

# Devizes Dispatch



## Mr. Cave's weekly message:

I've had to be out of the building quite a bit this week, so it's hard to talk in great detail about everything that's gone on, which led me to think a bit about school attendance. We all know how important good attendance is for academic progress- the studies show that if a student's school attendance is under 90%, they're only half as likely to pass their GCSEs as someone who has 97% or more. But there's another impact of attendance, and I experienced it myself this week. I felt a bit like I was missing out. I'd read an email, look at some information on Arbor and I'd feel out of the loop. I'd be keen to know more, but unable to really engage with what was going on. It felt like it was almost happening without me.

We talk about Attendance = Progress, but we stress that it's not just about your studies. Attendance is the best way you can solve a problem you're facing. It's the only way to overcome a hurdle. It's the right way to feel a part of the school community as you engage with staff and other students. Being present & involved really matters- it gives us a sense of purpose & identity.

One thing I have been able to be a part of today though was our 'Nailed it November' awards, where every student who picked up a Golden Ticket this month was able to enter their slip of paper for a chance of obtaining a fantastic prize, from a laptop to AirPods, food vouchers to Amazon gift cards- congratulations to all our winners who have received something special as a result of being the real star of their lessons.

December will be upon us next week, and we have lots of festive things to look forward to- the House Santa Run, the Twelve Days of Christmas Game, Christmas dinners & festive dress codes, and the return of a Christmas themed Curtain Karaoke!

## Christmas Dinner – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas dinner will be served on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please see the attached Festive Menu. All Christmas Dinners need to be pre-ordered and paid via ParentPay. Please log on and order by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

## Our Mission: Keeping Your Children Safe Online

As a school we want to help young people and families stay safe, confident, and responsible when using technology. Staying safe online isn't just a one-time task—it's something we work on all the time by learning, adapting, and becoming more aware of new online risks as they develop.

Our goal is to support students, parents, and schools by offering trusted guidance and tools that help everyone make safer choices online. We work with experts who understand how to protect personal information, secure online accounts, and reduce risks such as scams, hacking, and unsafe online behaviour.

By working together, we can help ensure that students use technology in a secure and positive way—at school, at home, and beyond.

All student should have been handed a leaflet on this subject today, please find a copy with in this weeks attachments.

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## Cross country

The round one Cross country events in PE lessons happened at the start of October. Each student gaining house points for taking part.

Group	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 7 Girls	Sophia A	Latia F	Eva D
Year 7 Boys	Joey B	Feddie T	Max N
Year 8 Girls	Wizzie P	Issy Y	Milla A
Year 8 Boys	Ben Y	Ollie C	Riley B
Year 9 Girls	Betty S	Polly R	Tia B
Year 9 Boys	Ethan A	Leo H	George H

The second school round took place at the beginning of November, allowing a School team to be selected for the event at Marlborough College. The order that all the students finished (not the year group they were running in.) Enabled the selection of the team.

These were the results by year group. Congratulations to all the runners that took part in the second round of the cross country at Devizes School. Thanks go to Jake O who helped to officiate the event.

## Thursday 20th November at Marlborough college

The day was very cold but all the runners gave it their absolute best over a challenging course. Thanks to Elsie B who was a marshal for the event. Elsie demonstrated our Devizes values by supporting a young runner who was finding the event difficult and helped her complete her run before returning to her post!



## Final Positions

Year 7 Boys	Hendrix C 4th	Joey B 10th	Freddie T 15th	
Year 7 Girls	Sophia A 14th	Eva D 16th		
Y 8/9 Boys	Ethan A 12th	Leo H 17th	Ben Y 18th	Ollie C 27th
Y 8/9 Girls	Issy Y 12th	Wizzie P 14th		

Congratulations to all that took part. We wish those runners good luck who have qualified from 1st to 12th place, (13th - 15th Reserves.) at the Wiltshire event on Saturday 10th January 2026 at Sheldon School. (Reserve date Saturday 17th January 2026.)



UNIVERSITY of  
WORCESTER

## Press Release

## Scholarship Boosts Confidence for Former Devizes School Sixth Form & College Student

A former Devizes School Sixth Form & College student, now a trainee paramedic, says being awarded a prestigious Academic Scholarship has given her a boost in confidence.

Eve Worsdell, 20, from Devizes, has received a £1,000 award for outstanding academic achievement during her Paramedic Science studies at the University of Worcester.

"I didn't expect to receive the award!" said Eve. "It was a nice surprise to see that I had been recognised for the hard work I put in during first year."



She added: "This has motivated me to continue pushing myself throughout my final two years on the course."

Scholarships and prizes at the University of Worcester are made possible thanks to generous philanthropists, including the University's distinguished Honorary Fellows, local employers, and many successful alumni.

University staff have also been fundraising for scholarship and hardship funds as part of the University's two-year Anniversaries Campaign, which marks 20 years since gaining full university status in 2005 and 80 years since its founding as an emergency teacher training college in 1946.

"Receiving the award shows the hard work I put in," added Eve. "It also improves my confidence, which is especially important on my placements."

Professor Sally Moyle, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic at the University, said: "We are incredibly proud of the students who have received academic scholarships."

She added: "These awards not only provide financial support and encouragement to deserving students but also demonstrate to potential employers the outstanding achievements of our student community."

## Dates for the diary

4<sup>th</sup> December – Last day to place Christmas Dinner orders – Menu attached

12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner

12<sup>th</sup> December – School Fayre – 5.30 – 8pm Main hall- See attachment