

Devizes Dispatch



Mr. Cave's weekly message:

So term 3 comes to an end, and despite more rain we've finished the week with some fantastic examples of positivity. On Wednesday we enjoyed "Random Acts of Kindness" Day by asking staff to secretly nominate students who were working well in lessons. Members of the Senior team then surprised them with chocolate rewards as a way of saying well done. It was such a lovely way to recognise great contributions on a random moment in wet February, and was really well received by the students.



In this Valentine season, we've also had our Sixth Form Barbershop Quartet serenading nominated students (and staff!) in order to raise money for the Year 13 prom. Whilst the foursome needed some fine tuning, they brightened people's days with renditions of some modern and classic romantic numbers!

And finally, whilst certainly less "fun", our Year 11s began their second round of mock exams on Thursday as they move forward in their preparations for the final summer exams. There was a palpable sense of focus in the room as students gave their very best to demonstrate their ongoing progress in making a really strong start.

Have a wonderful half-term week- we'll see all students return on Monday February 23rd.

Policies & Communication

We're aware in recent weeks of an increase in parents/carers either requesting information on some of our policies or protocols, or of wanting to discuss some of the reasons behind our decisions that we take regarding their child. Can we therefore point all parents/carers in the direction of our website, where you can find policies outlining our approach, and podcasts where we look to explain our protocols on various aspects of the school day. If there's an area that further podcasts could help provide clarity for parents as a reference point, please do suggest this, as we always wish to be transparent in what we do and why.

Policies- <https://www.devizesschool.co.uk/about-us/school-information/policies-procedures>

Podcasts- <https://www.devizesschool.co.uk/about-us/school-information/podcasts>

We are aware that on occasion some parents/carers take to social media to voice their concerns. Whilst that is their prerogative, we would much rather that dialogue was with us directly, as we are best placed to answer any questions and provide clear rationale, rather than what can sometimes be a diluted or misleading response from others when passed on second or third hand.



Student absence

The winter season has seen an increase in absence due to various bugs and viruses- unfortunate but unavoidable. Can we please remind parents/carers of the following:

- Absences must be reported daily- either via the Absence line (01380 724886 and option 1) or the Arbor app
- We often feel better once we get going, so if your child wakes up feeling a little under the weather, then a dose of medication before sending them on their way can often be all that's needed
- Monitor your child's absence- if there appears to be odd absences of a regular nature, is there a pattern to it? A day of the week? A change in the family routine? Be inquisitive and always seek medical advice early if needed
- If you're ever unsure of whether your child should attend school based on their symptoms- use the NHS website as a guide- <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>
- Please always be honest- don't pretend your child is unwell if there's a different, underlying reason for their absence- good communication is key
- Do reinforce our attendance messages at home: Attendance = Progress!
Attending school every day means you're constantly learning
Attending school every day means you won't miss a moment
Attending school every day is the only way to solve issues that arise
Attending school every day strengthens your sense of belonging & builds your confidence
Attending school every day builds habits for a lifetime



South West Cross Country

Congratulations to Elsie B Year 13 who qualified for the South West Cross Country Event in Exeter last Saturday. The day was very wet and the course was very, very, muddy, all the competitors were absolutely covered in mud and Elsie was no exception! Elsie had a good run and she finished 6th for Wiltshire.

Year 9 Sports Leaders

We were delighted to welcome Year 2 Southbroom Infants to Devizes School this week.

Our fantastic Year 9 Sports Leaders did an amazing job leading a range of fun, energetic activities, showing great leadership, teamwork and encouragement throughout. It was wonderful to see the younger pupils getting involved with such enthusiasm and confidence.

A big well done to our Year 9 leaders for being such positive role models — and thank you to Southbroom Infants for bringing so much energy and smiles to our school! We loved having you and hope to see you again soon.



#DevizesSchool #SportsLeaders #CommunityLinks #InspiringTheNextGeneration

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Year 2 Indoor Football Tournament

The White Horse Federation schools of Devizes and Southbroom Infants were proud to host a fantastic Year 2 Indoor Football Tournament in the sports hall, bringing pupils together for a brilliant afternoon of sport and competition.



A huge well done to our outstanding Year 9 Sports Leaders, who organised, ran and officiated the entire event with confidence and professionalism. They demonstrated excellent leadership skills and were superb role models throughout.

The football on display was impressive, with teamwork, determination and great sportsmanship shown by all teams. After a competitive round robin stage, Southbroom finished top of the standings. However, in a thrilling final, Trinity just edged ahead to claim the gold medal position!

While Trinity took the title, the real winner was football – bringing everyone together for a fun, active and memorable event.

Well done to all the players and leaders involved!

#DevizesSchool #SportsLeaders #IndoorFootball #PrimarySport #Teamwork

Lions Club Sporting weekend

Students in Years 7 and 8 are invited to take part in the annual Lions Club Sports Coaching Weekend, taking place on 18th-19th April. This week, students in these year groups have been given an application form with details on how to book and apply for the event.

Alternately you can book directly via ticket source

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/devizes-lions-club-cio-zoglmgd>

Dates for the Diary

23rd February – Term 4 starts

26th February – Year 9 Parents evening – 4.30pm-7.30pm

19th March – Year 9 Options Evening – 6pm-8pm

20th March- Easter Fayre- 4pm – 7pm (See Flyer attached)