

Devizes Dispatch



Mr. Cave's weekly message:

Being a school named after our town carries a sense of responsibility. We are Devizes School- Devizes' secondary school. In the centre of our town, we form an important pillar in our community, and contribute to its success. Primarily that's in educating the town's young people- providing them with the best opportunities for adult life- be that in Devizes' community or beyond. It is also about how we teach our students to be upstanding members of our community- the communication skills we teach through STEPS. But we also want to serve our community and work together with them.

This year we've had meetings with the Town Council to discuss collaborative projects, visited local care homes to share in community (& chocolate) with their residents, hosted primary schools for large events including sports events and Wansdyke School's upcoming summer production, offered spaces for community events including the recent Lions on the Green, and supported the creation of the new youth space in town by working with Wiltshire YFC and local council- this includes our non-school uniform day next Friday to raise money to be invested into that space. We announced this week our partnership with Devizes Rugby Club which can see students receive expert coaching in school and get involved with the club outside it. Along with our offer for local businesses to advertise with us via our publications, sponsor one of our school houses or host work experience placements, we're really excited by what we are beginning to do in our town, and look forward to more opportunities to serve Devizes as a whole.

Virtual Babies Year 10 PSHE project



The Virtual babies are back with us again for 4 weekends this term. Any year 10 Student may apply to have a virtual baby and be its parent for the weekend.

Things to know

The project is run by the Mothers Union, a Christian charitable organisation. This organisation lends the babies, the means to programme them and all the clothing, baby carrier, blankets, bottle and nappies.

How does the virtual baby work?

The baby is programmed, like an Ipad the baby has a computer inside it and so the baby cannot get wet at all.

The programmes are uploaded before the weekend, all the timings are pre-set and when it starts it cannot be stopped.



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What will the baby do?

The baby will need, cuddling, change of nappy or feeding. It will have different types of crying to tell the young person that it has a need, it also makes cooing noises when happy.

How do you stop the baby crying?

The young person will be wearing an arm band, that has the same chip in it as the baby, when the baby starts making noise by putting the chip near the baby's tummy or collar bone the baby will recognise it and make a beep noise. Then the young person has about a minute to start - feeding (the bottle has a chip in it that is recognised by the baby.) Or change its nappy (again there is a chip in the nappy that the baby will recognise a change), if baby needs a cuddle, then rocking the baby will settle the baby. Then the process starts over again!

Support

Although the emphasis is on the young person, they will also need a willing family to support them through the experience, being aware of big events or family occasions that may not suit having a sleep deprived teenager or a crying baby during it would a good weekend to avoid.

The baby will not switch off, there is a protocol if the experience becomes too much which I will share with the young people who are on the project.

Requirements

A willingness to be involved in every aspect of the project including the preparation sessions, filling in the required paper work and agreements. Understand the financial implications if the baby or equipment is damaged.

Look after the baby for the weekend well, and return to school Monday morning with the baby for a full week at school.

After the project

The results of how the young person looked after the baby will be given to them in the following weeks. The baby records, how promptly it was responded too, how it was responded to or not.

Application process

Send an email to nstrickland@devizes.wilts.sch.uk explaining why they (the young person) would like to be involved in the project.

Attend preparation sessions Mon 15th, Tues 16th June in classroom D66 from 12.40pm to 1.10pm (please bring lunch with you.)

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Art Bytes



10 Y9 students were rewarded with a celebration afternoon for their Art entries to the Art Bytes national competition. They saw the exhibition of their work along with the schools from the South West at the Yelde Hall in Chippenham. They had a visit to the Chippenham Museum and gallery to appreciate works from famous artists and ended with an Art workshop where the task was to create a piece in response to the work of Henri Rousseau, using the jungle and wild animals.



The event culminated with a presentation ceremony where each student received a new sketchbook (good paper to) and a certificate. The shortlisted artists Ralph, Sophie and Hannah received an extra reward for being shortlisted. Congratulations to all of them for getting involved, Jessica T, Hollie R, George K, Holly G, Tess C, Sophie S, Lucy S, Isla P, Hannah M, Ralph S.

Art Bytes Exhibition details

For all friends, family, staff members and students at Devizes School, the artwork from all the students in the South West ,including ours, are in an exhibition which is on over the weekend. The times and details are below. Please do go and see what the Arts does for our students and how important it is!

The Yelde Hall, The Shambles, Chippenham SN15 3HL

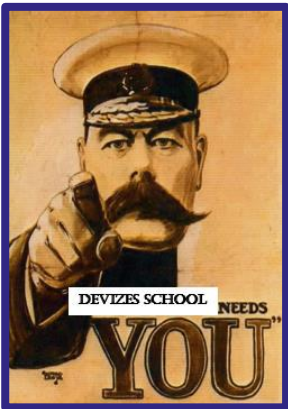


Friday 13 June 10:30am - 3:30pm

Saturday 14 June 10:30 - 3:30pm

Sunday 15 June 11:00am - 3:00pm





Art Exhibition Thursday 10th July

On Thursday 10th July, at Haywoods care home Devizes, we will be holding the opening night of our Art Exhibition based on 'our local area of Devizes or the surrounding villages'. Students, parents, members of the public and press are all invited to attend.

In preparation of this event we are calling for all our wonderful artists to submit work under the theme of 'Our local area, Devizes or the surrounding villages'. Artwork can be any 2D material, including photography.

Deadline for submissions Thursday 26th June.

Caterlink Parent/guardian Survey 2025



Caterlink, our catering provider are requesting for parents/guardians to complete a short survey to give feedback on the meal provisions provided at Devizes School.

If you would like to take part please click on the link or scan the QR code.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SXMHL8D>

The survey will close on 31st July.

Uniform donations

If you have any unwanted uniform items that you no longer use or need and would like to donate them to the school. Please donate via the school reception for the attention of Mrs Macphee, family liaison officer. Any items would be gratefully received.

Dates for the Diary

20th June – Non-school uniform day – to raise funds for the new Devizes Youth Space charity- Donations can be made via ParentPay from 18th June.

7th & 8th July – TD days – School closed to students

23rd July – Last day of Term – School closed at 12.40pm