Denewood Academy

Parent and Carer Newsletter—Spring 2025



Head Of School's Message

Welcome to the Spring term's newsletter!

Dear Parents, carers, and friends,

A Season of Growth and Enrichment

Spring has been an exciting time at Denewood Academy, filled with enriching activities that build confidence and inspire learning. Our curriculum enrichment opportunities have provided pupils with hands-on experiences, from outdoor learning to creative projects.

A standout this term has been our Food Technology curriculum, where pupils are growing in confidence as they develop essential cooking skills and explore nutrition. Their enthusiasm has been fantastic to see!

We are also pleased to welcome new pupils and staff, bringing fresh energy to our community. Meanwhile, our Creative Arts programme continues to thrive, giving pupils the chance to express themselves through painting, drama, and music.

Thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive families for making this term a success. We look forward to the exciting months ahead!

Warm regards,

Mark Clifford

Head of School, Denewood Academy

Highlights reel



Flippin fantastic!



Confidence or Character?

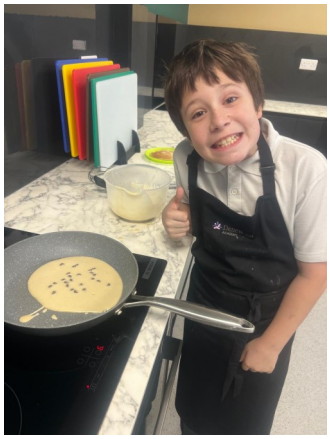
Curriculum update

Food technology

The pupils spoke and we listened....

When we first introduced Food Technology into our curriculum, practical lessons were held twice a term. However, our pupils' enthusiasm for cooking in our brand-new facility was undeniable. Their excitement and engagement inspired us to expand these opportunities—now, they get to cook every week!

The lessons will now involve a section on theory, a less time-consuming practical and a full practical cooking session the following week. This will continue to develop their life skills and build confidence.





Future Chef

Tommy progressed to the regional final of Future Chef having navigated the internal and local final. Tommy was very close to coming second place having competed with the Nottingham High School and various mainstream settings.

The judges praised Tommy's efforts and recognised that he had some challenges during the time restricted competition but was able to over come these calmly to complete his main dish of Jamaican fried chicken and rice and dessert of lemon cheesecake.

We are all so very proud of Tommy's journey and look forward to seeing him continue on this pathway with a commitment from a professional chef to mentor Tommy wherever his next destination shall be.

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Personal Development

Trent Class visits Yorkshire Wildlife Park

This month, Trent class had an exciting trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, where they learned about diverse animals such as lions and giraffes . A highlight was meeting the park's newest arrival—a baby giraffe! Pupils also took part in an educational workshop about conservation, gaining insight into protecting wildlife and preserving habitats.

"Caitlin- I touched a big slimy snake"



Celebrating Diversity on Discrimination Day

Denewood Academy marked Discrimination Day with workshops and discussions on diversity, equality, and respect. KS2 and KS3 pupils explored real-world scenarios to understand the effects of discrimination and how to challenge inequality. It was a meaningful day of learning and reflection.

"Loxley- discrimination means people can get bullied for their skin tone"



World Book Day – A Celebration of Stories!

World Book Day at Denewood Academy was filled with creativity as pupils and staff dressed as book characters. The day included storytelling, book quizzes, and a 'Drop Everything and Read' session, inspiring pupils to explore new books and authors.

"Lorenzo- we walked to WaterStones and got a book with vouchers Miss Maya gave us"



Flipping Fun on Pancake Day!

Pancake Day was a delicious success, with KS2 and KS3 pupils taking part in pancake-flipping challenges, decorating, and learning about Shrove Tuesday.

"Tommy- The best thing to add on pancakes are strawberries & syrup"



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've 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.









Lets go!

New minibus boosts learning opportunities

We're excited to share that Denewood Academy now has a second minibus! With our busy personal development schedule and wide range of curriculum enrichment activities, the new minibus is a vital addition. It ensures more pupils can get out into the community, explore new environments, and engage in learning beyond the classroom. This supports our vision of providing meaningful, real-world experiences that inspire growth and independence.





Timetable Rockstars



Get involved!

At Denewood Academy, we're excited to see our pupils improving their maths skills with Times Tables Rock Stars! This fun and engaging platform helps pupils master their times tables through exciting challenges, battles, and competitions.

We already use TTRS in school, but we want every pupil to take part at home too! Just a few minutes of practice each day can boost confidence, improve recall speed, and make maths more enjoyable. Parents, please encourage your child to log in and play—let's see who can climb the leaderboard!

Please message Mr Camm or your form tutor on class dojo if you need any assistance with this.

Keep rocking those times tables!

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.

kooth

ChildLine 0800 1111

mind

YOUNGMiNDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Change Grow Live

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

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."

Summer time

During summer we will be visiting the following places:

Mam Tor



Bradgate Park



Monsal Trail



Dates for your diary

Residential— Eyam 18/19/20 June

May Date TBC - Advanced Behaviour Consultant- Supporting challenging behaviours at home

June Date TBC - Supporting reading and language development at home

April 22nd- Stephen Lawrence Day

April 29th - International Dance Day

May 12th - Mental Health Awareness week

May 21st - World Meditation Day

June 9th - Men's Health Week

June 18th -Autistic Pride Day

July 14th - SENDC0 - Supporting pupils with SEND

July 15th - Youth Talent Day

July 25th Family fun day