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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

‘Peace to everyone who works what is good’, Romans 2:10.

Students are working hard to earn their positive points and we are seeing thousands more being awarded than in previous terms – more information below.

Where our students are flourishing, we are seeing a growing sense of peace across the school as the triangulation between home, school and the student is bearing fruit.

(POAP 6) I am continually grateful for the time given by parents to meet and discuss with me their concerns and/or observations and have been appreciative of the positive feedback we are receiving regarding communication and changes in the school. I have met with a number of students this week to hear their voice and will continue to do. I explained how the number of cover lessons is decreasing and we will experience a sharp drop at Easter when another tranche of new teachers join our school.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of school and home collaborative working, especially where a student is not currently meeting their potential.

(POAP 3 and 6) The behaviour of our students was once again complimented by other secondary headteachers who visited this week. They were impressed by the behaviour around the school as well as the behaviour for learning (in lessons). This is a significant step forwards as there is a direct correlation between behaviour, attitudes and progress. With attendance also improving, we have the right conditions now for more and more of our students to flourish and achieve their potential.

(POAP 1 and 2) Adaptive teaching continues to be a whole school focus. Each lesson is one step along the journey, and teachers are adjusting and adapting in response to student’s progress. Your child will be able to talk to you about the Do Now Activities, the reason we use visualisers and the Exit Ticket. All of these strategies allow the teacher and student to co-construct feedback, through discussion and questions to identify what they know, have learnt and what they need to learn next.

**Robotics Event** - On Wednesday 40 students from Year 10 and Year 9 were invited to an exciting and interactive Robotic presentation from Bristol University. Students were given the chance to work with different robots and are tasked with producing a presentation in any format for the Festival of Tomorrow on Friday and Saturday 16th and 17th February. You can find out more about the Festival of Tomorrow [here](#).

**Y10 Music Trip** - On Tuesday the Year 10 GCSE music students took a trip to the Platform on Faringdon Road in Swindon to see members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra play excerpts and arrangements of GCSE set works. We were extremely fortunate to be able to see such high-quality music locally - and free! It was lovely to get out of the classroom and see some professional musicians in action; Deanery students made the most of the opportunity and Mrs Matthews was proud to accompany them. The Platform is the hub of Swindon Music Centre and has a lot of opportunities for young and old to get involved in playing an instrument - more details can be found [here](#).

**Pastoral** – This week over 225 students have been issued over 25 house points. That's more than 1 house point per lesson every lesson! 89% of our students have been rewarded at least once - with some students being absent, this is an incredible statistic which reflects their hard work. On top of that 66% of the student body have had no behaviour points.

In line with the post-Ofsted plan, we are working hard to ensure all students are in lessons and receiving high quality education. With that in mind, the decision has been made with withdraw the use of time out cards and toilet cards (unless there is a medical or diagnosed SEND need). We have found that students are often using these to avoid the challenge of work in lessons and haven't developed suitable strategies to cope in these times. By removing the cards, we aim to support students in developing their resilience and increase the time spent in the classroom. The pastoral team will of course support students in identifying ways to manage any anxiety. We also recognise that students with SEND may need a movement break, and this will be allowed with supervision from a TA. If any parents of SEND students are concerned about this, please contact Marius Dan via email to discuss this further. We would also ask that any medical notes are provided to the relevant Head of Year for students who may still require a toilet card.

**Attendance** – Just a reminder that the school gates close at 8.45am and without good reason a L2 lunchtime detention will be issued. Please consider timings for a route to school, earlier bus, leave in time to walk or cycle or drive to school. We are in communication with the relative bus companies as part of a wider project. We appreciate the infrastructure in Swindon is poor but to ensure students can take full advantage of their education at The Deanery, we must factor this into their daily routine. Thank you for the noticeable difference from an increasing number of our students.

I hope you are blessed with a peaceful weekend,

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James