



Dedworth Middle Newsletter



A busy term draws to a close!

As we get near the Christmas break, we bring you a packed newsletter with updates from many parts of school life.

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for this school year. There's a huge amount to report, reflecting an exciting and busy autumn term. Taking the keys to the new build back in September seems like a lifetime ago. Mr Little provides a write up of life in the new build elsewhere in the newsletter. We have hurtled through the term since those early days of the late summer and there is so much to report from the full range of school life at Dedworth Middle. On a personal note, I have had a thoroughly enjoyable first term at DMS and would like to thank everyone for the welcome that I have been given. I wish you all a very merry Christmas - have a wonderful break with family and friends.

Mr Titheridge



New build

Turn to page 2 to read Mr Little's report on our new building.



STEM success

Six of our year 8 girls brought home the trophy. Read more inside.

Sporting glory



Find out about our teams participating in athletics, netball, rugby and football.

Our new building

Our new block is already having a huge impact on teaching and learning.

It feels like a long time ago now but we received the keys for the new building on Wednesday 5th September. Over the course of this term we have been settling into the 7 stunning new classrooms and new sports hall.

“It really is a stunning space.”

5 of the 7 classrooms have become the base for our Year 6 team who have settled in well to their new learning environment. Miss Henry teaches a variety of humanities in the 6th classroom. The 7th classroom has become our hub for the nurture team. We have invested heavily in the technology - each classroom has a state-of-the-art interactive screen. The brand new 3 court sports hall has been used



every single day for P.E lessons, extra-curricular clubs and assemblies. It really is a stunning space and has made such a positive impact to the P.E department and the whole school. We held an assembly to thank Dave, the project manager who oversaw the building and we look forward to reaping the benefits for years to come.

Mr Little



5GU WRITING TO PUPILS IN AUSTRALIA

This school year 5GU have had the enormous privilege of corresponding with a mixed grade 4/5/6 class in a remote town of Western Australia, around a 5 hour drive from Perth. We have sent and received two letters. The children have been able to learn about the very different lifestyles of children their own ages. Many of these children live and work on family farms, travelling 30km or more to school. They help care for the livestock and some even operate JCB's! Yet for all these differences, our children have found many points where they are the same, including the games they play, caring for pets, having siblings they like - and some they don't like!. Our pen pals have even sent us some Australian food to try - Vegemite and Milo - we haven't tried it yet though. It has been a lovely opportunity to broaden our understanding of the world and those who live in it. All different - All the same.

Mrs Usher

DMS SPORT

Working together, making a difference



Netball

Dedworth's Year 7 A team had an excellent tournament winning all their games and winning first place. The girls played very well together and showed some good tactics within the team. Soffiyah Yusuf did some outstanding defending as GK and Amie-Rose Fearnley got into space to help drive the ball back to the attackers very well. Both shooters were on point in every game and showed some outstanding play.

The year 8 Netball A team had an outstanding start, winning 13-0 against Trevelyan B team. Megan Baker and Alex Ward were particularly helpful in feeding the ball towards Isobel Philpott and Zadiyah Herbert, who went on to score some incredible goals (from a distance) in the semi circle.

The girls went on to win every game of the tournament and placing 1st overall.

The girls were very happy with the win-more so with the medals!

The year 8 B team also did a fantastic job winning 2 of their games against Trevelyan B and C. The girls fought hard against Dedworth A team and St Peters who were just a little quicker on the ball than the girls and unfortunately ended up with 2 defeats. Overall, Dedworth B team came 3rd.

Miss Perchard

THANKYOU...

to those parents who have downloaded our school gateway app already. Did you know that you can report your child's absence in a quick and easy way via the free messaging service at any time?

Sports Hall Athletics

Both the year 7/8 and the year 5/6 Sports hall Athletics teams competed in the Middle schools competition at Thames Valley Athletics Centre. Pupils competed in standing long jump, speed bounce, vertical jump, chest push and varied running races. They were competing against a number of different schools.



All of the pupils performed very well with a number of them winning their events. All of the teams won their respective competitions meaning they will all represent Windsor at the county finals next year. A big well done to all the pupils who took part.



Year 5/6 football team

It has been a busy and successful term for the year 5/6 footballers. They played in three competitions, the first of which was the regional round of a national competition. This was held at Dedworth with nine teams taking part. It was an enjoyable afternoon with all the games being played in a good spirit.

We entered three teams who all performed well; the C team didn't make it out of their group but fought hard in every game. The B team (made up of year 5's) made it through to the plate final before losing narrowly. The A team won the competition beating Trevelyan 1-0 in the final; they will progress to the Berkshire final in January.



The team has also played in the County Cup, this starts in a league format before progressing to a knockout competition. We started out with a comfortable 7-0 victory over Priory and then ground out a hard fought 1-0 win against Robert Piggott. We beat Gorse Ride 5-1 and Willowbank 4-2 away to ensure we topped our group and move into the quarter finals.

The final competition was the Wycombe Wanderers Cup again we put in a strong performance winning our group. This moved us into another group of group winners. Ultimately, we came a very creditable second.

Year 5/6 Girls football team



The year 5/6 girls football team started their campaign competing in the national cup, again the regional round was played at Dedworth. We entered two teams and it was good to see so many girls taking part. The girls never gave up and played some good football but found the going tough and ended up coming 5th and 7th. Like the boys, the girls also played in the county cup and their first game was a trip to The Pines. This was our best performance of the season and we managed a 2-0 victory with Alyssa scoring both our goals. In our second game we hosted Southlake and it was obvious from the start they had a number of girls who played at a good standard. We battled hard but eventually fell to a 5-0 defeat.

Mr Lewis

Rugby

The year 7 rugby team started the year with limited experience - many had never played the sport. With an endless amount of enthusiasm and desire, the skills of the players quickly developed. The first game was home encounter against Holyport College. The match finished in a 10-10 draw with two excellent tries from George and Harry and a mammoth effort in defence from all involved in the final 10 minutes of the match.

Their second game was an away clash with Charters. It was a tough test for the team. It finished with a win for Charters,



with 3 fantastic tries from Flynn, Jayden and Harry. Their final game of 2018 was an away clash with Desborough 'B'. It was an extremely close game with DMS taking the spoils 20-5 thanks to tries from Rufus, Oliver, Flynn and Ryan.

Each member of the squad has played their part in the overall success of the team and their dedication and commitment has been superb and its been a pleasure to work with these boys.

Mr Lavine and Mr Parkin

TOP PRIZE FOR DMS IN ENERGY SAVING COMPETITION

The giant silver chimneyed Lakeside EfW (Energy from Waste) plant in Colnbrook played host to a high class presentation this term by a group of Dedworth pupils who were completing a 10 week STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project.

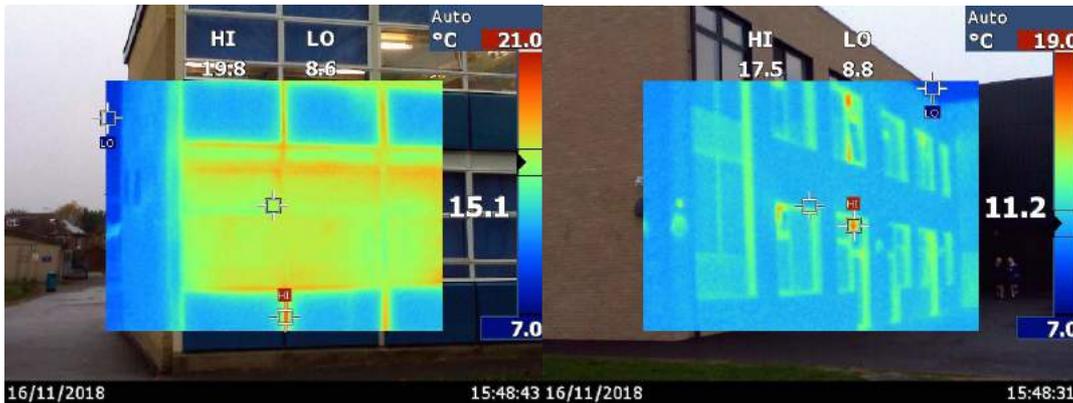


The team of six year 8 students emerged with the top prize for their work on energy use in our school.

The whole thing began in October when they toured the Lakeside site to see a real example of energy being produced on our doorstep in the vast, supermodern facility. It was built and has been operated since 2010 by Grundon Waste Management who we all know from our local waste collections and Viridor who cover traditional waste management services as well as more recent developments in environmental services including composting, energy recovery facilities and recycling.

Students from local schools were challenged to think about how we use energy and how recycling can work better now and into the future.

The Dedworth team looked at energy use around our school and looked at the various ways in which the energy we use could be reduced in practical ways. Helped by their industrial mentor Adam, who came from the Lakeside plant once a week to give them real world examples and techniques for monitoring energy use, they looked at/ researched how the different parts of the school could reduce energy consumption. They examined much of the school from our stylish new building which they could compare with the old. Using an infra-red sensor borrowed from Adam they were able to show big differences between the two.



Infra-red images of the old building and the new building

Among their conclusions were that the old structures could definitely do with double glazing and they are determined to get more of the light switches labelled in the older parts of the school to encourage switching off and only using the minimum necessary lighting.

To represent the real-world situation as advised by their mentor the team considered obstacles to saving more energy such as funding for replacing inefficient lights with more energy efficient types. They recommended that lights could be replaced with LED's but recognised that an obstacle would be the upfront funding needed for this. They calculated how much it would cost to replace them and how long it would be until that investment payed off. Nonetheless they were enthusiastic in their argument that it would reduce the impact of the school on the environment to make these changes wherever and whenever it became possible.

They looked into ways in which the school could perhaps produce some of its' own energy. They compared the possibilities for solar and wind power and evaluated the benefits of each if funds were available. Among the suggestions were harnessing the school's pupil power by attaching rowing machines to generating equipment to give us some "ergo power". Given the energy of the STEM team themselves, if we multiplied by our 500 students, that could make a brilliant contribution !!!

At the beginning of their project they started an awareness campaign around the school and conducted a survey which gave them ideas for their research. They have

already presented an assembly and will be carrying on their message and campaign around the school. They worked very much on their own initiative, having one organised hour per week for their project and fitting in the completion of their research and analysis whenever they could.



Their challenge over ten weeks was in four parts, in which they had to submit a written report on their research, make a model to demonstrate an aspect of their proposed solution, lay out a display for their presentation day and finally to give a five minute verbal presentation to judges from the supporting organisations.

Our team returned with a glowing review from the judges and they really did the school proud with their confidence and presentation skills. They were fearless and practical under fierce questioning

from the professional scrutineers. Theirs was compared with similar projects from other local schools and the four parts of the presentation from the Dedworth team were so



strong that they were awarded this year's overall prize for their work. The outstanding feature of their success was their confidence in explaining their project and responding to expert questioning.

They also each took a step on the ladder of the national Industrial Cadets award scheme with a bronze certificate for their achievements.

Oh, and it did not go unnoticed by the judges and our host organisers, that the team was made up of six of our top STEM students, who all happened to be girls. One of our guest speakers had the theme of challenging girls and young women to look positively at the value of STEM subjects, so our six were clearly well ahead with that view to the future.

The team really enjoyed themselves in the stylish education centre perched out over the water in the old extraction pits and which form the now landscaped lakes of the Colnbrook site. It made for a fabulous learning environment provided by The Lakeside organisation and the Engineering Development Trust (EDT), who also provided the initial challenge and the opportunity to see the EfW plant in action. It's a huge furnace incinerating waste that is too mixed to be recycled and which is instead providing enough power for pretty much the whole of Slough, with material which would otherwise go to landfill. We would all recommend a visit if you get the chance.

The successful team from Dedworth were: Isobel Sorby, Charlie Armiger, Isobel Philpott, Molly St Claire, Willow Hancock

Mr Jones

Stunning reading gains

Since the beginning of term back in September, we have 100 pupils who have added between one and two years to their reading age. What a phenomenal achievement! 25 pupils in each years 5 and 8 have managed this. In year 7, 15 pupils have achieved this gain but out in front in terms of gains made are our year 6 pupils - a huge 35 have made this improvement in just a couple of months. 4 of the year 6 pupils have increased their reading age by at least 3 years since September! Amazing!

Music News!

This term, Year 5 and 6 have all been lucky to spend a day with the Berkshire Maestro's band, "Crash! Bang! Wallop!" Pupils spent time with the instrumental teachers learning how to play various instruments, including the violin, double bass, drums, clarinets and trombones. Many children expressed an interest in taking up an instrument and will be starting lessons after Christmas. If you would like any more information on how your child could start to learn an instrument, please contact Mrs Carley.

The Choir

The choir have been very busy this term rehearsing and performing. Their first performance was of Adrian Snell's composition of The Cry: A Requiem for a Lost Child, back in September. This was a moving piece of music based on the effects of war on children. They performed alongside a professional orchestra and critically acclaimed performers of the West End. They represented the school in a very well behaved manner and were complimented for their overall professional performance.

Then came Christmas...

The WLP Rotary Christmas Concert - This was a concert enjoyed by all and was a chance for all of the schools in the partnership to perform and listen to what they had been working towards over the term. As usual, DMS Choir gave a wonderful performance and got the audience into the Christmas spirit.

Windsor Castle- DMS Choir were given the fantastic opportunity to perform in front of the magnificent Christmas tree inside St. George's Hall in Windsor Castle. Here they greeted tourists with festive songs and cheer. 47 members of the choir attended this event and produced a heavenly sound together.

The Holy Trinity Church- We were invited to sing by the Windsor Rotary and perform in their annual Christmas Service. Although we were a very small choir, this did not hinder the very well received performance. Mrs Carley would like to thank the choir members that attended in their own time on a Sunday.

In the new year, we shall be rehearsing for the Royal Albert Hall performance organised by Berkshire Maestros on March 11th. Tickets for this event are now available to purchase online at <https://www.royalalberthall.com/>

Mrs Carley

Newbury Show Art Exhibition

Dedworth's talented artists group started the year very busily creating artwork for an exhibition at Newbury Show.



This annual art competition within the Show, which we have displayed at for the previous 3 years, was based around the theme of art beyond the classroom and so we chose 'Magical' as our theme.

The children spent time at home as well as lunchtimes and a couple of lessons creating their masterpieces. The organisers were very impressed with the children's efforts. Their work is now hanging up around school.
Mrs North

Supporting Pupils - The PLC

Our Personal Learning Centre (PLC) is a calm and positive place where students are welcomed for pastoral support and behaviour mentoring.

There are 1:1 and group activities provided to increase confidence and ability to deal with challenging situations and guidance for making the right choices. We also encourage and practice mindfulness. This term we have been focusing on how our school rules of 'Be Kind, Be Ready, Be Safe' can underpin everything we do at school and at home. We have also been encouraging our children, particularly Year 8 boys, to 'switch off their games console...and do something more healthy instead!'

Miss Jerrard is proud of the children for setting themselves positive, healthy goals to reduce their screen time and increase their time doing exercise, getting fresh air and spending quality time with friends and family. At

lunchtimes we have been playing card games and chess which are excellent mindful activities for brain power and social skills.

Ms Jerrard



Safety on site

In order to keep pupils safe on site we ask parents and carers not to drive on to the site at the beginning and end of the school day in normal circumstances. Please also help us to keep our children safe by not pulling into the entrance and then reversing or turning back into the road.

Thank you for your support.

Request for help

Please save any empty 2 litre bottles that you might have over Christmas. Mrs Windsor is looking for donations of empty bottles to enable some of the children to build a greenhouse out of them as part of an eco project that is happening next term. Thank you!

Languages

We entered our KS3 pupils into a National competition organised by Routes Into Languages for the European Day of Languages in September. We got so many fantastic posters - it was hard to choose which ones to send.

Unfortunately we did not win this time but with the feedback we got we should do even better next year!

Miss Lene

