



## In this issue:

- Page 2 - Head's Message
- Page 3 - The Deer Park Apprentice
- Page 4 - Careers & Free School Meals
- Page 5 - PLC News
- Page 6 - Snow Closures
- Page 7 - Sports News
- Page 8 - International Schools News
- Page 9 - KS4 Charity Week
- Page 10 - Design Faculty News
- Page 11 - Humanities Faculty News
- Page 12 - Expressive Arts News
- Page 13 - Play In A Day & Inclusion Centre news
- Pages 14 & 15 - Staff news
- Page 16 - Rolling Calendar

## Pupils Wow at Talent Show 2010

BBC Radio Gloucestershire showcased the impressive performances of pupils during Deer Park's Talent Show. The November event saw over 50 acts perform with 29 successful acts taking part in the final of the school's seventh Talent Show for Children in Need raising over £2,500.

This year, the event caught the interest of BBC Radio Gloucestershire and two of the performers, Joshua Thomas and Katrina Cook, both in Year 11, were featured 'live' on their lunchtime programme.

Planning for this event was very intense. Liz Norman, Head of Expressive Arts, and Dan Cook, Music Teacher, rose to the challenge and ensured each act could perform to live music. They were joined in the house band by extremely talented and adaptable Year 10 pupils Ella Brown, Harry Smith and George Lunn. Other pupils and staff were also busy behind the scenes and contributed to the smooth running of each show as lighting and sound technicians, make up artists or runners.

A panel of judges, chaired by Jenny Cummins, deliberated each evening and had the unenviable task of selecting the winners. Based on the quality of their performances in the final, Philip Beckerlegge, Chair of the school's governing body, announced the successful participants. He said 'The confidence with which the pupils performed, even those who only joined the School in September, is a real tribute to the staff at the School and to the work done by the Expressive

Arts department. Real talent was shown.'

The runners up in Key Stage 3 were Erin Coffey and Kayleigh Arnold ('Valerie') and Year 8 band 'Merge' but Lizzy Finnie took the winner's place for her performance of 'Who's Loving You'. Adam Michael, Year 8, who got a special mention for his performance of 'Armchair Athlete' said: 'It felt really good being up on stage. I got the idea from listening to my Grandad's 'Five Penny Piece'.

The runner up in Key Stage 4 was Abi Carter for her original composition. Abi explained 'I wrote all my songs myself and I have about ten. This is the first time I have performed one at school and I was really nervous but I am glad I achieved it.' The winner's place went jointly to Katrina Cook ('Hallelujah') and Rob and Katy Pearson for 'Open Your Eyes', their own original composition, but the overall prize went to Joshua Thomas for his spellbinding performance of 'Rondo Rodeo' on the classical guitar.

Chiquita Henson, Headteacher, congratulated everyone involved: 'We saw some outstanding performances and I was particularly impressed by the support for the participants from the audience.'

Liz Norman, Head of Expressive Arts, commented: 'I have been wowed by the standard. The pupils have really excelled because they are passionate about performing and doing things well. We have excellent facilities in Expressive Arts at Deer Park and a wonderful team. Pupils are actively encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities.'



## Message from the Head

Although the heavy frosts at the end of November and at the beginning of December transformed our school site into a winter wonderland, we officially opened the festive season with our annual Carol Concert in the Parish Church on Monday 13 December. Again members of our Expressive Arts team excelled themselves and the school's choir and ensembles set the tone beautifully. Following the appreciation shown by Fr. Leonard and his parishioners for the willow and paper angels we donated to the Church last year, our Art Club has again created 4 more colourful sculptures to decorate the church. Similarly pupils in Year 8 made paper lanterns and participated in the procession to open Cirencester's Christmas Markets on Saturday 4 December.

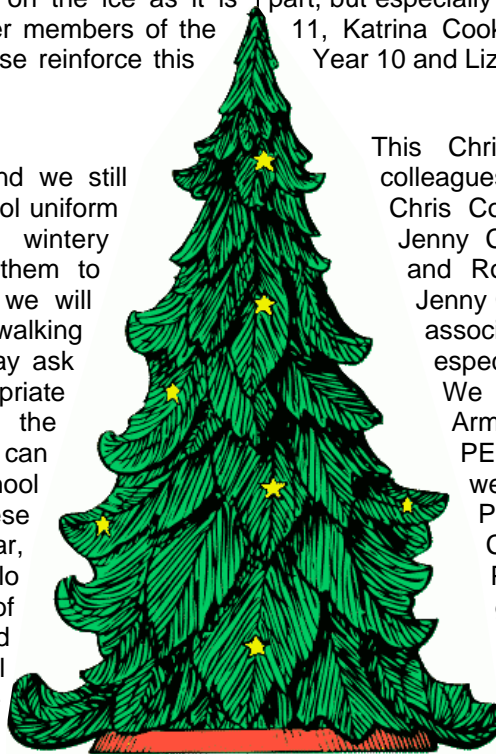
Our pupils are to be commended on their behaviour during the exceptionally cold weather, but we have been asked to remind them not to play on the ice as it is dangerous and puts them and other members of the public at risk of serious harm. Please reinforce this message at home.

When there is snow on the ground we still expect our pupils to wear their school uniform correctly. However, in these wintry conditions, we would encourage them to wear proper outside clothing and we will tolerate stouter footwear, including walking boots and wellies, however, we may ask them to change into more appropriate indoor footwear once they are in the building. In the extreme cold, pupils can wear layers underneath their school polo shirts and sweatshirts, but these should not be visible above the collar, below the sleeves or waist. The polo shirt itself is considered an item of 'underclothing' and should in the cold weather be worn under the school sweatshirt. The Deer Park base layer is an item of PE kit only.

2010 has been a very special year in our school's recent history. We achieved an outstanding outcome in our Ofsted Inspection and our 'Class of 2010' achieved our 'best ever' GCSE results. Following the changes in government and the way schools are funded, especially with regard to our specialist schools' status, we are now seriously considering our future direction and following our initial research and consultation, governors are now actively looking at Academy status and will be meeting with other local headteachers and representatives from their governing bodies in January to explore the potential

in working together. Furthermore, I advise you that should we decide to proceed there will be an opportunity to find out more about Academy status at a specific parents meeting in the new year. Further details of this will be sent out in the new year.

I am proud of our pupils' generosity of spirit as they have made a significant contribution to improving the care of others. They are resourceful and work together exceptionally well. Since September, pupils at Deer Park have raised over £1,600 for charity as a result of their participation in our new Charities' Week introduced by James Johnson, our Citizenship and PSHEe Co-ordinator, and David Clarke, our Head of Key Stage 4. This is in addition to the fantastic £2,742 raised for the BBC's Children in Need programme through our Talent Show in November. Congratulations go to all who took part, but especially to our winners, Joshua Thomas, Year 11, Katrina Cook, Year 11, Rob and Katie Pearson Year 10 and Lizzie Finney, Year 8.



This Christmas we say goodbye to four colleagues, Toby Clapton, Cover Supervisor, Chris Cooper, ICT Key Stage Co-ordinator, Jenny Cummins, Inclusion Support Worker, and Roger Martin, Design Teacher. Both Jenny Cummins and Roger Martin have long associations with the school and we will be especially sorry to see them both retire. We look forward to welcoming John Armshaw, Design, and Adam Stradling, PE, who join us in January. We are also welcoming back two staff who left Deer Park within the last few years. Charlotte Rubringer returns to Deer Park as our KS3 ICT Coordinator after gaining further experience in another Gloucestershire school and Jenny Jones, Geography, returns for a while after a short break.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and remind you that our new term for pupils starts on **Wednesday 5 January 2011 (Week 2)**. Pupils in Year 11 are reminded that they will receive the outcomes of their recent tests on our **Mock Exam Results Day on Friday 7 January** which will provide them with a very strong indication of the progress they are making towards meeting their target grades in their GCSEs next summer!

Chiquita Henson

December 2010



# THE DEER PARK APPRENTICE

Nine budding entrepreneurs enrolled at the start of term to become the first Deer Park Apprentice. Starting in November, the Royal Engineers came into school to test the candidates' team working abilities. Designing and building a bridge to hold the maximum weight, the pupils soon got into the swing and gelled as teams to complete the task.

Once they had been put through their paces with the Army, the next challenge was working with Waitrose to organise a Business Evening on 9 November at the Cirencester store. Having had only 3 weeks to complete the challenge from start to finish (including half term), the team set about designing the invitation and sending it out to over 550 local businesses in the area.

For the evening, two teams were formed to compete against each other, where they designed and pitched a hamper to the guests. Each guest had a vote and the winner was the team with the most votes. It was a fantastic evening and the pupils

learnt a lot from completing the challenge. Mr Germaine, who is coordinating the Deer Park Apprentice, said 'We are very grateful to Waitrose for getting involved in the project and supporting our pupils in this exciting activity. The pupils have learned a great deal in terms of time management, design, communication and team work to enable the evening to go ahead.' We were lucky enough to have a professional film made on the evening of the Waitrose Challenge, which can be viewed from The Deer Park Apprentice micro site on the school Intranet.

The third and fourth challenges take place in the New Year. Working with Oomph Marketing Agency pupils will have to get their creative heads on. The candidates will also be working with Rob Rees, The Cotswold Chef, centred on food and local produce.

For further information, please contact Mr Germaine at school.



Challenge 1: Team Building with The Army

## Photography Club



A PHOTOGRAPHY club is starting on Tuesdays after school from 11<sup>th</sup> January. Pupils will learn how to use their compact or SLR cameras and be able to showcase their work along with finding out about competitions. More information is available from Miss Oliver.



Challenge 2: Marketing with Waitrose

## Creative Catering

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 10 Catering pupils were visited by two chefs from Gloucestershire College. Gareth is in charge of training students in the catering trade, and Shaun is head chef at the Renaissance Restaurant where catering students work during their training at college. They did a very entertaining demonstration for the pupils, cooking six or seven dishes for them. They demonstrated beef stir fry and beef curry, spicy noodles, three ways of cooking fish with different sauces, chocolate mousse and soups. Pupils were able to look closely and taste some of the spices and flavourings they used, many of which they had not seen before, and they also were shown several skills like jointing a chicken and filleting fish. They really enjoyed the demonstration and tasting the final dishes. Louis Mulcock says of the experience "They were really interesting, and the skills and techniques they showed us were amazing". Jack Irwin said after the event "They were amazing".





## Working Lunches

by Mr Germaine

During this term a number of employers have visited the school to work with our pupils through a series of **Careers Working Lunches**. These sessions offer informal information on a wide range of career areas to enable pupils to think about their futures and what opportunities exist beyond school and education. We are grateful to the following for giving up their time to inspire the workforce of the future:

Dacre Watson – Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators  
Guy Speedie – GE Aviation Systems  
Captain Quinn – Royal Navy  
Dr Borg - Local GP  
A representative from GCHQ  
Lorna George – Natural Animal Feeds  
Tom Wakefield – Furry Feet TV  
Hilde Dahmer – Horizon Nuclear Energy

A further series of Careers Working Lunches are being arranged for the New Year. Keep an eye out on the Careers page on the internet and intranet.

## Under 18s

The 'Don't buy for under 18's' campaign jointly run by Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire Police was started to inform people about buying alcohol for children who are under the age of eighteen. Anti-social behaviour, violence and unprotected sex involving young people can also involve alcohol. The health issues for young people who drink are well documented and can hold problems for their own future. A survey undertaken by the CDC and Police discovered that a large proportion of alcohol obtained was through parents or older siblings. It is an offence to purchase alcohol for anyone underage with a maximum fine of £5,000 which can be imposed. At this time of year please be aware of any alcohol intake your son or daughter may have over the festive season at home or when at friends. For more information a 'Don't buy for under 18's' parents booklet is available at the school, Cirencester Police station or the CDC offices in Trinity Road.



## Free School Meals

Are you entitled To Free School Meals (and other financial help for your child at school)? You may already be aware that some children are eligible for free main meals at school but did you know that there is other financial help available if you are finding the costs of education a struggle? Parents do not have to pay for school lunches if they are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income not exceeding £16,190
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment finishes or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week

Financial support is also available to families on low income to help with transport to school and school uniform. All of these schemes are administered by Gloucestershire County Council and if you think you might be eligible please contact them on 01452 425435 or go to [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals). More information about free school transport and uniform grants is also available from these sources.





# News From The PLC

## E-reader

Keeping up with technology is very important at Deer Park School so the PLC has invested in an e-reader for pupils to borrow.

An e-reader is a portable e-book reader which can hold thousands of books in a very small space.

There are over 2 million free e-books, many translated from their original language into English and not available as printed translations.

The font size can be changed to suit the reader and our e-reader comes with a sound function so audio books can be used as well.

Pupils may borrow the e-reader while they are in the PLC. Please ask a librarian for more information.



## Year 7 Reading Tree

Lots of books were read as pupils battled to be the tutor group with the most leaves on their tree. The winning tutor group was 7DE who spent the last English lesson of term watching Toy Story 3 and eating popcorn and chocolate as they celebrated their win. For every book that was read, pupils wrote a short review and received a leaf for their tree. Here are some reviews:



*The book I read was called 'Double Dare' by Cathy Hopkins. It was about a boy called Mac who only has two goals in life; one: that his mum and dad will get back together so then he can move back to London. And two: that he can date as many girls as possible. I didn't really enjoy this book because it was a bit boring and I thought that it was a bit of a strange story. I would go for more adventure books or fantasy books, so I wouldn't recommend this book to my friends. Also (I forgot!) his other goal was to be a cartoonist, a famous cartoonist. I'd give this book a rating out of 10 a ..... 4 out of 10. I'm sorry but this book FAILED to impress me.*

By Molly Binneresley 7DU

*'Machines Rule On The Road' is an amazing book all about road vehicles. It includes 30 pages based on cars one of which is the limousine. The biggest limo in the world is made by cutting up four Cadillacs and sticking them together. It features a Jacuzzi pool with a diving board, a satellite TV, a king-size bed and a heli-pad. The book also tells you about sports bikes, road trains and maintenance vehicles.*

By Seb Anders 7DU

*Percy Jackson and the Titans Curse is about a group of Half Bloods, trying to save their friend, Annabeth, from a monster in disguise. Along the way, they meet a group of hunters of Artemis, God of the Sun. In the end, their treacherous journey leads Percy to find out the fate of his future, which would determine the life of many other Half Bloods.*

By Olivia Togher 7DE



## Booked Up 2010

Could this be the last year of the Department for Education annual book giveaway for Year 7s? Here are some pupils enjoying their new books





## Snow Closures Due to Bad Weather

Snow may look pretty but we know it is a major inconvenience to people who have to travel. We also know that for working parents when the school has to close this presents further problems with regard to childcare. So why do schools close when it snows when most other businesses manage to stay open?

The key issue is the safety of pupils and staff. This includes weighing up many different risks regarding travelling to school, site safety and pupil supervision on site. Chiquita Henson, Headteacher, explained; 'Shutting our school is the very last option for us and is not a decision that is taken lightly. Maintaining the rhythm of learning is extremely important, but we have to balance that against the risks to our pupils and staff.' In the event of severe weather conditions we liaise closely with our local transport companies and senior staff in our neighbouring schools and college. As well as monitoring local weather reports, we ring around staff in outlying areas to assess the travel conditions that might be affecting pupils and staff who come to school by car and bus. We also aim to clear the access roads to our site and ensure it is safe for the children to return to once the worst of the poor weather is over.

If we do not feel that it is safe for pupils or staff to travel we will close. This reduces the number of vehicles on icy roads at peak times. Furthermore, we will close if we feel that we will not have sufficient members of staff on site to allow us to effectively supervise hundreds of pupils, or if the site is unsafe due to snow or ice, or loss of water or electricity

because we have a responsibility not just for the safety of our staff but also for your children. If the school remains open (as we try to do) during bad weather as a parent you can make the decision about whether or not you feel it is safe for your child to travel to school. If the school is open and you make your own assessment that travel to school is not safe from where you live then please keep your child at home. If you let us know that their absence is specifically due to travel problems caused by the bad weather we can record this as a special category of absence.



In the event of any school closure and especially if it is for more than one day, we will clearly signpost work for our pupils to do at home

on our school website [www.deerparkschool.net](http://www.deerparkschool.net). As you are aware, our pupils can log into our intranet where they will find generic tasks, but their teachers may also set them specific tasks related to their learning within our portal, iDeer.

To keep you informed we aim to send a text message to all parents and staff if we are unable to open and will do this as soon as we can make a reasonable assessment of the conditions. We will also advise Gloucestershire County Council and they will update their website [www.glosclosedschools.com](http://www.glosclosedschools.com) (you can also follow updates to this site on Twitter). Closure details will be broadcast by BBC Radio Gloucestershire. We will also advise of any closure on our own website and our new Facebook page.

Let us hope we have a snow free few months and that difficult decisions about whether to open or close are unnecessary.

## Roald Dahl Day In The PLC

Roald Dahl Day falls on 13<sup>th</sup> September. To celebrate this fantabulous author's birthday the PLC holds a Roald Dahl Party for all the Year 7s. They were each given a Golden Ticket which allowed only them to join in the fun and games. Pupils identified the insects on *James' Giant Peach*, spotted which members of staff were disguised as *The Witches*, bought some of Mrs Twit's eyeball cakes and designed a new chocolate bar for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.





## Sports News

We have come to the end of the season for rugby and netball. Congratulations to all the pupils who have attended practices and represented the school in fixtures and tournaments.

### Rugby Results

**Year 7:** Played 5 won 3 lost 2  
**Year 8:** Played 3 won 1 lost 2  
**Year 9:** Played 3 won 1 lost 2  
**Year 10:** Played 5 won 1 lost 4  
**Year 11:** Played 3 won 2 lost 1



### Netball results

**Year 7:** Played friendlies  
**Year 8:** Played 4, won 2 lost 2; League position: 3rd  
**Year 9:** Played 3, won 1 lost 2; League position: 3rd  
**Year 10:** Played 3, won 0 drew 1 lost 3; League position: 4th  
 In the recent Area Tournament the Year 10 team came second in their section to progress to the semi final. Here they met Stroud High who proved to be the stronger team.  
**Year 11:** Played 4, won 3, lost 1; League position: 1st



This has been a fantastic season for Year 11. Congratulations to Steph Hacker, Jess Buck, Lucy Reeves, Lucy Clayton, Daisy Luker, Amy Frost, Phoebe Somers, Gennie Crook, Lauren Walsh and Lauren Williams for their hard work and team play.

Congratulations to the following pupils who were selected to run in the county cross-country last week: Matt Crew, Joe Fell, Callum Cole and George Dwight. Jake Ashton and Clemmie Livingstone were selected but didn't run.

Georgia Wing in Year 10 recently attended a Netball Talent and performance screening session with England and Super League players at Bath University. At the end of the day she was successful and has been invited to attend a regional Excel Week-end for further training and screening in January.

This could lead to playing at the Super League level which could eventually lead to England training.

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected for the District Football trials: Callum Coles, Ben Robinson, Danny Bishop, Rob Haste, George Thrussell and Alex King.

Congratulations to Luke Burgess on his selection to the U16 County Rugby squad.

Congratulations to Kate Hanley and Erin Steadman who were chosen to attend U14 Satellite Netball squad.

## Olympic Dream For Martha

Martha Haslam in Year 11 continues to strive for a place in the 2016 Great Britain Olympic Sailing Squad. Having competed in international sailing events in the 'Cadet' class since the age of seven, Martha's potential was quickly spotted. She is now the helm of her boat, 'Aslan', and, together with her nine year old crew, Katie Ainsworth, hopes to compete in the World Series in Germany, 2011. Martha has already competed all around the globe, this year sailing in Hungary and Holland, and has a

place in the Great Britain Development Squad, putting her in the top 17 boats in the country. Her aim for next year is to get into the top 7 and earn a place in the World Team squad.



## Ski Trip

Pupils are looking forward to the Deer Park ski trip to Italy in February half-term. Organisers have decided to return to the same resort in Aprica for the 4<sup>th</sup> time as it's a welcoming town of shops and restaurants.

Pupils will have two hours of ski lessons in the morning, hot lunch and two hours ski lessons in the afternoon. The resort has vast amounts of slopes including green, blue, red and black – catering for all needs. The evening entertainment will include pizza night, ice skating, disco, presentations and a quiz night.

The hotel is a new one this year called St Martin and is handily placed at the bottom of the slope and next door to the ski hire shop. Pupils will have the chance to pick up the local language and attempt to use it. The trip leaves on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February and returns on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011.



## International News

by Mr Richer



Cirencester Deer Park School is a British Council accredited International School for 2008 to 2011. We are very proud of our International School status and this has been developed over a number of years by the enthusiasm and commitment of teachers, pupils and colleagues in developing global links and sustainable partnerships. We have worked with partner schools and colleges across the globe from India and the Jubilee School in Chandrapur to McCaskey High School in Lancaster Pennsylvania, USA. Nearer home our major European partner School is Alfrink College in Zoetermeer, Holland where our partnership has grown from strength to strength with regular contact through exchange visits and the United Nations Pupil Conference (MUNA). February 2011 will be our sixth year of attendance at the conference. In January 2010, 350 pupil delegates attended from schools and colleges across Europe. Opportunities for job shadowing have also arisen through Alfrink College and we have shared their good practice with fellow Gloucestershire schools including Thomas Keble School and Balcarras School in Cheltenham.

Our Headteacher and Governors strongly believe that all pupils should have the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience of the richness and diversity of different life styles of different people and cultures across the globe. Current projects being undertaken at Deer Park include a Comenius Regio project with pupils and teachers in Sweden where the teaching of Mathematics, Science and Technology has been examined and contrasted with a target of investigating pupil's active participation in the learning process of these subjects. A new Comenius project is being investigated by Miss Norman, Head of Expressive Arts, with a topic of looking at the Future of the Arts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This project would aim to bring together teachers and pupils from France, Sweden, Spain, Holland and Hungary.

Deer Park was successful in its application to become an affiliated school to the UNESCO organisation and has through its association developed schemes of learning that pupils in the Humanities Faculty have benefitted from. During 2009 – 10 UNESCO asked Deer Park School to pilot a Humanities scheme of learning together with St Peters High School in Exeter which has proved very successful and this has now been made available to schools and colleges nationally. Next year the History department will work on an International Project titled 'Breaking The Silence: Transatlantic Slave Trade'. This is an international project that links three regions involved in the triangular slave trade i.e. Africa, the Americas and Europe. This project will be led by Miss Dovey, our History advanced skills teacher.

The Languages Faculty has partnerships in France, Germany and Spain and annually strengthens these partnerships with work programmes that include work assignments in designing, making and exchanging DVD's that investigate the differences

and similarities of everyday life in each other's country. Miss Moss our advanced skills teacher in Languages established a new partner school in Cadiz, Spain in her visit in March 2010. Deer Park school's international work is enriched throughout the curriculum by a range of subject areas and this diversity of subject is supported by professional development for teachers through national organisations as well as opportunities for pupils to enrich their learning by experiences on offer. In 2012 Miss Lillington Deer Park's Geography co-ordinator will lead a team on a South American expedition to Brazil. Closer to home sees the schools 2011 Enrichment Week provide opportunity for many KS3 pupils to experience life in other countries involving a range of activities from cultural and heritage visits to outdoor pursuits.

We wish our partner schools across the globe a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas period and look forward to continuing to work with them in the New Year.

### Angus Wins Photo Prize

Budding photographer, Angus Malmgren in Year 10 has won first prize for his age group (11-17) in a photography competition run by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. His winning entry of a fox is a stunning image and will be published in GWT's winter magazine. Angus, who said he was delighted with the prize, took the photograph at the Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue Centre, where he has volunteered every Sunday afternoon, for the last 9 months.



© Angus Malmgren 2010

### Matt Roars To Success

Matt George in Year 11 finished 17<sup>th</sup> out of 76 in his 'rookie' season of the Super1 Karting National Championships. This represents an astonishing achievement for such a young driver. Matt is hotly tipped to be in the top 3 next year. The National Championship has been the breeding ground for Formula 1 Success; Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button both raced in this series as part of their rise to fame. Racing for the P1 Karting team Matt hopes to become the champion for the 2011 season!





## Talent Show 2010



## KS4 Charities Week

Cirencester Deer Park Pupils raised a staggering £1,467.58 for children's charities during their **Key Stage 4 Charities Week** in October. Organised by Pupil Presidents from Years 10 and 11, students across the school took part in a number of activities across five days of fun filled fundraising.

Tuesday saw Year 11 Games Captains vs Staff in a hotly contested fancy dress volleyball match organised by pupil Luke Burgess. Luke said, 'The debate over who actually won rages on! Charity was the real winner as everyone was keen to make a donation to cheer on their friends and we made a lot of money for great causes.'

The delicious scent of home baking filled the air as pupils held a cake sale, raising over seventy pounds, and four brave Key Stage 4 pupils were put at the beck and call of their teachers after being auctioned off as slaves. Other events included 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' and a 'Wii Ski' competition, testing balance and speed.

The pupil-led School Council chose to raise money for children's charities and have opted to split the proceeds between The Baby Cooling Fund at St Michael's Hospital, Bristol, Winston's Wish Foundation and, after seeing the appeal featured in the Wilts & Glos Standard, the David Pearson plasma touch screen fund. They also hope to make a donation to a children's leukemia charity.

In the build up to the week, pupils had been asked to bring in their 'loose coppers' to create a 'Copper Line'. David Clarke, Head of Key Stage 4, said 'We were inundated with literally bucket loads of 1p and 2p coins. The line stretched well over twenty metres and we hadn't even emptied the first bucket! It was a fantastic effort all round.'

The week culminated in a non-uniform day with the ever popular 'Soak a Teacher', where pupils took great delight in being able to aim a soggy sponge at their teachers as they were held captive in the stocks. The Charity Week preceded the school's biennial 'Children in Need Talent Show'.





## Design Faculty News

By Mrs Evans, Head of Design

### Year 8 Automata Workshop

The **Automata** that a group of Year 8 pupils helped to design and make is now on display in the **New Brewery Arts**, Cirencester. Robert Race, a famous mechanical sculptor, designed the concept for the piece of work and the workings for the mechanisms. The pupils worked with an associated mechanical artist to Robert Race to produce the wonderful moving wall sculptor. The pupils designed the figures and then helped to make them.



### Years 9 and 10 Lego League Challenge

This took place on 24<sup>th</sup> November at Bath University. The challenge is run through the Design and Science Faculties. The theme this year was 'Body Forward'. A complex brief and guidelines are given to the school for the pupils to follow and respond to. There are two main aspects to the challenge:

- To produce a presentation describing the function or system of the body and coming up with an innovative solution to a problem identified by the group. Research identifying a scientist, engineer or doctor who is currently working on solving the problem that the group has identified.
- To make a range of Lego products which simulate parts of the body. Then to design and make a robot out of Lego and program it to perform different tasks to work interactively with the Lego body parts on the map.

The pupils worked very hard to complete the task and Mr Martin and Miss Cole, a Science trainee teacher, guided the pupils through the various stages. The day of the Challenge was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The venue allowed the pupils to set up their mats and display work and practice their presentations and run through the series of control tasks that the robot had to perform. The pupils were given a detailed timetable for the day's events and they performed and stood up to the challenge brilliantly. The group supported each other in the various events and worked excellently as a team. Their presentation lasted for 5 minutes which they later commented was the longest 5 minutes they have ever known! The pupils then responded well to the judges who bombarded them with questions about their presentation and research findings and the design and make of the robot.

I would like to thank the group, Mr Martin and Miss Coles for all their hard work and dedication to this challenge.

### Year 8 Art Club

The pupils have shown a great deal of dedication and artistic flare in producing some amazing angel sculptures. The Year 8s have made metre sculptures, out of brazing rods and spot welded them together to create these wonderful ethereal figures. They will be displayed in school and then in Cirencester Parish Church. Thanks to the pupils and the Art Department for all their hard work and effort, they are really very beautiful.



Our Lego League Challenge Team



# Humanities Faculty News

By Miss Dovey

## Year 7 Project - Cirencester Town

How many of you know where the Town Hall is? How many of you are aware of Cirencester's Heritage? Is Cirencester like every other town in the UK? Our Year 7s certainly know after this intrepid group set out in what seemed like polar conditions to survey their town centre earlier this term. The aim was for pupils to carry out research into whether Cirencester is a 'clone town' and if it has lost its Roman Heritage. All this formed part of the Humanities and Citizenship Faculty's mammoth task of linking the Year 7 Citizenship, Geography and History programmes of study to form a cross curricular field trip. It developed important geographical data collection skills as well as engaging pupils with local historical sites, helping them appreciate the relevance of the past in their own lives.

As Year 7 navigated their way through the town they paused at various locations to carry out traffic surveys, people counts and investigations to see which shops were independent and which were chain stores, in order to find out how typical Cirencester is. Miss Lillington, Geography Co-ordinator said 'I'm really impressed at how the pupils engaged with the project and grew in confidence as they were encouraged to survey the shoppers of Cirencester in an attempt to find out their views on the facilities of Cirencester and their thoughts on how the Town Hall can be used in the future.'



Pupils visited many sites around the town from the Roman Amphitheatre to the Corinium Museum, where they were encouraged to identify Cirencester's Roman heritage in order to find out if it has been lost. Volunteers from St John the Baptist church kindly gave up their time to give our students a guided tour of the Chapels and Town Hall telling fascinating stories of secret tunnels, bones and chalices! Not only was this a novel learning experience, it was a grateful shelter from the freezing weather!

One important stop on our tour was the Town Hall. So where is it? It's on Market Place and it's more commonly known as the South Porch to St John the Baptist church. 'I thought that was the Church!' was the common confession from pupils, staff and members of the public alike.

This is the second year we have run this project and it was even more successful since pupils were able to visit the museum where many of our year 7s completed nomination forms for the museum to win *The Guardian's Family Friendly Museum of the Year*. Ella McAllister said "seeing historical artefacts all over the town was great, but I was really impressed by Jupiter's Column in the museum!"

It has been a wonderful opportunity for pupils to explore their own town centre and learn things about our local history that they'd never have known if they'd remained in the classroom. We are looking forward to doing it all again next year.

## Powell's Evacuees

Deer Park recently hosted a group of World War Two evacuees from Powell's Primary School. They walked through icy conditions to be 'evacuated' to CDPS to experience rationed food and cooking, artefacts and story-telling. Many of them were dressed for the part and had packed their lunches in greaseproof paper!

During the day they engaged in a range of activities designed to help them understand what life was like for children of their age during the Second World War. They experienced a war time lesson led by English and History Teacher, David Clarke, who was impressed by the pupil's enthusiasm, saying "their knowledge of the Home Front was impressive and they were clearly able to empathise with the children who had been evacuated seventy years ago, sharing in their experiences – both good and bad".

One of the highlights for all the pupils' day was the opportunity to make 'victory pudding', a sweet steamed dessert made

from potatoes, carrots and breadcrumbs. "I really enjoyed making the victory sponge. It was very tasty" said Isobel Evans. Like the pupils, Jane Haines, Technology teacher, was dressed for the occasion. Wearing seamed stockings, a wrap round apron and headscarf she guided the pupils in the use of period kitchen utensils. "I was amazed at how many wanted to try the pudding, and taste more!"

In small groups, participating pupils learnt about gas masks and practised basic air raid drills. The opportunity to hold and discuss original artefacts, on loan from the museum, helped them



appreciate the differences between now and over sixty years ago. George Clist-Woodward said "I really enjoyed the artefact session as it helped me to visualise what life was like on the home front."



Helena Dovey, the History Teacher that co-ordinated the evacuation process had made parsnip pudding and carrot biscuits for the pupils to try. "The sight of the parsnip pudding was enough to put anyone off, but most if not all the pupils tried it! The carrot biscuits went down a storm and many pupils asked for the recipe. Patrick Burgess said "I really enjoyed my experience there; I feel it has boosted my knowledge." The experience was only the first part of a longer term project. On their return to Powell's School the Year 6 pupils as evacuees will write home to their imaginary parents at CDPS. Pupils in Year 9 at Deer Park, who are currently studying WW2 will be writing a response in role, sharing their knowledge and understanding of the home front.



## Expressive Arts Faculty News

### Spinning Tops and Superheroes

Year 10 pupils from Cirencester Deer Park School, along with the Mayor of Cirencester and the Chief Executive Officer for Cirencester Town Council, travelled to Saint Genis Laval, in Lyon, to be part of the largest dance festival in Europe.

On Friday 10th September, ten Performing Arts pupils from Deer Park were involved in intensive rehearsals in preparation for the parade through the streets of Lyon on Sunday 12th

September, where they were part of group of 4,500 dancers, being watched by more than 400,000 spectators.

The parade, part of the 'Biennale de la Danse', resulted in the performers representing toys that come to life and are freed. The international contingent consisted of representatives from all the places where Saint Genis Laval has friendship links. There were groups of students participating in the procession from Italy, Romania, Portugal and Cirencester. All of the international students were Superheroes and Spinning Tops, but other toys created included teddy bears, giant spiders on stilts, robots and princesses.

Liz Norman, Head of Expressive Arts, who led the trip commented, 'The whole event was amazing and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenge that the 'Biennale' gave them in addition to the cultural experience that they encountered over the course of the weekend.'



She continued: 'The work that the students put into the preparations and rehearsals for the event was incredible and they performed six separate dances outstandingly well in the parade through the streets of Lyon on the Sunday afternoon for three hours in temperatures above 30 degrees. They will also be able to use this performance to contribute towards their Performing Arts qualification and so the whole experience was invaluable.'

The school was proud to be able to represent Cirencester at this prestigious international event and we hope to be able to repeat our participation in future years.



Esme Hedges, Jasmine Harding, Kathryn King and Katie Weir participate in the parade as superheroes and spinning tops!

### Hitting All the Right Notes

Music students from Year 7 to 11 showcased their solo performance skills on Thursday 14th October competing in the annual 'Deer Park Young Musician of the Year Competition'. Students were competing for the prestigious title of 'Winner of Young Musician', divided into 2 categories; Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Excellent performances were heard throughout the evening on a variety instruments including piano, voice, classical guitar, violin, and trombone to name but a few. We heard music from 1600 to the present and the audience were given a real treat, with some fantastic, high quality performances.

After much deliberation the judges declared that the winner of the **Key Stage 3 'Deer Park Young Musician of the Year'** was Colm Peare, for his outstanding piano performance. Runners up in this category were Tom Sandilands in Year 7, Lucy Stephenson in Year 8 and Holly Gimmler in Year 9.

The winner of the **Key Stage 4 'Deer Park Young Musician of the Year'** was Sam Bristow, in Year 10, for an excellent piano performance. Runners up were Tom Broadbent, Katrina Webb and Angus Malmgren, all in Year 10.

### Annual Carol Service

The inside of Cirencester Parish Church was filled with festive music on Monday evening, as pupils from Deer Park School took part in the annual Carol Service. Traditional carols and more modern pieces of Christmas music combined with readings, poems, drama and prayers to entertain a packed congregation of parents, staff and residents. The church looked wonderful as it was filled with decorated Christmas trees and the angels produced by pupils at the school.

The recent cold weather, market stalls, and Christmas lights of the streets and shops outside added to the festive atmosphere. A retiring collection raised over £200 which is being donated to the Laura Crane Trust for young cancer sufferers.





## Play In A Day

By Mr Anzalone

Year 9 and 10 Drama and English were working with Shakespeare 4 Kidz and the Wyvern Theatre in September.

The Drama department set a challenge to Year 9 and 10 pupils to create an abridged version of Shakespeare's play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in one day. This meant learning lines, constructing a set, rehearsing and performing all between 9am in the morning and the performance at 7pm the same evening.

Working with two professional actresses, pupils had to be committed and flexible, working as a team and showing initiative, focus and self discipline if the project was to succeed. For GCSE and BTEC students, this was an excellent opportunity to sharpen many of the skills they learn on their courses, such as devising and performance, as well as working with professionals. The Key Stage 3 pupils also took up this challenge to work at a higher level with their peers in school.

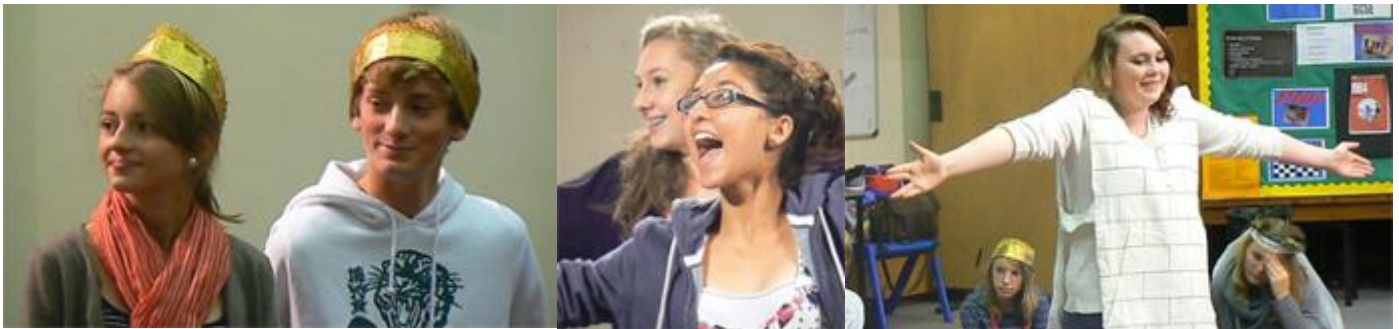
The project also helped pupils in their understanding of Shakespeare for English. This involved exploring how plays are structured and how characters

and relationships work, as well as how these can be translated into performance.

The 50 pupils worked brilliantly together and the result was a very successful performance.



Wyvern Theatre  
An HQ Theatre



Hippolyta and Theseus Duke of Athens  
'Now Fair Hippolyta our nuptial hour draws on apace'

Two fairies:  
Cobweb and Moth

Snout as the Wall  
'That I, one Snout by name, present a wall'

## Inclusion Centre News

By Mrs McPherson

The new Inclusion Centre has been open since September 2009 and has proved to be a great success. Hundreds of children have passed through in that time whether it is just for one period or for a lengthier spell. It is the aim of the centre to prepare children to reintegrate into the classroom as quickly as possible.

The needs of the children and their reasons for visiting the Inclusion Centre are varied. The Centre is divided into two parts: Inclusion and Isolation. The Isolation side is the smaller of the two and has four booths, one with a computer which is used at the staff's discretion. The pupils, who are in isolation, will get some targeted tutoring to address the causes of the incident which caused them to be isolated, as well as concentrating on their timetabled lessons and coursework. We expect them to use this time in a positive way, get their heads down, work hard and understand that their actions have consequences. The majority of pupils do exactly this and when they have finished for the day most feel they have achieved something whilst in isolation.

Pupils that are in the inclusion side could be there for medical, social or work reasons. We look after their needs which may be some one to one work (and this term we have been assisted by teaching staff to great effect) or a quiet place to knuckle down and get some good work done.

We have seen some excellent results with pupils who are behind in their work and catch up after just a few sessions. Pupils will always improve their grades after a period of concentrated effort and we are there to assist with any subject.

The Inclusion team along with Miss Brace are working on a programme to be launched in January called **Raise Your Game** which is a behaviour management tool for identified Year 8 pupils and uses interactive classroom sessions and football to deliver the programme.

Finally we say good-bye to Jenny Cummins at the end of term. She has made a massive impact on the centre, visitors often comment about the peaceful and positive atmosphere, and we will miss her dearly.



## Roger Martin Retires



**Design teacher Roger Martin retires this Christmas after 37 years at Cirencester Deer Park School**

Mr Martin will undoubtedly be greatly missed when he leaves the school for the last time as a teacher on Friday 17 December 2010.

Headteacher, Chiquita Henson reflected, 'We will be very sorry to lose Mr Martin from the team as he has become an integral part of the school. He is a popular member of staff and former pupils who visit the school frequently ask after him and reminisce about their times in his tutor group and the care, guidance and support he provided.'

Since taking up his post at Deer Park in 1973, Mr Martin has taught across three generations of Cirencester residents and his role as a tutor is fondly remembered by many.

Karen Grinnell, former tutee, shares her thoughts on Roger Martin (affectionately known as Doc!). 'I have had the pleasure to know Roger Martin for the past 25 years, first as a tutor, then friend and now also work colleague. I first met Roger as my tutor when assigned to Durham B in September 1984 as did my husband Paul. Mr Martin took all of Durham B from Year 7 to Year 11 and in that time mentored and supported so many of us through our teenage years. On the fun side he would think nothing of asking for a pupil to get him some "Tartan Paint" or "Nail Salt" - one parent even asked for it at Tesco! Roger Martin touched the lives of so many pupils that he taught and mentored over the years, but I personally am very thankful to Mr Martin and wish him all the happiness he deserves with his wife Carol and family in retirement.'

Roger Martin was appointed to the staff of Deer Park in 1973 after completing his first year of teaching at Alperton Comprehensive School in Wembley. Before taking up his first post, he completed a three year Advanced Handicraft Course at Shoreditch College of Education. He was born in Cheltenham and attended Charlton Kings Secondary Modern School.

In September 1973, Roger took up his post as Assistant woodwork, metal work and technical drawing master in what was then known as the Craft Department at Deer Park. Since joining the school, Roger Martin has worked for 5 headteachers, 6 heads of department/faculty and has seen many changes within the curriculum.

Roger Martin is deeply committed to helping pupils achieve their best; 'The experience, qualifications and memories that pupils leave their school with, are just so important. They really only get this one chance, I hope that I have helped many to make the most of their school days,' he said.

Most recently he has contributed to Deer Park's work as a

specialist school for technology by promoting and participating in activities organised by the Smallpeice Trust. Mr Martin has regularly accompanied groups of pupils on Marine Engineering courses at the Universities of Strathclyde and Southampton as a part of our annual Enrichment Week.

Michael Vaughan, parent of Matthew, a former pupil, wanted to reaffirm his gratitude to Mr Martin; 'He was an inspiration and guiding light to my son during his time at Deer Park and must take some of the credit for any success he achieves in engineering.'

Similarly, Mr Martin has brought out the best in many pupils in his Design and Technology lessons, especially Control Technology in Key Stage 3 and Systems and Control in Key Stage 4. He has also coached pupils for the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarships.

Annemarie Evans, Head of Design said, 'I count myself very privileged to have worked alongside Roger. The rapport that he has with the pupils and their parents is amazing. He cares a great deal about the pupils and staff at Deer Park School and will willingly give up his time to help and support pupils. His enthusiasm and insight for the subject has never dwindled and as a Faculty and personally we will miss him. We wish him all the best in his retirement.'

Over the last few years Mr Martin has encouraged teams of pupils in Year 9 to take part in the Lego League at The University of Bath. Thomas Fearn, Year 9, explained, 'The Lego League was an excellent opportunity to learn key life skills such as team work, problem solving and coping with pressure. I'm really glad Mr Martin asked me to be on the team!'

All we can do is echo Tom's words and say that we have been very glad indeed to have Roger Martin on our team. We wish him well for his retirement.



Mr Martin doing what he does best!



## Other Staff News

### Much loved teacher leaves



**Mrs Jenny Cummins** will be leaving Deer Park this week after a long period of service, both as a teacher and in a Pastoral role in the school's Inclusion centre.

Head of Inclusion Mrs McPherson said: "It is very sad for the Inclusion Centre, staff and pupils. She is finally retiring properly (after already retiring once) and we will miss this lovely lady so much. When I first came to the school 15 years ago it was

Mrs Cummins that persuaded me to leave my phone number in case there were any TA jobs available. She organised me then and she is still organising me now! I have had the pleasure and honour of working very closely with her over the last few years and she is, very definitely, the most energetic person I know. The pupils are so fortunate to have her here. There are many words to describe her; patient, caring, generous, lovable, kind, clever, motivational, inspirational, generally superb and magical! Not only has she been the driving force behind us but she has also judged the Talent

Show, assisted with Enrichment Week and Year 7, and many other activity days and trips for the pupils. When she was Head of Year 7 she would know all the children's names in that year group and where they were from, all within weeks!

Mrs Cummins was instrumental in the plans for our new Inclusion Centre and she organises me, and it, in a very efficient way. Not only does she sort out all the business side of our work and is an immense teacher, she is extremely good at listening and always has time for both staff and pupils (and parents!) knowing the right thing to say and when to say it. Very often after a busy week she will come in on a Monday morning and take one look at the room and say 'Right! Let's get this lot sorted out'. She has seen many children through the school and is now teaching their children as well. Mrs Cummins will always be a very welcome visitor and if I get my way it will be most Mondays and Tuesdays! She is simply the very best teacher, friend and work colleague anyone of us can have."



### Chris Cooper



Mr Cooper joined us in 2007 as an IT teacher and subsequently took on the KS3 Co-ordinator role in the faculty. He leaves to set up his own internet business. Head of ICT Mr Elliott said: "Chris has been an invaluable member of the ICT faculty since January 2007. He is full of new ideas on how to develop learning and embraces new technology to make learning fun. Since joining the school Chris' role has developed, and he now contributes to a number of whole school priorities,

including the successful Primary Animation club, and leading teacher training within the Faculty. His departure is a huge loss to the faculty, but we wish him every success with his forthcoming business project."

### Toby Clapton



Mr Clapton joined us as cover teacher in 2009 and has been a valuable and much liked member of the team. Cover supervisor Mrs Dobson said, "The Cover team will be sad to see Toby leave us at the end of term. Toby has been a great member of the team, always willing to take on any challenge presented to him and willing to offer help where ever he can. Toby is well liked by both staff and pupils and will be a great loss to our cover team. We wish you luck for the future in realising your dream of becoming a P.E. teacher."

## School Drop in

The school offers pupils an extended drop in health clinic run by school nurses employed by Gloucestershire NHS.



This service is usually offered once a week, every Monday from 12.30 – 14.30pm from the Mentoring Room; next to Key Stage 3 pastoral office. Pupils are able to access this service without prior appointment by dropping in during these times and can access confidential, friendly advice and treatment in the following areas:

- Advice and guidance on sex and relationships
- Emotional wellbeing
- Physical health
- Healthy lifestyles, e.g. diet and exercise, alcohol and drug misuse, smoking cessation

This is a professionally run confidential service, where nurses work under strict safeguarding protocols, i.e. if the professional believes that there is a risk to the health, safety or welfare of a young person or others which is so serious as to outweigh the young person's right to privacy, they would follow child protection protocols.



## Rolling Calendar 2011

20th December - 4th January	Holiday
Wednesday 5th January	First day of term (Week 2)
Friday 7th January	Year 11 mock results (14:25)
Thursday 20th January	Year 8 subject teachers parents' evening
Thursday 20th January	Cirencester College open evening
Tuesday 25th January	Possible consultation evening regarding Academy status (to be confirmed)
Thursday 27th January	KS4 Options evening (for Year 9 parents)
Thursday 3rd February	Year 11 subject teachers parents' evening
Thursday 10th February	Year 9 subject teachers parents' evening
Friday 11th February	Non uniform day
21st - 25th February	Holiday
Thursday 10th March	Expressive Arts Spring Showcase (19:00)
Monday 14th March	Inset Day
Thursday 17th March	Year 7 subject teachers parents' evening
11th - 25th April	Holiday
Tuesday 26th April	Friends of Deer Park meeting (19:00)
Friday 29th April and Monday 2nd May	Additional Bank Holiday (Royal Wedding) and Bank Holiday
Monday 16th May - Tuesday 28th June	GCSE exam period
30th May - 6th June	Holiday
Tuesday 7th June	Friends of Deer Park meeting (19:00)
Thursday 9th June	Expressive Arts Summer Showcase (19:00)
Friday 17th June	Cotswold Care Hospice Midnight Walk
Thursday 23rd June	New Year 11 (current Year 10) parent's evening
Friday 24th June	Non uniform day
Wednesday 29th June	Sports day
Thursday 30th June	KS3 Celebration of Achievement evening
Friday 1st July	Year 11 Leavers' Ball
Monday 4th - Friday 8th July	Enrichment Week (KS3). Work Experience week (KS4)
Thursday 14th & Friday 15th July	Year 6 induction days (and parents' evening on 14th)
Friday 22nd July	Last Day of 2010/11 Term
Monday 5th September	First Day of 2011/12 Academic Year

### School Contact Details

Cirencester Deer Park School, Stroud Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1XB.  
Telephone: 01285 653447. Fax: 01285 640669 Email: [enquiries@deerparkschool.net](mailto:enquiries@deerparkschool.net)