



The Deanery Church of England Academy  
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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Happy New Year to you and your families.

It has been my pleasure this week to meet with students and staff through assemblies and our training day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. My key message was 'new = opportunity'. We looked at what is meant by Happy New Year – embracing the challenges before us and taking every opportunity to grow ourselves and others.

I based my message on 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here".

I shared how at the start of a new year, we have the opportunity to reflect on the last year and identify how we can be our better self this year.

We have the opportunity to have a fresh (new) start. I asked students to think ahead to the end of summer and imagine opening their end of term report – what will it say? How will they feel? We talked about taking every opportunity starting now and over the coming months so they can feel proud when they open their report/read their results and know they have done everything possible to achieve their potential. Resilience and determination will feature highly and the staff will support them so each and every student can flourish.

In relation to our Post Ofsted Action Plan (POAP), our training day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January focused on Knowledge Organisers (POAP Priority 1). Every faculty worked to ensure that the subject Knowledge Organisers support our students in building knowledge over time where retrieval is a key thread to establishing knowledge that is secure.

### **Y11 Mock Examinations**

Y11 Mock preparations and plans are firmly in place with access arrangements now finalised. Should you have any queries regarding access arrangements for your child, please contact Mr. Marius Dan ([marius.dan@dcea.org.uk](mailto:marius.dan@dcea.org.uk)) and copy in the Head of Year, Ms. Penny Larter. We have uploaded the Y11 Mocks timetable to the school website for your information.

In the coming days, we will remind all students of our continued expectations for them to present themselves with the correct Deanery uniform in all examinations and to come fully prepared with the correct stationery including the appropriate calculator.

**Parent Academy Council Members**

A sincere thank you to those of you who have put yourselves forward for the role of Parent Academy Council member. **Voting is currently underway and closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> January.** As you know, ballot sheets have previously been sent by our admin team however, we will also accept emails that state your preferred nominee. We will update you with the outcome as soon as we are able.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James