Denewood Academy

Parent and Carer Newsletter— Summer 2026



Head Of School's Message

Welcome to the Summer term newsletter!

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

As we come to the end of another fantastic academic year, I would like to thank our pupils, families, staff and partners for their continued support. Together, we have celebrated many successes and made significant strides in strengthening the education, care and opportunities we provide for our pupils. I am incredibly proud of everything our school community has achieved.

This edition is particularly special as it is the final newsletter published under the Denewood Academy name. While we say goodbye to a name, we do so with great excitement.

From September, we will begin a new chapter alongside the opening of our additional site. This marks an important milestone in our journey, enabling us to support even more children and families while continuing to deliver the high-quality specialist education our community deserves.

Although our name is changing, our values, ambition and commitment to improving the life chances of every pupil remain stronger than ever.

Thank you for being part of our journey. I hope you enjoy this final Denewood newsletter, and I wish you all a safe, happy and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Regards
Mark

Highlights reel





Personal Development

Learning Beyond the Classroom

This half term, our pupils have continued to embrace a wide range of opportunities designed to develop their confidence, independence and resilience beyond the classroom.

Through adventurous outdoor activities including kayaking, Sky Trail, assault courses, archery, mini golf and raft building, pupils challenged themselves, worked collaboratively and developed valuable communication and problem-solving skills. These experiences have encouraged pupils to step outside their comfort zones while building lasting memories with their peers.

Educational visits to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Twycross Zoo, Magna Science Adventure Centre, The Big Bang Fair and Waterworld have further enriched learning by bringing the curriculum to life through exciting, hands-on experiences.





We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, determination and positive attitudes shown by our pupils throughout every activity.





Careers Education

This half term, pupils have continued to develop their understanding of future education and employment opportunities through a range of meaningful careers experiences.

GI Group Visit

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to GI Group for providing such an engaging and inclusive introduction to the world of recruitment.

The team welcomed our pupils warmly and shared valuable insights into the wide variety of careers within the recruitment industry. pupils explored the skills, qualities and attitudes that employers value while gaining a greater understanding of the pathways available to them after education.

The staff created a supportive learning environment, answering questions, sharing their own experiences and encouraging pupils to think positively about their futures. The visit helped to build confidence, raise aspirations and inspire pupils to consider the many opportunities available to them.

We are extremely grateful to everyone at GI Group for their enthusiasm, patience and commitment to supporting our young people.





Careers Fair

Ada Class also enjoyed attending a Careers Fair, where they met professionals from a wide range of industries and learned about different career pathways.

Pupils participated in interactive activities and engaging discussions which encouraged them to explore their own interests and ambitions. The experience helped broaden their understanding of future possibilities and inspired them to think positively about their aspirations.



Enrichment & Curriculum

A Half Term Full of Adventure

This half term has been packed with exciting learning experiences across the academy.

Our curriculum is designed to extend learning beyond the classroom, providing meaningful opportunities for Pupils to develop academically, socially and personally through practical, real-world experiences.

Pupils have also been developing important social skills through fun, interactive games that encourage teamwork, communication, problem-solving and respect for one another. These engaging activities have helped to build confidence, strengthen friendships and create a positive learning environment where everyone can thrive.





Design & Technology

This term, pupils have explored the fascinating country of Greece through their Design and Technology curriculum.

They have learned about Greek culture, traditions, food, clothing, architecture and history while comparing aspects of Greek life with their own experiences. Practical activities have encouraged creativity, curiosity and cultural understanding, allowing pupils to apply their learning in engaging and meaningful ways.




Class Highlights

Arrows Class

While their classroom was being renovated, Arrows Class enjoyed two weeks of exciting educational visits.

pupils visited Magna Science Adventure Centre, where they explored interactive exhibits and participated in hands-on science activities that brought STEM learning to life.

Closer to school, they enjoyed a nature walk around Highfields, identifying local wildlife and observing the natural environment.

The class also travelled to Alfreton to participate in a Parkour session. Their excellent listening skills, determination and positive attitudes impressed the coach, who commented:

> *"I am well impressed with all of them."*

Design and Technology continues to be a favourite subject in Arrows Class. Throughout the year, pupils have designed and built impressive projects including pool tables, table tennis tables, bird houses and rocket ships. They have also used their practical skills to complete repairs around school, developing independence, creativity and problem-solving abilities.







Class Highlights

Trent Class

Pupils in Trent Class enjoyed a variety of collaborative and active learning experiences this half term.

Working together to design and build a marble run encouraged excellent teamwork, communication and creative thinking.

A visit to Sherwood Pines provided opportunities to explore the natural environment, with pupils particularly excited to discover a heart-shaped tree stump during their woodland walk.

In gymnastics lessons, pupils developed their coordination and confidence while learning new skills, including practising cartwheels.

Pupils also took their phonics learning outdoors, using practical games and activities to reinforce letter sounds, build words and strengthen their reading skills in a fun and engaging environment.







Class Highlights

Ada Class have enjoyed a fantastic range of educational visits this half term.

Their visit to Dovedale Stepping Stones gave pupils the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Peak District while exploring the natural environment. Crossing the famous stepping stones was a particular highlight and provided an enjoyable challenge for everyone.



Pupils also attended The Big Bang Science Fair, where they explored interactive exhibits, participated in hands-on experiments and discovered exciting careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The event inspired curiosity and encouraged pupils to think about future opportunities within these industries.



To celebrate a fantastic year of achievement, our KS2 pupils will be visiting Drayton Manor Theme Park. This well-deserved reward will provide an opportunity for pupils to celebrate their successes together, create lasting memories and finish the academic year on a high.

We are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved this half term and look forward to another exciting year filled with opportunities for learning, discovery and personal growth.

SATs Round Up

Receiving this week's SATs results for our five Year 6 pupils has been a moment of immense pride for our whole school community. SATs week can be a challenging experience for any child, often bringing pressure, nerves and uncertainty. For our pupils, who overcome significant challenges every day, the determination, resilience and positivity they demonstrated throughout the testing period was truly inspiring.

As a school, we could not be prouder of the way each pupil approached the week. They gave their absolute best, showed remarkable perseverance, and completed every paper with commitment and courage. Their achievements go far beyond the results themselves and reflect the hard work, growth and character they have developed throughout their journey.



We are delighted to celebrate that one pupil achieved the expected standard across all areas, while another met the expected standard in both Reading and Mathematics. Equally importantly, our other pupils made outstanding progress during their preparation and throughout the test week itself, demonstrating significant personal and academic growth

Every one of our Year 6 pupils should feel incredibly proud of what they have accomplished. Their success is a testament not only to their hard work and dedication, but also to their resilience in the face of challenges. They have represented themselves and our school with pride, and we are honoured to celebrate their achievements.

An Unforgettable Trip

Outward Bound Residential

Thirteen pupils travelled to Ullswater for three days of fun, adventure, and exciting outdoor activities at Outward Bound. Throughout the residential, pupils worked together in a variety of team-building challenges, including climbing, navigating tunnels, and many other activities that tested their resilience and teamwork.

The pupils also enjoyed a range of water-based adventures, such as canoeing, ghyll scrambling, cliff jumping, and lots of water games. These activities encouraged everyone to challenge themselves and try new experiences.

It was wonderful to see the pupils demonstrating such strong team spirit, supporting and encouraging one another every step of the way. Their positivity and determination helped many of them step outside their comfort zones and achieve things they never thought possible.

The residential provided unforgettable experiences and created lasting memories for all involved. We look forward to returning to Outward Bound in the future and giving more pupils the opportunity to enjoy these incredible adventures.







