

*'A tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season'*  
(Psalm 1:3)



Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 14  
December 2024



# The Deanery Way

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another term, I am delighted to share with you the highlights and achievements of our school community. Christmas holds a special place in our hearts at The Deanery, as a Church of England School. It is a time for reflection, celebration, and coming together in the spirit of love and hope.

This term has been filled with remarkable accomplishments. Our sports teams have excelled, showcasing their talent and dedication with outstanding results. We have also seen incredible generosity through our charity fundraising efforts, demonstrating the compassion and service that are core to our values.

Our students have made us proud with their excellent conduct on trips to the theatre, representing our school as Deanery PROUD. Year 11 students have shown commendable behaviour in the exam hall, and their hard work has been reflected in their mock exam results.

The support of our parents has been invaluable, particularly during parents' evenings. Your involvement and encouragement are crucial to our students' success, and we are grateful for your continued partnership.

One of the main highlights of the term was undoubtedly our Christmas concert. The performances were nothing short of amazing, with individual talents shining brightly and bringing joy to all who attended.

As we look forward to the New Year, I would like to remind everyone that school will resume on Monday, 6th January 2025. Let us continue to uphold high standards of attendance, uniform, and behaviour for learning. Our focus will remain on academic achievement, ensuring that every student reaches their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our school community. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Young'.

Mr Young  
Executive Principal

## Absence reporting

If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, please call: **01793 236611** and leave a message, clearly stating your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence.

# Service

*"... in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others"*

## **Deanery CE Academy Donates 40 Boxes to Operation Christmas Child 2024**

This year, students at Deanery CE Academy worked together to support **Operation Christmas Child 2024**, donating an amazing 40 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in need around the world.

On **18th November**, members of the Student Council delivered the shoeboxes to **The Entertainer**, the local drop-off point for the project. Each box contained thoughtful items like toys, school supplies, and hygiene products, as well as personal notes to bring joy to children who may not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas.

This effort reflects our school's value of **Service**, showing how we can all play a part in helping others. The students' hard work and generosity have made a real difference, and we are so proud of everyone who contributed to this cause.

Thank you to all the families, students, and staff who supported this effort. Together, we've helped spread kindness and joy to children around the world. Well done, Deanery CE Academy!



# Resilience

*"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me"*

**British Values**  
At The Deanery CE Academy

Mutual respect

Democracy      Resilience      The rule of law

Wisdom      Service

Individual liberty      Hope      Tolerance

The Deanery CE ACADEMY

*"A tree planted by streams of water... which yields its fruit in season" ~ Psalm 1:3*

In modern Britain, there are certain things which form our identity as being British. They represent what we stand for as a society and underpin everything from how our government works to how our schools are run. The aim is to create a compassionate and safe society for us all to live in.

<b>P</b> resentation	We take pride in ourselves and how we present ourselves to others. We are thoughtful about the way we speak to each other. We are proud to contribute to and be a part of a tolerant and democratic society. We <b>SERVE</b> others as well as ourselves.
<b>R</b> espect	We interact with everyone with respect. We respect the beliefs and opinions of others, even if we do not agree with each other all the time. We take the time to listen to others.
<b>O</b> rganisation	We take pride in ourselves, our community and our environment. We have the freedom and the <b>WISDOM</b> to make good choices and organise ourselves so that we inspire and help each other.
<b>U</b> nderstanding	We understand how we can become successful independent learners. We are understanding of the diverse world around us and the needs of others as well as ourselves. We inspire <b>HOPE</b> for a better world through our words and actions.
<b>D</b> etermination	We have a go even when things get difficult. We persevere and don't just give up. We help build a community of belief and encouragement for all, and we learn from our mistakes and misconceptions. We show <b>RESILIENCE</b> . We stand up for what is right and just.

We continue to develop our personal development programme across the school and a part of this is our Values in Practice (ViP) curriculum. In term 3, in their ViP lessons, our students will be learning about:

- ✓ **Year 7 – Diversity** (*Identity; Living in a diverse society; Bullying; Online bullying; Loneliness and how to support others*)
- ✓ **Year 8 – Discrimination** (*How do we make decisions; You are worth more than many sparrows; This is me; Not all disabilities are visible; racism and religious discrimination*)
- ✓ **Year 9 – Setting goals** (*Stereotypes and discrimination; Human rights; Aspirational goals; Equality of opportunity; Values and career choices; Career choices*)
- ✓ **Year 10 – Healthy relationships** (*Consent; Relationships and online relationships; Media and pornography*)
- ✓ **Year 11 – Building for the future** (*Careers*)

Further information about our personal development programme, including links to careers, trips, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, enrichment and other personal development opportunities at The Deanery CE Academy is now live on our school website here: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/personal-development/>

Congratulations to Daniel Beverley for achieving first place in the intermediate category of the Rotary Young Photography competition! What a fantastic achievement that reflects his talents and a great eye for capturing a moment with this year's theme 'Wonderful water'.

We look forward to taking him along to the presentation ceremony in the mayors chamber next year.

**ROTARY**  
**YOUNG**  
**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
**COMPETITION**



# Wisdom

*“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding”*

As we continue our journey together this school year, we want to remind everyone of the importance of embodying our **Deanery PROUD** values — both on and off school site. Whether you're on your way to school, walking home, on the bus, or participating in school activities, we encourage all students to demonstrate respect, responsibility, and pride in everything they do.

By following the school ethos, we create an environment where each of us has the chance to be the best version of ourselves — showing kindness, respect, and excellence in every interaction. This spirit extends beyond the school day and should shine through in our actions at all times.

## Deanery PROUD



**Presentation** – We take pride in our uniform and appearance, the work we produce, and the way we speak to each other.

**Respect** – We interact with each other respectfully. We take care of the school building and the equipment; we make sure there is no litter or damage to the environment. We remember the Christian value of **service** in all we do.

**Organisation** – We take pride in having the correct equipment and PE kit; we know our timetable; we take pride in being punctual and arriving to lessons ready to learn; we are neat and tidy and we work logically through tasks.

**Understanding** – We know how we become successful, independent learners; we know our target grades and we understand how to meet them. We complete homework and revision to assist our academic success. We appreciate the **wisdom** we gain from our days in school.

**Determination** – We have a go even when things get difficult, we persevere and don't just give up; we help build a community of belief and encouragement reflecting the value of **hope** for all; we learn from our mistakes and misconceptions. We always show **resilience**.

## STEM - Faraday Challenge Inspires Budding Engineers

On Wednesday 20th November, 36 of our Year 8 students participated in the Faraday Challenge, an exciting engineering-themed day designed to inspire young minds. The challenge encouraged students to work collaboratively, applying their problem-solving skills to design and build innovative prototypes. Throughout the day, teams faced real-world engineering problems, requiring creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience, gaining valuable insight into the world of engineering while developing key skills such as communication and resilience. It was a rewarding and educational day for everyone involved. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and demonstrated such enthusiasm and determination. Well done!



# Hope

*"I have come so that you may have life in all its fullness"*



## SYFL 2024

Last week, Key Stage 3 pupils celebrated literature as part of the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature!

On Tuesday, 48 pupils attended The Wyvern Theatre to hear Manga author, Julian Sedgwick and illustrator Chie Kutsuwada. Pupils enjoyed the talk, and were a credit as ever to their parents and our school as their behaviour was impeccable.

Intrepid mountaineer, film-maker and local author, Matt Dickinson, wowed all pupils in years 7-9 with his tales of adventure, which he uses as a backdrop to his exciting novels, 'Mortal Chaos' and 'The Everest Files'. Selected pupils then worked on their own mountain-based stories in workshops run by Matt. Matt commented on how delightful Deanery pupils were to work with!

Friday saw the return of the SYFL Inter-Schools Book Quiz, at Ridgeway School. Molly C, Noah F, Destiny O, Liesl R, Sophie B & Fletcher K formed a wonderful sense of camaraderie as they battled against the 15 team. They came 6<sup>th</sup>- a respectable finish!



## **GCSE Photography trip: Capturing creativity in action**

This term, our Year 10 GCSE Photography students embarked on an exciting field trip designed to inspire their creativity and hone their skills behind the camera. The trip, an integral part of their coursework, provided students the opportunity to explore diverse settings, experiment with various techniques, and gather a portfolio of striking images.

Students visited the vibrant cityscape of Bristol, where they participated in a Street Art walking tour led by a local expert and then engaged in hands-on workshops before heading down to the waterfront area to explore their theme of 'People and Places' in a different setting.

Beyond the lens, the students demonstrated excellent team work, enthusiasm and curiosity, making the most of every photo opportunity. Many were excited to apply their classroom knowledge in real-world scenarios, capturing moments that they can refine and develop in their coursework projects.

A huge thank you to the staff who made this trip possible and to our year 10 photographers for their energy and dedication throughout the day!





The house results and overall current standing after Term 2 house netball and football.

Overall House Championship	Totals	Place
<b>DISCOVERY TOTAL</b>	2429	<b>3rd</b>
<b>ENDEAVOUR TOTAL</b>	2435	<b>2nd</b>
<b>ENTERPRISE TOTAL</b>	2484	<b>1st</b>
<b>PERSERVERANCE TOTAL</b>	2276	<b>4th</b>

## Festival of Tomorrow

*Save the Date*

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Held at The Deanery Academy

Join us for an unforgettable selection of performances, intriguing exhibits and absorbing workshops as we explore **OUR FUTURE EARTH.**



## Welcome to the Careers section

### Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme

**Help your child to explore their future.**

I am happy to inform you that we are rolling out Xello from January 2025. This is an innovative digital careers platform that students will be able to use during their careers focussed lessons in VIP.

Each year group studies careers during the academic year. A specific term will be chosen for each year group to coincide with important dates and events.

This academic year, Careers Education lessons will be taking place as follows:

**Year 7:** Term 5    **Year 8:** Term 4    **Year 9:** Term 3    **Year 10:** Term 5 & 6    **Year 11:** Term 2

### The Careers Programme focuses on 7 main themes:

- Career Basics,
- Self-awareness,
- work experience
- Applying for a job
- moments of choice
- skills
- exploring the labour market

## Further Education Assemblies

New College have recently been in to deliver an assembly to our Year 11 students about courses they offer and apprenticeships. It was an insightful experience for our students and it is hoped that they are becoming more informed and confident in their post-16 choices for next year.

## Apprenticeship Assembly & Workshop

Last week Year 10 & 11 had an apprenticeship assembly run by the ASK apprenticeship programme. They learnt about the different levels of apprenticeships available, how to find and apply for apprenticeships and over 30 students attended a 1-hour workshop in the afternoon.



## New College Swindon 'Experience Days'

Year 10 students will be able to sign up for a 'taster day' at either Queens Drive or North Star campuses. This is being planned for late June 2025 and students will be able to sign up through their tutor group sessions. It will be an excellent chance to sample life as an FE student, engaging in a range of 'A' Level, 'T' Level, or other Level 2 or Level 3 equivalent subjects, along with discovering the excellent facilities available at these campuses.



## Cirencester College 'Post-16 Choices Day'

On Monday July 7th 2025, Year 10 students have been given the opportunity to experience life as a student at Cirencester College. The day will be focussed on students wanting to study 'A' Level, 'T' Level or BTEC Level 3 programmes. Cirencester College are providing transport to and from the College and it will be a full day leaving at 8.30am and arriving back at School for 3.30pm. Please encourage your child to sign up with their tutors.



## Commonweal C6 Experience Day

On Wednesday 11th December 35 Year 11 Students took part in a 6th Form taster morning at C6. They experienced a morning of A Level lessons, an informative talk from the head of 6th form and got to use the 6th form common room and Café, which was a big hit!



## Appren-T-Fest 2025

A reminder that we will be taking Year 11 students to Appren-T-Fest on Tuesday 11th February at the Steam Museum in Swindon. Students have been invited to sign up, but please encourage your child to attend if they have an interest in apprenticeships. It will be from 1-3pm and there will be lots of employers in attendance, guest speakers, Colleges and 6th form providers giving out invaluable information about opportunities Post-16.



*If you would like to get in touch with the careers team, then please send us an email.*

My email is [HinsonB@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:HinsonB@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk)

Alternatively, you can contact Ms. Godfrey who is the deputy careers lead at [GodfreyK@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:GodfreyK@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk)

**Mr. Hinson – Careers Leader**

**Executive Principal:** Mr J Young

**Vice Principals:** Ms L Connors and Mr D McDonald

**Tel:** 01793 236611

**Email:** [admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk)



Students from The Deanery school supported by staff helped lead our Community Christingle, welcoming families with children at Kingfisher school, or who lived in the local Wichelstowe community. We also appreciated being joined by academy board members and local clergy.

Together we brought our Christmas prayers, made our Christingles, enjoyed hospitality and listened to pupils performing carols. This culminated in then lighting of the Christingle candles to remember Jesus, the hope of the world who brings light into darkness, whilst gathering around our manger, with a real-life baby was placed, fast asleep on the hay, just like the words to our carol, 'away in a manger!' I'll remember the wonder of the children, mixed with some fear in the adults as the baby lay there, and as we gazed, perhaps something of the wonder of love come down at Christmas melted our fear. May it do the same for you and all you love.

Peace be with you,

**Owen Green**  
*Campus Chaplain*



The Deanery Christmas Concert took place on Tuesday 17th December and was complimented by students who took part this year, both for the variety and also the inclusiveness of performances. The audience were treated to items from enrichment clubs, curriculum learning and solo performances - which were, in the main, student led. This was also true of our show comperes - Paris and Bonnie (year 9)- who took it upon themselves to research, rehearse and fill the gaps between items. Stand out performances were hard to pick but highlights included Evie (year 11) singing Sia's 'Every Day is Christmas' and Walking in the Air, performed by Rita (year 8) on Alto Saxophone and Reuben (Year 8) on piano. A huge thanks should go to all the teacher's involved in preparing students for their moment in the spotlight, and a special thanks to Miss Kerry from the Swindon Music Co-operative who came and supported the violin group on stage. All performances, both traditional and modern, were warmly received by an audience filling the Deanery theatre, and we are really looking forward to more in our production of The Addams Family in February.





## Rewards in Action: Celebrating Term 2 Achievements!

### Rewards in Action: Celebrating Term 2 Achievements!

This term has been a remarkable one for celebrating student achievements across our year group, with over **47,500 house points issued** in Term 2 alone and a staggering **99,000 points issued since the start of the academic year**. These numbers reflect the outstanding commitment of our students to the school ethos of **PROUD: Presentation, Respect, Organisation, Understanding, and Determination**.

### Student-Led Rewards in Action

Reward events this term have been thoughtfully shaped by our **Student Council**, ensuring that student voice remains central to our recognition efforts. A highlight is the **cinema experience** hosted in the Theatre on **Wednesday, 18th December**, where **150 students** are invited to enjoy a well-deserved celebration of their hard work.

Looking ahead to Term 3, the reward will be a **non-uniform day** for the best-performing year group. This is calculated based on the average house points (minus any behaviour points) per child. It's all to play for, and we look forward to seeing which year group will claim the reward!

### Recognising Individual Achievements

At the end of term, **hundreds of certificates** have been printed ready to be awarded during celebration assemblies run by the **Head of Year**, honouring students' dedication and achievements. In addition, **tie pins**—a prestigious mark of recognition—have been presented to students who have gone above and beyond. (See the full list of tie pin recipients below.)

These rewards and celebrations are a testament to the hard work, determination, and positive attitudes of our students. Thank you to everyone for contributing to such a successful term, and we can't wait to see what Term 3 brings! Keep striving to be **PROUD!**

**Term 2: The following students have received tie pins after being nominated by staff - a massive congratulations to them all**

#### Year 8

Zainab - has spent almost 5 hours on sparx last week.

Ruth - shows Deanery Proud in every lesson, around the school and in all interactions. She is a true ambassador of the school and make me proud to teach her.

Mutiat - putting so much effort into improving their maths skills it must be commended. The hours these three have committed to Maths practice is just phenomenal.

#### Year 9

Paris - supporting during yr10 parents evening as part of the student council

Bonnie - supporting during yr10 parents evening as part of the student council

Alishba- a joy to teach and at the top of the XP list for sparx maths in the school.

#### Year 10

Amy - impressing every Geography lesson with effort and presentation

Jess - impressing every Geography lesson with effort and presentation

Julia - fantastic work in Spanish. Putting her head down and getting on with it.

Maria - fantastic progress in Spanish and making consistent effort to improve across the school

Jess - work on school council and promoting access to sanitary products for all.

#### Year 11

Gethin - representing the school at the Remembrance service

Lily - representing the school at the Remembrance service

Artem - showing service and determination in lessons by helping tidy and completing revision despite being the only two in the lesson due to mocks

Harry - showing service and determination in lessons by helping tidy and completing revision despite being the only two in the lesson

# SEND

## How to support your child with their assessments/exams

Exams and assessments are a stressful time for any young person.

### These are things that can really make a difference:

1. Work with your child to find what revision style works for them.
2. Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing.
3. Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
4. Encourage them to take some time after revising to wind down.
5. Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens.
6. Remain positive and hopeful.
7. Plan a treat or an activity to mark the end of the exams.
8. Set aside one to one time so that they can talk to you about any worries.
9. Let them know their feelings are valid and normal, but also offer support and solutions where possible.
10. Encourage a good bedtime routine
11. Work with them to develop relaxation techniques.



12. Mood swings and outbursts are more likely to occur during this period. Look out for other signs that your child may be struggling, including poor sleep patterns or a change in appetite or behaviour. If anxiety and stress start impacting their day-to-day life seek help from your GP.

## How to support your child at Christmas

### Socialising

Some children may not want to get involved in social gatherings at Christmas and/or they might want to be on their own.

Think about the best way for you all to communicate over the Christmas period if you are not meeting in person – maybe a phone call, zoom, text or a Christmas card.

### Schedule

Keep the daily schedule the same as far as possible, including on Christmas Day.

Have a quiet space (bedroom, spare room etc...) for your child to go to when they get overwhelmed.

### Presents

If too many presents may be overwhelming discuss and possibly set a limit on the number of presents.

Introduce presents one by one instead of all at once or spread over the festive period.

Discuss whether presents should be wrapped or not and consider alternatives, for example, leave presents unwrapped or place in a gift bag for less of a sensory overload.





## Support over Christmas

YoungMinds offers free confidential online and telephone support. Call the free parents' helpline on 0808 802 5544 from 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday or email [parents@youngminds.org.uk](mailto:parents@youngminds.org.uk)

<https://stem4.org.uk/> - offers free mental health support resources

<https://www.kooth.com/> - offers free, safe and anonymous support for young people via their mobile phone.

### **If you need help with extreme mental health difficulties, contact:**

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20228/mental\\_health/1525/mental\\_health\\_getting\\_crisis\\_sup](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20228/mental_health/1525/mental_health_getting_crisis_sup)



### **For further advice and support:**

- <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/parent/exams-supporting-children.html>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/coping-with-exam-stress/>
- <https://www.gcsepod.com/free-gcse-revision-resources/>

### **Clubs and interventions**

As part of our period 6 day, the SEND department offers the following clubs and interventions between 3.30 – 4.30

Homework Support – for both Key Stage 3 and 4 – every Tuesday and Thursday

Corrective Reading – literacy support – every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

EAL support – every Weds

Lego-based therapy – every Thurs

The above are invite-only to ensure a high staff to student ratio, however, please do email me if you would like your son/daughter to be invited.

### **Fiddle toys**

We have also introduced school-approved fiddle toys. Only these toys will be permitted. Students will be given one free and will be expected to take responsibility of their fiddle toy by ensuring the item is in school and used appropriately in lessons. Should they lose or break their fiddle toy, they will be expected to purchase another one. If you think your son/daughter needs a fiddle toy, please do email me. I will issue them one and add their name to our list.



### **Parental meetings**

Please note that parental meetings will be held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, via appointment only, unless it is an urgent matter.

***Dr Caroline Kafka-Markey***

Email address: [kafka-markeyc@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:kafka-markeyc@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk)

## Further support

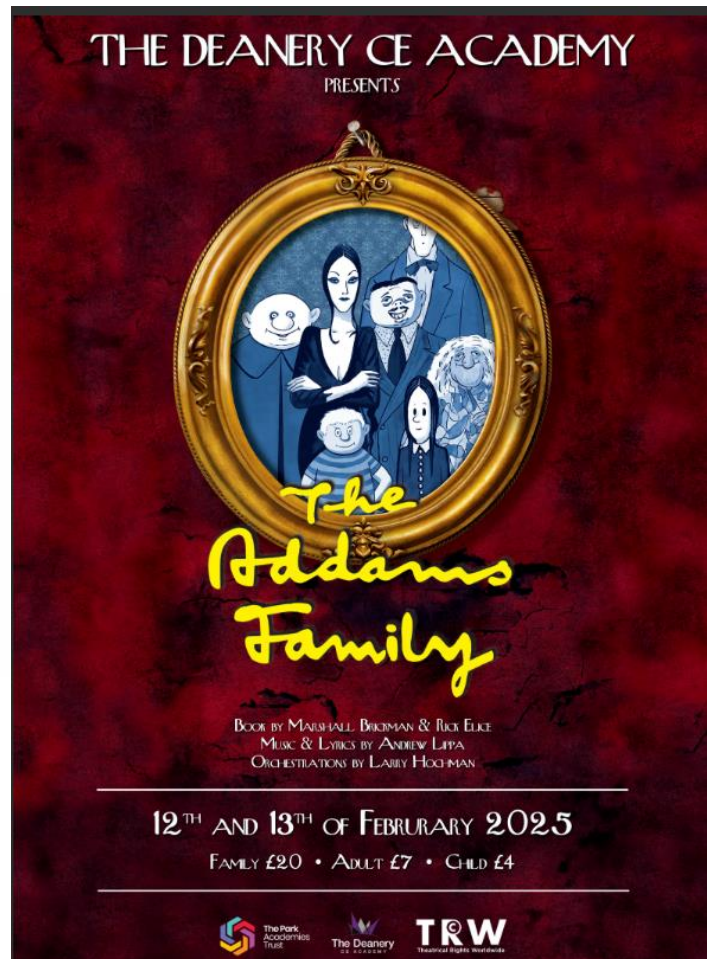
The SEND Information, Advice and Support service (SIAS) provides information, advice and support about education, health and social care for children and young people from 0-25 with SEND, as well as their parents or carers. You do not need to have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan to use the service:

<https://www.swindonsias.org.uk/info/15/home/19/contact>

## Notices

**Reminder:** we're a **nut free school** due to serious allergies within the school community. Also, students should not be bringing and using aerosols in school as it is impacting staff and students who suffer from asthma.

**Important notice:** We understand that sometimes face to face meetings will be required between staff and parents/guardians. However, we respectfully request that these are pre-arranged and booked in with the relevant staff, and that parents/guardians **do not just arrive at the Academy** and expect staff to be available for a meeting. Please contact the members of staff via the academy email: [admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk) in the first instance to arrange an appointment.  
*Thank you for your support with this.*



## **Whole School Attendance to date - 92%**

Please have a look at your child's attendance today, pupils who attend less than 90% are considered 'persistently absent'. The attendance team are here to help and support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Illness - Please do not let coughs, colds and headaches deter your child from school. If your child benefits from medication this can be dropped into school. You will be required to complete a medicine form at student services to give permission. Please speak to them first for clarity on which medications we can keep.

We would like to thank all of our students, parents and carers for continued support with attendance. We have seen a great improvement and intend to strive further. We celebrate attendance in school, not only those with 100% attendance but we also recognise those students who find school challenging but are working hard to improve with our support.

We wish you a wonderful festive break.

**Fiona Woodfield**  
*Attendance Officer*



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TELEGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**17+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Telegram isn't new, but it's grown significantly in popularity over recent years, thanks to its secure nature and speedier performance than many of its competitors – including WhatsApp. While Telegram is an excellent app in terms of actual performance, like any messaging platform it brings its own challenges for parents when it comes to feeling confident about children being able to handle their own messaging conversations and contact with the outside world in general. Here's everything that trusted adults need to know about using Telegram safely.

## LACK OF AGE RESTRICTION

**17+**

Telegram has a 16+ age restriction on using the service, while someone is required to be over 17 to actually download the app. Once that's accomplished, however, there's no need to provide further identification. That means there's no guarantee that under 17s aren't using the app – and no way to confidently verify that any other user actually is who they say they are.

## POSSIBLE CYBERBULLYING

If your child uses Telegram, they could well be in a group with friends and peers on the app. These groups are managed by admins who can remove the option to post replies – possibly leading to instances of cyberbullying in which the victim has no ability to respond. Messages can be forwarded from groups, too, which potentially opens up images and text being seen by people they weren't intended for.

## UNMODERATED CONTENT

Because Telegram relies on users' self-moderation, it can sporadically become a hotbed for illegal or inappropriate content. In the past, the circulation of this material has led to its temporary removal from the App Store. In fairness, the same can be said of several messaging platforms, but Telegram's features (Secret Chats, for instance) certainly present more issues than the likes of WhatsApp.

## PREMIUM COSTS

Telegram is free to use, but it also offers a premium membership (£4.99 per month or £35.99 a year) which increases download speeds, adds translation features, and increases channel and account limits. If your child has access to your Apple ID or Google Play details, they may be able to sign up for the premium package without your knowledge.

## UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

One of Telegram's major selling points is that it's accessible across multiple platforms. Once the app's been downloaded, users can log in from a phone, tablet or computer. This multi-device availability means increased opportunities for someone else to gain unauthorised access (if your child leaves a computer or tablet at school, logged into their Telegram account, for instance).

## SECRET CHATS

Telegram offers a feature called Secret Chats, which allows for messages which self-delete after a specified period of time. There are instances where this can be useful (journalists often use Telegram to protect their sources, for example), but for young people it can make it extremely difficult to prove that someone has been abusive or inappropriate towards them on the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PRIVACY CONTROLS

If your child wants to use Telegram, we'd strongly suggest using the app's built-in privacy settings to restrict who can see when they were last online, their profile photo, and their phone number. This can be set to 'everybody', 'my contacts' or 'nobody'; we'd recommend either the second or third options, depending on how locked down you want the platform to be.

### DISCUSS SECURITY

It's important that your child understands the merits of strong passwords and logging out of devices when they're finished – and the benefits of protecting their personal data in general. This could range from relaxed chats and simple tips like "don't send your bank details" to how to set up passcodes for Telegram so your child's chats stay secure when they step away from their screen.

### REPORT UNSAFE CONTENT

If your child receives private messages which include content that could be considered illegal, unsafe or upsetting, they can of course block the account responsible within the app itself. Be aware, however, that Telegram won't necessarily take any further action unless this offensive content involved a user-created channel, bot or sticker.

### USE THE BLOCK FUNCTION

Users can block spam, abusive, or imposter accounts within the app. Blocking stops that account from messaging your child, or viewing their profile and activity. If the user in question is one of your child's peers or friendship circle, it may be worth bringing it to the attention of their school. Also bear in mind that your child can also voluntarily leave a Telegram group at any point if they wish.

### PROTECT PAYMENT METHODS

Apple and Google's storefronts offer family sharing options, but it's also worth double-checking your settings to ensure that a password or two-factor authentication option is set up to prevent any unexpected purchases. If your child does pay for a premium Telegram subscription without your consent, Apple and Google have been known to issue refunds in some cases.

## Meet Our Expert

David Corbett is a writer in the field of gaming and esports who's been on and off worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the app, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iFixit and TechCrunch.



**PREMIUM ACCESS**

**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.telegram.org/> | <https://www.engadget.com/telegram-explored-002-453039602.html>

[@nationlinesafety](https://twitter.com/nationlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.05.2023

**Executive Principal:** Mr J Young

**Vice Principals:** Ms L Connors and Mr D McDonald

**Tel:** 01793 236611

**Email:** [admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk)



## Dates for the diary

A copy of the term dates calendar is available on our website: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/school-information/term-dates/>

- 6<sup>th</sup> January** – All students return for term 3
- 6<sup>th</sup> January** – Years 10 and 11 Oxford Brookes University assembly
- 10<sup>th</sup> January** – Education & business partnerships workshops (years 10 and 11)
- 16<sup>th</sup> January** – Flu immunisations (Years 7, 8 and 9)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January** – Year 9 subject consultation evening
- 29<sup>th</sup> January** – Disneyland trip meeting 7pm – 8pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 9 options evening 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 7 subject consultation evening
- 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> February** – School production
- 14<sup>th</sup> February** – End of term 3

**A reminder:** For queries, please use the main Academy email address:

[admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk) and your email will be *forwarded* to the appropriate person.

We aim to acknowledge all emails **within 2 working days**, and to respond in full (*or arrange a meeting or phone call if appropriate*) within 5 working days.

If you feel your query requires an urgent response, please call the academy.

Our communication policy can be found here: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/important-information/policies/>