



Engage Develop Aspire Communicate
Our vision
Working towards successful futures

Principal's message to families – 12 July 2024

Next weeks Lower school word of the week is – [escape](#)

The Upper school word of the week is – [disadvantage](#)

Coming soon!

We're thrilled to announce some exciting developments at Dawn House School! We've secured over £28k in funding from 'activenotts, Opening Schools Facilities' to fully furnish a new gym on site. This investment allows us to train five members of staff to become qualified gym instructors. Additionally, we will support a teaching assistant to earn her dance qualification, enabling us to offer dance as an extracurricular activity and eventually as an accredited award. A teacher is also being trained in netball to start a netball club. Plus, Mansfield Town Football Club will run an after-school club on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 5:00 pm, from Autumn term 2024 until the end of Spring term 2025. These fantastic advancements promise to enhance the educational and extracurricular experiences for all our pupils at Dawn House. A huge thank you and well done to Mr Rose for finding the contact and writing the bid!

Next week there will also be some information shared with LA transport and yourselves about our plans to **improve the parking** on school site and improve, particularly the end of day, parking for picking children up.

This week..

Key Stage 4 residential trip to the Youth Hostel in Castleton.

A group of 11 pupils enjoyed the challenges of being away from school on a three-day, two-night residential experience in Losehill Youth Hostel just outside Castleton in the beautiful Peak District.

The residential trips provide an incredible opportunity for our pupils to experience time away from school and home whilst building independence, resilience, friendship skills and having fun and time with their peers. For many of our pupils the school residential trips can be the only occasion that pupils enjoy a "sleep over" with friends and have time away from their families.

We arrived at the Youth Hostel in time for a picnic in their gardens before we all set out to build shelters using some ropes and tarpaulins. Pupils worked well as teams communicating their designs and ideas, some fabulous shelters and all survived the rainstorm that poured out of a watering can! Pupils went on to make their own fires using a flint and steel to create a spark to ignite cotton



wool and build a fire from very small fine twigs with the goal to keep the fire burning for at least 5 minutes.

On the Tuesday the weather was unkind, with persistent heavy rain all morning. The pupils were brilliant in accepting the conditions as they prepared to climb over and then abseil down from a high bridge in Millers Dale; one or two pupils had no fear whilst others needed some gentle encouragement and support. The instructors who led the session were awesome in their knowledge and patience and commitment to ensuring our pupils had the best possible experience. Tuesday afternoon there was some respite from the rain and the whole group enjoyed weaselling on Higgarr Tor. Pupils and staff enjoyed squeezing through gaps between huge rocks and boulders, this is a favourite activity and suitable for all, there was a real sense of achievement and fun.

Before returning on Wednesday, pupils worked well in teams to problem solve through a range of team challenges. One such challenge was to move a tennis ball through small sections of guttering held by individual pupils across the field, this meant that the entire group had to work and communicate together - a simple but very effective team building challenge.

The residential trips give the pupils so many positive opportunities to develop and make lifelong memories, but this would not be possible without really committed, skilful staff teams which make the trips happen. A big thank you to the team and a huge well done to all the pupils who attended.

Friends of Dawn House news...

Bags 2 School

£1,045 raised this year! Amazing!

Friends of Dawn House total fundraising this year will be shared after we count the money raised from the **Summer Fayre** today. Thank you all so much for this fabulous event which followed our sports day. Tutor groups worked well together to make this a real community event. There was lots of fun as people counted sweets, named the lovely pink bear, caught unicorns and won prizes. Newer parents described this as the best **sports day** they had ever attended, very calm and with a nice balance of competition and teamwork. We had some returning students and parents too- one of whom proudly showed off his 'under your wing' award for supporting less confident and new students at Portland College.

BREAKING NEWS!!!!!! A record breaking (almost) £1,500 raised today!!! Woopwoop!!!!

Do email me if you have any particular comments about today's events- its always good to hear your views.

BBC Radio Nottingham had hoped to join us for today's event but were unable to be here in person. I did a telephone interview with the news reporter,



predominantly about 3 students whose artwork has been selected to be exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Show, alongside other young peoples work and work of professional artists! The pupils will be travelling to London, to the show in the last week of term to see their work- what an experience! The report will be shared in the news bulletins over the weekend (probably Sunday) and on Monday. What a great opportunity to share more widely, the work of the school and Speech and Language UK.

End of year show July 19th 2024

The end of year show is a celebration of the years performing arts work which this year will include Dance, MAKATON and music. It is an open air show out on the school field and many of the musical performers have contributed to the SPIDER Productions CD which will be on sale by the side of the stage.

Show starts at 10.45 and will finish at 11.50 Parents are welcome to attend for the show but we ask that children do not leave with parents and stay to enjoy their afternoons enrichment session.

Such a lot to share at the moment, I'm sure I've missed loads! Do ask your children about their **transition sessions** with their new classes- they generally had a great time getting to know their new friends and are looking forward to the next session next week. Some new children joined the classes too – thank you to all of the children for making them feel welcome.

Have a great weekend- enjoy the match if you're watching! Looking forward to seeing everyone bright and early on Monday morning!

Jenny

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If your child leaves home in the morning a little unsettled and you want to quickly tell us, so we know to expect a tricky start to the day, a quick email (that we can follow up later) to the tutor and/or core team with **'Handle with Care'** in the email title will ensure that we are aware.