



Information for Applicants



Working at Denefield

Thank you for your interest in Denefield. Denefield is a great place to work. We are a community of staff, students and parents who thrive together. Denefield staff here are loyal, supportive and are proud to work here. They value the school's vision, our excellent students and behaviour culture, our supportive environment and our outstanding premises. They recognise the efforts that have gone into reducing workload, enhancing wellbeing and granting flexible working opportunities where-ever possible. They embrace the professional and career development opportunities Denefield offers. This is a school where every adult, as well as every student, counts and where our motto 'success for life' means as much for staff as it does for our student body.

We regularly seek the views of staff, students and parents. 96% of our staff recommend Denefield – which is 25% above the national average. 85% of parents and carers recommend Denefield – which is 15% above the national average. And the proportion of students who recommend Denefield is also 15% above the national average [Denefield stakeholder surveys November 2025, conducted by Edurio]. It is no surprise that so many of our staff send their children to Denefield, that Denefield has been oversubscribed in Year 7 for over 10 years, and that we have record numbers of applications to our Sixth Form, both from Denefield students and those from other schools.

Denefield's ethos and values

Denefield is a high-performing and high-achieving school. Our GCSE and A-level results continue to be above the national average. We believe that qualifications open doors and we always support and challenge our students to do even better. Our motto 'success for life' is not only about academic achievement however. We aim to develop the whole person and to prepare them for the rich tapestry of life that awaits after leaving school. Most of our Year 11 students stay into the Sixth Form and almost all of our Sixth Form students take up university places or apprenticeships.

Denefield is also an inclusive school. We proudly serve the Tilehurst and wider Reading community, and almost all of our students live within a mile and a half of the school. We believe in developing students whatever their background or academic starting point. We are as proud of those who take up college places or apprenticeships with Microsoft or AWE as we are those who attend competitive universities such as Oxbridge.

Our approach

There is no rocket science in what we do. We believe in rigour, consistency and kindness. Students study the full range of subjects at Key Stage 3 and begin their GCSEs in Year 10. We offer a range of vocational qualifications alongside academic, sporting and creative courses and teach 25 subjects in the Sixth Form. Our clear pedagogy is based around Denefield's 'lesson on a page' and we encourage all faculties to jointly plan and resource all schemes of work. We are passionate about what works for students and what is manageable for staff. We minimise marking through multi-response systems such as mini-whiteboards and by using visualisers to enable live-marking and we encourage staff to use artificial intelligence to make their jobs easier.

Like all the best schools we have a clear and effective behaviour policy and standards of student conduct are excellent. We have an outstanding welfare and attendance team. We have a house system that operates alongside our tutor programme. There is a plethora of house competitions and we have whole-school celebration assemblies three times a year. We encourage extra-curricular activities alongside day trips and residential visits. We foster opportunities for older students to nurture and mentor younger members of our community.

The local area

Tilehurst is a great place to be. It's pretty much the western-most suburb of Reading. To one side of the school is smart residential housing; to the other sides are fields, woods and views down to the Thames. Travel connections are outstanding – Denefield is a few minutes from junction 12 of the M4 and it is just over a mile to Tilehurst railway station, on the Reading-Didcot line. Regular buses ply the route from Denefield to Reading. There are so many beautiful towns and villages in the Thames valley. Denefield is close to Oxford, Henley and Marlow as well as Reading, though many of our teachers live within walking distance of the school. There is a nursery school on the Denefield site which operates from 7.30am-6.00pm during term time and for three weeks of the school holiday.

Your next steps

Denefield is full of kind, caring staff who love working with young people and working collaboratively with each other to change people's lives. If you feel you fit this mould and that you like what you've heard about Denefield, then please consider joining us. I am always happy to meet potential staff, whether you are thinking of applying for a particular vacancy or are just browsing for the future. Please do get in touch – I would be delighted to meet you.

Edwin Towill, Headteacher
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