

“Discovering and Learning Together, so all can Flourish”.

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

Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 4

4th October 2023



The Deanery Way

Welcome to the first edition of ‘The Deanery Way’ of this 2023/24 academic year. Our young people and staff have made a brilliant start to the new year and their learning is well underway. Further information about our curriculum, as well as knowledge organisers for the schemes of learning, are available on our school website: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/our-curriculum/subjects/>

We would like to welcome you all back into school for the 2023-24 academic year. This term has already been very busy with the new Year 7 cohort joining us as well as new members of staff. We have already hosted our open evening which saw many of our students touring families around the building seeing some fantastic activities across the departments. Alongside this we have had the Faraday challenge hosted in the theatre and a Yr7 team building event. We look forward to enjoying more of these activities as the year continues. We hope you enjoy this first instalment of the newsletter and celebrating all that is happening here at the Deanery.

Sarah Parry

Assistant Head teacher

Follow us on Twitter!

Art department: @Art_deanery
DCEA: @deaneryacademy
English department: @Englishdeanery
Lettings: @LettingsW
MFL department: @mfl_deanery
PE & Sports: @PE_deanery
RE department: @RE_deanery
Science department: @science_deanery
Worship at DCEA: @worship_deanery



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.

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This term's school value: HOPE

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13)

We always begin the school year with the theme of HOPE. Hope for our own progression and achievements; hope for our families; hopes for our community. September always marks a fresh start and an opportunity to reflect and reinvent yourself in hope for what is to come.

Jesus is described as the 'light of the world', who came to bring hope in times of despair; light in the darkness. In the same way, we should all strive to bring hope into the lives of others. As teachers, this is our aim in the classroom. As parents and carers, it is our aim to bring hope for our young people to drive their aspirations and dreams. As young people, at the start of their life journeys, hope is a powerful thing that has the ability to change the world.

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:15-16)

Each of us has a light within us. As the Gospel of Matthew says, "let your light shine before others" – be the light in someone else's darkness. Even something as small as a smile can change the course of someone's day.

Mrs. Gallagher

Coming soon...

The **Archbishop's Young Leaders award** is a leadership and character education programme for delivery within schools. It supports students to become confident and resilient leaders, who develop a growth mindset, become independent thinkers and good communicators, and who have **compassion and care for their communities**. The award is based around 3 modules: FAITH, HOPE and ACTION and focuses on developing 9 key leadership skills and 9 key character virtues. This will be coming in the new year for **KS3 students** initially. For

further information online please see:

<https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/keystage3> or contact Mrs Gallagher at sarah.gallagher@dcea.org.uk

"Be the change you want to see in the world"

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Service

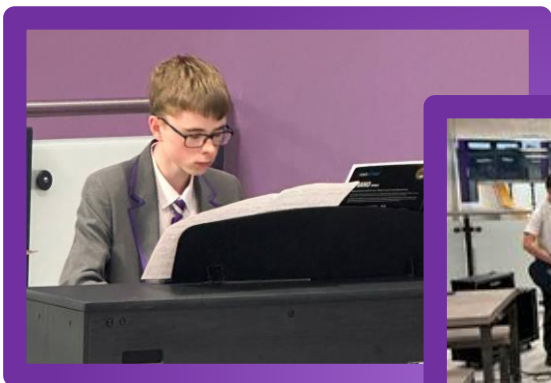
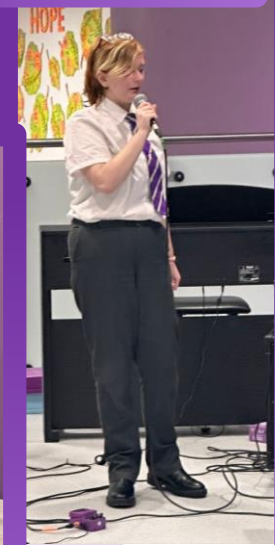
"... in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others"

Open Evening Music

The Year 5/6 transition evening event provided Deanery music students with their first opportunity to take to the stage. We have a growing number of dedicated musicians who put time and effort into the department, inside and outside of lessons, and it is fantastic to see them enthusiastic and working together.

Chloe Devenney and David Kowalski opened the theatre talks with a beautiful rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow and Defying Gravity. Up in Kingfisher View our 'Deanery Live' stage was filled with songs from the shows, beatboxing musicals, some beautiful piano and more whilst more students welcomed visitors into the music room suite and showed them around. The school owe a big thank you to Hannah Kerry, teacher of violin and mum of Jamie in Year 7. She gave up her evening and helped in the classroom, making sure parents knew of the music lesson options available from the Swindon Music Co-operative and getting the children playing. It was a very positive evening.

A big thank you to all the students who returned to school to take part, they are a dedicated bunch. With the highly anticipated school musical announcement before half term, we have much to look forward to this year in the Performing Arts.



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Wisdom

"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding"

Year 10 boys attending a positive masculinity workshop - 14 Year 10s all learning potentially new ways of how to view masculinity, what makes a positive male role model and how to view relationships with both their friends and future loved ones. Very moving! As Head of Year, I was very proud of one and all of them.

Mr Bramley



COMPETITION TIME!



RIBI YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION



Calling all budding Deanery photographers...

The Task

To produce one photograph based on the theme **'Rebuilding'**.

Mobile phones or cameras may be used.

The photograph *must be submitted via Digital Format* and be at least 1500 pixel in size on the longest length. The entries and supporting information sent electronically **MUST NOT EXCEED 15Mb** per email sent.

Please see Miss Pickles for more information about this exciting opportunity.

The Young Photographer Competition is a well-established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (RIBI)

Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland

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Resilience

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

U16 County Cup Football exit

The first ever County Cup football game for The Deanery took place at Abbey Park School on Thursday 28th September. Sadly, the boys were knocked out after an entertaining game that saw us come back from a 3-0 deficit at half-time. The boys showed great character and determination to pull it back to 3-3 before a later winner for the hosts saw them progress. Some great performances nevertheless, with Sonny awarded Player of the Match.

I'd like to send a praise shout out to Yr11 for their effort and positive engagement with the new English homework - the 'Friday Test Day' which happens every fortnight. The English department have been impressed so far.

Mrs Scotford

Staff have already awarded over 17000 house points already this year!

Particular congratulations go to the following students who have the most house points in their year group:

- *Brooklyn H - Year 7*
- *Sasha F - Year 8*
- *Nathaniel E - Year 9*
- *Emily R - Year 10*
- *Ethan T - Year 11*

A BIG THANK YOU to all our wonderful students who helped showcase our wonderful school at the Year 5 and 6 open evening. You all spoke so eloquently about your experiences, and did our school community proud!

Our own Mrs Gallagher was featured in the local press recently, sharing her story of breast cancer and inspiring others to make sure they are regularly checking themselves for the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. Her story can be found here:

<https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/23806997.swindon-schoolteacher-shares-story-breast-cancer-survival/>



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Hope

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

The Swindon Youth Festival of Literature is in its 16th year and is an outstanding collaborative project run by the Librarians of the secondary schools across Swindon. With a year of planning, we bring about a week-long literary festival in November, which celebrates reading, writing and creativity to thousands of students. It is organised by the fabulous team of Librarians that make the events happen in each school and to our knowledge, there is not much like it in the country.

It is a week of events to promote a love of literacy and involves 12 secondary schools in Swindon. This year the headline event is being held at the Wyvern Theatre where students from year 8 will get to listen to Jacqueline Wilson talk about her long career as a writer and ask any questions they may have.

Other events include year 7 students have a poetry workshop with performance poet Ash Dickinson, and each school has their own visiting author, this year The Deanery have award winning author Christopher Edge who will be talking to year 8 and 9 students about his latest book *Escape Room*.

We also hold an event for our feeder primary schools who have the chance to meet author Kita Mitchell.

There are also several competitions running until 15th October open to students at all schools, these are an illustration competition, a creative writing completion and a poetry competition, there are prizes for the winners in each category.

See the next page for more info...

Year 11 prom

We are excited to announce that we have now secured a date and a venue for the Year 11 prom in 2024. It will be held at The Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, next to junction 16 on Friday 5th July 2024.

More information to follow regarding costs, eligibility... etc.

DCEA Worship committee

Would you like to make a difference in our school community?

We are looking for students to join our worship committee. Students of any faith (or none!) are welcome to join us in planning and designing the spiritual life of the school. If you would like to join, please see Mrs Gallagher.

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www.swindonyfl.co.uk

Friday 10th November 2023

ASH DICKINSON

Year 7 Tuesday
7th November 2023



Books for sale £5



"I'm on a crusade to make poetry accessible and relevant, to engage and enthuse the students and to help them to have fun with words and language." Ash

Writer, poet and comedy

www.ashdickinson.com



SWINDON YOUTH FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE



www.swindonyfl.co.uk

FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2023

BOOK QUIZ

Each school will be represented by 6 students who will take part in our annual BOOK QUIZ at The Ridgeway School.

The 14th Annual Book Quiz

MULTI-SCHOOL-EVENT

Sample quiz rounds:
• A picture round
• A music round
• Specialist rounds
• Festival author

The Deanery CE Academy



This competition involves 12 Swindon secondary schools.

Can Great Western retain their title?



SWINDON YOUTH FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE



"Such a great opportunity for students to meet and work with writers, poets and artists. Every town should have one!" Dave Cousins 2016

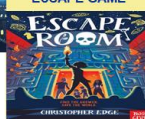
Wednesday 8th November 2023

Christopher Edge



www.swindonyfl.co.uk

PLAY THE VIRTUAL ESCAPE GAME



Students from Year 7, 8 & 9 will be meeting and working with the award winning author Christopher Edge. Christopher will be running creative writing workshops and telling us about his life as an author.

Buy Chris's books and get them signed!



Celebrating 16 Years

Get your BOOKS Signed.....

Check out his website : <https://www.christopheredge.co.uk>

SWINDON YOUTH FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

What do you see when you look at this picture?

WRITE A SHORT STORY OF NO MORE THAN 500 WORDS BASED ON THIS IMAGE!

Categories:

Years 7-8

Years 9-11.

Prizes: Book tokens

1st: £20

2nd: £15

3rd: £10

Prizes provided by:



MULTI-SCHOOL-EVENT

PRIZES

HOUSE POINTS FOR ALL ENTRIES
FINALISTS SUBMITTED IN THE MULTI-SCHOOL COMPETITION WITH PRIZES AS DETAILED BELOW
• All works entered for the competition must be original and not based on existing text or fictional characters
• Stories can be a maximum of 500 words long
• The 500 words excludes the story title, your name and year group.

Selected entries will be judged by author

Helen Dennis

The best story will be awarded the Writing Ambassador's trophy for your school.

Closing Date: Monday 16th October 2023

Please email your entries to kmurphy@dorcan.co.uk



ILLUSTRATION COMPETITION

Illustrate the following passage from the 2023 Carnegie Medal winning book *The Blue Book Of Nebo* written by Manon Steffan Ros

PASSAGE TO BE ILLUSTRATED

'The rain, the hot, violent, ugly storms. Blades of lightning, sometimes with no warning, poking the earth as if checking to make sure it's dead. The thunder like something massive breaking, and the rain creating new rivers.'

PRIZES

HOUSE POINTS FOR ALL ENTRIES.

EACH IN-SCHOOL CATEGORY WINNER WILL ATTEND A WORKSHOP HOSTED BY AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR STEVE ANTHONY AND WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE MULTI-SCHOOL COMPETITION WITH PRIZES AS DETAILED BELOW.

ENTRIES CAN BE ANY SIZE AND MUST BE ORIGINAL.

Categories: Years 7-8 and Years 9-11.

Prizes: 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10. Wh Smith Vouchers

MULTI-SCHOOL-EVENT

Closing Date: Monday 16th October 2023

Entries: All entries to be handed in to Ms Murphy in the Library



SYNOPSIS OF THE PLOT

Set in a post-apocalyptic Wales, this quiet, eerie story is told through a little blue diary shared by twelve year old Dylan and his Mum as they survive day to day in the deserted town

Entries judged by author and illustrator Steve Antony

All winning entries will be exhibited in the Swindon Central Library



"Such a great opportunity for students to meet and work with writers, poets and artists. Every town should have one!" Dave Cousins 2016

Thursday 9th November 2023

Kita Mitchell

Students from Year 5 & 6 and working with Kita Mitchell



Buy Kita's books and get them signed!



Celebrating 16 Years

Get your BOOKS Signed.....

Check out her website : <https://www.kitamitchell.com>

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Chaplaincy update by Rev Owen Green

Deanery School Prayer Space:

Some of our students have had the opportunity to engage in a 'Prayer Space' as we start the new school year. This event allows pupils to reflect on the significant transition a change of year brings, and if they wish to turn those reflections into prayers. We encouraged students to name their big dreams and to name what they enjoyed last year and are looking forward to this year. 'Under my Umbrella' provoked some deep responses as students were asked to reflect on who had protected them, like an umbrella does from the rain, and to write a simple note thanking that person and attaching it to the umbrella.

The prayer space will stay in space for October and it is hoped that many more students will get the opportunity to engage with the activities.



Uganda PenPals:

An incredible 85 students from our Uganda link Schools have written to us here at The Deanery, telling us about themselves and their life in Mbale, Uganda. We'd love to find students to become PenPals with them, if your child would like to do this, please send me an email [owen.green@dbat.org.uk], or ask them to pop and see me on a Tuesday or Wednesday in my office. We'd love to get students connected soon!

Chaplaincy reflection on Hope:

This term we focus on Hope at The Deanery, and my prayer for our community comes from the bible; *'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'* I pray for all of our community that we might have hope, and if you would like to explore how to live hopefully despite our circumstances feel free to get in touch.

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Academy notices

PE Notices

Please ensure that your son/daughter has all the necessary required kit for their PE lessons. A gumshield and shin pads are required in addition to Deanery PE kit for lessons whereby this safety precaution is compulsory (hockey, rugby and football lessons in particular).

If there are any issues regarding this, please contact david.harmer@dcea.org.uk to discuss or directly with your son/daughter's PE teacher. We will shortly have a stock of gumshields that can be purchased directly from the PE office.

Uniform

We are continuing to monitor student uniform and would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the uniform policy which can be found on the school website https://www.dcea.org.uk/site-deanery/assets/files/1593/the_deanery_uniform_policy_final.pdf

Please can we ask that all uniform is named so we can ensure lost property can be returned to the right person.

ClassCharts



You will be aware we have moved to use ClassCharts to monitor student behaviour and set homework. Students have all been given a log in for their account and for parent accounts. Please can we ask all parents to ensure they are logged in. Tutors will be able to provide log in details if students or parents need them.

Parent log in guide:

LOG IN GUIDE

1. Open www.classcharts.com/parent/login
2. Enter your email address
3. Choose 'I don't have an account yet'
4. Enter your parent access code and name
5. Choose a password
6. Click Log-in!

Welcome to The Deanery CE Academy Careers section

Before the end of the Autumn Term, there are two important career events taking place during the school day for our Year 10 &/or11 students.

Friday 3rd November will see a variety of workshops run by local employers as part of our **Education Business Partnership** link. The focus of the day is to give our Year 11 students a valuable insight into the working world, preparing them for their next steps, whilst helping to broaden their horizons and raise aspirations.



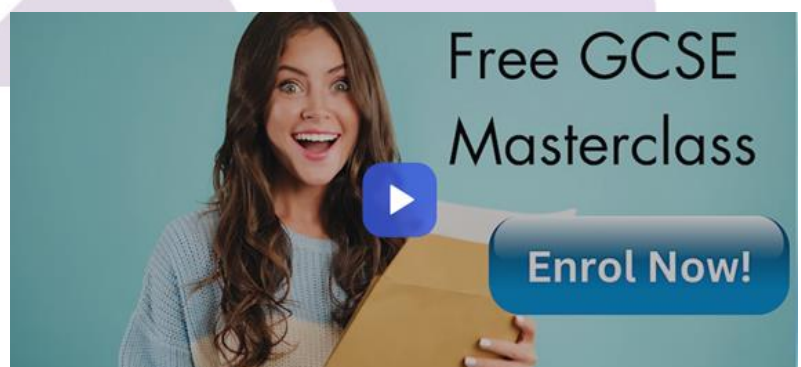
On **Monday 11th December**, The Swindon Apprenticeship Team will be with us to run their Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge Day. This excellent event will be vital to our students as the activities are designed to raise awareness of local apprenticeships and T Levels, which for many of our students is an important Post-16 pathway.

Opportunities outside of school hours for our Key Stage 4 students!

The NHS and i-medics have teamed up to offer FREE GCSE revision masterclasses for Y10 & 11 students. The free GCSE online revision classes will be for biology, chemistry, maths and physics.

This is an excellent opportunity for our students to improve their grades for GCSEs, especially those applying for medicine.

These are the 2 links, one is an Eventbrite page link and the other is a Link Tree, either can be used to enrol for free.



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To enrol for a free GCSE Masterclass, click on either of the links below:

[Eventbrite Free GCSE Masterclasses](#)

[I-Medic Free GCSE Masterclasses](#)

Local further education college Open Days

New College Swindon have an Open Day on the **Saturday 7th October 2023** between 10am-3.pm.

This is their biggest event of the year - allowing you the opportunity to visit both campuses in one session, take a tour of classrooms and facilities, speak to college lecturers and ask any questions you may have.

Activities will be going on throughout the day so you can get a feel for college life.

Our Deanery students will need to **book** your place at either one, or both, of their campuses **by clicking the links** below.

[North Star Campus Open Day](#)

[Queens Drive Campus Open Day](#)

Bookings are now open for **Cirencester College's** next open day, which is taking place on **Saturday 14th October** between 10.00am-3.30pm.

Can I encourage all Key stage 4 students and parents to book sessions as soon as possible, if Cirencester is a potential option for Further Education from September 2024 or 2025?

To **register and book**, click [here](#)



Careers Day Live: Your Choices!

Finally, for all our young learners, parents, carers and teachers, **Thursday 12th October** is Swindon's **Careers Live Day!**

So please Save this Date! All pupils, teachers, parents and carers can join the Careers event for a live, interactive broadcast on post-16 (and post-18 options).

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Local education colleges, universities, training providers and employers will be online to share their opportunities and answer any questions during the day. Some classes are even planning to find a slot to be able to watch at some point during the day. However, as parents, carers and students, you are also able to join the live event and chat after school hours as the event will remain open until the evening....and then 'on demand'.

REGISTER for the Careers Live broadcast: Your Choices here:

<https://careersliveuk.com/partner/swindon-and-wiltshire-lep/>

OR via the QR code (on the 'Your Choices' image).



Your Choices

Thursday 12th October 2023
9am and On Demand Thereafter

Free Virtual Event
for young people and
parents in Swindon
and Wiltshire about
post-16 and post-18
education and
training
opportunities

Register  <https://jobsliveuk.com/partner/swindon-and-wiltshire-lep/>

Swindon & Wiltshire CAREERS HUB | CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY
Swindon WILTSHIRE COLLEGE | Wiltshire Council
Swindon & Wiltshire LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP



For all our students, parents & carers interested in Careers, please feel free to access the following September resource:

[The Aspire Guide.pdf](#) - An essential guide to further education, university and careers

Finally, watch this space to learn more about the new digital careers platform that will be available to all our students and staff, during and outside school hours, from Term 2 onwards!

I actively encourage any student, parent or carer to contact me via my email address, if they have any career or vocational-based questions. My email address is neil.ouldridge@dcea.org.uk.

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From the English department...

How to Revise / Key Information for Year 11

Your exam board for both your English Literature and English Language exams is AQA.

You will sit four exams in total:

English Language

Paper 1 — Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing. (1 hour 45 mins / worth 50%)

Paper 2 — Writer's viewpoints and perspectives. (1 hour 45 mins / worth 50%)

English Literature

Paper 1 — Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (1 hour 45 mins / worth 40%)

Paper 2 — Modern Texts and Poetry (2 hours 15 mins / worth 60%)

How can you revise English Literature?

- 1) Read and re-read the texts you have been set.
- 2) Create a 'quizlet' of key quotations for each text and regularly test yourself.
- 3) Put the most effort you can into our weekly testing essays — ensuring you include writer's methods, audience/reader response and historical context.
- 4) Create posters which outline specific key themes and ideas from the texts including key quotations, writer's methods, reader response and historical context.
- 5) Ask your teacher for practice questions to complete at home.
- 6) Use google to find quizzes that are available to test your knowledge of each text.
- 7) Bring up a blank copy of a scene from a text or a poem on the internet. Then, from memory, write down everything you can relating to this particular extract / poem. Then, compare your notes to the ones you have made previously.
- 8) Test a friend on their knowledge of a poem / extract or text.
- 9) Watch Mr Bruff or other, similar, people on YouTube talk you through key questions and exam methods.

How can you revise English Language?

- 1) Begin and maintain a regular reading habit of fiction texts — this will develop your exposure to language and you will learn and understand a wider range of vocabulary.
- 2) Begin reading the news (BBC / Guardian) apps on your phone to expose yourself to non-fiction writing. Including longer, more detailed news feature articles.
- 3) Practice your creative writing more regularly, looking at how to develop your detail in descriptions and focusing on how to keep your ideas straightforward yet effective.
- 4) Visit BBC Bitesize and make notes on how to approach the different questions in an exam paper.
- 5) Watch Mr Bruff videos on YouTube which talk through the different questions and make notes on how to approach them.
- 6) Ask your teacher for practice questions / tasks which you can complete at home.
- 7) Google non-fiction writing questions and practice your ability to write to argue/advise/persuade.
- 8) Complete online quizzes on correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- 9) Revise different language devices and how they are used in both fiction and non-fiction writing. Focus on what they are and how you can then apply them to your own writing.

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@dcea.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/>

Thursday 12th October = Year 11 information evening

22nd November = Tutor evening (*more information to follow*)

18th October = End of term 1

30th October = INSET day

31st October = Term 2 begins

A reminder: For queries, please use the main Academy email address: admin@dcea.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/>

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