

# Devizes Dispatch



## Mr. Cave's weekly message:

And with that term 5 is done. We believe we have much to celebrate this term and much to look forward to as a result in the summer. The exams have gone so well, the uniform trial has started very positively and we've particularly enjoyed various visits to local primary schools in the last week. But I particularly wanted to take a moment to thank all our parents & carers- we have had some great conversations with many of you in the last few weeks and appreciated the kind words & positive views that have been shared. It's so important that we work together to help every student succeed in school, and so when we can see that there is strong collaboration between us, we know things are moving in the right direction.

There's lots to look forward to in our final term, from farewells to our classes of 2026 to reward trips, the Summer Sprint to Sports Day, Work Experience to the House finale- it's a term that students simply won't want to miss a day of! Have a wonderful half-term week in the sunshine, and to our Year 11 & 13s, please get that right balance of rest & revision ready to go again in June- you are nearly there!

## Uniform

Thank you for the significant support you have given to the school during these trial changes to our uniform expectations. The trial will continue into term 6, and includes a choice between blazer or jumper, tailored shorts now added as a permanent item as well as new rules on nails, hair and jewellery. Can we remind parents/carers that whilst gel & acrylic nails are at this point permitted, in any colour or style, we have specified that these should not be long so that engaging in school activities becomes an issue. Today we have spoken to some students who we feel have not followed this instruction, giving them half-term to resolve the issue. Please bear this in mind if your child was to have a nails appointment during the half-term break. Also please ensure that make up worn is modest in nature, and that if a student decides to wear fake eyelashes, these should be discreet and also not of unnatural length. As always, if there are any comments on the trial then do please get in touch, or alternatively if you require any assistance around school uniform please reach out to your child's Year Leader.

## PSHE term 6

All the PSHE classes have been working across all three strands of the current PSHE and Relationships and sex education frame work. Lifestyle, health and Relationships. This will be completed on Tuesday 21st July with the whole school PSHE day where we will be working with external providers and teachers in school to develop knowledge and skills that are relevant to life in and outside of school. Including PSHE topics such as first aid, careers and lifestyle activities.

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## Term 6

**Year 7:** Finance focusing on understanding debit and credit, pay slips, fraud and scams. Crime, identifying what happens when crimes are identified. The role of the police and how crime can be prevented. Understanding film classification, why it is important and how to use the classification system.

**Year 8:** Topics include understanding gangs and how to keep themselves safe. Finance particularly understanding online fraud and scams. Healthy eating and Communication.

**Year 9:** The topics include, the Equality Act, teaching about pornography and its effects on young people. What is Cancer? Run Hide and tell about safety during large events or places. First Aid and Prevent. Prevent focuses on radicalisation and extremism, educating young people to question information and understand how to keep themselves safe.

**Year 10:** topics including statutory religion topics around state religion and diversity. Deep fakes, AI and digital deceptions. Gambling and its effects on families and young people and parenting.

## Virtual Babies

**Year 10** also will have the opportunity to work with the virtual babies. The virtual babies look like real life babies, but are essentially a computer that records how they are held, treated and how the person responds to the babies cries. The students will attend lunch time sessions to learn how to look after the babies and meet their needs and after signing a home school agreement will be able to look after a virtual baby for the weekend.\* The baby is collected on Friday at 3pm and is returned Monday at 8.20am to reception. When the virtual baby is returned a report will be downloaded giving feedback to each of the students about the care they provided all weekend.

This is not a toy and if the virtual baby is manhandled it will shut down, ending the learning session. If the students would like to take care of the virtual baby it must be in agreement with a parent or guardian as support will be needed. Students should apply by email to [nstrickland@devizes.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:nstrickland@devizes.wilts.sch.uk) giving a brief explanation as to why they would be suited to complete the project and what they hope to gain from it.

\*subject to number of places available.

## New RSHE curriculum September 2026

There has been an update to expectations for statutory teaching in Relationships and Sex education which start in September 2026. There will be a parent meeting in which you will have the opportunity to see the plan for PSHE for next year. This is an annual event with many parents using this as an opportunity to look through the resources that we teach with and asking questions. Please look out for a parent mail with the link to sign up.

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## **Celebrating Our Alumni: Lily A –Chicago: The Musical**

We are thrilled to share that Lily A, who completed Year 11 last year, has secured a lead role in New College Swindon's upcoming production of Chicago: The Musical.

It's always wonderful to see our former students achieving great things, and we are proud to celebrate Lily's success.

If you would like to support her and enjoy an evening of fantastic theatre, full details can be found in the attached poster.

Congratulations, Lily, on this outstanding achievement - we look forward to seeing you shine on stage!

## **Athletics**

Well done to the athletes who attended the event at Marlborough College this term. These athletes were competing in a range of events against our area schools of Marlborough College, Dauntsey School, Lavington, St Johns and Wellington schools. The events included discus, shot put, long jump, high jump, sprints and long distance runs.

As a result the following athletes have been selected to compete at the next round in Swindon on Saturday 13th June.

Ethan A 200m, Jack Y Shot put, Amelia Y Shot put & discus, Felicity B discus, Freddie T Long Jump & 100m, Izzy Y 200m.

Reserves Lily C-W 100m and Izzy A 800m.

Congratulations to these athletes.

## **Uniform Donations**

We are kindly requesting donations of unwanted or no longer needed school uniforms. If you have any items at home that the school can use to support our students, they would be gratefully received.

Donations can be dropped off at the school office.

## **Reminder Regarding School Ties**

We have noticed an increasing number of students borrowing school ties, often stating that they have lost or cannot find theirs. Please ensure that your child comes to school with the correct uniform, including their tie, each day.

## **Devizes School Annual Sports Day - BBQ Lunch**

Devizes School will be holding its annual Sports Day with a BBQ lunch option on Friday, 3rd July. If your child would like to enjoy a BBQ lunch on the day, please place your order via **ParentPay by 25th June.**

We look forward to a fun and exciting day for all students!

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## Vocational Grant programme opening soon for applications

This is to let you know that the Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation Vocational Grant programme will open for applications on 1st June. Our Vocational Support Grant is aimed at young people aged under 25 who have either started or are about to start a vocational course in subjects like business, engineering, IT, health and social care, hairdressing, beauty, cookery, plumbing, construction, electrician or if you are undertaking apprenticeship. The grants can support the costs of:

- educational resources or equipment for the course training or qualification
- IT equipment
- course related study/field trips
- travel costs – in some circumstances

A link to the application page on our website is here: [WCF Vocational Grants](#); the application form is accessed through a link towards the bottom of the webpage.

Please note that young people must meet ALL of the eligibility criteria to be eligible to apply for this grant which are as follows:

- aged between 14 and 24 at the time of when applications are considered
- will be studying a vocational subject at school, college, sixth form or undertaking an apprenticeship
- have been living in Wiltshire or Swindon for at least two years. (There are some exceptions to this so please speak to us if someone is unable to fulfil this criteria).
- The young person's parents or guardians receive one means-tested benefit

or

- are in the care of Wiltshire Council or Swindon Borough Council (Looked After Child - LAC)

## Dates for the diary

1<sup>st</sup> June – Return to School- Term 6

10<sup>th</sup> June – Year 9 Vaccinations

25<sup>th</sup> June – Deadline for BBQ orders to be placed

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Sports Day