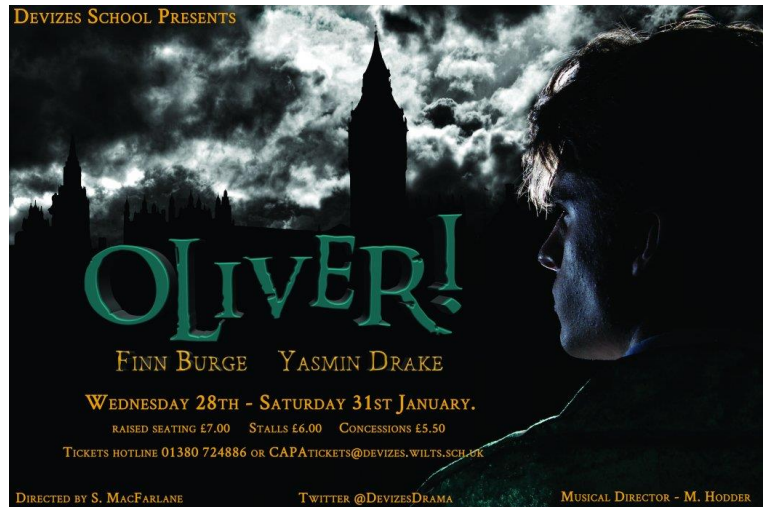


Oliver!

This year's Devizes School musical is Oliver! There are 5 performances from Wednesday 28th January to Saturday 31st January (matinee performance on Saturday as well as an evening). This will be another school spectacular following in the footsteps of other sell-out hit productions in recent years – Billy Elliott, Grease, Hairspray, The Wizard of Oz as well as performances at Disneyland, Paris last year. Tickets for Oliver have been on sale since just before Christmas and are already sold out on most nights.



6th Form News

- A level results last year were **again outstanding**.
 - A*-B = 49%
 - A*-C = 80%
 - Av pts score per entry 226pts
 - This is the 5th year of outstanding results in the sixth form, placing us in the top flight of sixth forms in the country.
- The new sixth form centre, built almost two years ago remains a shining and inspirational asset to the school and for the young people of Devizes and surrounding area. We therefore actively encourage all Year 11 students in our own school and surrounding schools to apply for places in our sixth form. Applications for the next academic year are due in the next few weeks.



New Applied Learning Centre Open

The newly refurbished D block is now our modern, IT-rich, light and spacious "Applied Learning Centre". It consists of 9 large classroom spaces and two Food Technology labs and a Textiles specialist classroom. It also contains part of our Specialised Learning faculty. All of the new classrooms contain full class-sets of computers and the whole block is designed to make the most of modern learning and studying methods. It's called the Applied Learning Centre because it mainly houses applied subjects such as Business Studies, IT, Media, Physical Education, Life Skills and Design Technology.



Solar Power on the roof

At the beginning of November last year we officially switched on our new solar powered roof. The entire roof of the Science block and the Applied Learning Centre is covered with 200 solar panels supplying the school with carbon-free electricity all year round. The whole scheme was supplied in partnership with Kennet Community Energy Limited (KCEL), a Community Benefit Society developing renewable energy for the benefit of the communities in north and east Wiltshire. The installation is expected to generate 44,500kWh of energy and save about 24 metric tons of carbon dioxide on an annual basis.



Reaching out for disadvantaged students – Pupil Premium funding – Closing the Gap

Like nearly all schools in the country, we receive targeted funding to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. Nationally there is a gap between the attainment of these disadvantaged young people and the rest of the school population. The government's mission is to try to close this gap to help build a more equal society.

At Devizes School we take this challenge very seriously and we are making excellent progress in developing strategies and practical interventions that are designed to overcome the disadvantages that many of our students face. 28% of our students are deemed to be disadvantaged by either their circumstances or financial background.

We have joined a national scheme called "Challenge the Gap" and a more locally organised scheme coordinated by Wiltshire Council.

Excellent progress is being made measured by:

- improving attendance,
- better parental engagement,
- improved progress and attainment,

for this significant minority in our school.

Proposal of a support group for young people

A small group of students have identified a need for a support group for young people in the Devizes community area. Sally Willox (Youth Development Officer) and a member of staff at school have been approached and meetings are taking place to try to develop this idea.

Invictus Games

As part of our fund-raising activities and the ongoing work of the PE department on Wed 14th January we hosted Andy Philips who won a gold medal for team GB in the Archery competition at the Invictus Games in September last year. All students had the opportunity to take part in events such as Wheelchair basketball, Seated Volleyball, Indoor Athletics, Blind football, Weightlifting/Rowing, Goalball, New Age Kurling and Boccia. Almost £300 was raised for "Help for Heroes".

