dance Studio) *Mathletics (118) *Spanish Club (104) *Deer Park Magazine (003) *Team Deer Park - Formula 24 Invite only (215) *Self study club (LRC)	*Self study club (LRC)

FIRST AID

As per our School's First Aid Policy, we are unable to administer paracetamol until 11.30am onwards. Please encourage your child(ren) to bring a water bottle to school, as there are various water stations available to keep them hydrated. Drinks are also available to buy at break and lunchtimes only, starting from £1.20.



Thank you



UPCOMING DATES



Date	Activity	Year Group
Thursday 28th November	Barber Surgeon History Speaker	GCSE History Students
Friday 29th November	CPD Day (Inset) No students in school	All Years

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



Polite reminder: All meal deals are £3.20 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 £3.20, 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 utilize 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.

Just a reminder that should students decide to pierce their nose they will need to wear a clear retainer. To avoid conversations around not being able to take the piercing out in the first 4 weeks of the piercing please do not allow your child to get their nose pierced during term time. Many thanks for your cooperation.

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.



HOLIDAY FORMS

If you need to request an authorised absence from school, for example for holidays, attending family funerals, etc Parents will now need to complete an online google form. This should make it easier for parents to complete. 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.



HEDGE·END
TOWN COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON



THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS MARKET, MUSICAL AND DRAMA PERFORMANCES & SANTA IN HIS SLEIGH

FROM 4.30PM IN THE CO-OP CAR PARK
6PM LIGHTS SWITCH ON AT THE BANDSTAND



With special thanks to the
Hedge End Co-op Store

www.hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

SAT 14TH DECEMBER

FOBS

SANTAS GROTTO

BOTLEY SCHOOL

1pm - 5pm

- COME AND SEE SANTA IN HIS MAGICAL GROTTTO
- GRAB A HOT CHOCOLATE AND REFRESHMENTS
- KIDS CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WHILE THEY WAIT FOR SANTA
- MAKE AND PURCHASE SOME REINDEER FOOD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Marble a
bauble with
Lorna Rose
Designs £5

£5
per
child
(under 15
free (no gift))



Includes a gift from Santa

Sponsored by
**Jackson
Bailey**

Book your slot on FOBS Website ... PTA events
REGISTERED CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER: 1031856



Pop Up Ensemble

FREE



Pop Up Ensemble
Winton Community Academy,
Andover

JMST Theatre, London Road, Andover,
Hampshire SP10 2PS

Sunday 15th December 9.15 - 13.15

Beginner to Grade 4



**Back by Popular
Demand!**



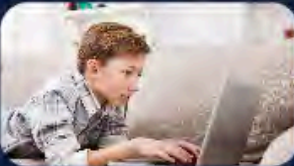
**Come and be part of a
'from scratch' orchestra!**

Scan the QR code to
register your place



Hampshire
County Council

www.hantsmusichub.org.uk



Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the Internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coercion) and often the groomer's goal is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children may be abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.



What parents need to know about **ONLINE GROOMING**



CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE

Unsurprisingly children are often most at risk as they are easy to target and unlikely to question the person who is engaging in conversation with them. Groomers will use psychological tricks and methods to try and isolate them from their families and friends and will often choose to target more vulnerable children who may be easier to manipulate. Predators will stalk apps and websites that are popular with young people and will use a 'scattergun' approach to find victims, contacting hundreds online to increase their chances of success.



LIVE STREAMING CONCERNS

Predators may use live video to target children in real-time using tricks, dares or built-in gifts to manipulate them. Grooming often takes the form of a game where children receive 'likes' or even money for performing sexual acts. Social media channels, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, all have live streaming capabilities, but there are many apps which children can use to live stream, including Omegle, Liveme, BIGO Live, YouNow and many more.



ANYONE CAN BE A PREDATOR

The Internet has made the ability to interact with strangers online easy. Many sites and apps are reliant on individual users entering their own information when signing up. However individuals can remain anonymous if they choose to enter inaccurate information and many online predator cases are due to groomers using impersonation techniques. However, often the greater threat comes from adults who 'hide in plain sight', choosing to befriend young children without hiding their real identity.



CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Unfortunately, most children find the 'grooming' process (before any meeting) an enjoyable one as the predator will compliment, encourage, and flatter them to gain their trust, friendship and curiosity - 'a wolf in sheep's clothing' scenario. This often means children fail to disclose or report what is happening. If the groomer is also previously known to the child, their family and their friends, then this can make detection even harder.



FROM OPEN TO CLOSED MESSAGING

Online predators may contact their victims using any number of ways including social media, forums, chat rooms, gaming communities or live streaming apps. Sometimes there is little need to develop a 'friendship' / rapport stage, as the victim has already shared personal information online and is communicating openly with others. Children may also be prepared to add other online users they don't know so well to gain 'online credibility' through increasing their friends list. Predators will often seize this opportunity to slowly build a relationship and then move their conversation with the child to a more secure and private area, such as through direct messaging.

EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

Online predators will use emotive language and aim to form close, trusted bonds with their victims through showering them with compliments and making them feel good about themselves. Often victims will refer to them as their 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends' and it can be difficult to convince some young people that they have been groomed, often leading to lasting psychological effects.

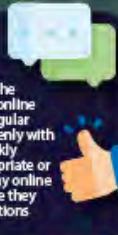


Safety Tips for Parents & Carers



IT'S GOOD TO TALK

It's unlikely that you can stop your child using the Internet, nor can you constantly monitor their online activities, but you can talk to your child on a regular basis about what they do online. By talking openly with them about online relationships, they can quickly ascertain the kind of behaviour which is appropriate or inappropriate. Ask them whether they have any online friends or if they play online games with people they haven't met. This could then open up conversations about the subject of grooming.



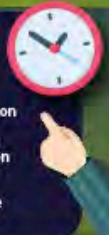
CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

In order to give your child a safer online experience, it is important to check privacy settings or parental controls on the networks, devices, apps, and websites they use. Disable location sharing if you can. If you use location-sharing apps to check where your child is, remember that these could always be used by strangers to follow your child without their knowledge. Ensure that you check options so that location information is never shared with anyone except those they have permission to share with.



MONITOR SOCIAL MEDIA & LIVE-STREAMING USE

It's important to be aware of what your child is sharing on social media and with whom. Create your own profile and become 'friends' with them or follow them so that you can monitor their activity. Similarly, always check on them if they are live streaming and implement privacy controls. Choose a generic screen name and profile picture that hides their identity. You may also feel more comfortable being present each time they live stream.



STICK TO 'TRUE FRIENDS'

Make it clear to your child that they should not accept friend requests from people they don't know and to verify friend requests with people who they do know. Encourage them to only interact and engage with 'true friends' i.e. those friends who don't ask personal questions such as close family and friends. Remind them to never agree to chat privately with a stranger or someone they don't really know and to never divulge personal information, such as mobile phone numbers, addresses, passwords or the name of their school.



DISCUSS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Talk to your child about what a healthy relationship looks like and how to detect someone who might not be who they claim to be. Explain that groomers will pay your child compliments and engage in conversations about personal information, such as hobbies and relationships. They may admire how well they play an online game or how they look in a photo. Groomers will also try and isolate a child from people close to them, such as parents and friends, in order to make their relationship feel special and unique.

BE SUPPORTIVE

Show your child that you will support them and make sure they understand they can come to you with any concerns they may have. They need to know they can talk to you if someone does something they are uncomfortable with, whether that is inappropriate comments, images, requests or sexual comments.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former internet investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and has worked extensively with both national and international schools in delivering training around the latest online dangers, social media and platforms.



LOOK OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

- Child safety experts have identified key grooming patterns and advise parents to look out for:
- Secretive online behaviour.
 - Late night internet or smartphone usage.
 - Meeting new friends in unusual places.
 - Becoming clingy, develop sleeping or eating problems or even bedwetting.
 - Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities.
 - Having new items, such as clothes or phones, unexplainably.
 - Seem withdrawn, anxious, depressed or aggressive.
 - Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.

