

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



Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 16
April 2025



The Deanery Way

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the joyous occasion of Easter, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful achievements and events that have taken place this term, and to look forward to the activities planned for the coming months.

Firstly, I am delighted to announce that our Comic Relief charity event was a tremendous success. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our school community, we exceeded our target of £650. This contribution will make a significant difference to those in need, and I am incredibly proud of everyone's efforts in our school community. It was our very first 'Whole School' non-uniform event and it was a resounding success due to students' conduct throughout the day.

Our World Book Day celebrations were a highlight of the term, with students and staff alike showcasing their creativity through our door decoration competition. The imaginative designs truly brought the magic of books to life, and it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for reading.

A group of our students recently had the unforgettable experience of visiting Disneyland Paris. The trip was filled with fun, learning, and adventure, creating memories that will last a lifetime. We are grateful to the staff who organised and supported this fantastic opportunity. Again, excellent reports on student conduct and engagement have been fed back by staff members and students have been rewarded with tie pins.

We have also seen remarkable team and individual sporting achievements this term. Our students have excelled in various disciplines, including cross country and fencing. Their dedication and hard work are truly commendable, and we look forward to supporting their continued success. There have also been some amazing accomplishments in the 'Performing Arts'. Again, we will ensure these young people are commended and rewarded for their commitment and resilience.

Personal development is an essential aspect of the curriculum offer. Our Careers Fayre was another significant event, with excellent engagement from students across year groups 9-11. The opportunity to explore different career paths and interact with professionals was invaluable, and we are grateful to all the organisations and individuals who participated. In Term 5, we will be introducing a new PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic) curriculum. This updated program is designed to provide our students with essential life skills and knowledge, helping them to navigate the complexities of modern life with confidence and resilience.

As our Year 11 students prepare for their upcoming exams, I want to emphasise the importance of consistent attendance. Every lesson counts and being present in school is crucial for academic success. We are committed to supporting our students through this critical period and ensuring they are well-prepared for their exams. If your child has been invited in for 'Easter Revision' please ensure they take up the offer and attend when required. The first main exam is on Friday 8th May and Yr11 students will remain in school for normal lessons and exams until Wednesday 11th June, unless contact has been made with parents regarding different arrangements.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the new term begins on Tuesday 22nd April. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming our students back for another term of learning and growth.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

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

Mr Young
Executive Principal

Chaplaincy update

Aren't these some of the most beautiful words;

My beloved spoke and said to me,
"Arise, my darling,
my beautiful one, come with me.

See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.

The fig tree forms its early fruit;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

Arise, come, my darling;
my beautiful one, come with me."



They come from the Bible, in a book called Song of Songs, about the love between a husband and wife, and interpreted as also of God's love for us. Earlier this term we imagined what it would be like to hear these words from heaven spoken over Jesus at his Baptism, 'this is my dearly beloved son with whom I am well pleased,' now spoken over us. Imagine it - being God's dearly beloved child! Wow, it alters my perspective on so many things. The car won't start, but I am God's dearly beloved child, I got passed over for promotion in favour of someone worse at the job, but I am God's dearly beloved child, I'm not sure how to parent my child as they struggle to cope, but I, and they, are God's dearly beloved child. Whilst the situation doesn't change, the car still won't start and I still didn't get promotion, it alters my perception of who I am which nothing can steal away from me or destroy. In fact, it leads me to a life of fullness. I am God's dearly beloved child, he works in all circumstances, whether good or bad, to bring good.

And now, as we celebrate Easter, now the invitation is to Rise, Come be with God and to See where hope is breaking through. That is my prayer for you in this season, that you might see the signs of spring as a promise from God of his invitation to rise and follow him.

If you or your child would appreciate support in seeing where hope is in your life, please feel free to get in touch. My email is green@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk

Peace be with you,

Owen Green

Chaplain to The Deanery and Kingfisher schools

Service

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

A huge **THANK YOU** to our amazing students and staff for making this term's **Non-Uniform Day in aid of Comic Relief** such a massive success!

After feedback from our student body about wanting a non-uniform day, the **School Council**, with the incredible support of **Mrs. Mobey and Miss Byrne**, worked tirelessly to bring this event to life. We originally set a target of **£650**, but thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, we have **smashed it** – raising an incredible **£860+**!

Every penny raised will go towards **Comic Relief**, helping to support those in need across the UK and beyond. It's incredible what we can achieve when we come together as a school community!

COMIC RELIEF



Resilience

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

We will be launching our new Jigsaw PSHE curriculum in term 5 for years 7-10.

Please use the following access codes to enable you to view the Jigsaw PSHE online lesson planning and slides.

These meet all the statutory requirements for this curriculum area.

The areas shared with you are:

- An overview of the puzzle theme
- Lesson planning and slides for the topic that is being taught at this time (or is about to be taught depending on the time in the term you access it)



These have all been written as part of a whole school spiral and progressive curriculum that helps children to build on previous learning in the Puzzle theme from earlier years, and prepare for future learning both in and out of school.

To Access, please visit: <https://jigsawpshe.online/parent> and give the access code for the year group your child is in.

	Topic	To view materials
Year 7	Relationships	Access Code: 80495-09994
Year 8	Relationships	Access Code: 80495-01247
Year 9	Relationships – 4 Sex Education Lessons	Access Code: 80495-04422
Year 10	Healthy Me – 2 lessons of Sex Education	Access Code: 80495-02008
Year 11	2 lessons on Sex and Relationships 1 Lesson on Exam Anxiety	Please contact Mr McEachron for more information

Sex Education in Jigsaw 11-16 and the right to withdraw students (Jul 2024)

Jigsaw guarantees that its PSHE Programmes for primary and secondary meet the statutory requirements for Relationships Education and Health Education at primary and RSE and Health Education at secondary in England.

This work sits within the Jigsaw whole-school approach to PSHE which has an emphasis on emotional literacy and mental health.

DfE guidance page 17, para.45 states:

'Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.'

If a parent's request to withdraw their child is granted, teachers then know which lessons these students will NOT be allowed to attend. Please note: Parents only have the right to withdraw their child from the sex education element and NOT relationships. This applies only up until 3 months before the child's 16th birthday.

Jigsaw PSHE 11-16 interprets Sex Education as 'Human reproduction and sexual behaviour' including:

- How human reproduction can happen (e.g., childbirth, sexual intercourse, IVF, surrogacy)
- Anatomy and biology (when linked to sexual activity)
- Sexual behaviours*, risks, rights, and responsibilities in a sexual relationship
- Sexual health and safer sex (e.g., contraception, sexually transmitted infections)

Wisdom

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

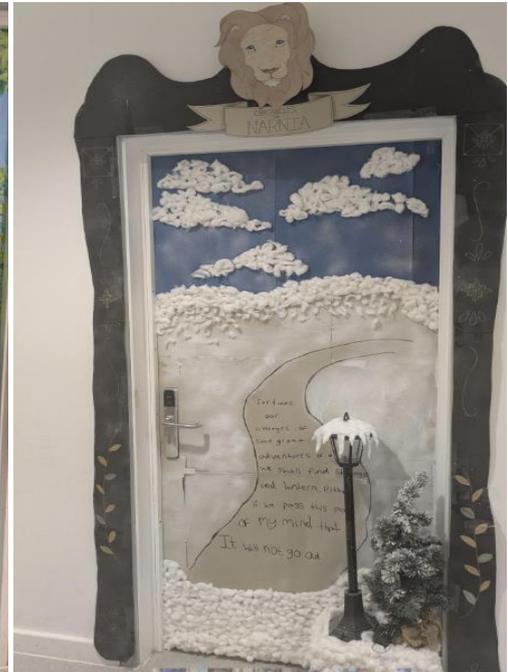
World Book Day was a magical celebration at The Deanery this year, with students and staff embracing the joy of reading through a range of exciting activities! The school transformed into a literary wonderland, with everyone getting into the spirit of the day.

One of the highlights was the **Book Cover Door Competition**, where tutor groups creatively decorated their classroom doors to represent book covers. A massive congratulations to **Miss Douglas’s tutor group**, who impressed the judges and took home the overall prize!

Students also enjoyed testing their literary knowledge with **quizzes**, unravelling the mystery of **secret wrapped books**, and taking part in the thrilling **Find the Snitch** challenge—bringing a touch of magic from the wizarding world of Harry Potter. Photo opportunities at our very own **Platform 9¾** were a huge hit, with students and staff stepping through to their own adventures.

Adding to the fun, **staff members dressed up as beloved book characters**, making the day even more immersive and memorable. The enthusiasm and creativity on display truly showcased the power of books in sparking imagination and bringing people together.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this World Book Day one to remember. We can’t wait to see what next year brings!



Invites have been sent out to 28 Yr10 parents regarding a TPAT Masterclass at Lydiard Park Academy for students aiming for Grades 8/9 in English, Maths and/or Science. Students have workshops with peers from across all TPAT schools during the day and there's a parent talk in the evening at LPA. The Yr10 Masterclass is 7th May. The Yr11 final day on timetable is 11th June.

Hope

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

Disneyland Paris Trip February 2025

From Tuesday 25th Feb to Friday 28th Feb we took 68 GCSE students to Disneyland Paris to enjoy two days of theme park fun as well as a rollercoaster seminar linked to the AQA GCSE Science course.

Although absolutely exhausting we had an amazing time, making memories that will stay with the staff and students the rest of their lives. Riding tower of terror hand in hand, hearing each other scream, watching the parade and waving at characters, teenage boys in Minnie ears, teenage girls buying personalized glass wands and eating too many chips before riding hyperspace Mountain! We were also very proud teachers during the seminar when our Year 10 students answered GCSE questions up against Y11 students from other schools.

We returned safely back Friday evening with 68 students, 8 staff, 1 driver, 100 odd cuddly toys, tiaras, sweets and a thousand memories. We as staff cannot begin to express the pride we felt for our students, their behavior was exceptional and they were a genuine delight to spend four days with (although I do apologise to any family members who caught the "Disney flu!").

Big shout out to our Barnes Coaches driver Rob who got us there and back safely and brought lots of joy and laughter along the way. He enjoyed working with our students so much that he has offered to drive us again next year!

A quote from 10B/Sc1 Disney students – ***"It was genuinely the best school trip I have ever been on. It was amazing to spend the time in Disney with my friends. These memories will stay with us forever. And the seminar was actually quite interesting! Rob was a #legend"***

A big thank you to the amazing Deanery staff who gave up their break to give our students a trip of a lifetime!

Miss Case



This term Mrs. Gallagher represented the Breast cancer awareness charity Coppafeel! in her role as a Boobette and presented to staff about what to look for regarding breast cancer symptoms, where to seek advice and also how to support our young people if they have worries or symptoms. It was a great session with lots of goodies to take away and had lovely feedback!

If you would like to arrange a free session for your workplace or even your social group, please contact: <https://coppafeel.org/support-get-involved/volunteer-with-us/boobettes/book-a-boobette/>



Sporting achievements

Year 7 girls basketball club has seen a surge in numbers with 2 teams being selected to represent the school in various basketball tournaments around Swindon. The Deanery have been proud to host the tournaments where 7 schools have attended the Y7 games. We entered 2 teams where the girls won many games throughout the tournament.

U14s girls' basketball have had a large number of girls participating this year and we have managed to put 2 teams into the triangular competitions representing the Deanery, we again have been lucky enough to host the competitions this year. Our most recent game saw us play Abbey Park where we won 24-6 with some fantastic team work from the girls. We look forward to our final games to finish off the girls' basketball season.

Congratulations to Afsaneh in Year 10 for qualifying for the British National Fencing Championships, after finishing 3rd in the regional championships! Well done from everyone at The Deanery.

Boys' success

Massive congratulations to David in Year 11 for competing at the National School Cross Country Championships at the weekend. Finishing a hugely impressive 257th nationally and 3rd in the County. Well done from everyone at The Deanery!

Congratulations to the year 9 boys football team who beat Lawn Manor Academy 2-1 in a league game the boys are awaiting their next fixture.

Congratulations to year 8 boys football team who beat Royal Wotton Bassett Academy in a league game with a score of 11-2 and the boys are awaiting their next fixture.

Whole school interhouse

This term years 7,8,9 and 10 took part in the interhouse rugby competitions, boys competed in tag rugby where the girls took part in touch rugby. The students competed within their houses and the overall winners were Endeavour for the girls and Discovery for the boys. An overall whole school winner of the competition was Endeavour.



Deanery Careers update

We had our very first careers fair at the Deanery on Wednesday 19th March, welcoming a number of guests to give our students careers information and education advice.



Our guests including the RAF, Royal Navy, Army, JTL Apprenticeships, New College, Cirencester College, Ridgeway and Commonweal 6th form, UTC, Oxford Brookes University, Education & Business partnership and Prospect Hospice.



The event was very successful and the students from Year 9-11 did a magnificent job of asking questions and engaging positively with the providers. We had lots of compliments about how mature the students were and what good questions they were asking. Feedback from students was very positive and they all saw the benefit of connecting with employers, further education providers and Oxford Brooke's University.

Beard Construction – “Open Doors Visit”

On Tuesday 18th March, we took 13 year 8 students to the Health Hydro in Swindon. It was for an “open doors” experience with Beard construction. The project manager toured us round the site, and we were also spoken to by a local historian about the links with the great western railway and the NHS. We also had some degree students discussing their experience of working in the construction industry, focusing on architecture and engineering.



The students had a fantastic experience and represented the Deanery impeccably. We look forward to welcoming Beard construction into the Deanery in the future to deliver more opportunities with our students.

Colas Rail Assembly

Last week we had Colas Rail in for a Year 10 & 11 assembly on apprenticeships in the rail

industry. It was an insightful assembly and students learnt more about apprenticeships and what the benefits were, compared to other pathways. There were lots of apprenticeships available at different levels and students were informed of all the different jobs available working at a rail company.

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.



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

Mr Hinson – Careers Leader

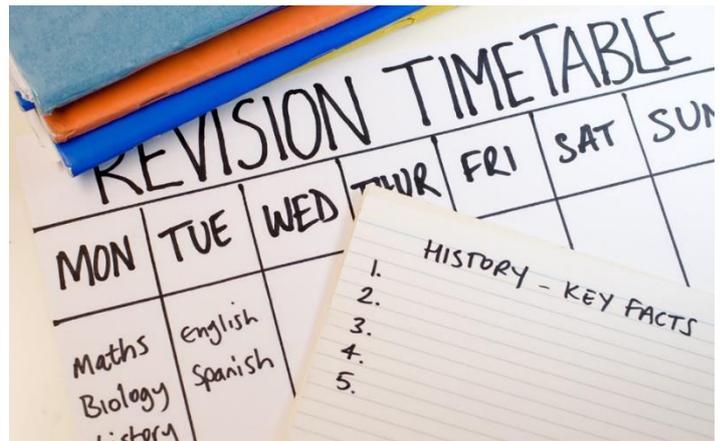
SEND

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>

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.

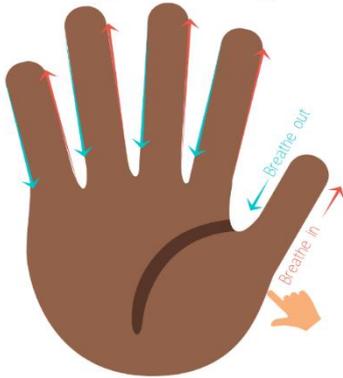
Choosing one or a couple of things from the list below to focus on could give your mental health a boost.

- 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

5 Finger Breathing



like gardening, sitting 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

Be U SWINDON

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
- 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 Tuesday and Thursday only via appointment only, unless it is an urgent matter.

Dr Kafka-Markey

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

Whole School attendance - 91.4 %

Good attendance is important because:

Pupils who have missed more than 10% of school sessions are considered persistently absent, while children who have missed more than 50% of school sessions are referred to as severely absent.

Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically. Regular attenders find school routines, schoolwork and friendships easier to cope with. Regular attenders find learning more satisfying.

Reminder - If your child is too unwell to attend school you must message using ARBOR or leave a detailed voice message with the school office. Failure to inform the school will result in an unauthorised absence.

Punctuality - please be reminded that ALL students should arrive before the gate closes at 08.40. Please ensure that your child leaves home with plenty of time making allowances for traffic. A C2 will be issued for lateness and C3 for persistent lateness.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

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 or report via ARBOR.

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/>

21st April – Bank holiday

22nd April – Term 5 begins

25th April – MFL careers talk for years 8 and 9

5th May – Bank holiday

23rd May – End of Term 5

2nd June – Staff INSET (school closed to students)

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/>