

Denewood Academy

Parent and Carer Newsletter—Summer 2024

Head Of School's Message



Welcome to Summer term's newsletter!

Dear Parents, carers and pupils

As the new Head of School, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this wonderful school. I am excited to work closely with all of you—our dedicated parents, enthusiastic pupils, and committed staff. I am looking forward to providing the very best opportunities for our pupils.

Together, we can achieve great things, and I am eager to hear your ideas and collaborate on initiatives that will enrich our pupils' educational experiences. Your support and involvement are crucial, and I look forward to building strong partnerships that will benefit our entire school community.

As we come to the end of this term, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe summer. Enjoy this well-deserved break, and I look forward to welcoming our pupils back in September, refreshed and ready for another successful year.

Mark Clifford

Highlights reel



Residential, building confidence and resilience at Denewood Academy, the only way is up!



Water sports at the National Water Sports Centre

Summer at Denewood

More than just a night away!



During the penultimate week of term, our pupils embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Caythorpe PGL, providing an unique opportunity to develop essential life skills in a dynamic and supportive environment. The array of activities, from high ropes to canoeing, challenged pupils physically and mentally, fostering resilience, self-confidence, and perseverance.

Living and working together improved social skills through team-building exercises and group activities, which required effective communication, collaboration, and problem-solving—developing crucial new skills for pupils at Denewood Academy. These experiences helped them forge stronger peer relationships and practise independence, promoting self-reliance and accountability.

The trip created lasting positive memories, building a sense of achievement and joy, it was particularly impactful for those facing challenges in traditional educational settings. Overcoming obstacles and trying new things inspired the pupils long after the trip ended. The residential trip to Caythorpe PGL was a transformative experience, equipping our pupils with valuable life skills. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to more enriching experiences in the future.



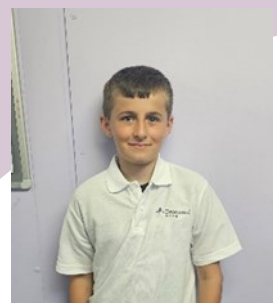
Attendance

Summer has been a great term for attendance!

We are pleased to report significant improvements in attendance this term. At times, our attendance rates have surpassed the national average, reaching an impressive 78%! This marks an increase compared to last year's Summer 2 term, making this the best attending term this academic year. Notably, many pupils in the 'Forest' tutor group have achieved attendance increases as high as 64%.

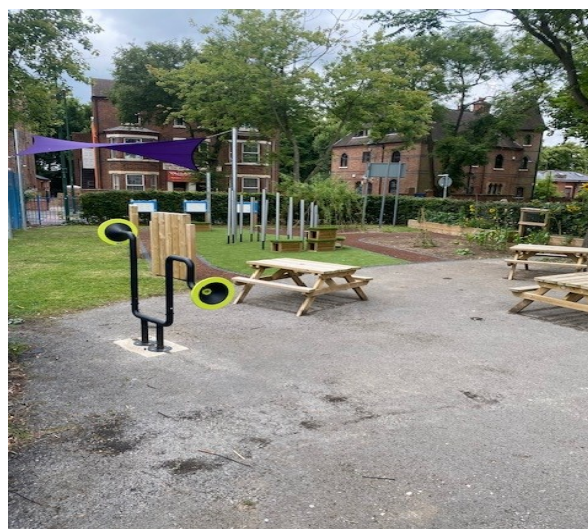
We are incredibly proud of every pupil for their commitment to improving attendance. However, we recognise that there is still work to be done. As we look forward to the new academic year, we remain dedicated to further enhancing our attendance rates. With continued effort and collaboration with you, our parents and carers, we are confident that we can continue to improve.

Attendance matters at Denewood and we aim to make every day count for every pupil. Dylan (pictured) has made an incredible 64% improvement in his attendance since he has been with us. Well done Dylan!



Updates on outside developments

In our last newsletter, we shared exciting news about the developments in the outside areas of our school. Now, we are thrilled to present images of our impressive £170,000 investment! This vibrant new space is more than just a facelift; it has transformed our school environment, providing endless opportunities for our pupils to engage with each other and our dedicated staff. We are incredibly proud to offer such an inspiring and dynamic area where pupils can explore, learn, and grow together. This exciting development marks a significant milestone in our commitment to enhancing the educational experience for all our pupils.



More developments!

We are delighted to share some exciting developments happening at Denewood! As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best facilities for our pupils, we are thrilled to announce the addition of a brand-new food technology area and a new catering/dining room.

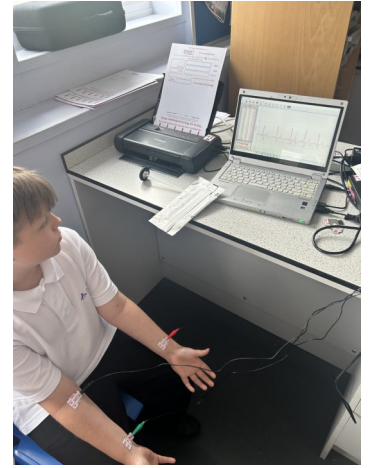
The new food technology area will provide our pupils with state-of-the-art equipment and a dynamic space to explore culinary skills, nutrition, and food science. We will be enhancing our curriculum with food technology, allowing pupils to gain hands-on experience in a fun and engaging environment. This significant investment reflects our dedication to delivering this vision and enriching our educational offer.



In addition, our new catering and dining room will offer a modern, comfortable space for pupils to enjoy their meals. This upgrade is designed to create a more pleasant and sociable dining experience, encouraging healthy eating habits and a sense of community.

We are excited about these developments and believe they will significantly enrich the school experience for our pupils. We look forward to seeing our pupils thrive in these new spaces and can't wait to share more updates as we continue to improve our school facilities, watch this space!

Action packed July!



Useful information

Thrive

On Friday 5th July staff attended the Raleigh Trust event 'The Big Conversation'. Charlotte Smith, Thrive Regional Development Manager for East Midlands supported a session for staff on what Thrive is and how we as a collective can support bridging gaps in emotional development.

As of September 2024, Denewood Academy is working towards Thrive Ambassador status in five areas:

*Leadership
Right-Time
Reparative
Relationship
Environment*



Watch this space for further updates!

Part of Thrive offers a parental action plan to support at home. If you would like to access this, please contact us.

Michele Picker- Assistant Principal (Quality of Education and SENCO)

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Safeguarding

Parents of children ages 6-9 years old, Lego has released a new free online safety resource for parents and their children. Called Build and Talk, it's a question-and-answer story game for parents to talk to their child about digital safety and wellbeing.

How it works



Easy to start

Open the activity on your tablet or phone (a bigger screen will do better). Grab your LEGO® bricks and find a quiet,



Just follow the story

Read the story aloud to your child. You'll find hints on what they need to build as you go along.



Start talking

Use the suggested questions and conversation prompts to start chatting about digital safety and wellbeing.

The NSPCC provide lots of information and advice to support conversations with your child on a range of issues including Online Safety.