

# Devizes Dispatch



## Mr. Cave's weekly message:



I wonder if like me, you've taken the time in this last week to watch the drama 'Adolescence' on Netflix. It's been discussed a lot in the news as it looks at the story of a tragic murder of a school girl by a 13 year old peer, and considers both the causes and consequences of this for families, schools and communities. If you haven't seen it, I really recommend it- a difficult watch that as a parent and educator spoke powerfully to me. It's coincided with items in the news of chilling acts of violence centred around young people and an incredibly complex set of consequences of the world we live in.

In interviews, the creators of the show have regularly referred to the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child". Our Home-School Agreement outlines the roles that both school and families play in helping a student succeed in school, and how we work collaboratively together to achieve this. Beyond this, I challenge all of us as parents to reflect on our engagement with our young people. How well have we created a climate where they can talk to us? Do we know what they are doing on their devices? How are we providing healthy role models for them around relationships and their own sense of self-worth, particularly cross genders? Being a parent is by far the greatest responsibility an adult takes on in life, and there are no tests to pass before you're allowed the job- we have to be committed to doing absolutely everything we can to make sure our young people are receiving healthy messages about themselves and their role in the world around them.

## April - Month of the Military Child- Message from Mr McEvoy

As April is the month of the Military Child, I'd like to do something in school to celebrate our fantastic young people and give the Service Children a chance to feel recognised for their unique experiences. Many may not feel like they've done anything special, or that nothing has really happened to them, but we know that service life can present levels of challenges that they may not even understand are shaping them, and making them grow and adapt, as they become strong and resilient people.

Many schools have hosted poetry, writing and art competitions to highlight the experiences and all the extra add ons our Service Children might endure; things their peers might not even notice.

I don't want to add any extra strain or work to students, or make them share anything they've uncomfortable with, so I'd like to create a display board in the school that celebrates our students' connection to the military and HM Armed Forces.

It would be wonderful to see some photographs, maybe pictures of the service personnel with the child from years gone by, any old photos of them sat on a vehicle, in the barracks, on the base, or anything that connects our young people with their military heritage. I'll have to dig out the one of me in my Dad's beret sat on Herc rear ramp!

If they want to write to any little poems, or stories, or memories to go along with them, that would be lovely too.

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After the Easter Break, if you've collated anything at home that you'd like to send it, please email me with them, and I can start putting together a lovely display board to celebrate the experiences of these students, to really foster the sense of identity and community we want here at Devizes School.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please get in contact.

Equally, if there have been any changes in recent family circumstances regarding deployments or movement of a member of the family, please don't hesitate to let me know.

## Devizes v Hardenhuish



On a sunny spring afternoon at Beversbrook Sports Facilities in Calne, saw Devizes playing Hardenhuish in the Year 11 Mid Wilts Semi-Final (a repeat of the 2023 season). Devizes started well, getting the ball down on the floor and moving it out wide quickly. Goalkeeper Harry C huge kicks were pushing the Hardenhuish defensive line further back and getting us into the final third. The deadline was broken from Harry C shooting from a freekick in his own half. The resulting corner saw birthday boy, Lewis S cause chaos with a corner,

which enabled this season's top goal scorer - Theo D to slam home the shot (1-0). Theo D grabbed a brace not long after from a similar situation (2-0). Devizes lost a little shape in the latter stages of the first half which saw Hardenhuish attack and gain a little more territory in our half.

Devizes grew into the second half, with captain Evan Y smashing home from inside the box (3-0) from another Lewis S corner. A smart short freekick on the edge of the box saw Reece H go close. Josh G providing some fantastic runs into the box pulling the ball back gained another corner - which, we scored from - this time Bobbie C finishing neatly after a blocked shot (4-0).



A strong display from the entire team: Harry C / Rhys H / Evan Y / Jacob C / Noah H / Kingston C / Bobbie C / Reece H / Theo D / Lewis S / Josh G / Eddie B (and special mention to Sports Journalist Monty M). M.o.M was voted as Evan Y who was consistent and strong at the back, helping the other defenders keep a clean sheet and gaining a goal.

We now face Corsham in the Mid Wilts Final on Wednesday 26th March at Beversbrook.

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## Primary outreach

We have been really busy with our outreach programme over the last couple of weeks.



Firstly we had a tag rugby festival for the local primary schools. It was lovely to invite the primary students on to our site and the sports leaders were great at motivating and officiating the activities. One boy from Southbroom said it had been the best day of his life! Others were really excited to be joining us in September, so it was great to meet them and play some sport on our fabulous field. It was a cold afternoon for spectators but a wonderful atmosphere for all. Many thanks to the teams who entered.



Then we had a High 5's friendly versus Urchfont primary school. It was very confusing for our year 7 girls to remember how to play high fives again, but it was lovely to have Urchfont visit our netball courts in the sunshine. Lots of supporters and motivation from the sidelines as well, so a great spirit played by all. We wish Urchfont luck in their upcoming tournament.



We have more events coming up, with a visit from Southbroom year 1's, the North Wiltshire Orienteering competition and the finals of the New Age Kurling, so watch this space!

## Year 10 Netball

We also had a year 10 netball match versus Abbeyfield. It was very cold especially for the GS's and GK's, but rotations on court allowed for some excellent match play and Devizes linked together well to produce the win. Wonderful team spirit and excellent play all round.



## Year 7 Girls Football v Abbeyfield 5-0 win.

Last week the girls played against Abbeyfield. We took a team of 9, who from the first whistle took the ball on, Emily scored 1, challenging players in the mid field and on the wing. Isla, Beth, Layla and Kadi worked hard up front to keep the opposition in their half and all scored during the game. Nicole and Lily K worked hard to create opportunities and defend the ball. Well done to Evelyn who made her debut and Lily S who manned the goal.

## In memory of Lawrie Smithson, Devizes School service years 1969-1989

It is with great sadness that we have received the news of the loss of Lawrie Smithson, who served as Head of Mathematics at Devizes School from 1969-1989. Our thoughts are with his family and we thank him for his many years of service to the school.

## Dates for the diary

4<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of term - 12.40 closure

22<sup>nd</sup> April – First day of term