

Denewood Academy

Parent and Carer Newsletter—Spring 2024

Principal's Message



Welcome to Spring term's newsletter!

This term we have been focusing on 'Curiosity' as part of our 5Cs Trust values. I have been very impressed with our pupils' thirst for knowledge and keenness to learn both in and out of the classroom environment. As you'll see, it's been another action-packed term with some incredible experiences and opportunities for our pupils. I've enjoyed hearing about trips and seeing pictures capturing a love of learning.

The new playground project is in full swing and I'm looking forward to seeing pupils use the new equipment. This should be completed over Easter!

As always, we continue to value your support and kind words. If you would like nominate a member of staff who you feel deserves recognition, please use the Classroom dojo link to 'say thankyou'

Krissy Higginson

Highlights reel



KS2 trip to Yorkshire Wild Life to look at local landscapes and map reading



Red nose Day—Over £100 raised for good causes!

Spring at Denewood onsite

Celebrating Science

To celebrate British Science Week we visited Woodlands School. Our pupils embarked on a journey of exploration and discovery, immersing themselves in a variety of STEM activities that ignited their curiosity and passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

From engaging in heart rate bikes to experimenting with robot toothbrushes, our pupils embraced hands-on experiences that not only captivated their imaginations but also deepened their understanding of scientific concepts. The interactive nature of the activities allowed them to apply theoretical knowledge in practical scenarios, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



One of the highlights of the day was the captivating experience in the planetarium, where our pupils asked thought-provoking questions and delved into the mysteries of the cosmos. This immersive journey through space inspired wonder and curiosity, encouraging our young learners to explore the boundless possibilities of the universe.

In addition to the planetarium, pupils participated in a range of activities, including creating dry ice bubbles, observing chemical reactions, mastering the giant steady hand game, and engaging in a scientific card sort. Each activity provided a unique opportunity for our pupils to explore different facets of science and technology in a fun and interactive manner.

As educators, we believe in the power of hands-on experiences to inspire and empower our pupils. By providing them with opportunities to engage with STEM subjects in a meaningful way, we aim to cultivate a lifelong love for learning and discovery.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Woodlands School for hosting us and for organising such an enriching and memorable event. Together, we celebrate the spirit of inquiry and exploration that defines British Science Week and look forward to continuing our journey of discovery in the world of science.



Skills for Life

Key Stage 3 pupils have been learning bike maintenance skills with Nottingham Bikeworks. Over the term, pupils have gained practical knowledge, from fixing punctures to replacing brake pads. After Easter, Bikeworks will conduct bike safety sessions and present pupils with their refurbished bikes and helmets. A huge thanks to Nottingham Bikeworks for their partnership in empowering our pupils with valuable skills!



School developments

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates regarding the ongoing renovation of our outdoor space here at Denewood! As the spring term commenced, so did the transformation of our outdoor area into a vibrant and dynamic space for our pupils.

A total investment of £170,000 has been dedicated to enhancing our outdoor environment, ensuring it becomes an even better place for our pupils to learn, play, and thrive. We are committed to providing top-notch facilities that support both physical activity and outdoor education opportunities.



Here are some of the key highlights of the renovation project

1. **Additional Basketball Hoops** Three new basketball hoops have been installed, providing more opportunities for our pupils to engage in sports and recreational activities.



2. **Artificial Grass on Multi-Use Games Area** The installation of artificial grass on our multi-use games area will not only improve the playing surface but also enhance safety and durability, allowing for year-round use regardless of weather conditions.

3. **Covered Socialising Areas** Two new covered areas have been added, offering pupils a space to socialise comfortably while being sheltered from both the sun and rain.

These areas will also serve as outdoor classrooms, providing opportunities for experiential learning and outdoor education.



4. **Outdoor Gym Area**: We are excited to announce the addition of an outdoor gym area, equipped with a variety of fitness equipment. This space will promote physical fitness and wellbeing among our pupils, encouraging them to stay active and healthy.

5. **Nurture Garden** In line with our commitment to holistic development, we have established a nurture garden where pupils can engage in gardening activities, connect with nature, and learn valuable skills such as responsibility, patience, and teamwork.

We are proud to note that our pupils have played an integral role in shaping this investment, ensuring that it meets the diverse needs and interests of all members of the Denewood community.



Cultural Awareness

During our Ramadan awareness month, some pupils visited a local mosque. They learned about the five pillars of Islam, toured the mosque, and even witnessed ablution. The pupils showed great respect and left with a deeper understanding of Muslim beliefs and daily life.



AP Network events—AP Football Tournament

One of the highlights this term was our annual AP Football Tournament. This was an opportunity to bring the community together and to break down barriers that we often see across the city. It was the fourth time that the tournament has taken place with a record number of pupils participating.



The tournament had teams from many Providers across the city (Crisp Vocational Provision, Unity Academy, FUEL Independent School, Notts County Heading for Goal, Nottingham Education, The Stone Soup Academy, Take 1 Learning Centre, Westbury Academy and Woodlands Academy). The team from Westbury Academy was crowned the champions and Woodlands Academy received the fair play award!

Nottingham Forest Community Trust kindly hosted the event and generously provided prizes. The four semi-finalists from the event will now compete in a regional tournament on the 22nd of April – Good luck to all the teams from Nottingham!

Useful information



What is Thrive?

Thrive offers a trauma-informed, whole school or setting approach that helps to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

The Thrive Approach is underpinned by child development theory in order to optimise children and young people's social and emotional development. These are represented by the following strands:



- Being (Age 0-6 months)
- Doing (Age 6-18 months)
- Thinking (Age 18 months – 3 years)
- Power and Identity (3-7 years)
- Skills and Structure (Age 7 – 11 years)
- Interdependence (Age 11-18 years)

Holes in a child's emotional development can have lasting effects. The aim of Thrive is to close these gaps and improve behaviour and social emotional development.



What you say...



"I've had the best day!" KS2 pupil returning for Yorkshire Wildlife Centre



"I miss you all—everyone really cared about us (Year 10 pupil reminiscing about their time at Denewood



"The school is calm and purposeful (Raleigh Trust governor)



"The work you do here is incredible ."(Year 7 Parent)

Thank you for your comments, they mean the world to us.