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Dear DMS Families,

I hope this edition of the DMS Dozen finds you in excellent health and radiant from the wonderful weather we have been having!

The start of a new term always brings about a little reset and reminder of who we strive to be at DMS. We can do this in many ways: sometimes in big, bold statements; sometimes in smaller, subtle ones. A big, bold statement is the progress the new art mural at the top of the tech corridor is making, standing out as inspirational art but also as a reminder to pupils of the **ambition** and **respect** we show one another in our community. The hope is that this is completed by the end of this week. Continuing with this theme in mind, we have continued to focus on the 'little things' that make a real difference to our daily lives, such as our **manners** and **politeness** when speaking to one another. As a result, the school is awash with your lovely children asking, "How are you?", or remembering to say "Please," and "Thank you,.". You feel a sense of **pride** when you hear hundreds of pupils say, "thank you" when a door is opened for them. It is important to remember the 'little things' that can make a significant difference.

As usual there has been so much going on at DMS this week. Firstly, the competitive screw has really been turned as our inter-house competition intensified in our inaugural inter-house netball competition. I heard rumours of Attenborough and Malala winning games earlier in the week. It will be interesting to see who comes out on top and how it affects the scoreboard!

With that competitive spirit in mind, we have also had a selection of pupils competing in the national 'Junior Maths Challenge' this week. Over 50 pupils have taken part, and it will be only a matter of time before we hear how they got on. It goes without saying we are all immensely **proud** of their participation. The **ambition** that so many pupils want to take part in such a challenge is a real testament to all involved.

Elsewhere this week, we have also been focusing on the aspect of **safety** in our school and community with a range of First Aid assemblies in school to ensure that we recognise how we can help someone if they are in need – next week we will have further input regarding how we can look after our mental health.

Finally (yes, there is more!), we have finished the week with a group of budding thespians visiting The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to be **inspired** by 'Matilda – The Musical', the multi award-winning musical from the Royal Shakespeare Company.

And with that, I will steal a famous line from Roald Dahl's famous book that sums up the last few weeks, and the weeks to come: "...**somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world.**"

Mr Murray

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Important dates for your diary

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|-----------------|--|
| 1st May | Inset Day – School closed to pupils |
| 6th May | Y8 Residential trip to Torquay |
| 11th – 14th May | Y6 SATs |
| 15th May | PTFA end of SATs Disco |
| 20th May | Y7 Residential trip to Exmoor |
| 25th – 29th May | Half Term Break – School closed to pupils |

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Eco Club News

The “Speed Litter Picking Challenge”, finishing off our Great British Litter Pick, was won by our school's house: Le Bron. They managed to pick 4.16kg of litter in 25 minutes over 5 days, winning the Golden Glove Trophy. **Congratulations Le Bron!!**

The children in their different tutor groups and houses, did a great job at helping to keep our school grounds tidy, raise awareness and to continue making our school a beautiful and safe place to be. We are making this an annual event, so let's see who will win the trophy next year. The Eco Club finished their assembly with a simple request: **“Please don't litter.”**

Thanks to everyone who took part in this fun event!!



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Parent Question of the Week

There are lots of trips, including residential at the moment. However, I cannot make the information evenings. What should I do if I have questions?

Hopefully, you have been receiving regular updates regarding any of the upcoming trips, including residential trips. These updates should come through the parent app in the form of e-mails or messages. Information evenings are held for the residential to give more clarity, but we appreciate that not everyone is able to attend. If you have any questions or queries about a trip, particularly a residential, feel free to contact your child's tutor, or Head of Year.

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Pupil Questions of the Week

Where can we go on the field at lunchtime when the field is in use for a PE lesson?

This is a great question! Due to the 'split lunches' we run in KS2 and KS3, it means that the field, particularly for KS3 lunchtime play, will sometimes need to be shared with a KS2 PE lessons. The day and lesson, will decide where pupils can go. The green area highlighted on the map is always available, but at times the Light blue lines show where play may be extended.

Follow instructions of duty staff to stay safe and respect the learning of others.



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PTFA News

The next PTFA Disco is coming!!! On Friday 15th May from 5 to 6pm, for Years 5 & 6 and from 6.30 to 7.30pm for Years 7 & 8, this is one of the children's favourite events!! Get your tickets for only £3.00.

Tuck shop with drinks and snacks available on the night. Please bring cash!

Don't forget that for the second year, we'll have the DMS Community Challenge!! Pupils are invited to run, walk or jog 200 metre lengths of the school field (during school hours). They will collect a token for every length completed and house points will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places!!



These are the proud winners of last week's **ROARS** Certificates. We are so proud of all of you!

Year 5

Year 6

Year 7

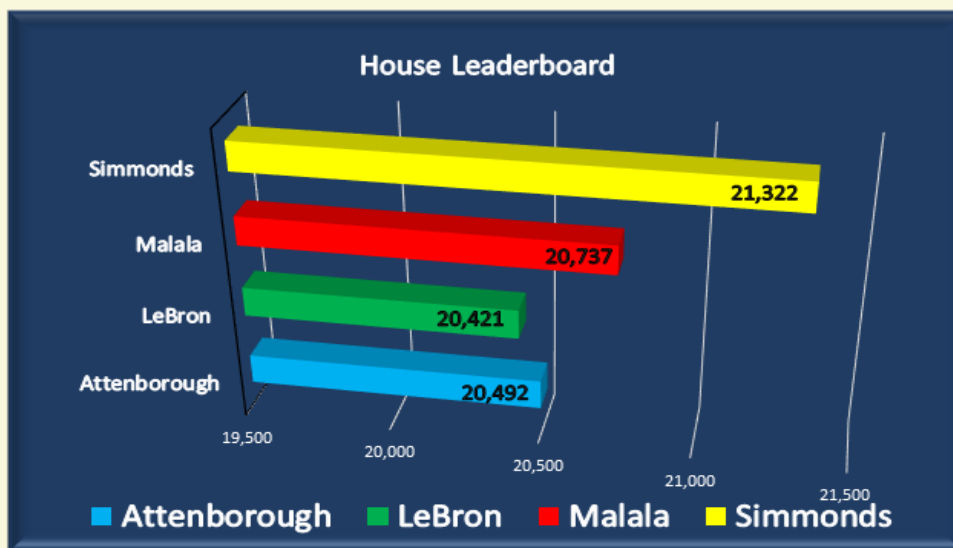


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(Year 8s did not have an assembly last week, as they went on the River trips)

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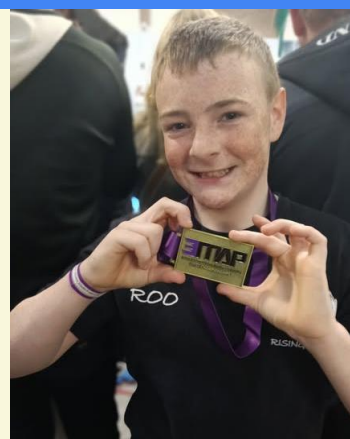
DMS Houses – Updated Leaderboard



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Celebrating our amazing pupils...

We are pleased to share that after travelling up to Thornbury last Saturday for the EMAP British championship opening 2026, Riley (Roo) P in Year 7 has come home with an impressive GOLD medal! Not only did he show dedication, strength and courage, but he also showed great sportsmanship, even though he was one of the youngest competitors in his category. This was his biggest tournament so far with a whopping 320 competitors of all ages. Roo will now be preparing for his next local tournament in May. His parents, rest of his family and us at DMS could not be any prouder of him and how far he has come already. Well done, Roo!!



A huge well done also, to Grace W in Year 7, for winning a trophy at her pony club!! Grace spends a lot of time dedicated to training and looking after her horse so it is a real achievement and joy to win!! Well done, Grace!

More amazing pupils to celebrate...

Congratulations to Kaylen!! On Saturday Kaylen in Year 8, won the County Cup finals with her team Generation Elite. The final score was 5-1! You are awesome Kaylen and team, very well done!!



Last weekend, our very own Matilda J in Year 6 did it again and won not one but 2 medals for her Quickstep and Samba dancing. Amazing work!!

Congratulations must also go to two other DMS pupils from Year 8, who won medals for their Ballroom and Latin dancing at the same competition.



What else has been happening in our Community?

We had another fantastic Quiz night, organised by our amazing PTFA!! Hosted by Mr and Mrs Martin and with lots of our DMS families and staff taking part. It was such an enjoyable evening with lots of fun, lovely treats to buy and great prizes!! Thank you to everyone who took part!!



And finally...

Looking ahead, although next week is again a 'shorter' week, there is again so much going on. Look out for updates from the Year 8 residential to Barton Hall (Torquay) as well as photos from the visit to Year 7 by the 'Medical Mavericks' (exciting stuff).

At the end of the week, we will also be celebrating a remarkable birthday for one of our House Figures: Sir David Attenborough, who, can you believe it, will be 100 hundred years young this year! A true legend and inspiration to us all.

Have a great extended Bank-Holiday weekend!

Mr Murray