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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

**‘He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. Matthew 8 Verse 26.’.**

I find comfort in these words and I hope many of us can, not only our Y11 students preparing for their exams but The Deanery family as we embrace change. Many of our students have shown relentless dedication and a positive attitude through their exam preparations and lessons. Please continue to remember them in your thoughts and prayers that they will do their very best.

**(POAP 6)** This week I have met with many of our invigilators as part of the face-to-face training led by our Exams Officer, Mrs Bishop (Campus Co-ordinator) and members of our IT team.

They are finalising room and invigilator allocations as well as seating plans. Today, we met with Y11 students to carry out a practise fire drill so they all fully understand the procedures should this happen in an exam. The vast majority as you would expect, were mature and supportive of this opportunity to feel prepared in such an emergency.

In listening to student feedback, today we are sending this update out to our Y11s! We will also look to share Mrs Gallagher’s ‘Deanery Way’ newsletter next week.

### **Campus Travel Action Group (CTAG)**

I want to offer my sincere thanks to those parents/carers who were able to attend the CTAG meeting yesterday evening. The comprehensive and informative presentation by AC member Chris Watts demonstrated that many actions have been completed since the meeting in the autumn term. Mrs Bishop (Campus Co-ordinator) has been a regular supporter of this cause and has attended all associated meetings and made valuable contributions to the work of this group. The presentation that was given at the meeting is available on the website and I would strongly recommend reading this. If you require it in a different format or language, please email [campus.travel@dbat.org.uk](mailto:campus.travel@dbat.org.uk).

We will continue to allow parents to use the car park for drop off and pick up where necessary but will be making some changes to the zoning of the car park over the coming

weeks; we will communicate this in more detail shortly. The most important message is that all drivers in the vicinity of the school should drive with extra care and vigilance and consider using drop off / pick up points further away from the schools where it is safe and possible to do so. Parking in Waitrose and H&W is strictly for customers only and should not be used by parents for the school run.

#### **(POAP 4) Duke of Edinburgh's Award update**

Y9 students are now able to enrol for their Bronze award and I know that many have already done so. If your child is interested in this wonderful opportunity they can enrol via <https://forms.office.com/e/cWXZJnWCGC>. If parents or students have any questions or require further information, please email [dofe@dcea.org.uk](mailto:dofe@dcea.org.uk) and the team will do their best to assist. We will be launching the Award to Y8 students (and their parents) in T6, so that they are ready to go when they start Y9 in September.

#### **(POAP 1) Maths Challenge**

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the bright minds who recently participated in the Junior Maths Challenge. It's with immense pride that we share the outstanding achievements of our young mathematicians, who have once again showcased their exceptional talent and dedication. Our students displayed exceptional problem-solving skills and critical thinking abilities, earning accolades at both regional and national levels. Their exemplary performance reflects not only their innate talent but also their unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

Several students achieved remarkably well including securing the coveted Gold Certificate, the Best in the School title – testament to their unparalleled dedication, passion, and extraordinary mathematical ability. Sincere well done from us all. We also want to take the opportunity to congratulate our students for their success in the Intermediate Maths Challenge last term. Again, several students received Gold Awards and went on to compete in the follow-on rounds!

In terms of percentages to celebrate, we have closed the gap with attendance still achieving 90% this week with the unwavering dedication of the Attendance team and your continued support.

#### **Pastoral**

As part of the Post Ofsted Action Plan, we recognise that parents were asking for more communication. The pastoral team have now launched a new initiative for positive parental contact. There is a new reward on ClassCharts to represent this, and we are encouraging staff to make sure parents know when students have gone above and beyond in their lessons. Already this term there have been over 40 students who have received this, alongside over 39000 house points also awarded.

We are continuing to focus on getting the basics right and ask for your continued support to ensure students are in full uniform and in school on time. Students have attended assemblies on behaviour for learning and we look forward to seeing them progress with these skills (attentiveness, participation, cooperation, responsibility and self-regulation) as the year continues.

### **Attendance**

Please be reminded if your child is too unwell to attend school that we require the reason for the absence. Why do we need this? firstly we need to monitor contagious diseases and report the numbers if the same illness becomes a concern such as sickness and diarrhoea , we monitor trends of absences and of course monitor individual attendance.

The attendance team are also here to support parents and students. Please let us know if there is a reason that your child is not attending. We may be able to support. How ? We can signpost parents to support services, we can refer to early help. We can refer to in house support services such as ELSA.

### **Safeguarding**

This week saw the first Safeguarding Learning Walk from TPAT (The Park Academies Trust), combined with our current Trust's termly monitoring visit. The morning combined meeting with students to gain their voice, alongside speaking with current staff and our safeguarding link governor.

The students were fantastic in their delivery, stating clear progress made with some great ideas for further improvements. Student voice has recently been collected and the results are improving each term. Prior to our Ofsted inspection, only 49% of students felt safe at all times. Currently, 86% of students now feel safe at all times and this is a huge increase, which is extremely pleasing to read. However, we want 100% of all the young people in our care to feel safe at all times whilst in school.

Thank you.

Naomi Luckman  
Assistant Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead

### **SEND**

Deaf Awareness Week 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May

Here are some easy tips to remember:

- If the person you are speaking to is using an interpreter, try your best not to look at them while you're talking. Making eye contact with the person you're communicating with,

instead of the interpreter, will increase your connection to them and result in better communication.

- Be really open and ask the person directly how they'd like to communicate with you.
- Avoid facing your back to large windows with lots of light, as this can make it hard for people to lip-read.
- When communicating with a Deaf person, try and avoid shouting where possible. Shouting can alter the shape of your face, which tends to make it harder for people who are lip-reading to understand what you're saying.

Dr Kafka-Markey, SENDCo

I hope you were blessed with a lovely bank holiday weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Kelly Osborne-James