

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



Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 15
February 2025



The Deanery Way

Best wishes Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we approach the end of another term, I am delighted to share with you the wonderful progress and achievements within our school community.

I am pleased to report continued improvement in student behaviour for learning, with our particular focus on our Deanery PROUD values. Our students have embraced these principles, demonstrating Presentation, Respect, Organisation, Understanding, and Determination in their daily interactions. This positive shift is a testament to our collective commitment to fostering a supportive and respectful school environment. Congratulations to Yr9 who received the most house points and earned the privilege of a non-uniform day

Our Christian values continue to be at the heart of everything we do. We have seen remarkable examples of wisdom, hope, service, and resilience throughout the term. These values not only guide our students in their academic pursuits but also in their personal growth and community involvement. A special mention goes to our Year 11 students, who have shown incredible hard work and resilience as they prepare for their next round of mock examinations in March. Their dedication and perseverance are truly commendable, and we are confident they will achieve great success.

Attendance and punctuality continue to be a crucial focus for us. Regular attendance is vital for academic success, social development, and overall well-being. It ensures that students do not miss out on important lessons and activities, helping them to stay engaged and achieve their full potential. We continually encourage students to be punctual and appreciate your ongoing support in this.

Sixty of our Year 7 and Year 8 students recently visited Marlborough College, representing The Deanery with distinction. They were brilliant ambassadors for our school, showcasing their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm for learning. Also, we are proud of our students' engagement in the careers programme. This initiative is essential in helping them explore various career paths, develop essential skills, and make informed decisions about their futures. The importance of this programme cannot be overstated, as it prepares our students for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Our sports teams have had an outstanding term, with notable achievements across all year groups. These accomplishments highlight the dedication and talent of our students and coaches. In particular David K, for qualifying for the National Schools Cross Country Championships in March and the U16 Boys Basketball team finished as runners-up in the Swindon schools final. The Y9 girls' badminton team also came 3rd overall in the Swindon Schools competition – a great achievement.

We ended the term on a high note with the amazing performance of "The Addams Family." A huge thank you to Mrs. Matthews, Mr. Halpin, Mrs. Douglas, and everyone who contributed to this fantastic production. It was a wonderful showcase of our students' creativity and hard work.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you at our subject consultation evenings, and listen to your positivity and feedback. We very much appreciate your continued support and partnership. Together, we are making The Deanery a place where every student can thrive.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Best wishes,

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

Chaplaincy update

Have you ever felt like you've been smacked in the face with a frying pan?

That was me this morning when I popped in to the Addams family dress rehearsal of the school is putting on.

I knew I wasn't going make either of the performances and wanted to see some of the results of the students work and the teacher's toil. I came in partway through a song and the lyric disturbed me, in fact it confirmed my preconceptions of the musical.

The lyric was; *'move towards the darkness, move towards the darkness.'*

And I thought, 'oh yes, this was not a good choice of musical for a school with a Christian ethos vision and set of values.' Surely travelling towards the light would be a more helpful metaphor for us, one that fits in with the statement, 'life in all its fullness' that is emblazoned on the walls of the corridors around the school.

And then the saucepan hit me, smack on the nose, right between the eyes. It was a good job I was sat down. The lyrics that followed, 'move towards the darkness' was, 'and love.'

And now I can't think of anything more like Jesus, more Christian if you like.

Forgive me for my pre-judgement Lord, forgive me, drama department for doubting that putting on the Addams Family was a good idea. It's a brilliant idea, for that lyric alone.

'Move towards the darkness and love' seems to me to be a call given at the right time in our society, in the late capitalist, post-industrial, consumer orientated, unstable culture in which we live. Move toward the darkness and love.

'Move towards the darkness and love' is a call to engage in the difficulties, the challenges, the uncertainty and the unknown with the vulnerable strength of love. How different it is to walk towards the darkness and love than it is to walk towards the darkness wearing armour plating, tooling up, getting our game face on, getting our revenge in first.

By the time you read this, it's probably going to be lent, the period in the church year where Christians travel towards Easter, the time when they remember the sacrifice of Jesus as the ultimate sign of God's love, when the power of death is defeated, when love wins. But as we travel towards Easter, we remember what Jesus was going through. How this wasn't easy for him. How in the garden of Gethsemane on the night that he was arrested he prayed and was so emotionally wrought by the occasion and his imminent arrest, miss-trial, conviction and crucifixion that he has literally sweated beads of blood from his forehead. Yet, as the drama unfolds, in that same garden moments later as the guards arrive, one of his closest followers, Peter, draws a sword and clumsily attempts to kill a guard, swiping off his ear. In this moment we see Jesus telling him to put his sword away and miraculously healing the guard's ear. In the depth of his anguish Jesus is compassionate. As he moves towards the darkness he loves.

I do not pray for any of us that darkness might come upon us, but with the wisdom that knows that there is an inevitability that during our lives there will be seasons in which we are called to move towards darkness. And so, the question is, what is our posture going to be? My prayer for you, for this community, is that by the grace of Jesus we might as we move towards the darkness, we might love, because in the end, love wins. The beauty of Easter is the empty tomb, death and darkness is defeated.

Owen Green

Chaplain

Service

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

It's been another brilliant term for student rewards.

The following students have been issued tie pins by Mr Young after being nominated by staff.

Year 7

- **Maria P** - Effort in all maths classes is 2nd to none. She is friendly, happy, helpful and determined to be the best her that she can. A delight to teach each lesson.
- **Habiba A** - Showing consistent effort across all subjects and being Deanery PROUD
- **Adina F** - consistently showing Deanery PROUD
- **Tevin M** - consistently showing Deanery PROUD
- **Mahathi S** - consistently showing Deanery PROUD
- **Ethan T** - consistently showing Deanery PROUD
- **Matt Y** - consistently showing Deanery PROUD
- **Liesl R** - consistently showing Deanery PROUD

Year 8

- **Levi S** - Making a huge effort in school. These efforts are fully appreciated and not gone unnoticed. Levi is a star who is determined to do well
- **Amileigh H** - fantastic progress made in English
- **Siddhi J** - consistent, fantastic effort to make progress even attempting GCSE work.

Year 9

- **Alishba U** - Alishba is continuing to spend hours on additional maths. She is polite and friendly at all times and is trying so hard to show improvement in her maths
- **Charlie F** - being front of house for Year 9 parents evening
- **Bonnie P** - being front of house for Year 9 parents evening

Year 10

- **Zoe M** - She is the only one who managed to get their notes for Health and Social care handed in on time, and in full. This has shown a real dedication to her work
- **Jess P** - helping with yr9 parents evening
- **Arlo F** - fantastic progress made in English
- **Danel A** - fantastic progress made in English
- **Jake B** - fantastic progress made in English
- **Dariia P** - fantastic progress made in English
- **Afsaneh H** - fantastic progress made in English
- **Ophelia B** - fantastic progress made in English
- **Peyton D** - presenting an assembly for DofE to Yr9 students
- **Oliver C** - presenting an assembly for DofE to Yr9 students

We're also looking forward to non-uniform day for one year group who win this term's competition for the highest average house points per student. Already we have over 62000 house points issued this term alone.

Year 11

- **Gethen B** - helping with yr9 parents evening
- **Alex O** - helping with yr9 parents evening
- **David K** - great achievement in cross country events
- **Evie C** - brilliant contribution to the school community in music events
- **Seb S** - fantastic effort to ensure progress in Maths
- **Sam K** - always working fantastically hard and moving from foundation to higher tier in Maths.



Resilience

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

British Values At 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.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| P 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 SERVE others as well as ourselves. |
| R 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. |
| O rganisation | We take pride in ourselves, our community and our environment. We have the freedom and the WISDOM to make good choices and organise ourselves so that we inspire and help each other. |
| U 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 HOPE for a better world through our words and actions. |
| D 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 RESILIENCE . 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 (PSHE) lessons, our students will be learning about:

- ✓ **Year 7 – Health and puberty** (Healthy lifestyle choices; Puberty; Physical and mental wellbeing; Why is sleep so important? Unwanted contact)
- ✓ **Year 8 – Emotional wellbeing** (Attitudes towards mental health; Promoting emotional wellbeing; How to manage emotions; Digital resilience; Healthy and unhealthy coping strategies)
- ✓ **Year 9 – Healthy lifestyle** (Physical and mental health; A balancing act; Healthy eating; Body image; Responsibility for physical health)
- ✓ **Year 10 – Exploring influence** (Alcohol and alcohol misuse; Role models; Gangs; Substance use and addiction)
- ✓ **Year 11 – Communication in relationships** (Consent; Core values and our emotions; Communication; Challenging negative behaviours))

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/>

A reminder that Mrs. Gallagher will be running after-school GCSE RE revision for **Year 11 students** every Wednesday between now and the exams. These will be in 1-18 and run for 1 hour on **Paper 1** content. Please see the schedule on display in the Humanities corridor. You can come to all of them or just the ones you feel you need to really revise.

Wisdom

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

STEM careers news

Last term for the first time we introduced ‘The Brightside Trust’ mentoring as part of STEM provision. The trust offers 1:1 online, personalised mentoring for students yr. 9 and above, on the secure platform students talk to an approved and trained mentor about their future study, employment and career options. This program runs for 10 weeks. Students can message their mentor at any time during the 10-week mentoring period and mentors reply as soon as they can. Conversations take place via text-based messaging, a bit like email, so mentors and mentees do not need to be online at the same time. This program is not restricted to science as STEM encompasses such a wide range of careers it is an opportunity for students to explore their future choices.

We are really proud of the students who have taken the leap to be our first and wish to congratulate Jess, Kayah, Titany and Mary who have achieved their certificates and the feedback they have given us on the program was invaluable. They said that some of the most useful things they have gained from the mentoring has been, leadership skills, steps needed to take to get into university. Quotes from students: -

- ***“It’s a great place to start planning your future... to hear experienced people tell you what will help you get to your future”***
- ***“Inspiring because you weren’t talking to a teacher... you could get to know your mentor and learn from their experiences and skills.”***

We have now opened up this wonderful opportunity to all of our year 9 and reinvited year 10 to take part who did not take part the first time. We have had approximately 30 Year 9 and 6 year 10 apply and the program will start at the end of February. We wish them well as they start to explore the futures available to them. If you missed this opportunity, we will advertise the next one as soon as we have dates. Any questions please speak to Mrs. Ashley or Ms. Wright.

Rotary Youth Speaks Competition – Saturday 8th February 2025

Deanery Students lead the way!

Owing to alphabetical order Deanery students took to the stage first in both Intermediate and Senior Heats. The competition was stiff, but our students managed to keep their nerve as they stood in front of a mixed audience of fellow-students and adults.

Our Year 7 students, Sesayt M (Chairperson), Desire B (Proposer) and Minta M (Opposer) spoke to the topic- “Our strength lies in our differences, not our similarities.” One of the judges said that their argument was so convincing that she ended up changing her mind.

The Senior team, comprising of Holly G (Chairperson), Jessica P (Proposer) and Stanley S (Opposer) spoke to the topic- “Is Pluto a planet?” They were competing against no less than five Sixth Form teams and one other Year 10 team. It grew very tense as the judges deliberated. Eventually their decision was announced- our team had won joint third place! Well-deserved success!

Hope

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

Sixty high achievers from Year 7 and Year 8 were invited to take part in the TPAT scholars' trip on 29th January 2025. They had an incredible opportunity to visit Marlborough College for an afternoon of immersive learning and intellectual challenge. The trip was designed to broaden their academic horizons, exposing them to a range of stimulating subjects including Russian, Computing, English, Classics, Economics, and Chinese.

Throughout the day, the Deanery students exemplified our school's Christian value of wisdom. Wisdom is not just about acquiring knowledge; it is about using that knowledge thoughtfully and responsibly. By embracing the opportunity to learn new subjects and develop their understanding, our students demonstrated the importance of lifelong learning and intellectual curiosity.

The visit to Marlborough College was a truly enriching experience, fostering a love for learning and a deeper appreciation for the power of education. The staff there reported that students showed *"excellent engagement and positive attitude"*.

A huge thank you to Marlborough College for their hospitality and to the TPAT staff for organising such an inspiring trip. We look forward to more opportunities that encourage our scholars to grow in wisdom and understanding.



MARLBOROUGH
COLLEGE

The Addams Family

*Move toward the darkness, welcome the unknown
Face your blackest demons, find your weakest bone
Lose your inhibitions, love what once was vile
Move toward the darkness, and smile*

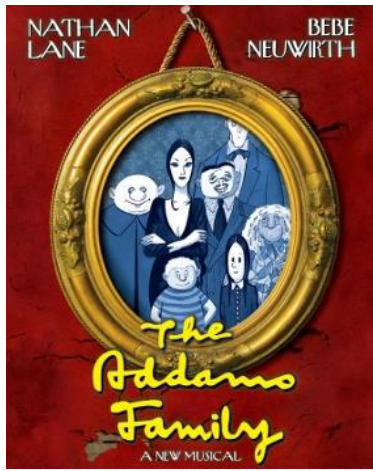
As I write this we are deep into the final rehearsals for the Addams Family production on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. By the time you read this we'll have had two evenings of what I can only hope – but totally imagine - will be very successful performances; we have the makings of the best musical yet from Deanery students in our wonderful theatre.

In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same challenges faced by any other family, and the spookiest nightmare faced by every family creates the focus: the Addams kids are growing up. The Addamses have lived by their unique values for hundreds of years and Gomez and Morticia, the patriarch and matriarch of the clan, would be only too happy to continue living that way. Their dark, macabre, beloved daughter Wednesday, however, is now an eighteen year-old young woman who is ready for a life of her own. She has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a sweet, smart boy from a normal, respectable Ohio family – the most un-Addams sounding person one could be! And to make matters worse, she has invited the Beinekes to their home for dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed, relationships are tested, and the Addams family must face up to the one horrible thing they've managed to avoid for generations: change.

With staff and students working tirelessly behind the scenes with props, costumes, staging and lights it is a pleasure to work under the spotlight and bring together the months of hard work into a show just under 2 hours. A few comments from our wonderful cast include:

- *Favourite thing about the musical this year is the theme. Love the contrast from the fun and bubbly high school musical.*
- *Favourite things about working with the cast, love the creativity and love the collaboration. Everyone one is on the same page.*
- *Dark but funny well put together and great actors.*
- *I'm really enjoying my first musical, the set's nice and the cast is **extremely** nice and very supportive.*

Our musical productions always highlight to me the wonderful team that we have here. Mr Halpin, Miss Douglas, Miss Kerlake and Mr Hughes on the Performing Arts department have used their strengths and skills to provide our students with a chance to shine. We have ex students returning to help out and teacher's giving up their free time to support – big shoutouts must go to Miss Munn, Miss Case, Miss Hockin and Miss Penny Larter for their support. And as ever – we have staff who let us raid their cupboards and stock rooms in search of the perfect prop, and many of our Common Room and student body will come along and sit in the audience; we are incredibly grateful to all. We couldn't do any of it without you – you're all a part of our Addams Family ❤️



Sporting achievements

Cross Country Success

David in Year 11 has qualified for the National Schools Cross Country Championships in March. After qualifying through the two Swindon and Wiltshire rounds, David finished high enough at the South West event in Newquay at the beginning of February to secure a place at the nationals. He will therefore be representing The Deanery in Sussex in mid-March at the final event to get an overall national placing. A huge achievement and one that demonstrates a massive commitment to improving his fitness levels and his running over the past couple of years. A very big well done from everyone at the school and best of luck for the national event.

Swindon Schools Basketball

The Under 16 boys' basketball team, comprising of a mixture of year 10 and 11 students have finished runners up in the Swindon Schools A league competition. Unfortunately, we were beaten by a very strong Lydiard Park Academy in the final but it shows great improvement across the school year and demonstrates the strength in basketball at The Deanery. Well done to all students involved and thank you to all those who came out and supported at our home fixtures.

Girl's football

U14s girls football made it through to the final in the SSFA girls football competition. We played numerous schools around Swindon and made it through to the final where we played in a playoff final against other schools that had made it through. The girls won their pool and are now through to next stage of competition to reach the final.

Year 7 girls football saw a huge surge in numbers and had 12 girls play for the school in a 7 aside fixture. The girls played against Swindon Academy where we drew 1:1 and now awaiting our next fixture to hopefully make it through to the next round of the competition.

Girls Basketball

We have had a huge number of girls coming to our basketball enrichment where we are currently awaiting fixtures next term. The girls have been working hard within training and we are looking to enter a Year 7 team, U14s and a U16s team this year.

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 have successfully rolled 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 3

The Careers Programme focuses on 7 main themes:

1. Career Basics,
2. Self-awareness,
3. Work experience
4. Applying for a job
5. Moments of choice
6. Employability skills
7. Exploring the labour market

The logo for Xello, featuring the word 'xello' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter 'o' is stylized with a green semi-circle at the bottom right.

Education and Business Partnership – ‘Preparing for Work Day’

On Friday 10th January, Year 11’s took part in a ‘preparing for work’ day led by the education and business partnership.

The students took part in four different workshops, which were:

- CV writing
- Interview preparation
- Financial awareness (cost of living)
- All about me (identifying their skills and characteristics)

The students had a very insightful day, preparing them for their future. They were supported by some inspirational practitioners and volunteers from the EBP, who gave them the tools and knowledge to navigate applying for a job or college course, preparing for an interview, understanding finances and budgeting as an adult, and to reflect on what important skills and characteristics they have as an individual.

The staff were so complimentary about our students and how polite, friendly and engaging they were in the sessions. It was a busy day, but hopefully one they will all benefit from and help them to feel more confident about the future. Well done to all the Year 11 students!

Police Assemblies

Last Week Wiltshire Police came in to host assemblies for Year 8,9 & 10 about careers in the police. It was an interesting and enjoyable experience for the students and they found out about career paths into policing, the different roles available, salaries, equipment used and a typical day in the life of a police officer.



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.



Appren-T-Fest 2025

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. Parents are encouraged to attend from 4-7pm if you are interested.

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

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

Mr. Hinson
Careers Leader



SEND

Year 11 Preparation for Exams:

This is a vital year for our Year 11 students, however, during the pre-public (mock) and public examination periods, your son/daughter may become increasingly stressed and anxious and this is often heightened for those with special educational needs. For tips to help beat exam stress:

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

It can be difficult to know what and how to revise, one tool that can be incredibly useful to support learners is retrieval practice. This will help your son/daughter to build their memory of key information over time:

<https://nasen-prod-asset.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Retrieval%20practice%20and%20pupils%20with%20SEND%2030.08.22.pdf>

Mindfulness exercises can also support student wellbeing during this time. Please see below for strategies and tools that may be useful to help you to support your son/daughter:

<https://my.optimus-education.com/supporting-wellbeing-pupils-send>

The SEND dept is offering additional support to all year 11 students with SEND, including a 'How to cope with Year 11' intervention (including sessions on how to improve our mental health and different ways to revise). This intervention is 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.

Mental Health Support

Managing stresses and illness alongside being a parent or carer is a complicated part of life for many.

If you're managing mental health issues you might find you have mood swings or struggle with keeping routines such as mealtimes, bedtimes and taking your children to school.

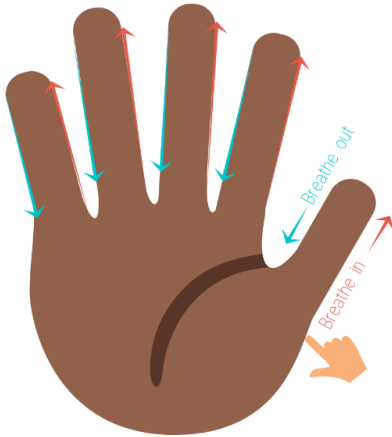
Choosing one or a couple of things from the list below to focus on could give your mental health a boost.

- Maintaining good sleep might feel impossible, but [the NHS has tips and advice to help](#).



- Keep in touch with family and friends on the phone or try a video call. If you're struggling to find someone to talk to about what you're going through, [Mind has helplines](#) and you can speak to your GP to see what counselling provision might be available in your area.
- Write down your feelings in a notepad. This can help you reflect, understand, and let go of emotions.
- Join a support group or network online. Talking to others in a similar situation can help.
- Try to have some time for yourself, whether that's at home or by going for a walk. We have advice if you're [not sure if your child is old enough to stay home alone](#).
- Physical activity is really helpful for some people. You could try walking, going for a jog, swimming or doing an online class. If these don't suit you, you could try a gentler activity like gardening, sitting

5 Finger Breathing



next to an open window to get some fresh air, or doing a crossword.

- We know eating well isn't easy or accessible to everyone. If you need help with getting essentials you can [contact your local food bank](#).
- Planning things to do by yourself or with your child can help create structure and a routine for the day. Try starting your day with a short list of 4 small, achievable things you'd like to do.
- If there's another adult in your house or older children, ask them to play an active part too.
- If finances are causing additional stress, [Money Saving Expert](#) has lots of information and [Citizens Advice](#) can offer help and support.

Helping children and families understand a parent's mental health

issues

If you're struggling, it's OK to reach out for support from friends, families and organisations that are here to help.

Changes in a parent's mental health can sometimes affect children. They may pick up on your anxiety, low mood or stress. This doesn't mean you should hide or minimise your feelings. You can try to explain what you're experiencing using phrases like, "It's OK to get big feelings, everyone gets big feelings but it's still the grown-up's job to look after the children" or "If grown-ups get big feelings, it's not your fault – we can ask other grown-ups for help with our feelings."

It's important to give children reassurance and support. Looking after your own mental health is vital to their well-being so don't be afraid to try new things together.

Where to find help:

- NSPCC - 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
- [Mind](#) Information and support as well as helplines for people experiencing mental health problems and their friends and families.
- [Rethink Mental Illness](#) Advice as well as services and support for people affected by mental illness and their friends and families.
- [Samaritans](#) Round-the-clock confidential support to people going through a tough time.
- [SANE](#) Emotional support to people affected by mental health problems and their families and friends



I just wanted to remind students, parent and carers about the BeUSwindon website and the free online support available to young people. Please find below a link to the website:
<https://beuswindon.co.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>

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
- EAL support – every Weds
- Zones of Regulation – every Weds
- Games Club – 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 only via appointment only, unless it is an urgent matter.

Dr Caroline Kafka-Markey

Email address: kafka-markeyc@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk



Whole School attendance - 91.4 %

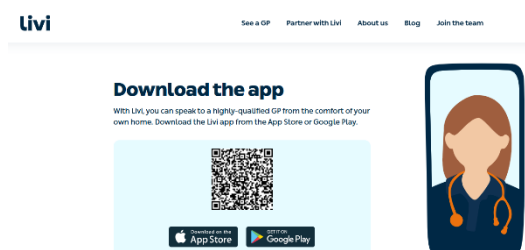


As more day light is upon us and the weather starts to brighten, we should move away from flu season and those nasty bugs

I often hear of families seeking a GP appointment which can be challenging. I have recently stumbled across the LIVI app'. Some surgeries in Swindon are connected to LIVI. I have used the system myself. You are provided with an appointment usually within 24 hours and will be connected to a live GP where you can discuss your concerns.

This does not replace a physical examination, but, for minor infections and ailments it can be beneficial with speedy prescriptions.

Download LIVI today <https://www.livi.co.uk/download/>



Remember if you are thinking about booking a holiday this year, that the rules have changed. More details can be found on our [attendance hub](#), however in general please be aware that, from August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days per parent per child. This is for 10 or more sessions (5 days) taken within a 10-week period. All requests for leave must be submitted in advance using the correct request form which can be found on the link above.

Please be advised that when we share absence information, the amount of days taken for illness will affect their overall attendance figure. Illness is 'authorised' however, it will affect their percentage. If your child's attendance is below 90% they are considered 'persistently absent'. A few days absent may affect this figure in the short term but soon recovers. However, continual episodes of illness and sporadic illness will significantly affect their progress. When your child is complaining of illness, please consider whether it is necessary for them to take a day off.

We are seeing an increase in lateness to school. The gate shuts at 08.40 and the latest arrival is 8.45. Any student arriving after 08.45 receive a C2. Students who are persistently late will be issued with a C3.

Should you need any support for attendance please contact the Attendance Team.

Fiona Woodfield

Attendance Officer



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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.

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.

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 in the first instance to arrange an appointment.
Thank you for your support with this.

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/>

18th – 21st February – Disneyland Paris trip

19th – 23rd February – Festival of Tomorrow at The Deanery CE Academy

24th February – Start of Term 4

3rd March – Year 11 Spring mocks begin (all week)

6th March – Year 8 subject consultation evening

19th March – Careers Day

21st March – Borneo fundraising quiz night

4th April – Spanish speaking exams and End of Term 4

22nd April – Start of Term 5

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

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/>