"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 8

February 2024

The Deanery Way

I'm delighted to be writing to you as we navigate this exciting time of year for our Year 9 students. As they begin making their choices for Key Stage 4, we're here to support them every step of the way.

This month, we held a successful Year 9 Options Evening, providing students and parents with valuable information about the range of subjects available and the important factors to consider when making these crucial decisions. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home, utilising the resources provided at the event and through our school website. We have also just completed our Year 9 Parents Evening, where students have had the opportunity to talk to their subject teachers about their performance and to help inform key stage 4 options decisions. We're eagerly looking forward to the Year 11 Parents Evening to provide some final words of wisdom before they embark upon their exam series this summer.

Furthermore, we're implementing some exciting changes to enhance the learning experience for all students. From Monday, a new timetable will come into effect, featuring several key improvements: Introduction of photography in Year 9: This engaging addition complements the existing Art curriculum and offers valuable exploration for students interested in pursuing photography at Key Stage 4.

Optimised staffing arrangements: By utilising the expertise of our new appointments and subject specialists in Art, DT, Humanities, and English, we aim to provide students with dedicated and experienced teachers in these crucial areas.

We believe these changes will equip our students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in their chosen subjects and beyond.

Mr David McDonald *Deputy Head teacher*

Follow us on X!

Art department: @Art_deanery
DCEA: @deaneryacademy
DT department: @DT deanery

English department: @Englishdeanery

Lettings: @LettingsW

The Deanery

CE ACADEMY

 $\textbf{MFL department: } @ mfl_deanery$

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.

FACULTY FOCUS: CREATIVE ARTS

Welcome to Creative Arts! My name is Emma Pickles and I am the Head of Creative Arts here at The Deanery, bringing over 17 years of teaching and leadership experience to inspire and shape the artistic talents of our students. Having begun my own studies of art at The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form I then moved through to degree level and specialized in 3D Design and Furniture Design at Loughborough University. I spent a year travelling the world after obtaining my degree, seeing a wealth of art and cultures from various countries before embarking on my teaching career. A diverse background in art, photography and design technology has allowed me the privilege of being a driving force in nurturing creativity and innovation within our school community since its opening day, alongside my growing team of enthusiastic and dedicated staff.



In the Creative Arts we believe in fostering artistic excellence and cultivating a dynamic environment where imagination knows no bounds. Our subjects are extremely valuable as they help us to understand and give meaning to the world in which we live. Our aim is to provide an opportunity for all students to explore their creativity and become the best artists and designers, celebrating and sharing their work with you through various outlets.

Ms Emma Pickles Head of Creative Arts

Meet the team...

Mr Alastair Jones – Head of Design Technology

My name is Alastair Jones and I am honoured to serve as Head of Design Technology. Originally hailing from a career background in Joinery/ Carpentry where I used to design and make handcrafted wooden components such as Stairs, Doors and Kitchens. I transitioned into the world of education where I studied at The University of South Wales, from there I had the opportunity and taught in Qatar at an international school prior to joining this esteemed institution.

In my role here, I am excited to combine my practical expertise with my passion for teaching, guiding students through all avenues of Design Technology. My goal is to foster an environment where creativity flourishes and innovation knows no bounds. I look forward to collaborating with both students and parents alike, as we embark on this journey of exploration and discovery together. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, ideas or simply to say hello.

Miss Charlotte Shanahan – Art and Design teacher



Hello, I am Miss Shanahan and have had the pleasure of being at The Deanery since September 2023. I am an Art teacher to students from year 7 to year 11 as well as being a year 9 tutor. I have previously taught Art, Graphics and Photography at other Wiltshire and Berkshire secondary schools from GCSE through to A Level qualifications. I love the kind ethos at The Deanery and the creativity of the many talented students. Prior to teaching a gained a BA Honors degree in Fashion and Textiles and subsequently worked in industry for many years as a fashion buyer.

I have two children, a daughter and son who are of secondary school age. In my spare time I enjoy swimming, yoga, dancing, acting, travel and the great outdoors. I enjoy encouraging and supporting students at The Deanery in our quest to gain great GCSE Art grades that will then help them with potential exciting creative careers...

Mrs Sian Fisher – Creative Arts technician

In the past I have worked at the hospital, ran a toddler group in my local area for 5 years and have also worked as a dinner lady all prior to proudly joining The Deanery over 18 months ago.

I love working in DT supporting the teachers as I get to see the students designing and creating their masterpieces during their practical lessons in Food Technology, Woodwork and Textiles. For many, this time is a much needed break from academic subjects where students can develop their confidence and self-esteem and I feel privileged to be a part of it.

I am a mother of two and in my personal time I enjoy reading, story writing, cooking and spending time with my close friends and family.

Mrs. Afshan Ambreen – Design Technology teacher

Hi there, I am Mrs Ambreen! I'm delighted to introduce myself as a new addition to the innovative Design and Technology department within the Creative Arts Faculty here at The Deanery. With a passion for all things creative, as well as a love for travelling, exploring new cuisines, indulging in cinematic experiences, and expressing creativity through all different arts and crafts, I am eager to contribute my diverse interests and expertise to our vibrant community. Together, let's explore, innovate, and inspire through the boundless world of design and technology.



Miss Natasha Gregory – Teacher of Art & Design

My artistic journey started at Staffordshire University where I had the amazing opportunity to undertake a Fine Art Sculpture Degree then progressed to Birmingham University to pursue my passion for teaching & gain my PGCE qualification.

I had the pleasure of joining the highly dynamic Creative Arts Department at The Deanery in January this year following 26 years teaching experience, most of these as Head of Department delivering GCSE & A-Levels in Fine Art, Photography, 3D Design & Art Textiles. I am incredibly enthusiastic to pass on this experience and diversity of media to our students and open their imagination to the wealth of creative opportunities available to them.

Beyond school my artistic interests continue creating artwork for my own home and garden and undertaking commissions for others. I am also an experienced horse rider and have owned my now retired mare for over 22 years.



Mr. David Royston – Creative Arts technician



Hi, my name is David Royston. I'm new to the Deanery and am very excited to be part of the Creative Arts team here. Originally from Connecticut in the USA I moved to the UK to study Graphic Branding at the University of the Arts, London.

I have a passion for graphic design and hope to bring some of my knowledge to helping the department. In my spare time I enjoy making music, going to live gigs and eating donuts.

Miss Poppy Attwell – Teacher of Art and Design

Miss Atwell is currently on maternity leave.

Our curriculum

The curriculum we provide is rich in skills and knowledge. Through our curriculum, we aim to provide students with an experience that is exciting and to ensure that our students combine practical skills with creative thinking, developing highly valuable and transferrable skills for careers and life.

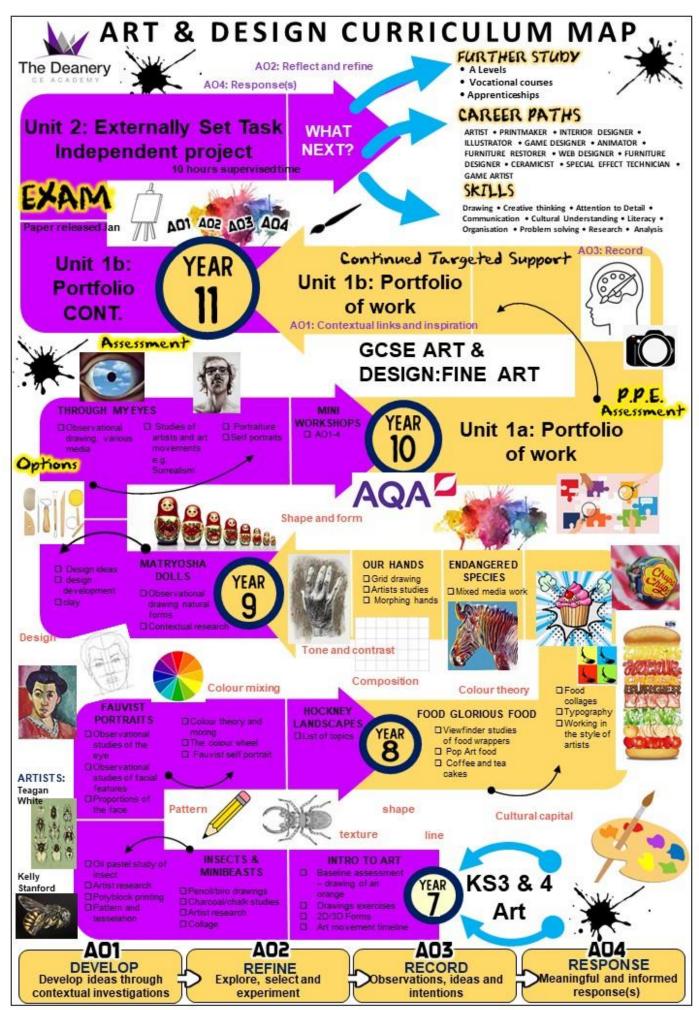
Our subjects naturally lend themselves to collaboration, the sharing of ideas and peer critiques in which students are guided to use a positive, specific and helpful framework in which to discuss their own work and that of others.

In Art and Design we implement our curriculum through teaching methods that promote an understanding of what and why we are learning and how this learning might impact and enhance the students overall learning experience. We look to provide contexts that are relevant and take into account the interests of our learners, enhancing their experience of our subjects and the ability to apply key concepts and ideas to a variety of everyday situations.

We scaffold our curriculum in a way that allows students to continually revisit skills and build upon them each year, tackling increasingly challenging concepts as they move up through key stage three, and in preparation for their elected option choices with us at key stage four. Our curriculum provides students with an enriched experience as they get to work with a broad range of materials and contexts. We aim to provide an environment in which students feel happy taking risks, reflecting upon their creative journey and responding positively to both teacher and peer feedback.

- Students enjoy the Visual Arts curriculum and feel that they are suitably challenged and supported by staff
- The impact of our curriculum can be measured through quality, wellconceived outcomes. Students are able to self-analyse and critically evaluate their own and others work.
- Our curriculum equips students to be risk takers, evaluators and reflective and engaged learners.
- Students develop transferable skills which enable them to live safer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.





In DT at key stage 3 students currently rotate around the different subject strands of **Food, Textiles and Graphics**. Each rotation is approximately two terms in length.

Students in year 7 spend one lesson a fortnight following one of the two subject strands below.

Students in year 8 and 9 spend two lessons a fortnight following one of the three subject strands.

All students are taught Food in preparation for potential further studies at key stage four.

KS3 DT Rotations Jan 2024

	Food	Textiles	Graphic
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Year 7	FOCUS: HEALTHY LIVING • Kitchen safety/knife skills • Healthy eating • The Eatwell guide	FOCUS: UGLY DOLLS • Hand stitching • The sewing machine • Pattern making	
Year 8	FOCUS: WHERE FOODS COME FROM Food provenance Food choice Introduction to nutrition	FOCUS: DAY OF THE DEAD SKULLS Hand embellishments Heat transfer process Design development	FOCUS: 3D ONOMATOPOEIA WORDS • Knife/sculpting skills • Card relief • Colour theory and contextual links
Year 9	FOCUS: NUTRITIONAL NEEDS • Nutritional needs through life stages • Dietary needs • Food poisoning	FOCUS: MIXED MEDIA PORTRAITS Hand and machine embellishments Ink transfer Exploration of materials and contextual links	 FOCUS: POP UP CARDS Ability to answer a brief Dev. of Knife skills Mechanisms Colour theory and contextual links

Key Stage 4

At KS4 we currently follow the AQA specification for Art and Design: Fine Art and WJEC specification for Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering vocational award



Celebrating successes and sharing resources on social media!

X – Follow @Art_Deanery and @DT_Deanery to receive regular updates on what's happening in class as well as celebrating individual student's successes!



Pinterest – follow 'Miss E Pickles' for a treasure trove of inspiration and ideas for your artistic journey at KS3 and KS4, the boards serve as a virtual gallery for our students.

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Wisdom

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

During this first week back after half term, all our students have been learning about Ramadan – the Muslim holy month of fasting. This year, Ramadan begins on 10th March and will last until 9th April. For Muslims, Ramadan is the holiest month of the Islamic calendar and is a special period of time in which observers fast during daylight hours, give to charity and think to the needs of others beyond themselves. We wish all our Muslims students, staff, families and friends a blessed Ramadan and look forward to celebrating Eid with you in April!



You can learn more about Ramadan here: https://youtu.be/Qa2f7qdP4vw?si=onSUibxhn4_4u8kU





SET FOR SUCCESS



A new initiative in Partnership with the Youth Sport Trust has been launched with a group of 15 Year 9 boys. It is a two-year youth leadership project, hoping to engage and improve the employability skills of our students by working on developing the character traits required to succeed in life. They have had the opportunity to meet and work with Vernon Samuels, an ex-GB athlete, who will be leading and mentoring on the programme. The first three sessions have involved working on their communication and team work skills, whilst the overarching objective is to plan and deliver a social action project that makes use of the skills developed along the way.



"... 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

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 and overnight stay in Faringdon.

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards - Desborough College





Our Year 11s were very busy at the year 9 options evening in order to raise money for prom.

We raised over £200!

There are a number of generous donations already received and we will update on ways you can support year 11. Please bring cash to parents evening to buy refreshments.

Thanks to 11ELP for their sterling efforts.

<u>Resilience</u>

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

This term we continue to develop our personal development programme across the school and a part of this is our Values in Practice (ViP) curriculum. This term, in their ViP lessons, our students will be learning about:

- ✓ Year 7 Health and puberty (Healthy lifestyle choices; Puberty; Unwanted contact; FGM)
- ✓ Year 8 Emotional wellbeing (Attitudes towards mental health; Promoting emotional wellbeing; How to manage emotions; Digital resilience; Healthy & unhealthy coping strategies)
- ✓ <u>Year 9</u> <u>Healthy lifestyle</u> (Physical & mental health; Balancing act; Healthy eating; Body image; Responsibility for physical health)
- ✓ Year 10 Exploring influence (Role models; Gangs; Substance use & addiction)
- ✓ Year 11 Communication in relationships

Further information about our personal development programme, including links to careers, trips, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, enrichment and other personal development opportunities at The Deanery CE Academy is now live on our school website here:



https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/personal-development/

Rotary club Young Photographer Competition winners!

Congratulations again go to our talented students who received their certificates, medals and winning trophy for their entries into the recent Young Photographers competition. It's great to see students going the extra mile and being rewarded for the efforts.







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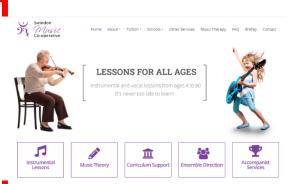


"I have come so that you may have life in all its fullness"

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

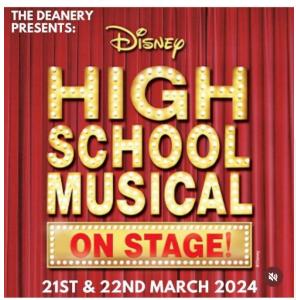
https://swindonmusiccoop.co.uk/apply-for-music-lessons/





deaneryacademypa

☐ Cast of High School Musical: The Musical:...

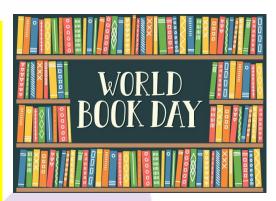


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Liked by jemimadouglas and 10 others

deaneryacademypa We at The Deanery are super excited to present HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL:ON STAGE on the 21st and 22nd of March... more

World Book Day is March 7th and there is a tutor competition running on who can decorate their tutor room door with the best book cover.



GCSE Business Studies Catch-up

Thursdays 3:30-4pm

- In room 005 with Mr Solomon
- Bring your Year 10 workbooks as we are going over Exam Paper 1
- Have you completed your knowledge organisers for Year 10 Paper 1 & Year 11 Paper 2?

Attendance: We are seeing a continual improvement with attendance achieving 89% last term. The attendance team would like to thank those students, parents and carers for ensuring daily attendance and punctuality. You are ensuring that your child maintains friendships, develops social socials as well as their learning. You are preparing them for adulthood.

If you are a family struggling with attendance please do not hesitate to contact the attendance team for support.

П

Ms Woodfield

Disneyland Paris Trip February 2024



From Tuesday 13th Feb to Friday 16th Feb we took 78 GCSE students to Disneyland Paris to enjoy two days of theme park fun as well as a rollercoaster seminar linked to the AQA GCSE Science course. During these days students got to; deliver Valentine's gifts, enjoy free reign of the parks to ride as many rollercoasters as is physically possible, sample the Disney-French Delicacies (of chips, pizza and burgers...) and to learn about how the different rides were designed and the physics taken into account when creating them.

Although absolutely exhausting we had an amazing time, making memories that will stay with the staff and students the rest of their lives. Riding tower of terror hand in hand, hearing each other scream, watching the parade and waving at characters, teenage boys in princess face paint and eating too many chips before riding Hyperspace Mountain! It was also fun watching our students switch on their engineering brains to design the best rollercoaster, putting their knowledge of energy to the test!

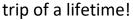
We returned safely back Friday evening with 78 students, 8 staff, 2 drivers, 40 cuddly toys and a thousand memories. We as staff cannot begin to express the pride we felt for our students, their behavior was exceptional and they were a genuine delight to spend four days with. I cannot wait to organise my next trip for the Deanery students!

A quote from our Barnes Coaches Driver:

"I wanted to contact you to express my gratitude to you all, but to say how delightful your students are. They are a massive credit to themselves, their parents and the school, but also to you as teachers.

Your students were by far the best I've EVER looked after. They were polite, considerate, respectful and really good fun. They abided by the rules, they weren't noisy, messy or rude and it made our job as drivers a lot easier. If only all my school trips were like this!! I would be grateful if you would pass on my genuine gratitude to both teachers and pupils alike. It was an honour to be involved in such an awesome trip with you all, and the memories it has created."

A big thank you to the amazing Deanery staff who gave up their holiday to give our students a



Miss Case





Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust

Chaplaincy update

This month is all about ways you can get involved in the Christian life of the school.

For Pupils and Staff:

Worship - Tuesday lunchtimes, 12:45-1:15, the chapel.

If you would like to worship God at school through singing and prayer, you are welcome to come along every Tuesday to the chapel. If you'd like to bring an instrument to play, you can do that too! This isn't about being perfect, or even good at something, this is about our hearts, and taking the chance to draw near to God as he draws near to us. All welcome.

Wild - Tuesday after school, 3:30 - 4:30p.m, the chapel.

If you would like to learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus you are welcome to come along to Wild. It's called that because those of us who are following Jesus have find it to be a wild adventure!

For Parents and staff:

Prayer Newsletter - termly

If you feel called to pray for the school, as we listen to the words of Jesus and by His Spirit learn to live them out, then you can be added to the WTLC 'Generals' prayer letter every term.

For everyone:

Support - as required

Regardless of faith, or the lack of faith, I am here for the whole campus community. If you need to talk, you have an idea, something is worrying you, or you want some spiritual support, or anything else, please get in touch, we'll find a time to work it through.

If you'd like to get in touch you can contact me via email on: owen.green@dbat.org.uk

Lent reflection:

For followers of Jesus around the world the period leading up to Easter known as Lent is a time to fast. Fasting is when we give up something, and is the opposite of feasting, one little letter that makes all the difference! We can't feast all the time, and neither can we fast. The poem below helps us to reflect on what we might fast from and feast on during lent. I'll sign of with this,

The Fast Life

Fast from judging others;

Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from fear of illness;

Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute;

Feast on speech that purifies.

Fast from discontent;

Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger;

Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism;

Feast on hope.

Fast from negatives;

Feast on encouragement.

Fast from bitterness;

Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern;

Feast on compassion.

Fast from suspicion;

Feast on truth.

Fast from gossip;

Feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm;

Feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from anxiety;

Feast on faith.

Owen Green
Trust Chaplain

Things you can do to revise for Literature

- 1. Answer questions on Tassomai regularly/complete your homework
- 2. Re-read all of your texts (AIC, all poems, Macbeth & A Christmas Carol)
- Full script of AIC attached to ClassCharts
- A Christmas Carol online: https://www.stormfax.com/1dickens.htm
- Macbeth online: https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/macbeth/read/
- Power & Conflict poems: re-read your anthology!
- 3. Watch the film versions where possible again- Any versions are better than not watching them at all
- 4. Learn all quotations from your Knowledge Organisers & quotation sheets
- Knowledge organisers (KOs) are linked to the school website here https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/our-curriculum/subjects/english/
- Key quotations are linked to the school website here https://www.dcea.org.uk/site-deanery/assets/files/3651/key literature quotes.pdf
- 5. Identify methods (ideally multiple methods) per quotation/reference
- 6. Turn your annotation workbooks into posters with words and images
- 7. Copy out your KOs or transform them onto one large poster
- 8. Make flashcards with questions on the front and answers on the back. Test yourself regularly.
- 9. Watch YouTube clips and make notes in your pink books Mr Bruff/- Mr Salles
- 10. Answer past paper questions
- Past exam papers can be found on our school website here https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/our-curriculum/subjects/english/
- AQA English Language https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources
- AQA English Literature https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources

Important notice: We understand that sometimes face to face meetings will be required between staff and parents/guardians. However, we respectfully request that these are pre-arranged and booked in with the relevant staff, and that parents/guardians do not just arrive at the Academy and expect staff to be available for a meeting. Please contact the members of staff via the academy email: admin@dcea.org.uk in the first instance to arrange an appointment. Thank you for your support with this.

Dates for the diary

A copy of the term dates calendar is available on our website: https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/school-information/term-dates/

Thursday 22nd February = Year 9 parents evening

Monday 26th **February** = Year 11 Careers assembly (Armed forces)

Thursday 29th February = Year 11 parents evening

Saturday 2nd March = Duke of Edinburgh training (*in-house*)

Tuesday 5th March = Year 9 Careers assembly (Armed forces)

Wednesday 6th March = Year 10 Careers assembly (Armed forces)

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th March = Duke of Edinburgh Practice expedition

Thursday 21st March = High School Musical performance

Friday 22nd March = High School Musical performance

Thursday 28th March = Year 10 parents evening

Friday 29th March = End of term 4

<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 <u>within 2 working days</u>, 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/