

“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 7

26th January 2024



The Deanery Way

I am pleased to introduce our seventh edition of ‘The Deanery Way’. I hope this newsletter finds you refreshed and filled with joy after a wonderful Christmas break! As we embark on a new year, we extend our warmest wishes for a fantastic start to the second half of the school year. As we return to the classrooms, we are eager to embrace the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Our dedicated teaching staff is ready to inspire, guide and support each student in their academic and personal growth.

Over the last two weeks, our Year 11 students have been completing their Mock GCSE Examinations. This is a crucial time in their academic journey, and we believe your support and encouragement plays a pivotal role in their success.

Purpose of Mock Exams

The Mock GCSE Exams serve as a valuable preparation tool for our students, allowing them to experience the format, time constraints and level of difficulty they will encounter in the actual GCSE examinations. This experience is vital for building confidence, identifying areas of improvement, and refining exam strategies.

Key Benefits

- **Self-Assessment:** Mock exams provide students with an opportunity for self-assessment. They can gauge their understanding of subjects, identify strengths, and pinpoint areas that require additional focus.
- **Time Management:** Practicing under timed conditions helps students develop effective time management skills, a critical aspect of success in any examination.
- **Reducing Exam Anxiety:** Familiarity with the examination process through mock exams can help alleviate anxiety. The more prepared and confident students feel, the better they can perform under pressure.
- **Feedback and Improvement:** Following the mock exams, students will receive constructive feedback from their teachers. This feedback will guide them in understanding their performance, and it will support with revision.

We believe that with your support and the dedication of our students, these mock exams will serve as a stepping-stone towards success in their final GCSE examinations. Thank you for your collaboration and commitment to the academic journey of our students.

As we kick off the New Year together, let us approach each day with enthusiasm, curiosity and a commitment to learning. Wishing everyone a fantastic return to school!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Freya Koza

Head of Maths & Assistant Head teacher (Teaching and Learning)

Follow us on X!

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.



This term's school value: RESILIENCE

What does it mean to be resilient? The dictionary defines it as 'the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties'. As a community, we have faced and continue to face obstacles and challenges, and our power of resilience is tested almost daily. Whether that be staff, parents and carers or students. In particular, our Year 11 students have had to be particularly resilient during the last fortnight as they had a taster of what their upcoming GCSE exams will be like, and the pressures that go along with that time in their lives.

In the Old Testament there is a story about a Queen called Esther. Esther was Jewish and brought up by her cousin Mordecai. As she grew into a woman she found favour with the king during a beauty contest and was soon chosen to become Queen. At the time, the King's highest official was a man called Haman and he had a particular hatred for the Jewish people. He devised a plan to have every Jew in the kingdom killed. When she heard of the plot, Esther urged all of the Jews to fast and pray for deliverance. Then, risking her own life, brave young Esther approached the king with a request. She invited the King and Haman to a banquet where eventually she revealed her Jewish heritage to the king, as well as Haman's diabolical plot to have her and her people killed. The King was in awe of Esther's bravery and dedication to her identity and, instead, Haman was executed.

Esther is an excellent example of resilience because she did not bow down or hide who she was to save her own skin. She used her position and her skills to honestly and openly declare who she was and showed bravery when many would have simply said what the king wanted to hear.

Many of us find things difficult in life. For some, it is simply getting out of bed in the morning. For others, they face difficulties that they could never have foreseen and are caught completely off-guard. However, it is how we respond to these situations that truly show who we are. As we approach warmer days (eventually!) and we exit the gloom of January, I hope that we all find the strength to continue to be resilient and have the courage to show others just how resilient we are.

Mrs. Gallagher

As part of our drive to raise standards and give our young people a voice about their journey at The Deanery, we would like to hear their views about our Christian Distinctiveness, Collective Worship and RE experiences. Whilst it is not compulsory, it would be great if you could encourage your young person to complete a student voice survey by using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/tQQdY81LBF>

This will remain live until the start of term 4. Thank you in advance for your support.

Service

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

Duke of Edinburgh key dates

Year 10 and 11

29th Jan - Kit evening - 5.30-7.30

*Join the team with a 20-minute talk about the upcoming dates and try on some kit from Go Outdoors and BXM, this is **not compulsory** but advisable if you need kit for the expeditions.*

2nd March - Expedition training - 9am to 4pm

*Spend the day learning the skills you need for your expedition. You will learn how to plan routes, use equipment and look at the area we will be completing our practice and full expedition. This is **compulsory** for all participants and comfy suitable clothes are suggested.*

16th and 17th March - Practice expedition in Faringdon (comp)

This is your practice expedition and is compulsory for all participants. This will involve an overnight stay in Faringdon.

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards - Desborough College



This term the Archbishops Young Leaders Award has started, and there are over 25 students participating, with more joining once the school production has finished. We have been exploring what 'leadership' means and reflecting on how we can use our skills and virtues for the benefit of others. We have a two week break due to the Year 11 mock exams, so our Young Leaders are tasked with researching the lives of some people from History who have changed the world through their actions and how they have been influenced by their faith to make a difference. I can't wait to see everyone putting their ideas into action later this year!



Hope

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

A number of students have been asking about instrumental lessons in class. If you would like your child to have instrumental music lessons, you can contact our providers - The Swindon Music Co-operative; they send in the peripatetic teachers to the Deanery. We currently have guitar, piano, singing, saxophone, flute, violin and drum lessons but please ask the Co-operative if you would like your child to have lessons on a different instrument.

You can contact them at info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk or on the website or apply directly for lesson here <https://swindonmusiccoop.co.uk/apply-for-music-lessons/>

Swindon Music Co-operative

Home About Tuition Schools Other Services Music Therapy FAQ BillPay Contact

LESSONS FOR ALL AGES
Instrumental and vocal lessons from ages 4 to 80
It's never too late to learn!

Instrumental Lessons Music Theory Curriculum Support Ensemble Direction Accompanist Services

Disneyland Paris Trip update:

With just 3 weeks until our departure to the most magical place on the Earth, I wanted to remind all parents/guardians that we have our final trip meeting on Wednesday 31st January in the theatre at 7pm. Please can I also ask that no passports are handed in before Monday 29th January (after the Y11 mock exams). You are welcome to hand in your passports at Wednesday's meeting. All passports need to be handed into either our admin team in reception or Miss Case directly.

We all look forward to seeing you there,
Miss Case and the Disney team



Swindon Borough Council has announced an event next month for people aged 14 and over with additional needs.

Called My Future, the gathering will also welcome the young people's dedicated parents and caregivers. The event is designed for young people to explore the opportunities designed to support young people in preparing them for the journey into adulthood. The event will take place on 1 February, from 10am to 4pm and will take place at New College North Star Campus. Anybody in need of additional information is invited to get in touch via myfutureevent@swindon.gov.uk or on 07989 387810.

MY Future

Thursday 1st February 2024
10am to 4pm
@ New College Swindon, North Star Campus

An event for young people aged 14 plus with additional needs, and their parent / carers.

Come along and find out what's available to help young people get ready for adult life.

"Becoming an adult can be confusing!!!"

For more information email:
myfutureevent@swindon.gov.uk
or text / call 07989 387810

SWINDON Borough Council

Business studies GCSE revision club is on
Thursdays 3:30-4pm
Mr Solomon in Room 005

Resilience

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

Thanks to all our Performing Arts staff who are making themselves busy with rehearsals; Miss Godwin, Mrs Halpin, Miss Kerlake and Miss Douglas are all beavering away! Miss Douglas has kindly set up a Deanery Performing arts Instagram page - like and share to get all the updates and insider information on how rehearsals are going.



Wiltshire Schools Cross Country Championships

A huge well done to all 5 of The Deanery students that competed at Sheldon School on Saturday 13th January in the Wiltshire round of the Schools Cross Country. In what turned out to be good conditions, all students ran well and clocked good times having already qualified from Swindon's event before Christmas. Well done to Meredith, David, Kayah and Carys who all finished in the top 30 in the County. Special mention must go to Lowri though, who finished 5th in her race and will now advance through to the South West Regional round in early February - *good luck to her!*

Wisdom

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

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

Saturday the 27th of January marks Holocaust Memorial Day, 79 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. It is important that we all take time to reflect on the horrors that the day remembers not just the period of Nazi tyranny but on other genocides that have happened since. Hate has no place, and it is all our responsibilities to stand up to people who seek to promote hate and prejudice in all its forms.

The Deanery commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day this week with thought-provoking assemblies, and in tutorial sessions. Next term, Year 9 will be studying the Holocaust in their history lessons.



STEM Enrichment

In STEM enrichment this term students are working towards their Crest Discovery award. We are working through STEM learnings *'Is there witchcraft and wizardry in the real world?'* Our first session was on potions where students made their own 'magic' water which turned bright pink with just one drop of a colourless liquid. Students enjoyed investigating different indicators and how different reactions can cause different results. Our magic water was swiftly renamed 'Barbie water' due to its colour! Last week was titled 'Care of magical creatures' where students made a snake from fire. Students explored how the incomplete combustion of glucose leads to carbon. This week we are completing 'Herbology' where students are going to perform a distillation to extract limonene from an orange. Limonene is used in lots of cleaning products, cosmetics, food flavorings and aromatherapy. The distillation technique that students will be performing can also be used by scientists and engineers at desalination plants that turn sea water into drinking water.

FACULTY FOCUS: *MATHS*

Welcome to Maths! My name is Freya Koza and I am Head of Maths, as well as the Assistant Head teacher for Teaching & Learning. I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share some insights into the vibrant and dynamic world of our Mathematics Department here at The Deanery. I went to Greendown School (now Lydiard Park Academy) and then on to New College to study A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Psychology, and French at New College. Driven by a love for mathematics, I continued my education at Cardiff University, earning a degree in Mathematics and then on to Bristol UWE to pursue my PGCE. My teaching journey officially began with training at Ridgeway School, followed by ten years at Lawn Manor Academy.

Our Mathematics Department is committed to nurturing a love for mathematics and developing strong foundational skills that extend beyond the classroom. We believe in creating an atmosphere where students not only understand the principles of mathematics but also appreciate its practical applications in everyday life. Our team of experienced and dedicated teachers brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the classroom. We are committed to providing high-quality instruction that caters to the diverse learning needs of our students.

We are excited about the opportunity to work together to create a positive and enriching learning experience for pupils. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to a successful and rewarding academic year.



Mrs Freya Koza

Head of Maths & Assistant Head teacher (Teaching and Learning)

Meet the team...

Mr David McDonald – Deputy Head teacher and Maths teacher

20 years in education, driving academic excellence and strategic development as Deputy Head at The Deanery CE Academy. Former Head of Maths with expertise in curriculum and pedagogy, transitioned to Assistant Head, honing leadership skills in operational efficiency and planning. Collaborative leader, empowering staff through data-driven initiatives tailored to individual student needs. Passionate about math education, igniting curiosity and fostering potential in young minds. Beyond The Deanery, contributing to broader education as a governor at my children's primary school. Dedicated to continuous improvement, ensuring The Deanery remains a vibrant learning hub where every student thrives.

Mrs Sarah Parry - Assistant Head teacher and Maths teacher

Alongside my role as Assistant Head teacher for Pastoral, I enjoy being part of the Maths department.

I have been teaching for over 14 years after completing my degree at the University of Kent and my PGCE at Southampton University. I was also able to complete my Master's degree at Reading University during my teaching career. I love seeing students' confidence and mathematical skills grow during lessons and along the course of their secondary education.



Mrs Vivien Fernandes – Maths teacher

Hello, I have been teaching Maths in secondary schools both internationally and in the UK for the past 18 years. This is my second year teaching at the Deanery and I see in students the passion to excel in Maths.

To me learning Mathematics is about finding that WOW moment, the moment a concept clicks, and then extending that learning to problem solve. I am enthusiastic about motivating students to realise their capabilities in Mathematics, guiding them to flourish and reach their full potential.

What I enjoy about teaching is that it gives me an opportunity to learn something new every day. This has kept my enthusiasm over the years! In my spare time I enjoy baking, cooking and I cherish every moment spent with my three children.

Mr Stephen Chen – Maths teacher

I graduated with a master's degree in maths from University of Manchester. I am passionate about maths and love problem solving. I grew up in Swindon and went to the Commonweal School. Outside of numbers, you'll catch me jogging, cheering for my football team, and enjoying quality time playing with my 2-year-old son.

Mrs. Kayleigh Godfrey – Maths teacher

I joined the deanery just after Easter last academic year when I moved back to Swindon. I originally grew up in Swindon and went to Nova Hreod Academy. I moved to Plymouth to complete my degree, which was in Primary education with a specialism in mathematics. Since then, I have worked in secondary schools teaching mathematics for KS3 and KS4. I am very passionate about mathematics as I love problem solving. My favourite subjects aside from mathematics are science, food technology, and music. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my two dogs at home or taking them for walks.

Mrs Mallika Ebenezar – Maths teacher

I have over 15 years of teaching experience, most of these in teaching A level Maths, BTEC Maths modules and GCSE Maths resits in Further Education. I am also a GCSE Maths examiner.

I started my career as a Production and Design Engineer, then returned to the college I graduated from to teach Electronics as teaching had always been my passion. After a career break due to family moves, I trained to teach Maths.

I joined The Deanery in September 2022 and am excited about the enthusiasm, potential and aspirations of the amazing young people here. I love to inspire students to seek the 'WHY' behind the method, not just settle for the 'HOW' to follow the method. My TAG line for those who say they do not like Maths is, "If you don't like Maths, then make sure you pass it, so you don't have to do it again".

In my spare time, I like to cook, read, listen to podcasts and take part in our church's activities. The Bible is one book that has influenced my life greatly and I enjoy reading it every day.



Mr Andrew McEachron – Head of Year 10 and Maths teacher

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. Being part of the Maths team has been wonderful and I have really enjoyed teaching all the challenging topics we have covered so far, in particular, our Algebra work! Please do feel free to reach out if you would like some additional challenges or would appreciate some support in a particular area.



Our mathematics curriculum encompasses the key mathematical concepts of Number, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, Proportion and Probability, with a focus on depth of understanding, reasoning and problem solving.

Maths Curriculum Vision:

- Every student believes they can be successful in their maths study
- Every student develops key problem-solving, reasoning and critical thinking skills that will serve them well in other disciplines and beyond school
- Every student develops an appreciation for the application and utility of maths to the real world as well as the creative and interconnected nature of the discipline
- Every student experiences stretch and challenge within their lessons, which fosters resilience, curiosity and a sense of achievement in every lesson
- Every student experiences high quality mathematics education, which empowers them to become confident, competent and articulate mathematicians

Maths Curriculum Intent:

- To shape students' ability to reason mathematically and appreciate the beauty and power of mathematics
- Provide students with an opportunity to develop mathematical fluency and problem solving abilities
- To ensure that all students have a solid foundation for GCSE study and beyond

Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is designed to give learners a firm basis of knowledge and confidence, providing them with a seamless transition to GCSE study. Students complete milestone tasks in the form of end of unit tests, which mirror the format, structure and wording of GCSE examinations.

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Pi 1	Pi 2	Pi 3
Unit 1 Analysing and displaying data	Unit 1 Number properties and calculations	Unit 1 Number calculations
Unit 2 Calculating	Unit 2 Shapes and measures in 3D	Unit 2 Sequences and equations
Unit 3 Expressions, functions and formulae	Unit 3 Statistics	Unit 3 Statistics
Unit 4: Graphs	Unit 4 Expressions and equations	Unit 4 Fractions, decimals and percentages
Unit 5 Factors and multiples	Unit 5 Decimals calculations	Unit 5 Geometry in 2D and 3D
Unit 6 Decimals and measures	Unit 6 Angles	Unit 6 Algebraic and real-life graphs
Unit 7 Angles and lines	Unit 7 Number properties	Unit 7 Multiplicative reasoning
Unit 8 Measuring and shapes	Unit 8 Sequences	Unit 8 Algebraic and geometric formulae
Unit 9 Fractions, decimals and percentages	Unit 9 Fractions and percentages	Unit 9 Probability
Unit 10: Transformations	Unit 10 Probability	Unit 10 Polygons and transformations

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Theta 1	Theta 2	Theta 3
Unit 1 Analysing and displaying data	Unit 1 Number	Unit 1 Indices and standard form
Unit 2 Number skills	Unit 2 Area and volume	Unit 2 Expressions and formulae
Unit 3 Expressions, functions and formulae	Unit 3 Statistics, graphs and charts	Unit 3 Dealing with data
Unit 4 Decimals and measures	Unit 4 Expressions and equations	Unit 4 Multiplicative reasoning
Unit 5 Fractions	Unit 5 Real-life graphs; Unit 9 Straight-line graphs	Unit 5 Constructions
Unit 6 Probability	Unit 6 Decimals and ratio	Unit 6 Equations, inequalities and proportionality
Unit 7 Ratio and proportion	Unit 7 Lines and angles	Unit 7 Circles, Pythagoras and prisms
Unit 8 Lines and angles	Unit 8 Calculating with fractions	Unit 8 Sequences and graphs
Unit 9 Sequences and graphs	Unit 9 Straight-line graphs	Unit 9 Probability
Unit 10 Transformations	Unit 10 Percentages, decimals and fractions	Unit 10 Comparing shapes

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Delta 1	Delta 2	Delta 3
Unit 1 Analysing and displaying data	Unit 1 Factors and powers	Unit 1 Powers and roots
Unit 2 Number skills	Unit 2 Working with powers	Unit 2 Quadratics
Unit 3 Equations, functions and formulae	Unit 3 2D shapes and 3D solids	Unit 3 Inequalities, equations and formulae
Unit 4 Fractions	Unit 4 Real-life graphs	Unit 4 Collecting and analysing data
Unit 5 Angles and shapes	Unit 5 Transformations	Unit 5 Multiplicative reasoning
Unit 6 Decimals	Unit 6 Fractions, decimals and percentages	Unit 6 Non-linear graphs
Unit 7 Equations	Unit 7 Constructions and loci	Unit 7 Accuracy and measures
Unit 8 Multiplicative reasoning	Unit 8 Probability	Unit 8 Graphical solutions
Unit 9 Perimeter, area and volume	Unit 9 Scale drawings and measurements	Unit 9 Trigonometry
Unit 10 Sequences and graphs	Unit 10 Graphs	Unit 10 Mathematical reasoning

Key Stage 4

At the end of Key Stage 3, we baseline all our pupils to ensure they are in the correct teaching group to begin their GCSE. We will be using Edexcel for GCSE Mathematics, which is split into Foundation tier and Higher tier.

FOUNDATION ROUTE

YEAR 4	YEAR 5
GCSE (9-1) Foundation	GCSE (9-1) Foundation
Book 1 Unit 1 Number	Book 2 Unit 16 Quadratic equations and graphs
Book 1 Unit 2 Algebra	Book 2 Unit 17 Perimeter, area and volume 2
Book 1 Unit 3 Graphs, tables and charts	Book 2 Mixed exercise 5
Book 1 Unit 4 Fractions and percentages	Book 2 Unit 18 Fractions, indices and standard form
Book 1 Mixed exercise 1	Book 2 Unit 19 Congruence, similarity and vectors
Book 1 Unit 5 Equations, inequalities and sequences	Book 2 Unit 20 More algebra
Book 1 Unit 6 Angles	Book 2 Mixed exercise 6
Book 1 Unit 7 Averages and range	
Book 1 Mixed exercise 2	
Book 1 Unit 8 Perimeter, area and volume 1	
Book 1 Unit 9 Graphs	
Book 1 Unit 10 Transformations	
Book 1 Mixed exercise 3	
Book 2 Unit 11 Ratio and proportion	
Book 2 Unit 12 Right-angled triangles	
Book 2 Unit 13 Probability	
Book 2 Unit 14 Multiplicative reasoning	
Book 2 Mixed exercise 4	
Book 2 Unit 15 Constructions, loci and bearings	

HIGHER ROUTE

YEAR 4	YEAR 5
GCSE (9-1) Higher	GCSE (9-1) Higher
Book 1 Unit 1 Number	Book 2 Unit 16 Circle theorems
Book 1 Unit 2 Algebra	Book 2 Mixed exercise 5
Book 1 Unit 3 Interpreting and representing data	Book 2 Unit 17 More algebra
Book 1 Unit 4 Fractions, ratio and proportion	Book 2 Unit 18 Vectors and geometric proof
Book 1 Mixed exercise 1	Book 2 Unit 19 Proportion and graphs
Book 1 Unit 5 Angles and trigonometry	Book 2 Mixed exercise 6
Book 1 Unit 6 Graphs	
Book 1 Unit 7 Area and volume	
Book 1 Mixed exercise 2	
Book 1 Unit 8 Transformations and constructions	
Book 1 Unit 9 Equations and inequalities	
Book 1 Unit 10 Probability	
Book 1 Mixed exercise 3	
Book 2 Unit 11 Multiplicative reasoning	
Book 2 Unit 12 Similarity and congruence	
Book 2 Unit 13 More trigonometry	
Book 2 Mixed exercise 4	
Book 2 Unit 14 Further statistics	
Book 2 Unit 15 Equations and graphs	

Foundation Tier

100% examination

Achievable grades: 1-5

Exams:

Paper 1 – Non-calculator, 90 minutes, 80 marks
 Paper 2 - Calculator, 90 minutes, 80 marks
 Paper 3 – Calculator, 90 minutes, 80 marks

Higher Tier

100% examination

Achievable grades : 9-4

Exams:

Paper 1 – Non-calculator, 90 minutes, 80 marks
 Paper 2 - Calculator, 90 minutes, 80 marks
 Paper 3 – Calculator, 90 minutes, 80 marks

Sparx

Sparx Maths Homework is an online platform designed to enhance students' math learning experience. It uses adaptive technology to tailor the learning experience to each student's individual needs. This ensures that the content is neither too easy nor too challenging, promoting optimal learning and engagement. The platform provides targeted practice in specific maths topics, allowing students to focus on areas where they may need additional support. This targeted approach helps reinforce understanding and build confidence in challenging concepts. Sparx offers instant feedback on students' responses, allowing them to learn from their mistakes in real-time. This promotes a proactive learning process, helping students understand and correct errors before misconceptions become ingrained. It is accessible from anywhere with an internet connection, allowing students to complete their math assignments at home or in school. This flexibility can be particularly beneficial for parents who want to support their child's learning in various environments. Sparx is aligned with the national curriculum, ensuring that students are covering the topics required for their grade level. This alignment can provide parents with confidence that their child is receiving relevant and appropriate maths content. Sparx provides teachers with valuable data and insights into student performance, enabling them to identify areas of strength and weakness. This information allows teachers to tailor their planning to meet the needs of individual students.

Students are set Maths homework on Sparx every Wednesday and we encourage students to attend Sparx homework support after school on Tuesdays, if they need any help completing their tasks.

335,175

questions answered correctly in Sparx Maths so far this year

Students in your school have completed

4,804 hours

of personalised learning on Sparx Maths this year!



178 students

have already improved at their times tables this year. Great job!

[Download the report](#)



Promoting a love of problem solving! The Junior Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter “ π ”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for maths enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi, talk to their friends about maths and eat pie. Pi has been calculated to over 50 trillion digits beyond its decimal point. As an irrational and transcendental number, it will continue infinitely without repetition or pattern. While only a handful of digits are needed for typical calculations, pi’s infinite nature makes it a fun challenge to memorise, and to computationally calculate more and more digits.



Welcome to the Careers section

Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme



Help your child to explore their future.

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.

The Year 9s & 11s are currently accessing **START** as part of the dedicated Careers Module within their ViP lessons. After February half term the Year 8 students will be issued with their login details and create their own account.

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.

Careers Education lessons have & will be taking place as follows:

Year 7: Term 5

Year 8: Term 4

Year 9: Term 3

Year 10: Term 5 & 6

Year 11: Term 2 & 3

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

Careers events

The Commonweal C6 Sixth Form Experience Day

The Commonweal C6 welcomed 40 of our Year 11 students on Wednesday 6th December. These students signed up for a Sixth Form Experience Day at Commonweal School, C6 centre. It was an opportunity for our Year 11 students to sample life as a Sixth Former, engaging in 'A' Level or other Level 3 equivalent subjects, along with discovering the excellent facilities available to Sixth Formers.



Our students had 'A' level (or 'A' level equivalent) lessons in:

Biology

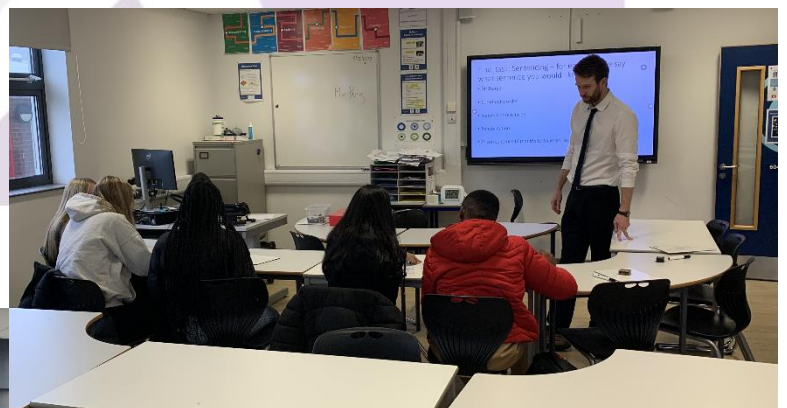
Criminology

Chemistry

Film Studies

Computer Science

Art & Design



English Lang & Literature

Law

Business / Economics

Media Studies

Maths

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

The Deanery CE Academy, Peglars Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon SN1 7DA
The Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust. Company No. 8156759



Geography
PE and CTEC PE
Psychology
Physics
Performing Arts CTEC
Sociology



Apprenticeship Awareness, Skills & Knowledge (ASK) Day

On **Monday 11th December**, the Swindon Apprenticeship ASK Coordinator, Mike Holliday and Carly Taylor, the Recruitment Coordinator for Apprenticeships at New College Swindon, ran an Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge Day for our Year 11s, along with an extended assembly for Year 10 students.

The workshops ran will be vital to our students as the activities were designed to raise awareness of local apprenticeships and T Levels, which for many of our students will no doubt be their chosen Post-16 pathway.

Wow! This ended a really busy Autumn Term for our Year 11 students, which began with the Education Business Partnership Day on 3rd November!

They have also had the opportunity to engage with assemblies, led by New College Swindon, National Health Service, Swindon & Wiltshire Apprenticeships Team & Cirencester College. Therefore, I hope all our Year 11s are now in a great position to weigh up all their Post-16 options following all the information, advice and guidance of the past five months.

I wish our students the best of luck as they continue to submit, or about to embark on the journey of submitting their applications for their preferred Post-16 choices over the coming months. My door is always open if any student needs further support and guidance, or alternatively they can email me via their school email address, to neil.ouldridge@dcea.org.uk.

Links with our local Post-16 providers.

New College Swindon: Once again, New College Swindon staff have visited The Deanery this term to speak to our students about Post-16 options they can offer our students as a future pathway in the years ahead. Dates that New College Swindon visited were:

Tuesday 9th January 2024: Year 10
Wednesday 17th January 2024: Year 9



Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

The Deanery CE Academy, Peglars Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon SN1 7DA
The Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust. Company No. 8156759

A big thank you to The National Health Service who led assemblies with our Year 10 & Year 11 students to talk about the vast amount of career opportunities and roles the NHS has to offer students at Post-16 and on a voluntary basis at the age of 14 onwards!

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



**24
JAN**

5pm - 7pm
North Star Campus

Open Evening – North Star
Campus



**31
JAN**

5pm - 7pm
Queens Drive Campus

Open Evening – Queens
Drive Campus



**06
FEB**

All Day
North Star Campus

Apprenticeships Fair



College Events

[Cirencester College Open Events](#)

Our next open day

[OPEN DAY, Saturday 16th March 2024](#)

Chippenham Open Day

Date(s)
25 January 2024

Time
17:00 - 19:00

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



ESPORTS GAMES COMPUTING MEDIA MUSIC

STUDY A CREATIVE COURSE

Access your future with 16+ creative education

Book an open day at ACC Bristol

All Saints' Street, Bristol, BS1 2LZ 0117 471 2398

Saturday 4th November 11am - 2pm
Saturday 2nd December 11am - 10pm
Tuesday 27th February 6pm - 7:30pm
Saturday 20th April 11am - 2pm
Tuesday 20th June 6pm - 7:30pm

accesscreative.co.uk

Lackham Open Day

Date(s)
3 February 2024

Time
10:00 - 12:00

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

The Deanery CE Academy, Peglars Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon SN1 7DA
The Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust. Company No. 8156759



I would like to welcome students & parents to [Speakers for Schools](#). I hope our students can make use of some of the [opportunities](#) they can offer?

Speakers for Schools are organising work experience workshops (remote and face-to-face) for students across the UK next year. As a school, we are now registered with Speaker for Schools, therefore, our students can [register](#) and also [log-in and apply](#) as work experience opportunities become available.

A flyer is displayed on the School Careers Noticeboard where our students can also use the link to take them direct to the Experience Portal to help them register.



UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS: (OUR STUDENTS need to [register](#) onto the portal to apply)

- Boots & No7 Beauty Company – [a world of beauty & healthcare at Boots](#) Wednesday, January 10th – March 13th 3.30-5pm. Beauty is being included in session 4 - 31st January.
- University of Huddersfield – 31st January 10-2.30pm Click [here](#) to find out more about the music industry
- Kainos -6-8th February 10-3pm Click [here](#) to find out more about technology and coding
- Network Rail – 6th Feb, 10-1pm Click [here](#) to find out more about Transport & logistics
- Nature Scot – 2nd February 10-11am. Click [here](#) to hear more about careers within the Nature-based sector on World Wetlands Day
- Santander – 15th February 10-1pm Click [here](#) to learn more about banking
- [Engineering and business with Bentley](#) Thursday, March 7th 9-11am

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

At The Deanery, 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 Ouldrige via email! 7 local employers made contact in December to offer their services to our students in the Spring Term, thank you so much to these fantastic organisations! We will be looking forward to welcoming them into the school to meet our wonderful students in the Summer Term!

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!

Chaplaincy update



January 2024 – going deep in our resilience.

This is El Capitan, a giant granite wall of rock in Yosemite National park. At over 900m, 3,000 feet in old money, from floor to ceiling, it is a punishing climb. Not that I have any personal experience of it, but I've read the stories and watched the movies! The first recorded ascent was as late as 1958, it was such a difficult route, and it took 47 days! That means they slept on the wall at the end of every day, constructing platforms and lashing themselves on, trusting their unconscious weight to the pins driven into the slab on a route called The Nose! I cannot imagine every day waking up and facing yet more almost impossible problems to overcome, with death the likely consequence of any even minor mistake.

For every one of those 47 days, what was in front of the climbers would have looked by and large the same. Day one, it's a rock problem, day 10, still a rock problem, day 20, still a rock problem, all the way 'till they stood on the top after 47 days, completely drained of mental and physical energy. It was only when the climber took the time to look around them, or even to look down, that they would see their progress, and see that they are not where they were. They were higher up the face, they were closer to the top.

This image has been helpful for me in recent weeks, each day there are challenges to face, slight variations on the ones that came before, and it can be draining. I can feel like I'm not making progress, that things haven't changed, what is in-front of me is still driving me to my limits. It's only when I take a moment to look back, look down me, look around me that I realise that I'm not where I was, I'm climbing, I'm nearer my goal.

Maybe this resonates with you, or is a helpful image to hold onto when everything, all the time seems like such a struggle. Take a breather, look at the view, maybe you can see that you aren't where you were.

Unfortunately, sometimes things do go wrong on the wall, and that's when a climber needs their safety ropes and the support of partners. Helping them regain their footing, climbing the rope to regain any height lost and to reassure them in they are shaken. The safety ropes are put up when everything is going well incase things go wrong.

Life needs us to be resilient, to keep going. Sometimes we need to pause to enjoy the view, and we all need to put in place safety measures to help us when things go wrong, and we all need the support of others.

You might find this prayer by Rachel Barrentine helpful;

Gracious and loving God, I praise you for your strength, grit and tenacity. You never give up. You are the Life-Giving Breath in everything. In you I live, and move and have my being. You are my bounce-back power. My backbone. My bravery. Courage. Steadfastness. Purpose. Make my spirit buoyant, like a lighthouse on the water. Make my soul rebound with joy at the arrows of the enemy.

Make me lion-hearted, stubborn with fearless obedience. When I feel like breaking, be my flexibility. Bend, shape, and squeeze me into your image. Oh that I would respond to your voice in faithfulness. Oh that my eyes would be fixed on your greatness. Be my resolution. My revelation. My rejuvenation. Make me resilient. In Jesus name,

Amen.

Rev. Owen Green – Campus Chaplain

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The Deanery
CE ACADEMY
Performing Arts Department
presents
GCE Showcase
on
Tuesday 6th February 2024
5:30pm
in room M1

*Please reserve your seats
on
the Consent Form sent
home. Spaces are
limited..*



New for term 4!

Hosted by Mr. Cameron-Larelle, we are opening up a classroom for a lunchtime once a week where students can socialise with other students who are part of their community, or are allies. It gives those who are anxious, or struggling with friendship, an opportunity to meet each other in a neutral and respectful space. This is student lead and relaxed in atmosphere. Students can listen to music, eat lunch together, share hobbies and conversations without judgement.

Staff are on hand to listen to any concerns, report any safeguarding issues and offer support tailored to the needs of our students.

Due to split lunches this will be grouped by years 8 and 10 and 7,9,11 initially. Any students who would like to use this space are invited to speak to Mr. Cameron-Larelle in the Humanities corridor. More information to follow.

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.

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/>

Tuesday 6th February = GCSE Performing Arts Evening

Thursday 8th February = Year 9 options evening

Friday 9th February = End of term 3

Monday 19th February = Start of term 4

Thursday 22nd February = Year 9 Parents Evening

Thursday 29th February = Year 11 parents evening

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/>