"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 5

17th November 2023

The Deanery Way

I am pleased to introduce our third newsletter of this academic year. The first few weeks of this term have been bustling with activity. In English, our pupils enjoyed participating in the Swindon Literature Festival, and Year 11s had a very successful careers day. The performing arts faculty have been busy organising auditions for this year's performance, 'High School Musical,' and visiting Bath Theatre Royal to watch 'Peter Pan Goes Wrong.'

As some of you know, I lead the pastoral team, which works tirelessly to support your children. The pastoral team comprises of Safeguarding, Behaviour, Attendance, Special Educational Needs, and Disabilities (SEND)

This term, Mr Dann and his SEND team are launching a SEND attachment to Classcharts, which means that parents, children, and teachers can access and interact with SEND information at the click of a button. We have appointed more SEND staff; each staff member now has additional responsibility for a particular area of SEND. We have also introduced a new English as an Additional Language Program.

To cope with the demands of an entire secondary school, we created an attendance team in September, which comprises Mrs Woodfield and Ms Easter. Mrs Woodfield has experience working in TAMHS, and Ms Easter has lots of school experience. They are here to help support you and your children to improve attendance. Attendance will also be linked to Class Charts, meaning you can access behaviour, SEND, and Attendance from your phone.

Regarding behaviour, Mrs. Parry and her team have been working with the Restorative Justice Council and Trauma Informed Schools UK to support our more vulnerable children.

This term's focus is consistency; we would appreciate your help and support in ensuring your children are in the appropriate uniform and follow our behaviour policy.

Ms Luckman and her team are still here to support; in the coming weeks, Ms Lappin will host parent coffee mornings to provide information and support to parents.

On behalf of the pastoral team, we thank you for your ongoing support, and I hope you enjoy reading the following newsletter.

Kind Regards,

The Deanery

CE ACADEMY

Laura Connors

Deputy Head teacher (Pastoral)

Follow us on X!

Art department: @Art_deanery

DCEA: @deaneryacademy

English department: @Englishdeanery

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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.

This term's school value: HOPE



This term many of our students and families celebrated Diwali – a Hindu and Sikh festival which celebrates the conquering of light over darkness. Throughout the world lamps were lit outside houses to light the way back to safety and symbolize bringing light into the darkest of times. It also coincided with Remembrance Sunday. When we think about hope, I imagine what must have been going through the minds of all those who have fought for our liberty before us. They must have had that ability to see beyond their own actions, and look at the bigger goal. Something that can be very difficult to do. How often did they look for light in the darkest of times and it didn't come?

Light is a theme in many religions and worldviews, and in Christianity Jesus is described as "the light of the world".

As the days get shorter and we spend more time in the physical darkness, how can we ensure we are being the vessel through which we can bring God's light into the darkness? During his sermon on the mount, Jesus says: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven". Notice that Jesus says "you" are the light of the world.

Think of a moment lately that really made you smile. Remember those moments. It's natural that sometimes the negatives can overshadow the positives. If we went to a restaurant and had a terrible service, we would be more likely to submit a complaint than we would be to send in a compliment if we'd had a great service. It's easy to get bogged down in the negatives.

Capture those positive moments and hold onto them. There are more of them than you think – you just need to look for them.

I also want to take this moment to pray for peace in our world. Yet again we see atrocities being committed and ordinary people waking up in warzones. Regardless of the politics behind the war now taking hold of Israel and Palestine, there is a very real cost to humanity. Men, women and children are dying and experiencing things we cannot even begin to comprehend. We stand for peace and pray that a resolution can be found without the need for more bloodshed. Paul in his letter to the Galatians said "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ".

Mrs. Gallagher

<u>Service</u>

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



Christmas Performance of Readings and Carols.

You are invited to join us on the 5th of December at 6pm in the Deanery Theatre as we share some music and readings to welcome in the Christmas Season. Year 7's are being prepared to lead the singing – please keep a look out for a permissions letter (for Year 7's and all students involved) and make sure your child has returned to their music teacher. Tickets will be available on ParentPay from the 20th November.

On Friday 4th November, the Friends of Wichelstowe planned and executed a brilliant firework display and were accompanied by 16 volunteers from year 10 and 11. They helped check tickets, sell glow sticks, create glitter face art, helped with sparklers and sold some delicious smores! They made the school proud and had a fantastic time raising money! A real show of service to our community! Thank you everyone who made this event amazing and to everyone who attended!



PE Team of the Term

Well done to all 12 students who have shown exceptional engagement, attitude and commitment to PE and extra-curricular sport across the first term of the school year. A hugely positive start to the year from everyone involved in PE at The Deanery. The 'Gaffer' was awarded to Harry for his contribution as a leader on the open evening. To find out more throughout each term, please follow our Twitter (X) page - @PE Deanery





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

GCSE Drama Theatre Trip

On the 8th of November 45 GCSE Drama students visited the Theatre Royal in Bath to watch the production of Peter Pan Goes Wrong by Mischief Theatre. The students loved their time at the theatre and their behaviour was impeccable during the entire trip making them a credit to the school. Some of the students had never been to a theatre before so it was a new experience to them; the feedback from students was amazing with one saying it was the funniest thing they have seen and another who wouldn't stop saying thank you for taking them!

The trip was the first of many for the GCSE students with the next being a trip to Oxford to watch Shrek the Musical in March. These trips are designed to aid the students in their development ready for their exams in Year 11.



New Y7 Multi-Sport block of work

The first term of the school year has seen the year 7s experience the new 'Multi-sport' block of work. This has given students an opportunity to try out 6 new sports, which are not part of curriculum time in year 7, but will give the students a chance to try out something new and potentially join an enrichment option or even a club outside of school. The fencing option proved to be a popular hit, with Swindon Fencing Club coming in to deliver a oneoff session. This has already seen a number join the club after school hours which is exactly what the aim was to achieve.



Information for Performing Arts Homework

KS3 Performing Arts quizzes on Teaching Gadget begin this term. All students in KS3 will be set games for 20 minutes to help support their knowledge of musical signs, terms and concepts. Please encourage your child to log on regularly – the programme is easily accessible from a phone, tablet or computer and is accessible once you login in with a username and password, which is the same for all students (NB. capitals and spacings affect these details).

Username: The Deanery **Password:** music 123

Homework is set on a Monday to be completed by the following Sunday. Any problems or questions please contact us — we're always happy to support your child doing homework in school if this is more suitable.

For your information - this video at this link gives a little rundown of the programme for students. https://youtu.be/QrlmyCDT1h4



Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

Resilience

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

As part of Drama in Year 7 they have been studying the play 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty' the main theme of this play is bullying and specifically Anti Bullying. It shows the effects and consequences of Bullying within a school and children of a young age. To coincide with Anti Bullying week all Year 7 students have made a poster that has been proudly displayed within the school for all students to see and to raise awareness of Bullying.

Dan Halpin



Y9 Rugby

The year 9 rugby team have played a couple of matches since the beginning of term and are really starting to get to grips with the sport and all the rules associated. With help from inspiration at the Rugby World Cup, a number of great solo tries have been scored from Jack and Cue. Player of the match in a recent game with Lawn Manor saw Luke handed the award after an unbelievable debut to the sport in his first ever game. Although we ended up losing 33-17, it was a great game of rugby played in good spirits. Preparations are now focused on the Swindon Schools Rugby Competition on the 16th November at Swindon Supermarine RFC.

Boys Basketball

The first matches of the boys basketball season have begun, with all key stage 3 age groups playing against Lydiard Park Academy in the first round of games. The Y7s first ever fixture was a close one, ending 11-8 to LPA, with standout performances from Joel and Kiefer. The Y9s were within 3 points going into the last quarter but LPA ran away with the victory, Cedric was awarded player of the match. The Y8s were the team of the week however with an excellent 24-20 win, with Harrison being awarded player of the match. The next round of games for these age groups will be against Commonweal, with the U16s beginning their games this week.

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

We are excited to share with you the positive developments in our ongoing efforts to support every student's academic journey. We are thrilled to share that we've launched targeted interventions to provide extra support for some students. Our T.As are implementing personalized strategies to address specific academic needs. Your continued support is appreciated as we work together to create a foundation for our students' success.

Kanaka Thota HLTA Inclusion Team





The Inclusion team-initiated numeracy intervention sessions last term, representing a significant advancement for students facing challenges or difficulty in keeping pace with their year's curriculum. The primary objective of these sessions is to equip our students with fundamental math skills, crucial for their academic, social, and practical endeavours.

Students have been identified through conversations with teachers and analysis of past data.

These sessions are conducted by M.Elazab, L.Hawkins, and P.Joshi

Swindon Schools Cross Country

A reminder that the Swindon Schools Cross Country, hosted at Nova Hreod Academy on Saturday 25th November, is fast approaching and reply slips need to be returned to the PE department in order to attend on the day. As we have been unable to complete our Deanery Dash due to the poor weather and field conditions, this event is open to all and anyone is welcome to attend. Please come and collect a letter from your PE teacher for more information



The u13 girls came runners up in the EFL Cup last week at Foundation Park.

The girls have just played and won the first round of the County Cup 8-1

Chaplaincy update

I wanted to use this space in the newsletter to reflect on the challenges that we have all faced around Ofsted. Each part of our campus family will feel those challenges in different ways, but few of us, whether parent, child, staff member, volunteer or part of the local wider community will have been left unaffected by the recent Ofsted inspection. This is not the space for me to apportion blame in any particular place, but in sorrow to recognise things have not been for many of us what we had hoped they would be.

When I spoke with staff recently, we reflected together on our campus values, hope, wisdom, service and resilience, and it strikes me that it is in times of crisis that we lean into what is at the core of our lives, and of our four values Hope is paramount right now. The hope of transformation, the hope of better things to come. Without hope, wisdom seems pointless, service lacks value and our resilience drains into the soil around us.

So how do any of us respond when life throws us a curveball, when not only does it take a turn for the worst, but then another and another until we feel lost?

On the walls of The Deanery lies part of the response that those who follow Jesus have taken over thousands of years. 'Life in all its fullness' is a beautiful dream of a future, but could it possibly be a present for any of us, even within turmoil? Well, a group of students has taken this verse and week by week pray in classrooms and corridors that we might know this life in all its fullness, leaning in as they do to the words that come before it, where Jesus says, 'I have come that you might have life in all its fullness.' And so we say, come Jesus, bring your life of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control to our school. And as we do, hope arises, and we begin to ask, how might we be those who are bringers of these beautiful 'fruits.'

May you, in whatever relationship you have with the schools, grow in hope, and abundant life.

Peace be with you.

Owen Green

Trust Chaplain

FACULTY FOCUS: HUMANITIES

Welcome to a new feature of our Academy newsletter: faculty focus. Each issue we will be introducing you to the various faculties within The Deanery CE Academy, and giving you an insight into all the wonderful and inspiring things our departments are getting up to.

Welcome to Humanities! My name is Sarah Gallagher and I am the faculty lead, as well as the associate assistant head teacher for SIAMS. I'm also a Year 11 tutor and have had the privilege of being with this group since Year 7. I have been at The Deanery CE Academy since we opened in 2019 and I'm one of a small number of original staff left. So the school and its community are extremely special to me, and I am determined to see every one of our students flourish and achieve their potential. I have been a secondary school teacher for 12 years, beginning my career at St Mary Redcliffe and Temple in Bristol.



I have taught in large secondary schools in both Gloucester and Wantage and I've have been back teaching in Swindon for the past 6 years. After leaving St Joseph's school in Swindon as a student, I completed my A-Levels at New College and went on to study Theology and Religious Studies at Cardiff University, which is where I also completed my PGCE in further education. After my training I realised that working with KS3-KS5 students is where I wanted to be, not in adult education, and I quickly found my feet in my first secondary RE teacher position at SMRT. With SMRT now being our partner school, I feel like I have done a full circle! Whilst RE is my first love, History comes in a close second and I enjoy visiting historical sites in my spare time, as well as watching horse racing and reading (mainly historical fiction).

Our Humanities faculty at The Deanery is like a family and we work hard to support each other. Having 4 subjects within the faculty also means we are the largest! Humanities includes: RE, Geography, History and ViP (PSHE). I am very fortunate to lead a team of committed and capable staff, and see daily first-hand how engaging and high-quality their lessons are. As you will see below, wonderful things are happening across the faculty, and I look forward to seeing what else we get up to as the year progresses. Our faculty motto is something we strive for every day:

Examine the past. **Explore** where we are. **Enquire** about the future. **Empower** our learners.

Mrs Sarah Gallagher

Associate assistant head teacher (Humanities and SIAMS)

Meet the team...

Miss Jessica Boulton – 2nd in Humanities

Hi! I am Miss Boulton, I have been working at the Deanery for 4 years. I teach Geography and have a year 10 tutor group.

I received my Geography degree in 2014 and my Masters degree in 2016. After this I trained to be a teacher and started working here at the Deanery. In the past year I have had a little boy who is soon to turn one and we live on a farm with lots of animals including horses, donkeys, sheep and goats.

Mr Adam Hogan – *Teacher of History*

My name is Mr. Hogan and this is my second year at the Deanery. I am originally from Lancashire in the northwest of England. I mainly teach History but also occasionally Geography. I enjoy teach about the 19th century (Early modern-modern history) the most.

Miss Katie Phillips – Head of Geography

Hey! I am Miss Phillips and have been part of the HUMs faculty at the Deanery since April 2022. I teach Geography and have a wonderful year 10 tutor group. Before moving to Swindon in January 2022 I used to work and teach in a town called Gosport (between Southampton and Portsmouth) on the south Coast, after relocating there in 2017, from Wales. I went to Cardiff Uni and

studied Geology where I was lucky enough to travel the world, including spending 4 weeks on an oil rig in the North Sea! I enjoy spending time with friends, going on adventures locally and globally and, of course, Disney!



Mrs Nicky Maknun – Teacher of RE

I joined The Deanery in September after moving from the West Midlands and I am settling in amongst the serenity of the south & thanks to everyone's warm welcome here. I thoroughly enjoy teaching about different religions and worldviews, I find it really interesting! This is also one of the reasons why I love travelling, I enjoy exploring faiths and cultures around the

world as well as enjoying different cuisines. Travelling since becoming an RE teacher is a lot more stimulating, it allows thoughts, discussions and appreciations for the diversity amongst us



Mr Andrew McEachron – Teacher of ViP &

transition

My name is Andrew McEachron, and I'm thrilled to be a part of the Deanery community. This academic year marks my first here, and I couldn't be more excited. From day one, I've been



genuinely humbled by the warmth and kindness of both the staff and students. It's clear that this school is a special place, and I'm eager to contribute to its growing environment. When I'm not in the classroom, you can find me pursuing my passion for a few other things. I have a deep love for cooking, and more importantly, eating. I also enjoy staying active with sports; basketball and football top my list of favourites. Additionally, I'm an avid chess player, always up for a strategic challenge so if there is a student that doesn't mind losing too much, do find me in the English corridor!

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be a part of the Deanery family, and I can't wait to see what this year holds for all of us. Feel free to reach out

if you have any questions about some of the topics we cover in VIP or anything else that ignites your curiosity.

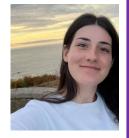
Miss Amelia Price – Teacher of History & RE

Hello! I am Miss Price, I have been working at the Deanery for three years. I teach History, RE and am a Year 9 tutor.

I received my history degree at Warwick University, during which I worked as a TA, it was then I realised my

passion for teaching and for working with young

people and have never looked back! I hope my lessons engage and enthuse your young person and help them cultivate a lifelong love of the subject.





At KS3 our students enjoy a knowledge rich and diverse RE curriculum, which explores key questions through diving into various worldviews and faiths. In line with the Church of England requirement that we study 50% Christianity, we use the enquiry questions to inspire reflective and thoughtful discussions. KS3 RE combines three academic disciplines:

Theology, Social Science and Philosophy.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 7 Foundatio ns 'Before'	The 'Big story' – Where did Christianity come from? CONTEXT/CONCEPTS Christianity	God - If God is Trinity, what does this mean for Christians? MONOTHEISM Christianity	History of Christianity – How did Christianity survive? PERSECUTION & RESILIENCE Christianity & Judaism	The life of Muhammad - Where did Islam come from? COURAGE & RESILIENCE Islam	Justice - What is so special about being a Sikh? SERVICE Sikhism	God's chosen people - What does it mean to be Jewish? IDENTITY & COVENANT Judaism
Year 8 Living 'Now'	People of God – Does the world need prophets today? COMMUNICATION Christianity	Living in 21st century Britain - What is good/challenging about being a teenage Muslim in Britain today? COMMUNITY COHESION Islam	The worldwide Church – Do all Christians believe the same thing? DIVERSITY Christianity	Creation – What lessons can we learn from Hinduism about our environment? STEWARDSHIP Hinduism	Gospel - What is so radical about Jesus? COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY Christianity	Express yourself - Religious Expression through Art and Music RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION Christianity, Islam & Judaism
Year 9 Next 'Future'	Fact or fiction - Do we need to prove God's existence? PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENTS FOR/AGAINST THE EXISTENCE OF GOD Various - Inc. Humanism & Buddhism	Morality - Does religion help people to be good? ATHEISM/ SECULARISM Humanism	Happiness - Should happiness be the <u>purpose</u> of life? HAPPINESS Buddhism	The fall – Why are people good and bad? PROBLEM OF EVIL Christianity	Afterlife - Is death the end? Does it matter? ESCHATOLOGY Humanism & Christianity	Wisdom – What do we do when life gets hard? SOURCES OF WISDOM & AUTHORITY Christianity

At KS4, all students study for a GCSE in Religious Studies.

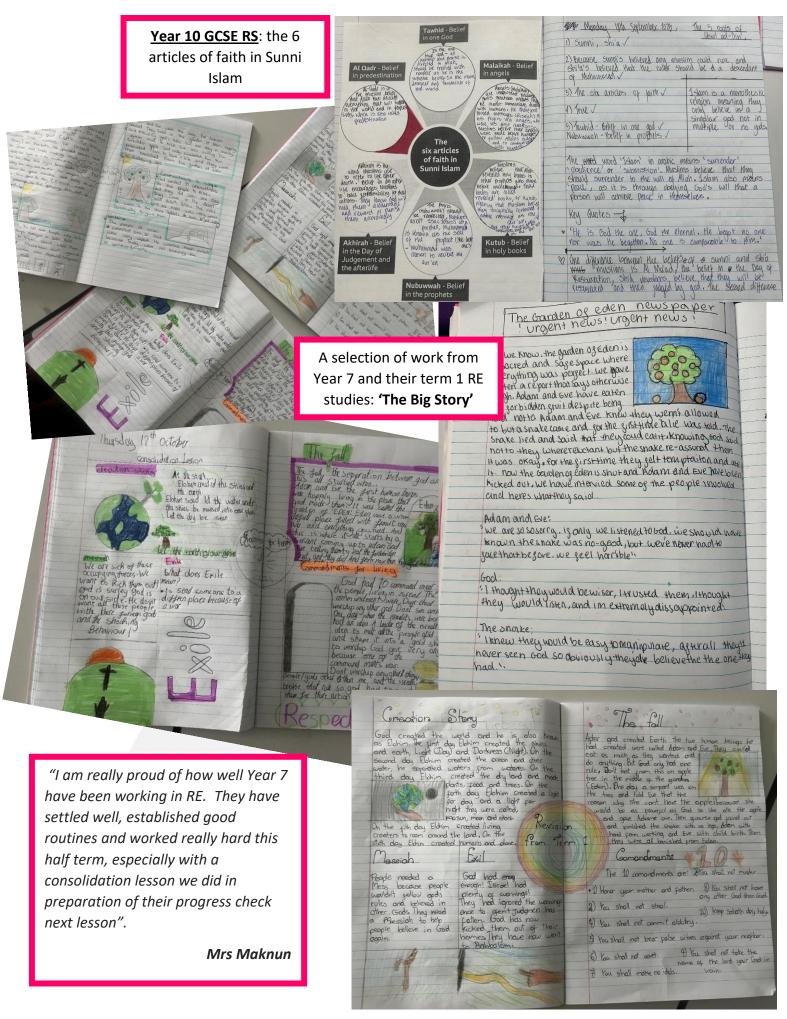
At KS3 students will have gained those skills needed to succeed at KS4, and will build upon the previous knowledge gained.

We follow the AQA GCSE RS specification, which can be found here:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects /religious-studies/gcse/religiousstudies-a-8062/specification-ata-glance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 10	Islam: Beliefs and teachings	Islam: Beliefs and teachings	<u>Islam:</u> practices	Christianity: Beliefs and teachings	Christianity: Beliefs and teachings	Christianity: Practices
	Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment	Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice	Theme B: Religion and life	Theme D: Religion peace and conflict		

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History



What have we been learning about in History?

KS3

Last term, we welcomed the new Year 7s and they learnt all about what it means to study history and be a historian. They impressed us with their investigative skills when they explored the remains of the ancient Tollund Man, as well as the grave of the Ivory Bangle Lady. After which we went on to study 'Who lived in Britain before 1066?', and the students completed an independent homework project on this question. I have included some images of the amazing work that was produced, keep it up Year 7!

Did you know England was a Republic for 11 years, that we beheaded the King, banned Christmas and hunted witches? Well the Year 8s know all about it as they have been studying the English Civil War. This topic presented us with a great opportunity to explore key British values, as people's individual liberties were undermined by the power of the monarch, the consequences of which being legal constraints placed on the power of the King, linking to the value of the Rule of Law. Our students are very excited this term to be learning about the history of Medieval Africa! We have started this topic by exploring the ancient Kingdom of Benin and the Benin Bronzes.

Year 9s have learnt about the First World War, including its causes and consequences. They have impressed us with their mature and respectful outlook on this deeply tragic yet interesting event. Students particularly enjoyed our lesson on the Christmas Truce, although they did appear confused to arrive to class in October to the sound of Silent Night. At GCSE, students study in depth the conditions in the trenches and we challenged the Year 9 students to undertake their own research, and they did not disappoint! This term we are exploring the question 'Why did the aftermath of WW1 lead to a rise in dictatorships'?

KS4

Both Year 10 and Year 11 have been studying Medicine in Britain, 1250-present day. We break up this lengthy period of time into four: Medieval, Renaissance, Industrial and Modern, and study the key ideas and theories of the time as well as major events, such as the Great Plague and the discovery of the first vaccine.

The Year 10s will be completing an assessment over the coming weeks, and the Year 11s will have their Mock Exam in late January. I have recently started to run Y11 GCSE revision sessions after school every Wednesday in preparation for this. Please encourage your child to attend, particularly if they struggle to revise at home. At the moment these sessions are only for Y11s.

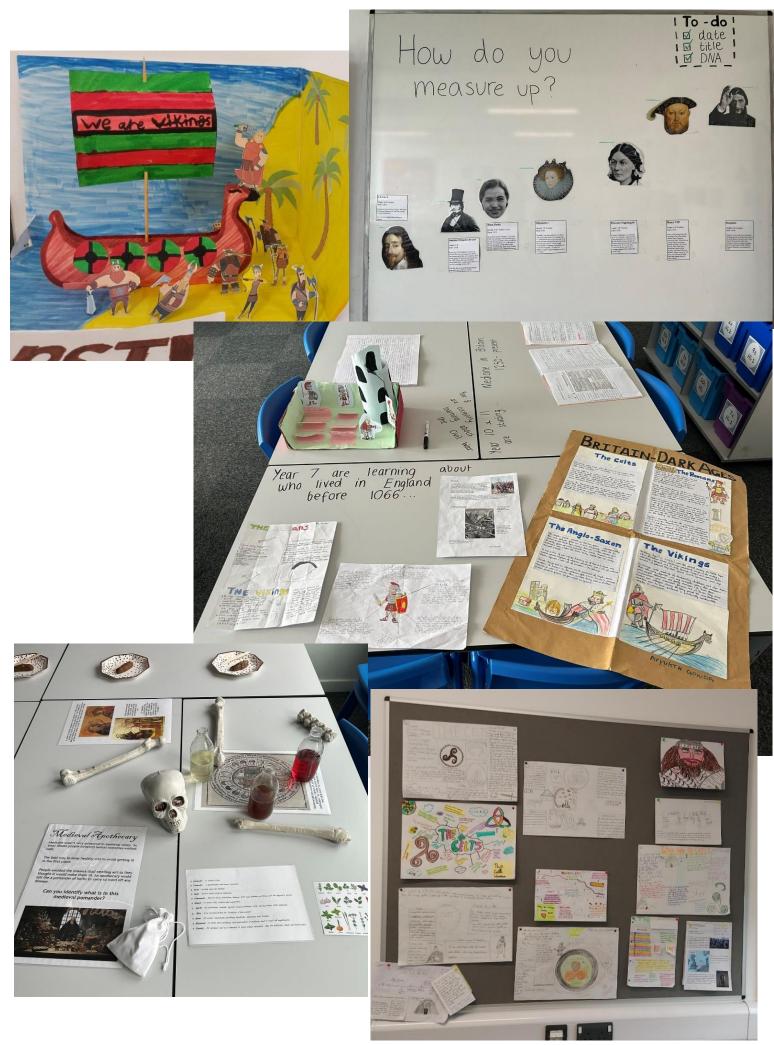
In January, while the Year 10s continue with the Medicine topic, Year 11 will move on to study the Anglo-Saxons and the Normans. After which we will be ready to focus solely on exam prep. The confirmed dates for their summer exams are as follows:

15th May 2024 – Medicine in Britain

4th June 2024 – Cold War, Anglo-Saxons and Normans

11th June – Nazi Germany

Amelia Price



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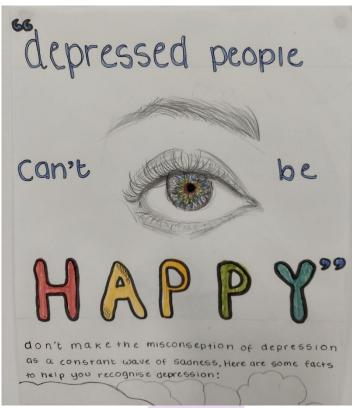
In year 10 VIP, we have been focused on well-being and self-care in term 1. Students have carefully considered various ways in which they can improve their mental and physical health. A few brave students even took part in a challenge in front of their peers, all in the spirit of promoting positive and healthy routines. Special shout out to wall sit champions: Samuel N, Prince N, Jerome M, Valfrid M, Harry D and Alexander O!

To both summarise their learning and promote awareness of the importance of well-being, year 10 have also created posters currently on display in the school.

If you would like any advice or to find out more about what we do in VIP, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Mr. Andrew McEachron andrew.mceachron@dcea.org.uk

ViP (PSHE)





Our Values in Practice (ViP) curriculum offers personal, social, health, citizenship and careers education (PSHCE). Our ViP curriculum is rooted in our Christian vision and ethos.

Part of the ViP curriculum covers relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education. This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) issued under section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

Our school's approach to Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. It is underpinned by two key Biblical passages:

"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them" (Genesis 2:7)
"I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

At The Deanery Church of England Academy, everyone will be treated with dignity as all people who are made in the image of God and are loved equally by God.

All pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a learning community where differences of lifestyle and opinion (within that which is permissible under UK law) are treated with dignity and respect; where bullying of all kinds is eliminated; and where they are free to be themselves and fulfil their potential without fear.

Our school seeks to ensure that the RSHE curriculum protects, informs and nurtures all pupils. It clearly differentiates between factual teaching (biology, medicine, the law, marriage, different types of families and the composition of society) and moral teaching about relationships and values, recognising that the distinction can be easily blurred and that there needs to be discernment about the manner in which this is taught. We teach RSHE within a moral (but not moralistic) framework.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 7	Transition and safety	Building relationships	Diversity	Health and puberty	Developing skills & aspirations (careers)	Financial decision making
Year 8	Drugs and alcohol	Emotional wellbeing	Discrimination	Community and careers	Identity and relationships	Digital literacy
Year 9	Peer influence, substance abuse and gangs	Respectful relationships	Setting Goals (Careers)	Healthy lifestyle	Intimate relationships	Employability skills
Year 10	Mental health	Financial decision making	Healthy relationships	Exploring influence	Addressing extremism and radicalisation	Careers & Work experience
Year 11	Building for the future	Next steps (Careers)	Next steps (Careers)	Communication in relationships	Families	Revision

A recent letter was communicated to all parents regarding the RSE delivery at The Deanery CE Academy. Please see the letter here for further information about our RSE curriculum and planning: https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/our-curriculum/values-in-practice/

Geography





Year 7 began their secondary Geography journey by creating posters about what geography meant to them. Throughout the course of year 7 and KS3 we will explore many of the pictures featured. Term 2 starts with Weather and Climate!

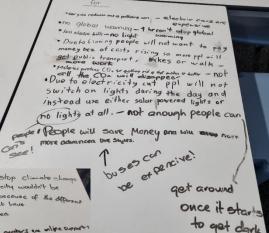
In term 1, Year 8 used their knowledge about weather and climate (learnt in year 7) and linked it to how humans have changed climate. They also explored whether humans are solely to blame for climate change or are their natural factors at play? Term 2 starts with Rainforests.

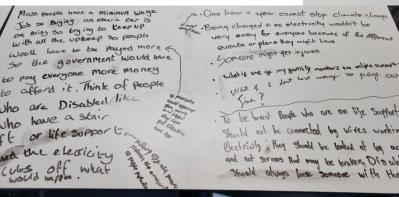
Year 9 learnt about hot Deserts, their creative piece was to use their knowledge of plant and animal adaptations to the desert and create their own plant or animal that could survive the harsh desert environment. Term 2 starts with Managing resources.

Pupils in year 8 were asked to write arguments about ways to reduce the effects of Climate change.











To mark Remembrance Day, our students have been decorating their tutor room doors with poppies. There have also been year group assemblies focused on Remembrance Day led by Miss Price. Through this reflection on such an important day, the students have been showing the school values of hope; hope for a peaceful future. Remembrance Day also allows students to consider how modern Britain was created and the shared heritage of service and sacrifice across the diverse UK communities.



Two of our wonderful students, Billy (Y11) and Jess (Y9), represented our school at the Wroughton Remembrance ceremony by laying a wreath on behalf of us all. A big thank you and well done to them both!





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This term our students received assemblies about Diwali – the festival of light. This year Diwali fell on Sunday I2th November, which coincided with remembrance Sunday. Mrs Gallagher delivered assemblies based on the theme of bringing light into the darkness, and not hiding your light from others. Mrs Maknun's tutor group also delivered an assembly to the Year IOs on Diwali.

You can find out more about this special festival here: https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/pages/article/diwali

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.

After reviewing the school day, it has been decided that we will only do roll in call in the morning.

This means that afternoon lessons have been lengthened to 1hr5mins.

There is much evidence to support the lining up of students at the start of the day, to allow them to go to lessons in a calm and purposeful way.

The gates to the AWP will open at 8.40am, for students to be lined up ready for their tutors to register them and check uniform by 8.45am. All students are expected to attend roll call.

Unless there is considerably bad weather, the school building will not be open to students until after roll call. If they need to use the toilet or put instruments or art folders inside, they will need to go via reception.

We appreciate that the weather is getting colder and encourage students to wear coats. Coats should be worn over the blazers. Hoodies are not part of the school uniform and should not be in used in place of a waterproof coat.

Please also note that **nose piercings are not allowed in school**. If a student has a nose piercing, they are expected to have a clear stud/retainer or a plaster over the piercing. Students will be challenged if they come into school with nose studs or rings.

Sarah Parry

Assistant head teacher (Pastoral)



Young Carers

The Deanery CE Academy continues to strive to support all of our young people and as part of this we wish to promote our awareness of those amongst us who may be young carers. We are aware that our young people may have additional responsibilities to help care for and support parents, siblings or other family members. We would like to help as much as we can by signposting these young people to appropriate agencies.

If you or your child feels you would benefit from this support then please do make contact with the school or email the young carers lead Kelly Matthews on kelly.matthews@dcea.org.uk

Please also feel free to look at these websites who are able to offer a wide variety of support to both adult and child carers.

Young Carers - Swindon carers centre -www.swindoncarers.org.uk

Tel (01793) 531133

Carers Trust - www.carers.org

Carers UK - www.carersuk.org

These organisations provide a huge range of advice and support for all aspects of carers from finance to mental health. Referrals can also be made to Swindon young carers which would also provide additional support and fully funded days out.





Are you aged between 5-17
years old and help to look
after a family member because
they have an illness or
disability? Swindon Young
Carers are here to help.

Welcome to The Deanery CE Academy Careers section

Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme



Help your child to explore their future.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our commitment to prepare our students for a rapidly changing world, we are delighted to announce that we have signed up to **Start** – an innovative digital careers platform.

Start will help your child to explore and prepare for their future career as well as develop their personal profile that will support their transition through education and in to employment.

How should my child use Start?

Over the course of this academic year, we will issue students with their login details and let them know how to create their own account.

Start will help your child to:

- Understand how their skills, interests and subject preferences link to jobs and industries
- Make more informed decisions at key moments of choice
- Undertake and record experiences that will enhance their future employability
- Create a profile to evidence their employability, build a CV and prepare for interviews

We encourage you to use **Start** with your child at home. Parents and carers can access the platform without the need to login but you can also create yourself an account for free.

To get started, please visit careers.startprofile.com/page/parents.

For more information on **Start** or the support available for your child, please contact neil.ouldridge@dcea.org.uk

The Year 11s are currently accessing **START** as part of the dedicated Careers Module within their ViP lessons.

The Careers Programme will focus on 7 main themes: Career Basics, Self-awareness, moments of choice, work experience, skills, exploring the labour market, applying for jobs. Through exploring these themes and timetabling other school activities, we, as a school, will strive to achieve the eight Gatsby Benchmarks, which are a strong indicator of Good Career Guidance.

Although numerous Careers activities and events will take place throughout the year, a specific term has been allocated for each year group to receive Careers Education sessions.

This will be as follows:

Year 7: Term 5

Year 8: Term 4

Year 9: Term 3

Year 10: Term 5 & 6

Year 11: Term 2 & 3

A more in-depth view of our Careers Education programme and other activities and resources, will soon be available to view on the new Careers section of our school website

Careers Day Live: Your Choices!



It was great to see many of our students involved in Swindon's **Careers Live** Day, on 12th October!

For any pupil, teacher, parent or carer missed out on this event, you are still able to see a short 'on demand version of this Careers event via the link or 'Your Choices' image

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



Education Business Partnership Day

On **Friday 3rd November** our Year 11s were invited to attend a very informative day where numerous employees from a variety of businesses, ran workshops

for our students on 'preparing them for work'. The workshops included 'All about me', 'Financial Awareness', Interview preparation' & 'Guess My Job'. I would like to thank our local **Education Business Partnership** team for a very successful day and for giving our Year 11 students a valuable insight into the



Inspiring our future workforce



working world, preparing them for their next steps, whilst helping to broaden their horizons and raise aspirations.









Our next whole year event takes place on **Monday 11**th **December**, when the Swindon Apprenticeship Team will be with us to run their Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge Day for our Year 11s, plus an extended assembly for Year 10 students.

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.

Links with our local Post-16 providers.

Cirencester College: Thank you to Cirencester College, who visited our Year 11 students on Monday 6th November to talk about the courses, facilities and support they can offer.

Cirencester College will be in to talk to our: Year 9 students on Wednesday 13th March & Year 10 students on Tuesday 7th May.



New College Swindon: Plans have been made for New College Swindon to speak to our students this academic year about Post-16 options they can offer our students as a future pathway in the years ahead. Dates for the New College Swindon visits are:

Monday 20th November 2023: Year 11 Tuesday 9th January 2024: Year 10 Wednesday 17th January 2024: Year 9 New College swindon

The Commonweal C6: As I write, plans are being finalised for our Year 11 students who wish to sample life as a Sixth Former. This 'Taster Day' experience will take place on Wednesday 6th December at The Commonweal C6 Centre, where our students can engage in A Level or other Level 3 lessons, along with discovering the exclusive facilities available as a Sixth Form student.



Local further education college Open Days

All our local FE Colleges have Open Days or evenings over the coming months.

These days allow students the opportunity to visit campuses, take a tour of classrooms and facilities, speak to college lecturers and ask any questions you may have. If any of our Deanery students are interested in attending, you will most likely need to **book** a place in advance to visit a campus.

For further information or to book a place at an event, please click on the relevant images below





All Day North Star Campus Apprenticeships Fair





5pm - 7pm North Star Campus Open Evening – North Star Campus



31 JAN

5pm - 7pm Queens Drive Campus Open Evening – Queens Drive Campus













Local & National Businesses: can you support our careers guidance?

We are looking to increase the number of guest speakers who are willing to talk to our students in assemblies or in small, bespoke groups, regarding any careers-related topic. If you feel you could contribute to supporting the school and the careers education of our students, please do not hesitate to contact Neil Ouldridge via email!

Similarly, if you work for a business that has a recruitment team or department that offers workshops or guidance to young students, we would love to hear from you! So please do not be shy!



Meet... your Heads of year!



Year 7Miss Showler



I am delighted to be the Head of Year 7 for the pastoral team here at The Deanery CE Academy. My role is to ensure that the behaviour, attendance and progress of year 7 students is held to a high standard. A key part of my role is to oversee the smooth transition of year 6 to year 7, in order to give students the best possible start to their school journey here at The Deanery.

I have been teaching for 5 years, specialising in PE. My teaching journey has taken me to various areas of education including; boarding school where I was also a boarding supervisor, SEMH school I had the role of Specialist Support Assistant and even International where I lived in Prague for 3 years and led on KS4 & KS5 accredited PE. I am passionate about ensuring students achieve their very best whilst in my care and I will always be their champion.

Year 8 *Mr Halpin*



I am very pleased to be able to continue to continue my role as Head of Year 8 after working with the same group of students in Year 7. Within my role I am focused on raising the standard of behaviour within the Year group and ensuring that all students feel safe within school and enjoy their time here at The Deanery.

I am now in my 8th Year in teaching with a specialism in Drama and Performance, and each Year in school I am one of the lead teachers in the school musical theatre production. I am currently undertaking an NPQ qualification in Leading Behaviour and Culture to find new ways to instil excellent behaviour for all. Outside of school I am a keen rugby player and play for Cirencester RFC

Year 9Miss Esposito



I am excited to be the Head of Year 9 at The Deanery CE academy, as I want to create a safe learning environment in which all students can flourish and achieve. In my role, I am responsible for the pastoral care of all students and strive to maintain high standards within the year group. I also teach Modern Foreign languages, which is my true passion as I feel that language learning opens students up to the wider world.

I have recently completed my degree in Spanish and Italian where I lived in both countries to refine my language skills. This has helped me to develop a wide range of teaching strategies, which enable students to experience the language through their own learning styles. I truly believe that their success begins with creating a safe learning environment and I am there to help develop their interests and guide their learning of languages.

In my spare time I like to keep active I love sport, specifically kickboxing. I also enjoy going on trips away to learn about new cultures and practice my language skills

Year 10Mr Bramley



Mr Luke Bramley, our new Head of Year 10, comes to us fresh from the south coast, where he was Head of Sixth Form in an international school. Mr Bramley has been teaching for nearly twenty-five years and has held several academic and pastoral roles. He is excited to be a part of The Deanery CE Academy, not least because he believes his year 10 pupils to be some of the best and brightest he's ever had the honour of working with.

In his own words: "It is especially an honour to work with Mr Marriner, last year's assistant head of year 9, and this year's assistant head of year 10. With Mr Marriner's knowledge of the students and training in mental health and my experience working with very different and diverse groups of people, we are a veritable force to be reckoned with."

"With several weeks under our belt, Mr Marriner and I have already seen so many of the year 10s buy into our creed: which is simply to take personal responsibility. If each of our students took responsibility for their own actions, for the way they spoke and dressed, the way they studied and interacted with each other, then we would truly be the best year in the whole school. Such is our aim."

Year 11Ms PennyLarter



My name is Heather Penny-Larter. I graduated from Leicester University with a degree in Politics and a double colour for hockey and cricket. I returned a couple of years later to complete my PGCE and began teaching in Hull in 1988 so this is my 35th year in teaching.

I have been a pastoral leader and an English leader over the years. I was also a senior examiner, moderator and speaking and listening assessor for AQA for over 25 years.

In 2018, I began an adventure working as Boarding Housemistress at Harrow International School, Beijing, then at Wellington International School in Shanghai and finally NAS Ningbo.

I am a keen singer, singing with Swindon Choral Society and enjoy bread baking especially as an aficionado of sourdough.

I am keen to help guide year 11 through the trials and tribulations of an exam year and hope to establish the prom tradition at The Deanery.

British Values

At The Deanery CE Academy

Mutual respect







Democracy

Resilience

The rule of law









Hope



Individual liberty



Tolerance

Discovering and learning together, so all can flourish

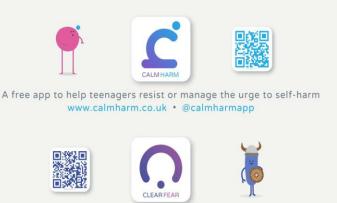
Fundamental British Values
underpin what it is to be a
citizen in a modern and diverse
Great Britain valuing our
community and celebrating
diversity of the UK

This term, in tutor groups and lessons, we are spending time discussing and exploring our fundamental British values. Whilst we already explore these in depth in lessons such as RE and ViP, we are expanding our inclusion of these into all lessons. Our British values are core values which all teachers model in every lesson. Now, teachers will be making explicit links to where their subject and lesson content fits into these core values. The British values also work in tandem with our school values of hope, wisdom, resilience and service.

Our new British values display in the Agora







A free app to help families and friends provide mental health support
www.combinedminds.co.uk • @combmindsapp
A free app to help children and young people manage the symptoms of anxiety www.clearfear.co.uk • @clearfearapp





https://beuswindon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Selfreferral-form-C-YP-final-Swindon1.pdf

https://beuswindon.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Self-referral-form-version-parent-carer-professional-final-Swindon1.pdf

https://sandbox.mindler.co.uk/beusandbox/

Where to Find Us

Office: BeU Swindon, Nexus Business Centre, 6 Darby Close, Cheney Manor, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 2PN

<u>Parking</u>: You can find parking on site or there is a nearby pay and display. <u>Accessibility</u>: Easy access for all at the main reception.

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

Attendance

Did you know ...?

90% is **not** good! Below 90% is considered persistent absence.

- 90% attendance = 4
 whole weeks of school
 missed! That's 100
 HOURS OF LEARNING
 MISSED
- Persistent absences (below 90%) will be monitored by the Attendance Team
- Parents will be contacted for persistent lateness and absences
- If attendance does not improve, the school will ask the Education Welfare Officer to become involved. This may lead to a fine or prosecution.

Punctual and regular attendance is an essential requirement for successful learning. Roll call is 8:45 to 8:55 (Gates Open at 8:15 & Close at 8.45) at 8:55 lessons begin. Sanctions will be issued for persistent lateness.

Pupils should aim to have 96% attendance or above.



- If your child is too unwell to attend school please contact the school on 01793 236611, before 08.30. It is essential that the school is notified on each day of absence with a clear reason for absence e.g. flu, sickness. Medical Evidence is required for 5 or more consecutive days absent due to illness (3 days if prior to or after a school holiday/weekend).
- All absences will be recorded as either 'authorised' or 'unauthorised'. Should an
 explanation for an absence not be received or should the explanation be deemed
 unsatisfactory then that absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.
- Absence will not be authorised for such reasons as shopping, daytrips, holidays and birthdays. However, we do need to know if your child will be absent from school. Request a 'Leave of Absence' form, which should be completed and returned to your child's Head of Year.





Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

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/

Wednesday 22nd November = Tutor evening

Tuesday 28th November = Y11 Geography fieldtrip

Thursday 7th December = Christmas jumper day

Friday 6th December = Y11 C6 taster morning

Tuesday 12th December = Y11 Maths trip to Commonweal

Friday 15th December = End of term 2

Tuesday 2nd **January** = INSET day

Wednesday 3rd January = Term 3 begins

Thursday 11th January = Options evening for Year 9 students

Monday 15th January = Year 11 mock exams begin

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