

# SPRING TERM *News*

## REVIEW OF THE TERM

We can't believe how quickly time has flown by and we are at the end of yet another busy and jam-packed term.

Year 11's have been working extremely hard in the run up to the GCSE exam period. We have been really impressed with their focussed efforts during the recent mock exam period. We know they are now working hard in the final weeks preparing for the exam season. Further details of the exam timetable can be found at the end of the newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to explore support specific to the exam season, please contact your child's Link Mentor in the first instance.

Thank you for supporting our Learner Review afternoon on Wednesday 20th March. During your meeting you should have received your child's report. If you have not received this, please contact reception.

This term has seen a wide variety of trips and opportunities to gain new experiences. From Pod trips out for breakfast, Year 11 Go Karting trip, The Roald Dahl Museum and supporting younger learners attending our Tenzing Road site to build a sensory garden, there have been opportunities for everyone. We look forward to plenty more activities taking place in the summer term.

We supported Comic Relief through a variety of events. This culminated in a brilliant whole-centre game of 'Hide & Seek'. Well done to the staff team who won the event! Special mention to Chris who was the last member of staff to be found! Huge thank you to Sharon F for all her hard work in organising the events. It is not too late to donate, please visit our Just Giving page.

The Centre will be open on **Wednesday 10th April** as a hub and warm space for our families to use. There will be activities available for children as well as food and warm drinks, and access to the food bank. Karen will be opening up the centre from 11am-2:00pm. If you have any questions or would like further information regarding this please contact [info@desc.herts.sch.uk](mailto:info@desc.herts.sch.uk)

Term starts for all learners on Monday 15th April 2024. We look forward to seeing everyone back in centre ready for another busy term.

Thank you to everyone - learners, families, and staff - for making DESC a place where Respect, Aspiration, and Resilience continue to grow to support all to 'Be the Best You Can Be'. Wishing you all a peaceful and restful Easter Break.

*All at DESC*

## CENTRE REMINDERS

### Absence

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential if learners are to make good progress and to gain the appropriate skills to equip them for life. Lateness and absence are recorded, monitored and followed up.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason please contact the Centre on the number below:

**Barncroft Campus**  
**01442 2 47476 Option 2**

If we have received no explanation for your child's absence, we will telephone parents/carers to ascertain the reason for absence.

### Reminder

We are a non-smoking and vaping Centre. Any smoking or vaping related materials brought onto site will be confiscated. This policy extends to Centre trips and transportation to and from Centre. For further information please see our Smoking and Vaping Policy on our website.

## Subject Reports: PE

This term in PE we have been working on patience, taking turns and communication within our lessons. We have been developing these skills through a range of physical activities that include, bowling and pool at Hollywood Bowl in Garston and also a visit to Redbourn Driving Range. We have also been working in partnership with Absolutely Together who have provided us with the opportunity to access their facilities to further enrich our PE curriculum offer. We have started to use Our Gym in Maylands Avenue which the learners have been fully engaged with and look forward to continue working with our partners in the future.





# Subject Reports: Prince's Trust



## Prince's Trust

The student's have successfully completed their Top Golf sessions for their Wellbeing-Physical Activity unit. They all did really well and learnt new skills. They gained an understanding of how physical activity can support emotional and physical wellness. They made us



proud with their behaviour at Top Golf, well done.

### Gaddesden Riding for the Disabled

Students have achieved Horse Care proficiency grades by learning new skills and supporting the riders at RDA. This also supports Prince's Trust units - Wellbeing and Community Impact. They have been grooming the horses and getting them ready for the riders. They have also been lucky enough to have lessons on Champion the mechanical horse.



### Rock Up Watford

Earlier in the year, the students completed Rock Up climbing to support their Team Work unit. It was lovely to see the students try something new and some of the students were brave enough to complete the Leap of faith!



### Rifle

#### Shooting at Phasels Wood

Another successful activity, which also supported Team Work, was rifle shooting. The students had amazing concentration and supported each other to do well. They all came away happy with their results.





## Subject Reports: Maths

With the end of the academic year and the final GCSE exams fast approaching our main focus in the Maths department has been to both prepare students for their coming examinations and to secure early qualifications for selected students. I am pleased to say that we have had some excellent early successes regarding Functional Skills Entry Level qualifications.

For those students approaching their GCSE finals I would encourage students to make a personal commitment to trying their best to revise over the coming weeks. Maths is like a sport, it is not something that we are born good

at but it is definitely something that we get better at if we practise. As parents it is often hard to think what we can do to help our children to revise for exams. Some ideas that have been shown to work include finding a regular place and time that your child can work, asking them to work for a short amount of time (20 minutes a day seems a reasonable place to start). For our part we will provide more than enough revision resources with most students already having been given a Exam Questions Revision book that is an excellent resource to work from with graded questions in it and answers in the back of the book. Another excellent

resource is [www.mathsgenie.co.uk](http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk) where all of the past years' exams can be found. This site also has the answers to all the papers and videos showing how to do the questions.

A last and possibly fun strategy is to ask your child to explain something that they get correct to you, (you don't actually need to be able to do it yourself). The act of explaining something has been shown to have a huge effect on how well students understand and remember ideas. Wishing all Year 11 students (and parents) the best for the final term!

## Subject Reports: Enrichment

Enrichment students have been exploring art techniques from around the World. Some passed their newly acquired skills on to members of staff or peers as part of the Bronze Arts Award. Below are some examples of work produced this term:



## Subject Reports: English

March 7th was World Book Day and we celebrated the event in Centre by inviting a guest speaker, who produces and writes music. Some of his soundtracks have even featured in films internationally! Learners thoroughly enjoyed engaging in the interactive session and were keen to ask a range of questions throughout the session.

The English Department also took four year 11 learners to 'The Roald Dahl Museum' to explore the interactive galleries and read Roald Dahl's original material and extracts from his work. Learners also enjoyed completing the village walking trail around Great Missenden to see sights that inspired Matilda and The BFG! Our KS4 learners have also been

preparing for their GCSE English exam. We have been focusing on successfully constructing responses to questions for both English papers and focusing on making comparative links between texts. Additionally, Y10 and Y11 have continued to enjoy reading a wide range of articles covering current events.

## KEY EXAM DATES

### APRIL

15th: Learners start of Summer Term

### MAY

6th: May Bank Holiday – NO TUITION

9th: GCSE Italian Reading & Listening exam pm

10th: GCSE Science Biology paper 1 am

13th: GCSE English Literature paper 1 am

16th: GCSE Maths Paper 1 am

17th: GCSE Science Chemistry Paper 1 am

20th: GCSE English Literature paper 2 am

20th: GCSE Italian Writing exam pm

22th: GCSE Science Physics paper 1 am

23rd : GCSE English Paper 1 am

27th – 31st: Summer Half Term

### JUNE

3rd: GCSE Maths Paper 2 am

5th: GCSE Statistics paper 1 pm

6th: GCSE English Paper 2 am

7th: GCSE Science Biology paper 2 pm

10th: GCSE Maths paper 3 am

11th: GCSE Science Chemistry paper 2 am

12th: GCSE Art 9.30 – 3.30

13th: GE Art 9.30 – 3.30

14th: GCSE Science physics paper 2 pm

17th: GCSE Statistics paper 2 pm

19th: YR11 presentation (TBC)

### JULY

19th: End of term 12.30pm

22nd: INSET Day

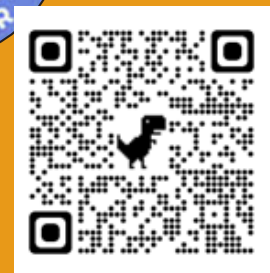
24th: Summer Holidays

# Useful Information and contacts for the holiday period

**Samaritans** - immediate support for any issues at all



**Sandbox Project** – advice and guidance for any mental health concerns



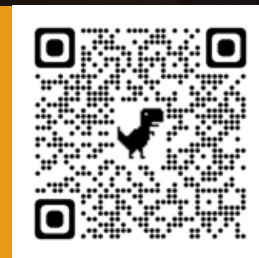
**Report Remove** – help to remove nude or inappropriate pictures of young people



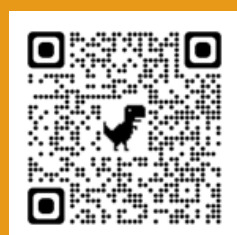
Nude image of you online?  
We can help take it



**Fearless** – reporting a crime or details of a crime anonymously



**Talk to Frank** – honest information about drugs



**Brook** – Sexual Health and Wellbeing experts

