

Devizes Dispatch



Mr. Cave's weekly message:

The first term of 2025-26 is almost over, and there has been so much to celebrate and be proud of this term. I've talked about many events across my weekly messages, but the day to day life of the school should also rightly be highlighted. We have seen an overall increase in school attendance, a reduction in the number of students facing sanctions and a tremendous amount of House Points issued to recognise the great work of our students - almost 60,000 merits in total with more than 7 positive incidents recorded for every negative incident logged.

All these points contribute to the House Championship, as well as recent challenges such as lunch time events including the Basketball free throw competition and PE activities that include the annual Cross-Country run. The competition is super close between our Houses this year, with Roundway House currently in the lead but plenty of time remaining for each House to stake their claim on the trophy and its rewards!

On Monday we begin mock exams for Year 11 that sit either side of our half-term break, and then break up on Tuesday 21st. We wish everyone a pleasant half-term break, and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday November 3rd for the second half of what's shaping up to be a super Autumn term.

Punctuality to school

We're keen to ensure that students arrive promptly to school each day, to ensure a smooth start to their learning and teach effective skills for life around the importance of punctuality. Therefore, please note that from the start of term 2 (Monday November 3rd) our gates will close at 8.28am each morning, to ensure that all students are in their correct position (be that line up, prep classes or assemblies) by the required start time of 8.30am. This will also be communicated to students before the half-term begins, so they are aware of this expectation. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Swindon Town: U13s Utilita Girls Cup

Devizes School travelled to Foundation Park to compete in the annual Girls Utilita Cup - a wonderful location and incredible to see so many schools participating. After watching the warm ups, we knew the standard was high. Our first fixture saw us play some really good possessive football, creating lots of chances but couldn't find the back of the net. An



unfortunate clearance was deflected into the path of their striker who scored (0-1 vs Great Weston Academy). A very quick team talk about the need to speed up everything from passes to collecting the ball for corners saw us again play well, but fail to score (0-0 vs Commonweal). Game 3 needed some tactical changes and a more high pressing front line, where some good work down the right hand side saw the ball find it's way to Liv who knocked in our first goal (1-1 vs Sheldon). We took our time, but were now warmed up and were feeling confident. Game 4 was a harder match, with the girls from Ridgeway attacking well. Lily pulled off an incredible top corner save to keep us in the game. Emily smashed home from a ridiculous angle the best goal of the tournament (1-0 vs Ridgeway). The group was tight, with Devizes on 5 points, the current leaders on 8 points and x3 other schools on 4 points (but all had 2 games left to play). Our final game, we have to win to give us a chance - Primrose was giving out the coaching points needed. The pressure of needing a result impacted us a little bit, but chances were falling to Sofia, Laya, Isla and Liv. 10 seconds left of the match saw Isla line up a free-kick from 20 yards. She smashed it into the post, it fell into a crowd (the ref was blocking my view) and we saw the ball in the back of the goal - with Beth (our CB) running off celebrating as she dramatically got us the win (1-0 vs Lawn Manor). Unfortunately, not all stories are fairy tails - we finished 3rd in the group and didn't make the semi-finals but the girls did tremendously well.

Squad: Lily S, Beth W (x1), Lily K, Emily T (x1), Nicole B, Isla B, Liv B (x1), Sofia A, Laya T, Eva D, Paige H and Tegan H with Primrose H (coach).

Lost Property/ Confiscated Items

As we approach the end of term please remind students to check in at reception for any lost property, and also to come and collect any confiscated items at the end of the school day.

Dates for the Diary

21st October – Last day of term

3rd November – 1st day of term

3rd November – 7th November – Year 11 Mock Exams

5th November- 6th Form Open Evening