Denewood Academy

Parent and Carer Newsletter—Summer 2025



Head Of School's Message

Welcome to the Summer term newsletter!

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

From strength to strength—every step forward counts!

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Denewood Academy,

We are thrilled to share that our recent Ofsted report recognised several outstanding elements within our school. This is a reflection of the hard work of our staff, the resilience of our pupils, and the support of our community. While we are proud of this achievement, our focus remains on becoming outstanding across the board—and we are working hard to get there.

This term we have begun phase two of our building improvements, which will include a bright new entrance and better meeting facilities to create a more welcoming space for parents and visitors.

Finally, I want to thank our staff and pupils for their incredible efforts during the recent heatwave. Despite the challenging conditions, learning continued with positivity and determination.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Warm regards,

Mark Clifford

Head of School, Denewood Academy

Highlights reel



Residential



Personal Development

Residential Trip: Adventure, Teamwork, and Lifelong Memories

This term, selected pupils from every class at Denewood had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a residential trip to Eyam — and what an adventure it turned out to be!

From an hiking through breathtaking scenery to building rafts (and even jumping in for a swim!), the trip was packed with fun, challenge, and plenty of teamwork. The excitement was clear the moment pupils returned—they couldn't wait to share their stories.

Evenings were just as special, with many pupils highlighting the joy of gathering around the fire. As Niko put it, *"It was so good! I enjoyed sitting around the fire roasting marshmallows at night time."*

It was a truly unforgettable experience, and one that created memories the pupils will carry with them for years to come.







Exploring Nature: A Hands-On Wildlife Experience

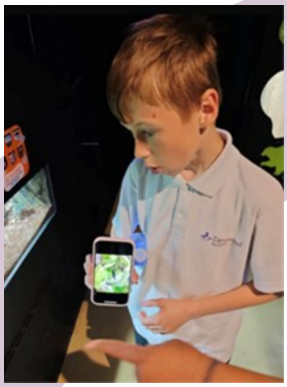
This half term, Denewood pupils took part in an exciting wildlife experience as part of our commitment to hands-on learning. Through close encounters with animals and learning about their natural habitats, pupils developed a stronger understanding of the world around them—and the importance of protecting it.

These sessions didn't just build knowledge—they also boosted confidence. Stepping into new environments encouraged pupils to push beyond their comfort zones, showing resilience, curiosity, and real enthusiasm for learning.

It was fantastic to see our pupils so engaged, asking thoughtful questions and embracing every opportunity to connect with nature.

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Enrichment

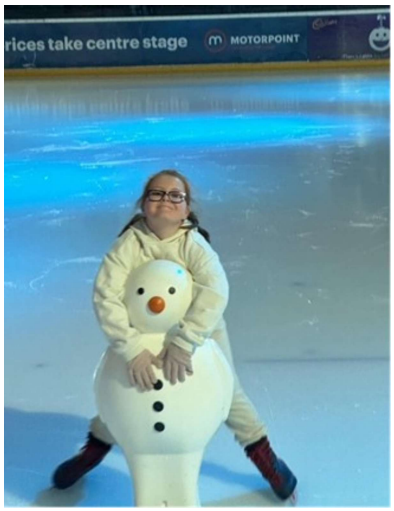
Skating Into Confidence!

This term, we were thrilled to take all our pupils ice skating—and what an experience it was! For many, it was their very first time on the ice. While some were a little nervous at the start, with encouragement from their friends, they soon joined in and had a fantastic time.

There were a few slips and wobbles along the way, but our pupils showed great determination and resilience. With each lap, their confidence grew—and it was heart-warming to see them supporting one another throughout.

By the end of the session, many were skating independently, with big smiles and a real sense of achievement. The cheering, laughter, and encouragement on the ice made it a truly memorable day for everyone involved.





And That's Not All…

This term has been packed with exciting activities and opportunities! Pupils enjoyed weekly fishing trips, offering a chance to relax, reflect, and connect with nature. Our Key Stage 2 pupils took part in Bike Works, where they learned to build their own bikes—showing fantastic focus, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

We also headed out on a breathtaking hike up Mam Tor, with pupils proudly reaching the summit and celebrating their achievement together.

It's been a brilliant term filled with learning, confidence-building, and plenty of fun across the school!





Phase 2

Denewood Developments

Exciting Phase 2 Developments Underway

Phase 2 of our site developments is now underway and will see a full remodelling of the school entrance—creating a warm, welcoming space for all our visitors.

As part of the improvements, we're also introducing brand-new staff working areas and a modern, spacious staff room. The Trust recognises that in order to continue delivering the very best education for our pupils, our staff deserve the very best facilities.

These changes mark another exciting step forward for Denewood Academy, and we look forward to sharing the results in the near future.









Points mean prizes!



5 Points:

I was respectful to others.
I completed ALL work.
I stayed in class.
I followed ALL instructions.
I went above and beyond.

4 Points:

I was respectful to others.
I completed ALL work.
I stayed in class.
I followed instructions.

3 Points:

I was respectful to others.
I used my 'time outs' correctly.
I completed most of my work.
I was able to turn things around.

2 Points:

I walked out of class.
I completed some of my work.
I worked away.

1 Point:

I walked out of class.
I was disruptive to others.
Little worked completed.
I worked away.

0 Points:

I spent no time in class.
I had a serious incident.

Denewood Academy Reward Shop & Dojo System Update

We've listened to our pupils about what motivates them, and they expressed a strong interest in a reward shop. In response, we have revamped how we use **Dojo points system** to encourage attendance and engagement.

Pupils now earn points in every lesson—each session is a fresh start. Points can be spent weekly in our reward shop or saved for higher-value items at the end of the term. Points are awarded for attendance, uniform, social skills, and demonstrating the school's **5C's**.

Dojo remains the platform for tracking progress, allowing parents and carers to view achievements in real time. Prizes range from 30 to 600 points, including toys, fidgets, stationery, footballs, power banks, speakers, vouchers, and more.

Every Friday, pupils can redeem points or save for bigger rewards, helping them develop valuable decision-making skills.

This new points system was sent out via DOJO in the final week of term. If you would to know more please contact the office.









SAFEGUARDING
AT THE
DENEWOOD ACADEMY

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.'

Meet your team:



Mrs M Picker.
Assistant Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Ms R Jones.
Assistant Principal and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Mr Z Oxley.
Safeguarding and Welfare Lead.

Feeling blue? Scan for help.

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ChildLine 0800 1111

mind

When life is tough, we're here to listen
SAMARITANS
Call us free 24/7 on 116 123
samaritans.org

YOUNGMiNDS fighting for young people's mental health

Change Grow Live

Do you know the risks of social media? Think before you post.

T – Is it truthful?
H – Is it helpful?
I – Is it inspiring?
N – Is it necessary?
K – Is it kind?





Mr M.Clifford.
Head of School and Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Ms E. Browne.
Executive Principal and Deputy Safeguarding Lead

"The core purpose of Denewood Academy is to ensure all children are equipped for the next stage of their educational lives and to provide them with experiences and positive moments that last a lifetime."