

# Denewood Academy

## Parent and Carer Newsletter—Autumn 2024

### Head Of School's Message

***Welcome to Autumn term's newsletter!***

***Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,***

***I am delighted to share some exciting updates from Denewood Academy. Our new dining hall is now open, providing a fantastic space for pupils to enjoy meals and build friendships. It's been wonderful seeing everyone settle in, especially the new pupils who have joined us this term. In addition to this the Food Technology kitchen is also now complete and will be in used for the pupils in the lead up to the Christmas break.***

***Our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that both the curriculum and extra-curricular activities are engaging and inspiring. We are proud of the wide range of opportunities available, helping every pupil explore their interests.***

***We have also enjoyed welcoming parents into school to celebrate the successes of our pupils. Your support is invaluable, and we're looking forward to sharing more achievements as the term progresses.***

***Warm regards,***

***Mark Clifford***

***Head of School, Denewood Academy***



### Highlights reel



**Most important meal of the day!**



**New yard? No problem.**

# Autumn at Denewood

## In the community.

### **Arrows: Making a difference to the Local Community:**

*Arrows recently supported their local community by engaging in a litter-picking initiative. This small but impactful effort not only improves the environment but it is a meaningful way to build connections between the pupils and their surroundings.*

*Community engagement such as litter picking holds great importance. It helps maintain the cleanliness and beauty of public spaces, creating a more welcoming environment for everyone. The benefits for our pupils go even deeper and by taking part fosters a sense of responsibility and encourages them to take pride in their community. It also offers a valuable learning opportunity outside of the classroom, reinforcing teamwork, communication, and a shared sense of purpose.*

*By engaging with the community, pupils in the Arrow Class are developing skills that will not only benefit them now but will also have a lasting impact, shaping them into responsible citizens who value both their local environment and the people within.*

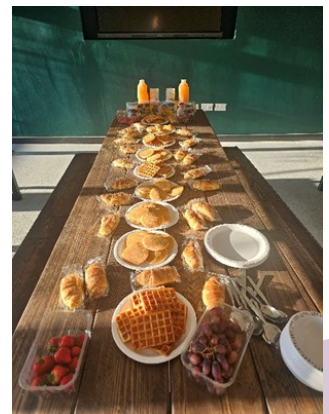


## Attendance, it matters!

*At Denewood Academy, we place great emphasis on attendance, as we believe every day in school matters. Each week, we celebrate pupils who achieve 100% attendance and recognise all pupils who make significant gains in improving their attendance. Listening to pupils feedback, we have introduced a new reward—our Friday “Extra Special Breakfast”.*

*Every Friday, pupils from all classes gather to enjoy breakfast, watch a movie, and mingle with friends, creating a relaxed and positive start to the day. This initiative has been a hit with our pupils, motivating many to strive for 100% attendance.*

*Looking ahead, once our kitchen is fully operational, we will be adding warm breakfast options to this already popular event. We are excited for next term, as we aim to see even more pupils achieving 100% attendance and making the most of every day at school!*





# Update on developments!

## **Dining Hall**

*We are pleased to announce that our new dining hall is now open and being enjoyed by our pupils. The modern, comfortable space has quickly become a favourite, offering a pleasant and sociable environment for meals. This upgrade not only enhances the dining experience but also promotes healthy eating habits and fosters a strong sense of community among our pupils.*



## **Food Technology**

*We are excited to announce that our has now been fully installed and ready for use when pupils return after the break. With eight pupil stations and a demonstration station we are really pleased with the outcome, and our pupils are already eager to make the most of the new space. As a practice run in the space our year 9 pupils have participated in the Future Chef competition, where they had to create a dish with a £5 budget to create their best dish. The winner will have the opportunity to represent Denewood Academy in the local and potentially the regional and national final, more on this later in the newsletter.*



# Curriculum update

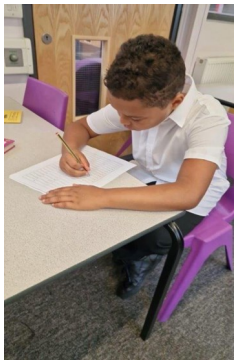


To add further breadth to our curriculum at Denewood Academy we have also developed our curriculum to continue to inspire our pupils to enjoy learning.

## English Curriculum

*Since September, we began with a new English curriculum across the school. The curriculum programme named 'CUSP', has been developed to inspire, captivate imagination and creativity whilst building the essential skills and knowledge essential to succeed in English and in the wider world. There is an emphasis on oracy and vocabulary acquisition, revisiting concepts supports pupil retention and helps to break down barriers. Our pupils' fluency and comprehension of reading is developed throughout whilst encouraging pupils' pleasure for reading.*

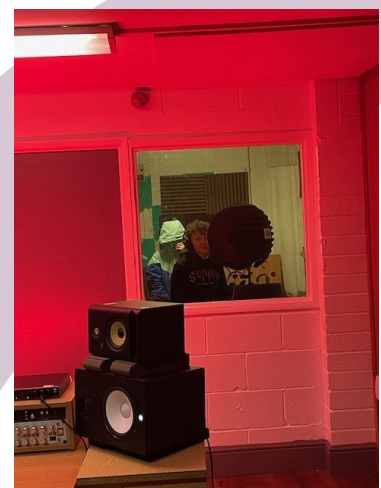
*Pupils in Key Stage 3 are currently reading novels including 'The Graveyard Book' and 'Show Us Who You Are'. Pupils in Key Stage 2 are reading novels including 'Pig Heart Boy' and 'The Raven'. Pupils are also encouraged to read independently at times throughout the day to promote a love of reading. The pupils have been really engaged this term so far and we would like to say a big well done to all!*



## Creative Arts

*We are thrilled to share the exciting developments in the new Creative Arts curriculum this year at Denewood Academy. This half term, our pupils have been introduced to 'Warhammer', which has brought a unique and engaging dimension to our arts program. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the creativity involved in designing and painting their models.*

*Looking ahead to next half term, we are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming local music artists/ producers to work with our pupils on DJ skills and music production. This hands-on experience will provide pupils with the opportunity to explore the world of music creation, develop technical skills, and express their creativity through sound. We are excited to see our pupils take on this challenge and grow their confidence as they learn from professionals in the field.*





# Denewood out and about.

## Wembley

Pupils from Denewood made the 125 mile journey to Wembley Stadium on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> to see 'The 3 Lions' as they faced Greece in the UEFA Nations League. Unfortunately, their support was not enough to inspire the national team to victory, with Greece scoring an injury time winner to make the score 2-1. In spite of the disappointing result everyone had a fantastic time. It was Ethan's first time in London and he was shocked at the size of the stadium, "It's massive all the people look like ants." Aadam was optimistic "I think we can play better, but we should still beat Finland on Sunday. I still really enjoyed it though."



## At Denewood we use a reward system called DOJO.

Pupils can collect points which turn into rewards, such as certificates, activities and trips out.

There are many opportunities throughout the day for pupils to gain points from attendance to behaviour. Pupils have the opportunity to decide on the end of term reward trips through their class ambassadors.

DOJO is also a fantastic tool for parents to see what their child does throughout the day and communicate with the school. If you would like connecting to DOJO, please speak to your child's tutor.

This term the Autumn 2 reward trips are:

Gold 90% and above: Ice skating at Winter Wonderland

Silver 80% and above: Christmas Baking

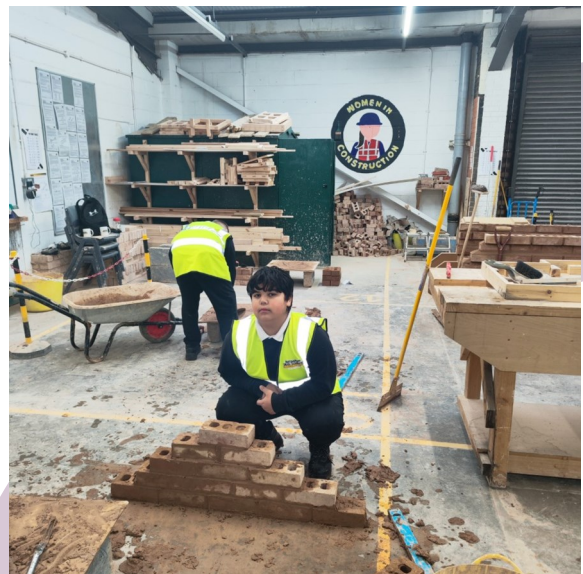
Bronze 70% and above: Movie and PlayStation.

# Building a brighter future.

Our pupils recently had the fantastic opportunity to attend a "Have a Go" session, where they tried their hand at bricklaying. The experience was a hit, with both pupils and staff returning excited and inspired by the skills they were introduced to.

A huge thank you to Graham Construction and Nottingham Skills Academy for hosting this amazing session. The pupils gained a great deal from the experience, and we're already looking forward to returning in the summer term, where plastering and joinery could be the next skills on the agenda!

This hands-on experience is a valuable way to inspire our young learners and introduce them to potential future career paths. Well done to everyone who took part!



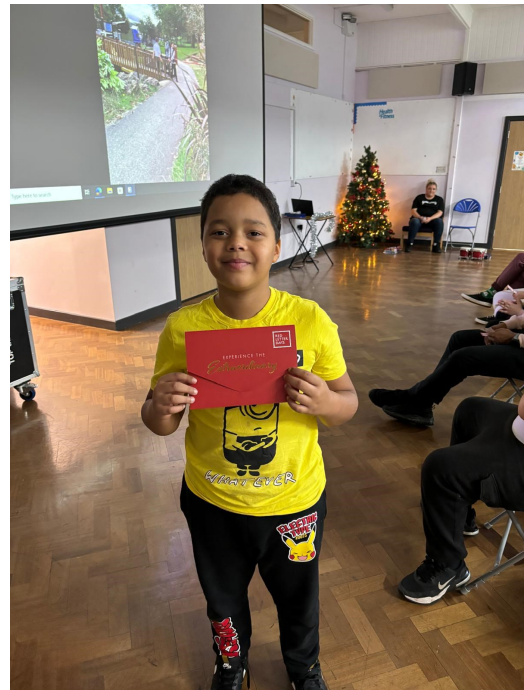


# Christmas family day at Denewood

## Family Learning Day!

We recently held a Christmas family day which included a thrilling raffle draw, with some incredible prizes won by our lucky participants! One of our pupils won the grand prize- a brand-new laptop. Other fantastic prizes included a £50 Red

Letter Day experience, Greggs vouchers, and High Street gift vouchers. Congratulations to all our winners! A special thanks to John Pye, Now Education, and Link 3 Recruitment for donating prizes for our raffle and tombola. We had several external services support the event. The Educational Psychologists, provide guidance on understanding and addressing children's learning and emotional needs. The AP Taskforce offered targeted support and intervention strategies for young people and their families. Change Grow Live (CGL), delivers advice and resources around health and well-being. The Mental Health Support Team also attended to discuss strategies for promoting positive mental health and resilience. Their presence highlighted the importance of collaboration in ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils and their families.



# Future Chef competition

## **Ready set cook!**

We are thrilled to celebrate the success of our Year 9 pupils in the FutureChef 2024 school heats, organised by Springboard. This competition allowed our young chefs to showcase their skills and creativity while preparing one dish for both pupil and staff judging panels. They excelled in key areas: skills, presentation, taste, creativity, and meeting the challenge.

A special shoutout to Jack Watson and Tommy-Lee Finch, who advanced to the Nottingham Local Final, with Tommy winning and Jack as a close second. Both have been offered mentoring opportunities and potential future apprenticeships. Well done to all our talented pupils!

Tommy will now proceed to the regional final and the possibility of the national finals held in London.

Well done to both the young men and the staff that supported them on this journey.



## Dates for your diary

### **Key Dates**

We are excited to offer a range of events to engage our parents and carers next term. Please save the date for the following:

14<sup>th</sup> January - Parent/Carer Coffee Morning workshop with Learning Support team (Stephanie Grey)

Dyslexia & Supporting Reluctant Readers 9:30am

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Parent/carers Workshop by Fairshare Skill share 2:30pm- Budgeting, Job applications etc

11<sup>th</sup> February - Thrive Parent/Carer Coffee Morning 9:30am

11<sup>th</sup> February - Parent/carers Workshop by Fairshare Skill share 2:30pm- Budgeting, Job applications etc

20<sup>th</sup> February - Parent/carers Workshop by Fairshare Skill share 2:30pm- Budgeting, Job applications etc

18<sup>th</sup> March- Resolving Conflict in the home (Martin Sinclair, Behaviour Specialist) 9:30am



# Autumn pictures

